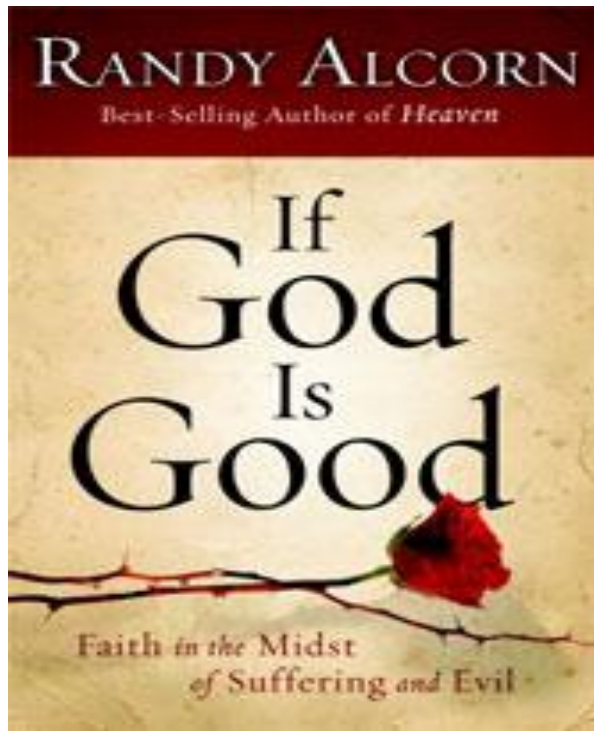




Love God. Love People. Change the World.



If God is Good.

Lesson #8

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

Question

If you were asked to prove that Adolph Hitler will receive more punishment than the nice lady across the street who is unsaved, what evidence would you offer?

Some Sin More

- **Matt 11:24** But I tell you that it will be more bearable for Sodom on the day of judgment than for you." NIV
- **Luke 12:47** "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes, 48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more. NASB
- **2 Tim 3:13** while evil men and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. NIV

Some Sin More

- As we continue to look at the problem of evil and suffering in the world keep in mind that all men are sinners, but not all men commit the same amounts of evil.
- All are capable of the worst behaviors, but not all go beyond the boundaries of their conscience as often as others.
- God pronounced man ‘very good’ and the remnants of that state can still be detected.



Question

All men are sinners, but are all men evil?

Are All Sinners Evil?

- **Matt 7:11 If ye then, being evil , know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him? KJV**
- **Matt 7:11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him! NIV**
- **Matt 7:11 "If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more shall your Father who is in heaven give what is good to those who ask Him! NASB**

Are All Sinners Evil?

- **Matt 12:35** The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in him, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in him. NIV
- Here the same Greek word is used and is translated 'evil', but there is another man mentioned – a 'good' man.
- Perhaps these are two men whose deeds, when juxtaposed to each other shows one to be 'good', by comparison to the other.
- Or perhaps these are two different days in all of our lives?

Are All Sinners Evil?

- “I must admit that I have observed in me, and still observe, works that seem ‘good’ to me and mixed among them I still see thoughts, attitudes, and works that are despicable.”
- I am unconvinced that any of us are totally evil and even more so convinced that none of us are totally good.
- In reading through the N.T scriptures regarding evil, I conclude that evil is mostly an action and seldom a state of a person.
- Are all sinners evil? I think the best answer is that all sinners do evil.

Personal Perspective

- Years ago the London Times asked several prominent writers to address the subject of ‘what is wrong with the world?’.
- GK Chesterton wrote:

Dear Sirs,

I am.

Sincerely yours,

G.K. Chesterton

Natural Disasters and Suffering

- “It's not just Christianity. Any religion centered on a God who is both all-powerful and all-good, including Islam and the more monotheistically inclined versions of Hinduism, should be subject to a thorough post-tsunami evaluation. As many have noted before me: If God cares about our puny species, then disasters prove that he is not all-powerful; and if he is all-powerful, then clearly he doesn't give a damn.” Barbara Ehrenreich
- When people ask “why would God create a world with natural disasters?” the correct answer is He didn't.

Natural Disasters and Suffering

- If a builder were to craft a beautiful and perfectly built house and had it ruined by his tenants would we blame the builder or the tenants?
- Do you find it interesting that the synonym for natural disaster is 'act of God', but beautiful sunny days are never referred to as such?
- Some disasters of nature are simply the results of a fractured earth, but some are undoubtedly caused by God.

Natural Disasters and Suffering

- **Gen 6:6** The Lord was grieved that he had made man on the earth, and his heart was filled with pain. **7** So the Lord said, "I will wipe mankind, whom I have created, from the face of the earth — men and animals, and creatures that move along the ground, and birds of the air — for I am grieved that I have made them." NIV
- **Num 16:31** As soon as he finished saying all this, the ground under them split apart **32** and the earth opened its mouth and swallowed them, with their households and all Korah's men and all their possessions. **33** They went down alive into the grave, with everything they owned; the earth closed over them, and they perished and were gone from the community.NIV

Natural Disasters and Suffering

- The plagues on Egypt.
- The fiery storm sent upon Sodom.
- The storm that got Jonah tossed out of the ship.
- The various droughts of the O.T.

Question

What is the difference between God removing his blessing from a person or a nation and him sending judgment?



Questions / Comments