

SERMON NOTES

REASON FOR GOD **“Why Does God Allow Suffering”**

January 28-29, 2012
Pastor Cathy Burkholder

Question: *Why would a good and loving God allow for so much pain and suffering?*

“The fact of suffering undoubtedly constitutes the single greatest challenge to the Christian faith”

-- John Stott

1) What does the Bible have to say about suffering?

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"What exactly happened when humanity fell we do not know."--
C.S. Lewis

“Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³ **I tell you, no!** But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴ Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ **I tell you, no!** But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” [Luke 13:2-5]

“If you, LORD, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?” [Psalm 130]

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2) How does God want us to respond?

“Record my misery; list my tears on Your scroll—are they not in Your record?” [Psalm 56:8]

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3) We cry out for complete answers. God offers Himself instead.

“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the work of God might be displayed in his life.” [John 9:2-3]

For Further Reading:

The Reason for God, Timothy Keller Ch.2: “How Could a Good God Allow Suffering?”

Walking the Bible by Bruce Feiler

The Problem with Pain by C.S. Lewis

UnChristian by David Kinnaman and Gabe Lyons

The Last Word by N.T. Wright

Know Why You Believe by Paul Little

For several more great recommendations on this topic, please see **p.64** in *The Reason for God* small group study guide.