

God, Evil & Suffering (Part 3) “As Sure as There is Suffering, There is God’s Purifying Love”
March 1, 2009

Take Home Idea: Any evil or suffering which we endure, as we strive to live righteously, has phenomenal value because it is evidence of God’s _____ love for us.

The Author of Hebrews writes with the twofold purpose of encouraging Christians to perseverance and Christian maturity: (*Hebrews 5:12-14*) and to warn us of the dire consequences of falling from our faith in Christ (*Hebrews 3:12*)

And in this paragraph we are considering today, God means for us to see and accept a harsh, but comforting reality.

- I. Handling the evil which comes our way, begins by thinking deeply about Christ’s suffering, and then our own (3)

- II. The evil which comes upon us is part of how God keeps His children producing Christ-like obedience (8 – 11)

III. Understanding that the evil of the world is part of God’s toolbox in training us is what will help us not fall away from the faith (4 – 7)

- IV. The only way we will achieve peace when evil and suffering comes is to come to grips with this harsh reality--Any evil or suffering which we endure, not as a consequence of our sins, but as we strive to live righteously—this evil and suffering has phenomenal value because it is evidence of God’s **purposeful love** for us.
 - A. If we try to handle our hardships with human methods—then we are rejecting His love

 - B. If respond to life with worry and anxiety—then we are rejecting His love

 - C. If we doubt that God would ever use evil people to bring us needed training through suffering—then we are rejecting His love for us

There is a peaceful side of Christian living, and there is a struggling side. The peaceful side of Christianity is there all the time—only waiting to be discovered as we—you, me—as we realize that all of the goodness, contentment and hope in life comes from a sincere “giving over” of ourselves to the capable hands of Jesus the Son of God.

Grasp onto the kingly right of God to use people, events and created things to bring His loving pain, His compassionate hardship—His blood-bought, heaven-sent, purifying, eternal-life-preserving suffering to His children!

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