

Grace Notes

July 2022

Why Does God Allow Bad Things to Happen?

By Jesse Arnold

Only God really knows the answer to this question since only He knows the purpose of what He wills (Is. 55:8-9). The best we can do is to try to understand what God's revelation expressly or implicitly tells us about bad events.

As stated in WCF III.1, "God, from all eternity, did by the most wise and holy counsel of His own will, freely, and unchangeably ordain whatsoever comes to pass: ¹ yet so, as thereby neither is God the author of sin, ² nor is violence offered to the will of the creatures; nor is the liberty or contingency of second causes taken away, but rather established." ³ The Bible teaches that nothing happens unless God allows it (Eph. 1:11). God has also revealed to us that He is the only source of good (Psalm 5:4) and that God is righteous and good in all things (Ps. 145:17). Moreover, God is perfectly good and there is no evil in Him (1 John 1:5).

We can infer from the foregoing that although God allows anything and everything that happens in our corrupt world, he is nevertheless not the source of bad or evil deeds. When we see bad things happening around us and we cannot understand why they happened, we may rest assured that these things happened according to God's purposes and that those purposes are for good not for evil. God has told us that *for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose* (Rom. 8:28).

God allowed Jesus to die a horrible death on the cross at the hands of evil men. For Jesus' family and His apostles this surely was a terrible tragedy at the time. Nevertheless, God foreordained this tragedy to serve a good purpose just like he allows other bad things that happen to work together for good according to His purpose. Often God's purpose for allowing bad things to happen remains a mystery to us but we should take comfort in the fact that God is a gracious, loving, just and righteous God who ordains that all things work together for good.

(Continued from page 1)

A result of the fall was that sin and suffering entered the world (Rom. 5:12) causing both direct and indirect consequences. Though we live in this corrupt, sinful world that is full of pitfalls, dangers, illnesses, injuries and wickedness, believers can rest assured that when we face these bad things in our lives, that God has ordained it for a good purpose and He is not in some distant place during these trials and tribulations but is right beside us and is available to assist us according to His grace and mercy.

¹Scripture proofs cited by WCF in support of this clause are the following: Ephesians 1:11, Romans 11:33, Hebrews 6:17, and Romans 9:15, 18.

²Scripture proofs cited by WCF in support of this clause are the following: James 1:13, 17 and 1 John 1:5.

³Scripture proofs cited by WCF in support of this clause are the following: Acts 2:23, Matthew 17:12, Acts 4:27-28, John 19:11, and Proverbs 16:33.

WIC Service Project Thanks...

Praise the Lord for everyone in our congregation who supported the Armed Forces project. Your response was fantastic, and the generous donations are greatly appreciated by The Blue Star Mothers.

The items will be sent to the troops soon. Praise our heavenly Father for those who are risking their lives for our freedom!

The generosity of our congregation is overwhelming for service projects such as this, which we pray glorifies our Heavenly Father. Praise Him from whom all blessings flow!



To the Ladies of Grace Presbyterian Church

Thank you for keeping us close to your hearts and in your prayers. Your card & your words were so appreciated at this difficult time.

Love, Darrell & Stefanie

Thank you



The Lord's Supper



Grace PCA will observe the sacrament of Holy Communion during the morning worship service, Sunday, July 3.

Everyone should spend time during the week preparing your hearts and minds to partake in this sacrament.

Praying for our Nation...

Every Wednesday morning at 10:00 a.m.

Our group of prayer warriors meets in the sanctuary for the sole purpose of praying for our nation. If you cannot attend, please join us in prayer from your home or office during that time as we follow the command to pray for all those in authority.

"First of all then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way."

(1 Timothy 2: 1-2)



*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me,
 and I will listen to you."*

Jeremiah 29: 12

Pennies for Missions

Just a reminder that the WIC is still collecting pennies for our missionaries! If you have any spare change that you've been looking to get rid of, feel free to drop it in the container in the Foyer or in the Sunday School Rooms.

The money will be used to help the missionaries that Grace Presbyterian Church supports.



Bible Study

DATE: EVERY WEDNESDAY

TIME: 10:30

Where: Fellowship Hall

Don & Dana Andries will be teaching from the book

"Survey of The New Testament"

By

Jack B. Scott, Ph.D.



Office Holiday Closure

The church office will be closed on Monday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

WIC Circle Meeting...

The Circle at Grace will be studying the book of James written by Mary Beth McGreevy. We are looking forward to seeing how this book of the Bible relates to each of us in our life today.

Please consider joining this group of ladies in our study, and the ministry we have at Grace. We have prayer, study, and fellowship every month.

We meet the second Tuesday of the month at 10 a.m. at Grace. We even love to invite friends to join us.

If you have any questions, please contact Marsha Allison.



The next **Session Meeting** will be
Monday,
July 11 at 5:00 p.m.

Please contact Jesse Arnold, Kit Bonvillian, Randy Borill, Cleve Chandler, Dana Andries, Don Andries prior to the meeting if you have items to bring to their attention.

Happy Anniversary



Peace I leave with you;

my peace I give to you.

Not as the world gives do I give to you.

Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid.

John 14:27 ESV



Calendar of Activities for the Month

WIC Council	Tuesday, July 5, 10:00 a.m.
Session Meeting:	Monday, July 11, 5:00 p.m.
WIC Circle Meeting:	Tuesday, July 12, 10:00 am
Prayer for our Nation:	Wednesdays at 10:00 a.m.
Bible Study:	Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m.

Grace Presbyterian Church Website

www.gracepresbyterianbr.church

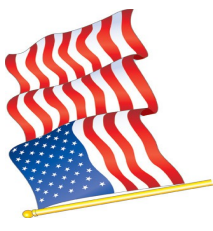




July 2022

Blessed is the Nation

Whose God is the Lord, And the people
whom he has chosen as his own inheritance.
Psalm 33:12



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 Communion	4	5 10:00 am WIC Council	6 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	7	8	9
10 Fun Day 12:00 Noon FAMILY FUN DAY	11 5:00pm Session Mtg	12 10:00 am WIC Circle Meeting	13 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 10:00 Prayer for Nation 10:30 Bible Study	28	29	30
31						

July Birthdays

July Anniversaries



Grace Presbyterian Church
Presbyterian Church in America
9526 Joor Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70818

Grace Notes



A Fun Day at Grace Presbyterian Church is being planned for Sunday, July 10th after the worship service. The purpose of this event is to simply gather for Christian Fellowship. Our program includes time to talk with each other and watch a vintage movie and enjoy hamburgers, hot dogs, chips, drinks, and dessert "These will be provided" so just come and enjoy.

A signup sheet is in the narthex for you to sign or call the office to have your name put on there and how many in your family will be attending. We will need the count to purchase the food.



July 2022

Blessed
is the **NATION**
whose **GOD**
is the **LORD.**
Psalm 33:12