

**Scripture:** Hebrews 10:32-39 & 12:1-13      Series: *Knowing God #12 & LD 9-10*  
**Singing:** 206:1-5 – 208:1-4 – 383:1-5 – 100:1-4

Intro: *Rest in the LORD with quiet trust; wait patiently for Him*  
*Tho' wickedness triumphant seem, let not thy faith grow dim* (Ps. 37)

- A. It is hard to trust God in all **suffering** circumstances
- B. But it is so much harder to trust Him in **evil** circumstances
- C. What does God Himself speak of *His relationship to evil*?
1. The *Confession of Faith*, art 13 echoes the Scriptural
    - a. that all things happen by God's appointment
    - b. that He governs over all evil acts without being the Author of evil
    - c. that God never excuses evil on basis of His hidden decree
    - d. that God hates all sin and evil and will justly punish all

### **I. Nothing happens by fortune or chance but by His appointment**

- A. Eph. 1:11: *God worketh all things after the counsel of His own will*
1. Definition of *work* is 'accomplishes – brings about all things'
    - a. no event – detail in our lives falls outside His providence
      - Ps. 148:8 & Job 37:6-13
      - Matt. 6:26
      - Prov. 16:33
      - Ps. 75:6-7 *God*
      - Ps. 18:34 & 1 Cor. 4:7
      - Is. 45:1

### **II. God governs also over evil yet is not the author of evil or involved in evil**

- A. Bible contains dozens of passages *indirectly* linking God with evil
1. Joseph: *brothers sold him yet God 'sent me before you'*: Gen. 45:5
  2. Pharaoh: *God hardened his heart yet he hardened it himself*: Ex. 4:21; 8:15
  3. Samson: *He married a Philistine to create the occasion for war*: Judg 14:4
  4. David: *God, in order to punish Israel (2 Sam. 24:1) allowed Satan to incite David to census (1 Chron. 21:1) which David owned as his sin (2 Sam. 24:10)*
- B. The vilest act: *the cross of Jesus Christ*
1. Acts 2:23, 4:27 reveals *each act of each participant was predestined*
  2. Acts 2:23; 3:14: *each remains responsible for their sins* (also Luke 22:22)

C. What does God reveal about His relationship to evil?

1. God causes all things to happen but does it in such a way that He somehow upholds our ability to make **willing and personal** choices, choices with **real and eternal results**, for which we are held accountable

a. James 1:13-14: *God does not tempt us*

b. Is. 45:7: *God created (ordained) evil to come*

D. Why did God allow evil to originate – exist – to be done?

1. To fulfill His purpose: *for His glory and for our good* (Gen. 50:20)

### **III. God blames and judges all evil doers for the evil they have done**

A. All our actions have *real and eternal consequences*: see Gen. 3:12; Rom. 2:6

1. Though Adam tried to shift blame, *God makes us responsible for actions*

2. This is comfort for *all who experienced evil*: Hebrews 10:30-31

**Final Direction:** Hebrews 12:2

A. The address: 10:32-34

B. The directions: 11-12:3

1. Chapter 11: Consider fellow suffering believers

2. Chapter 12:2-3: Consider the suffering Jesus

a. His race was *a journey of suffering* (2-3)

b. His attitude in suffering: *He endured the cross – despised the shame*

c. His focus in suffering: *the joy set before Him*

3. Chapter 12:2: Looking unto Jesus the *Author and Finisher of Faith*

4. Chapter 12:11: Look at the harvest rather than at the plow or plowing