

WHAT CAUSES SUFFERING?

John 9:1-3

INTRO:

- A. Is suffering God's punishment for our sins? This seems to be the question the disciples asked Jesus.
- B. But Jesus answer was **NO**, that no sin had caused this man to be born blind.
- C. So then, what or who causes physical and emotional suffering, and how are we to deal with it.

I. DIFFERENT CAUSES

- A. Consequences. Galatians 6:7
 - 1. Job related - certain chemicals, etc.
 - 2. Bad luck. Ecclesiastes 9:11 (an accident)
 - 3. Wrong doing. I Peter 2:19-20
- B. Persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12
 - 1. Blessed when persecuted. Matthew 5:10-11
 - a. Great is your reward. Matthew 5:12
- C. The devil. I Peter 5:8-9

II. SATAN & SUFFERING

- A. Caused Job's suffering. Job 1:6-12; 2:1-10
- B. A woman bound by Satan. Luke 13:11-17
- C. A messenger of Satan. 2 Corinthians 12:7

III. HOW TO HANDLE SUFFERING

- A. Know it doesn't come from God. James 1:17
 - 1. He does not tempt us. James 1:13
- B. Be patient. Romans 12:12
 - 1. Suffering is temporary. 2 Corinthians 4:17
- C. Pray about it. 2 Corinthians 12:8
 - 1. Sometimes God says no. 2 Corinthians 12:9-10
 - 2. God gives us peace. Philippians 4:6-7
- D. Keep on obeying God. Philippians 2:12-13

CONCLUSION:

- A. There is suffering in this world. Some just happens, some we may bring on ourselves.
- B. But through faith and obedience we can persevere through it.