



Where is God in the Midst of Suffering?

1) "We can ignore even pleasure. But pain insists upon being attended to. God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: it is his megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

- C.S. Lewis, The Problem of Pain

2) WHY SUFFERING? The Bible teaches...

1) Evil is _____. (Psalm 97:10, Lamentations 3:33)

2) There is a difference between the _____ will of God and the _____ will of God. The Bible teaches 3 things about this:

a) God is _____. Nothing happens that is outside of His control (Job 38-42, Ephesians 1:11, Lamentations 3:37)

b) There are things that God does not want to happen that do happen (eg death of the wicked, evil in the world - Ezekiel 18:23, 1 Peter 3:9)

c) There are some things that God wants that do not happen (eg killing of the prophets, Matthew 23:37)

3) There is a: Creation (Genesis 1 & 2), Fall (Genesis 3), Redemption (Foreshadowed in Genesis 3, Gospels), Restoration (Revelation 21-22).

3) "Properly understood, Christianity is by no means the opiate of the masses. It's more like the smelling salts... Christianity teaches that God hates the suffering and oppression of this material world so much, he was willing to get involved in it and to fight against it."

- Tim Keller Prodigal God

4) 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

"But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may be revealed in our mortal body..." (2 Corinthians 4:7-18)

5) "And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who became powerful in battle and routed foreign armies..." (Hebrews 11:32-40)

6) What prayers are you praying, what seeds are you planting, where you may not see the answer in your life, but in your children or grandchildren?

Are you willing to sow seeds today for the future that you do not see?



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Dr. John Jackson | Interim Preaching Pastor
Creskide Christian Church