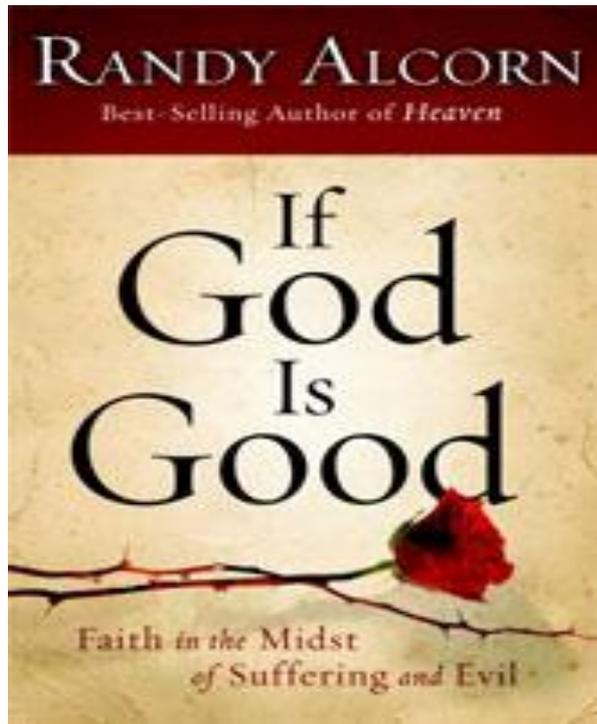




Love God. Love People. Change the World.



If God is Good.

Lesson #2

**Christian Life Assembly
Winter 2010 ABF
Jim Hoffman**

Questions

- Imagine growing up in a world where sin was wrong, but had no temporal consequences. What would be the likely result of living in a world like that?
- If there were no suffering in the world, what would motivate us to seek God?

Not all is right in the world ...

- People are fond of saying at times of contentment that “God is Heaven and all is right with the world”.
- But, things are not right with the world and have not been so since Genesis 3.
- Man is out of sync with God and it shows up in our lives every day.

Not all is right in the world ...

- **Rom 3:10** As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; 11 there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. 12 All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." 13 "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." 14 "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." 15 "Their feet are swift to shed blood; 16 ruin and misery mark their ways, 17 and the way of peace they do not know." 18 "There is no fear of God before their eyes." NIV

Not all is right in the world ...

- This is the world we live – it's beautiful, but blighted.
- Has glimpses of goodness, but evil abounds.
- Seems like Heaven at times, and but things never seem quite right.
- This is our home – for now.

Follow this progression ...

- If God is all good then he would want to prevent evil and suffering.
- If God is all knowing, then he would know how to prevent evil.
- If God is all-powerful then he is able to prevent evil.
- And yet, evil and suffering are common to life under the sun.

The Skeptic's Questions ...

- Is God willing to prevent evil, if he is not able?
 - Then he is not all-powerful.
- Is God able to prevent evil, if he is not willing?
 - Then he is not all-good.
- If he is both willing and able to prevent evil, why does he allow it to happen?
 - Then why does he allow evil to happen (as you claim)?

Is God both willing and able to prevent evil?

Not much has changed ...

- **Randy Alcorn makes note of a book written in France some 140 years ago called “The Problem of Evil”. After reading it, he concluded it could be written today with the only change being the examples used.**

- **I know that Paul tells us in Timothy that in the latter days things will get worse, but the truth is things have not been good since the fall.**

Even Sherlock couldn't solve it ...

- “What is the meaning of it Watson? What object is served by this circle of misery and violence and fear? It must tend to some end, or else our universe is ruled by chance, which is unthinkable. But what end? There is the great standing perennial problem to which human reason is as far from an answer as ever.”
- These words were part of a fictional script, but are rooted firmly in reality.

The Saints have wondered ...

- Ps 6:2 Be merciful to me, Lord, for I am faint; O Lord, heal me, for my bones are in agony. 3 My soul is in anguish. How long, O Lord, how long? NIV
- Hab 1:2 How long, O Lord, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, "Violence!" but you do not save? NIV
- Rev 6:10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" NIV

We need wisdom ...

- **Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.
NIV**
- **When we consider the problem of evil and suffering in light of all that God is, we soon conclude there is great deal we do not know.**
- **It can be a humbling experience for us to be conscious of a condition we do not understand.**



Questions / Comments