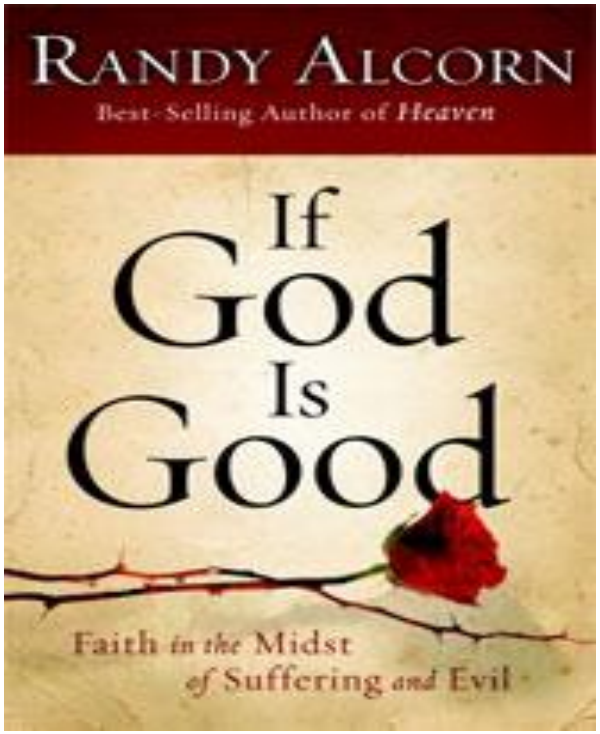
Christian Life ASSEMBLY

Love God. Love People. Change the World.



If God is Good.

Lesson #5

Christian Life Assembly
Winter 2010 ABF
Jim Hoffman

Questions

- **Is it possible God created a world where he would allow evil to exist for a time in order to serve a far greater purpose?**

- **If God created everything good, then is it possible that evil came into being on it's own, or 'out of nothing'?**

Theodicy

- **Rom 8:18 I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. NIV**

- **2 Cor 4:17 For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. NIV**

Theodicy

- **A theodicy is an attempt to show that God is just and argue that he can be sovereign and good despite the world's evil and suffering.**

- **A common but false assumption is that an all-good, all-knowing, and all-powerful God cannot have good reasons for creating a universe in which evil and suffering exist.**

- **The best argument against such a statement is that we do not know everything God knows.**

Theodicy and Faith

- **It seems evident to me that God has morally sufficient reasons for allowing evil in this world.**

- **What if God created a world where he would allow evil to exist for a time in order to serve a far greater purpose?**

- **Will anyone in heaven ever wish they had not had the gifts of pain that drove them to (or closer to) Christ?**

Theodicy and Faith

- **Suffering reminds us to stop taking life for granted and to consider the bigger picture.**

- **The time in which we live is the exception, not the rule – God never intended for life to be so hard, but he is determined to use sin's pain to draw us close to himself.**

- **In 1st Corinthians 15 Paul makes the case that if there is no resurrection, then we are fools to claim Christ and we should start to eat, drink, and be merry.**

Theodicy and Faith

- **1 Cor 15:30 And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? 31 I die every day — I mean that, brothers — just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." NIV**

- **If there is no God, then we have all been 'had', but if there is, then even the worst of events can work for us. Just ask Joseph.**

Evils Entry into the Universe

- **Gen 1:31 God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. NIV**

- **As of Genesis 1:31 all is 'very good' with all of creation.**

- **Sometime between Gen 1:31 and Gen 3:1 a very critical change took place – creation went from being totally 'very good' to something less.**

- **Jude 6 And the angels who did not keep their positions of authority but abandoned their own home — these he has kept in darkness, bound with everlasting chains for judgment on the great Day. NIV**

Evils Entry into the Universe

- **There was rebellion in Heaven – the exact events we do not know, but most believe these Scriptures give light to what happened in Heaven.**

- **Isa 14:12 How you have fallen from heaven, O morning star, son of the dawn! You have been cast down to the earth, you who once laid low the nations! 13 You said in your heart, "I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God; I will sit enthroned on the mount of assembly, on the utmost heights of the sacred mountain. 14 I will ascend above the tops of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High."**

Evils Entry into the Universe

- **Ezek 28:11 The word of the Lord came to me: 12 "Son of man, take up a lament concerning the king of Tyre and say to him: 'This is what the Sovereign Lord says: "'You were the model of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. 13 You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone adorned you: ruby, topaz and emerald, chrysolite, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise and beryl. Your settings and mountings were made of gold; on the day you were created they were prepared. 14 You were anointed as a guardian cherub, for so I ordained you. You were on the holy mount of God; you walked among the fiery stones. 15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created till wickedness was found in you. NIV**

Evils Entry into the Universe

- **It is inaccurate to say that God created Satan and demons – He created Lucifer and righteous angels who later rebelled.**

- **Satan and his followers wanted to have more power than God – they wanted to be the exalted leaders of the universe and decided to attempt a coup.**

- **Bear in mind the bible tells us about the entry of evil, but never explains it's root. (origin)**

Evils Entry into the Universe

- **So why would God allow this rebellion to take place?**

- **Why would he create creatures who would later rebel and try to harm Him?**

- **One reason could be that it's through His conquering of evil that He is shown in his best light – it's one thing to rule over perfectly behaved subjects, and quite another to love those who rebel against and hate you.**

Evils Entry into the Universe

- **Ex Nihilo (X – Knee – a- low) means 'out of nothing'.**

- **So the question – if God created everything good, then is it possible that evil came into being on it's own, or 'out of nothing'?**

- **Rom 11:33 Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgments, and his paths beyond tracing out! NIV**

Evils Entry into the Universe

- **If you, as a parent, were to provide a full explanation of why policemen patrol our communities, how well would your kids sleep at night?**

- **Young minds are just not ready for the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.**

- **Maybe God is silent on this because any explanation at all would do more harm than good – so we will just have to wait for the answer.**

Questions / Comments