

Dear God...If you are loving, Why do bad things happen?

Wylie Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – November 12, 2023

Romans 8:35, 37-39

35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?
36 ... 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Bad things happen because...

1. OUR WORLD IS BROKEN (AND SO ARE WE)

Genesis chapter 3: The Fall of Mankind

Romans 3:23

All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.

Romans 3:10-12

10... "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one."

John 16:33

"In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

Bad things happen because...

2. GOD IS EQUIPPING US FOR HIS PURPOSES

James 1:2-4

2 Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. 4 Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Genesis 50:19-20 (Joseph: Genesis 37-50)

19 But Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid. Am I in the place of God? 20 You intended to harm me, but God intended it for good to accomplish what is now being done, the saving of many lives.

Bad things happen because...

3. THIS WORLD IS NOT OUR HOME

2 Peter 3:13

But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, the home of righteousness.

1 Corinthians 2:9

... "No eye has seen, no ear has heard, no mind has conceived what God has prepared for those who love him"—