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Forgiving God

By David Sielaff, 2003, Revised February 2025

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Forgive God? How absurd! The very idea seems ridiculous, even offensive to some people. However, Jeremiah and other prophets can be cited as examples of powerful spiritual persons who had a temporary resentment toward God for the judgments He brought down upon individuals and groups of people, and often severe punishments for the sins and evils committed by His chosen people, Israel, and Judah. The punishments often seemed worse than the crime, in their human understanding.

Truly, forgiving God is never necessary, and yet ... have you had some residue, deep inside, of a *secret resentment*, even a hatred against God for the situations you find yourself in throughout your life? Or perhaps a loved one or an innocent stranger, perhaps a child, has suffered horribly, all because God did not rescue them or prevent evil from happening. Even after we understand God's message that Christ has saved us from the foundation of the world, there is often some lingering resentment about evil in the world, evil we have suffered, evil our loved ones have suffered, evil our neighbors have suffered, evil from nature (that we label as "acts of God") and the evils that the innocent in the world suffer. There are billions of such people who endure lives of constant suffering without cause. They suffer — every hour — of every day — without relief — for their entire lives.

Evil

Evil, unspeakable evil. I have met a few people who have experienced total evil in their lives. In this world there are instances of inexpressible suffering where people cannot even scream from the pain. Christ experi-

¹ Also read the original "[October 2003 Newsletter](#)." NOTE: The Byte Show audio is from the original 2003 version of this document. DWS

enced the greatest evil in His own death-cry of despair, when the Father abandoned Jesus, He was alone, with the sins of the world put upon Him. This is the meaning of the words of Jesus when He cried out and quoted Psalm 22 (“**My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**” [Matthew 27:46 & Mark 15:34]). And this was after His flesh was ripped from His bones, and He was hung with spikes in his hands and feet, like meat on the tree of crucifixion. Jesus knew, intellectually, why God forsook Him. But it was not an intellectual moment. At that moment Jesus cried out in despair to His Father, was forsaken — and died.

This was the moment Jesus wanted changed in the Garden of Gethsemane when He prayed:

“And, coming forward a little, He FELL ON THE EARTH and prayed that, if it is possible, the hour may pass by from Him. And He said,

‘Abba, Father, ALL is possible to You. Have this cup carried aside from Me.

But not what I will, but what You [will]!’”

• **Mark 14:35–36** [see also Luke 22:41–42] **CLV**

God let this happen to Jesus for a reason and a purpose. God does all things according to His own counsel, to fulfill His own purpose (Ephesians 1:11).

Not even the stated will of Jesus could persuade or change God’s mind. After making His request, Jesus acknowledged that only God’s will was important, and Jesus stated that He would submit and fulfill His Father’s will.

Jesus experienced unspeakable evil,² when God His Father dumped all the sins of the world upon His beloved Son Jesus in full payment for those sins. With the next thought and statement Jesus declared He would fulfill God’s will, and not His own will.

Take the example of Nebuchadnezzar, God’s agent, messenger and servant in punishing Judah and the remnants of Israel. Nebuchadnezzar was also God’s agent in the creation and establishment of a new type of rulership, the Babylonian system, which is with us to this day. Jeremiah told Judah not to fight Nebuchadnezzar because to do so would only make their punishment from God worse. Daniel *helped* the Babylonian king to administer and *make efficient* that evil empire of man. During his lifetime Nebuchadnezzar was known as “the horror.” I will not elaborate as to why. Throughout history how many human beings have cried out to God for help, relief, or rescue from within their suffering — and received only silence from Him who is called a merciful God who claims to love His children.

Pain

In my extended family in the 1970s I had an aunt who had one of the “bad” cancers and was dying. In those days there were limits to the amount of painkillers that could be given. One day my uncle quietly related how the pain was so intense for his wife that he had to walk out of the house and go away while his wife screamed until she passed out from the pain. He could not give her more drugs for the pain because they would kill her. She lived a few weeks more and then died.

I knew a man who suffered pain through most of his entire life from a combat injury in the Korean War. Intense spinal pain was his constant companion for decades. He counseled new paraplegics, quadriplegics, and their families on how to cope with their sudden life circumstances, which are always so grueling. One time we were discussing his injuries and his constant severe pain. In my foolishness and insensitivity, I quoted Romans chapter 8, as if I were going to instruct this man about suffering,

“For I am reckoning that the sufferings of the current era do not deserve the glory about to be revealed for us. For the premonition of the creation is awaiting the unveiling of the sons of God.”

• **Romans 8:18–19** **CLV**

² See Chapter 22, “[The Surprising Cause of Jesus’ Death](#)” in Dr. Ernest Martin’s book, [Secrets of Golgotha: the Lost History of Jesus’ Crucifixion](#), free online and for purchase.

Of course, this man understood this verse, much better than I did. He lived it. But he leaned forward from his chair, bore down, looked directly at me, and said, **“David, there has been glory enough.”** He did not deny the passage or the Scriptures, or the truth of God. He did not criticize me for what I said. His intention was to put me in mind that constant pain, evil, and suffering now is a reality for most people in the world — and for some, the suffering is for their entire lives.

Those who experience pain for hours, days, weeks, years, have little or no relief from what God has had them endure. For some, all they have to look forward to is the final enemy! **“The last enemy is being abolished: death”** (1 Corinthians 15:26, CLV).

Life Is Mere Survival Without God

Consider the evils of everyday life of the poor in the world today. It is difficult for us in the wealthier nations of the world to understand that the majority of people in this world struggle and scramble to survive, avoid pain, get enough to eat (regardless of its “nutritional” value) and eke out a bit of pleasure in life, usually in ways that you and I might consider ill advised or wrong. Billions of people today and throughout history have been malnourished for some extended period of their lives. This results in varying degrees of brain damage. Such people are sometimes classified by the well-fed of the world as “useless eaters.” These people are without God, without hope in the world, they truly wander about as lost sheep, yet they too are loved and conciliated to God through Christ just as you and I are. God has not yet chosen to reveal Himself to them in any way. One can legitimately ask, what kind of a loving Father treats His children this way?

I have a friend who supervises extremely mentally disabled and potentially violent youths. He says they are the saddest and most unhappy people he ever encountered. They are institutionalized. They have little hope of leaving institutions. Most have no future. They know they are different. They hear voices they do not want to hear, they think thoughts they do not want to think, and they act in ways they do not want to, even as they do the actions. These people are not possessed, they are mentally disabled and disturbed. Only a small fraction around the world receive attention, treatment, or any real help because to help one such person is very time intensive, laborious, and emotionally draining. Many of those my friend helps are on medications that are necessary (for safety), but which have severe side effects. Most were born that way and when they came of age, they were uncontrollable and institutionalized by the state. Most will never leave. There are millions of such people in this situation. Most are without help from anyone.

My friend asks himself constantly, why does God allow this? He does not wallow in the suffering of others, but he sees them experience it constantly. Oh, there are moments of love, beauty, happiness, and joy to be sure, but the greater part of the life experience of these people is constant anguish and suffering and tears and desperation and mental pain. These people were born or damaged to be this way. Is this what a loving God intended? Apparently so.

I am sure you could give a litany of evil that you have seen or experienced. It is cliché but it is nonetheless true, “There but for the grace of God go I ...”

The Problem of Evil

The problem of evil and suffering is what the entire book of Job was about. All of the Wisdom literature of the Old Testament could not deal satisfactorily with this issue. Such was the problem for the Jewish sages through-out the ages from the close of the canon of the Old Testament until the New Testament. The Problem of Evil has continued to plague the Church Fathers, the Catholic Church, and the churches of the Reformation until today. It is the problem that Jewish intellectuals deal with when they consider God’s abandonment of His “chosen” people during World War 2. There is no answer to the problem of evil outside of Christ, outside the Bible. Any attempt to do so is inadequate. It is the main reason people reject God throughout history.

Yet in 2 Corinthians 5:20 the central message of Paul and his associates to the Corinthian *ekklesia* was **“Be conciliated to God!”**

When we are suffering it is natural to ask (and even demand?) direct answers to our questions to God.

Why?

Why should we?

Why should we be conciliated to God?

In fact, as believers who have been given His Holy Spirit, God allows us to approach as His chosen children, to shake our fist at God and say,

“You, YOU deserve to suffer as we have suffered.

YOU deserve the horror.

YOU deserve death!”

If you ever had a time in your life when horror overtook you or your loved ones and you raised your fist to heaven and shook it at God, shouting to your Heavenly Father, even with hatred, and say ...

“Damn YOU for allowing this to happen!”

Only then can you better understand the problem of the reality of evil — and God’s solution to it. Congratulations. (However, do **NOT** even think about doing that in public.)

You are human. In fact, this is exactly the advice Job’s wife gave to him.

The Example of Job

“Yahweh said to the Adversary,

‘Have you set your heart on My servant Job? For there is no one like him on earth, a man flawless and upright, fearing Elohim and keeping away from evil. And he still is holding fast to his integrity, though you would incite Me against him to swallow him up gratuitously.’

Then the Adversary answered Yahweh, saying,

‘Skin in behalf of skin, for all that a man has would he give in behalf of his soul. Nevertheless, now put forth your hand and touch his bone and his flesh. He shall assuredly scorn you to your face.’

Hence Yahweh said to the Adversary, ‘Behold him in your hand; only keep his soul alive.’

Then the Adversary went forth from Yahweh's presence, and he smote Job with evil boils from the sole of his foot unto his scalp. So he took for himself a potsherd to scrape himself with it as he was sitting in the midst of ashes.

Then his wife said to him,

‘Are you still holding fast to your integrity? Scorn Elohim and die.’

Yet he said to her,

‘As some decadent woman speaks are you speaking.

Indeed should we receive good from the One, Elohim, and SHOULD WE NOT RECEIVE EVIL?’

In all this, JOB DID NOT SIN with his lips.”

• Job 2:3–10 CLV

Many have criticized job’s wife, but I understand her feelings, perhaps you do also. Although Job called her comments foolish, in reality, she should be credited for immediately and correctly recognizing the source of Job’s suffering — God Himself.

Job’s wife was correct! Job did nothing wrong, therefore God did it to him. Job acknowledged that her words were true. And her reactions were very human and natural. The deaths of her children — all of them, was her loss also. Of less importance was the sudden poverty that befell them. Her beloved husband was suffering horribly, likely day and night, and for what? An object lesson between God and Satan?

Job’s reaction is exceptional. Few of us have the integrity of Job. In fact, that was the very reason God

tested him so severely! By the way, there is no hint in the discourse between God and Satan that Job would be criticized if he *would* curse God and die.³ It would not have been wrong for Job to do so. Job himself said, **“What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?”**

Life is not easy. It was not meant to be so.

Life is a lesson, a learning experience. For most people, the learning is painful, without hope, without explanation and without a reason as to what the lesson is all about or what it is trying to teach. Those explanations will not begin for most people until their resurrection to the flesh after the Millennium.

For you as a believer, things are different.

God’s Response to Evil

You have been told through the Gospels that God did suffer. God did experience horror. God was damned to the grave. God did die — through Christ.

“For if, being enemies, we were CONCILIATED to God through the death of His Son, much rather, being CONCILIATED, we shall be saved in His life. Yet not only so, but we are glorying also in God, through our Lord, Jesus Christ, through Whom we now obtained the CONCILIATION.”

• *Romans 5:10–11 CLV*

Because God was conciliated to us first, through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection, He makes us a new creation through Christ. Paul knew, understood, and suffered more evil than most of us. He even knew death (several times) before being resuscitated. God promised no immediate solution to our suffering now, but because of Christ, through Paul, God speaks directly to you now, **“We are beseeching for Christ’s sake, Be conciliated to God!”** (2 Corinthians 5:20 CLV).

If you feel the need — ever — to shake your fist at God, to vent, to express your frustrations with God, feel free to do so.⁴

God your Father understands. You probably have gotten a raw deal. Life *is* unfair, as humans judge life. He *will* make it better. He *will* make it go away. He *will* heal the hurt.

It will likely not happen now in your lifetime. It will occur according to God’s will, according to His timetable. Accept it. Be reconciled to God.

In the end, the last great enemy — death — will itself be seen as a mercy, as a way God uses to end sufferings, end evils, end horrors and end the traumas of life. Then comes the judgment, which for most people will not be such a terrible thing considering their ordinary circumstances in life. To paraphrase what God told Job, “I will do what I will do, when I will do it, because I am God — End of discussion.”

In fact, God our Father does all things as His will dictates (Ephesians 1:11):

“... in Him [God]

IN WHOM our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating ALL in accord with the counsel of HIS WILL,

[Why?] **that we should be for the laud [praise] of His glory, who are pre-expectant in the Christ.**

IN WHOM YOU [yes, you] **also — on hearing the word of truth, the evangel [Gospel] of your salvation —**

IN WHOM on believing also, you ARE sealed [at that moment!] **with the holy spirit of promise (which is an earnest [a down payment] of the enjoyment of our allotment, to the deliverance**

³ How and when did Job learn about the meetings in heaven with the heavenly host, the Sons of God and Satan among them — twice? We are not told in the text. Perhaps a prophet of YHWH told him like the report of the Divine Assembly in First Kings 22:1–27. It is an interesting story.

⁴ However, I recommend you do so privately. God is not mocked (Galatians 6:4), and certainly not in public. Such things are best kept between yourself, the mediator Jesus Christ and God.

of that which has been procured) for the laud of His glory!”

• *Ephesians 1:11–14 CLV*

As a believer, your status before God is different. You know and understand **what** God has done, **when** it was done, and **why** it was done. The work of God through Christ is already accomplished (“**It is finished,**” John 19:30, KJV).

God gave us through Paul additional information about the problem of evil in 2 Corinthians (see below). The fulfillment of that information came with the revelation of the Mystery of God to Paul, John, and others. The apostle Peter wrote about the Old Testament prophets, and how they understood their future salvation:

“Concerning which salvation the prophets seek out and search out, who prophesy concerning the grace which is FOR YOU, searching into what or what manner of era the spirit of Christ in them made evident, when testifying beforehand to the sufferings pertaining to Christ and the glories after these.

To whom it was revealed that, not to themselves, but TO YOU they dispensed them, of which YOU WERE NOW INFORMED through those who are bringing the evangel TO YOU by holy spirit dispatched from heaven, into which messengers are yearning to peer.”

• *1 Peter 1:10–12 CLV*

This message was motivated by what Paul wrote to the Corinthian *ekklesia* that I quote in full to show the larger context in 2 Corinthians 5:16–20:

16 “So that we, from now on, are acquainted with no one according to flesh. Yet even if we have known Christ according to flesh, nevertheless NOW we know Him so no longer.

17 So that, if anyone is in Christ, there is a NEW creation: the primitive passed by. Lo! there has come NEW!

18 Yet ALL is of God, Who

CONCILIATES US **TO HIMSELF** through Christ, and

is GIVING US the dispensation [privilege] of the

CONCILIATION.

19 how that God was in Christ,

CONCILIATING THE WORLD **TO HIMSELF,**

not reckoning their offenses to them, and

placing in us the word of the

CONCILIATION.

20 For Christ, then, are we ambassadors, as of God entreating through us.

WE are beseeching for Christ's sake, ‘**Be conciliated to God!**’”

• *2 Corinthians 5:16–20 CLV*

Certainly, God is conciliated toward us. However, “**RE**conciliation” is a 2-way street. It means that both parties are **conciliated to each other**. First, God through Christ has been conciliated to us. Then, in return we must be conciliated to God. Yes, God freely gives to us the knowledge, understanding, wisdom and FAITH to accept His gift of salvation through Christ.

This is where “**forgiving God**” comes in. Your reconciliation to God has nothing to do with salvation. That has already been accomplished through Christ.

Paul’s Emphatic Message

Paul presents the need for reconciliation in the 2nd Corinthians passage above..

(Verse 18) “[God] **conciliates US** [Greek verb, *katallasso*] **to Himself through Christ.**”

(Verse 18) Paul’s entire message of reconciliation in his ministry, and particularly in Second Corinthians is:

“Yet all is of God, Who conciliates [Greek verb, *katallasso*] us to Himself through Christ, and is giving us the dispensation of the conciliation [Greek noun, *katalages*],” Then,

(Verse 19) **“how that God was in Christ, conciliating [same Greek verb, *katallasso*] the world to Himself, not reckoning their offenses to them, and placing in us the word of the conciliation [same Greek noun, *katalages*].”**

This was the finished work of Christ on the tree of crucifixion.

(Verse 20) **“... We ARE beseeching for Christ's sake, ‘Be conciliated [Greek verb, *katallasso*] to God!’”**

In English, the term “reconcile” means to become mutual friends. Many of you are **not** friendly toward God, **and you know it!** You are in awe of Him, you respect Him, you acknowledge Him as God, even as Father, but are you friends with God?

That is His desire, to be friends with His children, in spite of what has happened in your life. It takes maturity. God the Father **is YOUR friend**. We can know that for a fact because of what He has already done for us through His Son, who volunteered to suffer on your behalf.

Paul states this in the strongest imperative in Greek, beseeching and begging the Corinthians for the sake of Christ, that they **“be reconciled to God!”** Why be reconciled to God?

We should be reconciled to our God because He is responsible for evil and suffering in the world. He created evil according to the Prophet Isaiah who wrote God’s words for us to know. Many try to deny the truth. God is the ... **“Former of light and Creator of darkness, Maker of good and CREATOR OF EVIL, I, Yahweh, make ALL these things.”** (Isaiah 45:7).

He made the world system as part of His creation. God chooses **not** to stop the evil in the world — not yet. In fact, in the present era evil will grow worse and worse as we approach the moment of Christ’s return: **“Yet wicked men and swindlers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived”** (2 Timothy 3:13). Expect it, accept it, and if you need to do so, forgive God and be reconciled to Him, become friendly with Him as Paul so strongly encourages us. Paul concludes the passage with the statement that God’s intention is this declaration:

“For the One not knowing sin [Jesus], He [the Father] makes to be a sin offering for our sakes [WHY?] that WE may be becoming God's righteousness in Him.”

• **2 Corinthians 5:21 CLV**

Should we forgive God? Perhaps, if you feel you must do so. Must we forgive God? No. But if it will help you to be reconciled to God and gives you peace, then feel free to do so. That is what Paul intended.

We should be *willing* to forgive God for the evil He is responsible for allowing, and even for the evil that He Himself does in the world. He does evil in judgment (Daniel 9:11–14), He creates evil as Dr. Martin has written about often. [See Dr. Martin’s 1978 article, [“Where Is God?”](#)] Note again what Isaiah wrote:

“Former of light and Creator of darkness, Maker of good and CREATOR OF EVIL, I, Yahweh, MAKE ALL THESE THINGS.”

Drip down from above, heavens, And

Let the skies distill righteousness;

Let the earth open up,

Let salvation bud, and

Let righteousness sprout together with it;

I, Yahweh, I create it.

Would anyone contend with his Former?

Earthenware of the ground [contend] with its artificer [craftsman]?

Shall the clay say to its potter, 'What are you making?'

Or your contrivance say, 'It has no hands?'

Would anyone say to a father, 'What are you begetting?'

Or to a woman, 'With what are you in travail?'

• *Isaiah 45:7–10 CLV*

Stop struggling with God, your Maker, your Creator. Be reconciled to God and, if necessary “forgive” Him for the evil He is responsible for allowing, and for causing. I am not talking about an intellectual response toward God. I am talking about your emotional reaction to God as your Father. The opposites of light and darkness, or peace and evil in this passage each indicate that God is in total control of everything and everyone, and He has a purpose for each human being — each child of Adam,. He is the Maker. He does **“all these things.”**

God has set in operation a creation that is basically bound up in evil, including evil spirits, messengers, principalities and powers, most all of which delight in the suffering and death of God’s chosen people, and even all human beings. Even the creation cries out to be released from evil. Paul understood your frustration in life.

“For we are aware that THE ENTIRE CREATION is groaning and travailing together UNTIL NOW. Yet not only so, but

WE OURSELVES also [are groaning and travailing], who have the firstfruit of the spirit,

WE OURSELVES also, are groaning in ourselves, AWAITING THE SONSHIP, the deliverance of our body.”

• *Romans 8:22–23 CLV*

Reducing the context to words that describe YOUR situation, feelings, and mine, I paraphrase Paul’s words,

“[We] ourselves ... which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, ... groan ... waiting for the adoption, ... the redemption of our body.”

• *Romans 8:23 CLV*

Keep in mind, that groaning is worse for those who do not know God, than for us who know Him and have an expectation of His salvation.

God’s Reconciliation with All Creation

The reconciliation of God will be complete. It will be total through all of creation. All creation will be friendly toward God,

“for in Him [Christ] the entire complement delights to dwell, and through Him to reconcile all to Him (making peace through the blood of His cross [Greek *stauros*, or stake]), through Him, whether those on the earth or those in the heavens.

And YOU, being once estranged and enemies in comprehension, by wicked acts, yet NOW He reconciles by His body of flesh, through His death, to present YOU:

holy and

flawless and

unimpeachable

in His [God’s] sight, since surely you are

persisting in the faith,

grounded and

settled and

are not being removed from the expectation [hope]
of the evangel

which you hear
which is being heralded in the entire creation
which is UNDER HEAVEN of
which I, Paul, became the dispenser.”

• *Colossians 1:19–23 CLV*

Often when I read this passage I concentrate on the *fact* of the reconciliation of all creation to God, and gloss over what “reconciliation” *means*. Moreover, the emphasis that Paul actually stresses is to note the reconciliation “**in the body of his flesh through death.**”

As with Christ, the Captain of our salvation, first comes the suffering, the evil, then comes the glory. Keep in mind as Peter wrote, that even the angels desire to look into the role of Christ in the salvation of mankind. The author of Hebrews (Paul) writes how Jesus’ death relates to you, me, and all human beings.

“Yet we are observing Jesus, Who has been made some bit inferior to messengers (because of the suffering of death, wreathed with glory and honor), so that in the grace of God, He should be tasting death for the sake of everyone.

For it became Him [Jesus],

because of Whom all is, and
through Whom all is,

in leading many sons into glory, to PERFECT the Inaugurator of their salvation through sufferings.

• *Hebrews 2:9–10 CLV*

Jesus suffered more than we can imagine. He suffered for you and me. Believe it. Praise God for it! Yet you may not like what those words are saying in the last two lines.

Forgive God if you must. But remember His only begotten Son also suffered, and He did so for you, for your future life, and glory as Christ Jesus experiences today, even at this moment you are reading these words.

In your future resurrection to glory, you shall be like Christ Jesus is today (1 John 3:2).

“Whenever Christ, our Life, should be manifested, then you also shall be manifested together with Him in glory.”

• *Colossians 3:4 CLV*

“As for me, in righteousness I shall perceive Your face; I shall indeed be satisfied when I awake to Your semblance.”

• *Psalms 17:15 CLV*

“The first man was out of the earth, soilish; the second Man is the Lord out of heaven. Such as the soilish one is, such are those also who are soilish, and such as the Celestial One, such are those also who are celestials. And according as we wear the image of the soilish, we should be wearing the image also of the Celestial.”

• *1 Corinthians 15:47–49 CLV*

“Who will transfigure the body of our humiliation, to conform it to the body of His glory, in accord with the operation which enables Him even to subject all to Himself.”

• *Philippians 3:21 CLV*

“Happy are the merciful, for they shall be shown mercy.”

• *Matthew 5:7 CLV*

“For at present we are observing by means of a mirror, in an enigma, yet then, face to face. At present I know out of an installment, yet then I shall recognize according as I am recognized also.”

• *1 Corinthians 13:12 CLV*

“through which have been presented to us the precious and greatest promises, that through these you may become participants of the divine nature, fleeing from the corruption which is in the world by lust.”

• 2 Peter 1:4 CLV

“You shall acquaint me with the path of life; Satisfying rejoicings are in Your presence; Pleasantness is at Your right hand.”

• Psalm 16:11 CLV

“Now we all, with uncovered face, mirroring the Lord's glory, are being transformed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as from the Lord, the spirit.”

• 2 Corinthians 3:18 CLV

Repent of your honest but mistaken attitudes, if necessary. But above all, “**be reconciled to God!**” God is reconciled to you already. God is reconciled to all His creation, to be manifested in due time. This was the message that Paul preached. It is a message for you.

You will find your attitudes to events in life to be more accepting, more peaceful, and you will relate better to the sufferings of others, and rejoice better in their joys, and even accept better their deaths. All this because you **know** that “**God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself**” because “[God] **has reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ.**”

Forgiving God

Is it **necessary** for you to “FORGIVE GOD?” No. God neither needs nor desires your forgiveness. God always acts with righteous judgment in spite of what your [“mis-“]perceptions may be.

Is it necessary **for you** to “forgive God?” That depends on your attitude towards Him. You may need to examine yourself. Take a hard look at your attitude toward God. Any resentment you hold toward God will not affect the Father or Christ (certainly you will be forgiven for it), but it will cause you unnecessary emotional pain and grief. Know that God understands your feelings and thoughts.

Without the Scriptures no one can understand the problem of evil. But, if we seek the wisdom of God:

“**THEN** you shall

[1] **UNDERSTAND** the fear of Yahweh, And the

[2] **KNOWLEDGE** of Elohim you shall find.

For Yahweh Himself gives

[3] **WISDOM**;

From His mouth come

[2] **KNOWLEDGE** and

[4] **COMPREHENSION**; He stores up

[5] **SAGACITY** [shrewdness] for the upright, A shield for those walking with integrity,

So as to preserve the paths of

[6] **RIGHT JUDGMENT**,

And so He may

[7] **GUARD** the way of His benign ones.

THEN you shall

[1] **UNDERSTAND** righteousness and

[6] **RIGHT JUDGMENT**,

And you shall be upright in every good route; For

[3] **WISDOM** shall come into your heart, And

[2] **KNOWLEDGE**, it shall be pleasant to your soul.

- [8] **FORESIGHT, it shall guard over you;**
 [5] **COMPREHENSION, it shall preserve you.”**

• *Proverbs 2:5–11 CLV*

Reread and think particularly about the words numbered [1], [2], [3], [4] above in above passage. Your resentments toward God come from being hurt by the very real evils of creation that God is ultimately responsible for, controls and allows.

I question God’s methods and actions just as you do. I often do not understand them. Dr. Martin also puzzled over many of God’s actions, and we all have difficulty understanding the reasons God has for doing certain things. Truly, **“we see through a glass darkly”** (1 Corinthians 13:12). Dr. Martin understood — as we all should understand — what God meant as expressed through the prophet Isaiah,

**“For My designs are not your designs, And your ways are not My ways, averring is Yahweh.
 For as the heavens are loftier than the earth, So are My ways loftier than your ways, And My designs than your designs.”**

• *Isaiah 55:8–9 CLV*

Resentment toward God comes from the direct confrontation with what philosophers call the “problem of evil” — how a loving God could allow so much suffering throughout God’s creation.

God’s reconciliation of you to Himself through Christ is the answer to the problem of evil. It will not take away your emotional anguish at this. It will not take away your suffering now. The anguish will end. The suffering is temporary, although it is my fervent hope that any suffering you endure now might diminish or end quickly. Apply to your situations those of other believers as you read the words that Paul wrote to the Christians of the cities of Colossae and Laodicea (both in Western Turkey today). It was Paul’s desire:

“... that their hearts may be consoled [comforted], being united in love, and to all the riches of the assurance of understanding, unto a realization [*epignosis*, “full knowledge”] of the SECRET of the God and Father, of Christ, in Whom ALL the treasures of wisdom and knowledge [*gnosis*, “knowledge”] are concealed.”

• *Colossians 2:2–3 CLV*

Take note of Paul’s example and advice to those who were suffering. He understood suffering. He was severely beaten several times and he may have died more than once only to be resuscitated by God to more pain. Paul wrote as one who was afflicted, suffered much during his ministry (2 Corinthians 11:23). Each time Paul was brought back to life for the sake of the Gospel of Christ, he continued to endure further suffering until his death (2 Corinthians 1:9–10 CLV):

“But we have the rescript [sentence] of death in ourselves, that we may be having NO CONFIDENCE in ourselves, but [confidence] in GOD,
 [1] **WHO rouses the dead,**
 [2] **WHO rescues US from a death of such proportions, and**
 [3] **[Who] will be rescuing;**
 [4] **on WHOM WE rely that He will still be rescuing also.”**

God through Christ *rouses, rescues, will be rescuing,* and will *be rescuing* every child of Adam. With that in mind, you will better understand the words of the apostle Paul before the above passage ...

**Blessed is the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of pities [or mercies] and God of all consolation [or comfort], Who is consoling [comforting] us in our every affliction [Why?] to ENABLE US to be consoling THOSE IN EVERY AFFLICTION, through the consolation with which we ourselves are being consoled by God,
seeing that, according as the sufferings of Christ ARE SUPERABOUNDING in us, thus, through Christ,**

OUR CONSOLATION ALSO IS SUPERABOUNDING.

Now, whether we are being afflicted FOR

YOUR CONSOLATION and SALVATION,

or whether we are being consoled FOR

YOUR CONSOLATION,

which is operating in the endurance of the same sufferings which WE ALSO ARE SUFFERING,

our expectation [hope], also, is confirmed over you, being aware that, as

YOU ARE PARTICIPANTS OF THE SUFFERINGS, thus OF THE CONSOLATION also.”

• 2 Corinthians 1:3–7 CLV

God desires YOUR love now, even as YOU suffer. God’s love is unconditional and patient. If necessary, He will wait for YOUR love later when YOU understand the full knowledge of God (1 Timothy 2:4) and the full scope of His love and provision for YOU, and for all creation (Colossians 2:19–23).

In YOUR life now, much resentment will fall away, and it may change how YOU treat others in life, if YOU follow Paul’s admonition to “**be reconciled to God.**” If YOUR current emotional state makes YOU believe that YOU need to “forgive God,” then feel free to do so. YOU are a child of God; YOU have that right. It will not affect YOUR relationship with Him or with Christ.

A Closing Addendum

From here to the end of this article is new information since I originally published this article.

There are no special words that can eliminate suffering and pain for you, or your loved ones in this life now. However, when you (and all humanity) are given our future glorified bodies we all shall be like Christ is now (1 John 3:2).

When that happens, YOU will never experience physical pain again. However, you will endure watching others suffer as they hurt themselves and others, until they also are saved and glorified as you will be when Christ returns. That will occur when God becomes “**all in all**” (1 Corinthians 15:28).

This article should be read with a companion, Dr. Martin’s 1974 article: “[God’s Reconciliation with Man.](#)” Other helpful articles on the issues of reconciliation, the problem of evil and God’s role in salvation are “[God’s Use of Evil in the Allotment](#)” which is from the small book *The ABCs of the Gospel*. It adds additional information of how God uses evil and why you are in your present situation today. See also Dr. Carole Sielaff’s January 2024 Commentary “[Why Do We Suffer?](#)” Different Scriptures are featured there.

Each of these writings will help you understand WHY you were born ...

- ... at a specific time,
- ... at a specific place and
- ... in a specific situation.

You will find the evidence surprising and fascinating!

This information is a vital piece to your understanding the answer to the problem of evil and suffering in the world today. The fullest explanation of the doctrine of the allotment is to be found in Dr. Martin’s last book, *The Essentials of New Testament Doctrine*, 2001 Edition (Portland, OR: Associates for Scriptural Knowledge), in Chapter 25, “[How Are We Chosen?](#)”

Another article you need to read is “[Where Is God?](#)” It discusses the problem of evil from a different perspective, that is ... “Why is God so distant from us?” While this is true whether we are in time of trouble or in good times, we want to know our God and Father. Our human parents (the good ones) do not ignore their children the way God seems to do. Read and find out the answer to the question in “[Where Is God?](#)”

In the meantime, consider Paul’s words in Romans chapter 8:

NOW

WE are aware that God is working all together for the good of those who are loving God, who are called according to the purpose that,

whom He foreknew, He designates beforehand, also, to be conformed to the image of His Son, for Him to be Firstborn among many brethren.

NOW

whom He designates beforehand, these He calls also, and
whom He calls, these He justifies also;

NOW

whom He justifies, these He glorifies also.

What then, shall WE declare to these things? If God is for us, who is against us?"

• *Romans 8:28–31 CLV*

"Faithful is the saying, and worthy of all welcome, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, foremost of whom am I.

But therefore was I shown mercy, that in me, the foremost, Jesus Christ should be displaying all His patience, for a pattern of those who are about to be believing on Him for life eonian.

Now to the King of the eons, the incorruptible, invisible, only, and wise God, be honor and glory for the eons of the eons! Amen!"

• *1 Timothy 1:15–17 CLV*

YOU Are The Object of God's Creation

For **YOU** God the Father created His only-begotten Son (Colossians 1:15; Revelation 3:14).

For **YOU** all creation was planned in detail by God the Father and His Son.

For **YOU** God our Father and Christ — by lottery — chose YOU, before the foundation of the world.

For **YOU** the heavens and earth were created through the Son.

For **YOU** the Son of God became flesh when He was born to Mary.

For **YOU** Jesus lived a perfect sinless life.

For **YOU** He fulfilled the entire Law of Moses.

For **YOU** Christ suffered when He healed.⁵

For **YOU** Christ died on the tree of crucifixion.

For **YOU** Christ was resurrected to greater glory than He had before.

For **YOU** He presented His blood before His Father, proving His love for YOU (Hebrews 9:12–14).

For **YOU** angels of God rejoiced when you repented (Luke 15:10).

For **YOU** angels of God protect believers in ways we cannot yet know (Hebrews 1:14; Psalm 34:7).

For **YOU** God and Christ are making "**the mind of Christ**" within you NOW (1 Corinthians 2:15–16).

For **YOU** will see Christ in the clouds; Jesus looks like His Father (John 1:18, 6:46, 14:9, 1 John 1:3).

For **YOU** will be raised from the dead with a physical body, rising in the sky (1 Corinthians 15:52).

For **YOU** will receive a new immortal spiritual body (1 Corinthians 15:53–54).

⁵ See Dr. Martin's 1999 article, "[Was Jesus Ever Sick?](#)"

For **YOU** will see God the Father face to face (John 1:18, 6:46, 14:9, 1 John 1:3).

For **YOU** a new heavens and new earth is created (Isaiah 65:17, 22; 2 Peter 3:13; Revelation 21:1).

For **YOU** all creation will be reconciled to God and Christ; **YOU** will participate in that work.

For **YOU** God will have further wonders when our Father becomes **“All in All”** (1 Corinthians 15:28).

These Glorious Events Are Not Just for You or Me

Those glorious future gifts from God are not a fantasy or wishful thinking. They will occur because they are guaranteed by the will of God (Ephesians 1:11, and 1 Timothy 2:4–6, 4:9–11). These gifts are not for you alone, as I am sure you certainly understand. They will be the inheritance and future experience of every child of Adam. The actions of the “last Adam” guarantee the future redemption and glorification of those from the “first Adam,” Eve, and every human being, including the last human born toward the end of the millennium (the 1,000-year reign of Christ) and the last person redeemed at the end of the Great White Throne Judgment.

What Will We Do Then?

God does not reveal or explain what we will all do after our Father becomes **“all in all.”** In fact, we are not told what the phrase **“all in all”** actually means. Perhaps we are not told because we are unable to understand at this time, the glories that each of us, as mature children of God will experience and what we can do to help our God, Christ, and all created beings. We each will be of service to others.

I believe Dr. Ernest Martin was probably correct when he gave his estimate of what we will be doing. Perhaps Christ gives a hint in His answer to His parents when He stayed behind and they returned to Nazareth:

“And, not finding Him, they return into Jerusalem, hunting Him. And it occurred, after three days they found Him in the sanctuary, seated in the midst of the teachers, hearing them, as well as inquiring of them. Now amazed are all those hearing Him at His understanding and answers.

And perceiving Him, they were astonished. And His mother said to Him, ‘CHILD, why do you thus to us? Lo! your father and I painfully sought you.’

And He said to them, ‘Why is it that you sought Me? Had you not perceived that I must be among THE THINGS which ARE MY FATHER’S?’

And they do not understand the declaration which He speaks to them.”

• **Luke 2:45–50 CLV**

Note the CAPITALIZED words of verse 49. The original King James and the “New King James Version” are certainly more poetic: **“And He said to them, ‘Why did you seek Me? Did you not know that I MUST BE ABOUT MY FATHER’S BUSINESS?’”** Luke 2:49. What is OUR Father’s business? God is not in the “salvation” business. Salvation is a process of a prior activity of God.

Creation is our Father’s business. God creates and all His intelligent creatures benefit. None are lost. God does not create junk. So, we will likely do what God our Father and Christ have been doing since the time God’s only-begotten Son became alive. We will be creating. Creating what? We will create anything that our Father wants us to CREATE.

This may occur after God becomes “all in all.” We will then know what “all in all” means and how it relates to the next plan for God’s children. Then, each of us will be mature children of God and ready for new challenges. “And He said to them, **“Why did you seek Me?”** (Luke 2:49). Our work might be similar to what Christ said He was doing in His teaching ministry: **“Jesus is saying to them, ‘My food is that I should be doing the will of Him Who sends Me, and should be PERFECTING HIS WORK’”** (John 4:34).

David Sielaff, 2003, 2025