

WHY GOD ALLOWS BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN

AN INTRODUCTION

"Lord, how long wilt thou look on?"

~ Psalms 35:17

1. Introduction

- a. A solemn, personal, painful, and reasonable question about what God is doing
- b. "What God is doing", "What is God's will" is a dispensational question
- c. This series intends to strengthen you who are faced with doubts/questions
- d. Like Job people cry out for answers (Job 31:35-36), but we have a book.

2. What Bad Things

- a. Bad things started because of man not God. God made it to be good - Gen 1:31
- b. Sin (Rom 5:12), rebellion, punishment, chastening (Heb 12:11) cause suffering
- c. What of innocent suffering? Job suffered innocently – Job 1:1, Job 23:12, 27:5-6, 33:9
- d. Misery occurs every day, though some live happily, most suffer, and God is silent.
- e. When injustice happens, social media goes into frenzy, but God is silent. Ecc 4:1-3
- f. Martyrs, saints, and children left to suffer and die – their God is silent.
- g. Dear old mom is sick and dying, a physician would heal her, but God is silent.
- h. All these sufferings and more for 2000 years continue while God looks on silently

3. Atheism's response (in fury against nothing)

- a. They ask the question in hope to impugn God as either evil or incompetent
- b. Atheism's anger at an immoral God only begs the question, how do they know?
 - i. When God intervenes, should he remove your freedom or your life?
- c. Atheism is the rebellion of children educated against superstitious religion
- d. Hume: If God is all powerful he can stop evil; if God is all good he wants to stop evil.
- e. What if God is also gracious, longsuffering, and purposeful, and he wrote a book.

4. Calvin's response (God designs it)

- a. The question itself is not Calvinist, and it won't be answered by one
- b. Calvinism: God designs, ordains, and governs all evil and suffering, he does not "allow"
- c. Sinners do not deserve life, but can giving it for the purpose of inflicting pain be good?
- d. Unending suffering, sin, and corruption are not good and are not to God's glory

5. Religion's response (looking for signs)

- a. The Bible is a book of miracles/ God's intervention, healings, power – God is love.
- b. Jesus came preaching the kingdom gospel performing miracles –Lk 9:6, Ma 9:35,18:16
- c. He resurrects from the dead, says "all power is given unto me" - Matt 28:18
- d. The apostles performed miracles in His name, healing everyone – Acts 5:15-16
- e. Just as the testimony started going to the Gentiles – God became very silent.
- f. There has not been evidence of God's public kingdom reign on earth for 2000 years

6. The Bible Believer's response (faith toward God)

- a. We are living in the time of God's dispensation of grace and longsuffering – Eph 3:2
- b. God commends his love toward us while we are yet sinners – Rom 5:8
- c. The earth is broken, the world has rejected God, God offers salvation to all – 2Pet 3:15