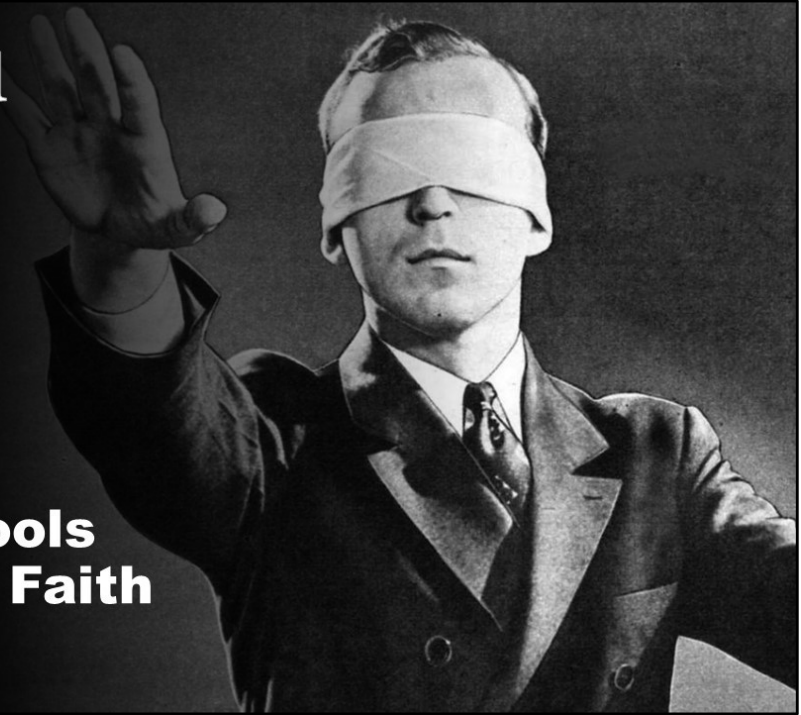


I was Blind but Now I see: Reasons to Believe

Answering fools with facts and Faith



Reasons to Believe God is good when there's suffering

When natural calamities happen they're called "Acts of God" but why aren't they when good things happen? Ja.1:16-17, Isa. 45:7, Eccl.7:14

How could Job declare such praise in the midst of such horrific suffering? Job 1:21 "The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD"

Do you find yourself struggling to answer perhaps the most difficult question asked by the doubters and scoffers? "If God is good, why does He allow suffering"? What's your answer?

Much suffering is due to the evil of men! Even some of God's most faithful servants struggled to understand "Why"! Hab 1:2 "How long, LORD, have I called for help, And You do not hear? I cry out to You, "Violence!" Yet You do not save. 13 Why are You silent when the wicked swallow up

Those more righteous than they?

When you or those you love, suffer, how do you deal with it?

We have attached the classic age-old argument of a Greek philosopher, how do you address this fatalistic argument against God from Epicurus? See attached graphic

Reasons to Believe God is good when there's suffering



**Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.
Luke 18:19**

1Ti 4:4 NASB20 - For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude;

Gen 1:31 NASB20 - And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Deu 32:4 NASB20 - "The Rock! His work is perfect, For all His ways are just; A God of faithfulness and without injustice, Righteous and just is He.

Act 11:8 NASB20 - "But I said, 'By no means, Lord, for nothing unholy or unclean has ever entered my mouth.'

Act 11:9 NASB20 - "But a voice from heaven answered a second time, 'What God has cleansed, no longer consider unholy.'

Where does the Bible say God is good?

Jas 1:16 NASB20 - Do not be deceived, my beloved brothers and sisters.

Jas 1:17 NASB20 - Every good thing given and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shifting shadow.

Jer 29:11 NASB20 - 'For I know the plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for prosperity and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.

Luk 18:19 NASB20 - But Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.



Natural Evil:

Disease, illness...
Weather, storms...
quakes, volcanos...

Moral Evil:

Murder, war, theft..
Slavery, tyranny...
Rape, lying, cruelty...

Reasons to Believe God is good when there's suffering

Why do bad things happen to good people? How do we define bad? Especially IF you are an Evolutionist or Atheist? There is NO good or bad, there just is. Actually Evolution and Mother Earth may be cleanings itself of the spreading disease of man

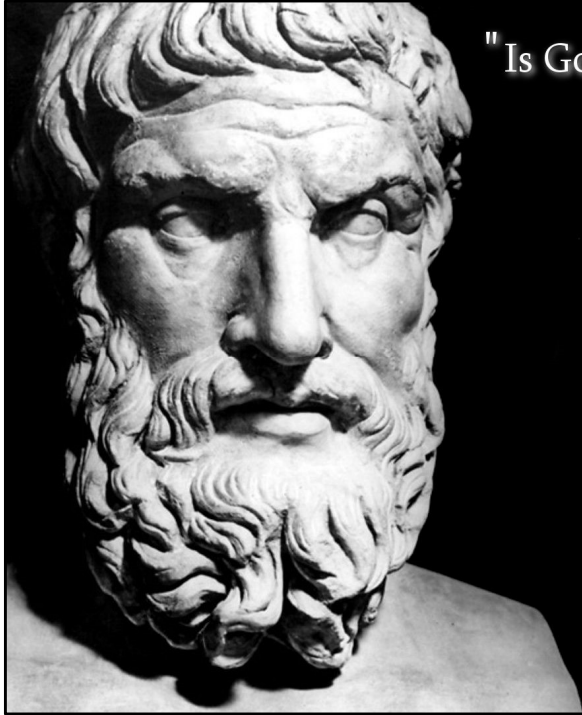
Natural includes genetic defects,
Weather: snow, tornados, hurricanes, lightning,
Plagues, droughts, fires...

Where is Spiritual or cosmic evil in this, this is only horizontal between men



Mauthausen concentration camp

If implies you doubt God exists, so there is no evil and no need to ask forgiveness.
Its merely Survival of the fittest.



"Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able?

Then He is not omnipotent.

Is He able, but not willing?

Then He is malevolent.

Is He both able and willing?

Then whence cometh evil?

Is He neither able nor willing?

Then why call Him God? "

-Epicurus

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Reportedly prolonged suffering from kidney stones at the time?

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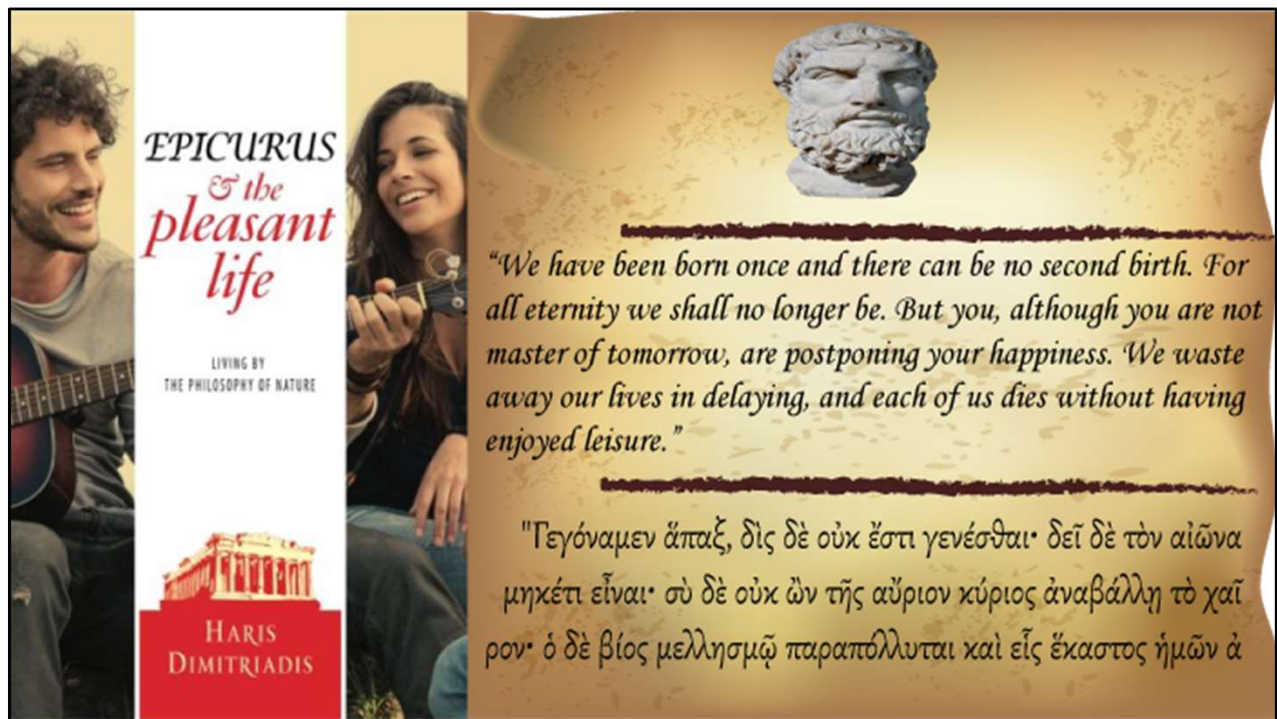
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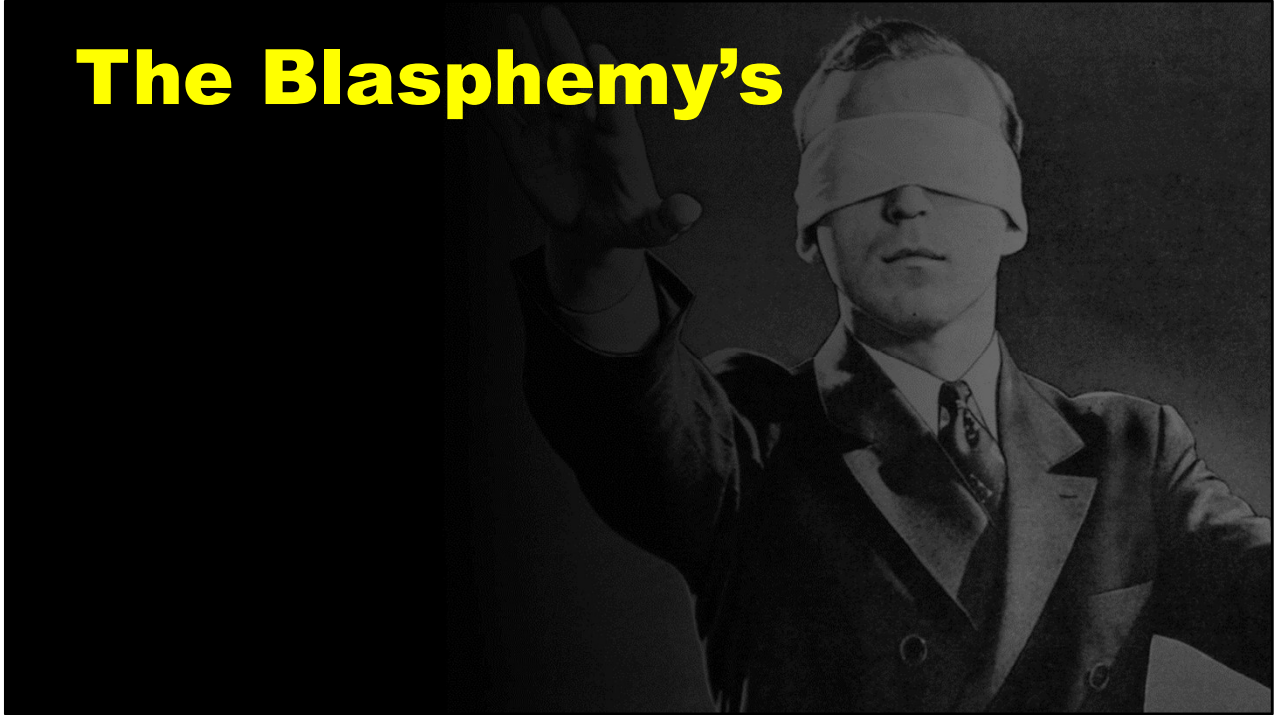


Death does Not concern us, Because as long as we exist, Death is not here. And once it does come, we no longer exist.

**MY ARGUMENT AGAINST GOD WAS THAT
THE UNIVERSE SEEMED SO CRUEL AND
UNJUST. BUT HOW HAD I GOT THIS IDEA OF JUST
AND UNJUST? A MAN DOES NOT CALL A LINE
CROOKED UNLESS HE HAS SOME IDEA OF A
STRAIGHT LINE. WHAT WAS I COMPARING THIS
UNIVERSE WITH WHEN I CALLED IT UNJUST?**

*C.S. Lewis,
Mere Christianity*

The Blasphemy's



God is powerless to prevent Evil, therefore He is not god

Epicurus is playing God!

Who gives him the right to dictate How God Himself must work?

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- **Therefore, I wont worship Him**

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Who gives him the right to dictate How God Himself must work?

**JOB NEVER SAW
WHY HE
SUFFERED,
BUT HE SAW GOD,
AND THAT WAS
ENOUGH.
TIM KELLER**

God never really answered Job!

He asked Job questions that made him shut up!

Job 30:20 NASB20 - "I cry out to You for help, but You do not answer me; I stand up, and You turn Your attention against me.

Job 31:35 NASB20 - "Oh that I had one to hear me! Here is my signature; Let the Almighty answer me! And the indictment which my adversary has written,

Job 13:3 NASB20 - "But I would speak to the Almighty, And I desire to argue with God.

Job 23:3 NASB20 - "Oh that I knew how to find Him, That I might come to His home!

Job 23:4 NASB20 - "I would present my case before Him And fill my mouth with arguments.

Job 23:5 NASB20 - "I would learn the words which He would answer, And perceive what He would tell me.

Job 23:6 NASB20 - "Would He contend with me by the greatness of His power? No, surely He would pay attention to me.

Job 23:7 NASB20 - "There the upright would argue with Him; And I would be free of my Judge forever.

Job 38:1 NASB20 - **Then the LORD answered Job from the whirlwind and said,**

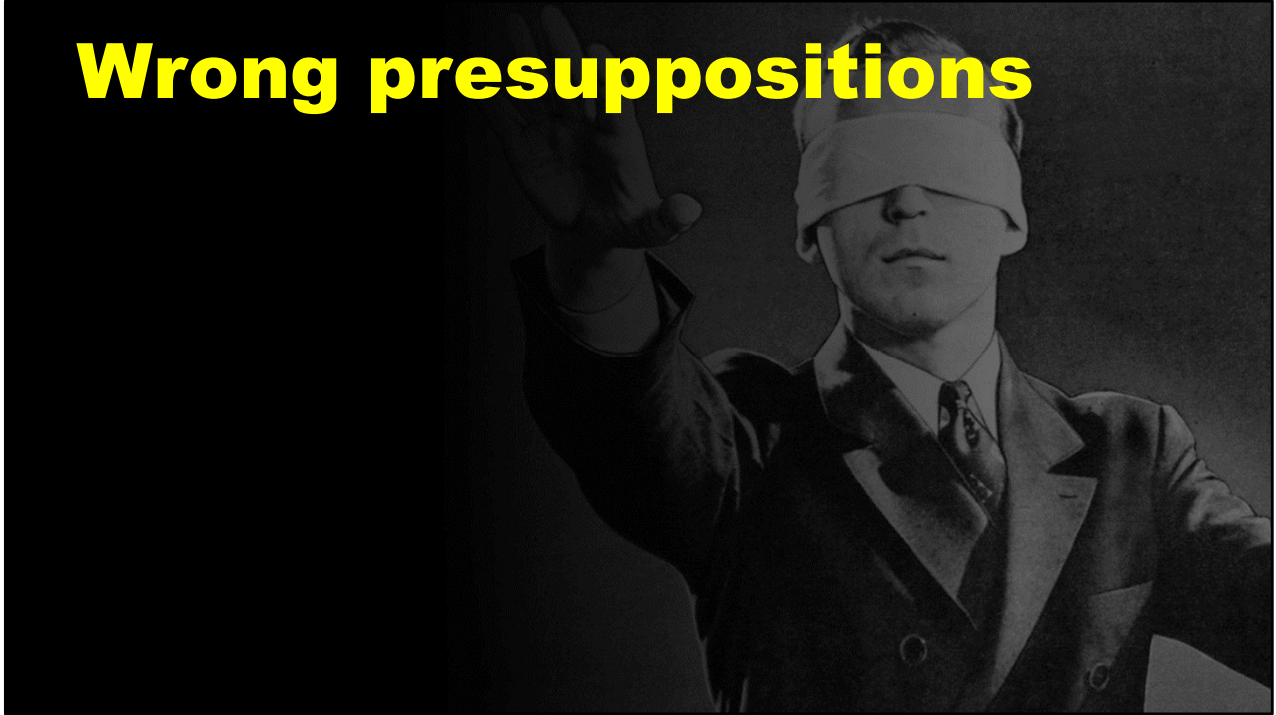
Job 38:2 NASB20 - **"Who is this who darkens the divine plan By words without knowledge?**

Job 38:3 NASB20 - **"Now tighten the belt on your waist like a man, And I shall ask you, and you inform Me!**

Job 40:4 NASB20 - **"Behold, I am insignificant; what can I say in response to You? I put my hand on my mouth.**

Job 40:5 NASB20 - **"I have spoken once, and I will not reply; Or twice, and I will add nothing more."**

Wrong presuppositions



Like a lawyer: Do you enjoy beating your wife?

God doesn't answer to you! Ask Job!!

God doesn't OWE us! We Owe Him!!! God doesn't serve us, we serve Him!

Well He does owe us – Eternal wrath! Yet offers grace!

It ignores the bigger problem by assuming the opposite – man is evil!

Who do you think you are?!!!

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Epicurus judged God!**
- **Epicurus' question doesn't resolve the
problem of Evil!! It only criticizes God!
Excuses hedonism**

Like a lawyer: Do you enjoy beating your wife?

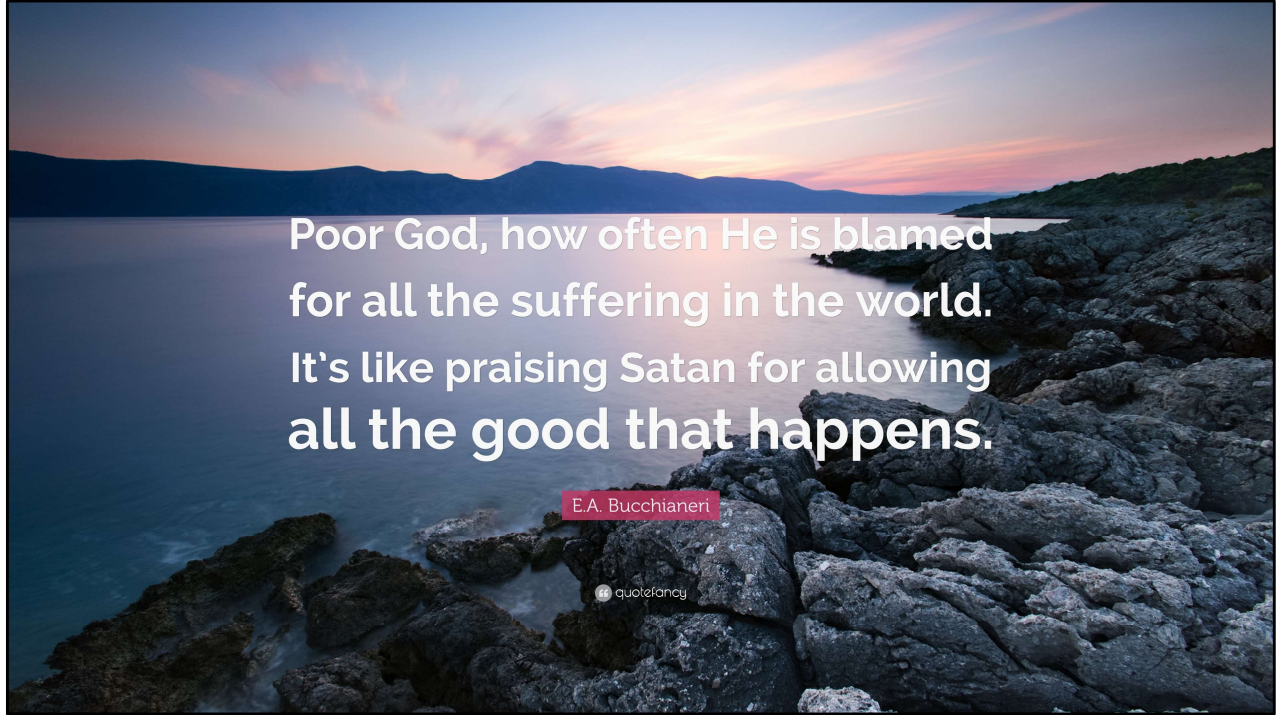
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Poor God, how often He is blamed
for all the suffering in the world.
It's like praising Satan for allowing
all the good that happens.

E.A. Bucchianeri

quote fancy

Don't know this guy, BUT he's right!

Whenever you don't thank God for all the good that happens, you:

- 1. Show disrespectful ingratitude**
- 2. Imply arrogant Entitlement**
- 3. Miss the reliance we have on Him and seeing the correlation of His blessings from his goodness**

I've discovered most Christians don't know what to do with difficult situations because they have bought into the lie that God owes us (for our good behaviour). The reality of life is that if you live long enough you are going to bleed, cry and hurt. AND God is still God IN that.

Matt Chandler

1 Peter 4:12
Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though something strange were happening to you

Do you have a works oriented view of salvation?

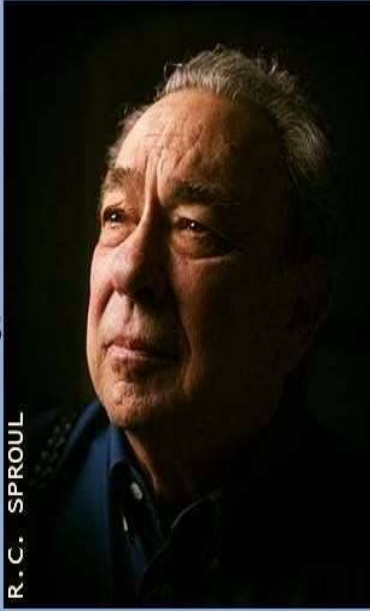
1Pe 4:12 KJV - Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you:

1Pe 1:7 KJV - That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

1Th 3:4 KJV - For verily, when we were with you, we told you before that we should suffer tribulation; even as it came to pass, and ye know.

2Ti 3:12 KJV - Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

"We do not desire hell, but we do desire evil. The problem is that hell is the appointed consequence of evil. We desire evil without hell and heaven without God. This is the quintessential fool's errand. The pursuit of evil is the road to hell. The pursuit of God is the road to heaven."



R. C. SPROUL

Epicurus' other, sneaky Presupposition is that He wants the fruit of the Spirit without the indwelling of God and the pleasures of sin without the interference of God!

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He doesn't want God! He wants what He wants!

Isa 30:9 NASB20 - For this is a rebellious people, false sons, Sons who refuse to listen To the instruction of the LORD;

Isa 30:10 NASB20 - Who say to the seers, "You must not see visions"; And to the prophets, "You must not prophesy the truth to us. Speak to us pleasant words, Prophecy illusions.

Isa 30:11 NASB20 - "Get out of the way, turn aside from the path, Stop speaking before us about the Holy One of Israel!"

“Why do bad things happen to good people?”



That only happened once, and He volunteered.”

R.C. SPROUL

Whenever you doubt the justice, goodness, or Sovereignty of God, look again to the cross and thank Him!

He took Gods wrath for your sin! Jesus took the ONLY real Injustice so you could avoid it!
He is more than good, He is merciful and His grace is Amazing!
He is Sovereign, or you would fall out of His favor and love!

Preach the cross to yourself daily, it may not answer all your questions, but it answers the most important one and makes all the others irrelevant!

God must vanquish Evil!?!

Now, Ask Epicurus If God must vanquish Evil Immediately, then He would have vanquished Epicurus before he even spoke!
God will prevent Evil...one day! Just not today or He will have to deal with you and me!

Yes, God must vanquish Evil, but when? The longsuffering of God and the grace of God are the answer to Evil giving room for our redemption!!

And one day, very soon, HE WILL vanquish Evil! And Yet men accuse Him of being unfair!
Evil will be forever contained and punished and His elect will never again suffer it!!

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For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. Jeremiah 2:13

Your own wickedness will correct you, And your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing That you have forsaken the Lord your God, And the fear of Me is not in you," Says the Lord God of hosts. Jeremiah 2:19

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Don't insult the one who can help!

He sent Jesus to destroy evil while saving those who committed it

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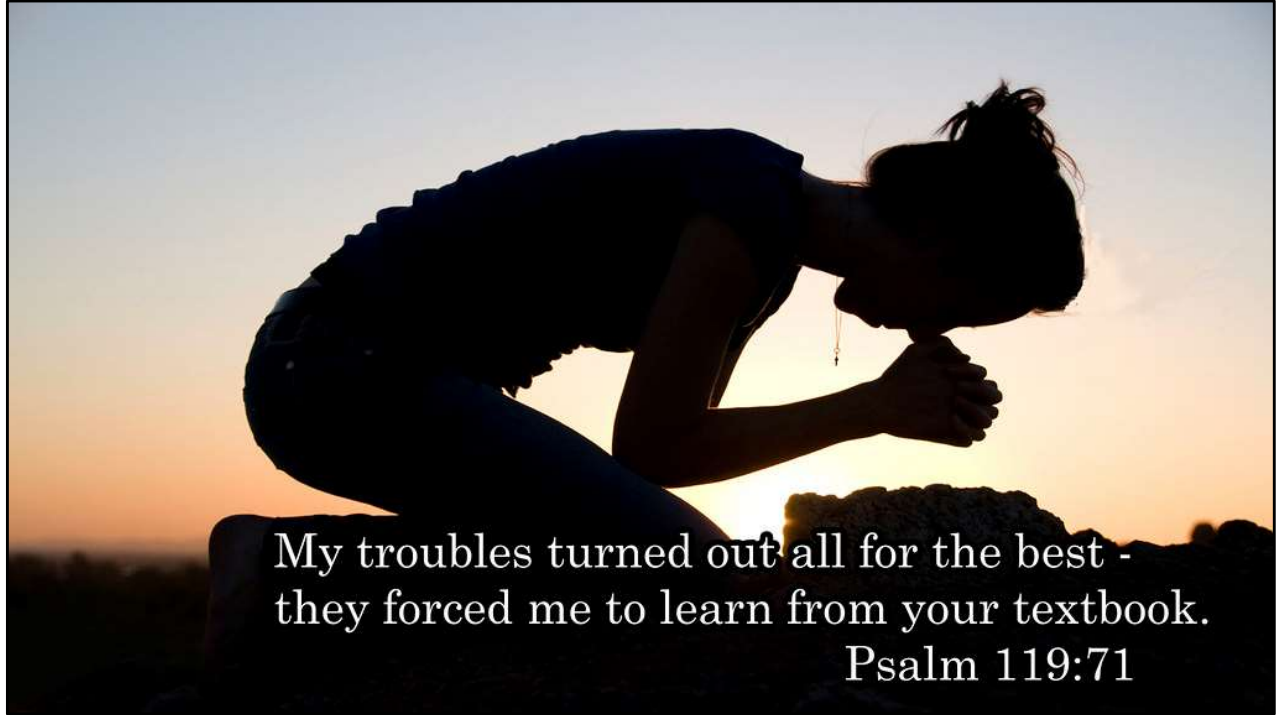
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SOMETIMES IT TAKES
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FOR US TO CHANGE OUR WAYS.
AND IN THAT OPPORTUNITY,
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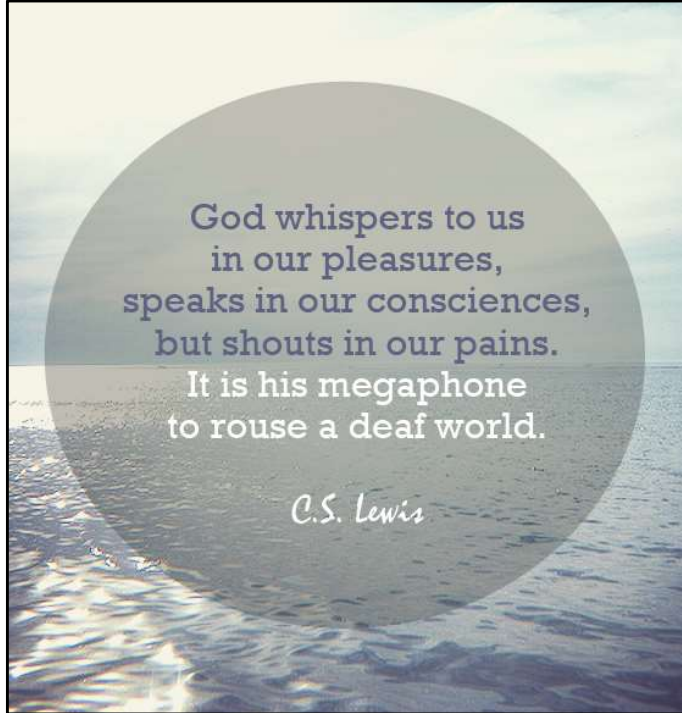
— KYLE IDLEMAN

Sometimes???!?



My troubles turned out all for the best -
they forced me to learn from your textbook.
Psalm 119:71

Psa 119:71 NASB20 - It is good for me that I was afflicted, So that I may learn Your statutes.



How many
have come to
Christ out of
suffering and
counted it a
blessing?

John Newton, the slave trader – Amazing grace

Joni

Nick

...

So, if they hadn't suffered they likely would not have turned to God!

Mat 16:26 NLT - And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?

Mar 8:36 NLT - And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul?

Mar 10:17 NASB20 - As He was setting out on a journey, **a man ran up to Him and knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do so that I may inherit eternal life?"**

Mar 10:18 NASB20 - But Jesus said to him, **"Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.**

Mar 10:21 NASB20 - Looking at him, **Jesus showed love to him and said to him, "One thing you lack: go and sell all you possess and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me."**

Mar 10:22 NASB20 - **But he was deeply dismayed by these words, and he went away grieving; for he was one who owned much property.**

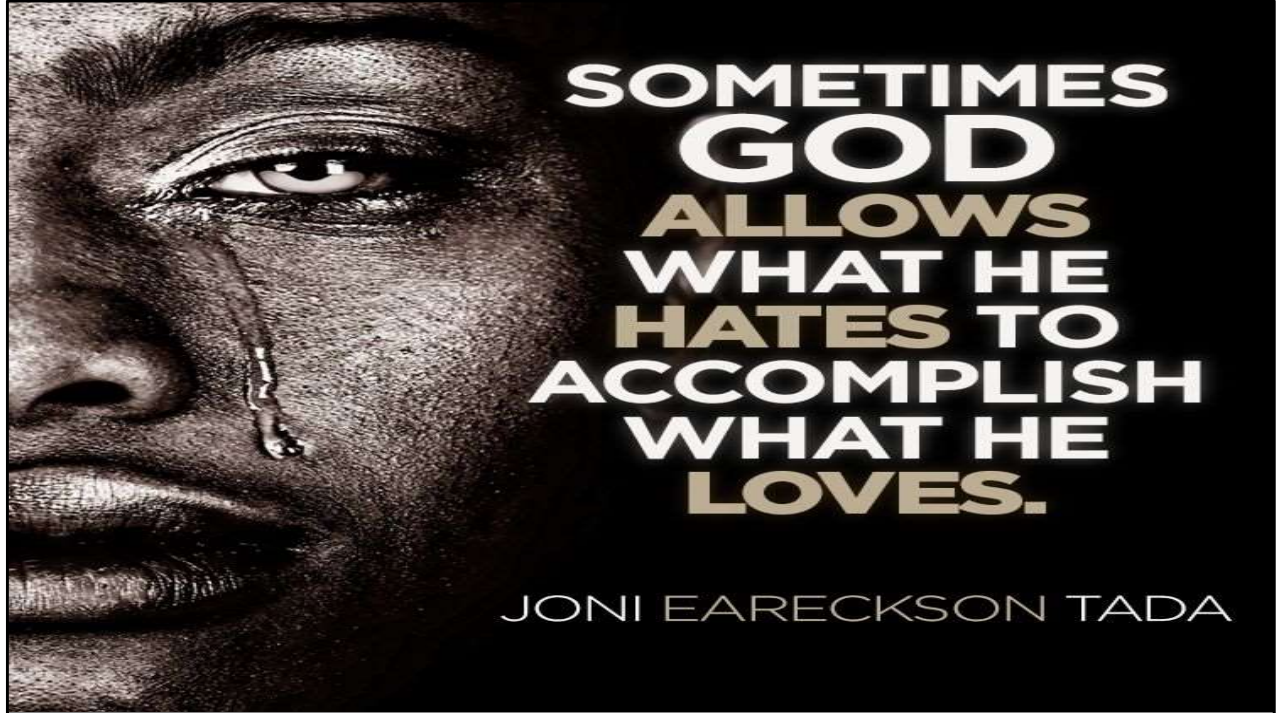
Mar 10:23 NASB20 - **And Jesus, looking around, said to His disciples, "How hard it will be for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!"**

Mar 10:25 NASB20 - "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God."

**We are puzzled and
bewildered whenever we see
suffering in this world
because we have become
accustomed to the mercy and
the long-suffering of God.
Amazing grace is no longer
amazing to us.**

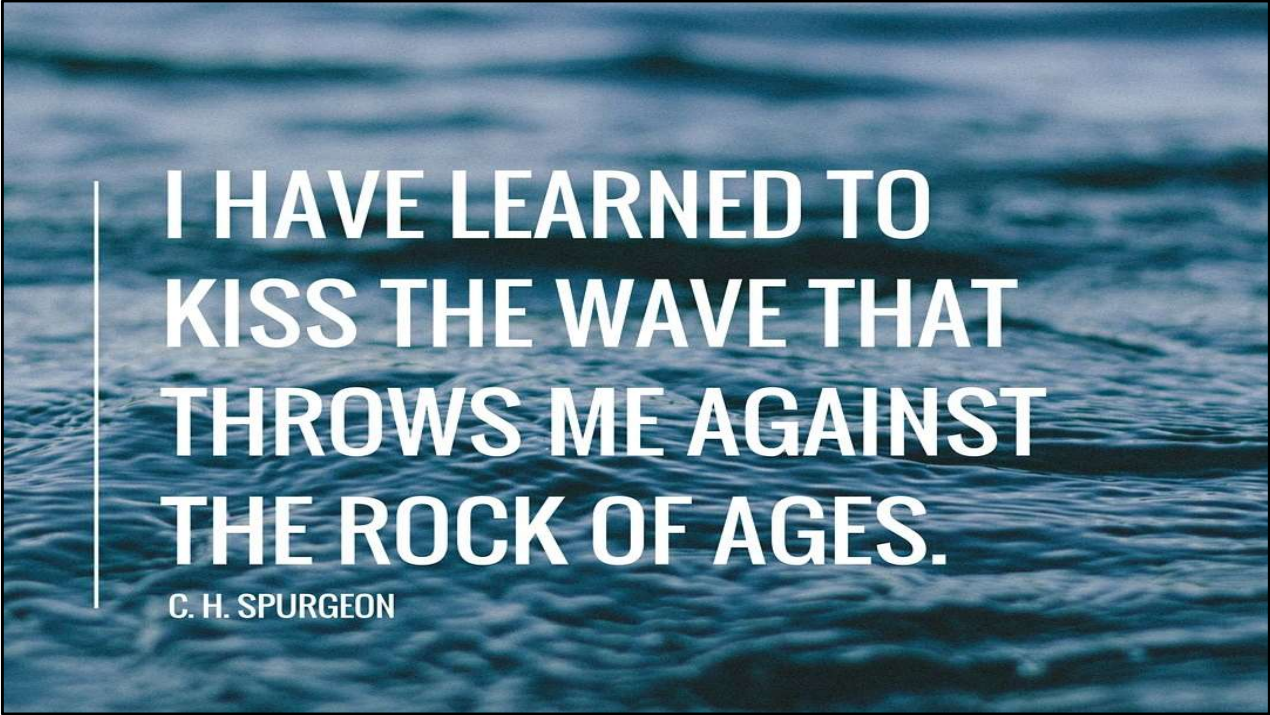
R. C. Sproul

Rom.2



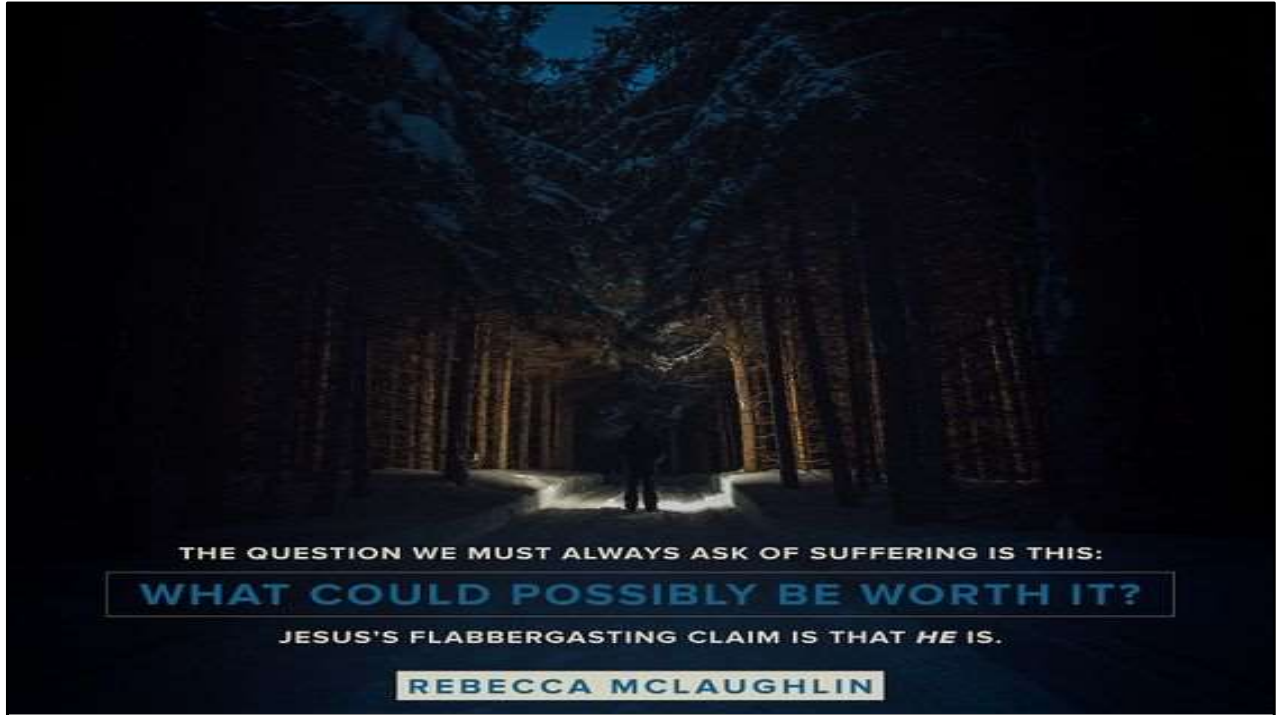
18yo Joni, after misjudging the shallowness of the water. She suffered a fracture between the fourth and fifth cervical levels and became a quadriplegic (or tetraplegic), paralyzed from the shoulders down.[1]

During Tada's two years of rehabilitation, according to her autobiography Joni, she experienced anger, depression, suicidal thoughts, and religious doubts. However, during occupational therapy, she learned to paint with a brush between her teeth and began selling her artwork. She also writes this way, although for most writing tasks she relies on voice recognition software. To date, she has written over forty books, recorded several musical albums, starred in an autobiographical movie of her life, and is an advocate for people with disabilities.[1]



**I HAVE LEARNED TO
KISS THE WAVE THAT
THROWS ME AGAINST
THE ROCK OF AGES.**

C. H. SPURGEON



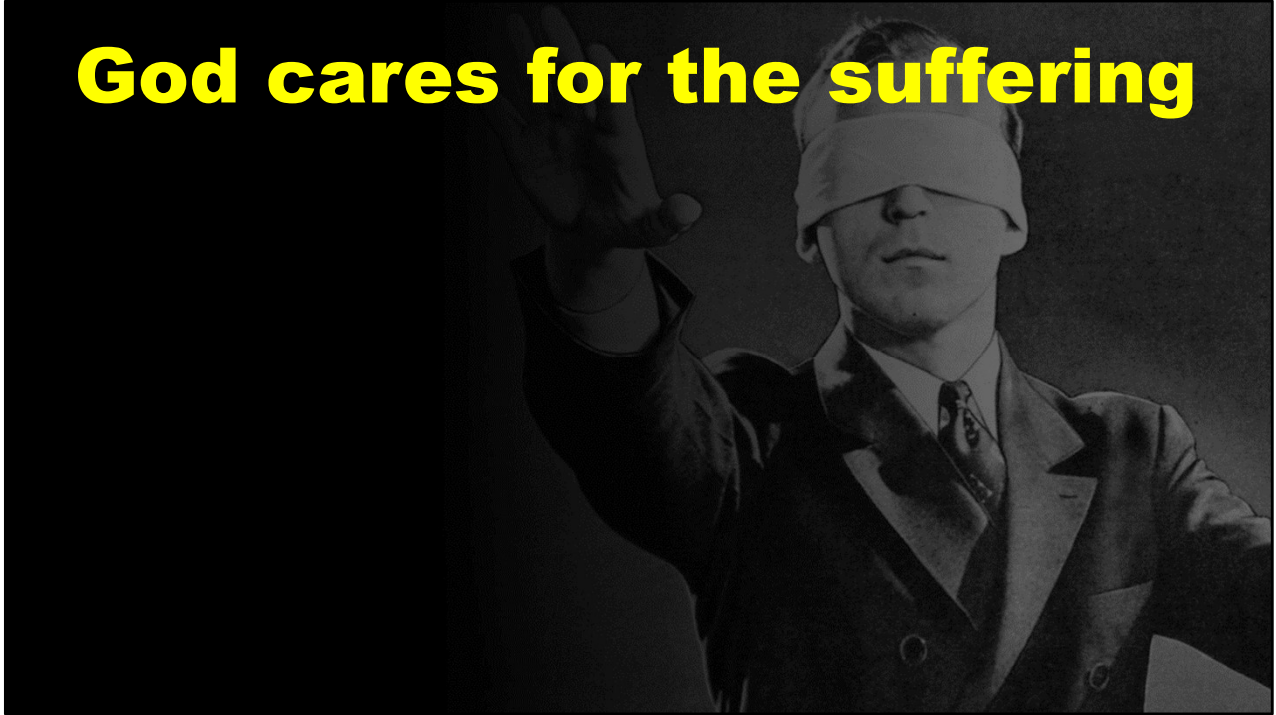
THE QUESTION WE MUST ALWAYS ASK OF SUFFERING IS THIS:

WHAT COULD POSSIBLY BE WORTH IT?

JESUS'S FLABBERGASTING CLAIM IS THAT *HE IS*.

REBECCA MCLAUGHLIN

God cares for the suffering



Jhn 9:1 NASB20 - As Jesus passed by, He saw a man who had been blind from birth.

Jhn 9:2 NASB20 - And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he would be born blind?"

Jhn 9:3 NASB20 - Jesus answered, "It was neither that this man sinned, nor his parents; but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him.

Jhn 9:7 NASB20 - and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which is translated, Sent). So he left and washed, and came back seeing.

Jhn 9:10 NASB20 - So they were saying to him, "How then were your eyes opened?"

Jhn 9:11 NASB20 - He answered, "The man who is called Jesus made mud, and spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash'; so I went away and washed, and I received sight."

Jhn 9:15 NASB20 - Then the Pharisees also were asking him again how he received his sight. And he said to them, "He applied mud to my eyes, and I washed, and I see."

Jhn 9:17 NASB20 - So they said again to the man who was blind, "What do you say about Him, since He opened your eyes?" And he said, "He is a prophet."

Jhn 9:24 NASB20 - So for a second time they summoned the man who had been blind, and said to him, "Give glory to God; we know that this man is a sinner."

Jhn 9:25 NASB20 - He then answered, "Whether He is a sinner, I do not know; one thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."

Jhn 9:26 NASB20 - So they said to him, "What did He do to you? How did He open your

eyes?"

Jhn 9:27 NASB20 - He answered them, "I told you already and you did not listen; why do you want to hear it again? You do not want to become His disciples too, do you?"

Jhn 9:28 NASB20 - They spoke abusively to him and said, "You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

Jhn 9:29 NASB20 - "We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He is from."

Jhn 9:30 NASB20 - The man answered and said to them, "Well, here is the amazing thing, that you do not know where He is from, and yet He opened my eyes!

Jhn 9:31 NASB20 - "We know that God does not listen to sinners; but if someone is God-fearing and does His will, He listens to him.

Jhn 9:32 NASB20 - "Since the beginning of time it has never been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.

Jhn 9:33 NASB20 - "If this man were not from God, He could do nothing."

Jhn 9:34 NASB20 - They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and yet you are teaching us?" So they put him out.

Jhn 9:35 NASB20 - Jesus heard that they had put him out, and upon finding him, He said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

Jhn 9:36 NASB20 - He answered by saying, "And who is He, Sir, that I may believe in Him?"

Jhn 9:37 NASB20 - Jesus said to him, "You have both seen Him, and He is the one who is talking with you."

Jhn 9:38 NASB20 - And he said, "I believe, Lord." And he worshiped Him.

Jhn 9:39 NASB20 - And Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, so that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

Jhn 9:40 NASB20 - Those who were with Him from the Pharisees heard these things and said to Him, "We are not blind too, are we?"

Jhn 9:41 NASB20 - Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now that you maintain, 'We see,' your sin remains.

God cares for the suffering

• Expect suffering in this world!

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**“GOD HAD ONE SON ON EARTH
WITHOUT SIN,
BUT NEVER ONE
WITHOUT
SUFFERING”**

Augustine

ChristianQuotes.info





Psa 34:18 NASB20 - The LORD is near to the brokenhearted And saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psa 34:19 NASB20 - The afflictions of the righteous are many, But the LORD rescues him from them all.

Psa 51:17 NASB20 - The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; A broken and a contrite heart, God, You will not despise.

Psa 147:3 NASB20 - He heals the brokenhearted And binds up their wounds.

Isa 61:1 NASB20 - The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me, Because the LORD anointed me To bring good news to the humble; He has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, To proclaim release to captives And freedom to prisoners;

Luk 4:18 NASB20 - "THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME, BECAUSE HE ANOINTED ME TO BRING GOOD NEWS TO THE POOR. HE HAS SENT ME TO PROCLAIM RELEASE TO CAPTIVES, AND RECOVERY OF SIGHT TO THE BLIND, TO SET FREE THOSE WHO ARE OPPRESSED,



**GOD DOES NOT
EXIST FOR THE
HAPPINESS OF
MAN.**

**MAN EXISTS
FOR THE
HOLINESS AND
GLORY OF GOD.**

ALAN DAVIS

Jesus Christ did not suffer so that
you would not suffer.
He suffered so that when you suffer,
you'll become more like him.
The gospel does not promise you
better life circumstances;
**it promises you
a better life.**

-Tim Keller

AdwMkt.com



TRIALS ARE INTENDED

to make us think, to wean us
from the world, to send us to the
Bible, to drive us to our knees.

J.C. Ryle



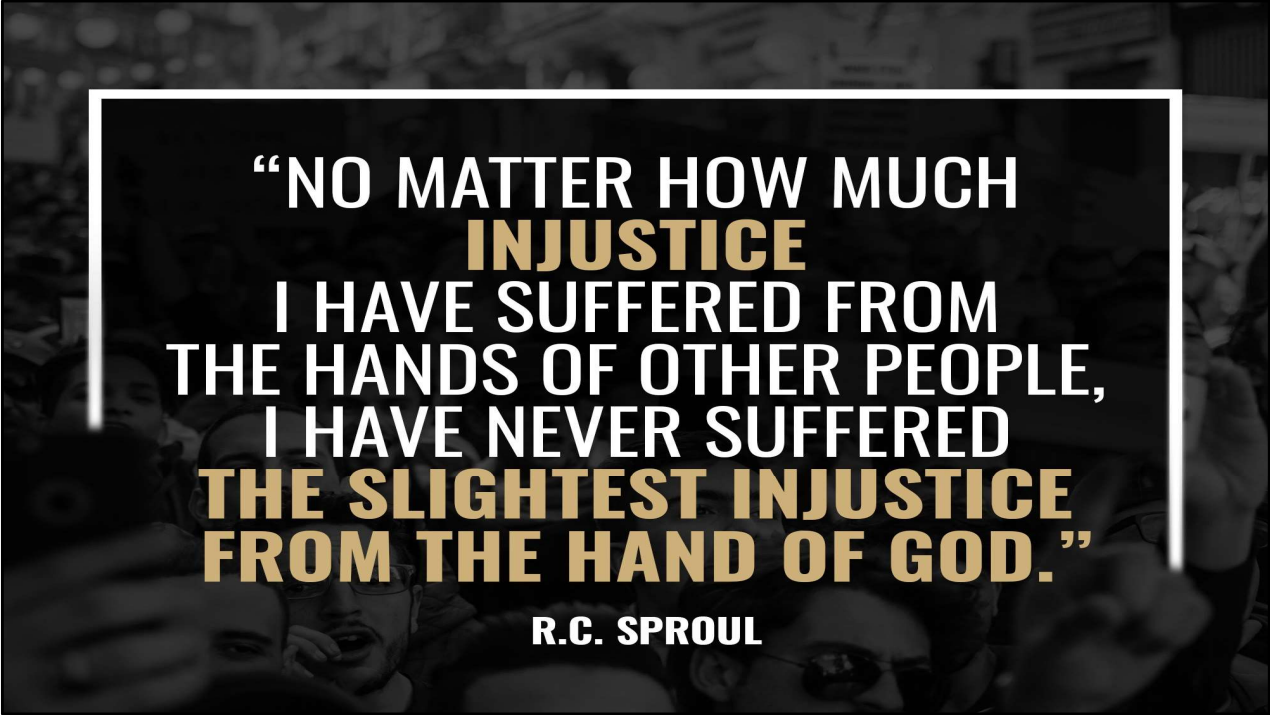
GOD BRINGS MEN

INTO DEEP WATERS

**NOT TO DROWN THEM,
BUT TO CLEANSE THEM**

JAMES H. AUGHEY

ChristianQuotes.info



“NO MATTER HOW MUCH
INJUSTICE
I HAVE SUFFERED FROM
THE HANDS OF OTHER PEOPLE,
I HAVE NEVER SUFFERED
THE SLIGHTEST INJUSTICE
FROM THE HAND OF GOD.”

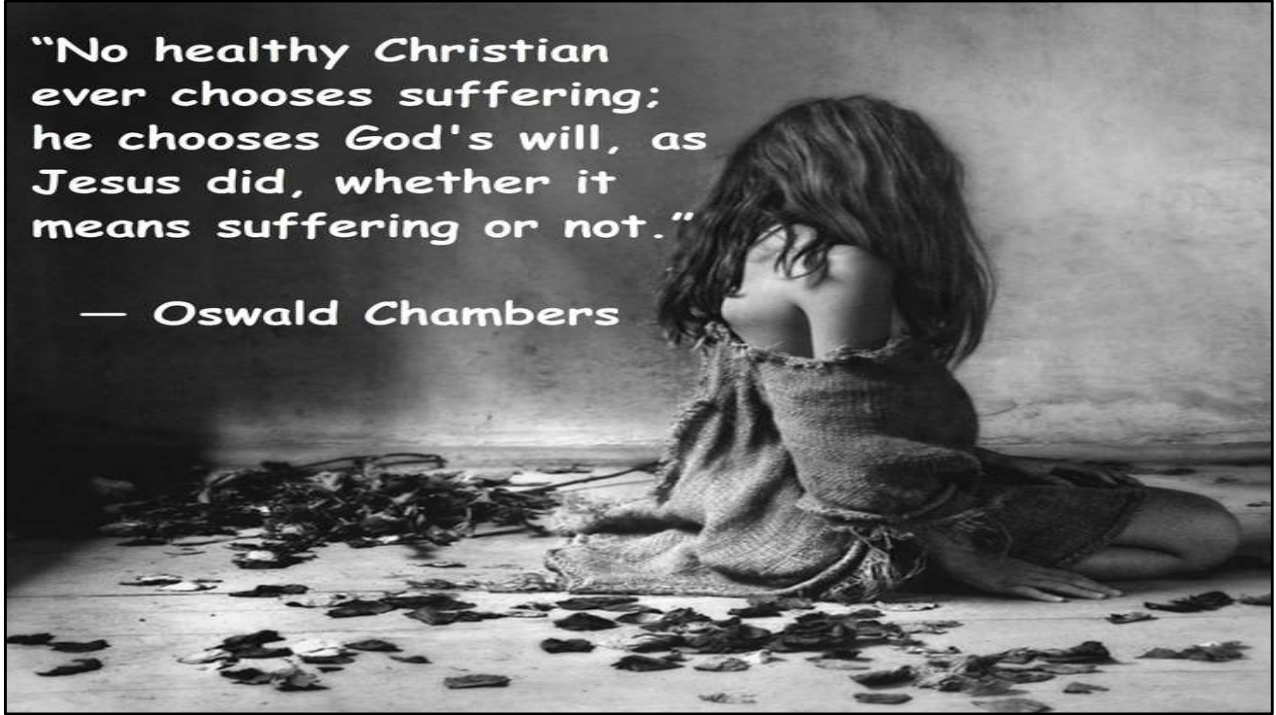
R.C. SPROUL

"There is a purpose to suffering
and if faced rightly
it can drive us like a nail
deep into the love of God
and into more stability and spiritual power
than you can imagine."

TIMOTHY KELLER

**"No healthy Christian
ever chooses suffering;
he chooses God's will, as
Jesus did, whether it
means suffering or not."**

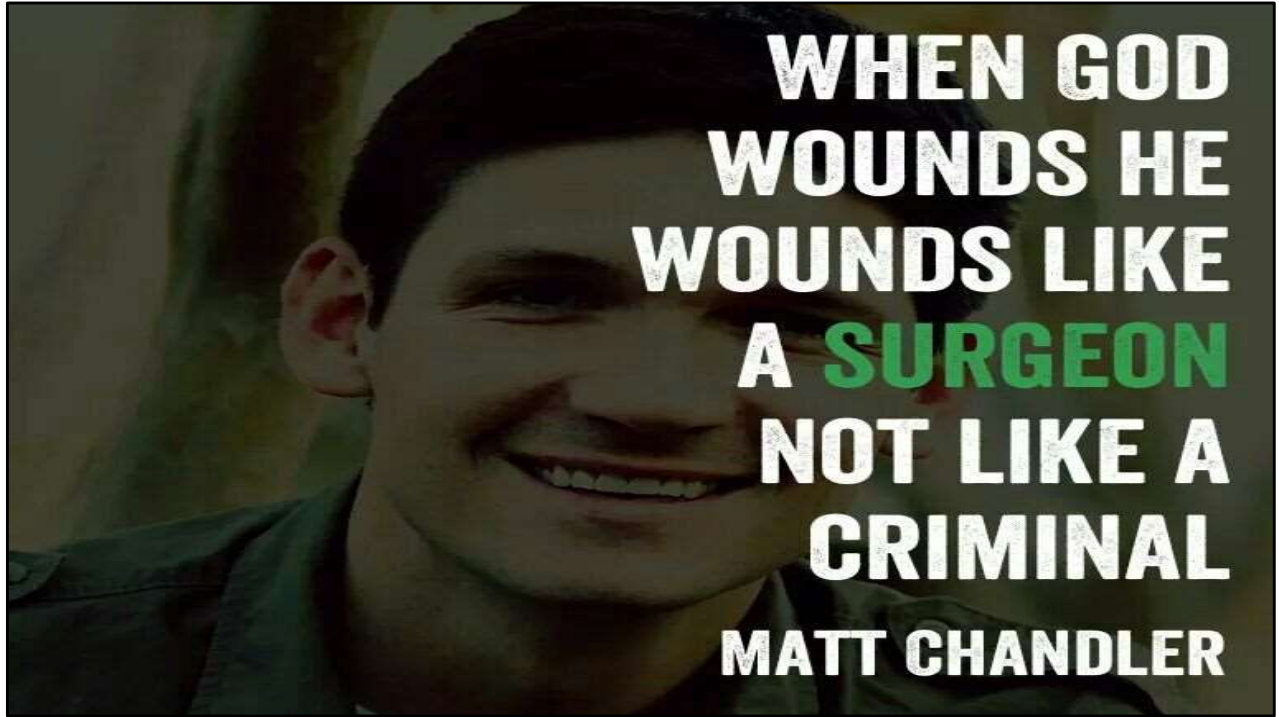
— Oswald Chambers

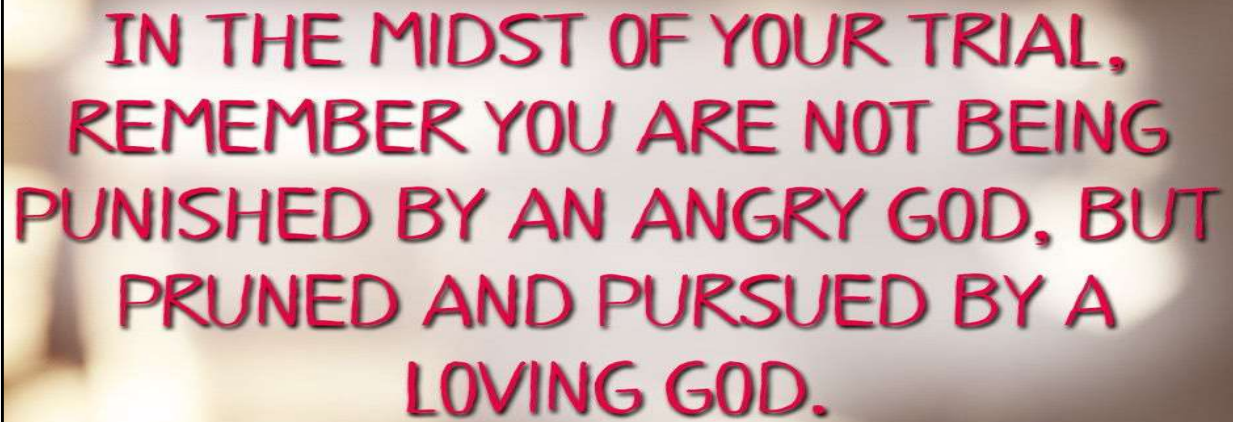


**"God does not waste suffering; if he
ploughs it is because He purposes a crop."**

- J.O.Sanders -






An open book is shown in a soft, warm light, with the pages slightly blurred. The text is overlaid on the upper half of the image.

IN THE MIDST OF YOUR TRIAL,
REMEMBER YOU ARE NOT BEING
PUNISHED BY AN ANGRY GOD, BUT
PRUNED AND PURSUED BY A
LOVING GOD.

JEN STULTS
"3 BIBLICAL REASONS
FOR SUFFERING"

A woman with dark hair is shown in profile, looking out of a window at night. Her face is illuminated by a soft light, possibly from the window or a lamp. The window has a dark frame and a reflection of her hand is visible on the glass. The background is dark, suggesting it is nighttime.

AFFLICTION DOTH NOT RISE OUT
OF THE DUST OR COME TO MEN BY CHANCE;
BUT IT IS THE LORD THAT SENDS IT,
AND WE SHOULD OWN AND
REVERENCE HIS HAND IN IT.

Thomas Boston

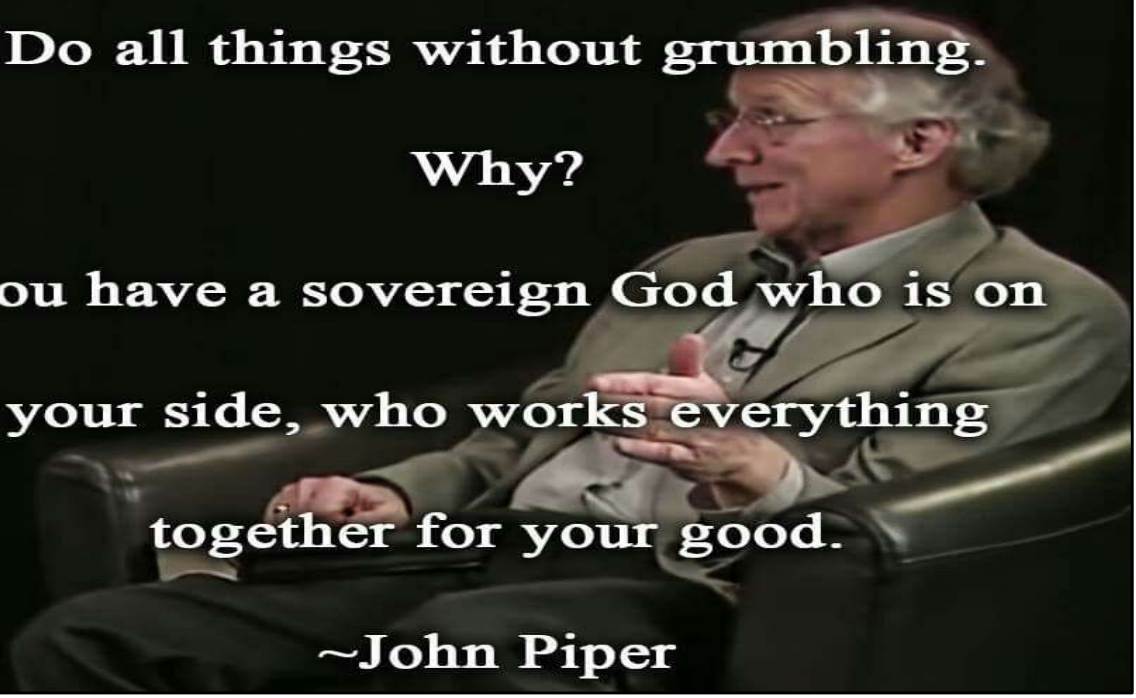
©CHALLIES

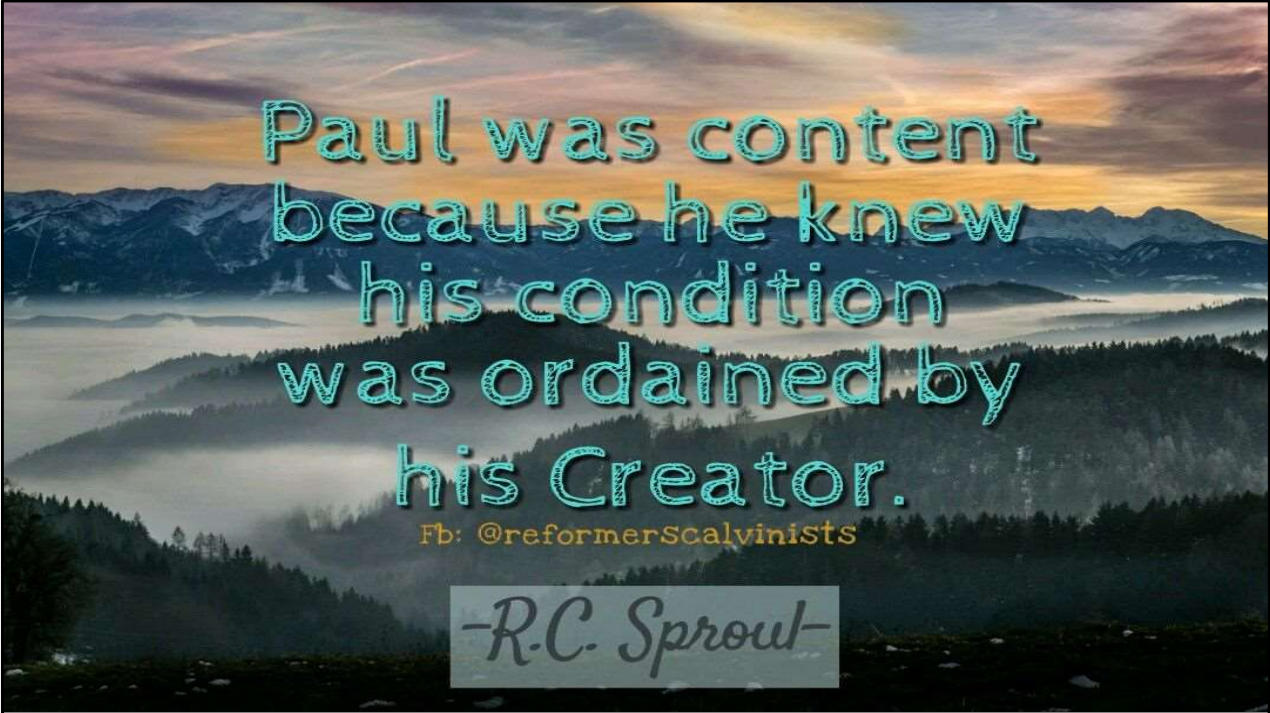
Do all things without grumbling.

Why?

**You have a sovereign God who is on
your side, who works everything
together for your good.**

~John Piper





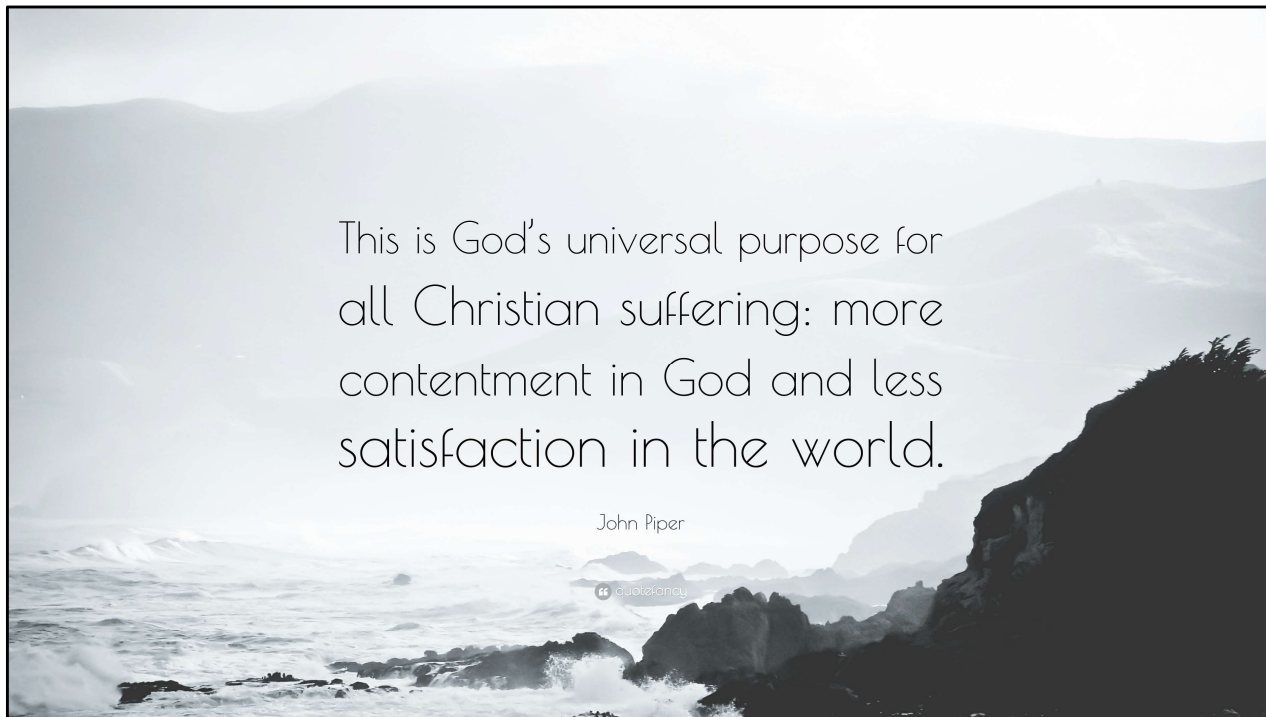
Paul was content
because he knew
his condition
was ordained by
his Creator.

Fb: @reformerscalvinists

-R.C. Sproul-

Those who leave
everything in
GOD'S HAND
will eventually see
God's hand in
everything.

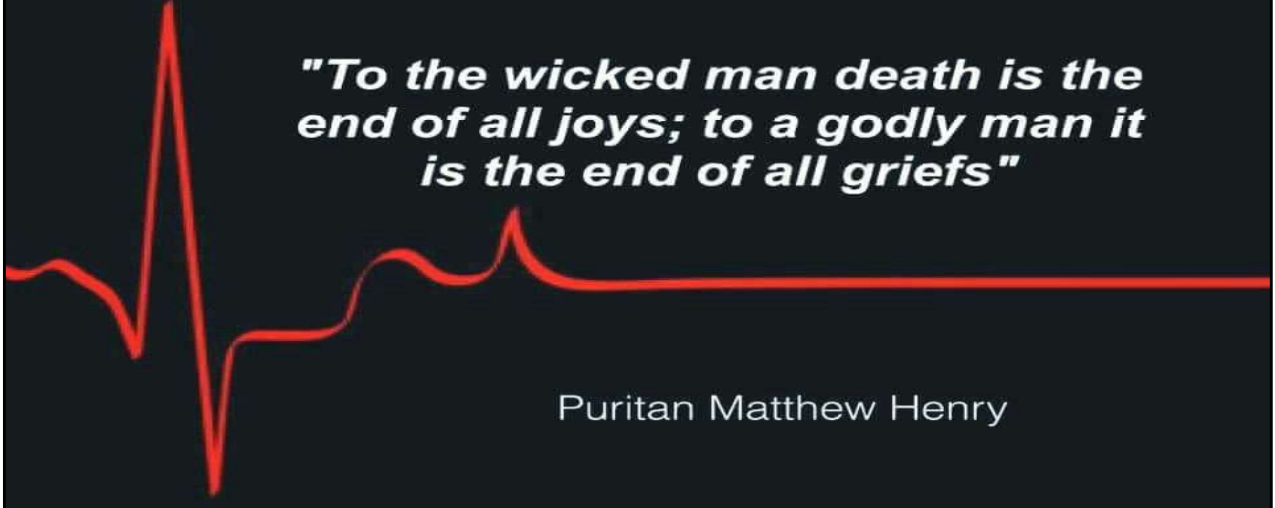
QUOTEDIARY.NET



This is God's universal purpose for all Christian suffering: more contentment in God and less satisfaction in the world.

John Piper

“quotefancy”



***"To the wicked man death is the
end of all joys; to a godly man it
is the end of all griefs"***

Puritan Matthew Henry

**I know for certain that
God does not make mistakes,
but he does make miracles.**

**I AM ONE
YOU ARE TOO**



Nicholas James Vujicic is an Australian American Christian evangelist and motivational speaker born with tetra-amelia syndrome, a rare disorder characterized by the absence of arms and legs.

Suffering and Evil?



It exists! Its inescapable, you can be jaded and cynical and judge God OR Turn to the One who sent His only son to fix the problem!
Epicurus and we hate suffering but not evil! We want Heaven without Christ! But this itself betrays our hearts! Cosmic Treason! Especially since the Cross!
- God is Good, YOU are NOT!!

Epicurus!

God is willing to pay for and prevent your Evil, are you willing?!! Jesus' bloody cross and empty tomb shows He is ABLE!

The only question left is, are you willing? If not, Then whence cometh Evil?

Remember He is God and you are not!

You can, and we all do judge God but it will be used against us in His court of law! He will Judge you!

Mat 12:36 NASB20 - "But I tell you that for every careless word that people speak, they will give an account of it on the day of judgment.

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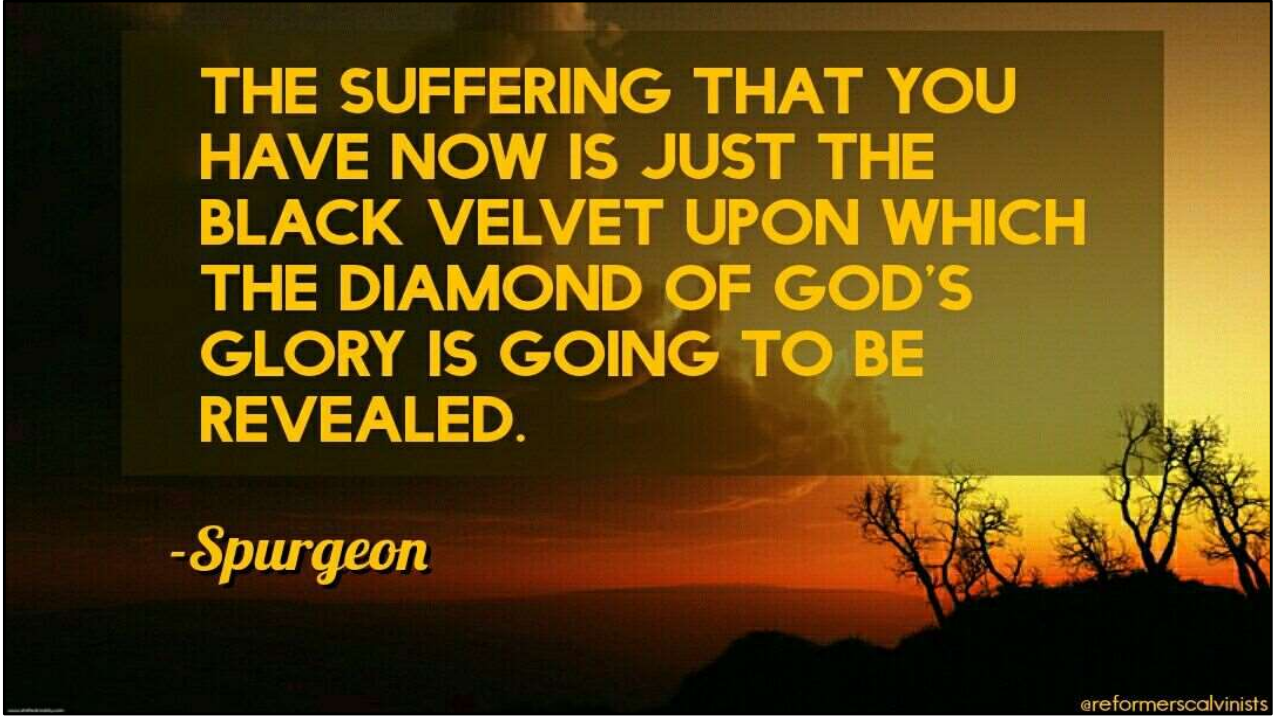
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The only question left is, are you willing? If not, Then whence cometh Evil?

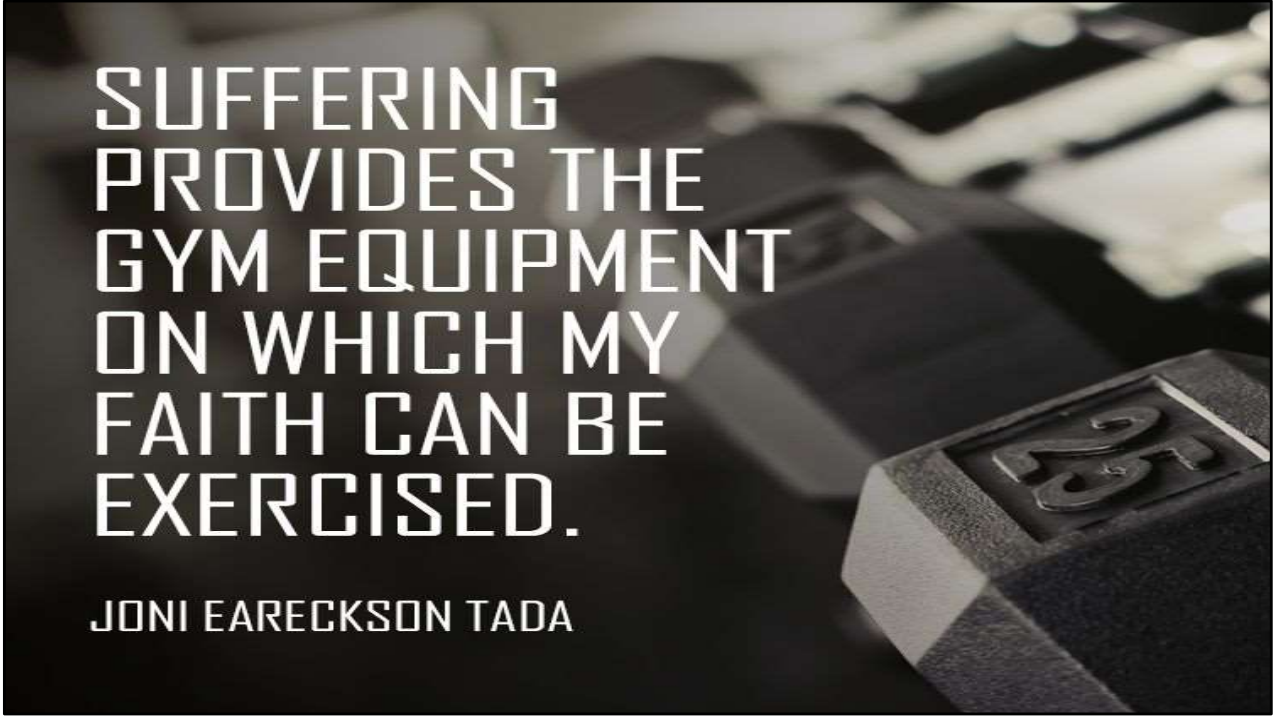
Remember He is God and you are not!



**THE SUFFERING THAT YOU
HAVE NOW IS JUST THE
BLACK VELVET UPON WHICH
THE DIAMOND OF GOD'S
GLORY IS GOING TO BE
REVEALED.**

-Spurgeon

@reformerscalvinists



SUFFERING
PROVIDES THE
GYM EQUIPMENT
ON WHICH MY
FAITH CAN BE
EXERCISED.

JONI EARECKSON TADA

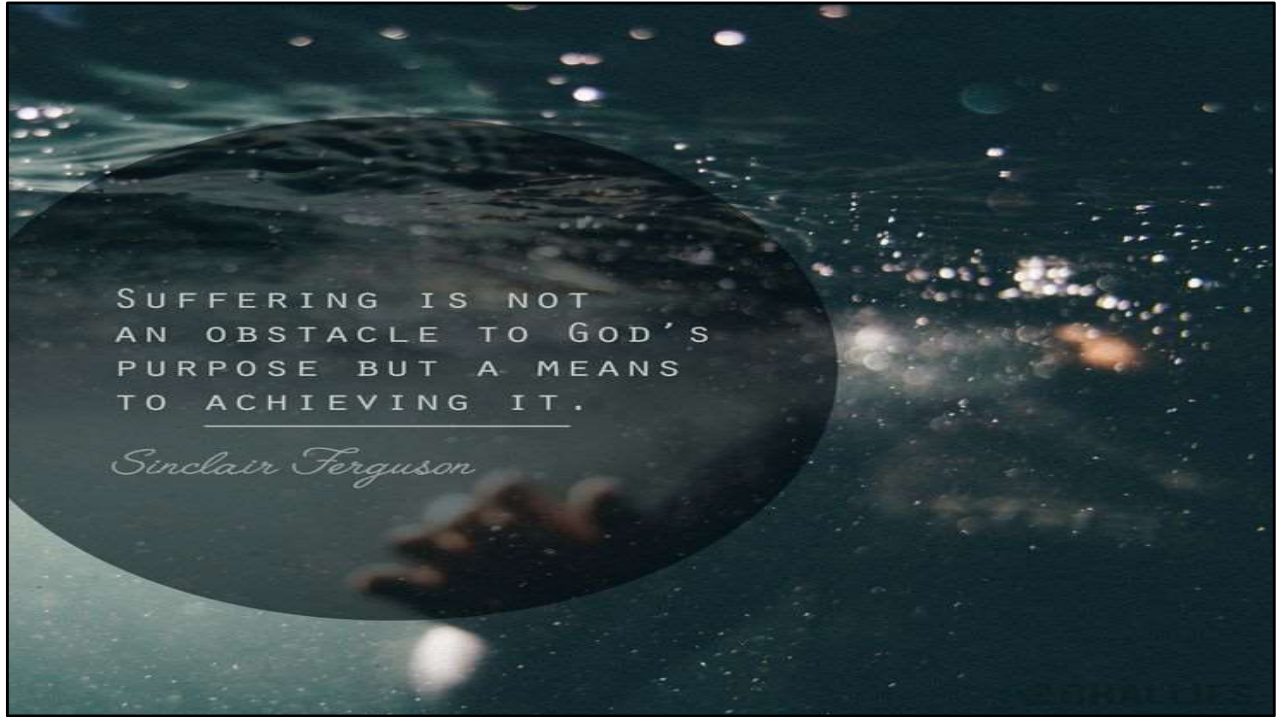
PATIENCE IS A SUBMISSION TO HIS
SOVEREIGNTY.

TO ENDURE A TRIAL, SIMPLY BECAUSE
WE CANNOT AVOID OR RESIST IT,
IS NOT CHRISTIAN PATIENCE. BUT
TO HUMBLY SUBMIT BECAUSE IT IS
THE WILL OF GOD TO INFLICT THE
TRIAL, TO BE SILENT BECAUSE THE
SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD ORDERS IT
– IS TRUE GODLY PATIENCE.

–*Stephen Charnock*



EVERY THOUGHT
CAPTIVE



SUFFERING IS NOT
AN OBSTACLE TO GOD'S
PURPOSE BUT A MEANS
TO ACHIEVING IT.

Sinclair Ferguson

**YOU CANNOT BE EXPOSED
ANY MORE THAN CHRIST
WAS ON THE CROSS AND
HE WENT THERE FOR US.**

JARED C. WILSON



WE ARE TOO PRONE TO ENGRAVE OUR
TRIALS IN MARBLE
AND WRITE OUR
BLESSINGS IN SAND.

— CHARLES H. SPURGEON

JESUS

Preach the
Gospel
ORG

“THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN
STRONG FAITH
IS TO ENDURE GREAT TRIALS.
I HAVE LEARNED MY FAITH BY
STANDING FIRM
AMID SEVERE TESTINGS.”

— GEORGE MÜLLER



Preach the
Gospel
.ORG

“ The real problem
is not why some
pious, humble,
believing people
suffer, but why
some do not.
C. S. Lewis





*Things are not as they should be.
Because He's not finished yet.
They will be. Rest assured.*

WhatsMyQuote.com



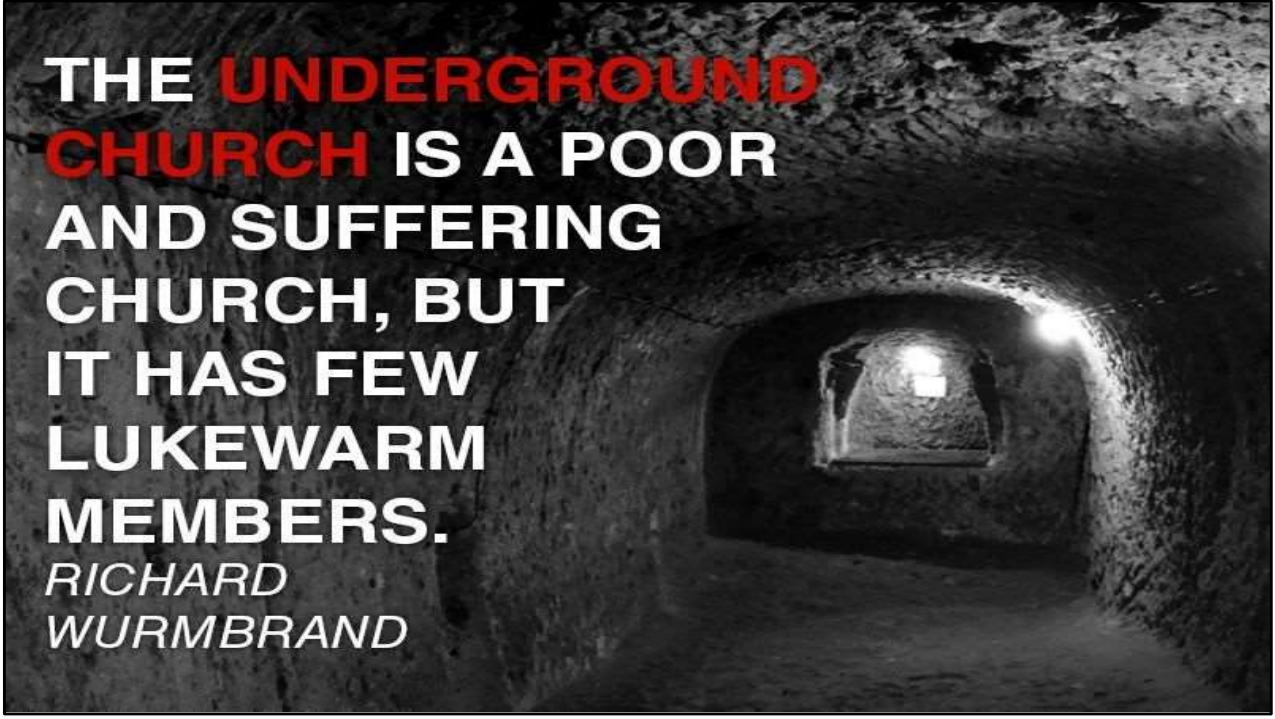
R. C. Sproul, Jr.

JOY IS NOT
NECESSARILY
THE ABSENCE OF
SUFFERING. IT IS THE
PRESENCE OF GOD.



SAM STORMS

ChristianQuotes.info



**THE UNDERGROUND
CHURCH IS A POOR
AND SUFFERING
CHURCH, BUT
IT HAS FEW
LUKEWARM
MEMBERS.**

*RICHARD
WURMBRAND*

If I were to say, "God, why me?" about the bad things, then I should have said, "God, why me?" about the good things that happened in my life.

COME, AND SEE THE VICTORIES OF THE CROSS

Christ's wounds are thy **HEALINGS**

His agonies thy **REPOSE**

His conflicts thy **CONQUESTS**

His groans thy **SONGS**

His pains thine **EASE**

His shame thy **GLORY**

His death thy **LIFE**

His sufferings thy

SALVATION

ChristianQuotes.info

Matthew
HENRY

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

**A CHALLENGE
TO GOD'S
EXISTENCE?**



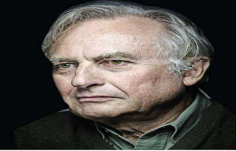
/θi'ɑdɪsi/ - the-od-i-cy

Theodicy

(noun) the branch of theology that defends God's goodness and justice in the face of the existence of evil

Good & Evil don't exist.

“The universe that we observe has precisely the properties we should expect if there is, at bottom, no design, no purpose, **no evil, no good**, nothing but pitiless indifference.”



(River out of Eden)

Richard Dawkins Anti-theist, Atheist.



Good & Evil do exist.



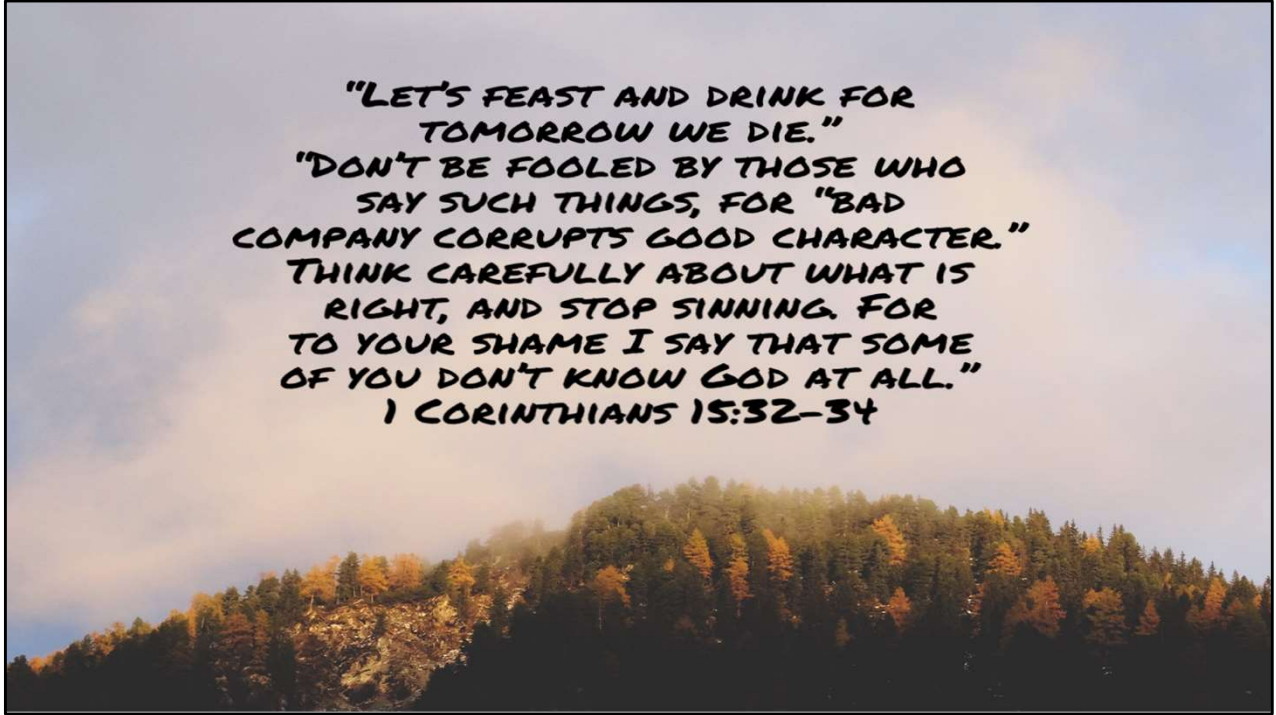
“I think a case can be made that faith is one of the world's **great evils**, comparable to the smallpox virus but harder to eradicate.”

(‘Is Science a Religion?’)

Richard Dawkins Anti-theist, Atheist.

Translation: “Evil does doesn't exist.”

**"LET'S FEAST AND DRINK FOR
TOMORROW WE DIE."
"DON'T BE FOOLED BY THOSE WHO
SAY SUCH THINGS, FOR "BAD
COMPANY CORRUPTS GOOD CHARACTER."
THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT WHAT IS
RIGHT, AND STOP SINNING. FOR
TO YOUR SHAME I SAY THAT SOME
OF YOU DON'T KNOW GOD AT ALL."
1 CORINTHIANS 15:32-34**





#GODisHOPE

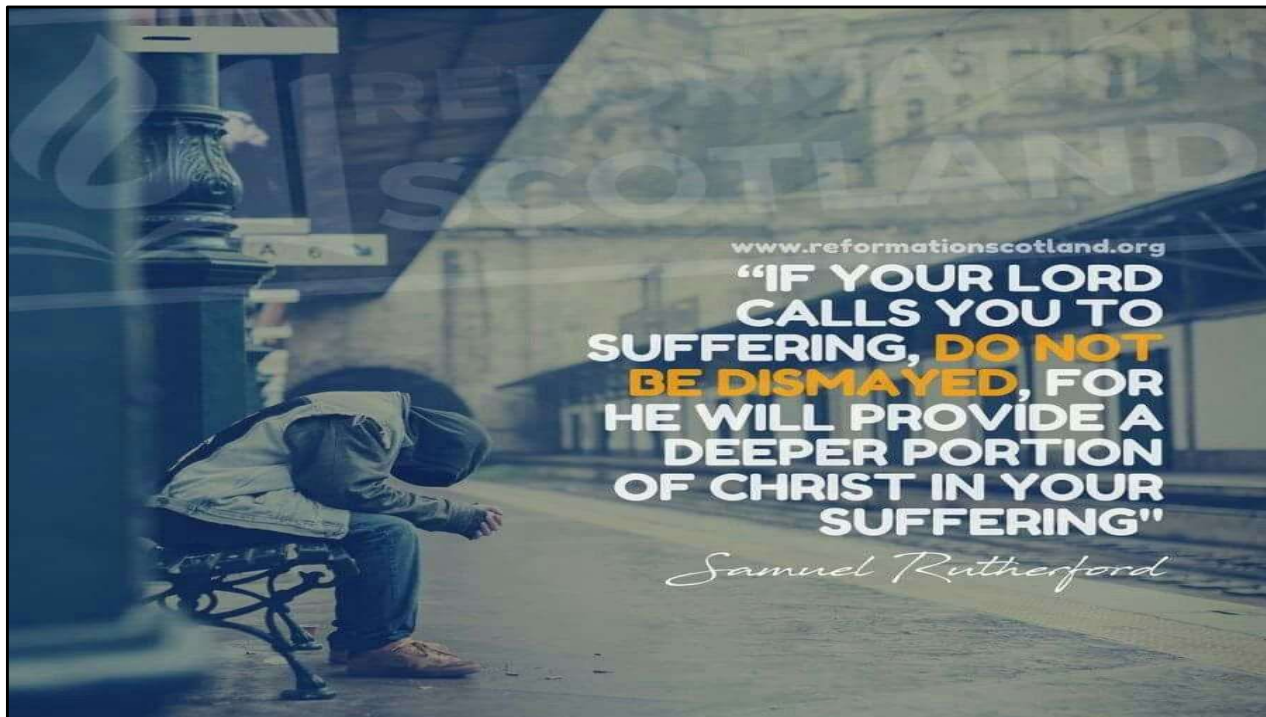
“

Suffering produces **endurance**,
endurance produces **character**,
and character produces **hope**.

ROMANS 5:3-4



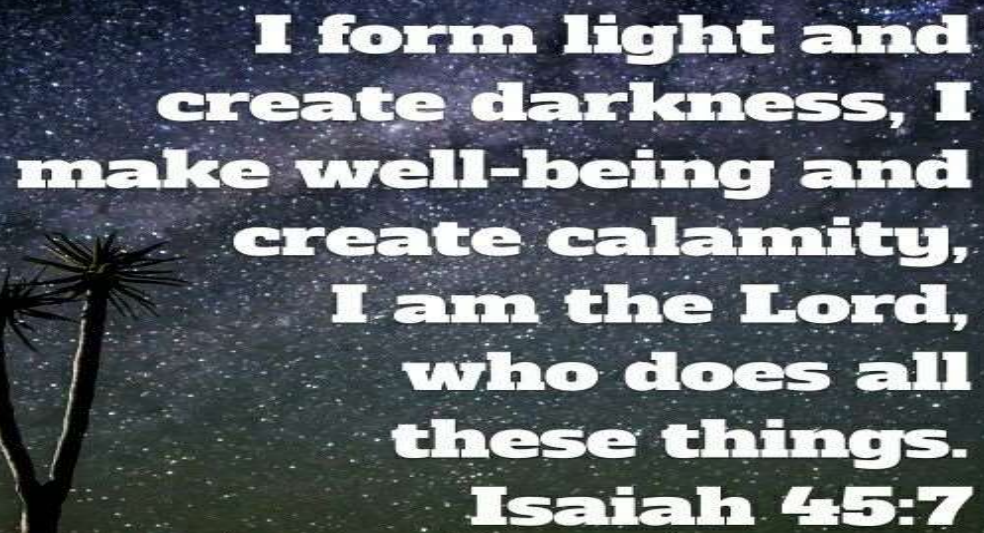
she **lost her sight and hearing** after a bout of illness at the age of nineteen months. She then communicated primarily using home signs until the age of seven when she met her first teacher and life-long companion Anne Sullivan, who taught her language, including reading and writing; Sullivan's first lessons involved spelling words on Keller's hand to show her the names of objects around her. She also learned how to speak and to understand other people's speech using the Tadoma method. After an education at both specialist and mainstream schools, she attended Radcliffe College of Harvard University and became the first deafblind person to earn a Bachelor of Arts degree. She worked for the American Foundation for the Blind (AFB) from 1924 until 1968, during which time she toured the United States and traveled to 35 countries around the globe advocating for those with vision loss.



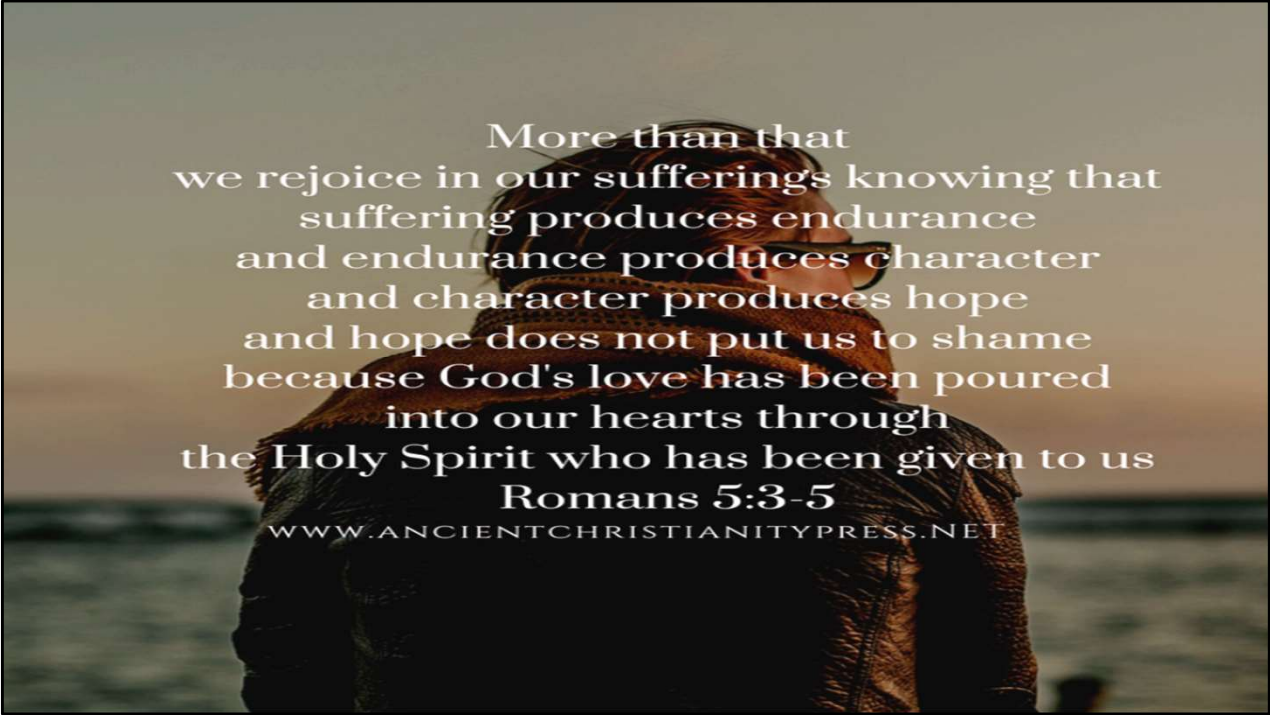
www.reformationscotland.org

**"IF YOUR LORD
CALLS YOU TO
SUFFERING, DO NOT
BE DISMAYED, FOR
HE WILL PROVIDE A
DEEPER PORTION
OF CHRIST IN YOUR
SUFFERING"**

Samuel Rutherford

A night sky filled with stars and a silhouette of a tree with two spiky tops.

**I form light and
create darkness, I
make well-being and
create calamity,
I am the Lord,
who does all
these things.
Isaiah 45:7**



More than that
we rejoice in our sufferings knowing that
suffering produces endurance
and endurance produces character
and character produces hope
and hope does not put us to shame
because God's love has been poured
into our hearts through
the Holy Spirit who has been given to us

Romans 5:3-5

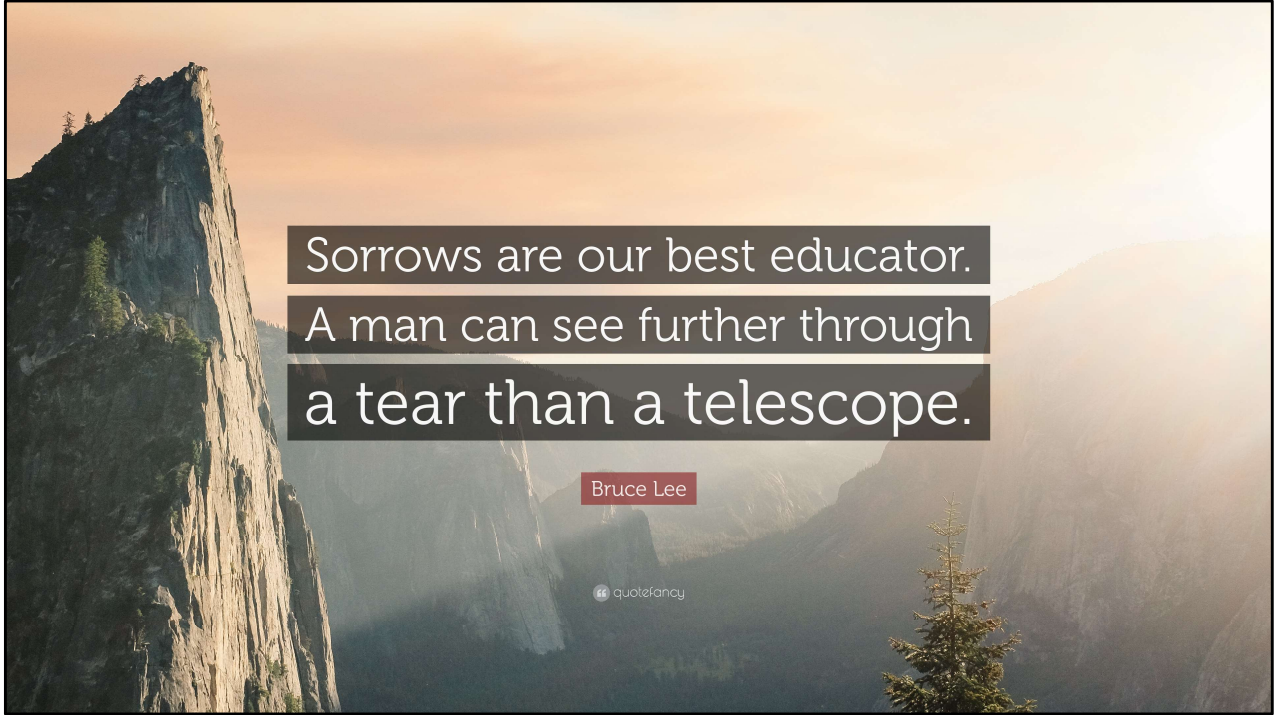
WWW.ANCIENTCHRISTIANITYPRESS.NET



**Suffering is better than sinning.
There is more evil in a drop of sin
than in an ocean of affliction. Better,
burn for Christ, than turn from Christ.**

Charles H. Spurgeon


quotation



Sorrows are our best educator.
A man can see further through
a tear than a telescope.

Bruce Lee

quote fancy



It is a sweet mercy to have to go through the floods,

**IF SOME FILTHINESS MAY
THEREBY BE REMOVED.**

C.H. Spurgeon

©CHALLENGES

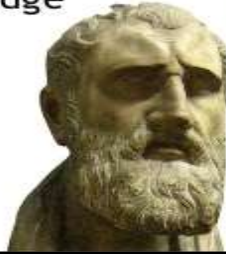
As soon as a baby enters the world, the baby is immediately introduced to pain. It is somewhat symbolic that life begins with a cry.

R. C. Sproul

NEW PHILOSOPHY

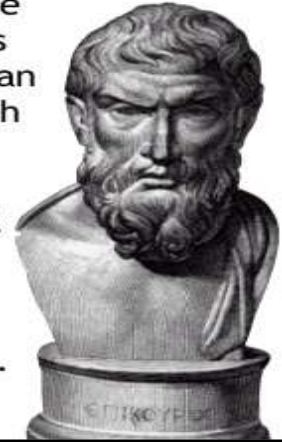
STOICISM

- Founded by Zeno
- Stoic philosophers believe that humans should not pressure desires like power and wealth, because these are dangerous.
- The ultimate good is seeking knowledge and showing no emotion towards pleasure or pain.



EPICUREANISM

- Founded by Epicurus
- Epicurean philosophers believe that the only real things are those we can experience with our 5 senses.
- The ultimate good is seeking pleasure and achieving harmony of body and mind.



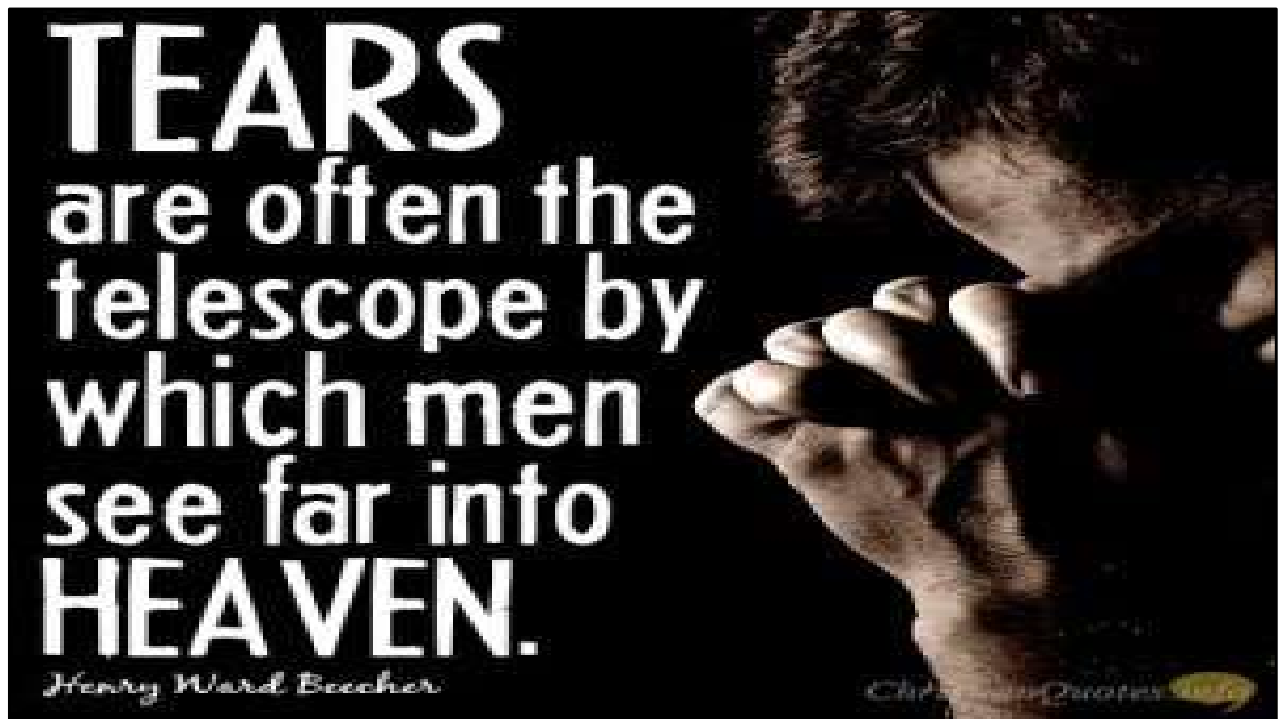
ISAIAH 45:7



“I form the light, and create darkness.
I make peace, and create evil.
I the Lord do all these things.”

DECODED

Isa 45:7 NASB20 - The One forming light and creating darkness, Causing well-being and creating disaster; I am the LORD who does all these things.



Henry Ward Beecher was the son of Lyman Beecher, a Calvinist minister who became one of the best-known evangelists of his era. Several of his brothers and sisters became well-known educators and activists, most notably Harriet Beecher Stowe, who achieved worldwide fame with her abolitionist novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

He soon acquired fame on the lecture circuit for his novel oratorical style in which he employed humor, dialect, and slang. Over the course of his ministry, he developed a theology emphasizing God's love above all else. He also grew interested in social reform, particularly the abolitionist movement. In the years leading up to the Civil War, he raised money to purchase slaves from captivity and to send rifles—nicknamed "Beecher's Bibles"—to abolitionists fighting in Kansas. He toured Europe during the Civil War, speaking in support of the Union.

After the war, Beecher supported social reform causes such as women's suffrage and temperance. He also championed Charles Darwin's theory of evolution, stating that it was not incompatible with Christian beliefs.[1] He was widely rumored to be an adulterer, and in 1872 the *Woodhull & Claflin's Weekly* published a story about his affair with Elizabeth Richards Tilton, the wife of his friend

In the course of his preaching, Henry Ward Beecher came to reject his father Lyman's theology, which "combined the old belief that 'human fate was preordained by God's plan' with a faith in the capacity of rational men and women to purge society of its sinful

ways".[2] Henry instead preached a "Gospel of Love" that emphasized God's absolute love rather than human sinfulness, and doubted the existence of Hell.[16][14] He also rejected his father's prohibitions against various leisure activities as distractions from a holy life, stating instead that "Man was made for enjoyment".[2]

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henry_Ward_Beecher

IF GOD EXISTS, HE IS:

OMNIPOTENT



AND CAN STOP
ALL EVIL

OMNISCIENT



AND KNOWS
HOW TO DO IT

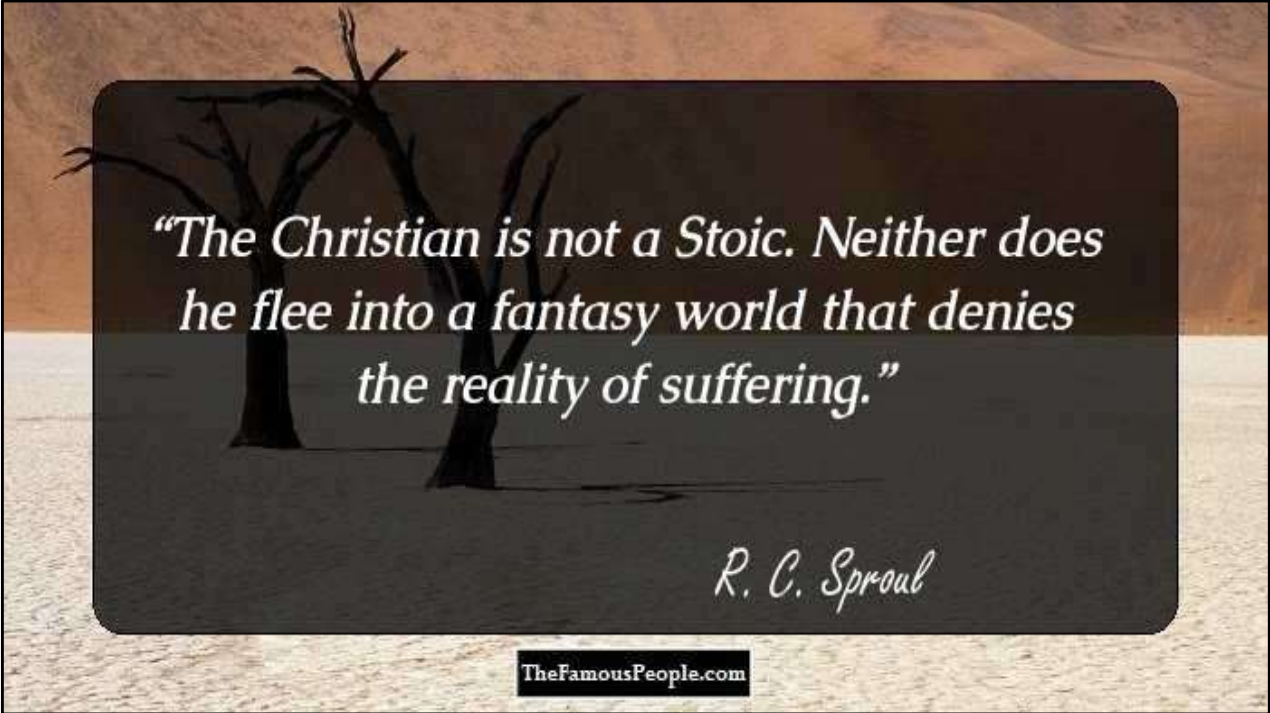
MORALLY PERFECT



AND DESIRES
TO END EVIL

BUT EVIL EXISTS, SO EITHER GOD DOESN'T EXIST,
OR HE IS NOT ALL THREE OF THESE.

CMK



“The Christian is not a Stoic. Neither does he flee into a fantasy world that denies the reality of suffering.”

R. C. Sproul

TheFamousPeople.com

IS GOD IS
WILLING TO HE ABLE
PREVENT EVIL BUT NOT
BUT NOT ABLE WILLING
THEN HE IS
IS NOT MALEVOLENT
OMNIPOTENT IS HE BOTH
ABLE AND
WILLING
THEN WHENCE
EVIL COMETH
IS HE
NEITHER
ABLE NOR
WILLING
THEN WHY
CALL HIM
GOD
-EPICURUS

St. Augustine's Theodicy



His theory is a development of the freewill defence.

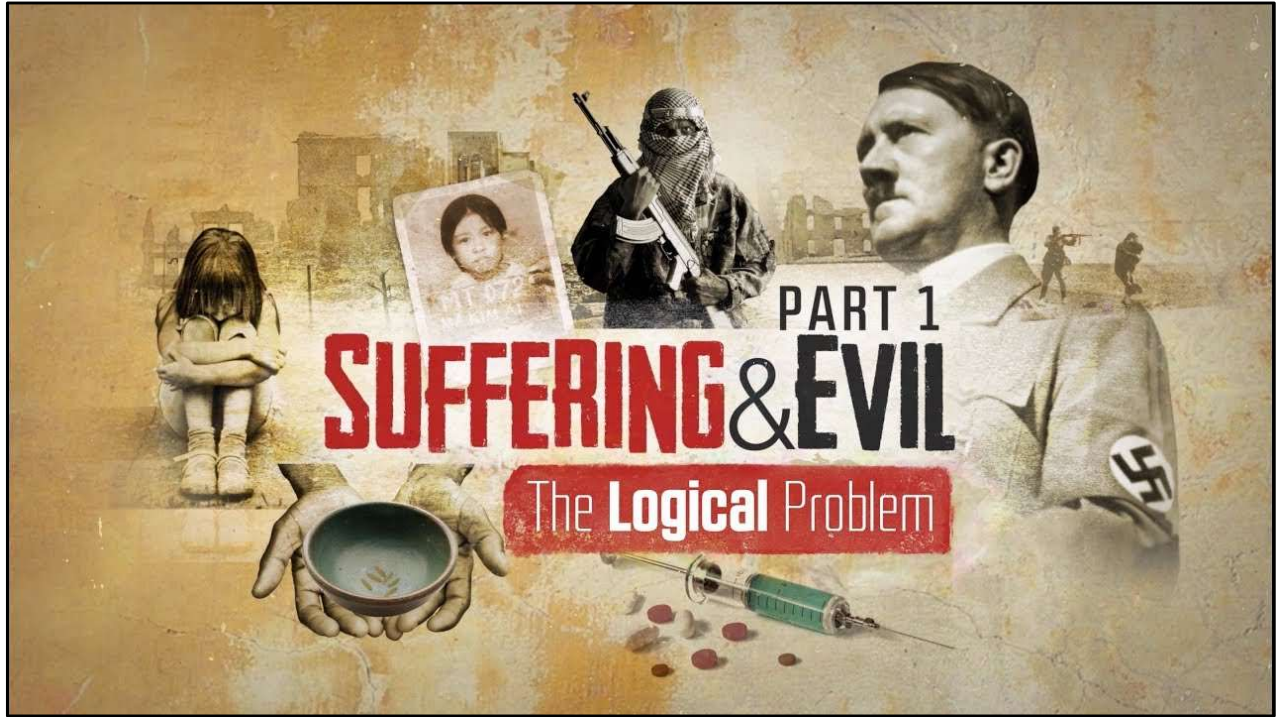
i.e. Do not quote the free will defence as independent of the Augustine theodicy as they are based on the same belief in the true autonomy (independence) of human beings.


He based his theory on key Biblical passages:

- *Genesis 1-3*: the story of Adam and Eve and their 'Fall' in the Garden of Eden.
- *Romans 5: 12-20*: St Paul describes the Christian belief that Jesus' sacrifice on the Cross wipes out the sin committed by Adam and Eve. Jesus' self sacrifice has made available a boundless gift, the gift of righteousness.

He also based it on two assumptions:

1. Evil is not from God - God's creation was faultless and perfect
2. Evil came from within the world.

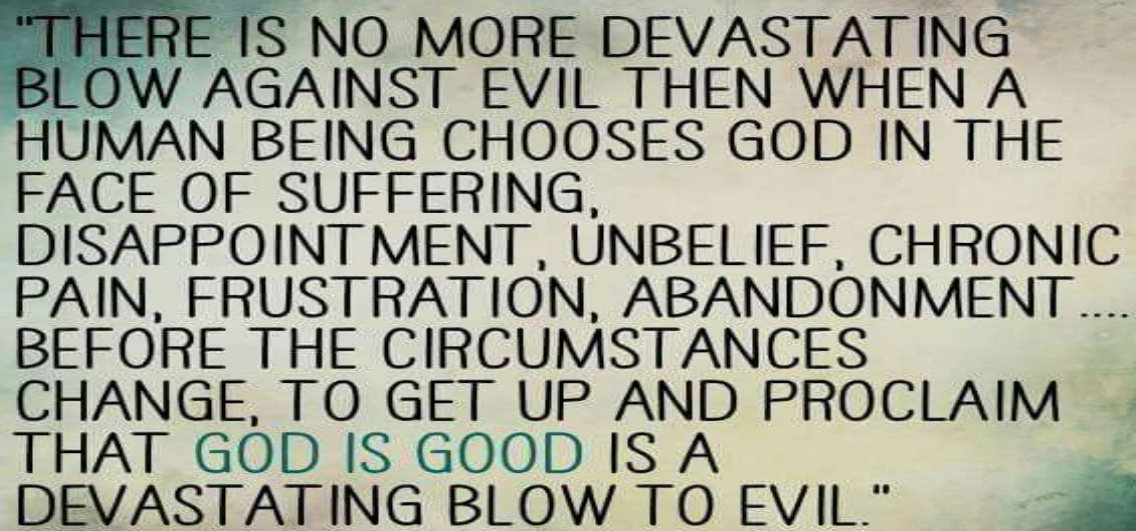


A scenic landscape featuring a calm river or stream in the foreground, reflecting the surrounding greenery. The middle ground shows a grassy bank with a few trees, and the background is a dense forest of tall trees under a clear sky. The overall atmosphere is peaceful and natural.

Despite the obvious emphasis of Scripture (in regard to suffering), we are bombarded by suggestions that the 'successful' Christian living takes place in the realm of constant victory, health, wholeness, and financial prosperity. In response to this we are not to pretend that suffering doesn't exist or that it might be instantly cured. Such notions are the product of empty heads and closed Bibles.

- Alistair Begg

morefamousquotes.com



"THERE IS NO MORE DEVASTATING
BLOW AGAINST EVIL THEN WHEN A
HUMAN BEING CHOOSES GOD IN THE
FACE OF SUFFERING,
DISAPPOINTMENT, UNBELIEF, CHRONIC
PAIN, FRUSTRATION, ABANDONMENT
BEFORE THE CIRCUMSTANCES
CHANGE, TO GET UP AND PROCLAIM
THAT **GOD IS GOOD** IS A
DEVASTATING BLOW TO EVIL."

JOHN ELDREDGE

"If there is a God, he will have to beg
my forgiveness."

-A phrase carved into a concentration camp cell by a Jewish Prisoner

