

THE MYSTERY OF TRAGEDY PSALM 66: 8-20

"Blessed be God, which hath not turned away my prayer, nor his mercy from me." PSALM 66:20



When we suffer pain and loss, we sometimes ask the question, "If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened?" While the Bible tells us the future of human history, it supplies no specific explanation of the events that take place daily in our lives. Sometimes when tragedy strikes we understand a little, but as a rule we are unable to fathom the mystery of disease or accidents.

Even in times of perplexing trauma, we can hold fast to this faith-sustaining counsel: "Who is among you that feareth the Lord, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the Lord, and stay upon his God." (Isaiah 50:10 KJV)

That's what W.A. Shelton did. The former pastor of the First Methodist Church in Gadsden, Alabama, lost his dearly loved wife to death. Yet he could honestly say to his friend Denson Franklin, "I miss her greatly, but I am on God's team, and He is the quarterback. He calls the plays, and I run where He tells me. He has called the play. I do not understand it, but I shall continue to play on His team.

Are you going through circumstances you don't understand? Cry out to the Lord (Psalm 66:17, 19-20) and continue to trust in His wisdom and goodness. He understands it all and cares for you.

Vernon Grounds

When all things seem to be against you, remember that God is for you.

FIVE STEPS IN LEADING YOUR FAMILY IN DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER TIME

- **1st** Take a few minutes to discuss the Scripture Insight discussion/Application discussion
- **2nd** Ask your family for personal praises *Works of God! Blessings from above*
- **3rd** Take personal prayer requests
 - Needs
 - Concerns
 - Desires
- 4th Personal quiet time of confession and forgiveness
 - •Things I have said
 - •Things others have said
 - •Things I have thought
 - •Things I have done
 - •Things others have done to me

5th - Pray

- •Start by thanking the Lord
- Needs
- Protection
- Provision