

Day 2: Why Christianity? (Part 2)

In Day 1, we started to consider The Five Crucial Questions that help us understand why Christianity is so important. We studied how we got here, and why we are here. Today we'll focus on question 3: What went wrong?

1. What went wrong?

Something went wrong. We simply have to pick up a newspaper, turn on the television, or look out our front door to see that something went terribly wrong with this world. Whether you consider global issues (such as hunger, disease, and war), or national tragedies (such as 9/11 or the Sandyhook school shooting), or personal struggles (relational, financial, emotional, etc.)...something went wrong. No doubt.

The Bible is very clear about what went wrong. When God made perfect provision and placed man in a lush garden, He also gave man the ability to make choices. This makes sense. God created us for a love relationship with Himself, but some of us in this life have found out the hard way that you cannot make someone love you. Love is something we choose. God created us in His own image and being created in His image, He gave us the ability to make choices. Thus, when placing the man and woman in the garden, He gave them one rule, "Do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil" (Genesis 2:17).

You don't have to be a Bible scholar to know what happened next. When Adam and Eve ate from the tree, they chose against God and sin entered the world. We teach our kids that sin is anything we think, say, and do that is against the will of God. What is the result of this sin? God gave us love, and we chose hate. God gave us peace, and we chose war. God gave us joy, and we chose misery. God gave us hands, and we chose to make weapons of mass destruction. God gave us life, and we chose death. We are looking at a world that has fallen into sin and that is feeling the effects of what it means for the creation to be separated from the Creator.

Application

1. *Make a list of events you have seen in this world that have grieved your heart (be it globally, nationally, in your community, or even personally).*
2. *Romans 8:28 tells us, “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God and to those who are called according to His purpose.” Discuss a time that seemed tragic to you, that you eventually saw good come out of.*
3. *Pray and ask God to help you grow through the trials and tests in your life.*

Extra Scripture Readings: Romans 3:23, Genesis 3 (the whole chapter).