

Bible Training Institute

To proactively accelerate the spiritual growth of Grace Bible Church for the purpose of knowing God more intimately and becoming more effective servants of God in the world

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Hamartiology Part 2

The Study of Sin

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Problem of Sin

Where does sin come from?

If God is sovereign does this mean that He is the author of sin?

How can sin co-exist with a God who is both all-powerful and all-good?

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Is God the Author of Sin?

Because God is sovereign, sin must somehow be a part of God's plan

- Proverbs 16:4
- Job 34:10

God cannot be the author of sin because of His character

- He is holy-- Isaiah 6:3
- He cannot look favorably upon sin-- Habakkuk 1:13

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Participants of Sin

- Satan--the first to sin--(Ezek 28:11-19)
- Fallen angels
- Humans
 - Humans are sinners by -
 - Nature (Eph 2:3)
 - Imputation (Rom 5:12)
 - Choice

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Why was sin allowed by God

- "Theodicy"--the study of the problem of evil; the justification of God in light of the problem of sin and evil
- Classical statement: "If God is all-powerful and all-good, why is there evil in the world?"
- Take the following three concepts: (1) God is all-powerful. (2) God is all-good. (3) Evil exists. According to some, it is logically impossible for these three concepts to all exist at the same time. Any combination of the two can exist but not three.

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Various Theodicies

- Theodicy of Protest
- Irenaean Theodicy
- Free Will Defense
 - ✓ Arminian version
 - ✓ Open Theism version

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Factors to consider

in pondering the problem of sin and evil

- Bible must be our primary source
- Until we are in glory, all of our questions will not be perfectly answered
- The “problem” of evil is only a problem from a human vantage point
- God does not need to be vindicated
- The Bible never assumes that God owes us an explanation
- Keep the future in mind
- Our struggle with evil is linked to our perspective in time

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Problem of Evil

The most paradoxical
question of theology

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10 Truths of a Correct Theodicy

Truth 1: God is Good

- Habakkuk 1:13a
- Psalm 119:68

Truth 2: God is Glorified by His Use of Evil

- Psalm 76:10
- Romans 9:22
- Proverbs 16:4

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10 Truths of a Correct Theodicy (cont.)

Truth 3: God Does Not Do Evil, But He Ordained That it Exist

- Lam 3:37-38
- Is 45:7
- Gen 1:31
- Luke 22:22

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10 Truths of a Correct Theodicy (cont.)

Truth 4: The Created, Not the Creator is Culpable for Evil Actions

- Isaiah 66:3-4
- Ecclesiastes 7:29

Truth 5: God's Relationship to Evil Has Not Been Fully Disclosed

- Rom 11:33

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10 Truths of a Correct Theodicy (cont.)

Truth 6: Absolute Freedom Cannot Exist

- Heb 1:3
- Proverbs 21:1

Truth 7: Sin and Death Entered at a Certain Point in Time

- Romans 5:12

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10 Truths of a Correct Theodicy (cont.)

Truth 8: God Vanquishes Evil and Eradicates the Effects of Sin

- Romans 8:1-2
- Rev 21:4; 22:3
- 1 Cor 15:26

Truth 9: Satan's Role in Suffering is Completely Under God's Dominion

- Daniel 2:20-21
- Second Samuel 24:1
- First Chronicles 21:1

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10 Truths of a Correct Theodicy (cont.)

Truth 10: God Uses Evil to Bring Good to the Christian

- Romans 8:28

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Three categories of those who question the problem of evil:

the cynic, the searcher, and the suffering

- The goal of the cynic is to discredit the existence or character of God.
- The searcher has philosophical and theological concerns about how God and evil are juxtaposed.
- The suffering may or may not be a Christian, and his immediate concern is a painful life situation and God's part in it.
