

## Friday Meditation

Read: Philippians 3:7-11

Questions:

1. What is the most important thing for Paul in regard to God? (v.7,8)
2. How does Paul feel about all he has in the face of knowing Christ? (v.8)

From A Reason For God study guide:

*If we have a God great enough to be angry at for not preventing evil and suffering, we must also have a God great enough to have a reason for allowing evil and suffering we cannot discern.*

Prayer:

*Heavenly Father, I do not fully understand why there is suffering and evil in the world, but what I do know is that I can trust You. Like Paul, help me to focus on knowing You today over all the noise in my life. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

May God be with you today my friend and rest on his unchanging love and grace for you. See you Sunday!

Sermon Note Answers:

God, created, angry, anger, naturalism, must, good, primary purpose, sin, Punishment, deserved, Free-Will, freely, free, fully, understand, blessing

# Sermon Notes

February 12, 2017 -- Hebrews 4:14-16

## Why is There Suffering and Evil?

The most difficult questions skeptics wrestle with:

Why would a good and loving \_\_\_\_\_ allow suffering and/or evil to exist in a world he \_\_\_\_\_?

First to the non-believer:

1. Skeptics cannot be \_\_\_\_\_ about the existence of suffering or evil. They have no moral bounds for their \_\_\_\_\_ or questioning.
2. Their belief in \_\_\_\_\_, where the strong survive, means suffering and evil \_\_\_\_\_ exist.

In the beginning all that God created, God called \_\_\_\_\_.

- A relationship with God is the \_\_\_\_\_ God created humans.
- Because of Adam & Eve's disobedience, \_\_\_\_\_ entered the world.

Two Theories why a good God allows suffering and evil.

1. The P \_\_\_\_\_ Theodicy – Because humankind rebelled, the suffering of the world is the \_\_\_\_\_ punishment for sin.
2. The F \_\_\_\_\_ Theodicy – if God wanted people to \_\_\_\_\_ choose the good, they would have to have been \_\_\_\_\_ to choose evil.

These two theodicies do not \_\_\_\_\_ explain why a loving God would allow suffering and evil in the world.

- God may have reasons we have yet to \_\_\_\_\_ in this life for suffering and evil

Our challenge this week is to be a \_\_\_\_\_ to others.

## **Monday Meditation**

Read: Psalm 46

Questions:

1. What do you learn from the Psalmist about God?
2. When you read vs 8,9, realize this refers to when God makes all things new.

Prayer: *God Almighty, when I don't understand why life is as it is, help me to rest in you. Help me to be still and know You and to exalt You today in my life. In Jesus Name. Amen.*

## **Tuesday Meditation**

Read: Romans 8:18-29

Questions:

1. How do the first few verses help you when you experience suffering in life?
2. How does the Spirit help us? (v.26,27)
3. In spite of life, what does God do? (v.18)

Prayer: *Come Holy Spirit and fill my life with more of You. Help me to trust in You for my life knowing in the end, You have it all under control. In Jesus name. Amen*

## **Wednesday Meditation**

Read: Romans 5:1-8

Questions:

1. How do we gain access to God? (v.1,2)
2. Why should we rejoice in our suffering?
3. How does God demonstrate his love for us?

Prayer: *Thank You God for showing me Your great love in living with me and taking my place. Help me to always remember this great love You have for me each day. In Jesus name. Amen*

## **Thursday Meditation**

Read: 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Questions:

1. Where does Paul say his power comes from?
2. What does he always carry with him and for what purpose? (v.10)
3. Paul is willing to experience death so that others may experience what? (v.12)

Prayer: *Lord, I know that having faith in You is not the hard part, but the living of that faith out during my days. Help me to live knowing you give me the power and that in my life others will see more of You! In Jesus Name. Amen.*