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**THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison**

### **DOES GOD CARE?**

There are those who believe that because human beings suffer in this life that proves God does not exist. The argument goes something like this: "If God is all powerful and all loving, why would He not use His power to prevent all suffering in this world? Why does a loving, all powerful God allow even His faithful servants to experience suffering? Either God is simply the figment of man's imagination or, if He exists, He just does not care."

Does human suffering prove God does not exist or that He does not care? The answer is NO! God loves and cares for each of us. We are to be "casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7). God's great love for man is demonstrated by the sending of His only begotten Son into the world to suffer and die for our sins (John 3:16; Romans 5:8-9).

Why does God permit suffering? God created humans with the freedom to choose their own path in life. Often, we bring suffering upon ourselves by making wrong choices. If God took away all suffering in this life, He would of necessity need to take away our free will. Instead of taking away our freedom to choose, God has revealed His Word which provides instruction to guide us in making right choices and avoiding those wrong choices that often results in suffering. Making choices in life that violate God's Word constitutes sin. Sin always results in negative consequences including suffering (Romans 6:23).

When God created man, He provided a place for His existence in which disease, natural disasters, accidents, and other causes of suffering did not occur. It was not until man chose to sin that suffering began (Genesis 3). Though we do not inherit the guilt of that first sin, we do suffer the consequences of the choice they made to sin. Romans 5:12 reads, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned."

Not all suffering is the result of one's personal sin. Sometimes one may suffer because of another's choice to sin such as being the victim of a crime. Suffering also occurs simply because we live in a physical world where death, natural disasters, disease, and accidents are common.

The truth is that God does care and has a plan to ultimately end all physical suffering. In heaven there will be no pain, sorrow, tears, or death (Revelation 21:4). The suffering experienced in this life is temporary, but its absence in heaven is eternal. May God help us to accept that HE CARES!!  
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