

CONTENDING FOR THE FAITH



EVIL AND SUFFERING - 2

SELECTED SCRIPTURES

NOVEMBER 3 , 2021



1. Defining the Terms

2. Understanding the Problem of Evil

3. Responding to the Problem of Evil

II. RESPONDING TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

A. Non-Biblical Response

B. Biblical Response

- I. The Story of Job
2. A Biblical Theology of Evil and Suffering
3. The Believers Attitude Towards Evil and Suffering

II. RESPONDING TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

A. Non-Biblical Response

B. Biblical Response

1. The Story of Job

2. **A Biblical Theology of Evil and Suffering**

3. The Believers Attitude Towards Evil and Suffering

2. A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING

a. The Bible devotes little to no space to discussing the Origins of Evil

“Where is evil then, and whence, and how crept it in hither? What is its root, and what its seed? Or hath it no being?”

Confessions, VII: [V] 7.

“Evil has no positive nature; but the loss of good has received the name ‘evil.’”

The City of God, XI, Chap. 9.

“All which is corrupted is deprived of good.”

Confessions, VII: [XII] 18.



2. A BIBLICAL THEOLOGY OF SUFFERING

- a. The Bible devotes little to no space to discussing the Origins of Evil
- b. The First Sin was committed by Satan (Is. 14:12-14 and Eze. 28:12-18)
- c. Human Sin and Fall in general are the root of all disease and sickness (Gen. 3:14-19)
- d. God is always the Ultimate Cause of all Physical Suffering (Ex. 4:11; Deut. 32:29)
- e. Sometimes God Permits Satan to afflict people with illness (Job 1:6-12; 2:1-7)
- f. God is always the Ultimate cause of all Physical Healing (Deut. 32:39)
- g. God uses illness to accomplish His Purposes (Is. 28:9-11; John 9:1-3, 11:1-4)
- h. God sometimes uses illness to Discipline Sin in the lives of believers (James 5:13-15; 1 Cor. 11:27-30)
- i. God has dealt decisively with sin, in and through the Lord Jesus Christ (Eph. 2:1-6; 1 Pet. 3:18)

II. RESPONDING TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

A. Non-Biblical Response

B. Biblical Response

1. The Story of Job

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3. **The Believers Attitude Towards Evil and Suffering**

3. THE BELIEVERS ATTITUDE TOWARDS EVIL AND SUFFERING

- a. Expect Suffering: Don't be Surprised When you Suffer (Matt. 5:11, 10:22; 2 Tim. 3:1, 12)
- b. Rejoice: Rejoice When you Suffer (James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 4:13-14)

“Why is the Christian to rejoice like this, and how is it possible for him to do so? Here we come to the heart of the matter. Obviously the Christian is not to rejoice at the mere fact of persecution. That is always something which is to be regretted. Yet you will find as you read Christian biographies that certain saints have faced that temptation very definitely. They have rejoiced wrongly in their persecution for its own sake. Now that, surely, was the spirit of Pharisees, and is something which we should never do. If we rejoice in the persecution in and of itself, if we say, “Ah, well: I rejoice and am exceeding glad that I am so much better than those other people, and that is why they are persecuting me,” immediately we become Pharisees. Persecution is something that the Christian should always regret; it should be to him a source of great grief that men and women, because of sin, and because they are so dominated by Satan, should behave in such an inhuman and devilish manner. The Christian is, in a sense, one who must feel his heart breaking at the effect of sin in others that makes them do this, so he never rejoices in the fact of persecution as such.”

D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *‘Studies in the Sermon on the Mount,’* 1976.



3. THE BELIEVERS ATTITUDE TOWARDS EVIL AND SUFFERING

- a. Expect Suffering: Don't be Surprised When you Suffer (Matt. 5:11, 10:22; 2 Tim. 3:1, 12)
- b. Rejoice: Rejoice When you Suffer (James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 4:13-14)
- c. Evaluate: Evaluate When you Suffer (1 Peter 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 12:7-8)
 - i. To Reveal our Spiritual Condition
 - ii. To Humble us
 - iii. To Draw us to Himself
 - iv. To Display His Grace
 - v. To Perfect His Power
 - vi. To Develop our Capacity to Comfort Others (2 Cor. 1:3-4)
 - vii. To Be more like Christ (Phil. 3:10-11; 2 Cor. 4:17)

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- b. Rejoice: Rejoice When you Suffer (James 1:2-4; 1 Pet. 4:13-14)
- c. Evaluate: Evaluate When you Suffer (1 Peter 4:15-16; 2 Cor. 12:7-8)
- d. Trust : Continue to Trust the Lord When you Suffer (1 Peter 4:19)



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GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What are some wrong things to say to someone who is in pain or suffering?
2. From today's lesson (and from scriptures) what can you say to someone who is in pain and suffering?
3. What are some important lessons we can learn from pain and suffering that we would not generally learn otherwise?