

THE PROBLEM OF SUFFERING AND DEATH

A. THERE IS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE GODLESSNESS OF PEOPLE

1. The nature of godlessness.

Read Romans 1:18-23.

- “Godlessness” means two things:
- What do godless people do with the true God?
- Why do people make idols?
- What must happen in order that people respect and worship the true God?

2. The consequences of godlessness.

Read Romans 1:21.

Summarise:

B. THERE IS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE WICKEDNESS OF PEOPLE

1. The nature and extent of wickedness.

- What is the meaning of “wickedness”?

Read Romans 1:24-32.

2. Why do people do these wicked things to one another?

Read Romans 1:24-32.

- Who in this world do these wicked things to one another?

Read Romans 3:10-12,23.

Summary.

C. THERE IS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE FALSE BELIEFS OF PEOPLE

1. The nature of truth.

Read Numbers 13:19. What is truth?

- **Read** Romans 1:18, 25; Isaiah 43:4 and Jeremiah 29:11. What are two very important truths?

Thus, “the truth” about anything is inseparably bound to God and to his words and his deeds.

2. The resistance to the truth.

- Why and how do people suppress or exchange the truth?

Read Romans 1:18,22-23.

Summary.

3. The three wrong relationships.

Question. How does the Bible describe natural man?

Read Romans 8:7-8.

D. THERE IS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE REALITY OF DEATH

Discuss the question below.

1. The meaning of the word “death”.

Read Romans 6:23; Ecclesiastes 5:15; Ecclesiastes 9:3-6.

Summary.

E. THERE IS SUFFERING BECAUSE OF THE REALITY OF GOD'S JUDGEMENT

1. The present judgements of God.

- How does God allow his present judgements to come over people?

Read Galatians 6:7-8.

- How does God bring his present judgements over people?

Read Leviticus 26:14-33; Amos 4:6-12; Haggai 1:3-11 and Ezekiel 14:21.

- What is the relationship between your personal sin and suffering?

Numbers 12:6-10

2 Samuel 24:15-17

1 Samuel 5:1-6

Luke 13:16

John 9:1-3

- What is the real reason why God brings his present judgements on people?

Read 1 Corinthians 11:32; Hebrews 12:4-13.

2. The future judgement of God.

- By looking at the life-styles of wicked people, why would you describe life in this world as just or unjust?

Read Psalm 73:2-16.

- What does God's last judgement look like?

Read Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:31-33; Ecclesiastes 12:14. For what things will people be judged?

The non-Christians will be judged for the following things:

Romans 5:12,17-19.

Matthew 13:41-42; Revelation 21:8.

Matthew 25:41-46.

John 3:18-21,36.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

Isaiah 2:11-12,17-19.

Matthew 5:3-12.

- Why will God's future judgement be far worse than all present suffering?

Mark 9:42-49.

Luke 16:23-31.

2 Thessalonians 1:8-9.

Matthew 25:45-46.

- Who will be thrown into the lake of fire?

Read John 14:6; Revelation 20:15.

Summary.

Summary. The 5 main reasons for suffering:

1. There is suffering because of the godlessness of people.
2. There is suffering because of the wickedness of people.
3. There is suffering because of the false beliefs and values of people.
4. There is suffering because of the death of people.
5. There is suffering because of the judgement of God on people.

ASSIGNMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING SESSION

1. During the next week, read the Bible passages again. Consider what the Bible says about the reasons for suffering and death.
2. During the next week, consider the following question: "If you were God, what would you do to solve the problem of suffering and death?" Think of some solutions to the problem of suffering and death.