

Series: The Value of the Soul

## “The Problem of Evil and Suffering”

(Sunday Morning August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020)

### Selected Scriptures (Genesis 3:22-24)

*Job 3:11 “WHY did I not die at birth, WHY did I not perish when I came from the womb?”* (Emphasis Added)

*Job 3:12 “WHY did the knees receive me? Or WHY the breasts that I should nurse?”* (Emphasis Added)

*Job 3:20 “WHY is light given to him who is in misery, and life to the bitter soul?”* (Emphasis Added)

*Judges 6:13 “(Gideon Said)...’...if the Lord is with us, WHY then has all this happened to us?...”* (Emphasis Added)

The fact of the matter is that no one can give a definitive answer to the WHY question related to suffering, because God has \_\_\_\_\_ n \_\_\_\_\_ chosen to reveal it.

*Job 38:4 “(God Said to Job) Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding”*

### I. An Explanation of the O \_\_\_\_\_ of Evil and Suffering

#### 1) God Did Not C \_\_\_\_\_ Evil and Suffering

*Gen 1:31 “...God saw everything that He had made, and indeed it was very good....”* (NKJV)

*1 John 1:5 “...God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all”*

*James 1:13 “(God)...cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone”*

God only made evil possible; God did not make evil a \_\_\_\_\_.

#### 2) God Did Not P \_\_\_\_\_ Evil and Suffering

*Isa 14:12 (Reference)*

*Eze 28:12 (Reference)*

*Eze 28:15 “You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you”*

*Rev 12:4 (Reference)*

*1 Tim 3:6 “(Do not ordain a new convert so that)...he will not become conceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil”* (Emphasis Added)

*Gen 2:16-17 “16...’From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; 17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die”*

Question = Why would God even make evil and suffering possible?

Answer = The surprising answer to that question is I \_\_\_\_\_.

##### a. First, the Fall of Man Gave God an Opportunity to Put His G \_\_\_\_\_ on Display

*Rom 9:22 “22 What if God, wanting to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath prepared for destruction,...”*

*Exod 9:16 “But indeed for this purpose I have raised you up, that I may show My power in you, and that My name may be declared in all the earth”*

b. Second, the Fall of Man Gave God an Opportunity to Put His G\_\_\_\_\_ on Display

*Rom 9:23 "23 and that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had prepared beforehand for glory" (NKJV)*

*Eph 2:7 "so that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus"*

## II. An Explanation of the P\_\_\_\_\_ of Evil and Suffering

Question = What if destroying all evil would require God to destroy the entire h\_\_\_\_\_, r\_\_\_\_\_, would you still be in favor of destroying all evil?

1) God Uses Evil and Suffering for G\_\_\_\_\_

The presence of evil and suffering provides every one of us with an opportunity to d\_\_\_\_\_ the depth of our faith for His glory's sake.

*Job 13:15 "(Even) though He slay me, yet will I trust Him..." (NKJV)*

*Phil 1:20 "...that Christ will even now, as always, be exalted (Glorified) in my body, whether by life or by death"*

*John 17:1 "Father the hour has come; glorify Your Son, that the Son may glorify You"*

2) God Uses Evil and Suffering for G\_\_\_\_\_

This is how suffering is directly related to the value of the soul: man was in danger of spiritual death and eternal separation from God; and so, God needed an instrument to awaken man to that eternal danger, and s\_\_\_\_\_ is that instrument.

*Genesis 3:22-24 (Turn and Read)*

Question = Are you willing to give any credit to God for l\_\_\_\_\_ evil and suffering in our world?

*2 Thes 2:7 "For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains will do so until he is taken out of the way"*

Question = Are you willing to give any credit to God for the g\_\_\_\_\_ t\_\_\_\_\_ in our world and in your personal life?

*Job 2:10 "...You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God and not accept adversity?'"...*

3) God Uses Evil and Suffering for G\_\_\_\_\_

*Rom 8:28 "And we know that God causes all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose"*

*Gen 50:20 "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive"*

Question = Since our God is a loving and an all-powerful and all-knowing God, why doesn't He destroy evil and eliminating suffering?

Answer = Because God is w\_\_\_\_\_ for a h\_\_\_\_\_

*2 Pet 3:9 "The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance"*

