

The question Of evil

Those who oppose Christianity frequently ask questions like, if there's a God, and God is good, then why is there evil in the world? Why are there diseases like cancer? Why is there death? And why won't he stop it all? Some may be offended by somebody questioning God, but I honestly believe these are legitimate questions. Christianity should not be by blind faith. It should be based on the word of God and the evidence of its truth. So let's take a crack at this difficult topic.

Let's take a trip back in time. Back to the garden of eden and the fall of mankind. **Gen 3:1** Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, "Indeed, has God said, 'You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?'" satin is opposed to anything God is for. He wants glory and power. He wants to sit on the throne of heaven. He is like an insolent little child throwing a temper tantrum because he doesn't get what he wants. So sense he can't defeat God now he is attacking what God loves. Us. in this passage we see the tempter sowing the seeds of doubt. He knows that doubt drives a wedge between us and our creator.

Gen 3:2The woman said to the serpent, "From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat; **Gen 3:3** but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.' but is that exactly what God said?**Gen 2:16** The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; **Gen 2:17** 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." she added to what God said. That's not good. That shows that she isn't firmly grounded in God's word. Not knowing what God says about any given topic leads to a variety of traps and snares one can fall prey to. in Our next verse in chapter 3 the father of lies will set Eve up to fall into a pit.

Gen 3:4 The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! The evil one is saying that God's word is not literal. Don't believe God,he's not going to let you die. That kind of sounds a lot like liberal churches all over the western world. Don't be Eve. You have the capacity to avoid this trap. What does God's word say next?

Gen 3:5 "For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." first i would like to point out that it says she

will know evil. That means that at this very moment in time she didn't know right from wrong. The only law she knew was don't eat from that tree over there or there will be some very serious consequences. Secondly, Satan was tempting her by telling her she could be like God. The human ego always feels the need to be stroked. We tend to try to be better, stronger, smarter, faster, wiser and wealthier than the next guy. I think Eve should have read the epistle of James. (that was a joke. ha,ha) we also see that the serpent is telling her that this knowledge is a good thing. Not so! Because of this knowledge we are going to see that she loses something very important. but let's not get too far ahead of ourselves. We will cover more of that in a little while.

Gen 3:6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make *one* wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.

The temptation in and of itself is not sin. Even the Lord Jesus was tempted. It's how we respond to temptation. Jesus went to God's word to overcome. Eve did not, and we see totally different outcomes. Jesus overcame Satan and his trap while Eve fell headlong into it. But this passage doesn't let Adam off the hook either. Now I know we should never engage in speculation but in this case I just can't resist. And the reason I can't resist is because of a couple of observations within the passage. Eve was targeted, not Adam. why? Maybe the evil one believed that Adam was too strong in his relationship with the Lord. Maybe he saw that Adam's relationship with his wife was his weakness. Adam was alone on this planet, the only one of his kind before God made Eve. Maybe he understood what loneliness was. Loneliness can make normally rational people do very irrational things. Maybe he put his wife above God the moment he had realized what she had done. This is just speculation of course, but no matter how this played out he failed to be the spiritual leader within his home. The takeaway here is to put God first no matter what. But you have to ask yourself the question: when everything falls apart, did I do my job to the best of my ability at that time? That is how we grow and learn. What can I do better next time? Then give it to God. spend extra time in prayer.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.

When it says their eyes were open, it's a Jewish way of saying that they had an epiphany in the second meaning of the term. We might say in our modern terminology

that a light bulb came on. In other words they understood something they didn't a moment ago. remember a few moments ago, i said that Eve had lost something very important? It was her innocence. Stop and consider two children, one boy and one girl both two years old. Both run around the house naked as jaybirds, but neither one of them really understands the difference between themselves, let alone the fact that they are without clothing. That was Adam and Eve before they sinned. Now we see the activation of the conscience.

1Co 8:7 However not all men have this knowledge; but some, being accustomed to the idol until now, eat *food* as if it were sacrificed to an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. **1Co 8:12** And so, by sinning against the brethren and wounding their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ.

So we see two kinds of sin. The violation of God's law and the violation of the conscience. But ultimately sin is rebellion. You rebel against the word he gave with paper and ink through men that he inspired to write and against the law God himself has written on our conscience. **Rom 2:15** in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them, **Rom 2:16** on the day when, according to my gospel, God will judge the secrets of men through Christ Jesus.

Ultimately any rebellion to God is evil. This topic is so big and vast that I hope to do multiple series. And as i intend to do at the end of each article, i ask , if you have any topic that you want me to cover, you may ether leave your question on the church website or contact me at deadandalive4him@gmail.com

