



2015 IABC International Conference
Life Fellowship, Denver CO
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When Disease & Death Are the Norm What Do You Tell Your Counselee? Selected Scripture

INTRODUCTION - God & the Doctrine of "Theodicy"

 The Definition of "Theodicy"

the·od·i·cy

/THĕ'ädəsē/

noun

The vindication of divine goodness and providence in view of the existence of evil.

1) As it relates to the _____ of man.

2) As it relates to the _____ of nature.

The Defense of Scripture - The Big Picture

- 1) Death and suffering are seen as _____. (Romans 5:12; I Corinthians 5:21)
- 2) Death and suffering were not part of God's _____ creation. (Genesis 2:17)

LESSON - When Disease & Death Are the Norm - What Do You Tell Your Counselee?

I. THEY MUST KEEP A SOUND THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE - Thinking Biblically About Suffering

- There is an _____ standard of morality that is outside individual humans. (Exodus 20:1-17 ... The 10 Commandments on stone)
- Evil is not a _____ in itself, even though it is real. Evil is the _____ of some good thing. Therefore God did not _____ evil but only that which is "very good". (Genesis 1:31)
- God created Adam & Eve, and the angels, with the power of _____ choice. (Genesis 2:16-17)
- Adam's misuse of this good (Genesis 3 - sin) resulted in _____ evil that spread from him to all the rest of mankind (Romans 5:12) thus removing from mankind the ability of contrary choice and therefore mankind could no longer go against their sin nature (Psalm 51:5; Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 7:15-25).
- Now suffering and death are seen as the _____ for sin (Genesis 3:14-24), a _____ paid to man (Romans 6:23), a _____ on creation (Romans 8:22), and an _____ of God's plan and purpose. (I Corinthians 15:26)
- Now God gives mankind a _____ of what life without Him is like - A world full of violence, death, suffering, and disease. (Romans 1:18-32)

II. THEY MUST KEEP A SAVIOR TYPE OF PERSPECTIVE – Responding Like Jesus to Suffering

"God whispers to us in our pleasures, speaks in our conscience, but shouts in our pains: It is His megaphone to rouse a deaf world."

C.S. Lewis

The Week of Sorrows - The Gethsemane Hour (Mark 14:32-42)

→ **The Place of Christ's Greatest Sorrow** (v. 32a)

→ **The People Around Christ's Greatest Sorrow** (vs. 32b-35)

Why did Jesus take Peter, James, and John?

- 1) To protect his _____.
- 2) To provide _____.
- 3) To produce _____.

Why was there such agony in the life of Christ?

- 1) Because of the _____ of Judas.
- 2) Because of the _____ of the 11 disciples.
- 3) Because of the _____ of Peter.
- 4) Because of the _____ of Israel.
- 5) Because of the _____ he (the Son of God) would suffer.

6) Because of the _____ of His Father.

7) Because He faced _____ sin in our place.

→ **The Prayers During Christ's Greatest Sorrow** (v. 36-42)

1) It reflected _____ in His Father. "He was saying, Abba! Father! ..."

2) It realized the _____ in His choice. "... all things are possible for You; remove this cup from Me..."

3) It responded in _____ to God's will. "... yet not what I will, but what You will."

Application - Helping those you counsel apply truths from Christ's suffering

 Closeness to or intimacy with God does not _____ the potential of sorrow and death.

 When in sorrow godly and biblical friendships are to be _____, not _____.

 Our truest and best resources during times of sorrow are God's _____ and _____.