

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

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September 29, 2024

“Bad Things Do Happen To Good People”

By Evan Casey

Self-help books have been written to try to help people understand how "bad things can happen to good people." We think that as long as we go along in life, minding our own business and harming no one, we can sail along without ever having any problems.

People have been asking the question for thousands of years, ever since humans first walked the earth: if I'm doing everything right, how can everything go so wrong? Is this a valid question to ask, or am I wrong to ask it?

Let's examine the question in light of the Scriptures.

Examples of bad things happening to good people:

The Prophets

A prophet is a spokesman for God. Prophets were men sent by God to preach to the people. However, despite the fact that these men were preaching on God's behalf, bad things happened to them.

For instance, Jesus condemned the Scribes and Pharisees in Matthew 23:31 when He said, "Therefore you are witnesses against yourselves that you are sons of those who murdered the prophets." Other men also record the fact that the prophets of God were killed - for example, in Luke 13:34, we read, "*O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her...*"

Also, Stephen alluded to the mistreatment of the prophets in his sermon, recorded in Acts 7:51-53.

Stephen

In the previous point, we noticed how the prophets had bad things happen to them despite their good lives and brave service to God. Stephen referred to that fact when he answered his accusers, and, in Acts 7:54-60, Stephen himself was stoned.

Paul

People who appreciate the apostle Paul's importance to the growing church would not question how good a person he was. Despite that fact, he still suffered in his earthly life, and we have a list of some of the bad things that happened to him in 2 Corinthians 11:22-33 (cf 2 Cor. 4:8-9).

The Church in Smyrna

A church mentioned in the New Testament had to go through sufferings. In Revelation 2:10, we read, "*Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life.*"

All Christians

I should not be surprised if bad things happen. We are warned of this in 2 Timothy 3:12, when we read, "*Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution.*" We should never think

that suffering is reserved for the wicked or those who think that they are out of favor with God. In fact, Philippians 2:5-8 teaches that Jesus suffered despite the fact that He was the Son of God.

What Are Some Reasons That Bad Things Happen To Good People?

1. To Produce Patience And Endurance.

James teaches us that trials produce patience in James 1:2-4. Not only that, but James says that it they will be counted blessed who endure in James 5:10-11.

2. To Give Us A Cause To Have Joy.

Peter teaches us that trials can cause us to have joy in 1 Peter 1:6. *"In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials."*

3. To Refine Us (Make Us Purer) As Precious Gold.

Our suffering has another benefit, as Peter wrote about in 1 Peter 1:7. *"That the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ."* The reason our suffering is important is because it makes us better or worth a whole lot more.

4. That We May Be Able To Comfort Those In Trouble.

When we suffer ourselves, we are in a better position to help someone else. 2 Corinthians 1:4 states, *"Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."*

5. That We Should Not Trust In Ourselves.

I learn a valuable lesson when I suffer: I cannot trust in myself. 2 Corinthians 1:9-10 instructs that there is nothing that I can do to help myself; I need God and His help.

What type of attitude should we have when suffering takes place? For this, we have a great example - the apostles in Acts 5:41. They rejoiced that they were counted worthy to suffer for the Lord. Peter says that we receive the end of our faith, which is salvation (1 Peter 1:3-9).

If you are a Christian who is suffering, for these reasons you can rejoice: because suffering will make you stronger, you can turn around and encourage others, and your suffering can be an opportunity for you to tell others why you are rejoicing in the midst of your trials. You may have heard it said that "God doesn't waste anything." We should not waste any opportunity to glorify God and influence others to believe in Him, even if that means rejoicing in suffering.

There's little like true suffering that can tempt us to feel weary. But we must remember Paul's words to the Galatians. Brethren, *"let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (6:9).

"What Shall I Do With Jesus?"

By Alice Viola Hoivik

What shall I do with Jesus? Shall I, like Judas, sell my King? That silver in my hands I'll bring? Shall I sell Him for luxuries, For the pleasures and for the vanities? Shall I sleep on the beside the gate when He says: Tarry here and wait"? And shall I slumber sound in sleep, And His commands shall I not keep? Shall I, like Pilate, hold my job, And seek to quell the maddened mob? And shall I hold my place for sure, Though He is innocent and pure? Or shall I join the howling throng, And sound His goodness all for wrong? And when the question is raised high, Shall I be one to crucify? Like Peter, shall I be His friend Until the last and trying end? And of His friendship then deny, And even curse His name— shall I? What shall I do with Jesus? Ah, no, vain world, I'll take Him in, For He alone can free my sin, For some day He will say to me, "My child, what shall I do with thee?"

Those Who Need Our Prayers & Encouragement:

Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Daniel Holloway, Debbie Keplinger, Robbie, Sheila, & Sherry Doles, Sandi Poole, Sandra Oliver, Chad Harris, Eli Johnson, Jamie Jones, Mary Ann Holley, LuAnne Parrish, Billy Grisham, Burt Ward, Wesley Trimble, Anita Harris, Fred Johnson, Bill Hall, George Hutto, Nathan Cox, Angela Warren (Lisa Busby's friend who has cancer), B.J. Graves, Danny Cottrell, Chandler McCain (Cancer), Randall Oliver (Lynlie's Dad) heart ablation on September 30th, Michelle Hopper (Dan Cottrell's sister) has been diagnosed with cancer, & Dan and Nellie Cottrell both got the Covid-19.

Northeast Church of Christ At Hamm Street in Tupelo is having a Gospel Meeting beginning October 6th—11th. Speaker: Shawn Chancellor.

Our Gospel Meeting with Mitchell Dalrymple begins October 20th—23rd.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Danny Sheffield
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #1: "Don't Give Satan An Advantage"

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am:

Workbook: Fred Johnson
Hebrews
Author: Daniel H. King, Sr
Starting Page & Question: Page #92, Question #6

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Jerry Kennemur
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Tim Harris Jr.
Scripture Reading: Psalm 89:5-6
Song Leader: Lee Busby
Lord's Supper: Doug George
Assisting: — —
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon #2: "Who Is Like The Lord?"
Closing Prayer: Tim Harris Sr.

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

October 2, 2024

Auditorium Bible Class: Russell Briggs
Workbook: The Minor Prophets #2
Author: By Marc Gibson
Starting Page & Question: Page 22, Question #11
Invitation: Paul Busby
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Doug George

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Meeks Street Church of Christ https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCgiXJxZC1oraOugO9qlfBtw?view_as=subscriber

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“Don’t Give Satan The Advantage”

Lesson Text: **2 Corinthians 2:11 (NASB).**

I. By Our Ignorance.

- Ignorance Is Simply Not Knowing. Not Knowing Things Can Be Dangerous!
- **2 Corinthians 2:11**, The Devil Wants Us To Stay Ignorant:
 - He Uses Lies & Deceptions To Keep Us Ignorant. **Genesis 3:3-4.**
 - *“You Can Be A Christian And Never Study God’s Word.”* **1 Peter 2:2; John 8:31-32.**
 - Lack Of Knowledge Can Be Dangerous To Our Faith- **Hosea 4:6; Ephesians 4:17-19.**
 - Satan Wants Us To Forget Sin’s Consequences **Proverbs 7:1-27; Romans 6:23.**
- **2 Timothy 2:15; Ephesians 5:17; Hosea 14:9.** God’s Word Helps In Temptation!

II. By Our Indifference.

- Indifference Is Not Caring. Gives The Devil An Advantage In A Subtile Way.
- We Can Become *“Lukewarm”* In Our Faith & Zeal **Revelation 3:15-16.**
- But This A Dangerous State To Be In:
 - Indifference Will Not Keep Us Out Of Sin Very Long! Not Standing Leads To Falling!
 - Indifference Leads To Carelessness- **1 Peter 5:8-9.**
 - It Causes Us Not To Care About Wearing God’s Armor- **Ephesians 6:10-18.**
 - It’s How One Can Become Hardened To Sin- **Proverbs 10:23.**
- We Overcome Indifference By Choosing To.... **Hebrews 2:1-3; 2 Peter 3:18.**
- We Must Choose To Take A Strong Stand Against Sin- **Ephesians 6:13.**

III. By Our Over-Confidence.

- It Makes Us More Vulnerable To Temptation & Sin- **1 Corinthians 10:12.**
- We Should Not Think We Are Above Any Sin- **Mark 14:29-31.**
- This Only Gives The Devil An Advantage Over Us!
 - Samson Was Over-Confident After Giving The Secret Of His Strength- **Judges 16:20.**
- Christians Today Can Be Overconfident:
 - *“I Can Swim With Mixed Company, And It Won’t Bother Me.”*
 - *“I Can Go To A Dance Hall And Not Sin.”*
 - *“I Can Be Alone With My Girlfriend Or Boyfriend And Not Commit Fornication.”*
 - *“I Can Read Books By False Teachers, And Not Be Influenced By Them.”*
- But We Must Take Temptation Seriously- **James 1:12; Proverbs 27:12.**

IV. By Our Under-Confidence.

- When We Feel The Devil Is Too Powerful For Us! Also Dangerous To Our Faith.
- Under-confidence Can Happen In Two Ways:
 - We Are Trusting In Our Own Strength To Fight Temptation Alone.
 - We Are Making Excuses Why We Can’t Resist The Devil.
- We Must Trust In God’s Help- **Ephesians 6:10-18; 1 Corinthians 10:13.**
- The Devil Will Flee Resistance From Us- **James 4:7-8.**

“Who Is Like The Lord?”

Lesson Text: **Psalm 89:5-6.**

I. Man Thinks Of Himself As Being All-Important.

— Because Of Man’s Accomplishments & Learning— Many Think Highly Of Themselves.

- **Genesis 11:3-4; Deuteronomy 8:17.**
- The Postmodernism Of Today!
- We Can Delude Ourselves Into Thinking:
 - We Are The Center Of Our Universe.
 - Our Thoughts Center Around Ourselves— Humanism & Darwinism Develops.
 - We Can Feel We Are The Masters Of Our Own Fate!

II. Man Fails To Realize His Size & Place Before God.

- Many Fail To Recognize God’s Sovereign Supremacy As They Should!
- God Is As A Mountain — Man Is As A Grain Of Sand! **Isaiah 40:12.**
- Man Doesn’t Have All Knowledge To Teach God.
 - **Isaiah 40:13-15 (Rom 11:34); Job 21:22.**
- God Does As He Wills, Regardless Of Man’s Opinion **Romans 9:20.**
- We Are God’s Creation— He Is Not Our’s! **Acts 17:24-25.**
- God Gives & Provides For Us. **Acts 17:28; Psalm 104:10-14.**
- We Are Lost Without God— Our Savior! **Ephesians 2:12.**

III. Man Is Not Like God!

- Man’s Glory Is Temporary— God’s Glory Is Eternal!
 - **1 Peter 1:24; 1 Corinthians 9:25; Psalm 8:1**
- Man’s Power Is Finite— God’s Power Is Infinite!
 - **Jeremiah 51:15-16; Deuteronomy 3:24; Jeremiah 32:17.**
- Man’s Knowledge Is Limited— God’s Knowledge Is Unlimited!
 - **Ecclesiastes 2:26; Jeremiah 10:7.**
- Man’s Righteousness Is As Filthy Rags— God’s Righteousness Is Pure!
 - **Isaiah 64:6; Psalm 71:19; Isaiah 57:15.**
- Man’s Forgiveness Is Lacking— God’s Forgiveness Is Complete!
 - **Matthew 18:21-30; Micah 7:18-19.**

Conclusion: **Psalm 113:4-9.**