

Exposing the False gods of Atheism – Week Three

If God, Why Evil?

Selected Scriptures

Main Idea: The hardest question for any religion to answer is “If God is love, why do innocent people suffer?” It is both an intellectual question as well as an emotional one. This morning, I want to help you understand the question and then give you answers that satisfy both the intellectual dilemma as well as the emotional.

1. ANSWERS THAT DON'T WORK – Historically, people have dealt with the problem of evil in four ways.

- A. Some say evil doesn't exist.
- B. Some say God doesn't exist.
- C. Some say God isn't good.
- D. Some say God isn't powerful.

2. To understand the Christian answer to suffering you must grasp the realities of sin and heaven.

- A. *In the past* – Evil came through an abuse of human free will.
- B. *In the present* – Evil continues because of sin. Question: Why doesn't God just stop evil.
- C. *In the future* – God promises to recycle evil and pain into something good. Romans 8:28

3. The ultimate answer to suffering is a person: Jesus Christ. Think through the last days of his life...

- A. *Friday* – On the cross, Jesus endured the worst form of suffering.
- B. *Saturday* – When his body was in the tomb, it seemed that God the Father was totally silent.
- C. *Sunday* – Jesus rose from the dead.