

IF Week #3

Four Presuppositions Necessary When Addressing the Question Regarding Good People Deserving Eternal Punishment



1. Good People Are Not Necessarily Righteous People—There Are No Innocent People.
 - 1) Bad
 - 2) Bad With A Little Good
 - 3) Good With A Little Bad
 - 4) Good

Romans 3:10

2. Everyone Has An Opportunity.

Romans 1:18

Matthew 20:1-15

3. God Does Not Deal Only With Individuals.

Individualism vs. Corporate Personality

First Adam vs. Second Adam

4. God Would Not Be Righteous If Sinful People Were Not Punished.

Numbers 23:19

Why Does God Allow Bad Things To Happen To Good People?

Two Questions Must Be Answered:

1. Who Are Good People?

Rabbi Kushner's perspective

Because man is good and God is good and bad things happen to good people, God is not involved in bad things, not only not allowing them, but not able to stop them from happening.

Jesus' perspective

Matthew 19:16-22

Romans 3:19-20

Romans 3:11-12

According to Jesus—no one is good.

2. What Are Bad Things?

There are more important things to God than keeping sinful man from suffering.

God allows what He hates to accomplish what He loves.

Three things God loves:

- 1) He loves exposing man's sin so as to make him seek God.

When God Weeps, Tada & Estes, pg. 142 & 143

The beauty of being exposed and empty is that God can then cover you. Like a surface that must be scrubbed clean before you can bond anything to it, the bonding of intimacy between God and us won't adhere until the film of dirt goes, the ambitions, the vanity, everything that sets itself up against others and God....

Affliction is the gristmill where pride is reduced to powder, leaving our souls naked, bare, and bonded to Christ. And it feels beautiful.

- 2) He loves perfecting a person's inner being, keeping his heart where it was designed to be.

James 1:2-4

When God Weeps, Tada & Estes, pg. 202 & 204

Earth's pain keeps crushing our hopes, reminding us this world can never satisfy; only heaven can. And every time we begin to nestle too comfortably on this planet, God cracks open the locks of the dam to allow an ice-cold splash of suffering to wake us from our spiritual slumber. Suffering keeps swelling our feet so that earth's shoes won't fit....

Suffering sandblasts us to the core, removing sin and impurities so that intimacy with Jesus is possible.

- 3) He loves administering justice so that His righteousness is not compromised.

Numbers 23:19

The true Rabbi's perspective (Jesus)

Because man is not good and God is good, bad things happen to people, not merely because they deserve them, but better yet because those who do (or will) follow Him need them.

Questions from The Gospel Of John

10. What does Jesus mean when He says He is the bread of life? (John 6:35)

11. What does Jesus mean when He keeps saying His time has not yet come? (John 7:8, 30)

12. What did Jesus teach was the consequence of not believing that He was the Christ (The Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament who was to be the only payment for man's sins)? (John 8:24)

13. Jesus taught that to be His disciple meant to follow His Word. What does it mean to hold to His teaching? (John 8:31)

14. What does it mean to be free? (John 8:32-36)

15. The Jews of Jesus' day certainly had a strong belief in God. Did Jesus accept such a belief as sufficient? (John 8:38-47)

16. What did Jesus mean when He said, "I tell you the truth, before Abraham was born, I am!"? (John 8:58)

17. What does Jesus mean when He said, "I am the gate for the sheep"? (John 10:7)

18. Why did the Jews want to kill Jesus? (John 10:30-33)



TO SUBMIT A QUESTION ELECTRONICALLY:
Text your question to: 678.829.8879
Email your question to: IfGod@perimeter.org