

Part III: Showing What Are Distinguishing Signs of Truly Gracious
and Holy Affections (overview)

1. Review from previous weeks
2. Fallibility in applying the distinguishing signs
 - a. General
 - b. Specific
 - i. Application to certain believers
 - ii. Application by certain unbelievers
3. Overview of the 12 distinguishing signs
 - a. Spiritual origin of affections
 - b. Appreciation of divine things in themselves
 - c. Love for the holiness of divine things
 - d. Enlightened understanding
 - e. Certainty of divine things
 - f. True humility
 - g. Change of nature
 - h. Christ-like spirit
 - i. Tender spirit
 - j. Beautiful symmetry and proportion
 - k. Desire to grow
 - l. Life of obedience
4. Reading from *Miscellanies*: **1039 The Creation of the World.**

We are wont to make a distinction between the work of creation and the work of providence, but indeed the creation of the world, or the manner of creation, is one thing, and one main thing that appertains to God's providence, or the provision that God makes, in the disposal of things for the bringing to pass the events and designs he had in view to be accomplished and attained in and by the world. The creation of the world, in strictness, cannot be distinguished from his government and disposal of all things. God's making the creatures such as he did, and in constituting the world as he did at first, and disposing of them as he did in their first creation is a part, and a very great and main part, of what he did as the great and sovereign and all-wise disposer of all things, in order to attain the purposes and designs and indeed the general course of all things in the natural world from the creation of the world to the end of it. It was in effect mainly disposed ordered and governed and provided for in the manner in which things were made constituted and ordered at their first creation.