

THE GOD WHO DOES NOT ACT

Romans 2:4

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(Or at least that's what we think sometimes)

A. The Complaint

B. God's Seeming Inactivity with Regards to Our Body

C. God's Seeming Inactivity When Injustice Occurs

D. His Guiding Principles

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The Complaint

**Why do the wicked live and become old,
Yes, become mighty in power?**

JOB 21:7

**Their descendants are established with them in
their sight, And their offspring before their eyes.**

JOB 21:8

**Their houses are safe from fear,
Neither is the rod of God upon them.**

JOB 21:9

**Why do You stand afar off, O LORD? Why do
You hide in times of trouble?**

PSALM 10:1

**The wicked in his pride persecutes the poor let them
be caught in the plots which they have devise**

PSALM 10:2

**For the wicked boasts of his heart's desire; He
blesses the greedy and renounces the LORD.**

PSALM 10:3

**The wicked in his proud countenance does not
seek God; God is in none of his thoughts.**

PSALM 10:4

**His ways are always prospering; Your
judgments are far above, out of his sight;**

PSALM 10:5

**Truly God is good to Israel, To such as are
pure in heart.**

PSALM 73:1

**But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled;
My steps had nearly slipped.**

PSALM 73:2

**For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw
the prosperity of the wicked.**

PSALM 73:3

**For there are no pains in their death, But their
strength is firm.**

PSALM 73:4

**They are not in trouble as other men, Nor are
they plagued like other men.**

PSALM 73:5

**Awake! Why do You sleep, O Lord? Arise! Do
not cast us off forever.**

PSALM 44:23

**Why do You hide Your face, And forget our
affliction and our oppression?**

PSALM 44:24

**Righteous are You, O LORD, when I plead with
You; Yet let me talk with You about Your
judgments. Why does the way of the wicked
prosper? Why are those happy who deal so
treacherously?**

JEREMIAH 12:1

**You have planted them, yes, they have taken
root; They grow, yes, they bear fruit. You are
near in their mouth But far from their mind.**

JEREMIAH 12:2

The Complaint

God's Seeming Inactivity with Regards to Our Body

LET'S A LOOK AT TWO AREAS OF HIS SEEMING INACTION IN OUR LIVES

1. Our Bodies

2. Injustice

**Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though
our outward man is perishing, yet the inward
man is being renewed day by day.**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:16

**Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood
cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does
corruption inherit incorruption.**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:50

**Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all
sleep, but we shall all be changed**

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,

2 CORINTHIANS 4:17

While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 CORINTHIANS 4:18

For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:1

**For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be
clothed with our habitation which is from
heaven,**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:2

**If indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be
found naked.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:3

**For we who are in this tent groan, being
burdened, not because we want to be
unclothed, but further, clothed, that mortality
may be swallowed up by life.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:4

Now He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:5

**So we are always confident, knowing that
while we are at home in the body we are
absent from the Lord.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:6

For we walk, by faith, not by sight.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:7

**We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to
be absent from the body and to be present
with the Lord.**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:5:8

The Complaint

God's Seeming Inactivity with Regards to Our Body

God's Seeming Inactivity When Injustice Occurs

**Or do you despise the riches of His goodness,
forbearance, and longsuffering, not knowing
that the goodness of God leads you to
repentance?**

ROMANS 2:4

**For we ourselves were also once foolish,
disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts
and pleasures, living in malice and envy,
hateful and hating one another.**

TITUS 3:3

**But when the kindness and the love of God
our Savior toward man appeared,**

TITUS 3:4

**Not by works of righteousness which we have
done, but according to His mercy He saved us,
through the washing of regeneration and
renewing of the Holy Spirit,**

TITUS 3:5

LONGSUFFERING

**The Lord is not slack concerning His promise,
as some count slackness, but is longsuffering
toward us, not willing that any should perish
but that all should come to repentance.**

2 PETER 3:9

Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'

EZEKIEL 33:11

**But love your enemies, do good, and lend,
hoping for nothing in return; and your reward
will be great, and you will be sons of the Most
High. For He is kind to the unthankful and evil.**

LUKE 6:35

When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, “Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance that leads into life.”

ACTS 11:18

**And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but
be gentle to all, able to teach, patient,**

2 TIMOTHY 2:24

**In humility correcting those who are in
opposition, if God perhaps will grant them
repentance, so that they may know the truth,**

2 TIMOTHY 2:25

**And that they may come to their senses and
escape the snare of the devil, having been
taken captive by him to do his will.**

2 TIMOTHY 2:26

**Who desires all men to be saved and to come
to the knowledge of the truth.**

1 TIMOTHY 2:4

PROPITIATION

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

1 JOHN 2:2

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14

And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:15

Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:16

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things (your old dead position!) have passed away; behold, all things have becoming new.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

**Now all things are of God, who has reconciled
us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has
given us the ministry of reconciliation,**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:18

That is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:19

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:20

**For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin
for us, that we might become the
righteousness of God in Him.**

2 CORINTHIANS 5:21

**Therefore submit yourselves to every
ordinance of man for the Lord's sake,
whether to the king as supreme,**

1 PETER 2:13

**Or to governors, as to those who are sent by
Him for the punishment of evildoers and for
the praise of those who do good.**

1 PETER 2:14

Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.

ROMANS 13:1

**Therefore whoever resists the authority resists
the ordinance of God, and those who resist
will bring judgment on themselves.**

ROMANS 13:2

For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to evil. Do you want to be unafraid of the authority? Do what is good, and you will have praise from the same.

ROMANS 13:3

For he is God's minister to you for good. But if you do evil, be afraid; for he does not bear the sword in vain; for he is God's minister, an avenger to execute wrath on him who practices evil.

ROMANS 13:4

**Then He spoke a parable to them, that men
always ought to pray and not lose heart,**

LUKE 18:1

Saying: “There was in a certain city a judge who did not fear God nor regard man.

LUKE 18:2

Now there was a widow in that city; and she came to him, saying, 'Get justice for me from my adversary.'

LUKE 18:3

**And he would not for a while; but afterward he
said within himself, 'Though I do not fear God
nor regard man,**

LUKE 18:4

**Yet because this widow troubles me I will
avenge her, lest by her continual coming she
weary me.’ ”**

LUKE 18:5

**Then the Lord said, “Hear what the unjust
judge said.**

LUKE 18:6

**And shall God not avenge His own elect who
cry out day and night to Him, though He bears
long with them?**

LUKE 18:7

**I tell you that He will avenge them speedily.
Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes,
will He really find faith on the earth?”**

LUKE 18:8

The Complaint

God's Seeming Inactivity with Regards to Our Body

God's Seeming Inactivity When Injustice Occurs

His Guiding Principles

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1. The 'Church Age' Has two bookends.

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The First Bookend is Acts 15:13-17

**And after they had become silent, James
answered, saying, “Men and brethren,
listen to me:**

ACTS 15:13

**Simon has declared how God at the first
visited the Gentiles to take out of them a
people for His name.**

ACTS 15:14

**And with this the words of the prophets agree,
just as it is written:**

ACTS 15:15

**‘After this I will return And will rebuild the
tabernacle of David, which has fallen down; I
will rebuild its ruins, And I will set it up;**

ACTS 15:16

**So that the rest of mankind may seek the
LORD, Even all the Gentiles who are called by
My name, Says the LORD who does all these
things.'**

ACTS 15:17

His Guiding Principles

1. The 'Church Age' Has two bookends.

The First Bookend is Acts 15:13-17

The Second Bookend is Romans 11:25-26

For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, that blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles has come in.

ROMANS 11:25

And so all Israel will be saved, as it is written

ROMANS 11:26

His Guiding Principles

1. The 'Church Age' Has two bookends.

The First Bookend is Acts 15:13-17

The Second Bookend is Romans 11:25-26

2. What doesn't kill us will keep us useful.

**But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that
the excellence of the power may be of God and
not of us.**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;

2 CORINTHIANS 4:8

**Persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not
destroyed—**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:9

**Always carrying about in the body the dying of the
Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may be
manifested in our body.**

2 CORINTHIANS 4:10

His Guiding Principles

1. The 'Church Age' Has two bookends.

The First Bookend is Acts 15:13-17

The Second Bookend is Romans 11:25-26

2. What doesn't kill us will keep us useful.

3. Be ready to forgive the "walking dead".

For the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if One died for all, then all died;

2 CORINTHIANS 5:14

And He died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for Him who died for them and rose again.

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