

the creation as we have no idea. All blame Adam and Eve for the present condition of the earth, but if we're honest, we are no better than them. Every time we sin we are disobeying God, which is the sin that Adam and Eve committed. And we sin multiple times, so we are worse than them. When I see the incredible wickedness of man, I cannot help but ask: How is it possible that good things keep happening in this world so full of sin?

What would it cost humanity so that nothing bad happened?

In order for God not to allow bad things from happening in this world, He would have to remove free will from all of us. We would cease to be humans and we would be like robots that only do what they are told. Another remedy for evil could be for God to annihilate anyone who thought of doing evil. That is, before the thief commits his crime, God would eliminate him; that before the liar gets to tell a lie, God would take him to the grave; that before any person disobeyed any commandment from the Lord, God would bring him to trial. How many people would be left in the world? = Zero! Even children would not exist because there is no daddy or mommy that could say that they had committed no sin when they were single. Looking at these two alternatives so that nothing bad could happen in this world, we can conclude that both remedies are worse than the problem.

The divine solution

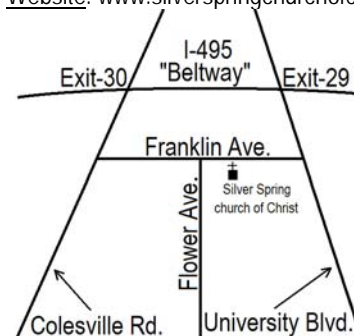
God is going to solve all the problems of the world at His coming. That's when He would not let anything bad happen thereafter. On that day the unrepentant soul will be condemn, but the soul that turned away from his wicked ways will be rewarded. That earth free of evil will exist again (2Peter 3:13) and the redeemed will have the

opportunity to live in it with immortal bodies (1Corinthians 15:42-53). In Revelation 21:4-5 says: "4He 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." 5He who was seated on the throne said, "I am making everything new!" Then he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true".

Do you want to be part of that new creation in which God will not let bad things happen? At this moment Jesus is recruiting citizens for this new earth, but as everything will be new, you also need to be a new creature to enter. And Jesus has already done the hard part, which was to pay for your sins on the cross. What you need to do is believe* that Jesus Christ -the son of God- bought your salvation with His precious blood, confess** it before the church, repent*** of your sins, and be baptized*** according to His Word [*John 3:16; **Romans 10:9-10; ***Acts 2:38]. In 2Corinthians 5:17 says: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new".

**If you want to be part of this new creation:
Welcome to the church of Christ!**

Address: 100 East Franklin Ave. Silver Spring. MD. 20901
Phone Number: (301) 585-8727
Schedule: Sundays 9:30am, 11:15am, 6:00pm & Wed. at 7:30pm. Website: www.silverspringchurchofchrist.org



Why does God allow bad things to happen?

(Writer: Min. José Elmer Pacheco)



This is one of the oldest questions of humanity, and right now I will try to answer it to all those who want a biblical answer.

Why do bad things happen?

Why doesn't anybody believe you? = Maybe because you are a liar. Why did somebody rob you? = Maybe because there are thieves. Why are you sick? = Maybe because you don't take care of your health. Why is your car wrecked? = Maybe because you met a bad driver. Why were you deported? = Maybe because you were illegal. Why you had an accident? = Maybe because somebody wasn't careful. Why was your house burned down? = Maybe because someone neglected what was on the stove. Bad things happen as a consequence of the bad decisions that human beings make. In Galatians 6:7 says: "Do not be fooled: You cannot cheat God. People harvest what they plant".

The Lord also disciplines us.

Discipline should not be seen as a bad thing, because as Christians, the discipline of the Lord reminds us that we are His children and He loves us. Besides, it makes us grow up and stops us from continuously sinning, helping us to avoid being condemned with the rest of the world. In



Hebrews 12:5-11 says: ⁵..."When the Lord punishes you, don't make light of it, and when he corrects you, don't be discouraged.

⁶The Lord corrects the people he loves and disciplines those he calls his own. ⁷Be patient when you are being corrected! This is how God treats his children. Don't all parents correct their children? ⁸God corrects all of his children, and if he doesn't correct you, then you don't really belong to him. ⁹Our earthly fathers correct us, and we still respect them. Isn't it even better to be given true life by letting our spiritual Father correct us? ¹⁰Our human fathers correct us for a short time, and they do it as they think best. But God corrects us for our own good, because he wants us to be holy, as he is. ¹¹It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace". And in *1Corinthians 11:32* says: "But when the Lord judges and punishes us, he does it to keep us from being condemned with the rest of the world".

What about natural disasters?

In the creation God made everything perfect, there was no geological faults, earthquakes, tsunamis, fires, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, droughts, etc. The weather was so perfect that even Adam and Eve had no need of clothes. In *Genesis 1:31* says:

"Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed *it was very good*..." Unfortunately, man did not appreciate what he had and sinned against God despite being warned of its deadly consequences. In *Genesis 3:17* we see that even the earth was affected: "...You ate the fruit of the tree that I commanded you about. I said, 'You must not eat its fruit.' "So I am putting a curse on the ground because of what you did..." And even today, it seems that man does not understand that the more he pollutes the earth with sin, the more violent the weather will be. Paul compares it with labor pains in *Romans 8:22* that says: "We know that all creation is still groaning and is in pain, like a woman about to give birth". Whenever you see a natural disaster, just remember that God put man in this world to be in charge of it, and we are the ones who blew it from the beginning.

What about diseases?

At the time that man became mortal and the earth was cursed for his sin, many things changed and began to be harmful. Now there would not only be thistles and thorns, changes in climate, labor pains, violent animals, destructive germs; but man led to murder and sexual perversion. In *Romans 1:27* it says that men became perverts "and received in themselves the due penalty for their perversion". That might mean that they generated diseases that continue to multiply till this day.

Even if we do not walk through bad stretches, we may have inherited diseases like what happened to Timothy. Some say that Paul is telling him that in *1Timothy 5:24* which says: "The sins of some men are obvious, reaching the place of judgment ahead of them; the sins of others trail behind them". His father was a Greek whose culture was very liberal.

But, why does God allow bad things?

God created man and gave him everything he needed to live an abundant life filled with peace and happiness. Adam and Eve had perfect bodies and lived in a perfect world, but besides all this, God gave them an even more valuable gift: free will, that is, the freedom to choose what to do with their lives.

However, free will would not be real without the possibility of choosing to do wrong. But don't misunderstand: free will does not mean to sin, but the possibility of choosing to sin even if you don't choose to sin. The young people know what I mean, they feel overwhelmed and enslaved when their parents do not give them any freedom because they are afraid that "something bad might happen to them." But just like the young people that have some freedom are warned of the consequences of choosing evil; in the same way Adam and Eve were well advised, but in the end they chose disobedience and its serious consequences.



Question: Do you think Adam and Eve would have learned their lesson if they had not received the consequences of their sin? = Of course not! And not only that, but they would have seen God as a liar. And that's exactly what happens when kids do not get their due: they don't learn their lesson and they see their parents as liars.

So, if God didn't allow anyone to receive the consequences of their sins, the world would be more full of evil. If God didn't allow any accidents, then we would all be careless and would not learn from our mistakes. If God didn't allow us to get sick, then everybody would be vicious and irresponsible with his or her own body. If God didn't allow natural disasters, we would all abuse