

John 9:1-3

Born Blind

1) Healing Blind is a Spiritual Metaphor – v. 1

- a) Divine Prerogative – Ex 4:11, Ps 146:8, Job 29:15

- b) Messianic Activity – Isa 29:18, 35:5, 42:7

- c) Spiritual Sight / Light – Isa 42:16-20, Deut 29:4, Ps 115:5

2) Need to Understand Human Suffering – v. 2

- a) Reality of Suffering
 - 1. Moral Evil
 - 2. Natural Evil
 - Universal
 - Connection to Sin
 - Retributive Justice

- b) Need to Know Why – Ex 4:11, Amos 3:6, Lam 3:37-38, Lam 3:32-33, Nah 1:12, 1 Kgs 11:39, Isa 45:7

3) God Has Done It – v. 3

- a) The Reason

- b) Objections

- c) The Conclusion: any suffering that the Sovereign brings to pass through natural evils, must have some transcendently good intention standing behind it.

Praxis

1. Consider deeply the exact sufferings in life of one born physically blind?
2. What parallels and differences exist between the effects of physical blindness and spiritual blindness?
3. Consider the experience of one born blind who was suddenly given sight for the first time? What parallels ought we to find in the Christian life?
4. What “natural suffering” are you experiencing as of late? How might the spiritual “works of God be displayed” in you in the midst of this?