Getting Started

What do you observe in your life or in the world around you that makes you doubt that Jesus is the head of all things for the benefit of the church? That is, what makes you think the world is out of control?

Into the Bible

Read Job 1-2. What did Job lose? How might you respond if you lost your children in a freak accident and the same day the stock market crashed and your 401(k) was wiped out and while you were still recovering from all of that, you were diagnosed with a terrible disease?

> What do you make of the conversation between the Lord and Satan? What troubles you about it? Can you make any sense of it?
>
> Consider Job's remarks in 1:21 and 2:10. What is the difference between fatalism and humble acceptance? How is the distinction important?

Job's good attitude didn't last, and he and his friends spend the next 35 chapters arguing about why Job has suffered (his friends think he must have sinned and refuses to admit it) and demanding answers from God. Read Job 38:1-7, which is just a taste of the Lord's longer response. What do you think of the Lord's tone? What is He trying to accomplish with Job?

What comfort is offered by the Lord in Isaiah 55:8-11?

Read Romans 8:28. Now, read it again. What does it promise? What does it *not* mention?

How does Romans 8:32 help you to gain confidence to trust God?

Digging Deeper

How can you in faith hold onto the promise that Jesus is seated at the right hand of God and ruling all things for the good of his church when there seems to be so little evidence that Jesus is actually reigning?