

## The Oologah Informer

### January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2015

#### Address

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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:

Will He really find faith on the Earth? (Luke 18:1-8)

#### PM Sermon:

Jesus loves me

#### Sunday AM Bible Class:

Judges – D. Jackson

#### Wednesday Bible Class:

Book of John – R. Earl

#### In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KOTV- TV 6  
Sunday mornings at 8:00 am

#### The Gospel Playlist Radio Network

To listen to our internet radio program visit [gospelplaylist.org](http://gospelplaylist.org)

### Why Do Bad Things Happen to Good People

#### Randy Watson

Throughout time, man has been puzzled about this reality of life. The concept of punishment for crimes is not difficult to accept, because we see it as justice. But suffering as the result of another's actions or for no obvious reason tests our faith in a loving God. God has granted to all people freedom of choice between righteousness or sin. As a deterrent, he has also promised heaven to the righteous and eternal hell to the sinful (Hebrews 10:26-27). If God were to always intervene when someone chooses sin, it would violate this principle of free choice.

Job's story helps us put things in perspective. His livestock was taken and servants killed, some by evil doers (Job 1:14-15, 17), others in some sort of natural calamity, perhaps a volcanic eruption (Job 1:16). His children died when a mighty wind destroyed the house they were in (Job 1:18-19). Later, he endured terrible physical pain as his body was covered with sores from head to foot (Job 2:7-8). Friends Eliphaz and Bildad were convinced that Job and his children were being punished for some evil of their own (Job 4:7;8:6). But the rare heavenly perspective, we are given shows clearly that this was not the case. In fact, God stated to Satan (Job 1:8) that Job was "perfect" and "upright", that he feared God and hated evil (Job 1:8), and that the action against him was "without cause" (Job 2:3). The only explanation given is that Job was being tested (Job 1:8-12; 2:4-6). And his test reached even beyond these losses as his friends accused him and his own wife (Job 2:9) tried to influence him to sin. But Job refused to curse God, although he did express his lack of understanding. In the end, after Job repented from complaining (Job 42:3, 6) and had prayed for his friends (Job 42:8), God blessed and comforted Job in ways that surely surpassed all his dreams (Job 42:10-17). God did not forget to reward his faithful servant. James reminds us of Job and other prophets who suffered, and said we "have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." (James 5:11)

Just as God gives some good blessings to both the good and the bad (Matthew 5:45), he clearly allows both the good and bad people to suffer. Job said "shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" (Job 2:10). However, God will not permit any person to suffer beyond his or her own ability to overcome (1 Corinthians 10:13). A great trial, therefore reveals God's confidence in one's ability!

Every godly person will suffer (1 Peter 4:1-2, 12-19; 2 Timothy 3:12). Many of us will suffer from accidents or from the cruel actions of others. Then we will turn either toward or away from God. This is the test of faith. Do we blame God for evil experiences? (James 1:13) Or do we turn to him for help? (James 1:17; Hebrews 2:18) Do we become bitter toward God like Job's wife? (Job 2:9) Or do we try harder to enter heaven where there will be no more pain, no more tears? (Hebrews 11:13-16, 35-40; Revelation 21:4) Will we pass or fail these tests? God is willing to provide all that we need; give us a better home; and comfort us in this life. Do we believe him? Will your tests of faith draw you

closer to God? Or will you wrongfully blame God and reject the only real hope for deliverance?