

San Juan church of Christ

1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C
Montrose, CO 81401 | (970) 249-8116
www.sanjuanchurchofchrist.org

What God's Word Says About...

Evil, Pain & Suffering - Part 2

Many people fail to understand how a loving God could allow human suffering. Christians often have doubts and charge God falsely when they encounter pain and suffering. The Bible acknowledges that God is not the one who causes man to suffer but allows pain and suffering (James 1:13-14). God is love, but He is also a God of wrath and justice (Romans 11:22). God's nature is completely incompatible with sin because He is Holy (Isa. 59:1-2). The answer to human pain and suffering cannot be found in the world. The world thinks the meaning of life is pleasure. Whatever makes one "happy" becomes the pursuit of one's life. However, what makes one "happy" often is the very thing that brings pain and suffering. The Bible instructs us as to the meaning of life when Solomon said, "Fear God and keep His commandments, because this applies to every person (Eccl. 12:13).

While God may allow man to suffer for disciplinary purposes (Heb.12:6,11) He still has man's best interest in mind. David said, "It is good for me that I was afflicted, that I may learn Your statutes" (Psalm 119:71). And he also wrote, "Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word (Psalm 119:67). As cruel as this many sound, the Bible teaches this corrective discipline is necessary before man will desire to be re-united with God. Knowledge of sin, and the fear of being eternally lost, are painful emotions that drive man back to God.

The pain and suffering that is hard for all of us to understand is when righteous people, or those who are innocent, such as children, suffer. The book of Job helps us comprehend the universal question of human pain and suffering that does not always come as a result of sin. Job is described as "blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil" (Job 1:1). We need to consider the misery Job suffered, losing his health, wealth, and family, and even his wife turned against him! In spite of his great suffering, Job maintained his faithfulness to God and said, "Though He slay me, I will hope in Him" (Job 13:15). Because of his faithfulness to God, the Lord later "blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning" (Job 42:12). Our concern should be to accept ALL of our trials graciously, utilizing them to strengthen our faith without becoming bitter, but to become better. Heaven would not have the appeal it does without the infirmities of this life!

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
info@sanjuanchurchofchrist.org