If God Is Good, Why Is There So Much Suffering In The world?

"Difficult Questions" Part 2 Noah Largent 7/23/17

DIFFICULT QUESTIONS about CHRISTIANITY

EXAMINING SOME OF THE MOST CHALLENGING QUESTIONS CHRISTIANS FACE

1Peter 1:3-9 2:42-52 3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you, 5 who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time. 6 In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 8 Though you have not seen him, you love him; and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, 9 for you are receiving the end result of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

1. PHILOSOPHICAL: Peter reminds us that God can use pain and suffering for our good and His glory.

1 Peter 1:6&7 though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. 7 These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith–of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire–may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

Even if you find the Bible´s answer to the question about pain and suffering unsatisfying, remember that atheists are faced with a much more difficult task of answering this question.

2. PRACTICAL: In the midst of suffering, Peter reminds his friends to look to the cross and to look to their future to help sustain them.

1 Peter 1:3-4 "In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you."

3. PERSONAL: Honest people admit that they are guilty of inflicting pain, and that they don't always get involved where they can play a part in stopping or healing suffering.

1 Peter 1:14-16 As *obedient* children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, 15 but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, 16 since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy."

"Atheism treats people cheaply. Also it robs death of meaning, and if death has no meaning, how can life ultimately have meaning? Atheism cheapens everything it touches - look at the results of communism, the most powerful form of atheism on earth." -*Peter Kreeft* from: Stobel, *The Case for Faith*. pg.68

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