

THE THEODICY ISSUE

If 'God Is Great' and 'God Is Good', Why Are Evil and Suffering So Pervasive in This World?

by Jeffrey Breshears

Christians believe that God is omnipotent, sovereign and benevolent, and yet we recognize that evil and suffering are pervasive realities in this world. This is troubling to many because they reason that if God were truly great, he would have the *power* to destroy evil and suffering; and if God were truly good, he would *choose* to eradicate evil and suffering. So how do we reconcile the coexistence of God and evil?

This is the dilemma that theologians and philosophers refer to as a “**theodicy**” – i.e., reconciling the character and nature of God with our understanding of “justice.” This is a conundrum that has mystified and philosophers since the time of Plato and Aristotle. It is also one of the quandaries of human existence and often the greatest intellectual obstacle to belief in God. As Thomas Aquinas acknowledged, the problem of reconciling God and evil is one that appears to contradict our whole understanding of the nature and character of God.

This seminar course examines the problem of God and evil through three correlative means – biblical theology, rational philosophy, and literary art – and addresses perennial questions and issues such as...

- What are the sources of evil and suffering in our world?
- Is the problem of evil evidence for atheism?
- The nature of good and evil.
- The irony of human freedom.
- What about natural disasters that kill innocent people?
- Suffering in the Bible.
- Why does God allow evil and suffering?
- Why didn't God create a perfect world without sin and suffering?
- Suffering as a pathway to grace and redemption.

Join us beginning on August 11th for our Areopagus seminar on “**The Theodicy Issue: Reconciling the Realities of God and Evil.**” For more details, see the announcement on the following page. ➔

Areopagus Seminars

A History of **Christianity** In America



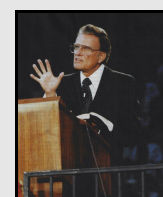
— SUNDAYS —

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church

11:30 AM / Room 277

An in-depth study of American Christian history that covers the most important movements, people, issues and events in our nation's unique religious heritage.

Join us beginning August 2nd as we continue our study of the lives and legacies of four of the most significant Christian influencers of the 20th century: C. S. Lewis, Francis Schaeffer, Martin Luther King Jr., and Billy Graham.



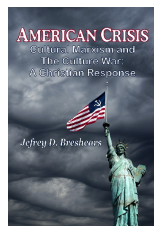
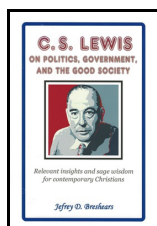
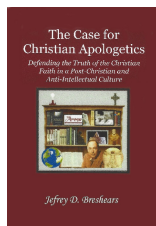
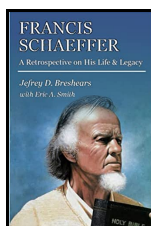
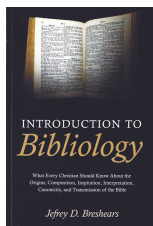
Founded in 2003 by Dr. Jeffrey Breshears, the Areopagus* is an interdenominational Christian education ministry dedicated to serving the metro-Atlanta area and abroad.

The mission of The Areopagus is to help equip Christians for productive ministry by effectively engaging our society and culture with the life-transforming truth and love of Jesus Christ. To this end, we offer a relevant and substantive curriculum that broadens and deepens their knowledge base, stimulates critical thinking, and encourages them to live faithfully and consistently in accordance with the principles and practices of a comprehensive biblical Christian worldview.

The Areopagus sponsors seminary-level seminars, workshops, and forums on a variety of topics relevant to contemporary Christian education, including substantive courses on...

- Bibliology;
- History;
- Classical Christian apologetics;
- Cultural Christian apologetics that addresses contemporary issues;
- Christian spiritual formation; and
- Literature and the arts.

For more information on our seminar courses and publications, please visit our website at www.TheAreopagus.org.



* In Christian history the name 'Areopagus' has often been used to represent the intersection of Christian faith and culture. In first century Athens the Areopagus functioned as a philosophical and cultural forum for the exchange of ideas, and it was there that the apostle Paul brought the gospel of Jesus Christ to Europe (ref. Acts 17:16ff).

WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT!

As an independent ministry, The Areopagus relies upon the financial support of our Areopagus Associates – those who value our ministry and are led to contribute financially to help us continue to expand our outreach. If you would like to contribute, you can do so in either of two ways:

- (1) Go to www.TheAreopagus.org and click on the "Donate" button; or
- (2) Make checks payable to "The Areopagus, Inc." and mail them to...

The Areopagus, Inc.
1220 William Robert Drive SW
Marietta, GA 30008

Areopagus Seminars

THE THEODICY ISSUE

Reconciling the Realities
of God and Evil

— Beginning August 11th —

7 PM / Room 320

Johnson Ferry Baptist Church

Instructor: Dr. Jeffrey Breshears

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY 101

WARNING!!!

THE GOAL OF SOCIALISM

Other than **Karl Marx**, the foremost Communist theoretician was **Vladimir Lenin**. According to Lenin, socialism is the first phase of Communism – i.e., a necessary transition period whose ultimate goal is government control over every area of life. In his work, *The State and Revolution*, Lenin declared:
"The goal of socialism is communism."



Furthermore, he noted, "*Hatred is the beginning of all wisdom.*"
"*We must hate – hatred is the basis of communism. Children must be taught to hate their parents if they are not communists.*"

"*We can and must write in a language which sows among the masses hate, revulsion, and scorn toward those who disagree with us.*"

Take note: This warning also applies to those who seek to disguise their insidious agenda by disingenuously labeling it "**democratic socialism.**"

