

## text : BROKENNESS

Pastor Chuck Wysong  
Sunday, July 17, 2011

"I say to God... **Why** have you forgotten me? **Why** must I go about mourning?"  
Psalm 42:9

"**Why**, O LORD, do you stand far off? **Why** do you hide yourself in times of trouble?" Psalm 10:1

"My God, my God, **why** have you forsaken me?" Psalm 22:1

The better question we should ask is WHO? Who Is this God?

### WE LIVE IN A BROKEN WORLD Genesis 1

- The world was created PERFECT— no SUFFERING  
"God saw all that he had made, and it was very good." Genesis 1:31
- Humanity chose TO REBEL against God. (Genesis 3:6)
- As a result, NATURE was altered — we live in a SIN BOMB world. (Genesis 3:17,18)
- Plus, we contribute to suffering through unwise CHOICES
- Remember, we have a broken WORLD not a broken GOD

### HE WILL MAKE ALL THINGS RIGHT

"For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice..." Acts 17:31

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away... No longer will there be any curse." Revelation 21:4, 22:3

The Bible is the story of God's solution to our world's brokenness:

- SALVATION from sin (See Romans 3:22-24)
- TRANSFORMATION in suffering (See Romans 8:38-39)
- GLORIFICATION in the new world (See Romans 8:20-22,30)

## YIELD TO GOD

*Although the world is broken, God is still in control...*

### 1<sup>st</sup> Reason - GOD HAS GIVEN US A CHOICE

"Today I am giving you a choice between good and evil, and between life and death." Deut. 30:15 (TEV)

"In due season God will judge everything man does, both good and bad." Eccl. 3:17 (LB)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Reason - TO SHOW OUR NEED FOR A SAVIOR (Eccl. 3:18)

"God allows people to continue in their sinful ways so He can test them. That way, they can see for themselves that they are no better than animals." Eccl. 3:18 (NLT)

"When I want to do good, I don't. And when I try not to do wrong, I do it anyway." Rom. 7:19 (NLT)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Reason - TO DEMONSTRATE HIS GRACE 2 (Peter 3:9)

"The Lord isn't being slow about His promise to return, as some people think. No, He is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to perish, so He is giving more time for everyone to repent." 2 Peter 3:9 (NLT)

## SO HOW SHOULD I RESPOND?

### 1. RECEIVE GOD'S GRACE DAILY ROM. 5:17

"Through the sin of one man death began to rule because of that one man. But now, how much greater is the result of what was done by one other man, Jesus Christ! All who receive God's abundant grace and are freely put right with Him will rule in life through Christ." Romans 5:17 (TEV)

### 2. REMEMBER THIS PLACE IS TEMPORARY!

"I am here on earth for just a little while." Psalm 119:19 (TEV)

"This world is not our home; we are looking forward to our everlasting home in heaven." Heb. 13:14 (LB)

### 3. REJECT MAN-MADE SOLUTIONS

"My people have done two evil things: They have forsaken Me – the fountain of living water. And they have dug for themselves cracked cisterns that can hold no water at all!" Jeremiah 2:13 (NLT)

### 4. REACH OUT & TESTIFY OF GOD LOVE

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God." 2 Corinthians 1:3-4 (NIV)

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## Daily Meditations

*Brief daily devotions based on this week's message:*

**MEMORY VERSE:** "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." John 16:33

### Monday

*Look back over the message notes and Bible verses from this past weekend. What point jumped out at you?*

*How would you summarize the Bible's answer to the question, "If God is all-loving and all powerful, why is there still suffering?"*

*What is the Bible's immediate answer — and long-term answer — to suffering?*

*Read Psalm 10:1, 14-18. How does it help to know that all the questions we have today about suffering were asked already by the Bible writers?*

*Thank God today that He is a God of love and comfort. Thank Him for giving us hope. Ask Him to help you sense His care for you today!*

### Tuesday

*Read John 16:33, Romans 5:12 & Revelation 21:1-5. These verses assure us that we will have trouble in this life — but they also comfort us that eternity will not be like this. Describe a point in your past (or maybe right now) when you've blamed God's will for what was actually the result of man's free will.*

*How does the principle that "we have a broken world, not a broken God" help you face the "whys" in life? Thank the Lord today that He has given you a free will — that he didn't just make a world full of robots.*

*Thank Him that He is not a broken God and that in the end He will make all things new.*

### Wednesday

*Read Psalm 96:13, Isaiah 30:18 & Acts 17:31. We mentioned during the weekend services that believing in God's ultimate justice is a foundation for living sanely in an unjust world. How is this true for you?*

*What is the most reassuring thing to you about God's justice?*

*What situation are you facing where you find it difficult to wait for or trust God's justice?*

*Thank God today that He has taken ultimate justice in His hands and not left it up to you. Ask Him for the patience and trust to wait for His justice to come.*

### Thursday

*Read Romans 8:28. What is the promise in this verse? How have you seen this in your life?*

*How is the cross itself an example of the power of God to turn tragedy to triumph?*

*Read Romans 9:36-39. These verses clearly point out that absolutely nothing in the whole world can separate us from God's love. How does God's constant love encourage you in the midst of suffering?*

*What can you do to remind yourself that you are never out of God's loving care?*

*Thank God today for His never ending love for you. Thank Him that you are always in His care. Ask Him to help you remember through the day and when the tough times comes that He loves you! Pray that you'll be an encouragement to others today.*

### Friday

*Read Philippians 2:15. What practical things can you do today to "shine like a star" where God has placed you?*

*What principle from this week's study do you want to put into action? How will you do that?*

*Ask God today to be the Light that shines through you. Thank Him that we have no reason to fear in this world because He is in total control.*

### Saturday

*Please polish up the memory verse and finish any devotions you may have missed.*

*Pray that you'll apply the lessons from this week — and pray for this week's services and that God would be honored in all that we do and say.*