

Thinking Rightly – Session 5

Countryside Bible Church

Thinking Rightly Series

- **Session 1** – Apologetics and Apologetical Methods (9th Sept)
- **Session 2** – Truth and Why It Matters (16th Sept)
- **Session 3** – Evidence for Existence of God (23rd Sept)
- **Session 4** – Jesus Christ (30th Sept)
- **Session 5** – **Evil and Suffering** (7th Oct)
- **Session 6** – Evidence for the Resurrection (14th Oct)

Goal of the Series

“Glorify God by being
equipped to defend the
Biblical Faith”

Outline

1. Understanding Evil & Suffering
2. Responses to Evil & Suffering
3. Application

Outline

1. Understanding Evil & Suffering
 1. Definitions and Types
 2. Problem of Evil
2. Responses to Evil & Suffering
3. Application

“Morally wrong, sinful or wicked”

“Disaster, calamity or tragedy”

“The experience of physical pain and/or
mental distress”

Types of Evil

1. Moral Evil

- ✓ Willful acts of human beings (such as murder, rape, etc.)

2. Natural Evil

- ✓ Natural disasters (such as famines, floods, etc.)

P₁: If God were all-powerful, he would be able to prevent evil

P₂: If God were all good, he would desire to prevent evil

Conclusion: So, if God were both all-powerful and all-good, there would be no evil.

Premise 3: But, there is evil.

Conclusion: Therefore, there is no all-powerful, all good God

4 Propositions

1. God exists
2. God is all good
3. God is all powerful
4. Evil Exists

Outline

1. Understanding Evil & Suffering
2. Responses to Evil & Suffering
 1. Non-Biblical Response
 2. What the Bible Does Not Say
 3. What the Bible Does Say
3. Application

Non-Biblical Response

1. Atheism
2. Pantheism

Summary of Responses

1. Atheism – Affirms Evil, Denies God
2. Pantheism – Affirms God, Denies Evil
3. Biblical – Affirms God and Evil

What the Bible Does Not Say

1. Evil is unreal
2. God is weak
3. This is the Best World
4. Man is completely free

What the Bible Does Say

1. God created the World and it was Good
 - Gen. 1:31
2. Satan Fell
 - Ezekiel 28 and Isaiah 14
3. Man Sinned
 - Gen. 3:16-17 and Rom. 3:10, 23
4. Sin has Consequences
 - Rom. 6:23
5. God is in Control
 - Is. 41:10; Ps. 46:1; Phil. 4:6-7; Rev. 1:17

Why Suffering ?

- Where there is the possibility of love, there has to be the reality of freedom, and therefore the possibility of pain.
- Wishing God had made a different world is to wish yourself out of existence.
- The reality of evil only makes sense in light of the reality of divine goodness.
- God's purpose in comforting others through us
 - Ravi Zacharias and Vince Vitale, *Why Suffering?*

Biblical Response to Suffering

Q. Why doesn't God do something?

A. He has done something. He has sent His son Jesus.

“God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

....that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures

- (1 Cor. 15:3b and 4)

Lessons from 1 Peter 4

1. Don't be surprised

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you;

- 1 Peter 4:12

Lessons from 1 Peter 4

2. Rejoice in the midst of suffering

¹³but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation.

¹⁴If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you.

- 1 Peter 4:13-14

Lessons from 1 Peter 4

3. Evaluate your suffering for Christ

¹⁵Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler;

¹⁶but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

- 1 Peter 4:15-16

Lessons from 1 Peter 4

4. Entrust yourself to God

Therefore, those also who suffer according to the will of God shall entrust their souls to a faithful Creator in doing what is right.

- 1 Peter 4:19

Application

Understand that..

- ✓ God is not obligated to provide an answer
- ✓ God is sovereign over evil

What do I do?

- ✓ Instead of dwelling on why there is suffering, reflect on who God is
- ✓ Pray for those who are suffering and go tell others about Christ

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For Next Week...

Read

Acts 21:17 – 28:31

Memorize

Isaiah 46:9-10 and 1 Cor. 15:3-4