

# Sermon Notes

## Christianity's Greatest Questions: The Problem of Evil

### December 7-8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Remember, small groups are primarily for growing closer relationships with other believers. We can learn wonderful things in this environment but keep relationships first.

- **Christianity's Greatest Questions**
- This series is in the line of apologetics/defending the faith based on my experiences and questions.
  - o Set the stage for curiosity: Not social pressure to conform, but freedom to explore the things of God.
- **This week: The Problem of Evil**
  - o This is the opposite side of the design argument from last time. **Romans 1:20** Look how bad things are, so there must not be a loving God in charge of this.
  - o Logic: God is perfect, God made this, therefore this should be perfect.
    - However, this isn't perfect, so either God didn't make it or God isn't perfect.
- Two counters to the logic. (Then 2 Biblical responses.)
  - o 1) Creation isn't finished. The thing that God is making hasn't been made yet.
    - Don't judge a painting, surgery, or cake when it is half done.
    - What God is making is described in **Revelation 21:1-4**.
      - God is perfect, He made Heaven, therefore Heaven is perfect. That logic holds.
  - o 2) There are more influencers in this world than just God. (Disagrees with some modern theology)
    - Part of making heaven involves intelligent, creative, free willed beings...with perspective.
      - We get to see what it's like when God isn't behind everything.
      - Who made you? Who made your bitterness?
    - Satan is real. **2 Corinthians 2:10-11, Eph 4:26-27, 1 Peter 5:8-9, 2 Tim 2:23-26**.
    - People sin. That means they don't do God's will. (The commands are God's will.)
    - Natural Evil (the curse). **Luke 13:1-5**. Sometimes people are just in the wrong place.
      - In the New Heavens and New Earth, God will truly be completely in control!
- Two Biblical responses to the Problem of Evil.
  - o 1) Job. **Job 1:1-3, 6-7, 8-12, Job 2:7-9, 40 chapters of bad council, Job 42:12-17**
    - Lessons from Job? (Not "you just never know when God is going to ruin your life.")
    - 1) God is Good and the devil is bad.
      - Satan's plan was to drive a wedge between Job and God through suffering.
    - 2) Even if you are innocent Satan can gain access to your life. (In fact, he prefers that.)
    - 3) When you are suffering don't insult the character of God.
      - Run to your savior, deliverer, and comforter in your times of great storms.
    - This still happened in New Testament times. **Luke 22:31-32**.
      - It still happens. **1 Peter 5:8**. February we learn how to resist!
  - o 2) The Cross. **Matthew 27:27-31**
    - You are not the only one who has tasted evil. The baby in the manger did too.
    - This is God's answer to the problem of evil.
      - Jesus suffered and died. For you. But he rose again! So you can have new life!
- Now, choose who you want to follow. The God who suffered for you or the enemy who lies to you.
  - o Apologize to God if you need to. Resist the devil. Say yes to God.
- Pray for each other before you finish up!