

Blessed Persecution

1. There are several types of evil that result in persecution.
 - a. _____ evil.
 - b. _____ evil. Romans: 3:10; Psalm 14:1 -3; James 1:14, 15
 - c. _____ evil Ephesians 6:12

2. People have trouble reconciling God to the existence of _____.
 - a. Free _____
 - b. Limited _____
 - c. Limited _____

3. God is the God of all creation. He has ordained all things, including judgement, evil and _____, to be used to His own purposes.

4. Collateral Benefits to enduring persecution patiently
 - a. Develops Christian character. Romans 5: 3-5
 - b. Produces endurance. James 1:24
 - c. Promotes humility I Corinthians 1:28, 29; Psalm 73: 25, 26
 - d. Promotes witness I Peter 3: 14, 15
 - e. Is a source of reward. I Peter 1: 6,7; Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21

5. The greatest reason that God permits suffering is to promote His _____ . Romans 9: 22-26

6. The Christian response to persecution is to bring _____ to God.
 - a. Give _____
 - b. Praise _____
 - c. Serve _____

James tells us that God cannot be tempted by evil, neither does he tempt any man. But there is plenty of evidence in Scripture that evil exists as a part of God's creation.

"But he is of one mind, and who can turn him? And what his soul desires, even that he does." Job 23:13

"He spoke and it was done; he commanded, and it stood fast. The Lord brings the counsel of the heathen to nothing; makes the devices of the people of no effect. The counsel of the Lord stands forever, the thoughts of his heart to all generations." Psalm 33:9-11

"The Lord has prepared his throne in the heavens, and his kingdom rules overall." Psalm 103:19

"The Lord kills and makes alive; he brings down to the grave and brings up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, and lifts up. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's, and he set the world on them. From the beginning he laid the foundations the way he wanted them to be in effect exactly what has happened." I Samuel 2:6-8

"If there is a calamity in the city, will not the Lord have done it?" Amos 3:6

"Is it not from the mouth of the Most High that both good and evil come forth?" Lamentations 3: 37

"You are worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power; for you have created all things, and for your pleasure they were created." Revelation 4:11

"The Lord has made all things for himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of evil." Proverbs 16:4

"Our God is in the heavens; he does whatever he pleases." Psalm 115:3

"He does according to his will in the Army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and no one can stay his hand, or say to him, what are you doing?" Daniel 4:35

"See now that I, I am he. There is no God besides me. It is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and I desire to heal, and there is no one who can deliver from my hand." Deuteronomy 32:39

"God has called for a famine upon the land." Psalm 105:16

"They did not fear the Lord, therefore the Lord sent lions which killed some of them." II Kings 17:25