

Text: various
Topic: Theodicy
Series: The Big Questions

Focal Point Radio Ministries

August 12 & 13, 2000

Pastor Mike

The Big Questions ^{part 5}

If God Is So Good Why's the World So Bad?



1. Don't _____

2. Ponder _____

3. Remember _____

4. Focus _____

Application Questions

These questions are provided for your further study and application of today's message. Thoughtfully writing out the answers to these questions will help to drive home the point of today's message. It is also helpful to discuss your answers with others. This can take place with friends, your family, accountability partners, or ministry groups within the church.

1. To what degree has the "problem of evil" (i.e., the reality of sin, suffering and pain) been a challenge to your faith in a good and all-powerful God?
2. What are some of the unbiblical conclusions that people you know have drawn from their experience or exposure to pain and suffering?
3. How does thinking carefully through Genesis 3 help you to understand the "problem of evil"?

What difference does it make that sin is promised by God to be temporary?

4. Articulate what you understand your biblical job description to be regarding the sin in your sphere of influence?

Read through the Bible in a year! Here is this week's schedule.

Sunday

Ps. 106-108 & Mt. 21

Monday

Ps. 109-110 & Mt. 22

Tuesday

Ps. 111-113 & Mt. 23

Wednesday

Ps. 114-115 & Mt. 24

Thursday

Ps. 116-118 & Mt. 25

Friday

Ps. 119:1-80 & Mt. 26

Saturday

Ps. 119:81-176 & Mt. 27

Books (listed from simple to more challenging)

- Bridges, J. *Trusting God: Even When Life Hurts*. Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 1988.
- Tada, J.E. & S. Estes. *When God Weeps: Why Our Suffering Matters to the Almighty*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.
- Poole, G. & J. Poling. *How Could God Allow Suffering and Evil?* Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1998.
- Yancey, P. *Disappointment with God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1997.
- Lewis, C.S. *The Problem of Pain*. Nashville, TN: Broadman & Holman, 2000.
- Geisler, N. *The Roots of Evil*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1978.
- Zacharias, R. *Cries of the Heart: Bringing God Near When He Feels so Far*. Dallas, TX: Word Books, 1998.
- Archer, G. *The Book of Job*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1982.
- Stackhouse, J. *Can God Be Trusted? Faith and the Challenge of Evil*. New York, NY: Oxford Press, 1998.
- Carson, D.A. *How Long, O Lord? Reflections on Suffering & Evil*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1990.
- Feinberg, J.S. *The Many Faces of Evil: Theological Systems and the Problem of Evil*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.
- Nash, R. *Faith & Reason: Searching for a Rational Faith*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1994.
- McGrath, A. *Suffering & God*. Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 1995.
- Kreeft, P. *Making Sense Out of Suffering*. Ann Arbor, MI: Servant Publications, 1986.
- Carson, D.A. *Divine Sovereignty and Human Responsibility: Biblical Perspectives in Tension*. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 1981.
- Plantinga, A. *God, Freedom, and Evil*. Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 1974.
- Geivett, R.D. *Evil and the Evidence for God: The Challenge of John Hick's Theodicy*. Philadelphia, PA: Temple Press, 1995.
- Davis, S. ed. *Encountering Evil: Live Options in Theodicy*. Louisville, KY: Westminster/John Knox Press, 1995.

Websites

www.probe.org

cspar181.uah.edu/RbS/JOB/job.html

www.leaderu.com