



“The Question”

Job 1–2, 42

October 16, 2011

“If God is really good and all-powerful, why does He allow pain and evil in the world?”

Three important teachings from the book of Job:

1. I Am Shown That God Does Not Cause E_____.

“My argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust? A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line. What was I comparing this universe with when I called it unjust?” C. S. Lewis, Mere Christianity

† **Calling something evil is only possible if there exists a standard of good and evil that is objective and universal. That standard, of course, is the goodness of God.**

2. I Can Be Sure That My Perspective Is L_____.

Sometimes the question boils down to “Is God all powerful?”

Precisely because God is all-powerful there are some things He C_____ do.

It’s not logically possible to have f_____ w_____ and no possibility of moral evil.

Built into the situation of God deciding to create human beings is the chance of evil, and consequently, the suffering that results.

Does that mean that God created evil? No, He created the p_____ of evil. People a_____ that possibility.

Why didn’t God create a world without human freedom? Because that would have been a world without h_____.

It would also have been a world without I_____, which is the highest value in the universe. Real love – our love of God and our love of each other – must involve a choice. But with the granting of that choice, comes the possibility that people would choose to h_____ instead.

But there still begs the question, “Why DO WE suffer? **Romans 5:1-4** *“Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope.”*

1. To develop M_____ C_____
2. R_____.

“God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains. It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world.” C.S. Lewis

3. I Am Satisfied That God Is at W_____.

2 Corinthians 4:16-18, *“Therefore we do not lose heart. Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day. For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 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”.*

My Next Steps:

- Read and meditate on 2 Cor. 4:16-18 and Rom. 5:1-4.
- I will trust God in the face of not having all the answers.
- I accept the fact that there is pain and suffering in the world, but will do my part to minimize it and help make sense of it for others.
- God is leading me to _____.