

**Lecture 8: Themes from Basic Bible Studies (III)**

*Father, we want to praise You for this day, we thank You for the rain which has watered the earth. We thank You that You are so kind and gracious that You send Your rain and Your sun both on those who are redeemed by You and justified, but also on the unbeliever. Our Father, we pray that we may learn to have that same perfection of character that You have, we may have the same compassion for those who are outside Your kingdom. As we think together about Francis Schaeffer, we thank You Father for the compassion You gave him and for his readiness to be constantly thinking about how to reach out to the unbeliever. We pray Father that we may, like him, reflect that longing of You to extend Your kingdom, to bring people to Yourself. So be with us, Father, and teach us we pray, in Jesus' name, Amen.*

**Introduction and Review:** Continuing the second major theme of the nature of humanity (outline point III-B), Professor Barrs follows the first point of human uniqueness in the image of God with an examination of the doctrine of the fall.

**Themes from Basic Bible Studies (III)***I. Origins**II. General Emphasis**III. Themes**A. The character of God**B. The nature of humanity**1. Created in the image of God**2. The goodness of life before the fall (Genesis 3:8)**a. Man's harmony with nature, God, himself**b. Emphasis on the historical truth of the biblical account of the world before the fall**3. The present abnormality of life (Genesis 3:17-19)**a. The term "abnormality"**b. The five-pointed curse**1) Man's relationship with God was broken**2) Man's relationship with himself was broken - spiritual, physical**3) Man's relationship with others was broken**4) Man's relationship with nature was broken - loss of dominion**5) The universe itself became abnormal (Romans 8:20-22)**c. The apologetic "benefits" of the doctrine of the fall**1) Realistic view of the world**2) An answer to the problem of evil**a) God is not responsible, but rather human sin**3) Helps us speak to those who suffer - allows compassion**4) Avoids over-emphasis of judgment on earth**d. Suffering and the Christian**1) Jesus and Lazarus**a) "Snorted in anger and distress"**b) We can side with God against the abnormality**2) Consistent with God's sovereignty**a) God takes the work of Satan and sinful humans and uses for His purposes - the crucifixion, Paul's "thorn"**3) The Christian response to suffering**a) Pray for deliverance*

- b) Pray for the glory of God - even if no deliverance
- c) Avoid the idea that evil is good
- d) Put hope in final deliverance

Summary: It is wrong to say that suffering is itself good because God may use it for His purpose; growth comes as we learn to trust Him when weak, praising Him not FOR the pain but IN the pain, knowing that He is greater.