

# Life Is Unfair!

By Dr. Gary M. Gulan, ©1994 (Rev. 05)

**Introduction:** Have you ever heard someone say, "Life is not fair!" What does it mean "to be fair"? When we speak of fairness in life, we are saying that life is "not impartial" or that life is "free of obstacles." However, life is "stormy" and at times life is even "foul." This would mean that life is "not equitable" or that life is not fair.

Why do good things happen to bad people and bad things happen to good people? What makes life "unfair?" I would like to share with you at least fourteen factors or reasons why life is not fair.

## **1. BECAUSE WHEN WE ARE BORN WE ARE ALREADY IN TROUBLE.**

When the first man disobeyed God, sin and its consequences passed onto all humans regardless of race, color, wealth, status, country, deserving or undeserving. Paul wrote, "Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men.... Therefore, as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation," (Romans 5:12-18). From birth we are "in bondage" to sin, (Rom. 6:6,17,19), and subject to "death" which includes that which causes death, (Rom. 6:9). Life is not fair because the process of death exposes everyone to (1.) disease, (2.) decay, (3.) inflammations, (4.) sickness, (5.) aging, and (6.) other things. Life is not "fair" because every individual is in trouble from birth.

## **2. BECAUSE WE ARE SINNERS THERE ARE THINGS THAT WORK AGAINST US.**

There is a war going on inside each individual for control. Our mind wants to do what is right but sin wants to influence us not to do what is right. God's Word states, "Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body, that you should obey it..." (Rom. 6:12). Paul writes, "For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ...I see another law (or ruling principle) in my members, warring against the ruling law (or ruling principle) of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law (or ruling principle) of sin which is in my members," (Rom. 7:23).

## **3. BECAUSE GOD'S RELATIONSHIP WITH US HAS CHANGED.**

God destroyed much of life on the earth due to the "evil" and "depravity" that spread throughout life, (Gen. 6:-9:). After the flood, God stated, "My Spirit shall not strive with man forever, for he is indeed flesh...." (Gen. 6:3). The word 'abide' (Heb. "yadon") has the meaning of "abiding, "protecting," and "shielding."<sup>1</sup> God is not actively protecting man. Because of man's sin, man is "alienated" from God, (Eph. 4:18). This means trials will come upon people because God is somewhat removed from man's life.

## **4. BECAUSE GOD'S JUDGMENT ON OUR SIN IS SLOW IN ARRIVING.**

Solomon wrote, "because the sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore, the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil." (Ecc. 8:11). "Failure to punish wickedness is a great enigma, (Ecc. 8:10-14). Solomon noted that wickedness is not always punished, (Ecc. 3:16; 4:1). ...Solomon lamented the fact that a wicked man could sin with impunity (i.e. commit 100 crimes and live a long time, Ecc. 8:12).<sup>2</sup> This means trials will come

upon people. The result, "bad things happen to good people and good things happen to bad people."

#### **5. BECAUSE GOD'S BLESSING FALLS ON THE GOOD AND THE BAD A LIKE.**

Matthew wrote, "...For He (the Father in heaven) makes His sun rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust," (Matthew 5:45). Luke states, "...For He (the Most High) is kind to the unthankful and evil," (Luke 6:35). This means trials will come upon people. The result is that "good things happen to bad people."

#### **6. BECAUSE WE LIVE IN A "WORLD" THAT IS SPIRITUALLY HOSTILE.**

Paul calls the present "world" or "age" (Gr. "aion," which means the "order or system of the world,") "evil." The word "evil" (Gr. "poneron" Gal. 1:4) is emphatic meaning "with all its evils."<sup>3</sup> This "age" is a system that is against "God" and promotes evil, lawlessness, and unbelief. This means trials will come upon people. The result of all this harms people actively and passively. God's Word states, "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ." (Col. 2:8). Life is not "fair" because the world's system solicits individuals to satisfy physical, emotional, mental and spiritual needs in ways that are contrary to God's will and plan for mankind.

#### **7. BECAUSE THE "DAY" IN WHICH WE LIVE IS SPIRITUALLY HOSTILE.**

Paul writes, "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day...." (Eph. 6:13). Life is unfair because the day in which we live has so many evil influences against those who want to live and teach righteousness.

#### **8. BECAUSE CHRISTIANS ARE IN A DAILY SPIRITUAL BATTLE.**

Paul writes, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." (Eph. 6:12). "The term 'heavenly places' (Eph. 1:3; 1:20; 2:6; 3:10; 6:12) is not the same as 'heaven,' for in one instance Paul speaks of 'spiritual hosts of wickedness' in the heavenly places, (Eph. 6:12). Heavenly places implies the unseen, spiritual world beyond our physical senses. It is the region where the most difficult, yet authentic, Christian discipline is lived out, the world of decisions, attitudes, temptations, and commitments. It is the battleground of good and evil."<sup>4</sup> Satan, who is in the heavens (Eph. 2:2) is trying to rob believers of the spiritual blessings God has given them, (Eph. 1:3).<sup>5</sup> This makes life unfair.

#### **9. BECAUSE GODLY PEOPLE ARE TARGETS.**

Paul has stated, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution," (2 Tim. 3:12). Paul mentions that following and living godly doctrine caused persecutions and afflictions, (2 Tim. 3:10-11). Our Lord Himself stated that the world "hates" (John 17:14; 15:18-19,23) those who follow Jesus and His Word, (John 17:6-8,17). This causes trials for Christians.

#### **10. BECAUSE THE CLOSER WE GET TO THE END TIMES, LIFE WILL GET MORE DIFFICULT.**

Paul writes, "...Know this, that in the last days, perilous times will come..." (2 Tim. 3:1). "Perilous" (Gr. "chalepos") means "grievous" and describes life with moral corruption. This

means that the conditions in life will progressively get worse and be more difficult to endure. Troublesome times are coming that will try people and be dangerous for God's servants. This brutal description springs from the inversion or the turning upside down of men's hearts. People will love self more than God, (2 Tim. 3:2,4). "Love suffers six tragic perversions in Paul's description: (1.) people will be lovers of themselves, (2.) lovers of money, (3.) without love, (4.) not lovers of the good, (5.) lovers of pleasure, and (6.) rather than lovers of God. When love of God is replaced with love of self, all sorts of vices inevitably follows."<sup>6</sup> Life is unfair because life is getting more difficult to live properly.

### **11. BECAUSE PEOPLE ARE GETTING WORSE AND WORSE.**

Paul has stated, "But evil men and impostors will grow worse and worse, deceiving and being deceived," (2 Tim. 3:13). As people in the world get worse and worse, they will deceive and mislead others, and evil will intensify. Evil and evil men do not stagnate. Literally evil will advance to the worse. Evil will intensify and even accelerate as man's knowledge and abilities increase. These tools help increase, refine, advance, and create new evils. Because evil is getting more intense, the results from that evil will be more intense. This will bring trials to people.

### **12. BECAUSE SATAN HAS TEMPORARY REIGN OF THE WORLD.**

Paul states that Satan is in control to some degree of this world, (2 Cor. 4:3-4). John also wrote, "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one." (1 John 5:19). This means "Satan" tries to use the world's system to control people in order: (1.) to bring about disobedience, (2.) to fulfill the lust of the flesh, (3.) to fulfill the desires of the flesh and the mind, and (4.) to capitalize on people's wrath, (Eph. 2:2-3). Life is not fair because of Satan has so much control of the world.

### **13. BECAUSE OF THE CURSE ON CREATION.**

God created a perfect world, however, the first man and woman disobeyed God's directives. Life is not "fair" because God placed a curse on all of creation due to Adam and Eve's disobedience, and now life is a struggle, (Gen. 3:17-19). God's Word states, "For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption... For we know that the whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now." (Romans 8:18-24).

### **14. BECAUSE OF WICKED PEOPLE.**

Every individual is capable of terrible wickedness because of indwelling sin, (Rom. 5:12; Gen. 8:21). Solomon, the wisest man on earth stated, "The heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live," (Ecc. 9:3); and "...the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil," (Ecc. 8:11). The apostle Paul stated, "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived," (2 Tim. 3:13). Life is not "fair" because each one of us is capable of the worst acts of evil toward others.

**Conclusion:** Jesus Christ has taken care of all fourteen of these factors that make life "unfair." He delivered us from all these things, gave us a way to live within all these things, and gave us a new future that will replace all these things.

#### **Notes:**

<sup>1</sup>Genesis, Derek Kidner, Downer's Grove: Inter-varsity, 1967, p. 84.

<sup>2</sup>The Bible Knowledge Commentary, John Walvoord and Roy Zuck, Wheaton: Victor, 1985, p. 997.

<sup>3</sup>The Epistle of St. Paul to the Galatians, J. B. Lightfoot, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1978, p. 75.

<sup>4</sup>Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, Herbert Lockyer, Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1986, p. 345.

<sup>5</sup>The Bible Knowledge Commentary, John Walvoord and Roy Zuck, Wheaton: Victor, 1983, p. 643.

<sup>6</sup>1 & 2 Timothy and Titus, R. Kent Hughes and Bryan Chapell, Wheaton: Crossway Books, 2000, p. 222.