

As we pray over the disaster in Asia, the most important question is not, "Why did this happen?" but instead, "How can I understand what has happened, and how am I going to react to it?"

The answer to these questions are based in scripture.

- 1 Peter 5:6-7 "Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you" We need to realize that we are completely *dependant* on God.
- Psalm 43:1-3 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam and the mountains quake with their surging. Selah." We can *call out to God* during these times and have confidence that He is in control.
- John 15:13 "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends." Do we realize that God calls us to *love each other*, especially in times of difficulty?
- Hebrews 9:27 "Inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once, and after this, judgment." Life on this earth is short, but there is more to life than just our time on earth. There is *eternity* to think about.
- Colossians 3:2 "Set your mind on things above, not on earthly things." So what are our *priorities*?
- Genesis 3:17b "Cursed is the ground because of you" When we fell from grace into sin, all of creation also fell. In Genesis 1: 31 "God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good." But sin destroyed the perfect world that God created for us. When we see disasters such as this, we need to *remember* that these things exist because of *sin*. We continue to experience the curse of that sin.
- 2 Chronicles 16:9 "For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him." *Be committed* to Him. God restores us and strengthens us.

He takes all things and works them together for good to those who love Him. (Romans 8:28)