If God Is So Good
Why Is There So Much Evil and Suffering?

ROMANS 5:12-21

Read Scripture Text

P R A Y E R

I N T R O D U C T I O N

W hen it comes to believing in the GOD of the BIBLE the world is filled with SKEPTICS and SCOFFERS.

A nd one of the most common questions these skeptics and scoffers ask is: “If God is so good why is there so much evil and suffering in the world.”

H ow do you and I as Christians defend our faith in God in light of this difficult question?

I t’s like THREE PIECES of a jigsaw puzzle that just don’t seem to fit.

- The first piece of the puzzle is that the Bible tells us God is An All-Powerful God.

The Bible makes it perfect clear there is NOTHING God can’t do.

- God can create a sun, a moon, a star and even a whole universe by merely speaking it into existence.
God is so powerful that in the days of Noah He caused it to rain so hard it buried the whole world under water; and in Elijah’s day God shut up the clouds so it didn’t rain one drop for 3 ½ years.

God is so powerful He used things such as frogs, and gnats and flies and locust and hail to bring the country of Egypt to its knees.

God is so powerful He parted the waters of the Red Sea so the Israelites could cross on dry ground and close the sea back up to destroy the pursuing Egyptian army.

God is so powerful He could make blind people see, lame people walk, deaf people hear, and dead people live.

There is NOTHING beyond the power of GOD!

(B) The second piece of the puzzle is that the Bible tells us God is an ALL-LOVING GOD

John 3:16 tells us God loves this world so much He was willing to give up the life of His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, in order to save the world.

The Bible tells us God loves us so much........

*He provides for us when we are in need.
*He helps us when we cry out to Him in prayer.
*He draws near to us when we are brokenhearted.
*And He walks with us through every valley.
(C) The third piece of the puzzle is the piece that just doesn’t seem to fit and that is the presence of EVIL and SUFFERING in the world.

If God is ALL-POWERFUL why doesn’t He strike down every murderer, every rapist, every abuser, every dictator, every tyrant and every terrorist?

If God is ALL-LOVING how can He allow millions of people in Ethiopia and India and Kenya starve to death? How can God allow thousands upon thousands of innocent people to die in the recent earthquake in Haiti? How can God allow good men, women and children die of cancer……. or heart disease…….or get killed by a drunk driver on the highway?

If God is so good, so powerful, so loving, why doesn’t He do something about all the evil and suffering that’s going on in the world?

C.S. Lewis once wrote, “In the eyes of skeptics, if God is a good God then He would want to make His creatures happy. and if God is truly all-powerful, He ought to be able to do anything to make His creatures happy. But God’s creatures aren’t happy. Therefore God either lacks goodness or He lacks power, or both.”

I believe that even those of us who have a strong faith in God at times have difficulty understanding how our good and loving God could just allow so much evil and suffering go on in this world and seemingly do nothing about it.

If God could wipe out the entire Egyptian army in the Red Sea, why doesn’t God just wipe out all the evil armies of terror that are in our world today?
If God could give sight to the blind in the Bible, why doesn’t God make all blind people today see?

If God could make the lame to walk in the Bible, why doesn’t God make all lame and crippled people today walk?

If God could cleanse people of disease in the Bible, why doesn’t He cleanse all people of diseases like cancer and heart disease and alzheimers?

Perhaps these are some questions you have pondered from time to time in your own mind.

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Here in Romans 5 the apostle Paul helps us understand this whole issue of EVIL and SUFFERING in the world.

First, Paul reveals to us, The Source of Evil and Suffering

And secondly, Paul reveals, The Solution to Evil and Suffering

First, let’s consider ........

I. The Source of Evil and Suffering

1. When it comes to the problem of evil and suffering in the world it is human nature to want to point the “finger of blame” at someone. And more often than not the “finger of blame” gets pointed directly at God.

2. But Paul makes it very clear in our scripture text that MAN is the source of evil and suffering, not GOD.

Re-read verses 12-15
3. It is most ironic that God often gets blamed for the evil and suffering that exists in the world, when in the beginning it was GOD who created a perfect world for man to live in.

There was NO SICKNESS
NO DISEASE
NO HUNGER
NO PAIN
NO CRIME
NO INJUSTICE
NO EVIL
NO WAR

In short MAN HAD IT MADE!

4. After making that perfect world, did God all the sudden change His mind and decide to fill the world with sickness, disease, hunger, pain, crime, injustice, evil and war? NO!

5. You see, God had created man with the freedom to choose.

-Man could have chosen to obey, instead he chose to disobey.

-Man could have chosen to do right, instead he chose to do wrong.

-Man could have chosen to do good, instead he chose to do evil.

And because MAN made the WRONG CHOICE, verse 12 tells us, “Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all men, because all sinned.”
6. That one wrong choice by Adam and Eve in the beginning of time opened up a Pandora’s Box of Evil and Suffering that is still being felt in the world to this very moment.

   -PAIN is in the world because of SIN!
   -DISEASE is in the world because of SIN!
   -STARVATION is in the world because of SIN!
   -CHILD ABUSE is in the world because of SIN!
   -MURDER is in the world because of SIN!
   -WAR is in the world because of SIN!
   -TERRORISM is in the world because of SIN!

   Everything that is EVIL……everything that is WRONG …..everything that is DEADLY…..everything that is is DISASTROUS……everything that is UNJUST…..UNFAIR and UNRIGHTHEOUS is here because of SIN.

7. And behind every bit of the evil and suffering in the world is Satan the cunning serpent who tempted Adam and Eve to commit that very first sin.

8. But does anybody ever point the finger of blame at Satan. Does anybody ever say to Satan “you caused this? NO! People would rather point the finger of blame at God and say, “If You’re so powerful and so loving, why don’t You do something about all this evil and suffering?”

   Well as God’s children, we know GOD HAS DONE SOMETHING ABOUT ALL THIS EVIL AND SUFFERING don’t we?

   Let’s look at..........
II. The Solution to Evil and Suffering

READ VERSES 15-19 again.

1. Christianity is the only religion in the world that offers a solution to evil and suffering. And that solution is Jesus Christ!

2. When God saw what Satan had done to the perfect world He had created, and saw all the evil and suffering Satan had brought upon humanity, God, Himself came down here to personally engage in all-out war against Satan and his demons of hell.

3. Jesus came here to live life as we live it and know life as we know it.

   He was despised and rejected. He was a man of sorrows familiar with suffering.

   He was misunderstood, misrepresented and mistreated.

   He was pronounced guilty so we could be pronounced innocent.

   He took our stripes upon His back.

   He wore our crown of thorns upon His head.

   He had our nails driven through His hands and feet.

   He died on the cross in our place.
4. How dare anyone accuse GOD of doing NOTHING about the EVIL and SUFFERING that are in this world.

All the evil and all the suffering are the result of SIN and GOD sacrificed His only begotten SON for the SINS of the world.

ILLUSTRATION

Remember the story about the handsome prince who was turned into a frog by the wicked witch? The only way that curse could be broken was for the frog to be kissed by a beautiful princess.

But what princess in her right mind was going kiss something as ugly and despicable as a slimy frog?

Destined to live under that curse forever, the frog had all but given up hope of having the curse removed. But then one day the frog met a princess who had compassion on him and in spite of his hideous appearance, the princess gave the frog the KISS OF LIFE. And he was transformed from an ugly frog back into the Handsome Prince he was intended to be.

Brothers and sisters, Satan put a curse on us......the curse of sin. And because of that curse we were transformed from the beautiful creatures that God pronounced “good” in the Garden of Eden into hideous, despicable creatures covered with the stains of sin.

We couldn’t wish that curse away. We couldn’t do anything to change our circumstance. We were destined to live under the curse of sin for all eternity.

Who in their right mind would ever give THE KISS OF LIFE to such hideous, sinful creatures as you and me? Only THE PRINCE OF PEACE......only THE PRINCE OF PEACE.
CONCLUSION

If God is so good why doesn’t He do something about the evil and suffering in this world?

He has! You see, a world without evil or suffering would be great, but God offers us something even better. He offers us an eternal life in Heaven where there will be no evil or suffering. And this is all possible through Jesus Christ!

For now, Christ offers us everything we need to endure in this present world that is filled with evil and suffering.

To the HUNGRY............... **Jesus is The Bread of Life**
To the THIRSTY.............. **Jesus is the Living Water**
To the SUFFERING............. **Jesus is the Balm of Gilead**
To the TROUBLED............... **Jesus is the Prince of Peace**
To the DEPRESSED............. **Jesus is the Bright & Morning Star**
To the LONELY................. **Jesus is the Friend who sticks closer than a brother.**
To the DYING............... **Jesus is the resurrection and the life.**
To the SICK............... **Jesus is the Great Physician.**
To the FEARFUL.............. **Jesus is the Fortress and Shield**
To the SINFUL.............. **Jesus is the Sacrificial Lamb of God**
And to THE LOST.......... **Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life**