

WELCOME to a three week Course sponsored by
Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College

The Problem of Evil

Recognizing, Responding to and Ridding Evil



The Course Vision

To provide you with the knowledge of good & evil found in the presence of Jesus, the tree of life.

The Course Intention

- * Declare the powerful presence of the Kingdom of God
- * Proclaim biblical truth
- * Present training to develop *Christlikeness* in the face of evil
- * Provide weekly encouragement and accountability

The Course Means

- * (3) interactive sessions with optional, extended Q&C
- * Study resources and spiritual growth practices
- * A Cadre of the Christlike from A-Z – Australia to Zambia

If we are to be spiritually formed in Christ, we must understand and implement the general pattern and all effective efforts toward personal transformation must follow – appropriate Vision, Intention & Means. If this VIM pattern is not put in place properly and held there, Christ simply will not be formed in us.

Dallas Willard, *Renovation of the Heart*, 2021, p. 84

Your Fellow Apprentice Doug Webster

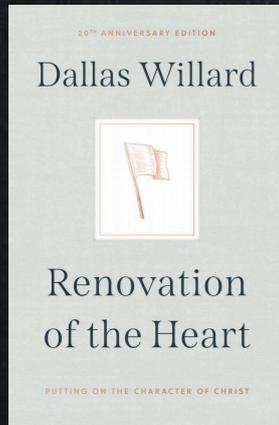


- * Following Jesus since age 14
- * Vanguard University & Fuller Seminary
- * Met the Jesus Dallas Knew 16 years ago
- * Started Jesus College in 2015
- * “The Problem of Evil” is our 12th webinar engaging over 1350 participants from 43 U.S. States & 41 Countries
- * A Blessed Family



The Problem of Evil

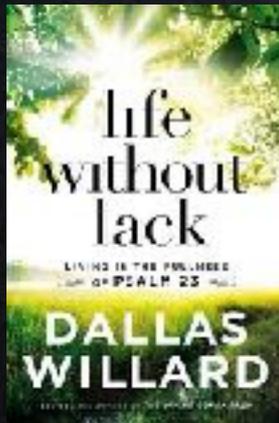
Recognizing, Responding to and Ridding Evil



Session 1

The ruined soul must be willing to recognize its own ruin before it can find how to enter a different path, the path of eternal life that naturally leads into spiritual formation in Christlikeness.

Renovation of the Heart, 2021, p. 56



Session 2

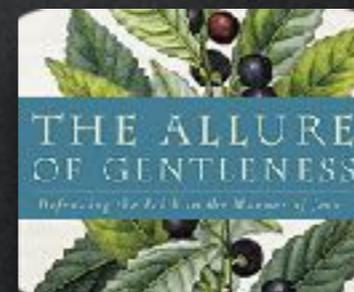
We occupy a world in “the snare of the devil”. It is, indeed, a battle of hearts and minds — false beliefs and images and feelings — the very things that rob us of knowing the life without lack — except by the power of God...to those who have been trained to fix our minds on God.

Life Without Lack, p. 92

Session 3

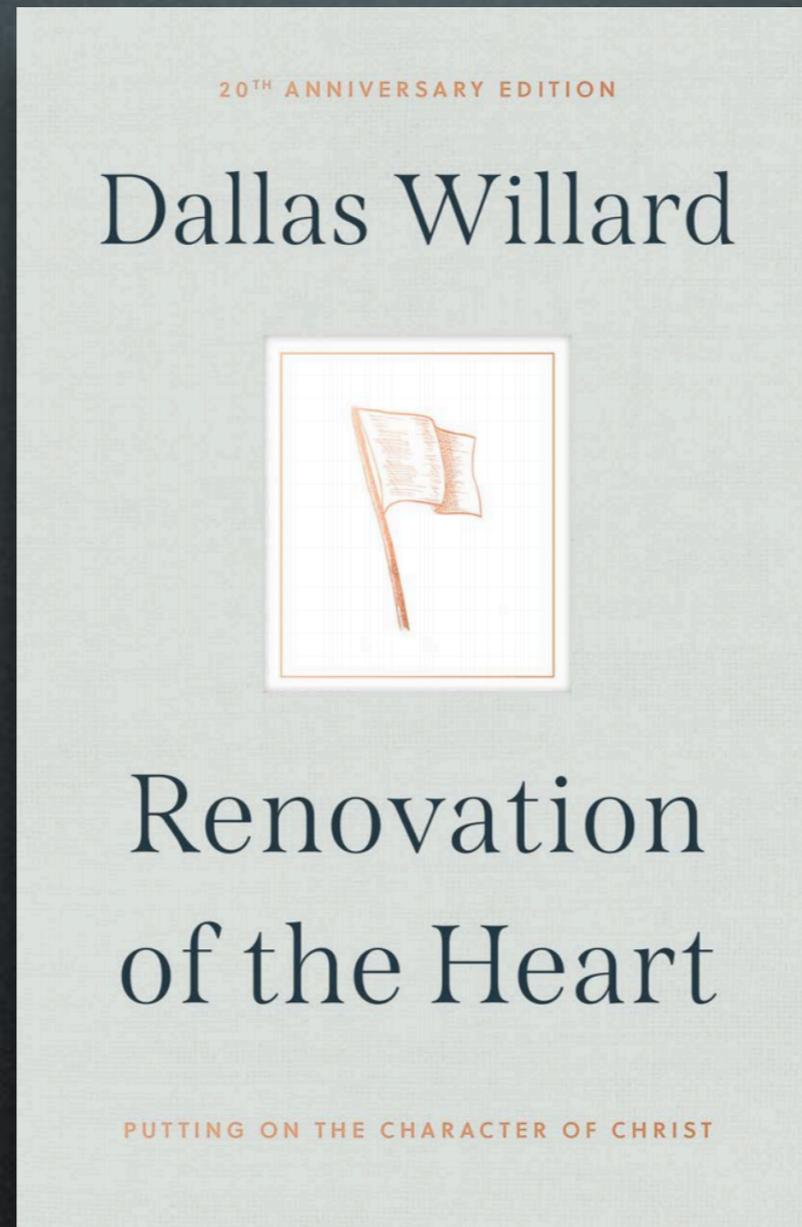
God permits but dose not produce pain & evil, for pain separated from evil makes good character possible, and there is no good without evil, trusting we can stand against evil with Jesus.

The Allure of Gentleness



THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

Session 1 - “Radical Evil in the Ruined Soul”



Chapter 3

HUMAN JOURNEY

Starting from Ruin

God and Not-God

Lost and Out of Place

A Path of Remorse

Becoming a Certain Kind of Person

We're all in serious trouble.
That must be our starting point.

Renovation of the Heart, p. 45
(page references 2021 Edition)



Starting from Ruin

We must see the soul and the person in its ruined condition, with its malformed and dysfunctional mind, feelings, body, and social relations, before we can understand that it must be delivered and reformed and how that can be done.

One of the greatest obstacles to effective spiritual formation in Christ today is simple failure to understand and acknowledge the reality of the human situation as it affects Christians and non-Christians alike. We must start from where we really are.

(2021::41)

In the ruined soul, the mind becomes a fearful wilderness.

Renovation of the Heart, Ch. 2 – p.27

The real sources of our failures lie in choice and the factors at work in it. Choice is where sin dwells.

Our social and psychological sciences stand hopeless.

The only solution we know to human problems today is “education”. But what kind of education? Rigorous understanding of the human self and life [is] impossible.

Sin makes us lost not worthless!

(2021:: p.42)



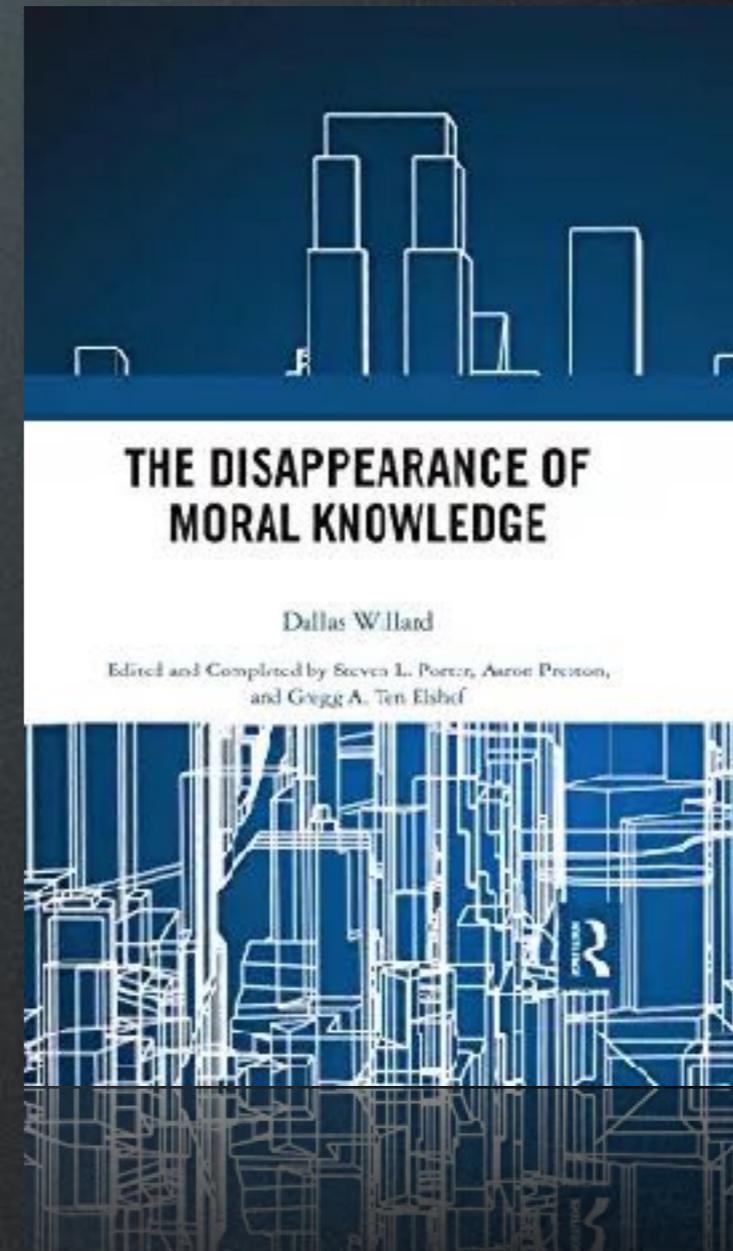
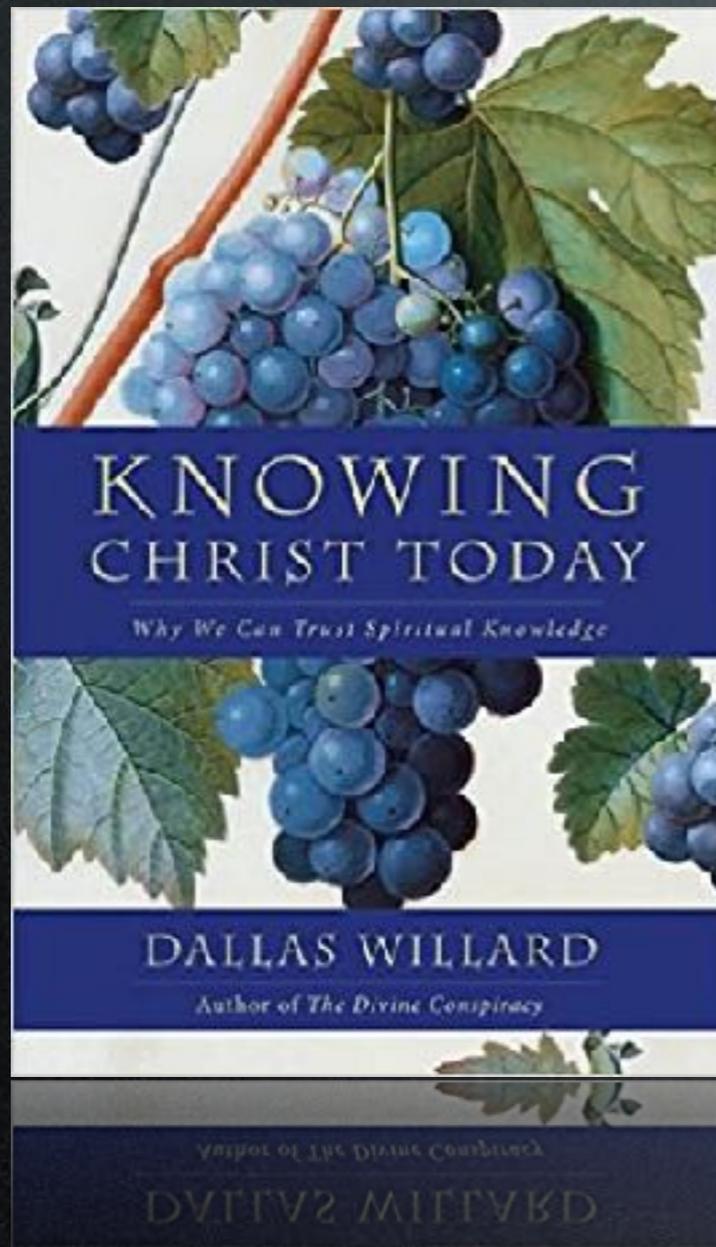
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Dallas Willard on the Knowledge of a Good Life with God



The Prophetic Witness to the Ruined Soul

The only path to spiritual transformation today still lies through this illumination.

DENIAL – usually in some form of rationalization – is the primary device that humans use to deal with their own wrongness. The prophetic witness from God must throw itself against the massive weight of group and individual denial, often institutionalized and subtly built into our customary ways of speaking and interacting.

JESUS addressed leaders of his day in language that may seem harsh and pitiless to us, but that was the only possible way he could be of help to them, strongly self defended as they were...

...and perhaps the same is true of us as well.

(2021::46)



“There is none righteous, not even one.”

“There is no fear of God in their eyes.”

Romans 3:10 & 18

John 17:3 — Experiential knowledge of God & His Son

Proverbs 3:5-8 — Trust & Understanding

Colossians 3:17 — Ultimate Transformation in Christ

God & Not-God

Romans 1:18-32 - *"Pervasive Soul Corruption"* (Willard)

God being God offends human pride.

DENIAL — Perpetual human blindness to the obvious.

SENSUALITY — Sex & Violence: Self-gratification opens up a life without boundaries where nothing is forbidden.

Romans 1 — "God gave them over to...

sinful desire (v. 24)

shameful lust (v. 26)

a depraved mind (v. 28)

"Why?" becomes

"Why not?"

(2021:: p.48-50)

Underneath it all is the radical evil of the human heart.



(52, 56, 57)



Lost and Out of Place

A ruined soul is a lost soul.

To be lost means to be out of place. Theologically, the outcome is hell. There is little likelihood of you arriving where you want to be. But the condition of lostness is not the same as the outcome to which it leads. Lost leads to winding up in the wrong place.

We are our own god, and our god doesn't amount to much.

To be lost means to be Self-Obsessed.

Self-Idolatry – Self-Obedience – Self-Love

Self-Worship – Self-Blindness – Self-Deification

We are not “partakers of the divine nature” II Peter 1:4



(2021:: p.52-54)

Wanting God to be God is different from
wanting God to help us.



THE RUINED SOUL must be willing to hear of and recognize its own ruin before it can find how to enter a different path, the path of eternal life that naturally leads to spiritual formation in Christlikeness.

Spiritual formation...

...is NOT something that may, or may not, be added to the gift of eternal life as an option.

...IS the path that the eternal kind of life from above naturally takes.

(2021::56-57)



A Path of Remorse — *Cover up or confession?*

To be truly sorry... genuine remorse tells us something very deep about the individual.

Christian profession today — no remorse or sorrow at all over who one is or even for what one has done.

— Little awareness of being lost or very radical evil in our hearts, bodies, and souls - which we must get away from and from which only God can deliver us.

Christian “brokenness” = Wounds not Evil within

(2021::57)



REMORSE PATH

Without this realization of our utter ruin and without the genuine revising and redirecting of our lives that this bitter realization naturally gives rise to, no clear path to enter transformation can be found.

It is psychologically and spiritually impossible.

We will steadfastly remain on the throne of our universe, so as far as we are concerned, perhaps trying to use a little God here and there.

(2021::57-58)

The Invitation in the Darkness

Yet in the gloom a glimmer
glows. We are invited to
make a pilgrimage - into the
heart and life of God.

God's desire for us is that we
should live in Him. He sends
among us the Way to Himself.
That shows what, in His
heart of hearts, God is really
like - indeed, what reality is
really like.



Dallas Willard
The Divine Conspiracy, p. 11



Becoming a Certain Kind of Person

Critical — Knowledge, Intelligence, Intention, The Body

Spiritual formation is not something that may, or may not, be added to the gift of eternal life as an option. Rather, it is the path that the eternal kind of life 'from above' naturally takes.

(57)



Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



Q&A



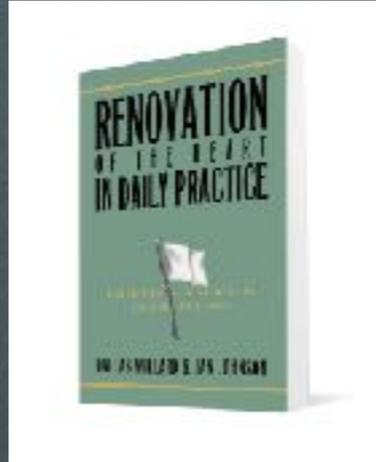
Whether you are in Southern California or South Africa, you are a steward of 10,080 minutes every week. If you spend 80 minutes weekly in personal study & group discussion on *The Problem of Evil*, you have 10,000 minutes to flesh it out. Each session offers life application to enthrall your mind with God and practice habits of goodness in the battle against principalities and powers in Jesus name.



Session 1 – Meditation & Application

Genesis 3:1-13; Psalm 23:1-4

- 1.) How do I act and react like Adam & Eve?
Denial? Hiding? Blaming?
- 2.) What is the greatest threat to my
Kingdom/Queendom - my throne control?
- 3.) What does my mind dwell on that is
influenced by corrupt thinking?



Today's Experiment

Find a kind, genuine, humble person and ask,
“Why isn’t it important for you to be the center of
attention?” “What advice do you have for me?”

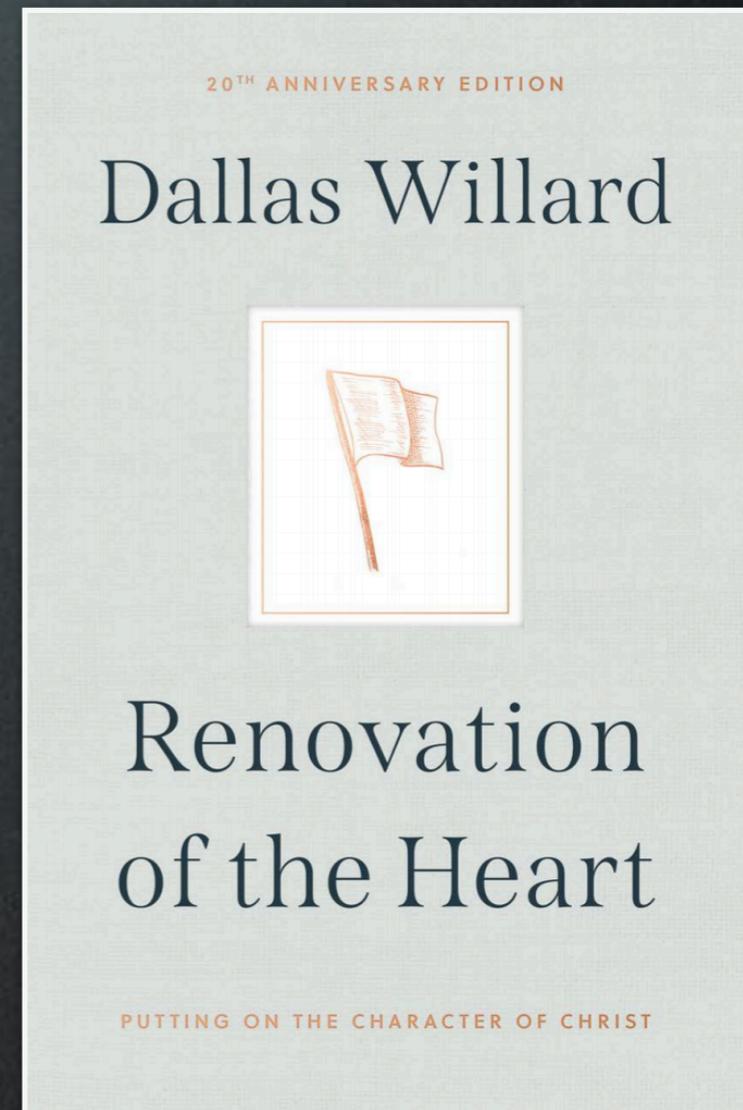
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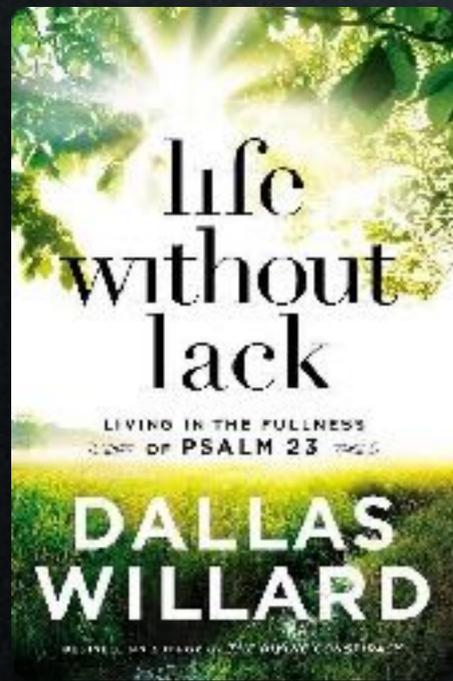


Session 1 Summary

The ruined soul must be willing to hear of and recognize its own ruin before it can find how to enter a different path, the path of eternal life that naturally leads into spiritual formation in Christlikeness.

(2021::56)





Next Week — Session 2

“Why Such Lack and Evil?”

Life Without Lack, Chapter 4

Audio — “Life Without Lack” by Dallas Willard
Session 4 - <https://dwillard.org/life-without-lack>

Walk with Jesus in
your next 10,000
minutes on a grace-
filled confirmation of
your ruined condition
as the only path to
Christlikeness!



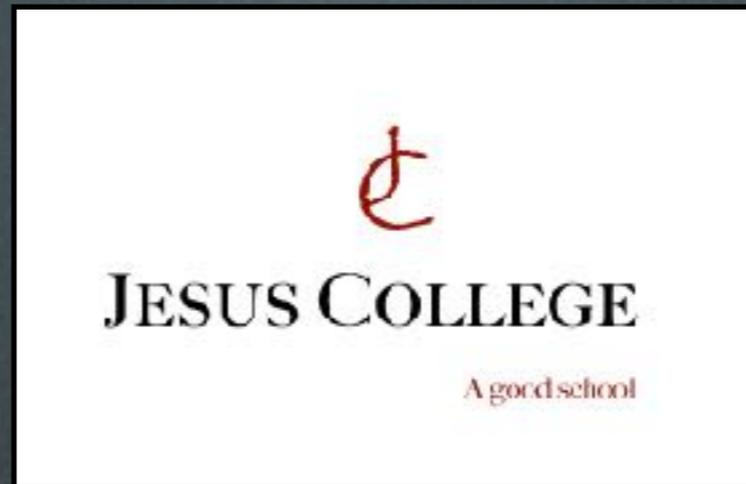
Doug

@OneAfterJesus



THE SCHOOL
of
KINGDOM LIVING

Information...Registration — JohnC@dwillard.org



Apprentice to Master Love — //Nouns
“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs
“Training to be proficient in willing the good”

The Mission of Jesus College - To Empower Apprentices to Master Love by knowing Jesus as the One, great truth and live a good life found in such truth.

The Vision of Jesus College - To equip Trainers (Ministry, Business Leaders, Parents) to mentor Leaders (Senior Apprentices) to disciple Apprentices to Master love.

The Storehouse of Jesus College - Over [300 FREE downloadable resources & links](#) offering the good life in the person, work, teachings & life of Jesus through “Eyes to See” visual resources and “Ears to Hear” audio resources, plus gatherings live & online provided by JESUS COLLEGE.