



CAPITOL COMMISSION

Asking God Why (Proverbs 20:24)

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Do you need to know why?

Challenging class discussion questions:

What are you doing that is causing you trouble?

How much of your effort is blessed by God?

How is God getting your attention these days?

INTRODUCTION

Young children may annoy their parents by constantly asking “why”. As adults, we also pester God with those “why” questions. Solomon comments on this: **“The Lord directs our steps, so why try to understand everything along the way”** (Proverbs 20:24)? Have you seen the Cadillac Graveyard in Texas? I wondered why the photographer partially buried those ten classy cars. But he can do whatever he wants to do since he owns the cars and the field.

GOD IS IN CHARGE

Romans 9:20-23 Who are you, a mere human being, to argue with God? Should the thing that was created say to the one who created it, “Why have you made me like this?” When a potter makes jars out of clay, doesn’t he have a right to use the same lump of clay to make one jar for decoration and another to throw garbage into? In the same way, even though God has the right to show his anger and his power, he is very patient with those on whom his anger falls, who are destined for destruction He does this to make the riches of his glory shine even brighter on those to whom he shows mercy, who were prepared in advance for glory.¹

The Apostle Paul tells the Roman Christians (as well as you and me), that we cannot use God’s sovereignty to excuse our sin and unbelief. Popular Pastor and author John MacArthur² responds to the question of why there is sin in the world: **“God has permitted the presence of sin to demonstrate His wrath, to make His power known, and to display His mercy.”** Some receive the justice they earn, while others, through His grace, receive mercy. The Easter season reminds us that Jesus paid for our sins so that we will not have to face God’s judgment. One of the thieves crucified with Jesus expressed repentance, acknowledged that Christ had the power to offer divine grace, and made a plea for this mercy. Jesus replied: **“Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise”** (Luke 23:43). Jesus makes this same offer to include us in God’s family for eternity. Like the thief on the cross, we can be on speaking terms with Jesus, the Christ.

SEVERE DIFFICULTIES? ASK GOD!

Proverbs 3:11 My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline and do not resent his rebuke, because the LORD disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in.³

God finds it necessary to apply fatherly discipline to even the wisest of His children. Rather than resist, we should rejoice in this opportunity to increase wisdom and blessing.⁴ **“Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing”** (James 1:2-4).

Discipline is tough! Pray about your current trial and ask God to show you any sin. Stop sinning and He may end the period of tribulation. King David asked God for mercy and received a reprieve (1Chronicles 22:8).

BIBLE STUDIES

LEADERS/LEGISLATORS: WEDNESDAYS 7-7:50 AM, CAPITOL - ROOM 142 SOUTH

STAFF & GUESTS: WEDNESDAYS 12:05 – 12:55 PM, CAPITOL - ROOM 142 S (ROOM ASSIGNMENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

Kansas

Asking God Why

PRUNING VERSES DISCIPLINE

John 15:2b “Every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit”⁵.

Jesus uses a vineyard analogy to instruct His followers. First, Jesus cautions disciples to stay in touch (connected) with Him. Second, Jesus puts them on notice that some “pruning” will be necessary to enhance productivity. I recently toured George Jackson’s fruit orchards in Kingsburg, California. He spends millions of dollars each year trimming to prevent new branches from growing and limiting the number of buds that grow into apples, pears, peaches, and grape clusters. This drastic action is necessary to ensure that the remaining fruit receives maximum nutrients and grows into a quality product. Do you sometimes go in several directions, spreading yourself thin, and producing “fruit” that is not very appealing? God, the master vinedresser, will cause us some pain to keep us focused on the fruitful works that He has designated for us to accomplish.

How do you know whether God is disciplining you or pruning you? Loving parents will explain the purpose of correction to their child. Go to our Lord in prayer, asking if He desires repentance or better focus.⁶

NO ONE CAN COMPREHEND IT ALL

Ecclesiastes 8:16-17 In my search for wisdom and in my observation of people’s burdens here on earth, I discovered that there is ceaseless activity, day and night. I realized that no one can discover everything God is doing under the sun. Not even the wisest people discover everything, no matter what they claim.⁷

American Scientist Albert Einstein expressed great disappointment that he had not clearly identified the binding force which holds matter together. The Scriptures give us a glimpse of this “force.”

BEHIND THE SCENES – IN HEAVEN

The disciples pointed to a man blind from birth asking, ***“Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents.” Jesus answered, “It was neither but it was so that the works of God might be displayed in him”*** (John 9:2-3). Jesus miraculously healed the man, giving him (and us) spiritual insight and demonstrating that Jesus was actually from God.

Satan and his fallen angels need permission from God before they can touch one of God’s followers. The Old Testament writer of the Book of Job gives us a look at an exchange between God and Satan. After God boasts about Job’s strong faith, Satan retorts: ***“Take away Job’s wealth and You will see him curse You to Your face”*** (Job 1:11). Unknown to Job, Satan is given limited power to harm him. In mere days, Job loses everything except his wife and his own life. Job continues to worship God and sees his wealth grow to double his previous state over the next sixty years (Job 42:10-17). God is vastly superior to all powers and forces in this unseen realm.

CONCLUSION

Keep alert! There is sin in the world. God sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous (Matthew 5:45b). Remember to fasten your seat-belt when driving!

¹ The Holy Bible. New Living Translation. (Tyndale House). 2004.

² John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson, Inc.). 2006.p1679

³ The Holy Bible. New International Version. (Biblica). 2005.

⁴ John MacArthur, The MacArthur Study Bible. (Thomas Nelson, Inc.). 2006.p868

⁵ The Holy Bible. New King James Version.(Thomas Nelson, Inc.). 1982.

⁶ Bruce Wilkinson. Secrets of The Vine. (Multnomah Publishers, Inc.). 2001. p65.

⁷ The Holy Bible. New Living Translation. (Tyndale House). 2004.