

**September 11, 2019**  
**“Why do bad things happen to good people?”**  
**David Self**

*<sup>43</sup> “You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor and hate your enemy. <sup>44</sup> But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, <sup>45</sup> so that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. For He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. <sup>46</sup> For if you love those who love you, what reward will you have? Don’t even the tax collectors do the same? <sup>47</sup> And if you greet only your brothers, what are you doing out of the ordinary? Don’t even the Gentiles do the same? <sup>48</sup> Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”* Matthew 5: 43-48

I. Why should ‘good people’ be exempt from bad things? (43-45)

II. What are the sources of ‘bad things’?

A. Natural Calamity *“For He causes His sun to rise on the evil and the good and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.”* (45) (disasters, illness)

B. Self-induced Calamity *“But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desires. <sup>15</sup> Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.”* (James 1:14-15)

C. Bad things caused by Evil People *“You are blessed when they insult and persecute you and falsely say every kind of evil against you because of Me. <sup>12</sup> Be glad and rejoice, because your reward is great in heaven. For that is how they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”* (Matthew 5:11-12)

III. How do Christians respond to bad things happening to them?

A. Acknowledge the pain *“our affliction that took place in Asia: we were completely overwhelmed—beyond our strength—so that we even despaired of life.”* (2 Corinthians 1:8b)

- B. Share the pain “*we don’t want you to be unaware, brothers,*” (2 Corinthians 1:8a)  
(openness, counseling, prayer and Biblical truth are all parts of the healing process)**
- C. Move past the pain “*Brothers, I do not consider myself to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and reaching forward to what is ahead, <sup>14</sup> I pursue as my goal the prize promised by God’s heavenly call in Christ Jesus.*”  
(Philippians 1:13-14)**

**You can follow David on Twitter @DavidJSelf or visit our website if you miss a lesson or for more information at: <http://houstonfirst.org> and search Highpoint. You may also sign up for our weekly email list @ <http://eepurl.com/gFg9X>.**

**Upcoming High Point Speakers:**

**David Self –9/11, 9/18, 9/25; 10/16, 10/23, 10/30; 11/6; 12/11**

**Skyler Womack - 10/2, 10/9; 12/4**

**Malcolm Marshall – 11/13**

**Tim Young – 11/20**

**Highpoint Holidays**

**11/27; 12/18, 12/25; 1/1**