

If we attribute to God, as all Christians must, self-conscious Personality, and infinite knowledge and wisdom, this already implies, (1) that in all that He does God does not act blindly, but acts with intelligence and motive; and (2) that in all that God does He does not act arbitrarily, but on settled principles of wisdom and goodness. Intelligent action is action governed by the idea of an end, and wisdom, in a good and holy Being, manifests itself in the choosing of the best ends, and of the best means to attain these ends. ^{P. 80} If we raise this question, What is God's great last end in His creation and in His providence?

We therefore come to this, that God's plan or purpose, from the Bible point of view, must be regarded as determined by God's love. It must be regarded as framed to carry out in the highest and fullest possible way the ends of love; and we do well in all our inquiries never to lose hold of this as our guiding clue.

This evidently is a position which requires to be stated with care to safeguard it against abuse.

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pp. 49-50,
Side-Lights on Christian Doctrine by James Orr, D.D.
Published by London: Marshall Brothers, Ltd.,
Keswick House, Paternoster Row, E.C., 1909, pp. 183