

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

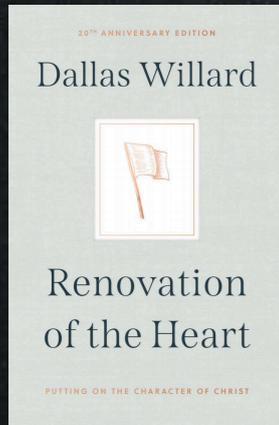
# The Problem of Evil

*Recognizing, Responding to and Ridding Evil*



# The Problem of Evil

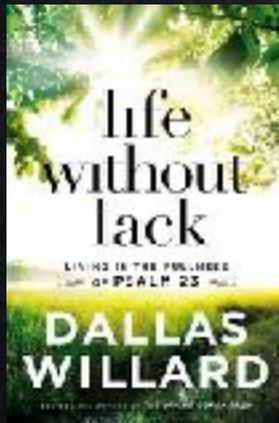
*Recognizing, Responding to and Ridding Evil*



## 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.

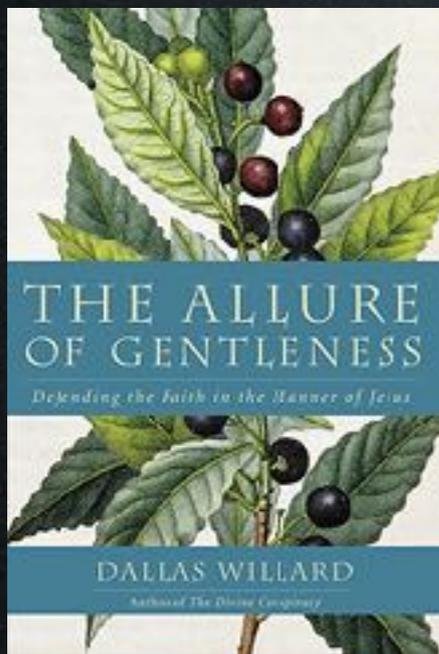
*Life Without Lack, p. 92*

## Session 3

God permits but does 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 ALLURE OF GENTLENESS

THE PROBLEM OF PAIN AND EVIL  
Chapter 6

THE ARGUMENT of PAIN and a GOOD GOD

“A deadly blow to the Christian faith?”

TAofG, Chapter 6

*“Why do evil & suffering exist in the world?”\*\**

PREMISE #1 — If Christianity is true, then God is both benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful.

PREMISE #2 — If God is benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful, then He will see to it that we do not suffer.

PREMISE #3 — God does not see to it that we do not suffer.

CONCLUSION — Christianity is false, since God is either not benevolent or not powerful, to which the presence of suffering testifies.

\* \* Referenced in Chapter 5, p. 91

PREMISE #1 — If Christianity is true, then God is both benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful.

Part A — God's benevolence is not sentimental.

Love is...

- 1) Devoted to the good of others.
- 2) Not to be confused with desire.

Part B — God is infinitely powerful - God can take care of His own business including caring for human beings.

PREMISE #2 — If God is benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful, then He will see to it that we do not suffer. \*

Q - Why would God not allow humans to suffer?

A - Because pain is the worst possible thing!

A friend would stop the pain if possible.

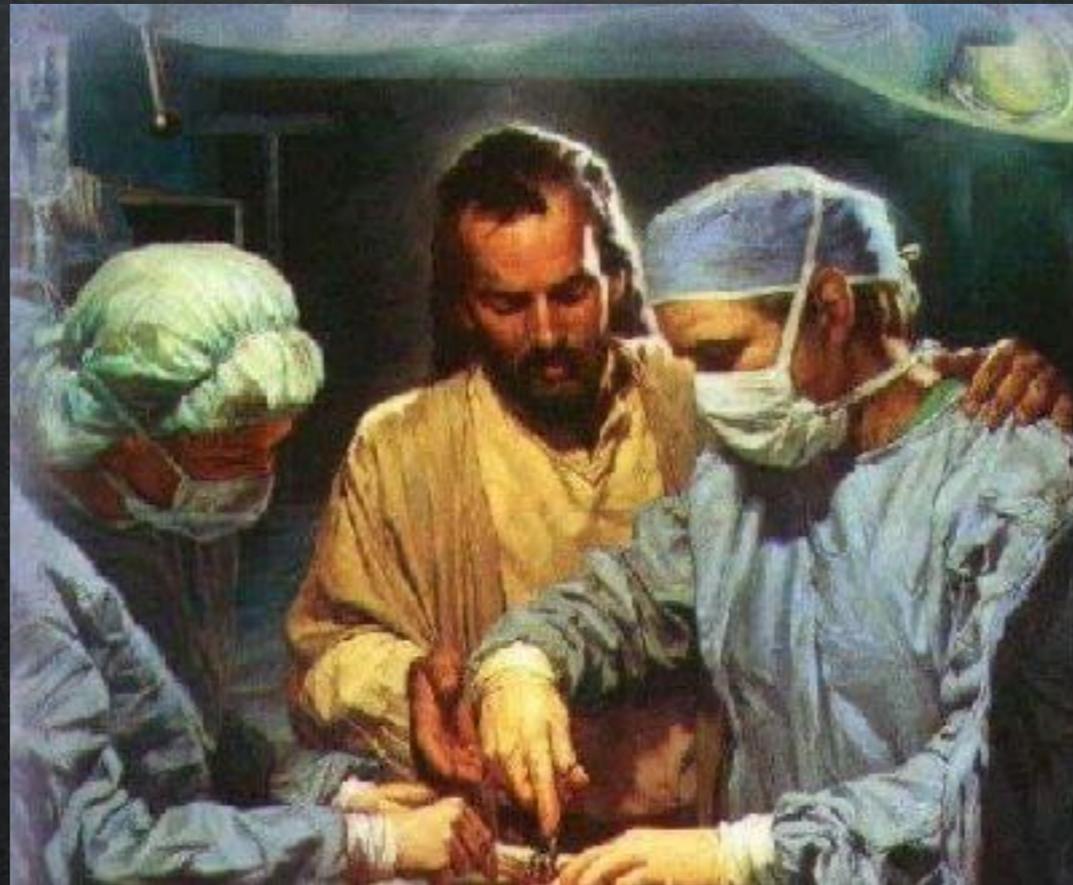
\* - *“The 2nd premise is where the argument turns.”*

(115-116)



## **SEPARATING PAIN from EVIL**

The deft touch of a highly skilled neurosurgeon  
with the brain not on the brain.



(116-119)

SEPARATING PAIN from EVIL

The heart of the argument: *The Value of Pain*

**PAIN IS THE ULTIMATE OF EVILS!**

We just don't like it, which doesn't make it bad.

**PAIN IS NEVER PREFERABLE!**

Unless dying, betraying conviction, losing a friend.

**PAIN SERVES NO GOOD END!**

Pain & Pleasure make Human Life & Character possible.

*"The gold of human character is dug from tortuous mines."*

Dallas Willard



(118)

## REJECTION of the ARGUMENT

God allows people to suffer because He is benevolent.  
It is for our best.

~ Paradise Found ~  
I want what I want,  
I'm insulted if I don't get it.

(119)



Why EVIL - Is God responsible for all evil?

*The single most practical, urgent problem for Christians.*

“God made us capable of doing wrong knowing we would, therefore it’s His fault.”

“Mom & Dad, it's your fault!”

(120-121)

# THE CLASSICAL ARGUMENT

*If God Could and is Good, He Would!*

Human beings act too!

A World of Free Personaliy & Natural Law.

(121-122)



# *THE ALLURE of GENTLENESS*

## Chapter 4

### WHY GOD IS NOT MORE OBVIOUS

“He is not obvious to those who do not want to see Him.” (65)

“God gives us space...to seek Him and find Him.” (67)



What is God's purpose in human history?

Crown Jewels in a free, loving community. (Ch. 5, p. 96)

The world that contains the possibility of evil is the one that also contains the greatest possibility of good.

(122)



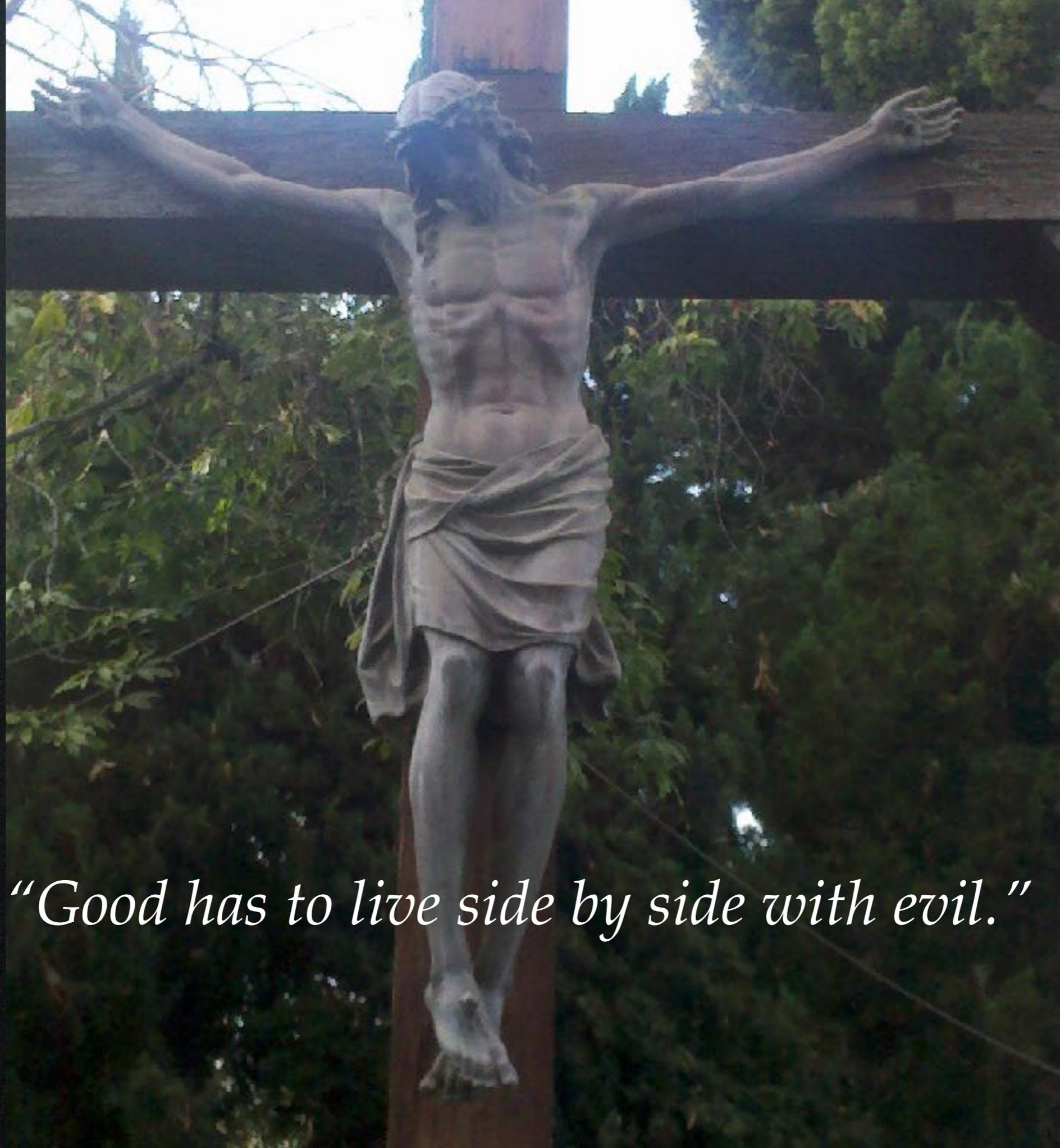
## IN A PERFECT WORLD

Why didn't God make humankind wholly good  
in a wholly good environment? (123)

Create my perfect world with my needs in mind?! (124)

- 1.) "My good world" is not necessarily a better world.
- 2.) Why do objectors get their way not the the many who find it good?
- 3.) God is obligated to suit personal taste:  
What I want or He's a bad boy.





*“Good has to live side by side with evil.”*

*If I was Jesus after the resurrection, I might have landed a Huey Helicopter in the Court of the Sanhedrin. Then I'd go see Pilate and ask him if he wanted to have that conversation about truth again.*



## CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Parenting: “Make good choices!”  
To avoid trouble or make good habits?

Children have to choose...to learn...to grow.

Good persons must live in a world where doing evil is a  
readily available option.

Character develops through action.

(125-127)



*“Parenting is pain management.”*

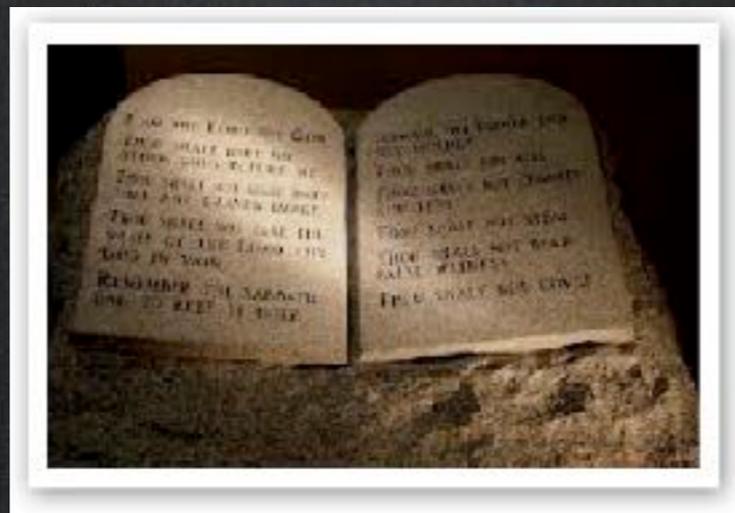
Doug Webster



## THE IMPORTANCE of ORDER

The nature of human action and interaction requires a reign of law or orderliness.

Dysfunctional or Functional Family & Community



(127-128)

## DILEMMA DISSOLVED

The classic dilemma is dissolved by setting existing evil in the context of the good that God achieves in permitting (but not producing) moral evil.

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”*

(128-129)

# THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE to PAIN & EVIL

1st — Accept the full reality of suffering knowing God is there and good will triumph.

2nd — God does not do evil. He knows better.

*Job 13:15, "Though...yet!"*

(Job - Not the exception but the rule)

3rd — A World with Pain & Evil develops creatures of the highest value.

4th — God is going to win.

*Joel 2:25-27; Psalm 23:1 - "My Shepherd"*

*Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18*

*"A God-Bathed World" - The Divine Conspiracy, Chapter 3*

(129-133)



*“There is no tragedy for those who rely on God.”*

(133)

HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY  
&  
THE OTHER PROBLEM of EVIL

Problem #1 - Why is Evil here?

Problem #2 - How to get rid of Evil?

(134-136)

## FIVE ACTIONS to RID THE WORLD of EVIL

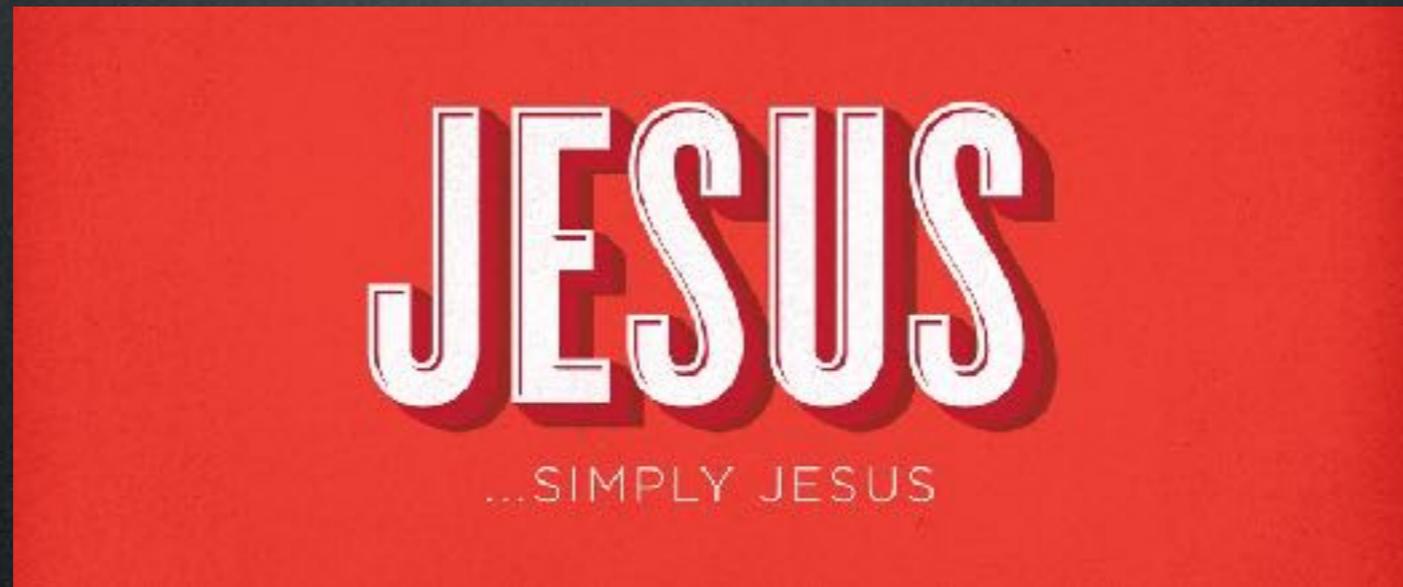
- 1.) Cease to do evil — Start where I am and do something
- 2.) Trust the goodness & greatness of God
- 3.) Turn loose the chain of Self-Deification
- 4.) Deal with the root cause — ANGER — by surrendering my will to God
- 5.) Stand against evil unconcerned about what happens to me

*“Not perfect, just a lot better.”*



(135-136)

ENROLL in the SCHOOL  
of



(136-137)  
(and p. 21, 26, 166)

# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

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



Q&A

*“We all can do what is right,  
but for the most part we don’t want to.”*

(137)





## **Meditation & Application**

Ephesians 1:7, 18; 2:7, 3:8; 4:7

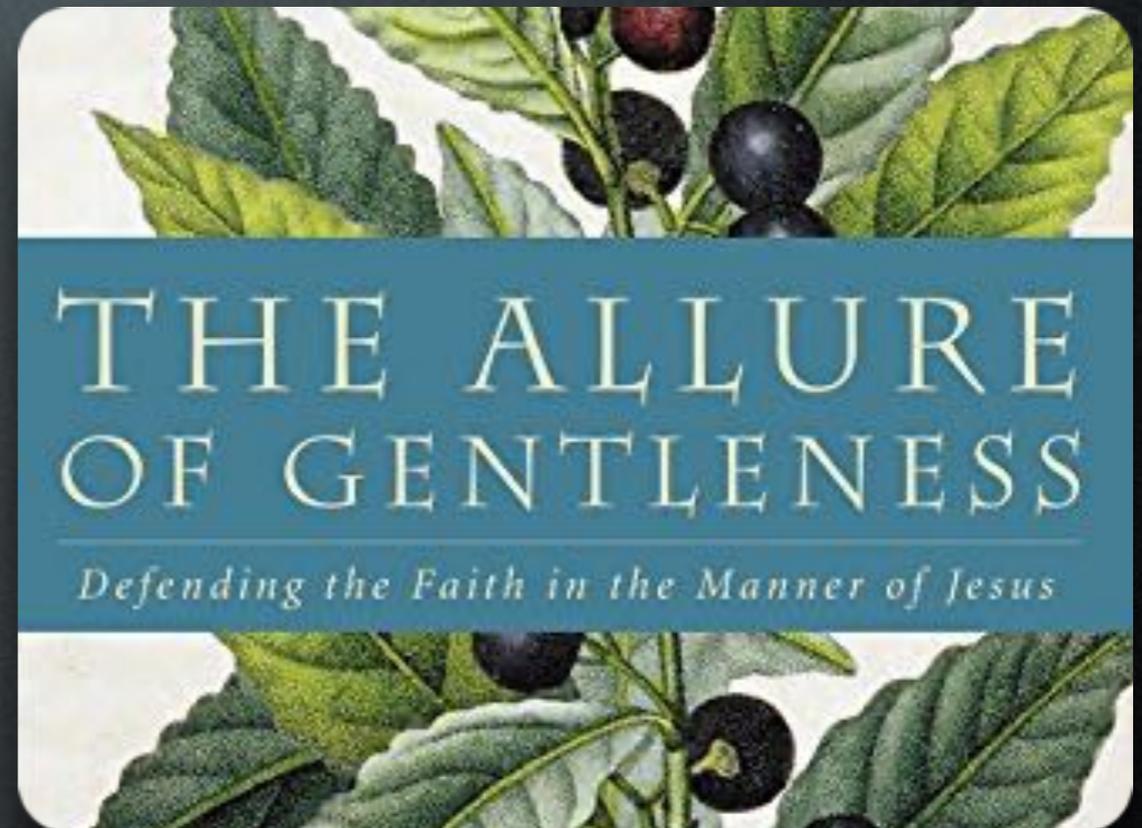
- 1.) How much of my world do I expect, request, demand or complain about?
- 2.) What “incomparable riches of glorious grace” do I find in Jesus?
- 3.) What do I/will I practice to reduce my wanton wishing for my perfect world?
- 4.) Which of the “Five Actions of Jesus & Me vs. Evil” are we working on together?

## Session 3 Summary

Pain & evil exist because God permits them but He does not produce them.

Separating pain from evil makes good character possible through pain, and without evil, there is no possibility of good, but our good God wins over evil.

With guidance and help from Jesus, we can stand against evil, if we choose to.



*The best way of taking a stand against evil is simply relying on Jesus Christ to guide and help us.*

*Jesus IS what I OUGHT to be!*



(136-137)

# **A CELEBRATION of COMPLETION**

Yahwehallelujah!

From Dallas Willard Ministries & Jesus College  
to the Apprentices who completed the Course:

“The Problem of Evil”



# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

*This Certifies that*

*John Carroll*

*Has diligently and devotedly completed in April, 2022, the Course*

**THE PROBLEM OF EVIL**

Doug Webster

DOUG WEBSTER



JESUS COLLEGE

*A good school*

Rebecca Willard Heatley

REBECCA WILLARD HEATLEY



DALLAS WILLARD  
MINISTRIES

*Living in the kingdom now*

Go live in Peace with  
Power as the light of the  
world in resisting evil in  
your next 10,000 years  
in the School of Jesus!

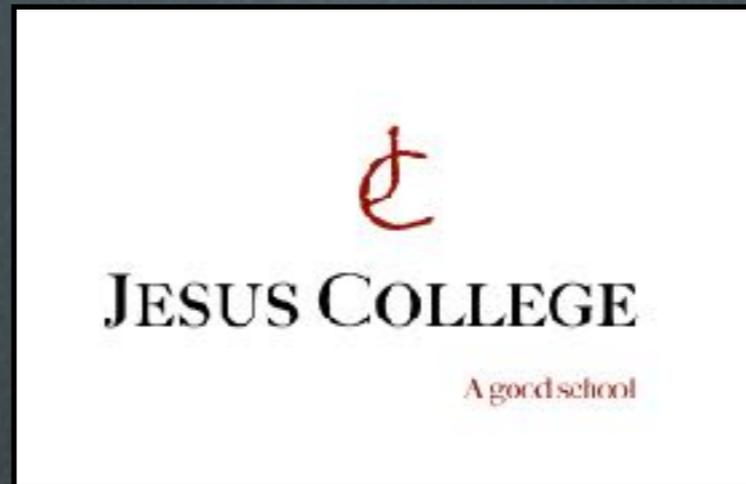
*Doug*





THE SCHOOL  
of  
KINGDOM LIVING

**Information...Registration** — [JohnC@dwillard.org](mailto: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”*

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