

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

MY SIN

By Jeff Sweeten

Because God is in control of everything does not mean He chooses to exercise that control. He created humanity with free moral agency; we're not automatons; He does not force obedience (as per Calvin's false doctrine of Irresistible Grace). Note: He is not willing that any should perish (2 Peter 3:9) and yet the Bible clearly states that the majority of humanity will go to Hell (Matthew 7:13-14). Why is that? Because God allows human beings to make their own choices. Therefore, if one is lost, it is by one's own choice. God cannot be blamed for the poor choices of a human being (cf. Deuteronomy 11:26-28; 30:15-20).

Also, we know from Job (cf. Job 1 and 2), that God allows Satan and his minions to work in this world to prove His servants' faithfulness (cf. Abraham, Hebrews 11:17). This does not mean that God tests humanity beyond their capacity to endure the test as "No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). Therefore, it is clear that temptations, when they are patiently endured (James 1:2-4), serve to build our Christian character and become proof of God's enduring compassion and mercy (James 5:11). Again, God cannot be blamed for our lack of trust in Him; we should be more like Job.

In the face of the multitude of accusations against God (as if He could fail to protect His creation from sin, Isaiah 59:1-2!), people vainly attempt to blame someone, anyone, for their own poor choices (cf. Ezekiel 18:4, 20). They look for a scapegoat, like Adam and Eve did in the beginning (Genesis 3:12-13), so as not to be burdened with the responsibility of their own poor decisions, a weakness that must be overcome in order to live faithfully to God. Confession of sin, and the conviction to abandon sin, must prevail over the blame-game before a person can come to God. The terms Jesus used are chronologically described in this one statement: "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me" (Matthew 16:24). This I recommend.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130