

Whether you are enjoying easy times right now or facing very difficult times, it is only wise to look to the One Who gives you life, not to neglect Him and turn away from Him.

If and when tragedy enters your life, you, as countless other people, may likely ask the question, "Why is this happening to me?" Or "Why did this happen to my friend or my loved one?" You may also ask the question, "What do I do now?" Many people, or likely even most people, will not find adequate answers to these questions, until it is too late... BUT YOU CAN!

## "WHY ME?"

Instead of asking, "Why me?", perhaps we should consider the broader questions like, "Why do any of us get sick?", "Why do people suffer all over the world?", or "Why does everyone eventually die?" The root answer to each of these questions is the same... SIN!

Does that mean that you did something bad that brought this about in your life? Maybe, but not necessarily. Though there can be devastating consequences to our own personal sin, and the sins of those around us, the root cause of all of man's sickness, suffering, and death is mankind's sin against God or disobedience to God.

The first part of Romans 6:23 (in the Bible) states, "The wages of sin is death..." and Romans 5:12 states, "Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:" You see, it was the first act of man's sin (by Adam, the first man and the origin of all mankind) that brought death upon all mankind, and the curse (including sickness, suffering, and death) upon the whole world.

But the price (wages) of sin is much much worse than physical death and temporary suffering only. The first part of Romans 5:18 states, "Therefore as by the offense of one (Adam) judgment came upon all men to condemnation..." Imagine, Adam disobeyed God by taking a fruit from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, after God commanded him not to, and the ultimate result is eternal judgment and never ending suffering (in the lake of fire) toward all of mankind. (Please read Genesis chapter 2 & 3)

This should cause us to consider and acknowledge the Absolute Authority, Holiness, and Sovereignty of God, the Maker and Owner of all things, and how disobeying and dishonoring Him is absolutely unacceptable, and yet look at each of our lives...

Consider that the breath and heartbeat of every person on earth is given to us by God and is in the Hand of God, and every one of our days has been numbered by Him, the One we have turned our back on and sin against. The Word of God states, in Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" and it is written, in Proverbs 9:10, "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding." DO YOU FEAR THE LORD?

Whether sickness, heart attack, car accident, or how ever the LORD takes away the life that He gives us, the point is (because of our sin against Him) He will take it, according to His timing, whether sooner or later. The question is, ARE YOU READY?

(Turn over to continue →)

## "WHAT NOW?"

So where can we find hope and be ready for what comes next? Only one place, God Himself!

The One Who we have sinned against, is the Only One Who can forgive us and save us from anything, but especially from Him and His Righteous Anger and Furious Judgment over our sin against Him. He is the Only One Who can truly comfort us and help us in dealing with any and every situation that we face. He is the Only One Who can heal us. He is the Only One Who can deliver us from the bondage of sin to overcome sin, as we grow in Him. And when this life ends, He is the Only One Who can welcome us into the glories of heaven, rescuing us from the lake of fire. BUT HOW CAN THIS BE?

Over 2000 years ago, God became a man in the person of Jesus Christ. He was miraculously born through a virgin birth, as was foretold in the Old Testament Scriptures and fulfilled in the New Testament. He grew up in the world that He created, He loved and ministered to His creation, and when the time was fulfilled, He offered Himself up to be crucified by the hands of men who He created. They despised Him and violently put Him to death on the cross of Calvary, he was buried in a tomb, and He arose from the dead three days later. This was also repeatedly prophesied in the Old Testament (Please read Isaiah chapter 53).

But this was God's plan all along. Because of man's sin against Almighty God, the only way that man could be forgiven by God, was for a perfect and adequate sacrifice or substitute to be made on behalf of our sin (our lawlessness or our breaking of God's law). The only perfect and adequate sacrifice that could possibly be acceptable to God (on our behalf), was God Himself. That is why God became a man, fulfilled the perfect requirements of the law of God, living without sin, and offered Himself up as the spotless "Lamb of God", shedding His Precious, Innocent, and Holy blood for His people. Hebrews 9:22b states, "...without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins." And 2 Corinthians 5:21 states, "For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."

Because we are all guilty of sin (all of mankind) before God, the only way to be forgiven by God and saved from God's eternal Wrath and Punishment in the lake of fire, is through the cross of Calvary. Jesus commands that we, "Repent and believe in the Gospel." You must deny yourself and all that you have believed in and followed after in this world, turn to Jesus Christ, trusting in Him and what He accomplished on the cross for payment of sins. Jesus warned the people in Luke 13:3 & 5, "I tell you no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

How will you know if you are truly repentant and are believing exclusively in Jesus Christ and His sacrifice on the cross of Calvary, and therefore are truly saved? Jesus stated in John 10:27, "My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." You will be changed (and changing) as you now hear His voice (the Word of God) and begin and continue to follow It. If that is the case with you, read the next verse (John 10:28) for assurance.

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**CONSIDER THIS:** On the day of Judgement we will all be Judged by God, according to the same Standard, the Word of God, the Bible. We are surrounded by countless false prophets and false teachings that infiltrate the US and the world today, of which we have been repeatedly warned about in the Bible. Spend the rest of your life seeking the Face of God in prayer and by reading and learning of God, directly from His Inerrant and Perfectly Inspired Words of the Bible, so that you might be prepared on that day, before entering into eternity. Please read 2 Timothy 3:16,17 and Hebrews 4:12,13, and "Prepare to meet thy God"!