

That's Not Fair!

- A common line of defense when we felt we were punished unfairly by a parent or teacher.
- We like things to be fair and equitable when it comes to our own punishment.
- Punishment is an unpleasant loss:
 - Spanking; Grounding; Loss of privileges, etc.
 - Unfair punishment— a terrible thing to deal with.
- But as children it was an overnight thing.
- We soon forgot it and went on with our lives.

Life Under the Curse is Unfair

- Life before the curse was fair.
- Everyone had dominion.
- Nothing could be lost
- No one could die
- No one could be cheated or murdered

No Law of Jungle / Survival of Fittest

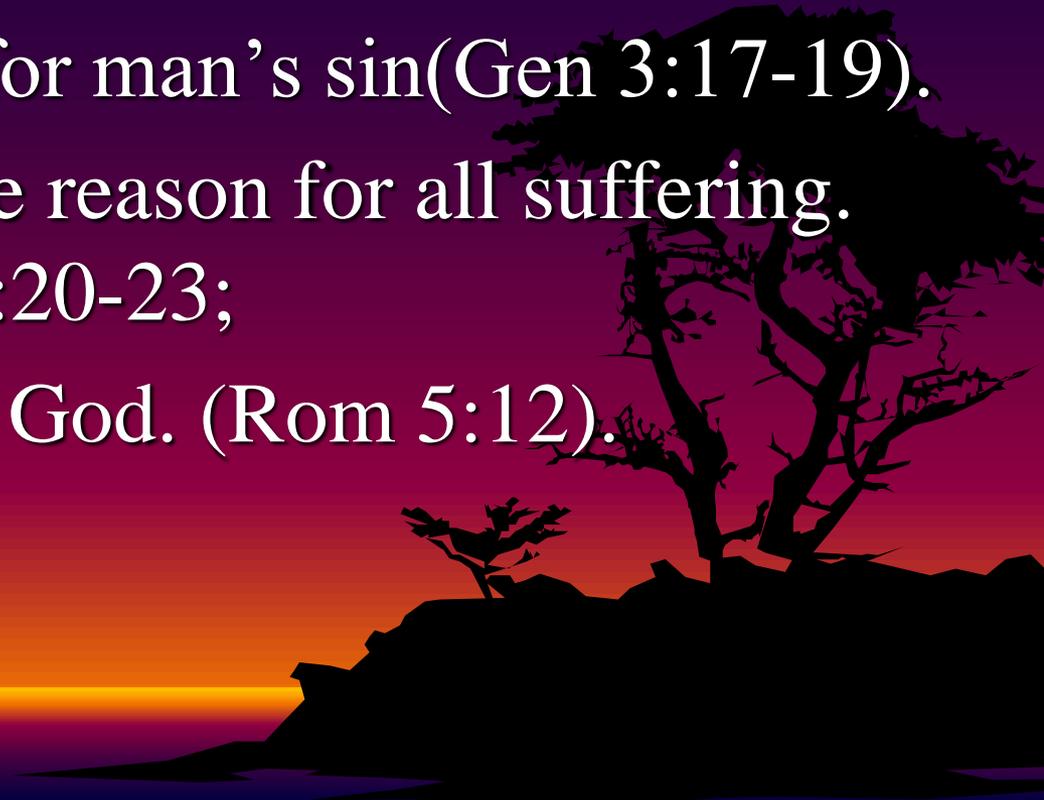
- *And God said, "See, **I have given you every herb that yields seed** which is on the face of all the earth, and **every tree whose fruit yields seed**; to you it shall be for food. 30 Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, I have given every green herb for food"; and it was so. 31 Then God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good. So the evening and the morning were the sixth day. Gen 1:29-31*

Not Until Gen 9 Meat Added

- *Every moving thing that lives shall be food for you. I have given you all things, even as the green herbs Gen 9:3*
- *I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and indeed, all is vanity and grasping for the wind. 15 What is crooked cannot be made straight, And what is lacking cannot be numbered. Eccl 1:14-15*

Suffering We Cannot Understand

- Healthy Attitude # 1
- God made the creation very good!(Gen 1:31)
- Suffering was impossible in world God created
- Curse a just penalty for man's sin(Gen 3:17-19).
- The curse of sin is the reason for all suffering.
Eccl 1:13-15; Rom 8:20-23;
- We are to blame, not God. (Rom 5:12).



Life Isn't Fair – The Curse

- *I returned and saw under the sun that — The race is not to the swift, Nor the battle to the strong, Nor bread to the wise, Nor riches to men of understanding, Nor favor to men of skill; But time and chance happen to them all. 12 For man also does not know his time: Like fish taken in a cruel net, Like birds caught in a snare, So the sons of men are snared in an evil time, When it falls suddenly upon them.*
Eccl 9:11-12
- Life is now like fish taken in a net or birds caught in a snare.

A Major Problem

- When this happens to us.
- When Time and Chance enter the life of a Christian – It is always unfair.

Life Isn't Fair – The Curse

- *There is a vanity which occurs on earth, that there are just men to whom it happens according to the work of the wicked; again, there are wicked men to whom it happens according to the work of the righteous. I said that this also is vanity. Eccl 8:14*
- The Most Unfair thing of all.

Why Is Life Unfair?

- *The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance. 2 Peter 3:9*
- How can God do this and keep life fair?
- If some are receiving longsuffering; it means others are suffering under their hands.

Soul now Redeemed - Not Body

For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now. 23 Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

Rom 8:20-24

We Groan within ourselves.

Life can be so unfair and unjust.

Cost of Being Longsuffering to All

- *many of the saints I shut up in prison, having received authority from the chief priests; and when they were put to death, I cast my vote against them. Acts 26:10-11*
- *I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief. 1Tim 1:13-14*
- He is one of millions and billions of people God is being longsuffering toward.
- This is only a simplistic answer to a multifaceted and extremely complicated subject. But if we can grasp it, we are better prepared to understand.

It's Not Fair

- Cause & Effect Suspended by the curse:
- Father sends sun to evil and good rain to just and unjust Mt 5:45
- World is now turned upside down.
- *Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are pure in heart. 2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled; My steps had nearly slipped. 3 For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked. Ps 73:1-3*

Cause & Affect – Upside Down

- When comparing his life to the wicked he came up short
- *4 For there are no pangs in their death, But their strength is firm. 5 They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are they plagued like other men. 6 Therefore pride serves as their necklace; Violence covers them like a garment.... They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; They speak loftily. Ps 73:4-8*

The Danger We Face

- The Wicked Scoff and Mock in Prosperity
- *And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?" 12 Behold, these are the ungodly, Who are always at ease; They increase in riches.*
- Righteous groan being plagued & Chastened
- *13 Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, And washed my hands in innocence. 14 For all day long I have been plagued, And chastened every morning. Ps 73:11-14*

Understanding Finally Came

- *If I had said, "I will speak thus," Behold, I would have been untrue to the generation of Your children. 16 When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me — 17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. Ps 73:15-17*
- He had to do what we all have to do.
- He painfully worked through it until he understood.

Life – A Dream & Vapor

- *Surely You set them in slippery places;*
- *You cast them down to destruction. 19 Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors. 20 As a dream when one awakes,*
- *So, Lord, when You awake, You shall despise their image. Ps 73:18-20*

How Understanding Brings Wisdom

- *Thus my heart was grieved, And I was vexed in my mind. 22 I was so foolish and ignorant; I was like a beast before You. 23 Nevertheless I am continually with You; You hold me by my right hand. 24 You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory. Ps 73:21-24*
- This is true repentance after believing error.
- Godly Sorrow at its finest.

How Understanding Brings Wisdom

- *For indeed, those who are far from You shall perish; You have destroyed all those who desert You for harlotry. 28 But it is good for me to draw near to God; I have put my trust in the Lord God, That I may declare all Your works. Ps 73:27-28*
- A partial answer to a very complex question
- There is so much more God has revealed and we must learn it all before we can truly understand.