

# WHAT HAVE I DONE TO DESERVE THIS?



*i.e. God owes me an explanation!*

Who ever said that life in this world is fair?

Who ever promised quick rewards to the guys with the white hats?

*But doesn't scripture say that "all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose."?*

Yes, scripture says it, and it's true. All things work together for good to those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

All things.

Even the "bad" things.

But at the time it happens, who can see good in a tragedy?

*So what do I do with the anguish I feel since this evil thing has shattered my life?*

From the heart of a man of faith who also walked through a dark valley:

***Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my pleas for mercy!  
In your faithfulness answer me, in your righteousness!***

***Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.***

***For the enemy has pursued my soul; he has crushed my life to the ground;  
he has made me sit in darkness like those long dead.***

***Therefore my spirit faints within me; my heart within me is appalled.***

***I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that you have done;***

***I ponder the work of your hands. I stretch out my hands to you; my soul thirsts for you like a parched land. Selah***

***Answer me quickly, O Lord! My spirit fails! Hide not your face from me, lest I be like those who go down to the pit.***

***Let me hear in the morning of your steadfast love, for in you I trust. Make me know the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.***

***Deliver me from my enemies, O Lord! I have fled to you for refuge.***

***Teach me to do your will, for you are my God!  
Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!***

***For your name's sake, O Lord, preserve my life!  
In your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble!***

***And in your steadfast love you will cut off my enemies,  
and you will destroy all the adversaries of my soul,  
for I am your servant.***

**Psalm 143**



*Prayer: Yes Lord, help us, help us when our anguish is pursuing us, won't let us go. We share our cry with the psalmist...Hear us, bring us your mercy. Rescue us from darkness, from despair, from giving up, from the shock and disappointment of bad things that happen to us, from the feeling we are being dealt injustice and don't deserve what's happening to us. Lord we come to you knowing that you have not, will not abandon us. We do thirst for you, not only for your rescue....but for your very presence, for your very will, for goodness to come from this despair. Yes, show us your face in this, be with us in this. Lift our souls up... and yes, yes preserve our lives and lift us from these troubles as we sing of your love and goodness as the darkness recedes, Amen.*

Message: Richard E. Bieber 2004

Featured Artist: Courtesy of Chris Hopkins at [chrishopkinsart.com](http://chrishopkinsart.com)

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[mmirror.net](http://mmirror.net)

[maranathamirror18@gmail.com](mailto:maranathamirror18@gmail.com)



THE LAMB  
WHO WAS SLAIN  
HAS BEGUN HIS REIGN

586-530-6983