



# WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN



# WHY DO BAD THINGS HAPPEN TO GOOD PEOPLE?

- *"Mortals, born of woman, are of few days and full of trouble. <sup>2</sup> They spring up like flowers and wither away; like fleeting shadows, they do not endure."* (Job 14:1-2 NIV)
- *"I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."* (Jn. 16:33 NIV)
- Good people?
- "None righteous, no not one"
- Jesus – never anything wrong
- "A man of sorrows and acquainted with grief" (Is. 53:3)

# WHY?

- Epicurus – “How can evil exist in a world ruled by a perfectly good, all-powerful God?”
- Can God be opposed to evil but still have morally sufficient reasons for permitting it?
- We live in a world where sin has come. Sin has come because God wanted us to freely choose to love and serve him. To do that, we must also have the ability to choose to reject him.

# WHY?

- Soul building – physical pain nor emotional pain are inherently evil.
  - Some things like courage, patience, forgiveness, kindness, self-sacrifice, loving our enemies are possible only because evil exist.
  - God's purpose is not our happiness in this life, but our coming to know him which brings about human fulfillment.
- The way events are interconnected so that evil is often connected with good.
  - The cross.

# WHY?

- If we cannot see nor understand any good reason for the occurrence of evil, it does not mean there is not a good reason.
  - Parents and children.
- Job
- Jesus and Peter
  - “Get behind me Satan”
  - “Twelve legions of angels”
- How are we doing with Jesus? How do we feel about him?