

The World Is Groaning

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We live in a time where the elements of hell seem to be pouring into our Nations, Societies, Communities, Neighborhoods and Families. The forces of Satan seem to be attacking on all fronts of our humanity. We even see this with the increase in natural calamities from Earthquakes, Tornados and Tsunami's.

It is a time where we truly hear the groaning of the earth and its inhabitants. They cry out for a solution, an answer and deliverance. They look to the physical and spiritual. They look for an answer in knowledge, riches and power. They look to technology. They look to the Church. Do we have an answer for their problem or are we also part of the problem?

How did we get here?

God's original plan Genesis 1-2: God created a perfect habitation for man (Garden of Eden)

Their needs were met

They had intimate fellowship with God daily walking with Him.

God gave them dominion over all He had created

Romans 5:12- one man's sin entered the world, and death through sin.

Romans 8: 22- Whole creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now

Man's dominion was corrupted; he failed to properly care for earth and fellow humans

Human corruption caused war and the destruction of creation and man

Consequences of sin:

- Poverty
- Greed
- Selfishness
- Grief
- Pain
- Jealousy

Poverty:

In spite of the World Progress, the world is inflicted with abject poverty as the following analysis shows us:

At a poverty Line of \$1.25 a day, the revised estimates find

- 1.4 billion people live at this poverty line or below
- This is more than the previous estimate of 984 million with the older measure of a \$1 a day in 2004
- In 1981, the estimated number of poor was also revised upward, from 1.5 billion to 1.9 billion

The World Bank notes that "the incidence of poverty in the world is higher than the past estimates have suggested. The main reason is that (previous data) had implicitly underestimated the cost of living in most developing countries."

The data also does not reflect the recent global food crisis and rising cost of energy, which is feared will bring another 100 million into poverty.

Prostitution:

One of the offshoots of poverty is prostitution. Poverty has driven many women and children into this horrendous flesh trade. It is estimated that 4 million women and girls worldwide are bought and sold each year -- either into marriage, prostitution or slavery. Approximately 1 million children enter the sex trade every year. (Although most are girls; boys are also involved.)

According to UNICEF, 10,000 girls annually enter Thailand from neighboring countries and end up as sex workers. And between 5,000 and 7,000 Nepali girls are transported across the border to India each year and end up in commercial sex work in Mumbai, Bombay or New Delhi.

Although the greatest number of children working as prostitutes is in Asia, Eastern European children from Eastern European countries, such as Russia, Poland, Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic, are increasingly vulnerable.

There are also special social and cultural reasons for children entering into the sex trade in different regions of the world. In many cases, children from industrialized countries enter the sex trade because they are fleeing abusive homes. In countries of Eastern and Southern Africa, children who became orphans as a result of AIDS frequently lack the protection of caregivers and are, therefore, more vulnerable to sexual abuse and exploitation. In South Asia, traditional practices that perpetuate the low status of women and girls in society are at the base of this problem. Children exploited sexually

are prone to sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS. In addition, because of the conditions in which they live, children can become malnourished, and develop feelings of guilt, inadequacy and depression.

Natural calamities:

In this year itself we had many major natural disasters, which have displaced many people and many have died.

1) Japan – Earthquake (8.9) and Tsunami – March 11 2011

16,477 dead, 4,787 missing, 5,888 injured

2) New Zealand Christ Church – Earthquake – Feb 22 2011

160 dead

3) China – Hailstorm – April 18 2011

17 dead, 118 injured

4) Australia – Flood – Jan 10 2011

22 dead

5) Brazil – Mudslide – Jan 17 2011

500 dead, 13, 500 homeless

6) Joplin Missouri – Tornadoes – May 2011

153 dead

Destruction of houses, businesses and farms 14 miles long.

The World is Groaning:

Thoughts on Romans 8:20-28

Romans 8:28 we know all creation groans and travails together in pain until now

Romans 8:20-21: The condition of the Christian was one of bondage and servitude, an imperfect and humiliating state with pain, sorrow and death. When Christians receive new life in Christ, old things pass away and all things become new but the physical earth in entirety and those not renewed in Christ continue to groan (not only because

of the fallen state in the world and their lives but because (Ecc. 3:1) God has put eternity in the hearts of man yet they cannot understand it and so groan.

Groan: in this passage the Greek is groan together in condition of sorrow that the whole world united in until now

Travail in pain together: intense agony/extreme suffering of misery and death, every age experiencing the same thing.

The Greek word here for travail is only used in the NT, also in Gal. 4:19,27, Rev. 12:2. The kindred noun (birth pang) in Matt., Mk, 1 Thess.5:3. Also see Mk 13:9, Acts. 2:24

Together refer to a common longing of all the elements of creation, not to the longing in common with God's children. Nature resembles a bride, fully attired for marriage, and saw the bridegroom die. She still stands with her fresh crown and bridal dress but her eyes are filled with tears.

Travail: the whole world groaning for deliverance, many not understand its trouble or even what it wants but is fallen, frustrated, and longs for deliverance (new heaven and earth where in dwells righteousness 2 Peter 3:13)

The Answer is God working through the Church!

1. When God saw darkness He brought Light!

Gen 1:1-5

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form, and void; and darkness was on the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. 4 And God saw the light, that it was good; and God divided the light from the darkness. NKJV

2. God is moved by the groans of his people

Judg 2:18-19

"For the Lord was moved to pity by their groaning because of those who oppressed them and harassed them." NKJV

Ex 2:24-25

So God heard their groaning, and God remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob. 25 And God looked upon the children of Israel, and God acknowledged them. NKJV

Ex 3:7-8

7 And the Lord said: "I have surely seen the oppression of My people who are in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. 8 So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites NKJV

3. When they needed a savior He sent His Son Jesus

Matt 1:21

And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." NKJV

4. He groans within himself to bring life in death

John 11:38-39

Then Jesus, again groaning in Himself, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. NKJV

5. He brought power to the powerless

Acts 1:8

But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." NKJV

Rom 8:23

"Not only that, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body" NKJV

6. Now He sends us His church

James 1:27

27 Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their trouble, and to keep oneself unspotted from the world. NKJV

Mark 16:15-18

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. 17 And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; 18 they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." NKJV

Matt 10:42

42 And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." NKJV

Jude 22-23

And on some have compassion, making a distinction; 23 but others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire, hating even the garment defiled by the flesh. NKJV

Since the inception of the church the church was taking care of the poor and the needy. If the same principle is followed by today's church then we can eliminate the groaning physically and spiritually.

As we might see today it may look to be an impossible task.

When an American preacher visiting Mother Teresa, he asked her a question "mother, there is so much need, where can we start?" She said "young man you start with one child and change his destiny and you have one less problem."

If you think of the whole world we might give up. If everyone thinks about one We can certainly make a change.

We can make a change, We can make a difference. Because with God all things are possible!