Daily Devotion #166

**A Puny God**

**Romans 9:20 (NASB)** *“Who are you, O man, who answers back to God? The thing molded will not say to the molder, ‘Why did you make me like this?’, will it?”*

Let me be clear. God is not a puny God. I had a conversation with someone recently who put that emphasis on God. The person was struggling with this question: “If God knows all things, then why did and does He allow evil in the world?” That is probably the most asked question in the world about God from those who care to think about it. This person’s conclusion was logical to them, which was that God must be terribly arrogant and stuck on Himself. This person also wanted to know why God was like that and why He didn’t just fix everything in the beginning. Several times in our conversation he said that God is the problem – that God is at fault for all the world’s troubles.

To have a reaction like that is to misunderstand God and to make oneself better than God. If a person reads the Bible from cover to cover with a heart to see God for who He is, they will see a God who loves His creation incredibly. They will see that God did, in fact, create a perfect universe and two perfect people. He lovingly placed them in a paradise where they had no wants or needs because He provided them everything.

But it was those two people who caused the problem. They sinned against God. They rebelled against Him and what He told them not to do, which was to not eat from the forbidden tree. True, they were tempted by Satan to do so, but they took it upon themselves to perform the act of rebellion against God. The critics want to know why God allowed that to happen? If He knows all things, He knew they were going to do what they did, so why did He allow it to happen. To them, this makes God the guilty one, the one at fault.

There are two problems with that line of thinking. First, the critics are trying to understand the mind of an infinite, perfect God. That is impossible from a finite mind. To try to comprehend all that the Creator God has done and decides to do is outside the scope of what man is able to understand. Also trying to understand leads to the second part of the problem - man wants to tell God what to do. He wants God to submit to his understanding about how things should be done. Basically, he wants God to give up His infinite mind and control to man’s will and what man thinks is best.

Who wants a god like that? Who would want to worship a god who is under the control of man and works in submission to what man can understand? That is no definition of a god. Ever since Adam and Eve sinned against their Creator, man has been trying to take over God’s role. But man sees one infinitesimal part of all God sees. It is like standing on one side of a wall and understanding what is on the other side of the wall without ever seeing it.

The church in Rome was struggling with the same questions about God and His dealings with Israel. They didn’t understand God’s plan for them. To them, God was not being fair in choosing some for salvation and not others. It is the same problem my friend has when trying to understand the mind of God. It is impossible.

To answer his critics, Paul says our verse for today by asking how the clay can ask the potter why it was made as it was. Logically being created means there is someone greater doing the creating. Therefore, if the created being is to understand the mind of the creator, they must also have the ability to be the creator, which is exactly what Satan thought. He believed he could be God, so he rebelled.

Beloved, God loves you. He is not obligated to tell you why He does what He does. That makes Him God. We are His creation, not the other way around. If you submit to Him as Creator, you will be blessed, and it will be awesome. However, the alternate is also true. You must choose what you believe.