

God Loves You

Encouragement from God's Decrees



WEST SOUND COMMUNITY CHURCH

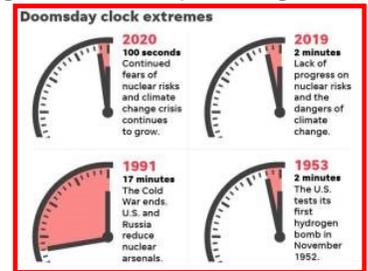
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In 1947, a group of international scientists who had worked on the Manhattan Project, started "The Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists." As leading researchers in the field of atomic energy, they recognized the realities of "dual-use technology." While technology may first be intended to benefit the world, often times it has a dark side. They, of course, were concerned about the destructive energy present in the expanding nuclear technology industry. In 1947, after deliberating over many issues, they set what they called "The Doomsday Clock" to seven minutes before

midnight. Nuclear weapons in the wrong hands could very well lead to the destruction of civilization... and worse.

During subsequent years, members of the prestigious group of scientists surrounding the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists have maintained their research regarding nuclear danger, while expanding their concern to other dual-use technologies like biological studies, cyber studies, and environmental studies. All of these, like nuclear studies, have the very real potential for cataclysmic harm. Before 2020, the Doomsday Clock fluctuated between a low of 2 minutes and a high of 17. On January 23rd, 2020, the clock was set to 100 seconds. While most thought the shortest time 'til doomsday was prompted by the COVID 19 pandemic, the Bulletin's executive chairman said, "the dangerous rivalry and hostility among the superpowers increases the likelihood of nuclear blunder..." Blunder? What!?



Just thinking about this is horrifying. Some studies have declared that 100 Hiroshima-size nuclear weapons, only 0.03% of the entire world's arsenal, could create complete global environmental catastrophe. Add to this the built-in dangers inherent in bio and cyber technologies and one can easily imagine the doomsday the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists community fears.

Of course, we don't have to wait until doomsday. We have already seen the inhumanity unleashed by individuals, groups, tribes, and nations...every time a horror, sometimes a horror of unimaginable, overwhelming, terrifying, wretched evil. So much so that it has promoted the often heard indictment given in the form of a question: If there is a perfectly good God than why does he allow such terrible things to exist? I think this is a good question. However, I think there is a better one? If there is not a perfectly good God than how have we not destroyed ourselves?



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The evidence in support of my question is overwhelmingly stronger than the evidence for the former question. In fact, that we have not destroyed ourselves may just be the greatest evidence we have for a loving and good God.

Such a statement demands that it be tested. We did so two weeks back in our message, God Loves You: Encouragement from His Decisions.

I would like to do so again today in a message we're calling, God Loves You: Encouragement from His Decrees.

In Christian theological language The Decrees of God refer to his eternal purposes. In plain language...God had, has, and ever shall have intentions and a plan for accomplishing the intentions.

There is much to learn from the Decrees of God, but for our purposes today, I'd like to zero in on three simply amazing decrees. They flow from the facts that a perfectly good God would know all and be sovereign over all. He is never out of the loop...never surprised. He is never out of control...he is not disinterested.

First, While God intended to permit sin, he is not sin's creator.

Genesis chapters two and three
Acts 14:16-18
James 1:13-15

Applicational Questions:

Can there be true relationship and fellowship without love?

Can there be love without choice?

Second, While sin is destructive, God intends to overrule sin for the greater good.

Psalms 33:1-22 (esp. 10-12)
Philippians 1:14-21

Third, While sin may incline us to fear the Doomsday Clock, God intends to save us from sin.

2 Peter 3:8-10
Titus 2:11-14
Acts 4:8-12
Acts 16:25-31

