

## Why does evil and suffering exist?

- the existence of evil and suffering
  - but if God is all-powerful, why doesn't He stop evil?
  - "Either God wants to abolish evil, and cannot; or he can, but does not want to; or he cannot and does not want to. If he wants to, but cannot, he is impotent. If he can, and does not want to, he is wicked. But, if God both can and wants to abolish evil, then how comes evil in the world?"  
– 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC Greek philosopher Epicurus
- the existence of evil and suffering is a thorny problem for the believer

SOLUTIONS OFFERED (by non-Christian)

THEODICY (by Christians)

- God is sovereign: nothing is outside His perfect control  
(1 Chr. 29:11-12; Ps. 115:3; Dan. 4:35; Deut. 32:39; Ex. 4:11; Ps. 105:16; Gen. 7:4; Lam. 3:37-38; Prov. 16:4; Job 23:13b; Ps. 33:9-11; Ps. 103:19; Is. 14:27; 1 Sam. 2:6-8; Amos 3:6b; Rev. 4:11)
- God wills evil to exist without Himself being evil  
(Is. 45:5-7, 9; Ps. 5:4; 1 Jn. 1:5)
- *why* does God will evil to exist?
- evil explained in the context of "good"

"Evil is parasitic, in that it cannot exist apart from good."

– Gary Crampton