

Welcome to *Faith Bible Church!*

October 14, 2018

Order of Service:

Opening Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Invocation

Scripture Reading: Psalm 22:1-21

Announcements

Pastoral Prayer

Hymn: *Virginia Grosskurth*

Message: *Why Does God Allow People To Suffer?*
(Mt. 27:45,46)

Announcements:

Next Sunday we will consider the question of whether God chose us to be saved before we were born, or if we choose to be saved of our own free will.

Assistant Pastor Steve Shwieger will fill in for Dave next week teaching Adult Sunday School, and Assistant Pastor Paul Balbach will fill in for him on October 28th.

Midweek Bible Study: Wednesday night at 7 with Assistant Pastor Steve is postponed for this week.

Our offering box is located just left of the kitchen door.

Pick up today's cross reference sheet & silence your phone

Revelation 4:11 *Why'd God Create Man Knowing He'd Sin*

God created us because it pleased Him to do so (Rev.4:11), because He is a creative Person. It pleased Him to create the "seas" (Ps.135:6,7) because they provide us with food, recreation, air, rain, and moderate the earth's temperature. The "vapours" (evaporated water) then "ascend" into the air and the "winds" carry them over the land where the "lightning" causes it to rain and irrigate the land. That's pretty creative! You're creative because He is (Gen.1:27).

Some people express their creativity by gardening, and will continue to do so in heaven in the dirt needed to grow the "corn of heaven" (Ps.78:23-25). You know that gardening glorifies God, for gardening is what God told Adam to do!

But didn't God know Adam would sin and ruin His creation and doom his race to pain and suffering and death, and sometimes an eternity in Hell afterward? Yes, but when you plant a garden, you know that some—if not *all*—of what you plant will be eaten by deer, rabbits, or insects, etc., or die in a drought or flood. But gardeners plant gardens anyway because they take pleasure in creating a garden.

In the same way, God knew that we'd all have to suffer pain and disease in life, then die and perhaps suffer in Hell for eternity. But He took pleasure in creating us anyway because He is just a creative God.

But some atheist might rightly ask, "What kind of sick, sadistic God takes *pleasure* in creating people whom He knows are doomed to spend their lives suffering and then some of whom will have to suffer in Hell for all time *just so He could find pleasure in being creative?*" The answer is, the same kind of God who'd be willing to become a man Himself and go to the cross and suffer all the pain and suffering men would have to suffer because of their sins. Remember, the "Lord" that created all things for His pleasure (Rev.4:11) *was the Lord Jesus* (John 1:1,2,14).

In other words, the One who created man knowing he'd have to suffer is the same One who created all things knowing

He'd have to suffer. He suffered all the physical pain of life and the spiritual pain of Hell in eternity during the three hours of darkness on the cross. It's true that this will only save believers, but if you're an atheist, that's not God's problem! "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Some sincere believers ask why God didn't make us *incapable* of sinning, and He could have, and it would have pleased Him to create a race of robots. But it pleased Him *more* to create men who *could* sin but *choose* to obey Him.

But when Adam chose to sin it created a problem for God, for He created him for His pleasure, but can't take pleasure in wickedness (Ps.5:4). He made man upright (Eccl.7:29) but man invented death (Rom.5:12), not just physical death but also eternal death in Hell. But God takes no pleasure in that (Ezek.18:22). It doesn't please Him to send men to Hell, but it *did* please Him to make His Son suffer for us (Isa.53:10,11). Then it pleased Him to save them that believe on Him (1Cor.1:21).

When you believe, God puts you into Christ (1Cor.12:13) and makes you a "new creature" (II Cor.5:17). Creatures are living, moving part of God's creation (Gen.1:20). Men are creatures too (Mark 16:15), and they fall when they sin, but God can make them *new* creatures. That's another reason He created creatures He knew would sin—He knew He could make them new.

The old creation declared the glory of God's power (Ps.19:1-5), so that men are "without excuse" for not believing on Him (Rom.1:19,20). But Creation can't display God's mercy, His grace, His forgiveness, His longsuffering or His patience. For that He needed something to go wrong with His old creation, if He wanted to display what are arguably His greatest attributes, and that pleases Him too.

Finally, God also gets "pleasure" (Rev.4:11) out of watching us be merciful, gracious, forgiving, longsuffering and patient with others (Colossians 1:10; 3:13).

Faith Bible Church

www.faithbiblechurch.weebly.com

October 14, 2018

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.

Thornton Harrison, Dave Stewart

Morning Service: 10:45 a.m.

Pastor Ricky Kurth

Junior Church: 10:45 a.m.

Myrtle Harrison

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 7:00 p.m.

Assistant Pastor Steve Schwieger

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