

THE PROBLEM OF PAIN

Say What? Part 3 of 3

*“Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.”
1 Peter 3:15 (NIV)*

The Problem of **PAIN**:

- If there is a God, why is there so much **SUFFERING** in the world?
- If God is **GOOD**, he would never allow it.
- If God is all **POWERFUL**, he could stop it immediately.
- Is God **UNWILLING** or is he **UNABLE**?

Two Possible Responses:

#1: “Have you **READ** anything on that topic?”

#2: “If you could, would you **REMOVE** everything bad from the world right now?”

The only way for God to remove our primary **COMPLAINT** (about evil, pain, and suffering) is to remove all the **COMPLAINERS**.

“The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV)

Two Widely Held Assumptions:

#1: Certain things ought not **BE**.

#2: The world is **BROKEN**.

*“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.”
Romans 8:18-21*

“Come, Lord Jesus.” Revelation 22:20 (NIV)

If God removed **EVIL** from the world, he would have to begin with **ME**. But, I believe God entered this **BROKEN** world through His Son to **FORGIVE** me rather than **REMOVE** me. I have received that hope, and it has **CHANGED** me...I believe this message of hope and love will change the **WORLD**.