

EVER WONDER WHY?

Why Did God Let it Happen?

Sunday, August 25, 2024

Dave Michel

Stepping Stones Community Church

1. The problem of evil and injustice in the world

2. Philosophical understanding of God and evil

- If God is not able to prevent evil, then he is not all powerful?
- If God is not willing to prevent evil, then he is not all good?
- If God is both willing and able to prevent evil, then why does evil exist?

3. Theological understanding of God and evil

- For love to be a choice, suffering and evil must be possible
- Christianity gives meaning to and offers a solution for the evil and suffering we experience
- God promises us a future with no more sorrow or suffering

He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever. **Revelation 21:4 NLT**

¹ Truly God is good to Israel, to those whose hearts are pure.
² But as for me, I almost lost my footing. My feet were slipping, and I was almost gone. ³ For I envied the proud when I saw them prosper despite their wickedness.
⁴ They seem to live such painless lives; their bodies are so healthy and strong. ⁵ They don't have troubles like other people; they're not plagued with problems like everyone else. ⁶ They wear pride like a jeweled necklace and clothe themselves with cruelty. ⁷ These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for! ⁸ They scoff and speak only evil; in their pride they seek to crush others. ⁹ They boast against the very heavens, and their words strut throughout the earth. ¹⁰ And so the people are dismayed and confused, drinking in all their words. ¹¹ "What does God know?" they ask. "Does the Most High even know what's happening?"
¹² Look at these wicked people - enjoying a life of ease while their riches multiply. ¹³ Did I keep my heart pure for nothing? Did I keep myself innocent for no reason? ¹⁴ I get nothing but trouble all day long; every morning brings me pain. ¹⁵ If I had really spoken this way to others, I would have been a traitor to your people. ¹⁶ So I tried to understand why the wicked prosper. But what a difficult task it is! ¹⁷ Then I went into your sanctuary, O God, and I finally understood...

Psalms 73:1-17 NLT

Next Steps:

- Commit to go to God when I am hurting and suffering to find healing in his presence
- Commit to show love to others even when I am suffering and struggling with evil in the world
- Trust in the future God has promised me when I am overwhelmed by suffering and evil
- Attend the rest of the messages in this series (or watch on our Youtube channel)
- _____