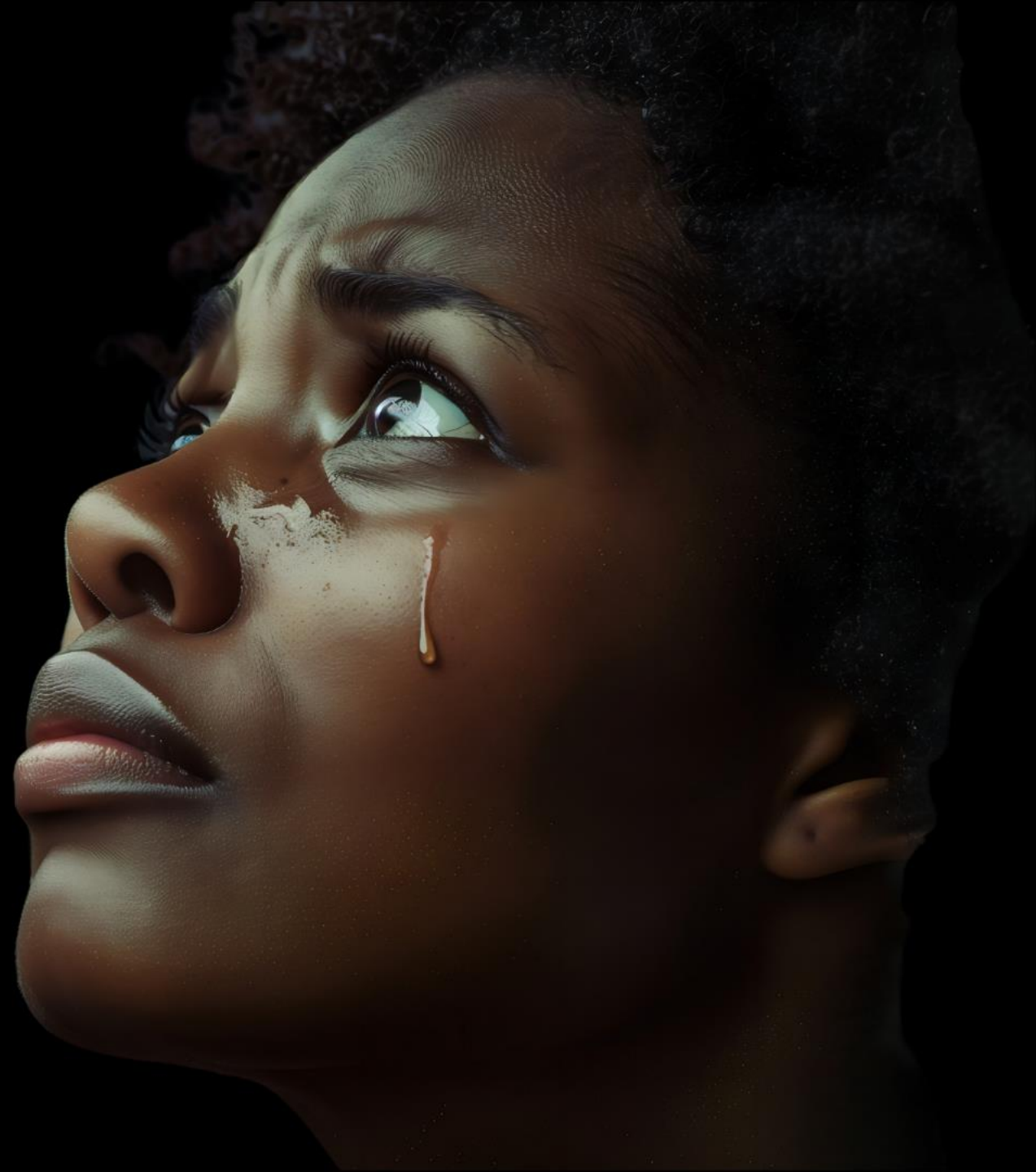




An examination & response to the
The Problem of Pain
A 5-week online course with Pastor Edwards

THE PROBLEM OF PAIN

SESSION ONE



An examination & response to the
The Problem of Pain

AGENDA

1. INTRODUCTIONS

2. COURSE OVERVIEW

3. Week 5 Assignment

4. THE PROBLEM OF PAIN

5. Q & A

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INTRODUCTIONS

1. Give us your name
2. Tell us one thing about yourself that you would like for to know
3. What do you hope to gain from this course?

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COURSE OVERVIEW

Week One: The Problem of Pain-
Overview and Summary

Week Two: Common Responses to
Suffering

Week Three: What is God Up to?

Week Four: The Resurrection and
Suffering

Week Five: Your Assignment

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YOUR ASSIGNMENT

1. Tell us about a time of trial or suffering (past or present)
2. How did you respond?
3. Now that you have a more biblically informed view of pain and suffering, how should/would you respond?

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I. Pain is Everywhere

A. Moral Suffering

1. Suffering from the direct or indirect hands of others
 - a. Intentional= Hit's me to cause harm
 - b. Non-Intentional= Wreck from a faulty car part

2. This kind of suffering is all too common and comprises most of what we hear about

a. Terrorism

b. Murder

c. Drinking and Driving/ Texting While Driving

B. Natural Suffering

1. Suffering that does not include humans

a. Natural Disasters = earthquakes and tornadoes

b. Animal Attacks

2. Some would say that even these are a result of human behavior; yet it is not proven, so it is placed in another category

II. What Does This Say About God?

A. Logical Problem of Evil (Rational)

1. Says that a good, loving, omniscient and omnipotent God and evil are incongruent (incompatible)

a. Either God is not those things

b. Or He does not exist

2. This assumes to know that evil and these attributes are incompatible

3. What it really says is that "I see no good reason" that a good, loving...would have a place for evil, suffering and pain

4. It fails because one would have to know all the possible reasons God might allow suffering, which they nor we are privy to

5. Taking a Child to the Doctor for Shots (Example)

6. The wisdom of God says to us that this world is the best way for God to do what he desires

B. Evidential Problem of Evil

1. With the amount of suffering, the probability for God is very low; argument based upon percentages
2. But would the amount of evil and suffering change the fact that it still exists
3. How much would you scale back on suffering to make belief in God rational?

C. Pastoral Problem of Evil

1. It's a question that asks, "why me?"

III. Lessons From Job and Paul

A. God Chooses Our Trials (1:8)

1. “What about the things we bring on ourselves?”
2. He has complete knowledge of those too

B. God Chooses the Extent and Amount (1:12)

C. He Has a Plan (Rom 8:18)

1. Cold Logic= Scarcely informed

2. Multi-Dimensional Logic= God's Viewpoint

a. Balance Scales

b. Relationship

3. Pain & Suffering are Reminders & Previews of Life without God

4. With God, pain is guaranteed to become a distant memory

The Problem of Pain (Lesson One)

I. Pain Is _____

A. _____ Suffering

1. Suffering from the direct or indirect hands of others
2. This kind of suffering is all too common and comprises most of what we hear

B. _____ Suffering

1. Suffering that does not include humans
2. Some would say that even these are a result of human behavior

II. What Does This Say About God?

A. Logical Problem of Evil

1. Says that a good, loving, omniscient and omnipotent God and evil are incongruent
2. This assumes to know that evil and these attributes are incompatible
3. What it really says is that "I see no _____ reason" that a good, loving...would have a place for evil, suffering and pain
4. It fails because one would have to know all the _____ reasons God might allow suffering, which they, nor we are privy to
5. The wisdom of God says to us that this world is the _____ way for God to do what he desires

B. Evidential Problem of Evil

1. With the amount of suffering, the probability for God is very low
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C. Pastoral Problem of Evil

1. It's a question that asks "_____?"

III. Lessons From Job and Paul

A. God _____ Our Trials (1:8)

B. God Chooses the _____ and Amount (1:12)

C. He Has a Plan Rom 8:18

1. Cold Logic= Scarcely _____

2. Multi-Dimensional Logic= God's _____

- a. Balance Scales

- b. Relationship

3. Pain and Suffering are _____ and _____ of life without God

4. With God, pain is _____to become a distant memory