

Truth Matters: Why do Good People Suffer?

Wylie United Methodist Church
Pastor Jeff Hatcher – May 8, 2011

Rom 8:28-29

28 And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose. 29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son...

Good People suffer because...

1. WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD

Gen 2:16-17

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die."

- God is Sovereign (has Supreme Power), but Free Will (Sin) has Consequences.
- Because of Man's Sin (his Rebellion to God), the whole World is under God's Curse.

Rom 3:23

all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,

Mark 10:18

Jesus answered. "No one is good-except God alone."

Eph 2:4-5

4 But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, 5 made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions-it is by grace you have been saved.

Good People suffer because...

2. GOD WANTS TO CONFORM YOU INTO HIS LIKENESS

Rom 8:29

For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son...

- Many times, God accomplishes Growth through brokenness!

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

It is through Brokenness that we reach out to God and are Healed.

And it is through the Healing that we bring Glory to God.

Good People suffer because...

3. GOD HAS A PURPOSE AND A PLAN FOR YOU

Isa 55:8-9

8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 9 "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Rom 8:28

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

2 Cor 5:20

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.