

Saturday

Please read Colossians 1:15–20 in preparation for this weekend's sermon. Be sure you know this week's memory verse and finish any devotions you may have missed.

Pray that you'll apply the lessons from this week — and pray for the church services and various activities this weekend: That God would be honored in everything. Please pray for Pastor Mark as he tackles Frequently Asked Questions about Jesus.

F.A.Q.

Frequently Asked Questions About Evil & Suffering

APRIL 14 & 15, 2012 • PAUL SPURLOCK

3 ways to help us deal with evil and suffering:

1. Look _____

[Their] . . . new birth into a **living hope through the resurrection** of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. **This inheritance is kept in heaven for you . . .** *1 Peter 1:3–9 NIV*

2. Look _____

God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. *Genesis 1:31*

When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers, they will not sweep over you.

When you walk through the fire, you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze. *Isaiah 43:2*

3. Look _____

For the joy set before him he endured the cross . . . *Hebrews 12:2*

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, **coming down out of heaven** from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! **God's dwelling place is now among the people,** and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be **no more death or mourning or crying or pain,** for the old order of things has passed away.” He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” *Revelation 21:1–5*



Suggested Resources

The Holy Bible Genesis to Revelation, but especially the book of Job
Hard Questions, Real Answers (chs. 4 & 5) William Lane Craig
The Reason for God (cb. 2) Timothy Keller
Making Sense Out of Suffering Peter Kreeft
The Problem of Pain C.S. Lewis
Apologetics Answers Adam Nigh & Paul Spurlock (www.tlc.org/articles/apologeticsanswers)
Why Does God Allow Suffering? René Schlaepfer (www.tlc.org/sermons/457)
Why Does God Allow Evil & Suffering? Mark Spurlock (www.tlc.org/sermons/261)
The Case for Faith (chapter: Since Evil and Suffering Exist, a Loving God Cannot) Lee Strobel
A Step Further Joni Erickson Tada
Disappointment with God and What Good is God? Philip Yancey
Can Man Live Without God? Ravi Zacharias
Philosophical Foundations for a Christian Worldview (cb. 27)
William Lane Craig & J.P. Moreland
Warranted Christian Belief (cb. 14) and God, Freedom and Evil Alvin Plantinga
The Enigma of Evil John Wenham

Daily Meditations

Monday

Look back over the message notes and Bible verses from this past weekend. What point “jumped out” at you?

How would you summarize the Bible’s answer to the question, “If God is all-loving and all-powerful, why is there still suffering?”

What is the Bible’s immediate answer — and long term answer — to suffering?

Read Psalm 10:1, 14–18. How does it help to know that all the questions we have today about suffering were asked by Bible writers already?

Thank God today that He is a God of love and comfort. Thank Him for giving us hope. Ask Him to help you sense His care for you today!

Tuesday

Read Romans 5:12, John 16:33 & Revelation 21:1–5. These verses assure us that we will indeed have trouble in this life — but they also comfort us that eternity will not be like this. Describe a point in your past (or maybe right now) when you’ve blamed God’s will for what was actually the result of man’s free will.

continued 

How does the principle that “we have a broken world, not a broken God” help you face the “whys” in life?

Thank the Lord today that He has given you a free will — that He didn’t just make a world full of robots. Thank Him that He is not a broken God and that in the end He will make all things new.

Wednesday

Read Isaiah 30:18, Psalm 96:13 & Acts 17:31. Believing in God’s ultimate justice is a foundation for living sanely in an unjust world. Why is this so?

What is the most reassuring thing to you about God’s justice?

What situation are you facing where you find it difficult to wait for or trust God’s justice?

Thank God today that He has taken ultimate justice into His hands and not left it up to us. Ask Him for patience and trust as you wait for His justice to come.

Thursday

Read Romans 8:28. What is the promise in this verse? How is the cross itself an example of the power of God to turn tragedy into triumph?

Read Romans 8:36–39. These verses clearly point out that absolutely nothing in the whole world can separate us from God’s love. How does God’s constant love encourage you in the midst of suffering?

What can you do to remind yourself that you are never out of His loving care?

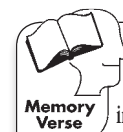
Thank God today for His neverending love for you. Thank Him that you are always in His care. Ask Him to help you remember through the day (and when the tough times come) that He loves you!

Friday

Read Philippians 2:15. What practical things can you take today to “shine like a star” where God has placed you?

What principle from this week’s study do you want to put into action?

Ask God today to be the Light that shines through you. Thank Him that we have no reason to fear this world because He is in total control.



Memory Verse

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.
John 16:33