

## IS GOD TO BLAME?

Sometimes when things happen to people, especially good people, they have it in their minds to blame God, thinking God is not able or concerned enough or that He doesn't love the person who is suffering enough to have prevented the tragedy. The truth is; God is all powerful and all-loving. He could, if He desired, prevent all tragedies.

God made man a free moral being and does not control him as a robot. He allows evil to exist in the world which creates suffering. This all began in the Garden of Eden with the fall (sin) of Adam and Eve. We do not inherit their sin, but that is where sin entered into the world causing physical and spiritual death.

We are responsible for our own sins and suffer the guilt of them. Before the beginning, God had a plan to send Christ, His only begotten Son, into the world so man could be saved from his sins by obedience to the gospel and faithful living. People suffer from the sins they commit such as drinking and causing accidents, smoking and bad health, etc. Being disobedient to God's law causes suffering to the soul which, if not repented of, will be lost in hell.

We read of two great men in the Old Testament who were righteous but suffered much, Job and Joseph. God blessed both in the end, but they still suffered. If we would put our trust in God and obey His will faithfully, all the suffering we might endure would amount to very little in comparison to a home in heaven with God forever. We should all work toward being faithfully obedient, and this is our prayer for you all.

From the Elders to the Congregation, West Side c/C, Salem, VI

*"For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day. For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."* II Corinthians 4:15-18