

"... The Presence of Evil!"
(Romans 12:9, 17-21; Job, ...)

I. Introduction: I've Been Thinking about ...

- A. Illustrations
- B. Interpretations
 1. Theological dictionaries: Natural evil, moral evil
 2. Children's prayer: God is great, God is good ...
- C. Implications
 1. All worldviews
 2. The Biblical worldview

II. Exposition: ... The Presence of Evil (Romans 12:9, 17-21; Job)

- A. The **Problem**: (David Hume and others)
 - Both God and Evil are realities that truly exist.
 - If God were all-powerful, He **could** destroy evil.
 - If God were all-good, He **would** destroy evil.
 - Evil has not been destroyed.
 - Therefore, there is **no** all-good, all-powerful God.
 1. **Naturalism** – Evil is simply **bad luck**
 - The position held – No purpose
 - The problem encountered
 2. **Transcendentalism** – Evil is an **illusion** or **Karma**
 - The position held – No real purpose
 - The problem encountered
 3. **Theism** – Judaism, Christianity, Islam
 - The position held – Evil has a real **purpose**
 - The problem encountered
- B. The **Positions**
 1. The denial of God's **omnipotence**
 2. The denial of God's **goodness**
 3. The denial of **evil**

C. The Proclamation of Scripture

1. The subject of man
2. The subject of good and evil
3. The subject of time (Genesis 37-50)
4. The subject of Jesus (Philippians 2:5-11)
 - Both God and Evil are realities that truly exist.
 - If God were all-powerful, He could destroy evil.
 - If God were all-good, He would destroy evil.
 - Evil has not **yet** been destroyed.
 - Therefore, evil **will be destroyed** by an all-loving, all-powerful God.

III. Conclusion: Romans 8:28-30

The Beginning and the End

Genesis 1-3	Revelation 20-22
"In the day you eat of it, you shall surely die" (2:17)	"There shall no longer be any death" (21:4)
Satan appears as deceiver (3:1)	Satan removed forever (20:10)
"I will greatly multiply your pain" (3:16)	"There shall no longer be any mourning, crying or pain" (21:4)
"Cursed is the ground because of you" (3:17)	"There shall no longer be any curse" (22:3)
First paradise closed (3:23)	New paradise opened (21:25)
They were driven from God's presence (3:24)	"They shall see His face" (22:4)

Chart from *Making Sense of Your World: A Biblical Worldview*, page 165

Questions to reflect on individually and discuss in Small Groups:

1. What stuck out to you from the message? (What's your keeper?)
2. In what way is the presence of evil in the world a problem for an atheist? A materialist? A pantheist? An agnostic? A Christian?
3. How can the suffering of Jesus help those dealing with the subject of evil and suffering/pain?
4. What stuck out to you from the conclusion?
5. Finish this sentence with the primary thing that God is leading you to do: "In light of these passages and this discussion, I will ..." (What is your action point?)