

CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS: CLASS 6

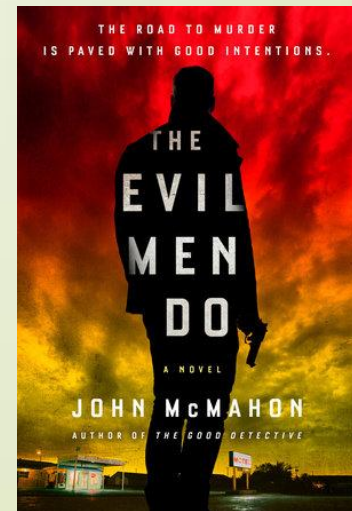
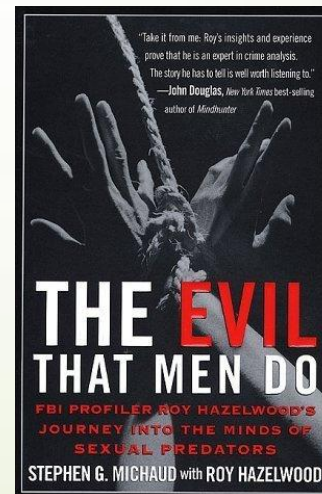
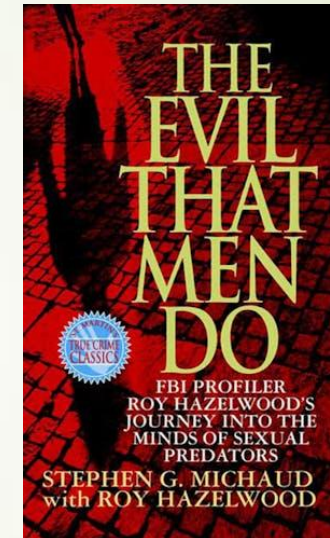
TRUTH IN A WORLD OF FALSITY



CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS CLASS 6

“THE EVIL THAT MEN DO”

(NOT AN ENDORSEMENT OF ANY FILM OR BOOK)





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- CLASSES LOCATED UNDER **“THEORIES”**
 - RECOMMENDED TO DOWNLOAD **“AUDIO”** FOR EACH CLASS AND LISTEN ALONG WHILE VIEWING OF CLASS SLIDES.
 - MUST DOWNLOAD BOTH **“AUDIO”** AND **“PDF FILE”**
-
- PLEASE PASS ON AND RECOMMEND TO OTHERS WHO MAY BENEFIT TO DRAW NEARER TO CHRIST
 - IN THE PAST, THE GIDEON SOCIETY PUT BIBLES IN HOTEL ROOMS; WE NO LONGER SEE THIS TODAY. ASIDE FROM DIRECTLY HANDING A BIBLE TO SOMEONE, WEBSITES LIKE THIS IS TODAY’S SOLUTION, BUT IT ONLY WORKS IF THEY ARE MADE AWARE OF THE WEBSITE.
 - **WILL YOU DO YOUR PART? PROMOTE GOD’S KINGDOM**

WITHOUT SADNESS; HAPPINESS IS COLORLESS

WITHOUT SADNESS; HAPPINESS IS COLORLESS.

SWEET AND SOUR; SALT AND PEPPER; BITTERNESS AND SWEETNESS;

LIKE LIFE WITHOUT SPICE; BLAND FOOD WILL NOT SUFFICE

WITHOUT PAIN AND SUFFERING; WOULD MAN CONSIDER THEE?

THE EVIL WITHIN US, NAILED YOU TO THAT TREE;

IN ANGER WE TURNED AWAY, AND CAST OUR BLAME WITH GLEE

SATAN DECEIVES OUR PRIDE-FILLED HEARTS; UNBENDING, UNWILLING ARE WE.

OH FATHER PLEASE HELP US! WE KNOW NOT WHERE WE'RE FROM;

SHINE YOUR CHRIST UPON US; WE HAVE LOST OUR WAY BACK HOME.

NOW I SEE, OH YES I SEE; WITHOUT HAVING GROANED;

WOULD WE EVER TURN TO THEE.

YOUR HEART IS CRYING; YOUR SON IS DYING; NAILED UPON THE TREE.

BEHOLD HIS BODY IS GONE; HIS SPIRIT LIVES ON!

RISEN! RISEN! IS HE!

3 NAILS + 1 CROSS = 4 GIVEN; REJOICE, WE HAVE BEEN SET FREE!



EVIL, PAIN, SUFFERING, AND THE ALL ENCOMPOSING LOVE OF GOD

➤ **Class Six:**

- **I: QUESTIONS OF EVIL, SUFFERING, PAIN**
- **II: UNDERSTANDING EVIL; **DID GOD CREATE EVIL?****
- **III: WHEN GOD ANSWERED MAN'S REQUEST, AND REMOVED ALL EVIL FROM EARTH**
- **IV: WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE**
- **V: WHY GOD ALLOWS EVIL TO CONTINUE**
- **VI: THE LOVE OF A MOTHER**
- **VII: THE LOVE OF GOD; TIMELESS, BOUNDLESS, LIMITLESS, AND INFINITE**

THE PERSISTENCE OF EVIL

- TODAY, WE HAVE THE WAR BETWEEN RUSSIA AND UKRAINE.
- CHINA MAY ATTACK TAIWAN IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHICH WILL LIKELY BRING THE U.S. AND OTHER NATO COUNTRIES INTO THAT WAR; A WAR WHICH MAY EVEN LEAD TO WWII.
- MUCH OF AFRICA, FILLED WITH DECADES OF MASS KILLINGS AND STRIFE, REMAIN AS WILD AS THE ANIMALS THAT STRUGGLE FOR LIFE THERE.
- SOUTH AMERICAN NATIONS AND OUR NEAREST NEIGHBOR, MEXICO, ARE THE CENTERS OF DRUG PRODUCTION, MURDER, AND THE HUMAN SLAVERY TRADE.
- LASTLY, THE U.S. AND EUROPEAN CENTRAL BANKERS HAVE LED MANY POOR NATIONS INTO FINANCIAL SLAVERY VIA THE I.M.F. (THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND); THEREBY FORCING HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF PEOPLE TO JOIN EVIL CAUSES; JUST TO SURVIVE AND FEED THEIR FAMILIES.
- WHAT CAUSES ALL THIS EVIL? IS IT GOD? NO! YOU KNOW THE ANSWER. IT'S GREEDY MEN! **SO WHY IS IT THAT MEN TURN TO GOD TO SOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS, WHICH THEY PERPETUATE; PLACING ALL BLAME UPON GOD, WHILE DENYING HIS VERY EXISTENCE?**
- PERHAPS WE ARE BEING LIKE MRS. MIKHAIL GORBACHOV, FORMER FIRST LADY OF THE U.S.S.R., WHO WHILE HAVING DINNER WITH REV. BILLY GRAHAM SAID TO HIM, **"I AM AN ATHEIST, BUT I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL THERE IS SOMETHING UP THERE HIGHER THAN WE ARE."**
- TODAY, WE WILL TRY TO FIND ANSWERS TO THESE QUESTIONS AND MORE.

THE PERSISTENCE OF EVIL



WHERE ARE THE ANSWERS TO “EVIL AND SUFFERING” FROM ATHEISTS?

- **THERE ARE NO ANSWERS TO THIS QUESTION FROM ATHEISTS**
- **AT BEST, “SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST”**
- **AT WORST, PLACING THE BLAME ON A GOD THEY CLAIM DOESN'T EXIST:**
 - **IT'S ILLOGICAL TO CRITICIZE THE CHARACTER OF SOMETHING, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME CLAIMING IT DOESN'T EXIST?**
 - **(EXAMPLE MOTORCYCLE)**

**MOTORCYCLES DON'T EXIST; BUT
I HATE THEM BECAUSE THEY ARE DANGEROUS
AND NOISY**



TRYING TO FIND MEANING IN A SENSELESS WORLD:

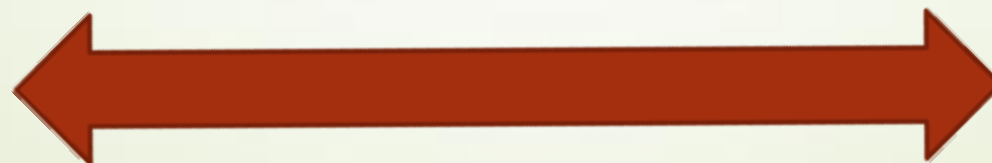
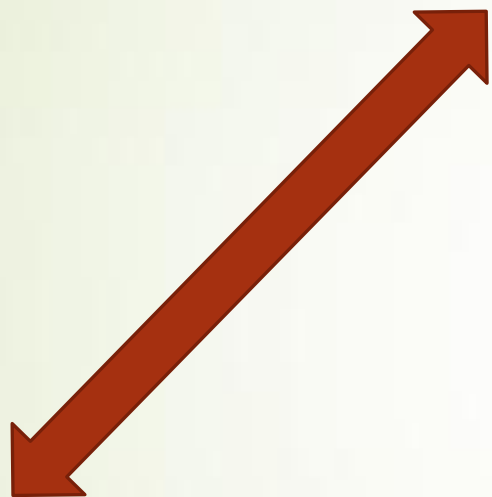
THERE ARE TIMES WHEN ARTISTS SAY WHAT THE WORLD IS FEELING, BUT IS AFRAID TO ADMIT

"QUESTION" Lyrics BY MOODY BLUES

(I'M NOT FOND OF THIS SONG, BUT THE LYRICS MAKE A STATEMENT ABOUT WHAT THE WORLD IS FEELING)

- **WHY DO WE NEVER GET AN ANSWER WHEN WE'RE KNOCKING AT THE DOOR**
WITH A THOUSAND MILLION QUESTIONS
ABOUT HATE AND DEATH AND WAR?
'CAUSE WHEN WE STOP AND LOOK AROUND
US, THERE IS NOTHING THAT WE NEED
**IN A WORLD OF PERSECUTION THAT IS
BURNING IN ITS GREED**
- **AND WHEN YOU STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT**
YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT'S TRUE
**THAT ALL THE LOVE YOU'VE BEEN GIVING
HAS ALL BEEN MEANT FOR YOU**
- **I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO CHANGE MY
LIFE**
I'M LOOKING FOR A MIRACLE IN MY LIFE
AND IF YOU COULD SEE WHAT IT'S DONE TO
ME
TO LOSE THE LOVE, I KNEW COULD SAFELY
LEAD ME THROUGH
- **BETWEEN THE SILENCE OF THE MOUNTAINS
AND THE CRASHING OF THE SEA
THERE LIES A LAND I ONCE LIVED IN
AND IT'S WAITING THERE FOR ME**
- **BUT IN THE GREY OF THE MORNING**
MY MIND BECOMES CONFUSED
**BETWEEN THE DEAD AND THE SLEEPING
AND THE ROAD THAT I MUST CHOOSE**
- **I'M LOOKING FOR SOMEONE TO CHANGE MY
LIFE**
I'M LOOKING FOR A MIRACLE IN MY LIFE
AND IF YOU COULD SEE WHAT IT'S DONE TO ME
TO LOSE THE LAND THAT I ONCE KNEW
TO LEARN AS WE GROW OLD THE SECRETS OF
OUR SOULS
- **WHY DO WE NEVER GET AN ANSWER WHEN
WE'RE KNOCKING AT THE DOOR?**

TRYING TO FIND MEANING IN A SENSELESS WORLD



WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING?

(WHERE SHOULD WE PLACE THE BLAME?)

- A. **WARS / PRISON CAMPS / GENOCIDE** (PRIDE / GREED / DARWIN'S SUPERIOR RACE THEORY)
- B. **MURDER: KILLING VS. MURDER / RAPE** (PRIDE / GREED / SATAN'S INFLUENCE)
- C. **ACCIDENTS/ DEATH / INJURY** (FREE WILL / POOR CHOICES / SATAN'S INFLUENCE)
- D. **DIFFICULTIES IN LIFE: FINANCIAL / RELATIONSHIPS** (FALL OF MAN / POOR CHOICES/ PRIDE)
- E. **NATURAL DISASTERS** (FALL OF MAN / EARTH WILL GROAN/MOAN / REFUSAL TO MOVE AWAY)
- F. **BIRTH DEFECTS** (FALL OF MAN)

- G. **WHO IS THE ONLY INNOCENT PERSON EVER SACRIFICED, UNSELFISHLY, FOR THE BENEFIT OF HUMANITY** (JESUS CHRIST / GRACE OF GOD FOR US)

Z. ABORTIONS: (WITHOUT JUDGING ANYONE; SIMPLY RAISING THE POINT HERE), IF WE ARE TRULY CONCERNED WITH THE KILLING OF INNOCENTS, GOD CAN EASILY TURN AROUND AND JUDGE MAN BASED UPON THE NUMBER OF ABORTIONS PERFORMED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, LITERALLY BILLIONS OF BABIES. ABORTIONS HAVE CAUSED MORE DEATHS OF INNOCENT LIVES THAN ALL THE WARS COMBINED.

FOR EVERY ABORTION, THERE ARE MULTIPLE PARTIES INVOLVED: FATHER, MOTHER, ABORTIONIST, ASSISTANTS, ORGANIZATIONS, AND THE PEOPLE WHO VOTED IN THE POLITICIANS AND LAWS LEGALIZING ABORTION. (WE MUST ACCEPT OUR OWN PART AND MISTAKES BEFORE JUDGING GOD.)

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

- **EVERYONE ALWAYS ASKS, “WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?”**
- **WHY IS IT, NO ONE QUESTIONS, “WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO BAD PEOPLE?”**
 - **BECAUSE IT’S EXPECTED; BUT WHY?**
 - **WE ALL POSSESS AN UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT IS RIGHT FROM WRONG**
 - **WHERE AND HOW DOES THIS UNDERSTANDING COME ABOUT FOR MAN, WHEN ANIMALS DO NOT POSSESS THIS KNOWLEDGE?**

KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

- ATHEISTIC EVOLUTIONISTS HAVE NO ANSWER TO THIS QUESTION
- IT CAN'T COME FROM ANIMALS; THEY DON'T KNOW OF IT
- "SURVIVAL OF THE FITTEST" HAS NO EXPLANATION FOR IT



FOOD



RUN



- THE ZEBRA DOESN'T THINK OF THE LION AS EVIL; THE ZEBRA IS SIMPLY HAPPY IT WASN'T THE ONE EATEN THAT DAY
- ANIMALS DON'T HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF "GOOD" VS. "EVIL"

KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL WHERE DOES IT COME FROM?

➤ THE “MORAL LAW” DILEMA:

➤ DR. FRANCIS COLLINS CHANGED: FROM ATHEIST TO THEIST

➤ NOBEL PRIZE WINNER FOR MAPPING COMPLETE HUMAN GENOME

➤ DR. COLLINS COULDN'T COMPREHEND HOW THE DNA COULD POSSIBLY GIVE RISE TO AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MORAL LAW WRITTEN UPON MAN'S HEART

➤ THE BIBLE GIVES A VERY CLEAR EXPLANATION FOR HOW MAN CAME TO POSSESS THIS KNOWLEDGE OF “GOOD” VS “EVIL”:

➤ “ON THE DAY YOU EAT FROM “THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL”, YOU SHALL SURELY DIE.”

➤ MAN WOULD DIE PHYSICALLY (NO ACCESS TO “TREE OF LIFE”; NO LONGER IMMORTAL. THEIR DAYS NUMBERED TO 120 YEARS; STILL TRUE TODAY)

➤ MAN WOULD DIE SPIRITUALLY (SEPARATED FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD; BANNED FROM GARDEN OF EDEN)

➤ ADAM AND EVE WALKED WITH GOD DAILY, BUT AS SOON AS THEY ATE FROM THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, THEY HID THEMSELVES FROM GOD.

➤ WHEN GOD ASKED ADAM, “WHERE ARE YOU”, GOD WASN'T ASKING ADAM WHERE HE WAS “PHYSICALLY”, GOD WAS ASKING ADAM WHERE HE WAS “SPIRITUALLY”.

➤ GOD DID THIS TO POINT OUT TO ADAM THAT MAN HAD NOW DRIFTED AWAY FROM GOD'S PRESENCE

DID GOD CREATE EVIL?

- **ATHEIST CLAIM:** “IF GOD CREATED ALL THINGS, AND EVIL EXISTS, THEN GOD CREATED EVIL, THEREFORE GOD IS EVIL.”
- **QUESTION:** IS “EVIL” IT’S OWN SEPARATE ENTITY?
 - **DID GOD CREATE EVIL?**
 - **ANSWER: NO**

DID GOD CREATE EVIL

➤ A STUDY OF HEAT VS. COLD:

➤ HEAT IS A REAL ENTITY:

➤ BECAUSE HEAT ENERGY CAN BE MEASURED IN DEGREES OF KELVIN, CELCIUS OR FAHRENHEIT

➤ **ABSOLUTE 0 IS 0 KELVIN = -273.15 CELCIUS: HEAT NO LONGER MEASURABLE**

➤ **COLD IS SIMPLY THE LACK OF HEAT, AND CANNOT BE MEASURED;**

➤ **THEREFORE, COLD IS NOT A REAL ENTITY.**

➤ **COLD IS SIMPLY THE LACK OF HEAT**

DID GOD CREATE EVIL

➤ A STUDY OF LIGHT VS. DARK:

➤ LIGHT IS A REAL ENTITY:

- BECAUSE LIGHT ENERGY CAN BE MEASURED IN LUMENS (LUX) OR IT CAN BE MEASURED IN FOOT CANDLES
- 1 FOOT CANDLE = 10.76 LUMENS
- 1 PHOTON IS THE SMALLEST DETECTABLE UNIT OF LIGHT TO THE HUMAN EYE

➤ DARKNESS IS THE LACK OF LIGHT, AND CANNOT BE MEASURED;

- THEREFORE, DARKNESS IS NOT A REAL ENTITY.
- DARKNESS IS SIMPLY THE LACK OF LIGHT

GOOD VS EVIL

➔ “GOD” ➔ “GOOD”

- ➔ GOD IS ULTIMATE GOODNESS
- ➔ WHEN WE BECOME MORE GOD LIKE, WE ARE MORE “GOOD”
- ➔ WHEN WE ARE LESS GOD LIKE, WE ARE “LESS GOOD”
- ➔ THE FURTHER WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD; **THE “LESS GOOD” WE BECOME; THE MORE EVIL WE BECOME**
- ➔ **“GOOD” IS A REAL ENTITY, BECAUSE IT IS MEASURABLE AGAINST THE STANDARD OF GOD’S GOODNESS**
 - ➔ **“EVIL” IS SIMPLY THE LACK OF “GOOD”**
 - ➔ **THEREFORE, “EVIL” IS NOT A REAL ENTITY**

GOOD VS EVIL

➔ “DEVIL” ➔ “EVIL”

➔ GOD DID NOT CREATE THE DEVIL, GOD CREATED LUCIFER:

➔ LUCIFER WAS THE MOST GIFTED OF ALL THE ANGELS

➔ GOD NEVER CREATED THE DEVIL:

➔ THE PRIDE OF LUCIFER LED TO HIS CHALLENGING OF GOD

➔ FOR HIS REBELLION AGAINST GOD, LUCIFER WAS THROWN OUT OF HEAVEN

➔ THEREFORE, GOD NEVER CREATED THE “DEVIL” OR “EVIL”

➔ GOD DID NOT CREATE “EVIL”

➔ “EVIL” IS NOT A REAL ENTITY ONTO ITSELF; IT’S SIMPLY THE LACK OF “GOOD” WHICH IS MEASURED BY GOD’S GOODNESS

GOOD VS EVIL

SIN: TO MISS THE MARK (ARCHERY)



➤ TO SIN (TO MISS THE MARK OF GOODNESS OF GOD):

➤ **SIN MAKES US DRIFT AWAY FROM THE GOODNESS OF GOD**

➤ **JUST AS AN ARROW DRIFTS AWAY FROM IT'S MARK, WHEN WE SIN, WE DRIFT AWAY FROM GOD'S GOODNESS**

➤ **SIN PRODUCES MORE EVIL**

➤ **WHAT BRINGS ON SIN AND EVIL?**

➤ **PRIDE: PRIDE IS THE ROOT OF ALL EVIL**

➤ **PRIDE IS THE GREATEST SIN; PRIDE IS THE GREATEST EVIL**

➤ **PRIDE IS WHAT MADE LUCIFER CHALLENGE GOD; RESULTING IN BEING CAST OUT OF HEAVEN**

GOOD VS. EVIL

- **SIN ENTERED THE WORLD AS MAN DRIFTED FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY FROM GOD:**
- **GETTING LOST:**
 - **THERE COMES A POINT WHEN ONE IS SO LOST, HE/SHE DOESN'T EVEN RECOGNIZE OR KNOW, THEY ARE LOST.**
- **SUCH IS THE PREDICAMENT OF MEN TODAY:**
 - **LOOKING TO GOD FOR THE ANSWERS, WOULD BE TO ADMIT OUR MISTAKES, AND OUR PRIDE WILL NOT ALLOW THIS**
 - **MEN WOULD RATHER REMAIN LOST AND BLIND; LIVING LIFE THEIR WAY, INSTEAD OF GOD'S WAY; SUCH IS THE STATE OF MEN TODAY.**

GOOD VS. EVIL

- ▶ *John 1:4, “In him was life, and that life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, but the darkness has not understood it.”*
 - ▶ **THE WORD “LIFE” HERE IS NOT THIS TEMPORAL LIFE ON EARTH; IT IS LIFE FOR ALL ETERNITY WITH GOD**
 - ▶ **THE “LIGHT” OF CHRIST ALLOWS THE LOST TO FIND THEIR WAY BACK HOME TO GOD; SHEDDING LIGHT UPON GOD’S “TRUTHS”, NOT MAN’S RELATIVE TRUTHS.**
- ▶ **John 14:6, “I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE”**
 - ▶ **CHRIST IS THE MEDIATOR; THE “WAY” FOR US TO BECOME JOINED WITH GOD ONCE AGAIN**
 - ▶ **WHEN GOD SENT CHRIST; HE ALLOWED CHRIST TO BE SACRIFIED ON OUR BEHALF; CHRIST JUSTIFIES US BACK TO GOD THE FATHER.**
 - ▶ **GOD WOULD NEVER CREATE EVIL. GOD’S GOODNESS WILL NOT ALLOW IT.**

GEN.6:5-13, "THE LORD SAW HOW GREAT MAN'S WICKEDNESS ON THE EARTH HAD BECOME AND THAT EVERY INCLINATION OF THE THOUGHTS OF HIS HEART WAS ONLY EVIL ALL THE TIME. THE LORD WAS GRIEVED THAT HE HAD MADE MAN ON THE EARTH, AND HIS HEART WAS FILLED WITH PAIN...NOW THE EARTH WAS CORRUPT IN GOD'S SIGHT AND WAS FULL OF VIOLENCE. GOD SAW HOW CORRUPT THE EARTH HAD BECOME, FOR ALL THE PEOPLE ON EARTH HAD CORRUPTED THEIR WAYS...I AM SURELY GOING TO DESTROY BOTH MEN AND THE EARTH."



- **IN THE TIME OF NOAH, GOD ERASED ALL EVIL AND STARTED THE WORLD AGAIN.**
- **MAN WAS VERY UPSET WITH THAT SOLUTION, AND GOD MADE A PROMISE TO MAN, THAT HE WOULD NEVER DO IT AGAIN.**
- **HE GAVE THE RAINBOW AS HIS SIGN OF PROMISE.**

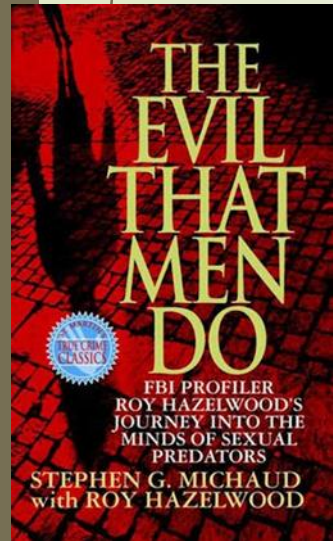
THE LORD'S PATIENCE FOR EVIL

- **2PET.3:9, "THE LORD IS NOT SLOW IN KEEPING HIS PROMISE, AS SOME UNDERSTAND SLOWNESS. HE IS PATIENT WITH YOU, NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTENCE."**
 - REASON FOR GOD'S PATIENCE:
 - "NOT WANTING ANYONE TO PERISH, BUT EVERYONE TO COME TO REPENTENCE."
- **MAT.13:28-30 (PARABLE OF THE WEEDS), "A MAN SOWED **GOOD SEED** IN HIS FIELD, BUT WHILE HE WAS SLEEPING, THE ENEMY CAME AND SOWED **WEEDS** AMONG THE WHEAT AND WENT AWAY" ...THE SERVANT ASKED, "DO YOU WANT US TO GO AND PULL THEM UP?" "NO", HE ANSWERED, "BECAUSE WHILE YOU ARE PULLING THE WEEDS, YOU MAY ROOT UP THE WHEAT WITH THEM. LET BOTH GROW TOGETHER UNTIL THE HARVEST."**
 - **THE "GOOD SEED" IS THE WORD OF THE LORD (OBEDIENT CHRISTIANS) SOWN BY THE SON OF MAN.**
 - **THE "WEEDS" ARE THE SONS OF THE EVIL ONE, AND THE "ENEMY" IS THE DEVIL**
 - **C.S. LEWIS WRITES IN DETAIL UPON THIS THEME IN HIS BOOK, "THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS", WHERE THE SERVANT OF THE DEVIL, "WORMWOOD" GOES AROUND PLANTING BAD SEED AMONGST MEN'S HEART AND TWISTS THE MINDS OF MEN. (CHARACTER IN "LORD OF THE RINGS, II)**
 - **GOD IS PATIENTLY WAITING, SO NONE MAY BE HURT OR PERISH WHILE REMOVING THE WEEDS; LIFE IS INTERCONNECTED AMONGST FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS, AND GOOD AND BAD ROOTS RUN THROUGH ALL OUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS. WE MOURN THE LOSS OF ALL.**
 - **NEVER MISTAKE GOD'S PATIENCE AS HIS INABILITY TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT.**



WHY GOD IS PATIENT WITH EVIL

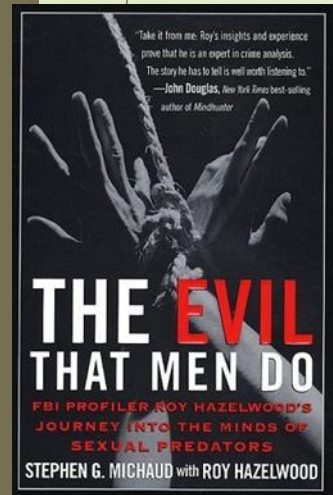
- **“THE EVIL THAT MEN DO”**: THESE SAME EVIL MEN, WHO DO EVIL, ARE THE FIRST TO PASS JUDGMENT ABOUT GOD’S LACK OF GOODNESS



- **WHAT IS “GOOD”**:
- LUKE 18:19, “...WHY DO YOU CALL ME GOOD? ...NO ONE IS GOOD EXCEPT GOD ALONE.”
- **ISAIAH 57:1-13** “But you, you sons of sorceress, you offspring of adulterers and prostitutes! **Whom are you mocking? At whom do you sneer and stick out your tongues?** Are you not a brood of rebels, the offspring of liars? You burn with lust,...you sacrifice your children in the ravines...behind your doorposts you have put your pagan symbols...you made a pact with those whose beds you love, and you looked on their nakedness...you have been false to me, and have neither remembered me nor pondered this in your hearts...”
- **SO GOD LEFT MEN TO THEIR OWN VICES:**

WHY GOD IS PATIENT WITH EVIL

- **GOD'S ALLOWANCE OF EVIL: ALLOWS MEN TO TRULY RECOGNIZE THEIR OWN SIN NATURE AND THE NEED FOR CHRIST**
- **THE GREATEST GOOD WITHIN US, HAVE OFTEN BEEN WITNESSED DURING TIMES OF THE GREATEST EVIL. IT REMINDS US OF GOD'S SPIRIT THAT LIVES WITHIN EACH PERSON.**
- **ALL SUFFERING IS ENDURABLE, WHEN WE RECOGNIZE THE PURPOSE AND THE GAIN**
 - **THIS WAS THE REASON, CHRIST SUFFERED FOR OUR GAIN**
 - **CHRIST ENDURED THE BEATINGS AND THE SHAME, FOR YOU AND ME**



WHY BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE

➤ MEN OFTEN ASK WHY GOD ALLOWS BAD THINGS TO HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE:

- **ISAIAH 57:1-13** “The righteous perish, and no one ponders it in his heart; devout men are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace...”
- **JESUS ONLY LIVED 33 ½ YEARS; 3½ DOING HIS MINISTRY BEFORE BEING TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN.**
 - **WHEN OUR PURPOSE IS FULFILLED, GOD WILL OFTEN TAKES US HOME TO BE WITH HIM, “TO ENTER INTO PEACE”**
 - **MEN CANNOT JUDGE WHEN A PERSON’S PURPOSE HAS BEEN FULFILLED; ONLY THE CREATOR CAN KNOW THIS ABOUT HIS CREATION**

WHY THE RIGHTEOUS PERISH

(THE FOLLOWING QUESTION IS OFTEN RAISED BY ATHEISTS WHO TRY TO PASS JUDGMENT AGAINST GOD AS AN UNCARING GOD)

➤ STUDENT QUESTION: WHERE WAS GOD WHEN THESE BAD THINGS HAPPENED TO THEM?

- **A: THE SAME PLACE HE WAS WHEN WE NAILED JESUS TO THE CROSS; HE WAS WATCHING WITH TEARS IN HIS EYES.**
- **WHEN WE PIERCED THE SIDE OF JESUS; WE PIERCED GOD'S HEART!**
- **GEN. 6:5-13, "...THE LORD WAS GRIEVED...AND HIS HEART WAS FILLED WITH PAIN..THE EARTH WAS CORRUPT IN GOD'S SIGHT AND WAS FULL OF VIOLENCE..."**
- **THE WORD "GRIEVED" IS DEFINED AS, "TO CAUSE GREAT DISTRESS, TO MOURN" AND IS OFTEN USED TO DESCRIBE A PERSON WHO HAS LOST A LOVED ONE.**
- **WHEN BAD THINGS ARE PERPETUATED AGAINST THE RIGHTEOUS, GOD IS NOT UNCARING; BUT HE HOLDS BACK HIS WRATH.**



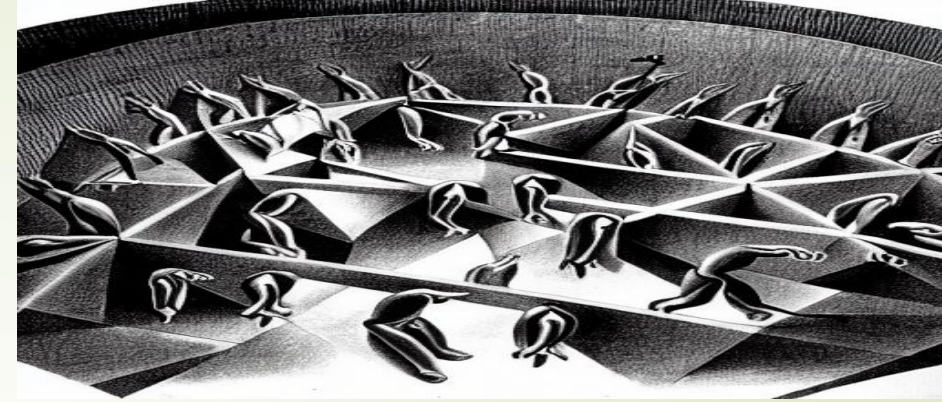
WHY THE RIGHTEOUS PERISH

➤ STUDENT QUESTIONS: WHY DOES GOD ALLOW SUFFERING IN HIS PEOPLE? WHY DOES GOD ALLOW TRAGEDIES?

- **A:** IN HAPPINESS AND CONTENTMENT, THERE IS NO GROWTH. IT IS BY OVERCOMING TROUBLE AND PAIN THAT WE LEARN WHAT WE ARE TRULY MADE OF.
- FROM THE GREATEST TRAGEDIES OF WARS AND CATASTROPHIES, WE MOST OFTEN HEAR OF THE MIRACLE OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT.
- IT'S UP TO EACH OF US, NOT JUST TO QUESTION WHY EVIL EXISTS, BUT WHAT AM I WILLING TO DO ABOUT IT.
- TOO OFTEN IN OUR SOCIETY, WE HEAR OF PEOPLE USING THEIR PHONES TO VIDEO-TAPE EVIL TAKING PLACE, **WHEN THEY SHOULD BE JOINING HANDS TO OVERCOME THAT EVIL.**



WHY THE RIGHTEOUS PERISH



- ▶ **STUDENT QUESTION:** WHY DOES GOD MAKE PEOPLE SUFFER SO LONG, LIKE JOB?
 - ▶ **A:** HOW MUCH GOOD HAS BEEN SHOWN FOR PEOPLE OF ALL AGES TO UNDERSTAND, TO LEARN FROM THE STORY OF JOB REGARDING GOD, PATIENCE, AND SUFFERING?
 - ▶ **GOD ALLOWED IT, FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL MANKIND, TO LEARN HOW TO DEAL WITH THE TRIALS OF LIFE**
 - ▶ **BEFORE GOD ALLOWED JOB TO SUFFER; HE HAD ALREADY PLANNED FOR JOB'S RESTITUTION.**
 - ▶ **JUST AS BEFORE GOD ASKED ABRAHAM TO SACRIFICE HIS SON, GOD HAD ALREADY PROVIDED A RAM FOR THE SACRIFICE.**
 - ▶ **WHAT IS MORE IMPORTANT: BEFORE GOD ALLOWED MEN TO FALL FROM GRACE; HE HAD ALREADY PROVIDED CHRIST AS OUR MEDIATOR BACK TO HIM; THROUGH GRACE.**

SPIRITUAL GROWTH THROUGH DIFFICULTIES



- CHARLENE AND MY SISTER
- JONI EARECKSON TADA
- JOYCE MEYER
- **PERHAPS GOD IS CALLING ONE OF YOU, WHO HAS BEEN SUFFERING A LONG ILLNESS, TO HELP OTHERS DRAW NEARER TO CHRIST THROUGH YOUR OWN TESTIMONY?**

- **WE GROW THE MOST SPIRITUALLY, WHEN WE GO THROUGH SUFFERING.**
- **WHEN THINGS ARE GOOD, WE RARELY FOCUS ON GOD, TURN TO HIM FOR HELP, OR EVEN THANK HIM; INSTEAD WE TAKE ALL THE CREDIT FOR OURSELVES.**

- **ALL SUFFERING IS ENDURABLE, WHEN WE RECOGNIZE THE PURPOSE AND THE GAIN**
 - **AS DIFFICULT AS IT MAY SEEM, TRY TO RECOGNIZE THE GAIN IN OUR SUFFERING FOR OUR ETERNAL SOUL; OUR SPIRITUAL WALK**
 - **YOU TOO WILL BE CONGRATULATED WHEN YOU GET TO HEAVEN!**

“THIS SMALL AND TEMPORARY TROUBLE WE SUFFER WILL BRING US A TREMENDOUS AND ETERNAL GLORY, MUCH GREATER THAN THE TROUBLE WE NOW FACE”

2 Corinthians 4:17 (GNT)

- ▶ (1) WHEN WE GO THROUGH DIFFICULTIES IN LIFE, THE FIRST THING WE OFTEN TRY TO DO IS BLAME SOMEBODY ELSE. BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE OUR PROBLEM CAME FROM—**GOD STILL HAS A PURPOSE FOR IT IN OUR LIFE.**
- ▶ (2) EVEN WHEN WE DO SOMETHING FOOLISH, **GOD CAN USE IT.** EVEN WHEN OTHER PEOPLE HURT US INTENTIONALLY, **HE CAN USE IT.** EVEN WHEN THE DEVIL TRIES TO MESS THINGS UP, **GOD CAN BRING GOOD OUT OF IT.**
- ▶ (3) **GOD'S PURPOSE IS GREATER THAN OUR PROBLEMS AND OUR PAIN. HE HAS A PLAN!** WE NEED TO LOOK PAST THE TEMPORARY PAIN AND LOOK INSTEAD AT THE LONG-TERM BENEFIT IN OUR LIFE.
- ▶ (4) WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF OUR PROBLEMS AND DIFFICULTY? **GOD WANTS US TO LEARN SOMETHING.**
 - ▶ **EVERY STORM IS A SCHOOL; EVERY TRIAL IS A TEACHER; EVERY EXPERIENCE IS AN EDUCATION; EVERY DIFFICULTY IS FOR YOUR DEVELOPMENT. (PASTOR RICK WARREN)**

“We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that . . . they help us learn to be patient. And patience develops strength of character in us and helps us trust God more each time we use it until finally our hope and faith are strong and steady” Romans 5:3-4

- **(5) MANY OF US ARE SLOW LEARNERS. IF WE DON'T LEARN SOMETHING THE FIRST TIME, GOD MAY BRING IT UP AGAIN IN OUR LIFE.**
- **(6) IT WILL COME BACK BECAUSE GOD IS MORE INTERESTED IN OUR CHARACTER THAN HE IS IN OUR COMFORT. HE IS MORE INTERESTED IN SEEING US BECOME MORE LIKE CHRIST, THAN HE IS IN MAKING THINGS EASY FOR US.**
- **(7) YOU MAY BE FACING A MAJOR DIFFICULTY RIGHT NOW. IT MAY BE AN ILLNESS, GUILT, A FINANCIAL PROBLEM, OR STRAIN IN A RELATIONSHIP. DOES GOD HAVE A WORD FOR YOU WHILE YOU'RE GOING THROUGH YOUR DIFFICULTY? YES HE DOES! GOD IS ESSENTIALLY SAYING TO YOU, “DON'T GIVE UP; GROW UP. LET ME MAKE YOU MORE LIKE ME THROUGH THIS PAINFUL SITUATION.” LET GOD FULFILL HIS PURPOSE IN YOU THROUGH YOUR DIFFICULTY—TO TRANSFORM YOU MORE AND MORE INTO THE PERSON HE CREATED YOU TO BE.**
- **TRUST THIS TRUTH: IT'S WHY JESUS SUFFERED FOR US; IT'S WHY MOTHER'S GO THROUGH LABOR TO HAVE A BABY; IT'S WHAT WE SHOULD FOCUS ON, IN THE KNOWLEDGE WE CAN LOOK BACK ONE DAY FROM HEAVEN AND BE GLAD WE ENDURED THE TROUBLES ON EARTH, FOR THE ETERNAL GROWTH OF OUR SOUL TO BE WITH GOD.**

PLACING GOD'S STANDARD OVER MAN'S STANDARD

(GOD WILL OFTEN TAKE WHAT IS BAD AND TURN IT FOR GOOD)

- ▶ MAN NAILED THEIR "CHRIST" (MESSIAH) ON A CROSS TO DESTROY HIM, **INSTEAD GOD TURNED THAT CROSS INTO HIS THRONE AS A SYMBOL FOR GOOD.**
- ▶ GOD DID NOT TELL MAN "TO NOT EAT FROM THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL" BECAUSE HE WAS AFRAID **OF** MAN: NO! GOD DIDN'T WANT MAN TO EAT FROM THE TREE BECAUSE HE KNEW MAN WOULD WANT TO PLAY GOD ONCE MAN ATTAINED THIS KNOWLEDGE; AND GOD WAS AFRAID **FOR** MAN, NOT **OF** MAN.
- ▶ **WHY DOES GOD NOT WANT MAN TO PLAY GOD? BECAUSE WHEN MAN STARTS TO PLAY GOD AND DEFINE WHAT IS "GOOD" AND WHAT IS "EVIL", EVERYTHING BECOMES RELATIVE ACCORDING TO MAN'S STANDARD, AND WE END UP IN A WORLD FILLED WITH RELATIVE TRUTHS, AND PRETTY SOON, EVERYTHING IS ALLOWED.**
- ▶ **NO; GOD WAS NOT AFRAID OF MAN: GOD WAS AFRAID FOR MAN.**
- ▶ **I MENTIONED IN CLASS SESSION ONE, "WHAT DOES IT MEAN WHEN GOD SAYS, 'HE LOVES YOU', AND YOU REJECT GOD'S LOVE.**
 - ▶ **"WHEN I SAY "I LOVE YOU" AND YOU REJECT MY LOVE, I AM HURT FOR WHAT I HAVE LOST. BUT WHEN GOD SAYS "HE LOVES YOU" AND YOU REJECT HIS LOVE, GOD IS HURT FOR WHAT YOU HAVE LOST."** (RAVI ZACHARIAS)
- ▶ **DEAR FRIENDS, PERHAPS IT'S TIME FOR US TO STOP TRYING TO PLAY GOD!!!**
 - ▶ **"HAVE YOU LOOKED AT OUR WORLD NOW? EVERY TREE IS PROTECTED, EXCEPT THE 'TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL'"**

IT'S TIME FOR MAN TO STOP TRYING TO PLAY GOD



“HAVE YOU LOOKED AT OUR WORLD NOW? EVERY TREE IS PROTECTED, EXCEPT THE ‘TREE OF KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL’”

INTO THIS WORLD FILLED WITH EVIL GOD GIVES US LOVE

➤ THE EXISTENCE OF LOVE IS A WONDER:

- THE QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE WHY EVIL EXISTS; THE QUESTION SHOULD BE WHY LOVE EXISTS
- HOW DOES INANIMATE MATTER, THAT NEVER KNEW FEELINGS AND THOUGHT, PRODUCE LOVE?
- CAN LOVE BE EVOLVED
- NO
- PEOPLE OFTEN TALK ABOUT THE CHEMISTRY OF LOVE
 - IS THERE A CHEMICAL FORMULA FOR LOVE:
 - NO, THERE ARE TOO MANY PERMUTATIONS OF IT, INSTANTLY BY EACH INDIVIDUAL, TO BE EXPLAINED THRU PHYSICAL EVOLUTION.
 - LOVE IS SPIRITUAL MORE THAN PHYSICAL. THE PERMUTATIONS OF “SPIRITUAL LOVE” FAR OUTSTRIP THOSE OF “PHYSICAL LUST”.

INTO THIS WORLD FILLED WITH EVIL GOD GIVES US LOVE

➔ DOES LOVE HAVE LIMITS

➔ NO:

- ➔ LOVE IS NOT LIMITED BY PHYSICAL DISTANCE OR SPACE
- ➔ LOVE IS NOT CONSTRAINED BY PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES
- ➔ LOVE IS NOT LIMITED BY TIME
- ➔ **LOVE CANNOT BE EVOLVED BECAUSE EVOLUTION IS ALL ABOUT PHYSICAL PROPERTIES IN NATURE BEING TRANSFORMED GRADUALLY OVER TIME; AND LOVE IS NOT LIMITED BY THE PHYSICAL AND IT'S INSTANTANEOUS**

INTO THIS WORLD FILLED WITH EVIL GOD GIVES US LOVE

- ▶ **LOVE POSSESSES ALL THE CHARACTERISTICS OF ONLY ONE BEING; GOD!**
 - ▶ **GOD IS NOT LIMITED BY DISTANCE, PHYSICAL BOUNDARIES, OR TIME**
 - ▶ **WHAT REPRESENTS THE BOUNDLESS LOVE OF GOD?**
 - ▶ **(THE EXAMPLE OF THE FATHER SEPARATED FROM HIS SON ACROSS THE WORLD)**

WHEN I HAD MY FIRST CHILD, MY DAUGHTER ASHLEY; I REMEMBER ONE MORNING PICKING HER UP AND SNUDDLING HER TO MY NOSE. SHE SMELLED SO SWEET, YOU KNOW, THAT BABY SMELL OF SWEETNESS. I AM REMINDED OF HOW INNOCENT AND HELPLESS SHE SEEMED AND HOW MUCH I WANTED THE BEST FOR HER.

GOD IS LIKE THAT WITH US; EVEN THOUGH MANY OF US HAVE BEEN AGED THROUGH OUR YEARS OF WORLDLY EXISTENCE, WE NEED TO KEEP IN MIND, TO GOD WE ARE STILL HIS INNOCENT SWEET CHILD.

➤ **GOD SMELLS YOUR TRUE SWEETNESS**

- THE PURE SWEETNESS WITHIN YOU, THAT YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN ABOUT
- YOUR TRUE SWEETNESS, WHICH THE WORLD HAS TRIED TO STEAL AWAY FROM YOU
- HOLD ON TO YOUR INNOCENT SWEETNESS; DON'T LET SATAN STEAL IT AWAY;
- YOU BELONG TO GOD BECAUSE YOU ARE A CHILD OF GOD

➤ **GOD HEARS YOUR PRAYERS**

- YOUR PRAYERS OF NEED AND LONGING
- YOUR PRAYERS OF GRATITUDE, AND FOR FORGIVENESS
- YOUR PRAYERS OF HURT AND SORROW

➤ **GOD SEES AND FEELS YOUR PAIN**

- YOUR SORROW FOR PAST HURTS, FROM OTHERS AND TO OTHERS
- YOUR SHAME FOR PAST WRONGS TO OTHERS, TO YOURSELF, AND TO GOD
- YOUR PAIN FOR CURRENT SITUATIONS, FOR YOURSELF AND YOUR LOVED ONES

THE MERE SON OF A CARPENTER

- ▶ HOW AMAZING THAT THE MERE SON OF A CARPENTER, IN 3 ½ YEARS, AFFECTED THE WORLD MORE THAN ALL THE PHILOSOPHERS THROUGHOUT HISTORY PUT TOGETHER; THAT HIS INFLUENCE LIVES ON TODAY, TWO THOUSAND YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH, WITH A GREATER INFLUENCE THAN IT DID WHILE HE WALKED WITH US.
- ▶ IN OVER TWENTY YEARS OF SHARING APOLOGETICS, I'VE NOTICED FOR SOME PEOPLE, NO MATTER WHAT EVIDENCE YOU GIVE THEM, THEY WILL NOT CONCEDE. WITH THESE PEOPLE, IT IS NOT THE EVIDENCE THEY ARE AFRAID OF ACCEPTING; IT IS THE IMPLICATIONS TO THEIR LIFE THAT THE EVIDENCE DEMANDS, THEY ARE NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT.
 - ▶ THE PROBLEM FOR MANY PEOPLE IS NOT INTELLECTUAL, THE PROBLEM FOR THEM IS MORAL AND SPIRITUAL; IT IS NOT A MATTER OF THE MIND, IT IS OF THE HEART.
 - ▶ THIS WORLD WANTS EVERYONE TO EXPRESS AND EXPERIENCE "FREE LOVE".
 - ▶ I HAVE BEEN MARRIED TO MY WIFE CHARLENE FOR 34 YEARS. WHEN I SAID "I DO" TO HER, IT MEANT "I DON'T" TO ALL OTHER WOMEN, AND IT HAS BEEN MY PRIVILEGE TO HAVE BEEN GIVEN THAT RIGHT TO ME, BY HER WITH THE BLESSINGS OF GOD. IN THIS WORLD OF "FREE LOVE", THE "FREE LOVE" I FEEL FOR HER IS NOT THE SAME AS THE WORLD'S DEFINITION OF "FREE LOVE": I AM MADE FREE IN MY LOVE FOR HER, BECAUSE I AM FAITHFUL TO HER AND HER ALONE. IF I WAS CHEATING ON HER BY FOLLOWING THE "FREE LOVE" DEFINED BY THE WORLD, I WOULD HAVE INSTEAD BECOME A PRISONER OF THAT "FREE LOVE". TO QUOTE A FAMOUS SONG FROM THE SEVENTIES, HOW MANY HAVE FALLEN VICTIM TO THE TRAP OF "IF YOU CAN'T BE WITH THE ONE YOU LOVE, LOVE THE ONE YOUR WITH".
 - ▶ TO KNOW THE LOVE OF CHRIST, IS TO KNOW THE TRUE "FREE LOVE" WHICH ONLY GOD CAN PROVIDE!

**DO YOU KNOW THE LOVE OF
THE SON OF A MERE CARPENTER**



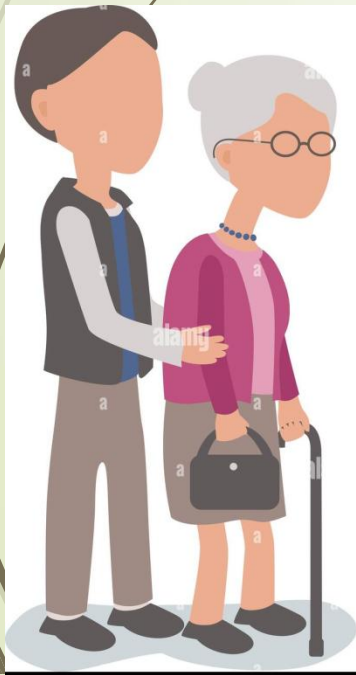
**EXPERIENCE HIS LIFE
FREEING LOVE**

THE LOVE OF A MOTHER

(I CAN NOT CONFIRM IF THIS IS A STORY BASED UPON ACTUAL EVENTS)

- ONCE UPON A TIME IN KOREA, THERE IS A STORY HANDED DOWN, OF WHEN TIMES WERE LEAN AND THE PEOPLE WERE STARVING.
- IT WAS IN SUCH A TIME, THE GOVERNOR OF THE PROVINCE POSTED AN EDICT IN THE VILLAGE SQUARE: “DUE TO THE POOR HARVEST OF FOODS, THE POOR FAMILIES WOULD TAKE ANY ELDERLY WHO COULD NOT WORK, UP TO THE MOUNTAIN AND ABANDON THEM, SO THERE WOULD BE ENOUGH FOOD FOR THE CHILDREN AND THOSE WHO COULD PRODUCE FOOD.”
- THERE WAS A POOR FARMER WHO HAD THREE CHILDREN, AND A WIFE PREGNANT WITH A FOURTH. HE HAD SUCH AN ELDERLY MOTHER, WHO COULD NOT WORK. HE AND HIS WIFE DISCUSSED QUIETLY ABOUT THIS EDICT. THE WIFE WAS AGAINST IT, BUT THE SON KNEW WINTER WAS COMING AND HIS WIFE WOULD NEED MORE FOOD TO PRODUCE MILK FOR THEIR NEWBORN TO COME. AS IT WAS, HIS THREE CHILDREN WERE ALREADY LOSING WEIGHT.
- SO THE DECISION WAS MADE: THAT NIGHT A SPECIAL MEAL WAS PREPARED. THE CHILDREN WERE EXCITED; THEY SMELLED THE COOKING OF FISH, JUST ONE DRIED SALTED FISH, THE ONE WHICH HAD BEEN HUNG ABOVE THEIR DINNER TABLE TO GIVE HOPE FOR THE DAY IT MIGHT BE SHARED. TODAY WAS THAT DAY.
- THE ELDERLY MOTHER EXCLAIMED, “WHAT IS THIS? WHAT ARE WE CELEBRATING?”. THE SON SAID IT WAS TO CELEBRATE MOTHER’S DAY AND PUT THE BEST PIECE ON HER PLATE. THE MOTHER INSISTED HER DAUGHTER-IN-LAW EAT IT, AND THE CHILDREN ALSO. HIS WIFE COULD NOT EAT, CHOKING FROM HER GUILT FOR WHAT WAS TO TAKE PLACE. THE SON EXCITEDLY STATED THAT TOMORROW, HE AND HIS MOTHER WOULD TAKE A HIKE UP THE MOUNTAIN AND HAVE A PICNIC AT THAT SPECIAL PLACE SHE USED TO TAKE HIM, WHEN HE WAS A LITTLE BOY. THE MOTHER SAID, “YES, TOMORROW WOULD BE A GOOD DAY FOR THAT.” THAT NIGHT THE SON HAD MORE DRINK THAN USUAL; HIS GUILT WOULD NOT ALLOW HIM SLEEP.

THE LOVE OF A MOTHER



THE LOVE OF A MOTHER

THE NEXT DAY HE WOKE UP A BIT LATER THAN HE SHOULD HAVE. HIS MOTHER WAS ALREADY UP, WASHED AND WAITING TO START ON THEIR JOURNEY. THE WIFE HAD MADE LUNCH FOR THEIR PICNIC, AND SHE GAVE HIM A BLANKET TO LEAVE WITH HIS MOTHER, "IT WILL BE COLD AT NIGHT FOR HER" SHE SAID. "BUT YOU'LL NEED IT WHEN THE BABY COMES" HE REPLIED. "IT'S OKAY, WE'LL MAKE DO" SHE COMFORTED HIM, FOR SHE UNDERSTOOD HOW DIFFICULT THIS WOULD BE FOR HIM.

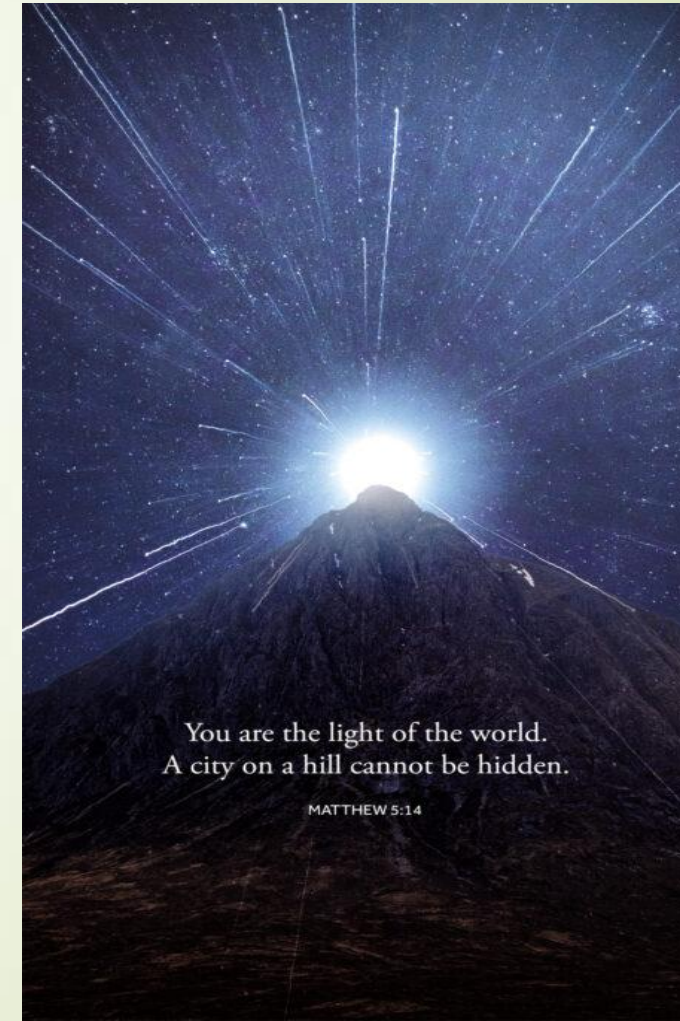
- THEY ARRIVED AT THE BASE OF THE MOUNTAIN LATER THAN HE HAD WANTED. HIS MOTHER WAS A SLOW WALKER. HE STARTED TO BECOME FRUSTRATED WITH HIS SITUATION. HE HATED TO DO THIS AND HE ALSO HATED HE WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE HER QUICKLY TO GET BACK HOME, SO HE COULD FINISH HIS DAYS WORK BEFORE DARK.
- AS THEY WERE WALKING UP THE MOUNTAIN, THE MOTHER STOPPED AND ASKED HIM TO PICK A NICE STICK; SHE WANTED TO MAKE A CANE TO HELP HER CLIMB UP. HE CHOSE ONE, AND HANDED IT TO HER. AS THEY WALKED, THE MOTHER KEPT PICKING AT THE STICK AND CLEANING IT. BY THE TIME THEY REACHED THE PICNIC SPOT, SHE HAD NOT USED THE CANE ONCE. "YES, THIS IS THE SPOT!" THE MOTHER EXCLAIMED, "LOOK AT THIS BEAUTIFUL VIEW. THIS IS A NICE PLACE TO REST." THE SON IN HIS FRUSTATION EXCLAIMED, "WHY DID YOU WASTE YOUR TIME CLEANING THAT STUPID STICK IF YOU WEREN'T GOING TO USE IT?" HE YELLED OUT AT HIS MOTHER AS HE PUT DOWN THE BLANKET AND FOOD.
- HIS MOTHER TOOK HIS HANDS INTO HERS AND REPLIED, "IT'S OKAY MY SON. I KNOW WHY WE ARE HERE. IT NEEDS TO BE DONE. TAKE THE FOOD BACK, THE CHILDREN NEED IT MORE THAN I. TAKE THE BLANKET TOO, YOU'LL NEED IT FOR THE BABY THIS WINTER. AS FOR THIS STICK, I WAS MAKING A CANE FOR YOU, SO THAT WHEN YOU WALK BACK DOWN, AS IT GETS DARK, IT WILL HELP YOU FROM TRIPPING AND FALLING."
- "OH-MO-NIE" HE CRIED OUT IN SHAME AS HE BOWED DOWN AT HER FEET. "YONG-SO-HEA-JU-SA-YO", WHICH MEANS, "MOTHER, OH MOTHER! PLEASE FORGIVE ME!"

THE LOVE OF A MOTHER

- ▶ CAN ANYONE TELL ME, WHERE DOES LOVE LIKE THIS COME FROM? HOW DOES THE LOVE OF A MOTHER, COME FROM DEAD ROCKS THAT HAVE DONE NOTHING BUT STOOD STILL FOREVER, THROUGH RANDOM CHANCE ONE DAY, DECIDE IT WILL GENERATE LIFE WITH THE CAPABILITY FOR THE LOVE OF A MOTHER? CAN ANYONE TELL ME PLEASE?
- ▶ IS THIS MOTHER NOT SAYING, WHAT CHRIST SPOKE WHILE BLEEDING ON THE CROSS FOR YOU AND I? AMONG THE LAST WORDS HE SPOKE, HE PRAYED TO THE FATHER, “FATHER, FORGIVE THEM, FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO.”
- ▶ THE THING ABOUT LOVE: LOVE IS WITHOUT BOUNDARIES – **IT IS BOUNDLESS**. LOVE IS WITHOUT LIMITS – **IT IS LIMITLESS**. LOVE IS NOT CONSTRAINED BY TIME – **LOVE IS TIMELESS**. LOVE WITHIN YOU DOES NOT BECOME LESS WHEN YOU GIVE IT AWAY – **THE MORE YOU GIVE, THE MORE THIS LOVE WITHIN YOU GROWS**, AND THE MORE LOVE THE RECEIVER RECEIVES, THEIR LOVE GROWS ALSO.
- ▶ LOVE HAS NO LIMITS – **IT IS LIMITLESS**: BECAUSE IT COMES FROM GOD WHO IS WITHOUT LIMITS. GOD IS BOUNDLESS, GOD IS TIMELESS, GOD IS WITHOUT CONSTRAINT, AND IT IS GOD WHO HAS PLACED THIS CAPACITY TO LOVE WITHIN EACH AND EVERY HUMAN BEING; AND EVERY HUMAN BEING CAN USE IT AND GIVE, AT WILL, IF THEY SO CHOOSE TO. BUT SATAN, WITH HIS GUILES, PLACES HANDCUFFS OF GUILT AND LIMITS OUR ABILITY TO SHARE THIS LOVE FROM GOD.
- ▶ **DEAR FRIENDS; DO NOT LET SATAN ROB YOU. REFUSE TO BE CONSTRAINED FROM SHARING THE LOVE WHICH GOD HAS PLACED WITHIN YOU. IT IS HIS BRIGHT SHINING LIGHT OF HOPE, IN THIS DARK EVIL WORLD MAN HAS MADE. WE HAVE TAKEN THE ONCE PERFECT EARTH; AND BROUGHT ABOUT THE DEGRADATION OF OURSELVES AND OUR ENVIRONMENT, AND THE EARTH AND ALL ITS CREATURES MOAN WITH IT.**

MATT. 5:14, “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden...In the same way, let your light shine before men.”

- **ARE YOU SHINING YOUR LIGHT FOR ALL TO SEE ?**
- **GOD’S LOST CHILDREN NEED HIS LIGHT TO FIND THEIR WAY BACK HOME**
- **LET YOUR GENEROUS AND UNSELFISH LIGHT OF CHRIST SHINE FORTH INTO THIS DARK WORLD**



You are the light of the world.
A city on a hill cannot be hidden.

MATTHEW 5:14



“THE SKY IS FILLED WITH STARS, INVISIBLE BY DAY”

(HENRY W. LONGFELLOW)

IT ISN'T THAT THE STARS HAVE DISAPPEARED, THEY ARE SIMPLY BLOCKED FROM OUR SIGHT
BY TOO MUCH EXTRANEOUS LIGHT

WHY MEN FAIL TO SEE GOD:

WHY MEN FAIL TO SEE GOD

- THE NOISE OF THIS WORLD; BLOCKS OUT THE VOICE OF GOD;
- HIS ANSWERS ARE THERE; WE JUST NEED TO KNOW WHERE TO LOOK.
- MEN WHO ONLY SEE THE DEATH OF JESUS; NEVER ACCEPT THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST;
- BLINDED BY OUR JUDGMENT ON EVIL; WE FAIL TO SEE GOD'S GOODNESS - HIS GRACE, HIS MERCY, HIS LOVE.
- THE QUESTION SHOULD NOT BE, "WHY SO MUCH EVIL?"; THE QUESTION SHOULD BE, "WHERE DOES THE COURAGE TO FACE SUCH EVIL, WITH UNSELFISH LOVE COME FROM?"
- IN HELL MANY WILL CONTEMPLATE EVIL FOR ETERNITY; IN HEAVEN OTHERS WILL EXPERIENCE GOD'S LOVE TOMORROW; BUT ON EARTH YOU CAN FIND PEACE THROUGH CHRIST TODAY.
- JUST AS WE CAN'T SEE THE STARS, FOR THE LIGHT OF DAY; FOR MANY, GOD'S LIGHT REMAINS HIDDEN BY THE DARKNESS OF THEIR HEART.
- IT IS BETTER TO BE BLIND AND SEE, THAN TO HAVE EYESIGHT AND BE BLIND;
- WE HAVE LEARNED THE SCIENCE OF WHY GOD IS; NOW DISCOVER THE REASON FOR WHY YOU ARE.
- MAN DESIRES TO FULFILL HIS PURPOSE; WHILE DENYING THE GOD WHO GAVE HIM TRUE PURPOSE;
- BUT WITHOUT KNOWING THE GIVER OF LIFE, CAN ANY DISCOVER THEIR TRUE PURPOSE?



CLOSING PRAYER

- **HEAVENLY FATHER,**
- **I THANK YOU FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING PART OF THIS CLASS. A CLASS FILLED WITH THE MOST AMAZING BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**
- **WE PRAY OUR THOUGHTS AND ACTIONS WILL BE FOCUSED ON YOU, AS WE NOW VENTURE FORTH FROM HERE.**
- **LET US NOT DRIFT AND MISS THE MARK WHICH YOU HAVE ENVISIONED FOR US; INSTEAD, MAY WE CARRY OUR CROSS AND SHARE THIS INFORMATION WITH YOUR LOST CHILDREN.**
- **KEEP US ON THE STRAIGHT AND NARROW PATH; GUIDING US BACK WHENEVER WE STRAY.**
- **LET US NOT LEAN ON OUR OWN UNDERSTANDING, BUT IN ALL THINGS TURN TO YOU. WE SEEK YOUR GUIDANCE; WE NEED YOUR WISDOM; PLEASE BE WITH US LORD, AS WE NOW SET OUT.**
- **LET YOUR LIGHT BRIGHTLY SHINE FORTH FROM US. MAY WE GLORIFY YOUR NAME; HONOR YOUR WORDS; HOLD YOU IN REVERENCE ALWAYS.**
- **WE PRAY THIS FATHER, IN JESUS' NAME.**
- **AMEN**