

✚ Why do bad things happen to good people? The answer is yes to both of Jesus' questions, why do we think that way? Our problem is our system of measurement, our thinking is wrong. Nevertheless, we are in good company, John 9:1-3. We saw last time that bad things don't happen to good people primarily because there aren't any good people. "No one is righteous not even one. No one is truly wise; no one is seeking God. All have turned away; all have become useless. No one does good, not a single one." Romans 3:10-12. The real question isn't "why do bad things happen?," but "why do good things ever happen?" Bad things happen because this is bad world, and we are bad people. Good things happen because God is being merciful and gracious to us.

1. Some disturbing conclusions, Life isn't fair.

- ✓ God is not being fair to us, and we don't want Him to be! How can we complain about getting the better side of unfairness? The wages of sin is death, God is not being fair to us if we are alive. Hell is the just punishment for everyone who breaks God's laws, but we aren't in Hell—God is not being fair to us. There are so many good things that we take for granted because there's a part of us, deep inside, that thinks God owes it to us.

2. God doesn't owe us anything good.

- ✓ God doesn't owe anyone anything. Even if we weren't sinners, we are still God's creation over which He is totally sovereign, He still wouldn't have any obligation to us. As sinners, we have less than zero reasons to think that He owes us anything good whatsoever. Never forget He is beholding to us, though Christ Jesus, Romans 6:23. Every day we aren't getting what our sins deserve impugns the reputation of God!, Romans 3:25-26. God doesn't owe us anything good, not even an explanation. You may get an answer to your questions because God is being nice and deals with us as a kind father would his children. Please understand, God doesn't owe us any explanations. God doesn't owe anyone anything.

3. God has the right to do whatever He wants.

- ✓ He's got every right to do what whatever He wants to do, in whatever way He wants and for as long as He wants. Is it okay for Him to do whatever He wants to do in your life? I hope so because He doesn't need your permission. Be sure not to take His loving kindness toward us for granted. If He were not loving and kind, there'd be nothing we could do about it, but since He is the definition of love and kindness, we have so much to be thankful for.
- ✓ Life is given by God; He didn't have to give it and He doesn't have to let us keep it for any set time. He decided to give it, and He can decide when and how He takes it back. "What gives Him the right to do what He does?" that's just it, nothing and no one does because He answers to nothing.

4. Good Deeds Don't Earn Good from God in Return

- ✓ Does being good make us deserving of good in return? Do our good deeds negate all the bad ones? Do our good deeds change our status from sinner to saint? Of course not! It is the equivalent of a murderer who later on is very sorry for it and changes and lives an honorable life after that; is he no longer a murderer? In our sinning, we've broken eternal laws which make us eternal criminals who deserve an eternal punishment. Being good in time does not in any way fix our eternity. The gospel of grace clearly teaches that we're not saved because of anything that we do, but only because of what Christ did. It's not the works that we've done, but the finished work of Christ on the cross. You cannot make up for a single sin or a single law that was broken. When it's broken, it's broken. Even if we stack up enormous amounts of good deeds, we will not have paid God back for a single sin. Not even God fixes the laws that we've broken! Laws can't be fixed; they can only be paid for. The penalty has to be paid for. Either we pay for it by spending an eternity in hell, or Christ pays that penalty for us. Those are the only options.

We can never merit the favor of God because we are sinners. All of our merit is in the person Christ. Therefore, to think that we deserve good in return for our doing good is a falsehood. All of the good we experience will be because He has graciously decided to bless us and nothing more.
