Pastor Joe's
Sermon Listening Guide

Where there's CHRIST There's HOPE

The Reality of Suffering and Persecution

Why Does a Holy God Allow Evil to Exist?

1 Peter 3:13-18

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All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. ● Pew Bible Page Number is 1115.
In the STUDY VERSE SECTION, God's Word is printed in regular faced text with Pastor Joe's commentary in the smaller faced text.
Biblical words, underlined with dots, are explained in the brackets. ● Pastor Joe's email: Joe@southreno.com

If we live only in the present, and forget the future, the trials we experience today will make us bitter, not better, tomorrow. – Dr. Warren Wiersbe

Christianity was born in a world of totalitarianism...it was not strange to be persecuted. What is strange historically, is that we are not. - Dr. John Piper

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Some Introductory Thoughts about "Evil"

1. Evil exists.

Natural Evil – diseases, disasters, catastrophes, tidal waves, hurricanes, viruses, bacteria, volcano eruptions, wildfires, earthquakes, tornadoes, etc. cf., Romans 8:22–23, NLT

Moral Evil – lusts, selfishness, arrogance, hate -- all leading to death. cf., Romans 3:23–24, NASB95

Supernatural Evil - demonic beings who are corrupt spiritual entities-- they lie, they deceive, they are vile. They have as their primary role to create false religions and false gods. cf., 2 Corinthians 4:4, NASB95

Eternal Evil (Hell) – Eternal existence without God for those who rejected Him. cf., 2 Thessalonians 1:9, TLB

2. God exists.

The Bible reveals Him as true, living, holy, all-knowing, all-powerful, and always everywhere. He is sovereign (He created everything, controls everything and will soon consummate everything.)

1 Chronicles 29:10–13, ESV - *10 Therefore David blessed the LORD in the presence of all the assembly. And David said: "Blessed are you, O LORD, the God of Israel our father, forever and ever. 11 Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. 12 Both riches and honor come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might, and in your hand it is to make great and to give strength to all. 13 And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name.*

3. God "wills" (i.e. permits) evil to exist.

Isaiah 45:5–7, NASB95 – *5 "I am the LORD, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me; 6 That men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun That there is no one besides Me. I am the LORD, and there is no other, 7 The One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the LORD who does all these.*

cf., Deuteronomy 32:39, Lamentations 3:37–38 and Isaiah 46:9–10.

4. Why does a Holy God allow evil to exist?

• The metaphysical argument says you can't have good without bad.

• The "free will" argument says there must be free-will so God knows our love is real.

• The biblical argument says **the reason God permits evil is so we can better understand His righteous.**

Romans 3:5, NASB95 – *5 But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He?* cf., Romans 10, Romans 9:22–23, Romans 5:8, Revelation 15:2–4, Acts 2:22–23 and Job 38.

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A. God is not the author of evil. cf., Gen. 1:31, Isaiah 6:3 and Habakkuk 1:13

B. Though evil isn't good, God can use it for good. cf., Romans 8:28 and Gen. 50:20

C. The day is coming when evil will be judged by God. cf., 2 Peter 3:9

D. Our suffering in this *evil world* will pale in comparison to all that God has in store for His followers in *Holy Heaven*. cf., 2 Corinthians 4:17 and Romans 8:18