

June 24, 2018



**"IF GOD IS GOOD, WHY ALL THE PAIN?"**

### **GENESIS 2:15-17, 3:1-13, 16-19 (NLT)**

Four theological truths:

1. God is good (Exodus 34:6).
2. God is almighty (Isaiah 46:9).
3. The earth is broken (Genesis 3:17).
4. God is in control (Isaiah 43:13).

**TRUTH:** Nothing happens to us that does not first pass through God's hands.

**INSIGHT:** The answer to why all the pain in our world is this... free will.

#### **I. WE ARE NOT ROBOTS (Jeremiah 31:3).**

**TRUTH:** You are free to come to God or turn away. You are where you are with God today, by choice (Matthew 23:37).

#### **II. HOW FREE WILL WORKS, Genesis 2:17 (NIV)**

**INSIGHT:** The knowledge of good and evil means the decision to determine what is good and what is evil for yourself.

**TRUTH:** Adam's decision led all humanity into sin and rebellion to God (Jeremiah 17:9).

#### **III. THE RESULTS OF MAN'S FALL**

**TRUTH:** Choices come with consequences.

**TRUTH:** God isn't the author of pain and suffering... we are.

**INSIGHT:** Sin is serious business. It's the great cosmic cancer that destroys all that is good and right.

#### **IV. WHY FREE WILL WITH ITS PAIN?**

**TRUTH:** God allows what breaks His heart and breaks ours, to create the possibility for what matters most... His love to connect with our lives.

Why me? Why now? God could stop my pain; why doesn't He?

Reason #1: To warn us

Reason #2: To drive us to our knees

**INSIGHT:** God will do what it takes to get your attention to give you a chance to respond to Him.