

## Romans 8: 28 – 29

*“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”*

**KEY:** God is not working to make us happy, but to fulfill his **purpose**.

## II. Useless Problems

What kind of mistakes do we commonly make in handling problems?

### Genesis 16: 1 – 3

*“But Sarai and Abram had no children. So Sarai took her maid, an Egyptian girl named Hagar, and gave her to Abram to be his second wife. “Since the Lord has given me no children,” Sarai said, “You may sleep with my servant girl, and her children shall be mine.” And Abram agreed. (This took place ten years after Abram had first arrived in the land of Canaan.)”*

**A. We **fail** to wait patiently for God’s solution.**

**KEY:** When we ask God for something and have to wait, it is a temptation to **take matters** into our own hands and **interfere** with God’s plans.

**B. We **blame** others when our solutions fail.**

## Genesis 3: 12 – 13

<sup>12</sup> *“**The man said**, “The woman you put here with me ... she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”* <sup>13</sup> *Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The **woman said** “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”*

**KEY:** Admit your error and **ask forgiveness**.

**C. We **run** from problems we should face.**

**KEY:** Running away from our problems rarely **solves them**.

### Job 23: 9 – 10

<sup>9</sup> *“His wife said to him, “Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!”* <sup>10</sup> *He replied, “You are talking like a foolish women. Shall we accept good from God, and not trouble?” In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.”*

## Conclusion:

Problem Formula: Problems Are

- **P**redictors
- **R**eminders
- **O**pportunities
- **B**lessings
- **L**essons
- **E**verywhere
- **M**essages
- **S**olvable

# First Church of God

July 8, 2012

## Sermon Outline

Pastor, Robert G. White

## “God’s Purpose with Problems”

James 1: 2 – 8

Introduction:

Review:

- “If you can smile when everything goes wrong ... you must be a repairman!
- “Life is stress and you better like it.”  
-- Anonymous

### Nehemiah 2: 17 – 18

<sup>17</sup> *“Then I said to them, “You see, the trouble we are in: Jerusalem lies in ruins, and its gates have been burned with fire. Come, let us rebuild the wall of Jerusalem, and we will no longer be in disgrace.”* <sup>18</sup> *I also told them about the gracious hand of my God upon me and what the king had said, to me. “They replied, “Let us start re-building.” So they began this good work.”*

## Nehemiah 4: 10 – 11

<sup>10</sup> “Meanwhile, the people in Judah said, “the strength of the laborers is giving out, and there is so much rubble that we cannot rebuild the wall.

<sup>11</sup> Also our enemies said, “Before they know it or see us, we will be right there among them and will kill them and put an end to the work.”

Nehemiah found that people surrounded by their problems do four things:

### 1. Lose their STRENGTH

Verse 10 “ ... the strength of the laborers is giving out.”

### 2. Lose their VISION

Verse 10 “ ... there is so much rubble ...”

### 3. Lose their CONFIDENCE

Verse 10 “ ... we cannot rebuild the wall.”

### 4. Lose their SECURITY

Verse 11 “ ... And our enemies said ...”

## I. Problem Solving

How does God want us to respond to problems (trials)?

## James 1: 2 – 4

<sup>2</sup> “Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, <sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

### A. Realize that problems are

inevitable.

Verse 2 “ ... Whenever you face trials of many kinds.”

## Paul’s Sufferings

### II Corinthians 11: 23 – 28

<sup>23</sup> “Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more, I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, <sup>26</sup> I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my own countrymen, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false brothers. <sup>27</sup> I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked.

<sup>28</sup> Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches.”

**KEY:** Tough times can teach us perseverance.

**B.** Expect to grow as a result of problems.

Verse 3 “because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance.”

**KEY:** God will not leave you alone with your problems; He will stay close and help you grow.

**C.** Trust God for the means to solve the problem.

### John 6:5

“When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, “Where shall we buy bread to these people to eat?”

**KEY:** We can limit what God does in us by assuming what is and what is not possible.

**D.** Trust in God’s sovereign purposes for our life.