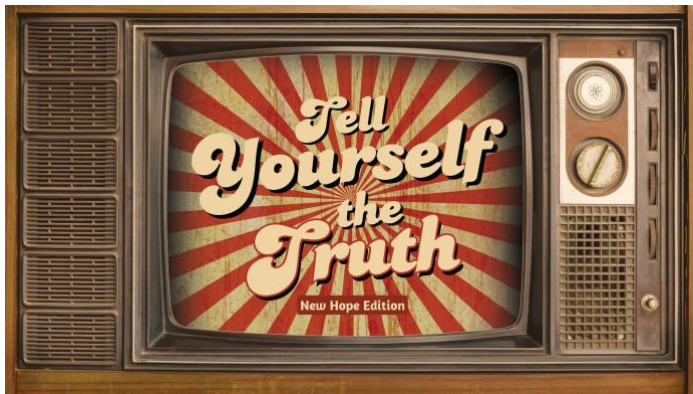


TAKE HOME SHEET



Series: Tell Yourself the Truth
Message: Everything Happens
for a Reason
Speaker: Rusty Coram
Date: February 9, 2025

This topic is challenging because suffering and evil are all around us. When it hits close to home, our ideas cease to be merely academic or theoretical. The Bible is a trustworthy source of guidance, which is important because it gives us a solid foundation to address all topics, especially personal and emotional ones. In the message notes this week, a number of passages were referenced. Please review the notes and look up those that were not printed in full.

When you think of particular sources of evil, pain, and suffering in the world, how do they fit in the list given in the notes?

What does it say about God that He doesn't just wipe out the world today and eliminate all suffering? As you think about this, keep in mind that the primary source of suffering in the world is human-caused. God will close out history one day but until then...

⁹ The Lord isn't really being slow about his promise, as some people think. No, he is being patient for your sake. He does not want anyone to be destroyed, but wants everyone to repent.

¹⁰ But the day of the Lord will come as unexpectedly as a thief. Then the heavens will pass away with a terrible noise, and the very elements themselves will disappear in fire, and the earth and everything on it will be found to deserve judgment.

2 Peter 3:9–10 (NLT)

Can you think of a time when God used pain, suffering, and injustice to get your attention and help you grow? How did it feel at the time? Did you understand what God was doing in the moment?

Rather than trying to manufacture a "reason" for what has happened, it is better to put our hope in God, who not only knows but genuinely cares.

And if someone asks about your hope as a believer, always be ready to explain it. ¹⁶ But do this in a gentle and respectful way.

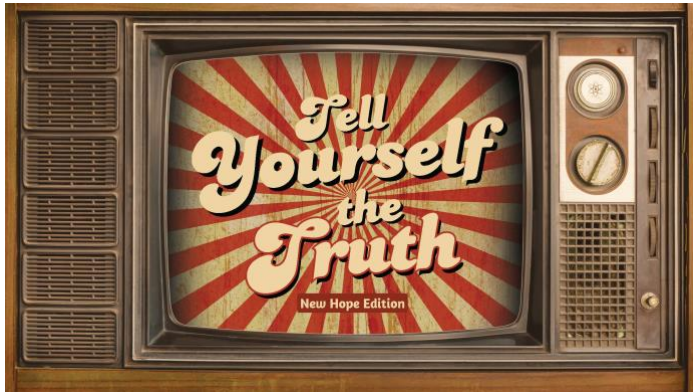
1 Peter 3:15–16 (NLT)

BIBLE TRANSLATIONS:

NLT – New Living Translation

TLB – The Living Bible

MESSAGE NOTES



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I believe today's statement is true, but...

...it is seldom "comforting" to someone who is struggling or in pain.

...it often can lead to speculations that are fueled by wanting control.

There are secrets the Lord your God has not revealed to us, but these words that he has revealed are for us and our children to obey forever.

Deuteronomy 29:29 (TLB)

1. "Why is there evil, pain, and suffering in our lives?"

Suffering, pain, and evil have several sources.
 (Genesis 3; Romans 8; James 1; 1 John 5)

ignorance

sin

the curse

Satan

God

2. "Why doesn't God eliminate evil and suffering?"

It would require eliminating us.
 (Isaiah 53:6; Romans 3:23)

Or it would require eliminating our dignity.
 (Genesis 1:26, 27)

Bonus: Or it could stunt our development in wisdom and maturity. (Genesis 37-50)

3. "Why doesn't He do something about it?"

- He has.

⁴ Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God for his own sins! ⁵ But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was whipped, and we were healed! ⁶ All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the LORD laid on him the guilt and sins of us all.

Isaiah 53:4-6 (NLT)

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

John 16:33 (NLT)

- He will.

He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever.
 Revelation 21:4 (NLT)

¹⁶ That is why we never give up. Though our bodies are dying, our inner strength in the Lord is growing every day. ¹⁷ These troubles and sufferings of ours are, after all, quite small and won't last very long. Yet this short time of distress will result in God's richest blessing upon us forever and ever! ¹⁸ So we do not look at what we can see right now, the troubles all around us, but we look forward to the joys in heaven which we have not yet seen. The troubles will soon be over, but the joys to come will last forever.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18 (TLB)