

“That’s why I don’t think there’s any comparison between the present hard times and the coming good times.” Romans 8:18

3 Big Decisions

1. You must decide to deal with the _____.

Paul said, I have discovered this principle of life—that when I want to do what is right, I inevitably do what is wrong. 22 I love God’s law with all my heart. 23 But there is another power within me that is at war with my mind. This power makes me a slave to the sin that is still within me.

Romans 7:21-23

2. You must decide to _____ where you can.

“Summing up, be agreeable, be sympathetic, be loving, be compassionate, be humble. That goes for all of you. No exceptions. No retaliation. No sharp tongue sarcasm. Instead, bless. That’s your job. You’ll be a blessing and also get a blessing. Whoever wants to embrace life and see the day fill up with good here’s what you do. Say nothing evil or hurtful. Snub evil and cultivate good. Run after peace for all your worth. God looks on all this with approval. Listen and respond well to what He’s asked. But He turns His back on those who do evil things.”

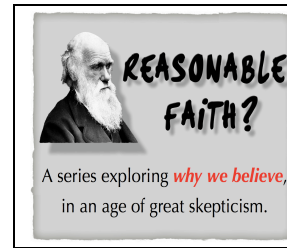
1 Peter 3:6-12

3. You must decide to _____ even when you hurt.

“Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.” Matthew 6:13

“We have been surrounded and battered by troubles, but we are not demoralized. We’re not sure what to do but we know that God knows what to do. We’ve been spiritually terrorized but God hasn’t left our side. We’ve been thrown down but haven’t broken.” 2 Corinthians 4:8

SCC Message by Dan Wilvers, January 16th, 2011 Part 2



How Can A Good God Allow Suffering?

“When the sixth hour had come darkness fell over the whole land until the ninth hour. [That was like noon till 3 p.m.] And Jesus cried out with a loud voice, ‘My God! My God! Why have You forsaken Me?’”

Mark 15:33,34

1. Why is there so much suffering and evil in the world?

Is God responsible for evil because He created us with the ability to choose evil?

All the evil in the world it would really be in two piles.

Pile 1- _____ evil

Pile 2- _____ evil

How did people learn to be so evil?

When tempted, no one should say, “God is tempting me.” For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; 14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

James 1:13,14

2. Is there an evil spirit at work in the world?

“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.” John 10:10

Well why did God create a being (Lucifer) he knew would rebel and cause us to rebel too?

What if God, although choosing to show his wrath and make his power known, bore with great patience the objects of his wrath—prepared for destruction?
Romans 9:22

3. If God is all-powerful, why does He allow evil at all?

Because He _____, doesn't mean He _____.

“Count on this. The wicked won't get off 'scott free' and God's loyal people will triumph.”
Proverbs 11:21

“The evil have no future. Their life will be snuffed out.” Proverbs 24:20

Why doesn't God just put a stop to it now?”

“God is restraining Himself on account of you, holding back the end because He doesn't want anyone lost. He's giving everyone space and time to change.”
2 Peter 3:9

4 Key thoughts:

1. Because we don't understand what God is doing some have made the decision to just dismiss God.
2. We as humans assume that if there were good reasons for evil then they should be accessible to our minds.
3. When it comes to the question of evil and suffering, we wouldn't understand it all even if God explained it to us.
4. We could not possibly understand everything about God without being God ourselves.

Isaiah 55 “My thoughts are not your thoughts. Neither are My ways your ways,” declares the Lord. “As the heavens are higher than the earth so are My ways higher than your ways, My thoughts higher than your thoughts.”

Is it OK to ask why me God? See Mark 15:33,34 on top of notes

“We are fixing our eyes upon Jesus who for the joy set before Him, endured the cross. Consider Him who has endured so that you may not grow weary and lose heart.”
Hebrews 12:2-3

For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison,
2 Corinthians 4:17

What's God working on while we suffer?

We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. 4 And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. 5 And this hope will not lead to disappointment. Romans 5:3-5