

Why Does God Allow This?

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ecclesiastes 4-5.

B. God has chosen hard circumstances for us out of love.

C. If we accept this, we will be able to enjoy life, we will learn to know, honor and fear God and we will finally be able to get life right.

II. Objections to the idea that God has a wonderful plan for one's life.

A. The presence of injustice. God has appointed a time when He will straighten all the hidden things, and even injustice teaches us of humanity's frailty.

B. Oppression in society.

1. The weak and the infirm are helpless.

2. There is no one to comfort many.

C. People do not want things; they want to be admired for their things.

1. The opposite reaction is to drop out of society.

2. Collecting money for fame is nothing but vanity.

D. Companionship is better than loneliness.

1. It will increase a reward.

2. Friends provide help in time of trouble.

3. Friends give comfort when it is cold.

4. The presence of more than one makes defeat more difficult.

E. Living a long life does not always provide the secret to enjoyment.

1. Living a long time does not teach us all the lessons.

2. The youth will go on to repeat their error.

III. Answering the objections.

A. One must learn to let God be God.

1. The place to learn this is in the house of God.
2. The house of God is the people of God today.
3. When one murmurs about his circumstances, he is really complaining against God.
4. One will never learn to enjoy anything this way.
5. Fantasizing accomplishes nothing.
6. One is not to play games with God.

B. One must obey his government.

C. Enjoyment comes from God.

Application questions:

1. Which objection do you find to be articulated most often today?

2. Why is complaining about circumstances really complaining against God? Explain.

3. How is the fact that enjoyment comes from God the secret of life in the midst of so much oppression?
