

Title | Evil: What Is It, and Where's It From?

Series | Evil: What It Is, Where It Came From,

and Why God Allows It

Text | Genesis 3

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Genesis 3:16-19

To the woman He said.

"I will greatly multiply

Your pain in childbirth,

In pain you will bring forth children;

Yet your desire will be for your husband,

And he will rule over you."

Then to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat from it';

Cursed is the ground because of you;

In toil you will eat of it

All the days of your life.

"Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;

And you will eat the plants of the field;

By the sweat of your face

You will eat bread,

Till you return to the ground,

Because from it you were taken;

For you are dust,

And to dust you shall return." NASB

Big Idea:

Sermon Notes

Romans 8:19-22 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to the corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. NASB

For Reflection and Application:

Monday:

The Compatibilist view of free will teaches that a person is free to choose their greatest desire at the moment, but it is God who causes their desires. How does Romans 1:20 imply that humans, not God, are responsible for their own choices and actions? What other Scriptures can you think of that speak against the idea that God forces you to make the choices that you make?

Tuesday:

Read Joshua 24:15. How does Joshua's statement apply to us today? What types of cultural gods are vying for our allegiance, our time, our money, and our focus? What choices do we need to make in order not to serve the gods of our culture and to choose to serve the Lord?

Wednesday:

Who did the Apostle Paul say was responsible for sin entering the world: God, Man, or Satan? (Read Romans 5:12)

Thursday:

In what way have your choices in the past shaped who you have become positively or negatively? Read Ephesians 4:17-32 and note how many times Paul is imploring his readers to make good choices about how they live.

Friday:

Considering where evil came from, how would you respond to this statement? "I can't believe in a God who would create a world with childhood leukemia, hurricanes, and famine."

Daily Prayer:

Lord, thank you for dignifying me with free will. I understand that this is a huge responsibility and I want to align my choices with truth. Help me use my will correctly, according to the way that you have designed me to be. Amen.