

## Why a Loving God Allows Evil by Norman E. Jones

Why a loving God allows evil starts with the one and only true and living God who is the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit of the Bible. As many have said before; the Bible is the Word, or thoughts, of God to mankind. It is God's message to us. It is God's plan for the Earth and mankind.

In the original languages, the Bible is absolute truth. We do not have to decide what part of it is true; it is all true. That means we can believe it all and depend on it all. It is from this position of the strength of God's message to us that we learn from Him why He allows evil in the world.

Before the creation existed, God wanted to have a people whom He could love forever, and who would love and appreciate Him forever. *This is the central purpose for God's creation.* This is kind of like, couples now, each wanting to have the other to love and be loved. So you sought each other out. You made a place and a life together for the two of you. In the same way, God created the universe to have a place where He could love and be loved by His people.

God created a wonderful world with a myriad of beautiful plants, unique animals and gorgeous scenery. He wanted the one's He loved to see His love for them in the beauty of the place where they would live. Most people appreciate the natural beauty of the creation but don't appreciate the creator.

God also made angels, some who are loyal to God and some who are not. Satan, the Devil, is the chief angel who is against God and God's people.

God made man in His own image. We look similar to Him. And like Him, we are individuals. He made us autonomous. We think for ourselves. God made us autonomous because autonomy is required to have the capability to love. No autonomy, no love. No autonomy, no love for God.

The downside of autonomy, from God's point of view, is man may not want to love God; because to love requires a conscious choice to do something "good" for the one being loved.

God has infinite wisdom and perfect character; in the Bible, this is called "righteousness." However, man has finite wisdom and imperfect character. Therefore, man's thoughts, actions and behavior will be different from God's thoughts, actions and behavior. In the Bible, man's thoughts and actions are called "sin" or sometimes "evil."

Evil comes from the mind of man because his finite

wisdom, imperfect character, and evil influence from demonic angels produces sinful or evil thoughts and actions.

If you remember, this is the lesson of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. There man learned to trust his own judgement rather than trust God's judgement.

Adam and Eve before eating the forbidden fruit, assumed God was correct in everything He said. But when the devil put the question to them, "Did God say you shall not eat?" That put the Garden couple into the position of: (1) doubting God, (2) answering Satan's question, and (3) by default, deciding whether or not God was correct about not eating from the forbidden tree.

They judged God and His love for them. After all, He was keeping them from the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. So they decided to eat. Thus, *they took-on responsibility for managing their own lives* rather than trusting God to manage their lives.

God had previously said, "In the day that you eat, you shall surely die." They did die "spiritually" that day which is what God meant. Dying means a separation. They were separated from God (driven out of the Garden).

They were separated from God because He does not want rebellious people in His presence. Do you want rebellious people in your presence?

Since they didn't die physically that day, they thought God was telling them wrong. They were deceived by the devil. Since they thought God was wrong, they began to not trust Him. Since they thought they were right, they trusted their own judgement. Since men are autonomous, they have trusted their own judgement ever since, even to this day. Don't you trust your own judgement about life?

Satan deceived Adam and Eve and he continues to deceive all men even today. Men don't realize there are evil angels working against them and righteous angels working for them. Angels influence people's thinking toward or away from God's thinking and actions.

**This is an impossible situation for man.** Separation from God means man can never love God! Because, you cannot love whom you do not know. And, you cannot know a person from whom you are separated. This means you are destined for Hell!

This also means that just as Adam and Eve started thinking differently than God, and mankind only pos-

esses finite wisdom and imperfect character; we see ever diverging thought patterns between God and man. This is a recipe for every man doing his own thing. This is what we see in the world; every man doing his own thing and going his own way.

Over the succeeding generations, man's thinking is so different than God's thinking, that the nature of God's thinking, in the Bible, has been named "righteousness" or "goodness." The nature of man's thinking, in the Bible, has been termed "evil" or "sin." This is how evil came into the world, but why does God continue to allow evil in the world?

**This is also an impossible situation for God.** For God to have a people who would love Him forever: (1) He had to create them capable of loving Him and capable of not loving Him (because love is a choice); (2) expose them to the concept of rebellion; (3) allow them to rebel; (4) separate them from Himself, and (5) then set up conditions such that they would love and appreciate Him, and allow Him to manage their life, instead of continuing their own evil rebellious leadership.

In addition, men would have to be "knowers" not just "believers" that God's way is best. Men would have to *experience* God as well as "believe" in Him.

Therefore, God on His own initiative, would have to: (1) overcome physical death, (2) bridge the separation between God and man, and (3) devise a way for man to love God. *It is these conditions which established the need for God's salvation plan through Jesus Christ.*

### **God's Answers to an Impossible Situation**

God wants a people who will love him forever. He will overcome *physical death* by resurrection. If you are dead, He will make you alive again with a new body. If you are alive at a resurrection event, He will give you a new body and take you to be with Him.

God will *overcome the separation between God and man* through "faith" in Jesus of Nazareth who is called Christ. Godly men will tell other men about the love and "goodness" of God. Some men will listen, believe, act on their belief (have faith), and come to experience God in their life.

God will *persuade men to love Him* by contrasting the "goodness" of God with the "evilness" of man. The contrast provides the perspective that loving God is more desirable than practicing evil. However, the presence of "evil" is necessary to provide the contrast. **This is why God allows "evil" in the world.**

God will *persuade men to love Him* by first loving all men through the person and work of Jesus Christ. God, the Father, said, I will send my Son, Jesus Christ to

Earth to tell them I love them. I will heal their sick, heal their wounds, cast the devil out of their lives, save them from their sins (wrong and different thinking), and show them what "good" (God's thinking and action) really is. I will prove to them that God loves them by sending Jesus Christ, who is part of the Godhead, to love them.

After loving them, they tortured Him to death. He suffered excruciating pain as shown in the movie, "The Passion Of The Christ."

God says, if they ask me, I will forgive them of their heinous crime because I want them to believe I really do love them. This proof is the most I can do to demonstrate my love.

All they have to do is: (1) be open to my existence and truth, (2) be open to Me showing my love to them, and if they are open, they will see my love. If they are not open, they will not perceive my love, as my love; They will perceive my love as good luck or good fortune.

Learning that every person should give God a chance to show His reality and goodness to them is life's most important issue. It is so because your eternal destiny depends on your openness to the truth of who God really is. Will you, or will you not, be open to finding the truth of God and His worth?

If you allow yourself to seek the truth about God diligently, He will allow you to find his goodness which will lead you to loving Him with all your heart, soul, mind and strength, and your neighbor as yourself. Thus, you get to Heaven to be with God and with those people.

If you don't allow yourself to be open and seek the truth about God diligently, you don't get exposed to the love and goodness of God. Thus, you are only left with a point of view which does not include the love and goodness of God. Thus, you only have the point of view you have always had; a perspective of evil. Without God's perspective of "good," including the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, you have no reason to see God's will and ways as desirable. Not seeing God as "good," means you won't allow Him to impact your life.

This is the bottom line. Seek God's point of view. Compare it with your present point of view. The contrast will reveal the truth. For more information, you can read my book, **Managed Cooperation Theology**, Norman E. Jones, Divinely Timed Publications, 2011, available at Amazon.com. You may also go to my website at: "[www.soulsurvival.info](http://www.soulsurvival.info)". For question answers Email: "[soulsurvival@soulsurvival.info](mailto:soulsurvival@soulsurvival.info)".