

The Oologah Informer

August 10th , 2014

WHY ARE SOME LIVES “EASY” AND OTHERS “DIFFICULT”? Skip Andrews

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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:

Closing the door on Satan:
A Moral Compass
(Jer 8:12)

PM Sermon:

In What Way (Mal 3:13-14)

Sunday AM Bible Class:

Russ Earl

Wednesday Bible Class:

Summer Series – Eric Bond

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KWHB TV 47
Sunday mornings at 7:30am

Radio Program

“The Minister’s View” on
KTTRadio.org on Monday’s at
9pm.

(August 19th it will be moved to
Tuesday’s at 9am)

Literature is full of the cries of suffering people who wonder why they suffer so much while others seem to suffer so little. In the Psalms, for example, the question “How long?” is asked at least sixty times! Let us note that some of the discrepancy is due to the fact that we do not always know what difficulties other people are having (especially when our real attention is on our own!).

The first answer to our question is to understand the power of **ignorance**. People who are ignorant of the Bible cannot answer spiritual questions properly. A life that may seem to be easy may be headed toward great trouble, and a life that may be difficult may be headed toward great happiness. Our human wisdom just is not sufficient to answer these things (Jeremiah 10:23). Proverbs 14:12 says, *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*

The second answer to our question is to understand the concept of **free will**. This is to say, God gave us the ability to make our own choices (Joshua 24:15). Our choices — informed and uninformed, good and bad — have consequences. When we make the choice to follow the ways of God, we are choosing a way that has restrictions that can make life difficult. On the other hand, when we make the choice to “go with the flow,” we have chosen a way that may appear to be fairly easy. Jesus described these choices in Matthew 7:13,14: *“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”*

The third answer to our question is to learn how the **providence** of God uses “easy” and “difficult” things in various circumstances. The overall picture of God’s providence in the lives of those who love Him is for **good**. Note how this is stated in Romans 8:28: *“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”* God’s providence allowed Abraham to have things “easy” (in some ways) for a great deal of his life, while His providence allowed intense suffering to come upon Job (see Genesis 12-25; Job 1-42). The key for these men was **not** in whether life was easy or difficult, but whether they would continue to humbly obey Him!

The fourth answer to our question has to do with the concept of **dedication**. Jesus regularly taught that those who followed Him would suffer. His reasoning was very simple, *“If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you”* (John 15:18). Later, He said, *“In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world”* (John 16:33b). The history of the early church shows this came true. Possibly the most severe persecution came upon Paul, whose writings frequently tell us of his trials. And it was Paul who wrote: *“Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution”* (2 Timothy 3:12). Let us conclude this point by noting Matthew 5:10-12: *“Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness’ sake: for*

theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you."

The fifth answer to our question is the Biblical principle of **sowing and reaping**. This principle is concisely stated in Galatians 6:7,8: "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.*" This one principle goes a long way in helping us to "get a grip" on the ups and downs of life. We reap **as** we sow, we reap **more** than we sow, we reap **longer** than we sow, and we reap what **others** sow.

God has allowed this world to be filled with pleasure and pain so that we can be tested — and so that we will be wise enough to look to His word for real answers. Not all pleasure is good (Genesis 3:6), and not all pain is bad (James 1:2-12).