**Week 7: Always Ready**

**A Christian Perspective on Suffering**

**Part 2**

**Definition of Evil** The frustration of human goods as well as goods befitting the nonhuman world (animals and environments)

Spiritual concept of “Objective Good v. Evil”

2 Types: Natural evil and human caused evil

*Epicurus problem with God modernized:*

1. God’s power means God can prevent any evil, since God can do absolutely anything.
2. God’s goodness means he would prevent any evil.
3. But there is evil.
4. So, God *cannot* exist.

How do other religions or worldviews deal with the problem of suffering?

1. Atheism
2. Agnostic/Deists
3. Eastern religions
4. Hinduism/Karma

*To fear the Lord is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.*

*-Proverbs 8:13*

The Christian view

Implications:

1. First, the universe and humans are objectively valuable to God because he created them and declared them good.
2. Second, the universe has a structure and purpose, since it was created by and is sustained by a personal and moral God.
3. Third, God gave humans moral responsibility and instructed them on how to live.

“Human beings are now discontinuous with their original condition, not because God created them vicious or because God coerced them against their will, but because humans changed themselves by rebelling against God in this case we can understand that *man* is now cruel, but that God is not a bad God. This is precisely the Judeo-Christian position.”

-Francis Schaeffer

**The Redemption means:** God was at work from the beginning to bring us healing (Genesis 3:15), calling himself a chosen nation (Genesis 12), that culminated in the incarnation and death and resurrection of Jesus on the cross (Romans 8:1-2).

**Just because you can’t think of a reason why God would allow suffering doesn’t mean there isn’t one.**

**Atheists are quick to blame God for the evil and suffering of this world, but if God were real, couldn’t he ask the same question of us, *“Why are you allowing this?”***

“The Christian teaching is that Jesus was cut off from God as we deserved, and paid the debt we owed, so that when we believe in him we can receive God’s love and forgiveness. On the cross Jesus Christ got life without God *so we could have life with God.* He was putting himself into our lives—our misery, our mortality—so we could be brought into his life, his joy, and immortality.”

-Pastor Tim Keller, *Making sense of God*