

What's Wrong with God's Behavior?

There are **four haunting questions** that come across the minds of people, no matter what race or religion.

- #1 — Will God send people to hell, that live in remote areas of the world, who have not had a chance to hear the gospel?
- #2 — If God is in total control of the world, why doesn't He stop all the violence?
- #3 — Does God do anything other than watch me suffer?
- #4 — After all, why was I born?

#1 — Will God send people to hell, that live in remote areas of the world, who have not had a chance to hear the gospel?

The best way to answer that is through the Word of God, which is our basic walking command.

There are four key words we need to focus on, **preach, baptize, teach** and **witness**.

Matthew 24:14 reads, "*And this gospel of the kingdom will be **preached** in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.*"

Matthew 28:19-20 reads, "*Go and make disciples of all nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and **teaching** them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*"

But then the instruction is a little more clear, describing where this is to happen. Acts 1:8, "*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my **witnesses** in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.*"

Yet, that does not answer the question, "what about those who have not heard?" Romans 1:18-22 reads, "*The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people,*

*who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—**have been clearly seen, being understood** from what has been made, so that people are without excuse. For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.*

The responsibility of peaching, teaching, baptizing and witnessing is our job — yet — it has been God's design to reveal Himself to those in all parts of the world.

#2 - Why doesn't God stop all the violence in the world?

The best answer is, "God didn't start the violence." Satan entered the hearts of all mankind and he is the one who causes riots, violence and wickedness."

Romans 1:28-32, "*Just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done.*"

James 4:1-2, "*What causes fights and quarrels among you? Don't they come from your desires that battle within you? You desire but do not have, so you kill. You covet but you cannot get what you want, so you quarrel and fight.*"

That was a straight up answer. God does not condone violence, fighting and wars. **Mankind has plunged himself into greed and jealousy**, by taking what is not his to take and hating other people.



Volunteer Workers

**EL Dorado Facility Bible Studies
have already begun!
Match2 (M2) Mentoring will begin
as soon as we have availability.**

**Administrative Assistant — Amber Hoffman
316-321-7284 — extension 22362**

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**Chaplain - Herbie Harris 316-321-7284
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**— or Central Kansas Prison Ministry
Lynn McBride 316-733-1537
Email —director@ckpm.org**

**El Dorado Correctional Facility
P.O .Box 311
El Dorado, KS 67042-0311**

**Hutchinson Correctional Facility
Training is YET to be SCHEDULED**

**Sue Stoecklein for more details.
620-625-7380 - Sue.Stoecklein1@ks.gov**

Winfield Correctional Facility

Training is being scheduled by the chaplain.

**Contact: Chaplain Grady Osborn
Grady.Osborn@ks.gov
Phone 620-705-6026**

Mentoring 4 Success

For more information, contact:

**Tanya Husselman 316-613-7237
or Tanya.Husselman@ks.gov**

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#3 — Does God do anything, other than watch me suffer? That seems like a rude question. In our spiritual minds we respond, “Sure, God loves me and is concerned about me.” Then we quote, Matthew 10:29-31, “*Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered. So don’t be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.*”

Yet when lying in a hospital bed, suffering, praying to God who seems a million miles away and the darkness of the room seems to close in around us, we question if God really cares.

Matthew 8:16-17, “*When evening had come, they brought to Him many who were demon-possessed. And He cast out the spirits with a word, and healed all who were sick, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Isaiah the prophet, saying: ‘He Himself took our infirmities, and bore our sicknesses.’*”

1 Peter 2: 21 & 25, “*For to this you were called, because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that you should follow His steps. — For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.*”

That is the root of our problem and the answer is found in the question, “Have you gone astray? If you

Match2 (M2) Visitation Schedule

Match2 Mentoring will begin as soon as possible, depending on Covid-19 Regulations from the State of Kansas, Kansas Department of Corrections and El Dorado Facility.

**Watch for a
letter from me
and email. Lynn**



have, then return to the Shepherd.

God does not cause us to suffer, just to see us squirm. Romans 5:3-4 reads, "We also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope."

#4 – Why was I born? What should I be doing today and this year that I have not done?

We are here for one purpose and one purpose only, to glorify God and praise Him!

Most people live as if pleasure is the basis of life. As we have already noted, our major job is to make disciples (students) for the Kingdom.

Psalms 100:1-5, is the reason for our existence. "Shout for joy to the LORD, all the earth. Worship the LORD with gladness; come before him with joyful songs. Know that the LORD is God. It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, the sheep of his pasture. -- For the LORD is good and his love endures forever; his faithfulness continues through all generations."

Bottom line: There is nothing wrong with God's behavior, it is us, as God's creation who are disobedient and mis-behaving. **You and I were born to serve the Lord, end of discussion.**

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Thumbing Your Nose

Glenn Lygrisse

Bible teacher at his church and online devotional thoughts. Glenn is also part of the Match2 mentoring and former president of Central Kansas Prison Ministry.

Verse: He (God) said to me, "Have you seen this, son of man? ---- Must they also fill the land with violence and continually provoke Me to anger? Look at them putting the branch to their nose! Therefore I will deal with them in anger; I will not look on them with pity or spare them. Although they shout in My ears, I will not listen to them."

Ezekiel 8:17 & 18 (short phrase omitted--parens mine) NIV

Comment: While I omitted a specific phrase that mentioned Judah, the comment is relevant for our world, the entire world, today.

It is very plain that our world is filled with violence. While it is true there are pockets of peace, this is opposite of general peace with pockets of violence.

The other phrase about the branch to the nose may seem strange. Allow me to summarize many commentators and put this in common vernacular, even if rather crude. This would be the same as saying they are "thumbing their noses at God." This total rejection of and defiance of God, will not bring them eternal peace--just the opposite.

It now becomes our role to warn them of their impending "reward."

Prayer thought: Pray that the Holy Spirit will convict many of their rebellion and sin and they will turn to Jesus for salvation.

Your Monthly Support

It is your monthly financial support that keeps this ministry going.

Now after the Covid-19, Bible studies and Sunday services are operating again.

Lives are being changed as our 140 volunteers go into many facilities, teaching the Word of God.



Use Enclosed Envelope

Pastor, are you serious? Do you really want me to work with “those” people?

When the 120 were about to be gathered in the upper room, to wait for the power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus told them, “Do not leave Jerusalem, but wait for the gift my Father promised, which you have heard me speak about. For John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.” (Acts 1:4-5)

Then He said, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Here are the four areas of ministry, that they and us are commanded to accomplish God’s plan.

- Jerusalem — Close family and friends
- Judea — People around us at work and stores
- Samaria — **THOSE PEOPLE**, hated by the Jews
- Ends of the earth — Mission fields

The only problem, the apostles did not leave Jerusalem quickly, but lingered.

So Acts 8:1 reads, “On that day (when Stephen was stoned) a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were *scattered* throughout Judea and Samaria.”

Guess what? Finally, they left their “close family and friends” and went to “those people.” Later, they headed to other parts of the world.

What is the lesson for us today? Churches want to “go to the ends of the earth” and miss the ministry to family, friends and “those people.”



In today’s society, who do we see as “those people?” The answer is in Matthew 25:43, “I was a stranger and you did not invite me in, I needed clothes and you did not clothe me, I was sick and in prison and you did not look after me.”

When you watch the 10 o’clock news tonight and you see someone arrested, having gone to jail, just remember what most people think, “I wish someone would do something with ‘those people.’”

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