

# The Case for God's Love

Job 40:1-9; Romans 8:18-21,28-30

We must be able to trust and defend God's love, particularly when suffering and evil cause some to doubt.

Why does a loving God allow suffering? That question has many people struggling through the ages.

This lesson attempts to help you respond to that question when asked.

## **WE DON'T HAVE THE FULL PICTURE** (Job 40:1-9)

God uses language that reflected Job's desire to take God to court and argue his case. "Will the faultfinder contend with the Almighty?"

In today's language God was saying, "Are you trying to instruct Me?"

That sounds crazy but that's what we often do. When we go to the Lord in prayer we say something like this. "Lord, this is what I need to happen" we are trying to direct God in what He needs to do.

When we pray, it is not to give God instructions but we just need to report for duty. God knows what is best for me and it is best we leave the choices with Him. Paul says .... Not by will but thine be done.

Vs. 3-5 – Job is amazed not by the answers God gives but because He simply asked a question. Job is amazed by the majesty he sees. In the presence of God, Job is silenced.

Job was not at a loss for words earlier but now he is speechless.

Vs. 6-7 – "Gird up your loins" – Brace yourself. Brace yourself because there is storms coming – the wind will blow and bend the trees.

The question is how do we brace yourself  
We can only cling to Jesus and in humbleness.

Vs. 7-9 – God is asking Job. "Are you going to find fault with Me to make yourself look better?"

We don't have the full picture and we need to just trust Jesus.

**APPLICATION:** Some people will experience great suffering. Sometimes we suffer because of direct sin or poor choices we make. But many times it is not because of sin, and we don't know why we have to suffer. At the end of the day we know we can trust God even when we don't know why we suffer.

Personal – I have been asked about suffering more times than I care to remember. The bottom line for me about suffering we don't understand is the fact we live in a Fallen World, and because of that one fact we will have suffering we can't understand.

**EVALUATE PRESENT SUFFERINGS IN LIGHT OF ETERNITY** (Rom. 8:18-21)

Paul in this section dealt with the very real problem of suffering and pain.

When God finished His creation, it was a good creation (Gen. 1:31), but today it is a groaning creation.

There will always be stress in this life

There is suffering and death; there is pain, all of which is, of course, the result of Adam's sin.

It is not the fault of creation. Note the words that Paul used to describe the plight of creation:

1 - suffering (Rom. 8:18), 2 - vanity (Rom. 8:20), 3 - bondage (Rom. 8:21), 4 - decay (Rom. 8:21).

One day creation will be delivered, and the groaning creation will become a glorious creation!

The believer does not focus on today's sufferings; he looks forward to tomorrow's glory

Today's groaning bondage will be exchanged for tomorrow's glorious liberty!

APPLICATION: Sometimes we think suffering will never end, but it will end at some point.

When we have assurance of the future .... We will be better equipped to endure the present.

Personal - I know people who are suffering in many ways but they keep a great attitude because of the fact of the future with God in heaven.

**DISCOVER GOOD FROM SUFFERING** (Rom. 8:28-30)

Paul was saying that there will be suffering and groaning as we are adapted for heaven and everything is working for good.

We don't understand why or how many time but we can be confident that all things are working for good.

He predestines – God is not in heaven biting his nails saying “ Boy I hope they make the right choices.

God knows us and he choose us. If we choose him he will see us through and usher us into eternity. It is not because of my righteousness or anything we have done.

God chooses not the righteous, but sinners and rebels, to make us trophies for him.

APPLICATION: We should never blame God for our suffering.

We need to keep in mind in our suffering vs. 28 – no matter what comes our way, God is working for our good.