

WINNING THE WAR

“Why Is Life So Hard?” - Part 6 of 9

February 11, 2024

“Why is life so hard? Why do we suffer?” Job 7:1 (CEV)

I. THE CAUSE: _____ AGAINST GOD BROKE EVERYTHING

“Sin came into the world because of what one man did, and with sin came death.” Romans 5:12 (NCV)

“We--everyone of us--have strayed away like sheep! We, who left God's path to follow our own.” Isaiah 53:6 (LB)

“No one can say, ‘I am innocent; I have never done anything wrong.’”

Proverbs 20:9 (NCV)

THREE KINDS OF REBELLION

_____ = missing the mark; falling short, not measuring up

_____ = going beyond the set boundary

_____ = intention to hurt, damage, do evil

“I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin.”

Psalms 32:5 (NIV)

II. THE DAMAGE: EVERYTHING IS _____. NOTHING WORKS _____

1. NATURAL _____ AND _____

“Creation was condemned to lose its purpose...” Romans 8:20 (GNT)

“Creation is confused...” Romans 8:20 (CEV)

“All of creation groans with pain...” Romans 8:22 (GNB)

2. PHYSICAL _____ AND _____

“No one can control the wind or stop his own death.” Ecclesiastes 8:8 (NCV)

“Our physical body is becoming older and weaker.” 2 Corinthians 4:16 (NCV)

“Everyone dies because all of us are related to Adam.” 1 Corinthians 15:22 (LB)

3. EMOTIONAL _____ AND _____

“Everything under the sun is meaningless, like chasing the wind. What is wrong cannot be righted. What is missing cannot be recovered.”

Ecclesiastes 1:14-15 (NLT ‘96)

4. RELATIONAL _____ AND _____

“I saw all the people who were mistreated here on earth. I saw their tears and that they had no one to comfort them.” **Ecclesiastes 4:1 (NCV)**

“...they suddenly felt shame at their nakedness. So they sewed fig leaves together to cover themselves.” **Genesis 3:7 (NLT)**

“I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” **Genesis 3:10 (NIV)**

5. FINANCIAL & VOCATIONAL _____

“Here is a terrible thing that I have seen in this world: people save up their money for a time when they may need it, and then lose it all in some bad deal and end up with nothing left to pass on to their children.”

Ecclesiastes 5:13-14 (GN)

“So now I hate life because everything done here under the sun is so irrational. Everything is meaningless—like chasing the wind...So I turned in despair from hard work. It was not the answer to my search for satisfaction in this life.” **Ecclesiastes 2:17+20 (NLT ‘96)**

6. SPIRITUAL _____ AND _____

“I am like a caravan, lost in the desert while searching for water.”

Job 6:18 (CEV)

“They’ve refused for so long to deal with God that they’ve lost touch not only with God but with reality itself.” **Ephesians 4:18 (MSG)**

WHAT’S THE SOLUTION?

ACCEPT JESUS AS MY _____

Jesus: *“In this world you WILL have trouble. But take heart! I HAVE OVERCOME the world.”* **John 16:33 (NIV)**

FOLLOW HIS _____

“Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world. So if you follow me, you won’t be stumbling through the darkness, for living light will flood your path.’”

John 8:12 (LB)