

EVIL, SUFFERING, DEATH: WHY?

CONCLUSION:

WHY THE DELAY? Why does God let evil and pain so flagrantly exist, even thrive, on this planet? Why does He let us do slowly and blunderingly what He could do in an eyeblink? He holds back for OUR sakes. WE are the center of His plan!

As in the situation with Job, in fact the motive behind all human history, is to develop us, not God! Our very existence announces to the powers in the universe that restoration is under way. Every act of faith by the people of God is like the tolling of a bell, and **the faith of and like Job's** will reverberate throughout the universe!

DO YOU REMEMBER when you first believed? How child-like and shallow our faith usually is at that point! But, as "hungry" children of God we take His food and grow in grace and knowledge. We reach the point, NOT where evil or suffering or death doesn't affect us, but where we have that supreme confidence in our dear Father, so that they don't adversely influence us! Don't you really think that's what Paul is speaking of in **ROMANS 8:35-39**- *"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written: "For Your sake we are killed all day long; We are accounted as sheep for the slaughter." 37 Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, 39 nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Hopefully, from the information we've been able to examine in these lessons, the following discoveries and conclusions are made known to us:

- a) There is a Divine purpose behind all adversity ... if not in the specified consequence, at least in the allowing of circumstances that brought it about
- b) God may choose to reveal the purpose for adversity, or it may remain hidden to humanity
- c) God never scolds us for asking why, nor for requesting that the adversity be removed
- d) Adversity, in reality, may be a GIFT from God
- e) Satan can also be the cause of adversity
- f) God will comfort us in our adversities so we'll not be tempted above measure
- g) God's grace is sufficient during adversity, so we need to try to grow in faith and develop spiritually at such times
- h) God may not see fit to remove the adversity, but He won't allow it to overwhelm us
- i) Contentment in serving God **MUST NOT** hinge on the nature of our circumstances
- j) The key to advancing through adversity is to view it as being done for Christ's sake

But, whatever else you've picked up, always remember that **SOMEONE IS OUT THERE!** Someone is watching life as it unfolds on this planet. More than that, Someone is out there Who **LOVES US!** And that Someone Who is out there Who loves us, **WANTS US TO LOVE HIM!** Now, how can WE BEST DO THAT?

Thank you, One and All,
for your comments, love
& participation in class!
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