

WEDNESDAY EVENING (November 27th) • Prayer & Providence

Providence and the Problem of Evil

Throughout this study we have repeatedly returned to the premise that God is and that he is absolute in all his attributes—holiness, intelligence, wisdom, knowledge, and power. If this premise is true, God cannot make a mistake; the world that he created was complete, and perfect for the purpose for which he created it. When the creation was finished, God “saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good” (Gen 1:31). This raises the question, if everything was very good, how do we account for and explain the presence of evil as it is found in such a world?

What impact does a second premise have on this discussion? – Man is a moral creature, possessing a moral conscience with the ability to choose his own actions.

What impact does a third premise have on this discussion? – God put his creation and man under law—laws in the physical world to control and direct it, and laws in the moral realm to govern the free beings in it. Compliance or non-compliance—obedience or disobedience—to these laws brings inevitable consequences that produce good or evil results.

Using your knowledge of the overall scope of the Bible, how would you answer the following:

- What is evil?
- From where did evil come?
- Can evil be overcome?
- Can God so control his world in the midst of evil that his purposes may be achieved?
- If so, how?

What does Romans 1:18-32 contribute to this discussion?

And Romans 8:18-25?

God's redemptive plan for man's salvation also includes divine revelation concerning the defeat and final destruction of Satan. What can we learn from Genesis 3:15? Revelation 12:7-17? 1 John 3:8? Hebrews 2:14-15? Revelation 20:7-10?