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The Word of God

CHARACTER THROUGH GOD'S WORD

July 26, 2026

vs. 65, “Do **good** (You have done good) to Your servant.

vs. 66, “Teach me **good** judgment and knowledge.”

vs. 68, “You are **good** and do **good**.”

vs. 71, “It is **good** for me that I was afflicted.”

1. God is good and always does what is good.

“God is the final standard of good, and all that God is and does is worthy of approval.”

Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology

1. God is good and always does what is good.
2. **Correction is one benefit of affliction.**

Five Reasons God Allows Suffering For His People

1. Fallen, imperfect world.
2. Corrective
3. Constructive
4. Glorify God
5. Cosmic

James Montgomery Boice

The Problem of Evil

Epicurus (300 BC), David Hume (1779), J. L. Mackie (1955)

- An all-good God would want to eliminate evil.
- An all-powerful God would be able to eliminate it.
- An all-knowing God would know how to eliminate it.
- Therefore, if such a God existed, evil would not.
- Evil does exist.
- No such God exists.

The Problem of Evil

Alvin Plantinga (1977)

- Genuinely free creatures – beings who can make real moral choices – must have the ability to choose wrongly.
- Creating a world containing moral good requires the uncoerced participation of significantly free creatures.
- “The price for creating a world in which they produce moral good is creating one in which they also produce moral evil.”

The Problem of Evil

C. S. Lewis (1940)

- God cannot create a world where human beings have genuine free will while simultaneously preventing them from ever choosing evil or causing harm.
- True love seeks the perfection and ultimate fulfillment of the beloved.
- Pain shatters the illusion of self-sufficiency, forcing people to recognize their creaturely dependence on God.

“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 Problem of Pain

1. God is good and always does what is good.
2. Correction is one benefit of affliction.
- 3. The worth of God's Word is immeasurable.**