

The Oologah Informer

January 3rd, 2016

Human Pain & Suffering (Part 1)

By Chuck Northrop

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

Guest Speaker: Chuck Northrop

PM Sermon:

Strange Things You Hear About the
church of Christ – Part 8 – the church
of Christ doesn't believe in music.

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Ecclesiastes – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

The Book of Acts – V. Smith

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

On Channel 6-2 Sundays @ 7:30 am

The Truth in Love on Channel 47

Sundays @ 8am

Oologah Internet Radio Programs

Vance' Program on Wednesdays
@ 6:15pm & Thursdays @ 6:15am

LIVE broadcast on Mondays @ 5pm

Visit www.tgrn.org to listen or visit
www.oologahradio.org for more info.

There is not a single person that has not had to endure pain and suffering. It seems that some people go through more pain and suffering than others but all go through some form or degree of it. Many of us have witnessed someone who cried out, "Why me, God!" Because of inadequate answers to their cry, human pain and suffering made shipwreck of their faith. These are real people needing real answers to real problems!

The answer to the problem of human pain and suffering does not lie in the world. The world does not understand the meaning of life nor the purpose of life. The world thinks the meaning of life is pleasure. "Whatever makes me happy" or "whatever makes the majority happy" becomes the pursuit of life. However, what makes one happy often is the very thing that brings pain and suffering. The Bible which is the inspired word of God instructs as to the meaning of life. God said, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). Further, the Bible informs man of certain principles that will answer the question of human pain and suffering.

The Freedom of Choice

God commanded Adam and Eve, the first man and woman, while in the garden of Eden saying, "Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die" (Genesis 2:16-17). The very fact that God commanded them not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil implies that they could eat of it if they desired to go against the command of God. Thus man became a free moral agent. With choice came responsibility. Man as a free moral agent is responsible for the decisions he makes.

From the beginning, man has tried to shift the responsibility of his own guilt. Adam blamed Eve for his sin and Eve blamed the serpent but each was accountable for their own sin. Certainly, a person's decision is influenced by others. Still, we are accountable for our own actions.

Throughout the history of mankind, there has always been those who chose to do wrong. Seldom does it ever affect just the one making the choice. One may choose to smoke at an early age. He may think that it affects no one but himself. Sadly though, its effects are seen by everyone who breathes the smoke — the smoker and the non-smoker. There are many non-smokers dying today because of

friends, relatives, and loved ones who smoke. This is an outrage and an injustice!

The spread of AIDS knows no boundaries. Innocent people of all races and nationalities are being killed by this dreaded disease. They are not homosexuals. They are not intravenous illegal drug users. They are not promiscuous. They are innocent — often babies. They are guiltless victims of the poor decisions made by others. This is an outrage and an injustice!

Adolf Hitler could be called one of the most brutal men of recent history. Literally thousands lost their lives because of him. The effects of his brutality are still felt nearly fifty years after the Second World War. The physical scars can still be seen. The mental scars can still be heard. Why must people suffer so? Why must people grieve because of others like him? This is an outrage and an injustice!

"There is nothing new under the sun!" It has always been that the innocent suffers because of the decisions of others. The blood of righteous Abel still cries out. Wicked Cain's decision to murder affected not only innocent Abel but Cain's descendants. Nine hundred years before Christ, wise Solomon spoke of such pain and suffering. He said, "Then I returned and considered all the oppression that is done under the sun: And look! The tears of the oppressed, but they have no comforter — on the side of their oppressors there was power, but they have no comforter. Therefore I praised the dead who were already dead, more than the living who are still alive" (Ecclesiastes 4:1-2).

Often, the problem of human pain and suffering does not lie in any place other than man himself. He makes decisions that affect himself and he makes decisions that affect others both present and future. That is true whether those decisions are good or bad, beneficial or detrimental. Man's decisions of the past affect us today and man's decisions today will affect man in the future. When man makes poor decisions, man becomes man's own worst enemy!

Someone may well ask, "What about natural disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes?" One of the answers to this question lies in the geological changes that took place after God flooded the earth with water. Because "the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually" (Genesis 6:5), God brought judgment upon man. The result of these geological changes is natural phenomena such as hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and floods. Man as a free moral agent, responsible for his actions, chose to sin.

Famine has its own interesting history. Recent discoveries show that many famines occurred in years of abundance. What caused the famines were wicked national leaders who chose to sell their nation's crops for personal wealth. Even more pitiful is the fact that some nations are allowing their children to starve to death while cattle roam the countryside unharmed because of idolatry. God's promise concerning idolatry rings loud and true. Moses recorded the commandment of God, "you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the Lord your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and fourth generations of those who hate Me" (Exodus 20:5).

By studying the works of philosophers, religious thinkers, and scientists from different countries of the world and from different centuries, you gradually begin to understand that many people have come to the true essence of choice. Animals remain the same as when they come out of their mother's womb, and it turns out that only a human being is able either to belittle oneself to an animal or to elevate oneself to the angelic state. Freedom of Choice is not important as it brings us some kind of benefit. It's important because it is only then that we achieve our fulfillment as Human Beings. The Human Being stands apart from other animals not because of emotions or reasoning, but because of a superior capacity of making decisions. We are able to have a wider understanding of different possibilities. When we make a choice we use different methods and capacities, some more emotional and others more rational, to understand the advantages that can be moral or pragmatic, selfish or altruistic, of each considered possibility. The freedom of choice meaning, definition, what is freedom of choice: the right or ability to choose whatever ...: Learn more. Health insurance plans that offer patients greater freedom of choice in selecting doctors are becoming too expensive for most people. Making insurance compulsory would - they say - not only free Health Service resources, but guarantee freedom of choice. Because people have freedom of choice where to shop there is some overlap between these spheres of influence. Exercises. The Freedom of choice. 45 likes. In this page you will find product reviews and discount coupons, which make it much easier for you, to buy the products... See more of The Freedom of choice on Facebook. Log In. or. Create New Account. See more of The Freedom of choice on Facebook. Log In. Forgotten account? Quotes tagged as "freedom-of-choice" Showing 1-30 of 184. "But the Hebrew word, the word timshel" "Thou mayest" that gives a choice. It might be the most important word in the world. That says the way is open. That throws it right back on a man. For if "Thou mayest" it is also true that "Thou mayest not." • John Steinbeck, East of Eden. tags: choice, freedom, freedom-of-choice, hebrew, language, timshel.