



LIVING LOGOS
MINISTRIES

The Living Logos

Teaching Newsletter

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EVERY GOOD AND PERFECT GIFT

One of the most popular questions we have in Christian circles today is: **Why do bad things happen in the world—especially to good people?** So, I would like to tackle this tough question in this month’s newsletter.

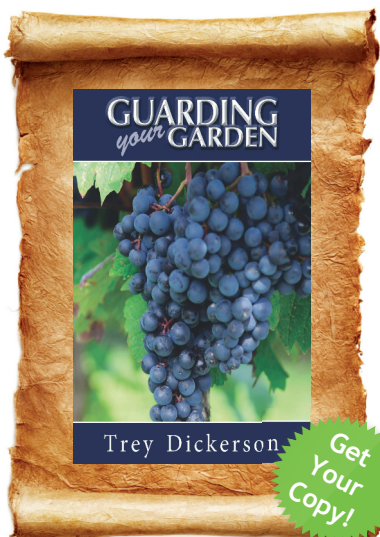
First of all, let me say that there are several reasons why bad things happen: one reason is simply because of sin. Yes, that word that has become taboo in most churches today, yet is still very relevant and certainly a deadly thing. The truth is—people who willfully disobey God and His commandments open themselves up to the wages of their sin. That is just a fact. But let me say here—just because bad things happen does not automatically mean that there is sin present that caused the hurtful and harmful thing. The fact is, we have a real devil out there whose mission is to steal, kill and destroy. Therefore, we certainly need to be mindful that some bad things are directly influenced by Satan and his henchman. But thirdly, some bad things happen just because we live in a sin-cursed, fallen world. This too is important to understand lest we become “spiritually superstitious” and think everything bad that happens has a reason. Like so many people like to say, “Everything happens for a reason.” What does that mean anyway? It is totally

incorrect for us to think that everything that happens is because it was a part of God’s master-plan. For instance, if I were to willfully go jump in my

car, and drive 100 mph on the interstate while texting on my phone, and then were to get in a major accident which left me paralyzed, that was not a part of God’s plan for me. Yes, that happened for a reason alright and that reason was because I was being stupid and made a dumb decision. Amen? No, some bad things that we see



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A Word From Shannon

I want to encourage you today to decide to be unoffendable.

Take a minute to read Matthew 13:54-57.

Do you hear the contempt? Can't you just hear the

comments? “This is Jesus - we know this guy. We know His family. Who does he think He is?” They were offended at Him.

Offense can come when people cease to be teachable. It can also come where there’s no honor. Honor is defined as “honesty, fairness, or integrity in one’s beliefs and

actions.” To honor someone is to hold them in high respect.

First Peter 2:17 says, “Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the King.”

One thing that has helped me so much in this area is to just simply believe everyone you meet is doing the best they can. Even if they aren’t, I know this - everyone we meet is made in the image of God.

Taking offense is absolutely fruitless. I want to bear much fruit, and I know you do too. Start today, and choose to be unoffendable!

("Every Good and Perfect Gift" continued)

around us such as sickness, tragedies etc. happen simply because we live in a fallen world that is quickly dying.

But what I want to establish you in today is that these bad things that we see happening around us are not a part of God's plan. Now I know that this is not popular theology in most groups, but hear me out: God is not the One "allowing" all the bad things that we see in the world today. The truth is—Adam allowed these bad things. You see, if he would have done what God commissioned him to do in the beginning, subduing the earth and guarding the garden, he would have dealt with that deceptive serpent as soon as he said, "You will not surely die." And if Adam would just have done that, we would have had the opportunity to continue living in paradise today and not in this sin-cursed world full of death and destruction. So, no, God is not responsible for all the sin, death and destruction we see today. No, He is a good Father and just as no good earthly father would do things to harm their own children, God's plans toward us are also good and not evil, to give us a future and a hope.

Anticipating this wrong belief system in His people, the Spirit of God inspired James to pen the following words: In James 1:16, we are told: *"Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren..."* Now let me tell you something: whenever the Bible tells you not to be deceived about something, you can bet the bank that there will be temptation in the Body of Christ to be deceived in that particular area. And this particular time, it is obvious why James said it. It is because, as he went on to say in verse 17, *"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning."* So, James is telling us not to be deceived into believing that things that are far from good and perfect come down from our Heavenly Father!

So, let's conclude by looking at the interesting analogy that James uses to drive his point home: James 1:17 describes this giver of every good and perfect gift as the Father of lights, without variation or shadow of turning. Now the original language actually says that He is the Father of *the* lights, an obvious reference to the sun, moon and stars. In other words, He is the One who created all the lights of the heavens. They came from Him. But James goes on to describe why he is using this analogy to describe God's good nature by saying that there is no variation or shadow of turning in Him. In other words, just as the lights of the heavens do not vary and are always able to be counted on, we need not think that God is schizophrenic and might bless us one day and wipe us out the next. I know we like to say, "You never know what God is going to do!" but I believe what James said here and I believe that God will do exactly what He did through the Lord Jesus Christ in

the four Gospels seeing that He was the express image of God's person. Amen?

Are there shadows being cast on the earth? Sure, there are. But let me ask you a question based on this same analogy: Is it the sun's fault that we have shadows? Absolutely not! The sun is not where the variation comes from; the earth is what's rotating, thus causing the shadows. Likewise, the Son does not change. He is the same

yesterday, today and forevermore. However, this fallen world is certainly changing, rotating towards destruction.

But oh saints, what we can learn from this beautiful parable is this—because of consistency of the sun rising in the east and setting in the west, we can see a clear reflection of God's consistently good and perfect nature! Amen! You see, just as much as we can bet the bank that the sun is going to rise in the east and set in the west every day, we can also be assured that our Father, who birthed the consistency that we find in the creation is willing to cause good gifts to rise to our east and perfect gifts to set to our west. In other words, the consistency that we find in nature reveals to us the consistency that is in God's nature. Glory to God!

Church, our God is good and even though we live in a sin-cursed fallen world, full of sin and inhabited by the devil, we can count on God! So, never forget: stay on God's side! He loves us more than we can possibly imagine, and He wills only good and perfect gifts for His children.

Victoriously,



Living Logos Ministries is designed to equip and edify the Body of Christ through God's Living Word and is supported by the faithfulness and generosity of its partners.

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