

iBelieve - “I Believe God is Good”

Sunday, May 15, 2022

Pastor Brian Eatock Pekin First Nazarene

Is God Good if Evil Exists?

“Every philosopher believes that the most serious challenge to theism was, and is, and will continue to be the problem of evil.” – **Ronald Nash**

“Is God willing to prevent evil but not able? Then he is impotent. Is he able to but not willing? Then he is malevolent. Is he both able and willing? Why then is there evil?” – **David Hume**

In your opinion, why does suffering and evil exist?

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him, who have been called according to His purpose.” – **Romans 8:28**

A Skeptics proof against a Good God:

1. The existence of _____.

God “has put eternity into man’s heart” - **Ecclesiastes 3:11**

We were originally designed by our Creator to live in a world without sin and death. (**Genesis 1–2**)

2. Evolution, not God, has _____ us to recognize evil.

Does suffering have a purpose in this world?

“You meant evil against me, but God meant it for good” – Genesis 50:20

³“We also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; ⁴perseverance, character; and character, hope. ⁵And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us.” – Romans 3:3-5

“But rejoice that you participate in the sufferings of Christ, so that you may be overjoyed when His glory is revealed.” - 1 Peter 4:13

¹“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. ²I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. ⁴He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.” – Revelation 21:1-4