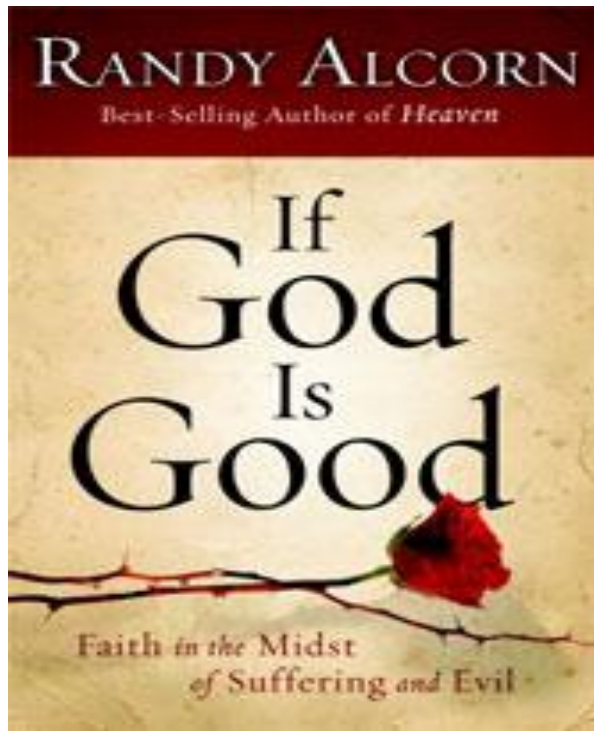




*Love God. Love People. Change the World.*



# ***If God is Good.***

## ***Lesson #3***

**Christian Life Assembly  
Winter 2010 ABF  
Jim Hoffman**

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# Questions

- Can you name some common forms of suffering by one person, that is brought about by the acts of another?
- If someone were to ask you, “what is the greatest evil one person can do to another?”, what would you say?



# *Understanding Evil ...*

- **God has an issue with those who switch the tags of good and evil ...**
- **The Christian is bigoted while the homosexual is just being what God made him to be?**
- **The abortion protester is a hate monger, but the abortionists are providing a humanitarian service?**

# *Understanding Evil ...*

- Evil is not the absence of good, it is the corruption of good .... Randy Alcorn
- When we think of evil we think of child molestation, murder, rape, and other acts of physical brutality, but what about corrupting the scriptures?
- What is more evil than to corrupt the only truth that can set men free?

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# *Evil and Suffering ...*

- Evil could be defined as all of the acts we do that set ourselves up as our own god.
- Suffering is the consequence of evil – without evil there would be no suffering. There is nothing that we suffer that does not have it's roots in sin.
- Note this – sometimes our suffering is not the result of our own sin, but of the sin of others.

# *Evil and Suffering ...*

- The child of an alcoholic father goes without material needs because of his father's sin.
- The wife who suffers physically and emotionally at the hands of a husband who beats her.
- The ones who lose their life savings because of the greed of others.
- The one who loses a loved one at the hands of drunk driver.

# Evil and Suffering ...

- Suffering always follows evil. A caboose follows an engine.
- Without suffering, we would not know pain. From that point of view, could the pain and suffering that follows evil be a gift?
- Without suffering, we would not know some of God's best attributes: love, mercy, and forgiveness.



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# *Evil and Suffering ...*

- One of the reasons, if not the reason, so much suffering exists in the world is that without suffering we would not seek God.
- Imagine growing up in a world where sin was wrong, but had no temporal consequences.
- What would be the likely result of living in a world like that?

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# *Evil, Suffering and World Views ...*

- **1. There is no evil or suffering – it, like life itself, is a figment of our imaginations.**
- **2. There is no God – Atheism holds that evil runs unchecked because there is no one to stop it.**
- **3. God has limited goodness – he is unwilling to deal with all evil which explains why relief from suffering seems so arbitrary.**

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# *Evil, Suffering and World Views ...*

- 4. God has limited power -God is aware of evil and the suffering it causes, but cannot stop all of it.
- 5. God has limited knowledge – if he knew of every evil act he would stop them, but some things happen without his knowledge.
- 6. God exists, is good, is all knowing, and all-powerful and will ultimately deal with evil and suffering in a way that glorifies Him.



# *Questions / Comments*