



Neighborly Apologetics

The Problem of Evil - Part I I



The Royal Law

Love your neighbor

Love a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the true good of another

Neighbor 'plosion' - one who lives near

a steadfast, sacrificial zeal that seeks the true good of the one who **providentially** lives near you

Do we see our neighbor this way?



The Royal Law
Love your neighbor

God has entrusted the primary work
of the Kingdom to the common
Christian family



This is ground zero in the work of the Kingdom

We will build real relationships with those providentially in our Jerusalem, through prayer and action, with grace and wisdom and truth, being attractively winsome, tearing down walls, building up trust, **doing the work of the Kingdom.**

memory verse I

“...but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to **make a defense** to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect.”

-1 Peter 3:15

“Apologia”

memory verse 2

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **Let your speech always be with grace**, as though **seasoned with salt**, so that you **might know how to respond to each person**.

-Colossians 4:5-6

Godly wisdom is not primarily for yourself, but for the shalom of another
wisdom and discernment

Conduct yourselves with **wisdom** toward outsiders, making the most of the opportunity. **Let your speech always be with grace**, as though **seasoned with salt**, so that you might know how to respond to **each person**. -Colossians 4:5-6

wisdom and discernment

relationships

believer

non-believer

biblical worldview

no biblical worldview

open to God

closed to God

Truth Project

Engagement Project

Engagement Project

memory verse 3

The Lord's servant must **gently** instruct his opponents...“**in the hope that God will grant them repentance** leading them to a knowledge of the **truth**, and that they will **come to their senses** and escape from the **trap of the devil**, who has taken them **captive** to do his will.”

-2 Timothy 2:24-26

Academic Apologetics

vs.

Neighborly Apologetics

↑
we need this

↑
to do this

but we can't lead with this

we must lead with significant relationships

**Neighborly Apologetic
Categories:**

- 1. Evil and Suffering*
 - 2. Absolute Truth and Relativism*
 - 3. “Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism*
 - 4. Faith and Reason*
 - 5. Free Will and Sovereignty*
 - 6. God’s Existence and Nature*
 - 7. Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell*
 - 8. Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past*
 - 9. The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection*
 - 10. Miracles*
 - 11. Science and Evolution*
 - 12. The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”*
- Plus: Burning Issues of our Day*

Evil and Suffering

The problem of evil and suffering has three forms:

1. The logical argument:

If God were omnipotent and omniscient, He could prevent evil;
If He were truly good, He would want to prevent evil;
Therefore, since evil exists,
God cannot exist or He isn't omnipotent, omniscient, and good.

2. The evidential argument:

Because there is so much horrific evil everywhere in the world, and there is no evidence of a God who cares, it is hard to believe God exists.

3. The personal argument:

Where was God? He could have stopped the evil and suffering! But He didn't and so I hate Him; I'm angry at Him; I reject Him

wisdom and discernment

relationships

believer

non-believer

biblical worldview

no biblical worldview

open to God

closed to God

Evil and Suffering

begins with sympathy, empathy, asking questions about the circumstances and thinking behind the personal worldview

Evil and Suffering

preparing ourselves first

how do we look at evil and suffering...
from a Biblical Worldview

1. we live in a fallen world and man has a fallen nature

1. we live in a fallen world and man has a fallen nature



natural evil



moral evil

Evil and Suffering

preparing ourselves first

how do we look at evil and suffering...
from a Biblical Worldview

1. we live in a fallen world and man has a fallen nature
2. God is righteous, holy, just, merciful, compassionate, loving and good, always
3. God will, in His proper time, restore all things and there will be no more evil

Evil and Suffering

a Biblical Worldview gives us a solid basis to answer
the Problem of Evil and Suffering

1. What is evil?

2. Where does evil come from?

3. What is the solution for evil?

Evil and Suffering

a Biblical Worldview gives us a solid basis to answer
the Problem of Evil and Suffering

1. What is evil?

evil is anything that is contrary to God's design and order

2. Where does evil come from?

evil results from rebelling against God's design and order

3. What is the solution for evil?

Christ's atonement; God's justice and restoration of all things

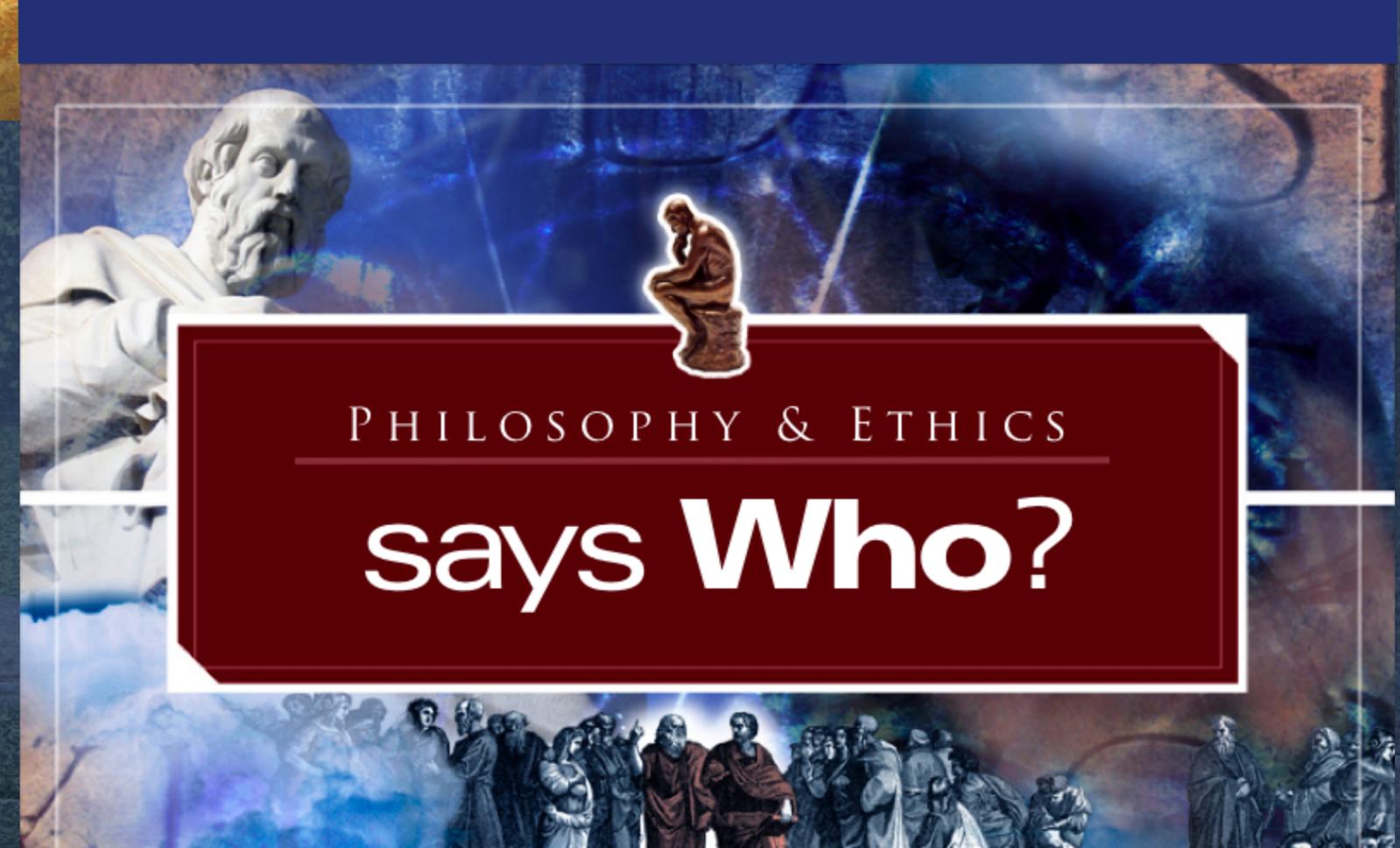
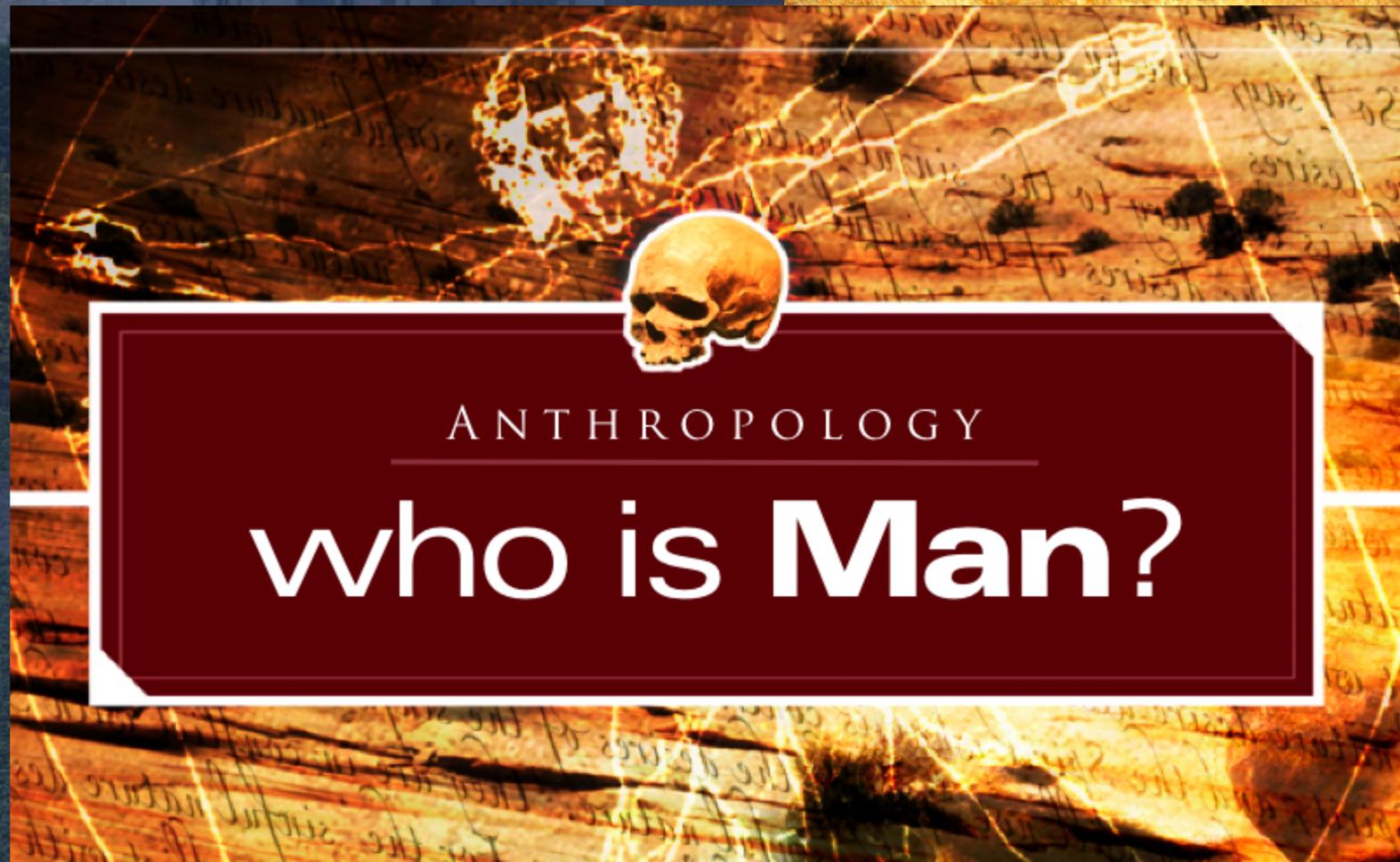
Evil and Suffering

preparing our families

Tour 3



Tour 4



Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

1. What is evil?

In Naturalism, all actions have to be amoral

Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

1. What is evil?

Dr. William Provine in debate with Phillip Johnson, Stanford

no gods or purposive forces

no free will

no life after death

no meaning in life

no ultimate foundation for ethics



Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview
no ultimate foundation for ethics

1. What is evil?



Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

1. What is evil?

In Naturalism, all actions have to be amoral

Dr. William Provine: no ultimate foundation for ethics

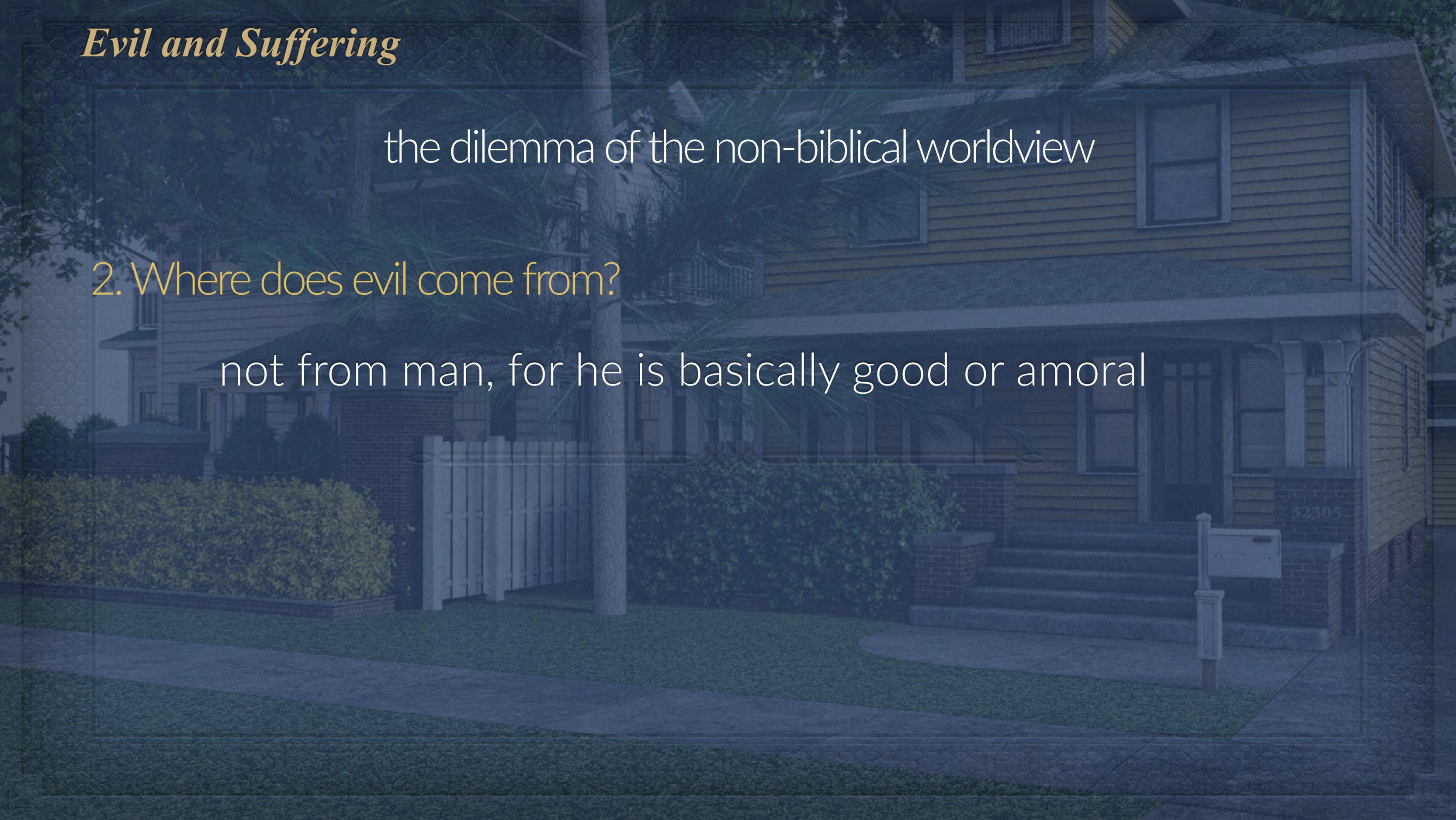
In 2023 Western Civilization, evil is defined by an amalgamation of homo deus and might makes right and a new worldview; anything that denies the homo deus divinity

Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

2. Where does evil come from?

not from man, for he is basically good or amoral

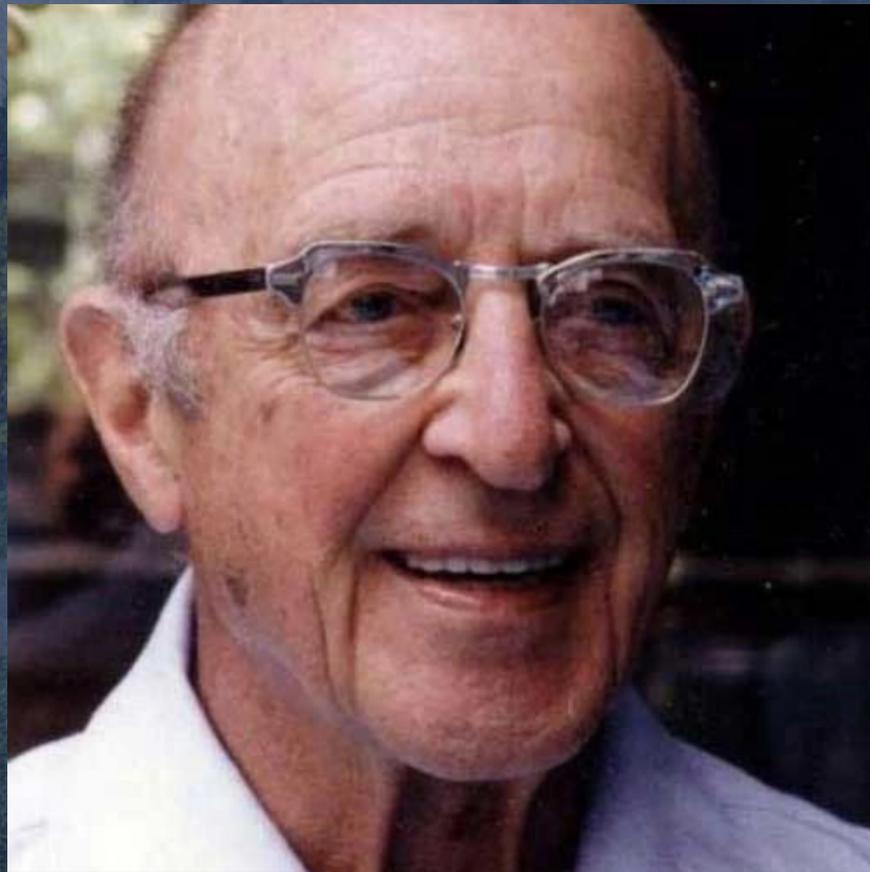


Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

2. Where does evil come from?

“As far as I know, we just don’t have any intrinsic instincts for evil.” Abraham Maslow



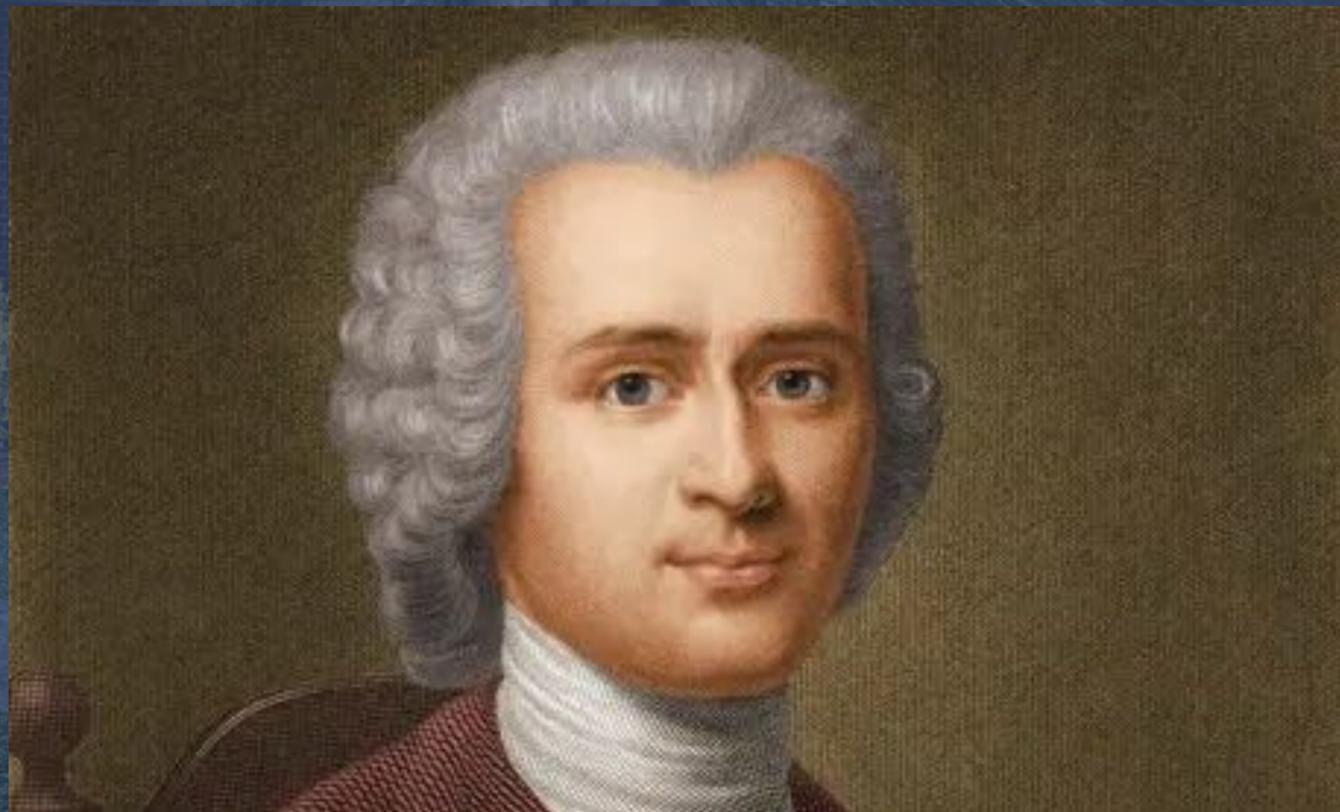
“I do not find that... evil is inherent in human nature.” Carl Rogers

Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

2. Where does evil come from?

“If man is good by nature, as I believe to have shown him to be, it follows that he stays like that as long as nothing foreign to him corrupts him.” Jean-Jacques Rousseau



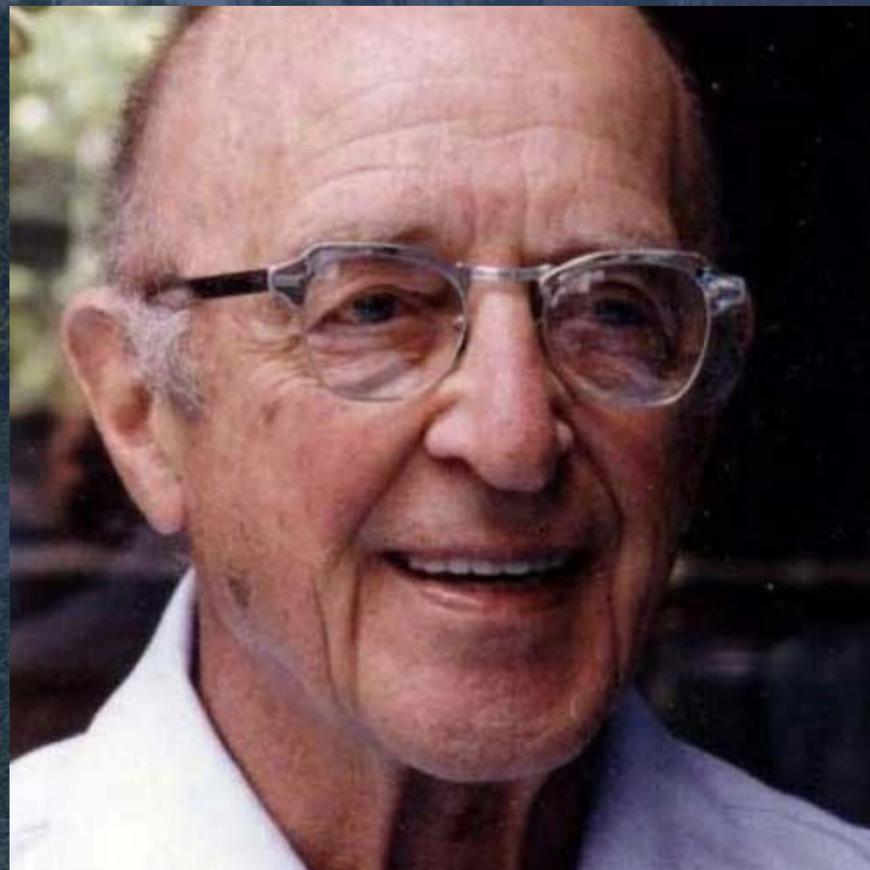
Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

2. Where does evil come from?

"Sick people are made by a sick culture; healthy people are made possible by a healthy culture."

Abraham Maslow



"...experience leads me to believe that it is cultural influences which are the major factor in our evil behaviors." Carl Rogers

Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

2. Where does evil come from?

not from man, for he is basically good or amoral

Maslow and Carl Rogers: social institutions

In 2023 Western Civilization, evil comes from that which is “systemic” rather than personal “sin”; from those who promote “old” views of human sexuality or sin

Evil and Suffering

a Biblical Worldview gives us a solid basis to answer
the Problem of Evil and Suffering

1. What is evil?

2. Where does evil come from?

3. What is the solution for evil?

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

3. What is the solution for evil?

getting in touch with your real, good inner self



Maslow's hierarchy of needs



Abraham Maslow

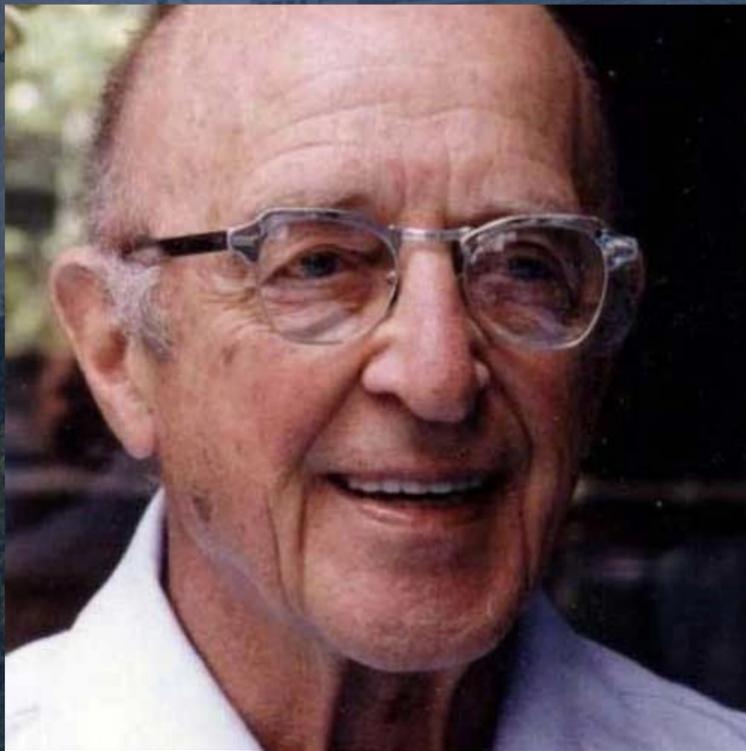
Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

3. What is the solution for evil?

getting in touch with your
real, good inner self

Carl Rogers



“Rogers believed that a person reaches to self-actualization level when they achieve their goals, *wishes* and *desires* at all stages of their life.”



Abraham Maslow

What keeps people from doing this?

Oppressive social institutions, especially the church with its absolute ethical values

Evil and Suffering

the dilemma of the non-biblical worldview

3. What is the solution for evil

Maslow and Rogers: getting in touch with your real, good inner self

Since evil comes from social institutions, all efforts to solve “evil” and “suffering” are focused on social institutional reform or replacement

In 2023 Western Civilization, the solution is also increasingly viewed as cancelling, silencing, marginalizing those who hold or speak “old” ethical notions

but what about...

Evil and Suffering



Job has lost EVERYTHING
Job is SUFFERING TERRIBLY

3 "friends"

Bildad

Eliphaz

Job

Zophar



GOD

“You are suffering because you are guilty of some sin.”

“I am innocent. I am blameless. Something is wrong with God.”



Bildad

Eliphaz



Zophar



Job



Elihu

Job

“You are suffering because you are guilty of some sin.”

“I am innocent. I am blameless. Something is wrong with God.”



the faulty premise:

suffering is the result of personal sin;
personal righteousness will bring physical blessings

the faulty premise:

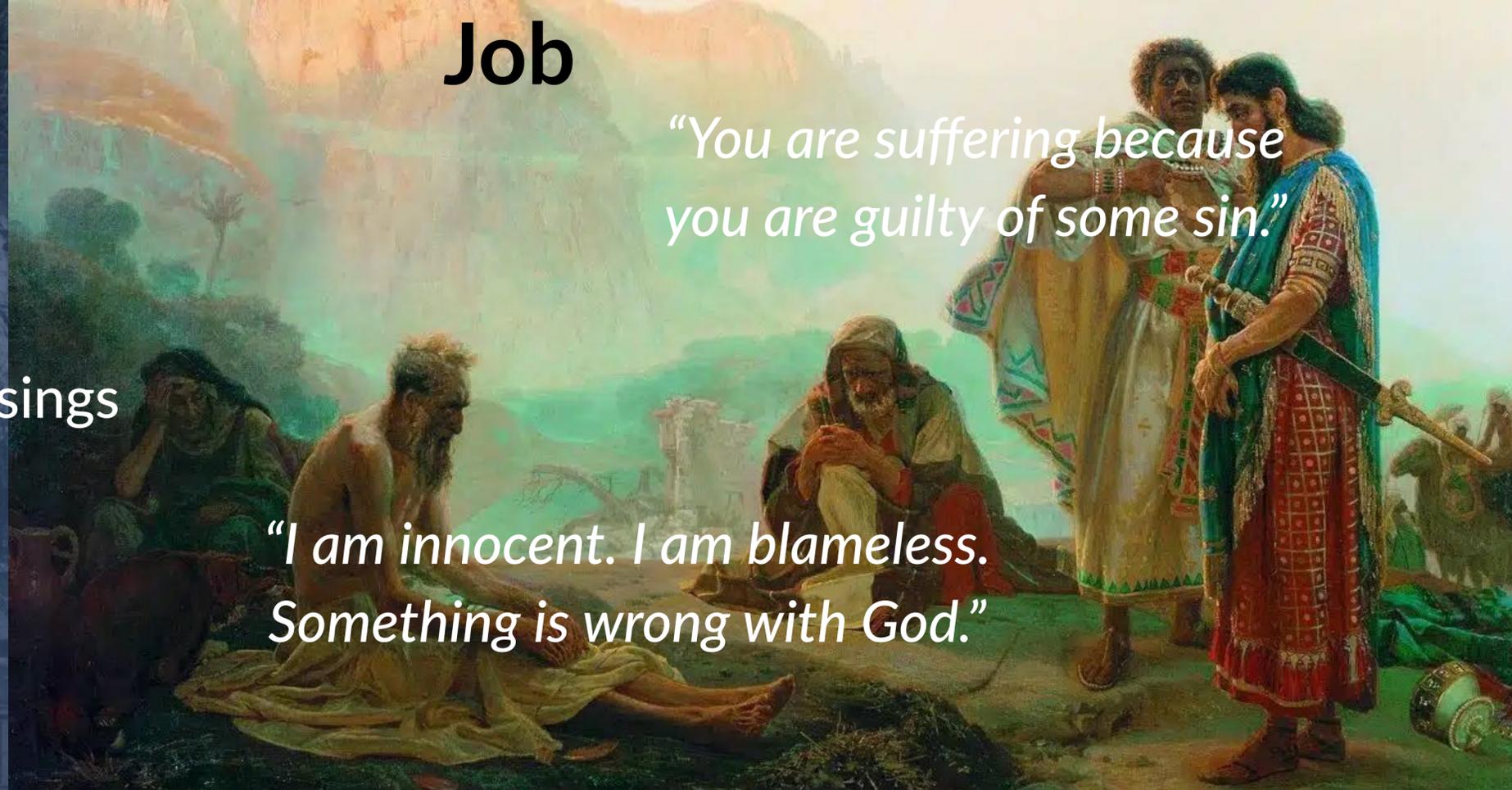
suffering is the result of personal sin;

personal righteousness will bring physical blessings

Job

“You are suffering because you are guilty of some sin.”

“I am innocent. I am blameless. Something is wrong with God.”



Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” Luke 13:1-5

the faulty premise:

suffering is the result of personal sin;

personal righteousness will bring physical blessings

Wisdom and discernment: is our neighbor...

suffering because of personal poor choices?

suffering because of another's poor choices?

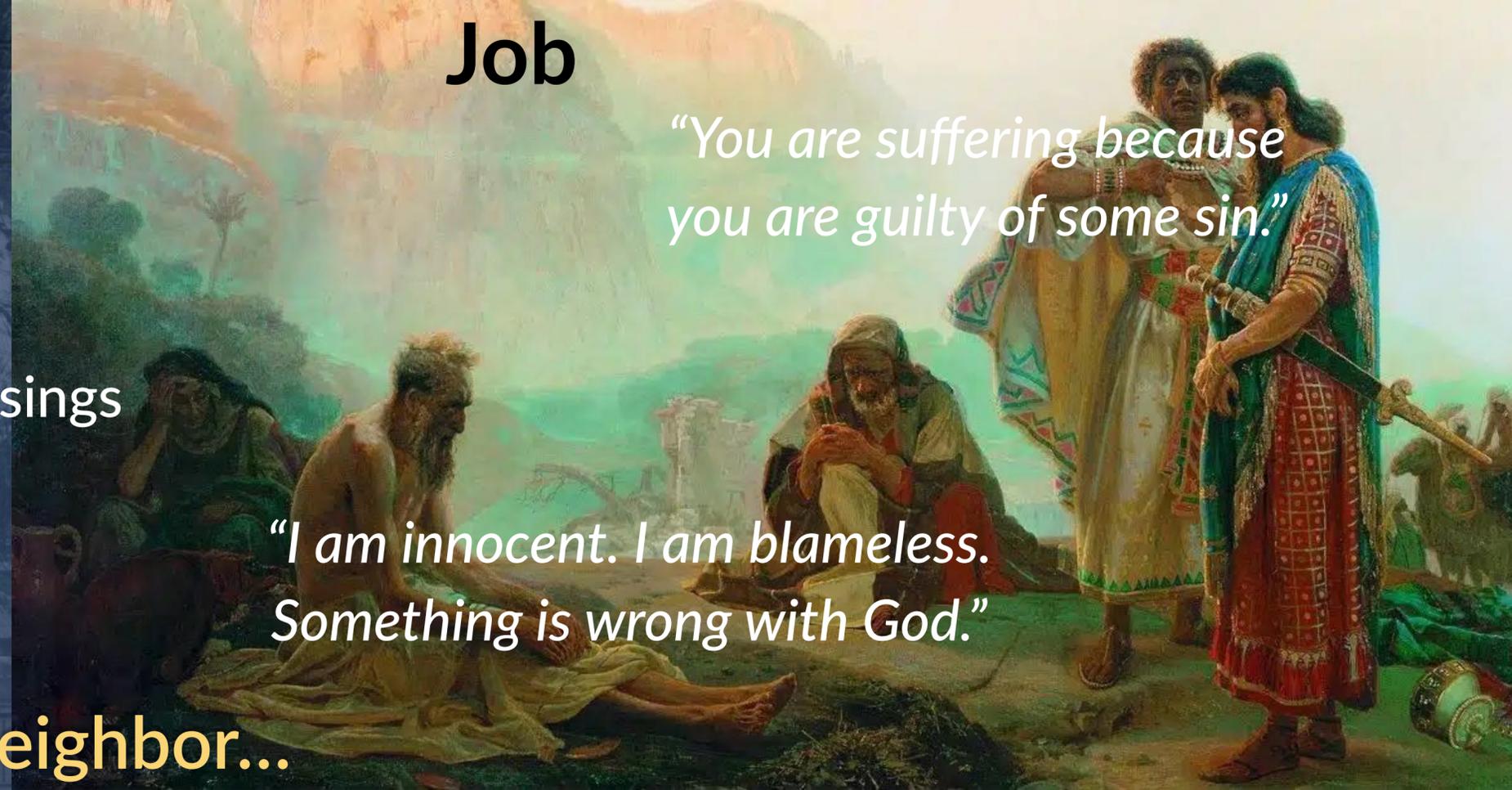
suffering because of natural evil or moral evil?

suffering in the Larger Story of God?

Job

*"You are suffering because
you are guilty of some sin."*

*"I am innocent. I am blameless.
Something is wrong with God."*



wisdom and discernment

relationships

believer

non-believer

biblical worldview

no biblical worldview

open to God

closed to God

Wisdom and discernment: is our neighbor...

suffering because of personal poor choices?

suffering because of another's poor choices?

suffering because of natural evil or moral evil?

suffering in the Larger Story of God?

but what about...

Evil and Suffering



As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. John 9:1-3

but what about...

Evil and Suffering

that the works of God might be displayed

He was despised and rejected by mankind,
a man of **suffering**, and familiar with pain.
Like one from whom people hide their faces
he was despised, and we held him in low esteem.
Surely he took up our pain
and bore our **suffering**,
yet we considered him punished by God,
stricken by him, and afflicted. Isaiah 53:3-4

but what about...

Evil and Suffering

Now if we are children, then we are heirs—heirs of God and co-heirs with Christ, if indeed we ***share in his sufferings*** in order that we may also share in his glory.

Romans 8:17

I consider that our present ***sufferings*** are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in

US. Romans 8:18

but what about...

Evil and **Suffering**

And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.
Not only so, but we also glory in our **sufferings**,
because we know that **suffering** produces
perseverance; perseverance, character; and
character, hope. Romans 5:2-4

but what about...

Evil and **Suffering**

Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you. But rejoice inasmuch as you participate in the **sufferings** of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when his glory is revealed. If you are insulted because of the name of Christ, you are blessed, for the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. If you **suffer**, it should not be as a murderer or thief or any other kind of criminal, or even as a meddler. However, if you **suffer** as a Christian, do not be ashamed, but praise God that you bear that name. 1Peter 4:12-16

but what about...

Evil and **Suffering**
connected with the **Resurrection**

He then began to teach them that the Son of Man must **suffer** many things and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and **after three days rise again**. Mark 8:31

He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will **suffer** and **rise from the dead on the third day**... Luke 24:46

but what about...

Evil and **Suffering**
connected with the **Resurrection**

As was his custom, Paul went into the synagogue, and on three Sabbath days he reasoned with them from the Scriptures, explaining and proving that the Messiah had to **suffer** and **rise from the dead**. Acts 17:2-3

I am saying nothing beyond what the prophets and Moses said would happen— that the Messiah would **suffer** and, as the first to **rise from the dead**, would bring the message of light to his own people and to the Gentiles.” Acts 26:22-24

but what about...

Evil and **Suffering**
connected with the **Resurrection**

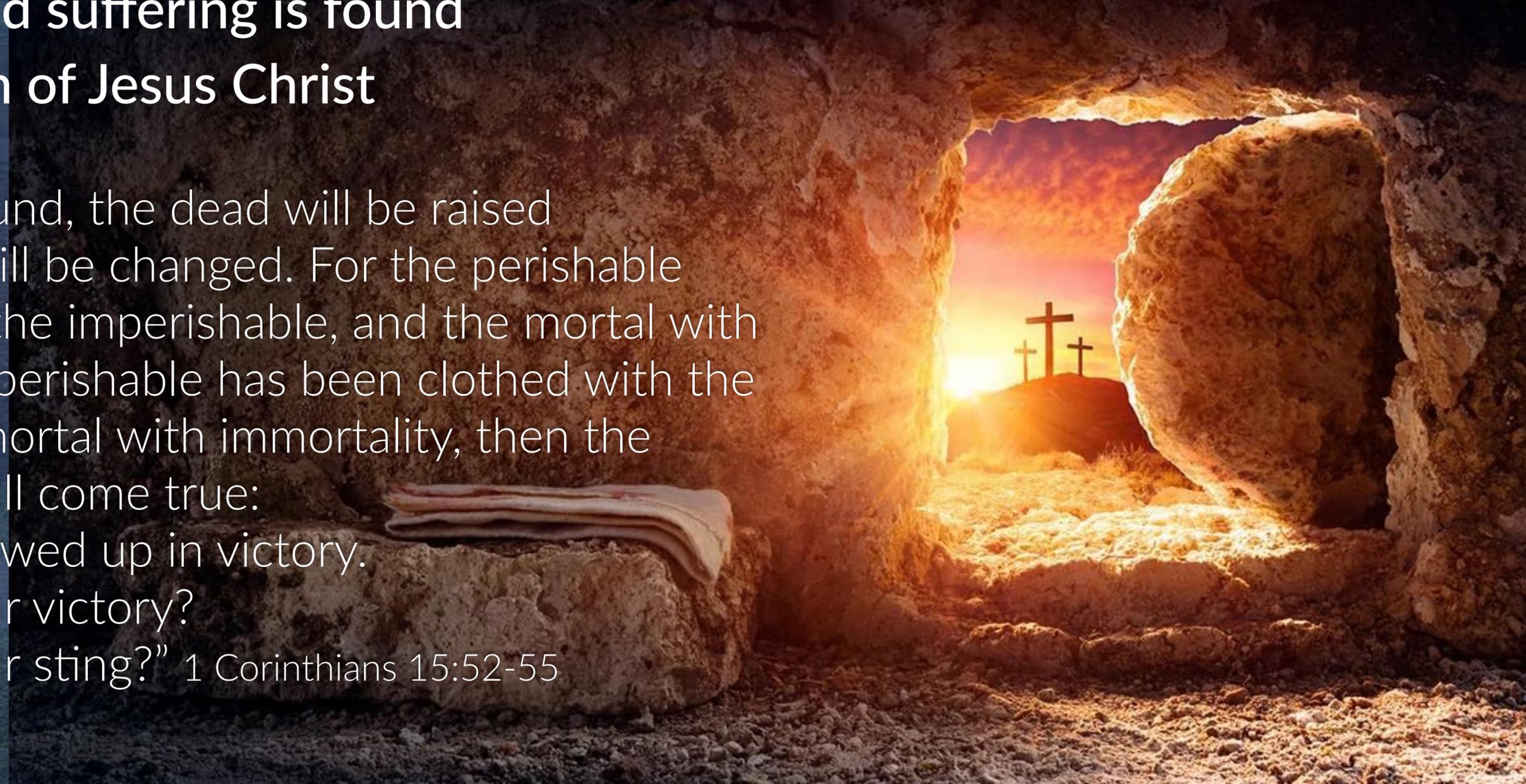
the solution to evil and suffering is found
in the resurrection of Jesus Christ

For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For the perishable must clothe itself with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality. When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true:

“Death has been swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?” 1 Corinthians 15:52-55



Neighborly Apologetic
Categories:

1. *Evil and Suffering*
 2. *Absolute Truth and Relativism*
 3. *“Only One Way” and Religious Pluralism*
 4. *Faith and Reason*
 5. *Free Will and Sovereignty*
 6. *God’s Existence and Nature*
 7. *Goodness of Man, Judgment and Hell*
 8. *Hypocrisy and Christian Crimes of the Past*
 9. *The Claims of Jesus and the Resurrection*
 10. *Miracles*
 11. *Science and Evolution*
 12. *The Veracity of the Bible and “Contradictions”*
- Plus: Burning Issues of our Day*



Neighborly Apologetics

The Problem of Evil - Part I I