

## **“If God Is Good and All-Powerful, Why Does Evil Exist?”**

### **Various Scriptures, including Hebrews 2:14-18**

(A free transcript of this sermon is available at the Information Desk in the Lobby)

**THEME:** Planet earth is not a peaceful place. The media assault us daily with graphic accounts of calamities, catastrophes and atrocities. We are accustomed to the active presence of evil in our environment.

The Apostle John wrote, *‘We know that we are children of God, and that the whole world is under the control of the evil one.’* (1 John 5:19)

Predictably, people ask, If there is a God, how can he be good while allowing evil to continue? Or, if God is good, does he then lack the ability to prevent evil? They see only two alternatives: either God is not all-good, or God is not all-powerful.

The presence of evil and suffering in the world is the main reason some people refuse to believe in the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Christians have to answer a tough question: If God is all-powerful and loves us, why do we suffer?

The existence of evil and how God relates to it provoke the toughest question that Christians have to deal with. The Bible provides some helpful **answers** to this perplexing question.

#### **I. THE SOURCE OF EVIL IS THE CORRUPTION OF GOOD**

#### **II. GOD USES EVIL TO CARRY OUT HIS PURPOSES**

#### **III. GOD IS NEVER TO BLAME FOR EVIL**

#### **IV. PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVIL THEY DO**

#### **V. IT IS ALWAYS WRONG FOR PEOPLE TO DO EVIL**

#### **VI. WE DO NOT COMPREHEND HOW GOD RELATES TO EVIL**

#### **VII. GOD WILL FINALLY JUDGE EVIL**

### **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**

**February 18, 2007**

#### **OPENER:**

1. Why is the existence of evil the main reason people give for not believing in God?

#### **I. THE SOURCE OF EVIL IS THE CORRUPTION OF GOOD**

2. There are only two views that address all the facts concerning evil. One is the Christian view; the other is Dualism. Explain Dualism.
3. How is evil connected to the misuse of God-given freedom?

#### **II. GOD USES EVIL TO CARRY OUT HIS PURPOSES**

4. Read Acts 2:22-23; 4:27-28; Romans 8:28. How do these verses demonstrate that God can use evil to carry out his purposes?

#### **III. GOD IS NEVER TO BLAME FOR EVIL**

5. The crucifixion of Jesus was a monstrous act perpetrated by evil men, but foreordained according to God's will. Is God, therefore, to blame? See Matthew 26:24.

**IV. PEOPLE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE EVIL THEY DO**

6. How would you answer someone who argues that people are not to blame for the evil they do, because they are innocent victims who inherited a sinful nature and were born into an evil environment?

**V. IT IS ALWAYS WRONG FOR PEOPLE TO DO EVIL**

7. If God uses evil to bring about good purposes, why should we not use evil as the means to a good end?

**VI. WE DO NOT COMPREHEND HOW GOD RELATES TO EVIL**

8. Should we be content to live with an incomplete answer to tough questions about God's nature and purposes? See Romans 9:19-20; 11:33-36.

**VII. GOD WILL FINALLY JUDGE EVIL**

9. How did Christ's death deal with the problem of evil? (See Hebrews 2:14-15)

10. Read Revelation 21:1-4, 25-27. What will it be like to live in an environment where there is no evil?