

#### **Week Four: Does Everything Happen For a Reason...**

**Statement...we tackle a saying often quoted by people at the worst times, "Everything Happens for a Reason". At a loss for words, people say it to offer comfort but is the saying true? Or, biblical?**

**GOD BIGGER THAN HIS PLANS...whatever our view of God's will is, God is bigger than that! In working out HIS PLAN, what if God tweaks/adjusts it to reach his wayward people. God revises/expands his plan if, for no other reason, than we fail to do our part.**

**WHY THINGS HAPPEN...many things happen for no apparent reason. Events occur that make no sense. Life can feel random. The world is chaotic. We long for certainty but life is unpredictable. We know why some things happen-like crime, marital affairs-just the result of SIN, the misuse of free will. Christianity doesn't ask us to pretend that everything is God's will. The reason most things happen isn't because God willed them but because of the foolish choices that humans make.**

**THE ANSWERS WE WANT...in a crisis, knowing his will isn't an idle topic. We want explanations, a little clarity, but the phrase, "Everything happens for a reason" is a bad explanation. It sounds wise; it seems to remove fate. The word, "reason" is mystifying. Is God's will a hidden secret that God won't divulge? No! God isn't secretive. God takes no delight in confusion. Is God only present if bad things don't occur? Why does anything at all happen? Things happen for a reason but not for the reasons we may assume.**

**SOMETHING IS ALWAYS HAPPENING...God can redeem what he didn't cause. It is wise to discern what fits his character, what reflects his nature. The saying "everything happens for a reason" is a half-baked half-truth; it leads to passive resignation. We throw up our hands and give up just when God wants us to endure.**

**BEHIND THE SCENES...God doesn't dictate events from a BIG DESK in the sky. Behind the scenes, in mysterious/wondrous ways, he is at work, not deciding all we do but using what happens for his own purpose.**

