

Title: The problem of evil
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What's wrong with the world?



The short answer: It doesn't glorify God.

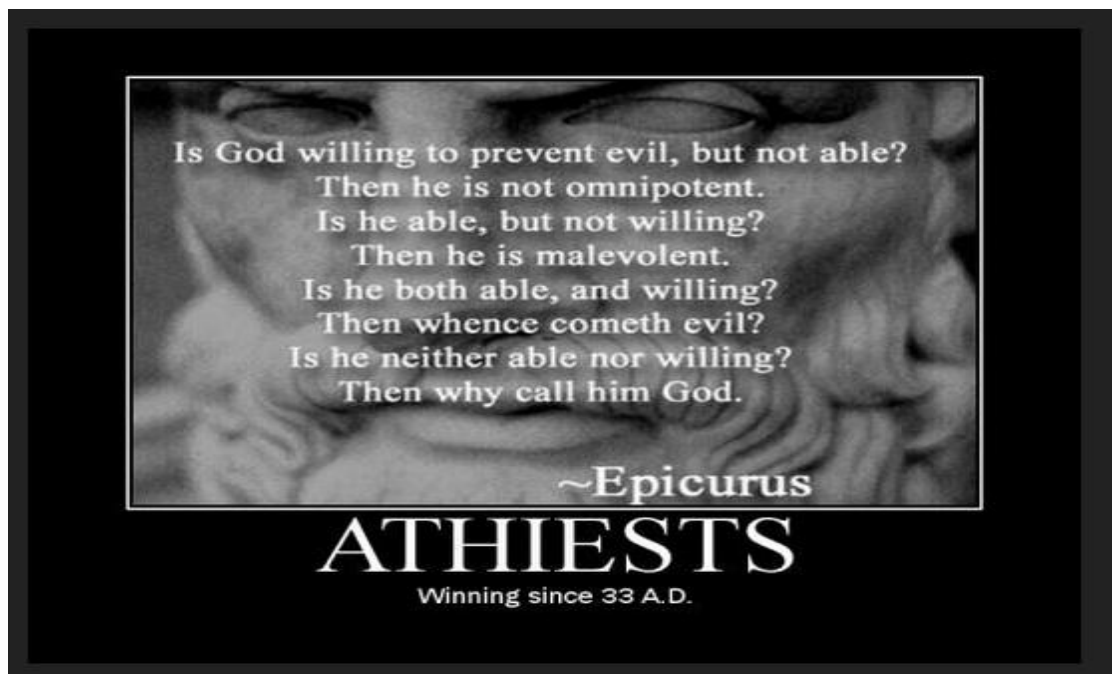
Introduction

1 Cor 10:31 So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God.

- Man-centered or God-centered?
- AW Tozer quote...

Reality check

- Anene Booysen (17) RIP
- Singh-Pandey (23) RIP
- There is real evil



- Since 33 AD?
- 'winning'?
- 'Atheist'?
- 'malevolent'?

First, what is evil?

- God created all things good (Gen 1:31)

Rom 3:23 For **all** have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

- Image-bearers: We are the problem, not God.
- Just like darkness is the absence of light, evil is the absence of good (God's glory).

The greater glory, the greater good

Gen 4:6-8 ⁶ The LORD said to Cain, "Why are you angry, and why has your face fallen?⁷ If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door. Its desire is for you, but you must rule over it." ⁸Cain spoke to Abel his brother. And when they were in the field, Cain rose up against his brother Abel and killed him.

- Was this the first death that was planned? (Rev 13:8)

Is God willing to prevent evil?

The Theocentric answer: No!

- Since God allows evil to preserve His greatest glory and our greatest good, we should expect His greatest glory and our greatest good in the midst of suffering.
- God could eliminate all evil by eliminating all humans or by eliminating free will, but...

Why does God allow evil for now?

- So we can see the consequences of our sin.
- We had chosen against God in perfect conditions and now have the opportunity to choose for Him in imperfect conditions.
- Why was the book of Job written? Why does God allow Job to suffer?

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What are 'wages'?

Rom 8:28-33 ²⁸ And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.²⁹ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.³⁰ And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹ What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?³² He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.

Rom 8:35-39 ³⁵ Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? ³⁷ No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.³⁸ For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers,³⁹ nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Conclusion

God temporarily allows evil for His greater glory and our greater good, but ultimately all evil will be destroyed.

All humans will eventually glorify God, either through judgment or through salvation.