

WEEK 9 WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO ME

November 12, 2017

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.⁶ Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.

Colossians 4:5-6 (NKJV)

GOD IS IN CONTROL!

IS IT REALLY POSSIBLE TO UNDERSTAND THE DEPTHS OF HUMAN DEPRAVITY?

HOW CAN AN ATHEIST EXPLAIN EVIL IF THERE IS NO GOD?

“In one very important dimension, this demonstrates why the Christian worldview is so utterly different than every other worldview. Atheism, for instance, must affirm that, at its base, human life is merely a series of accidents. There is no Creator, so there is no human being made in the Creator’s image. Of course atheists would clearly classify this murderous attack in Sutherland Springs, Texas, as evil, but they have no real ability to understand or to embrace the notion of evil with any coherence. **EVIL IS ESSENTIALLY A THEOLOGICAL CATEGORY.** Without theism evil becomes simply the strongest word we have to describe something we wish hadn’t happened.” Albert Mohler
http://www.albertmohler.com/2017/11/06/tragedy-texas-christian-testimony-face-evil/?mc_cid=ccd2ef84bc&mc_eid=5e51a19d04

BELIEVERS HAVE THE ANSWER

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear.

1 Peter 3:15 (NKJV)

WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE? There are no good people.

Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Genesis 6:5 (NKJV)

In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes.

Judges 17:6 (NKJV)

WE HAVE BEEN NUMBED WITH THE DEMONIC NARCOTIC OF TRUTHLESSNESS—“THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS TRUTH.” WELL IS THAT TRUE? THE SERPENT IN THE GARDEN—“YOU WILL NOT SURELY DIE

There is none who understands; There is none who seeks after God.¹² They have all turned aside; They have together become unprofitable; There is none who does good, no, not one.” **Romans 3:11-12 (NKJV)**

EVERYONE REALLY KNOWS THERE IS EVIL AND THAT THERE IS GOOD

GOD'S FOCUS IS THE ETERNAL, MAN'S FOCUS IS THE TEMPORAL

- **ALLOW GOD TO REDEEM WHAT HAPPENED**

Walk in wisdom toward those who are outside, redeeming the time.

Colossians 4:5 (NKJV)

Redeem—to buy back; rescue from loss—RESTORE TO PRODUCTIVITY FOR GOD'S GLORY

- **PAUL'S THORN—DEPEND ON GOD'S GRACE**

*And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure.⁸ Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me.⁹ And He said to me, "**My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.**" Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.¹⁰ Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.*

2 Corinthians 12:7-10 (NKJV)

- **TRUST THE LORD—CONNECT TO HIM— THERE WILL STILL BE STRUGGLES**

Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding;⁶ In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths.

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV)

- **WHAT NOW?—IT IS TIME TO MOVE FORWARD—USE IT FOR GOD'S PURPOSES**

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,⁴ who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.⁵ For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ.⁶ Now if we are afflicted, it is for your consolation and salvation, which is effective for enduring the same sufferings which we also suffer. Or if we are comforted, it is for your consolation and salvation.⁷ And our hope for you is steadfast, because we know that as you are partakers of the sufferings, so also you will partake of the consolation.

2 Corinthians 1:3-7 (NKJV)

“This throws us back on the deepest resources of biblical Christianity. This pushes us back to understanding the attributes of God as revealed in Scripture, the attributes of his power and the attributes of his morality, his greatness and his goodness, his justice, his righteousness, and his mercy. We are also reminded of the fact that the only answer Christians have is the answer of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That is the only promise of making sense out of nonsense. The gospel is the only assurance of the victory of good over evil. The gospel of Christ is the only promise of meaning and significance and satisfaction, not only in this life, but in the life to come.” Al Mohler

MAKE SENSE OF ALL THINGS THROUGH THE EYES OF FAITH IN THE SOVEREIGN GOD OF THE UNIVERSE

