

## God and Evil II

Part 6 of Building a Life With Christian Ethics

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We all can look around us and see evil in the world. It hurts, it grieves, and it causes a lot of pain. Last week we looked at the question of *why*. This week, we want to address more of our response to it. How are we to respond to what we see?

### 1. I Realise God Allows Sin to Take its Natural Course

Read Gal. 6:7-8

- God is justly allowing man's sinfulness, and the curse it brought upon the earth, to take their natural course; earth and humanity are broken and longing for redemption
- Because of man's sin (beginning with Adam), the earth itself is broken and waiting for redemption
- God allows suffering even for His own people

Read Matt. 5:44-45

- He's referring to suffering and our response to it
- While we like to hear of people that God miraculously delivers from suffering (e.g. Daniel), often he allows it (e.g. John Wycliffe, Lord Cobham mentioned)

### 2. I Trust God Is Working Out *His* Plan

- The nature of all stories; great stories have heroes, villains, and struggles

Read Isa. 46:10

- God is sovereignty working an infinitely complex plan involving human beings, cultures, governments and even the natural world over Millenia of history
- God did not spare Himself or His own Son from suffering in this story!
- We do not always know what He is doing or His plan, but we can know He is sovereign and ultimately, He will finish His story!



Was this a surprise to God?



Is God wondering what may happen with these guys?

Read Dan. 2:20-21

### 3. I Trust God Is Accomplishing a Greater Good

- A. God can use suffering to force us to seek Him - Acts 17:26-27
- B. God is refining us through fire - Job. 36:15
- C. God is equipping us for greater service to mankind - Heb. 2:18

### 4. I Realise God Wants Me to Long for a Better Place

*Read Heb. 11:10; 13:14*

God wants you to know the best is still to come. This is not heaven. This is a fallen world, but God is working His plan and His story and it will be amazing.

#### Questions:

1. What are some examples of the “natural course” of sin we see all around us?
2. How is it a comfort to know that God has a plan and a story that He is weaving throughout time, that it is not finished yet, but He will fulfil His plan and purpose?
3. We may not always know what the “greater good” may be in our lives, but there are times we do. In what ways have you seen *your* personal suffering be used for the greater good?

**Prayer:** *“Father, thank You for saving us and leaving us here to be part of your story of the ages. Help me to trust You deeper even when I cannot understand all things that You are doing. There may be questions that cannot be answered in my lifetime, but I will trust that You are working out Your plan, that You will use even my suffering for the greater good, and I will continue to look for my permanent city and dwelling place with You. I long for the time when I am in Your presence and pain, evil and suffering are no more. Thank You for the blessed hope we have in Jesus Christ, in Jesus’ name, amen.”*