

Dallas Willard Ministries & **Jesus College**

present a 30 minute 3-session webinar

“The Problem of Evil Course”

based on Dallas Willard’s teachings on the topic



Today’s human condition warrants a difficult yet critical conversation about the prevalence of evil. Join a global cadre of apprentices of Jesus discussing how to recognize, respond, and rid the world of evil. We will glean wisdom from three works of Dallas Willard in the name and power of Jesus to redirect heavenward the tragic declension of the world away from God.

FREE 30 minute 3 session Zoom Webinar ~ March 30, April 6 & 13, 2022

Wednesdays, 8 AM - *or* - 4 PM (US Pacific = GMT-7 hours)

The Course offers Interactive Teaching ~ Power Point ~ Q&A ~ Study Guide ~ Completion Certificate ~ Optional extended, open conversation after each Session ~ Additional study videos & materials

Led by Doug Webster, JESUS COLLEGE Founder & Director

For Course Information — info@JesusCollege.com

“The Problem of Evil” is the 12th Dallas Willard Course offered by Jesus College (#11 in partnership with Dallas Willard Ministries) engaging friends of Jesus & Dallas from 41 countries! The Courses are available in the expanding Jesus College Library with 5 site pages offering over 250 free Willard Resources with 3500+ pages of notes featuring:

Speaking Sessions, and
Courses on Dallas’ Books, and
Courses on Dallas’ Conferences, plus dedicated pages for
Renovation of the Heart and
The Divine Conspiracy - 78 resources for this award winning, ground-breaking, faith building work including recordings of our 31-session webinar.

Dallas Willard Courses in the Jesus College Library include:

Based on Dallas’ books...

The Allure of Gentleness - “Apologetics in the Manner of Jesus”

Becoming Dallas Willard - biography

The Divine Conspiracy - In-depth 31 Session Course

The Divine Conspiracy - 6-week overview

Hearing God - “Developing a Conversational Relationship with God”

Life Without Lack - “Living the 23rd Psalm”

Renovation of the Heart - “Whole Life Spiritual Transformation”

The Spirit of the Disciplines - Understanding How God Changes Lives

Based on Dallas’ Teaching Series...

“For Such a Time as This” - 3 Session teaching on Ministry Leadership

“The Genius of Jesus” - 2 Session teaching at Ohio State University

Course Study Guide Table of Contents

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Three Suggested “V-I-M”** Participation Levels

ENJOY - *Peruse & Listen* — Overview the assigned chapter before each session, then join the weekly webinar to enjoy the dialogue.

PARTICIPATE - *Read & Inquire* — Read the entire chapter before each Session, take notes, and capture questions to bring to each Session.

RECEIVE - *Discipline & Engage* — Invest making this Course not simply a free webinar added to your routine, but an intentional discipline in your spiritual growth journey. Ideally, invite a partner to journey with you to better learn, apply & grow. Level 3 steps can include:

1) READ the assigned section/chapter before each Session. Capture notes in your book or electronically, reread the scriptures referenced, then review your notes again before the Session.

2) INQUIRE - Bring questions to digest the content and engage the presenters & other students. Linger longer for the “Q&C” after each Session.

3) VIEW

“Pain and Suffering” - Dallas Willard interview by John Ortberg

<https://dwillard.org/pain-and-suffering>

“Where was God on 9/11?” - https://youtu.be/2LE3kpWO_Bw

Find a growing library on the [Dallas Willard Ministries YouTube channel](#).

4) SOLITUDE - Invest solo time weekly spending an hour with Jesus discussing your key discovery from the week.

5) REFLECT - At the end of the Course, write yourself a letter or a journal entry summarizing the impact of the study.

[** V-I-M = *Vision-Intention-Means* — Dallas calls this the reliable pattern for spiritual change, really any change. As you envision a life of hearing God and truly intend to want to hear God, you will seek and find the means to practice a life of hearing God. For more on V-I-M, see *Renovation of the Heart*, chapter 5 ([Webinar on the book](#).) Another rich resource on V-I-M is in the [Life With God Bible](#) Introduction, xxv-xxxvi]

2022 Session Dates & Reading Schedule

Reading Schedule - 1 designated chapter from (3) Dallas Willard books:

Session 1 - March 30 - “Radical Evil in the Ruined Soul”

Chapter 3 - *Renovation of the Heart*

Session 2 - April 6 - “Why Such Lack & Evil?”

Chapter 4, *Life Without Lack*

Session 3 - April 13 - “The Problem of Pain & Evil”

Chapter 6, *The Allure of Gentleness*

These chapters in the three books are highly recommended but not required to buy each book to read 1 chapter. You will still glean wisdom and insight from our exploration having not read the material.

If you miss a session, want to study more, or teach others this material, recorded sessions + slides (PDF) are posted in the [Jesus College Library](#) along with over 250 free Dallas Willard resources including other Dallas Willard related courses.

Inquire about the Jesus College “*Master’s of the Master*” (15) course program on key Dallas Willard books & teachings. You will receive certificates of completion for each course finished. Consider this a personal growth and spiritual discipline commitment to strengthen your apprenticeship with Jesus under the guidance of Dallas Willard. For more information — info@JesusCollege.com

Session 1 - Radical Evil in the Ruined Soul

Book Content: Chapter 3 - *Renovation of the Heart*

Romans 1:20-32 - “God gave them over to a depraved mind”

“We must see the soul and the person and 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.” (p. 41 - 20th Anniversary Edition)

Starting from Ruin - Malformed & Dysfunctional

We’re all in serious trouble. That must be our starting point. (45)

_____ is where sin dwells. Sin makes us _____ not worthless. (42)

The only path to spiritual transformation - the prophetic witness (46)

God and Not God

Romans 1:18-32 - Pervasive soul corruption. Underneath it all lies... (52)

Lost and Out of Place

To be lost means to be Self- _____ (52)

The ruined soul must be willing to hear and recognize its own ruin. (56)

A Path of Remorse

Cover Up or _____? What it means to be truly sorry.

Becoming a Certain Kind of Person

The critical components of Knowledge, Intelligence, Intention and 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)

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?

Session 2 - Why Such Lack & Evil?

Book Content: Chapter 4 - *Life Without Lack*

For most of us, the thought of a life without lack is unimaginable. (p. 67)
The secret to a life without lack is _____ (68)

Satan: The Early Years (69-71) Ephesians 2:2
“The prince of the power of the air”...to Persuade ~ Tempt ~ Deceive (71)

In God’s Crosshairs (72-74) John 3:8; Matthew 1:20-21; Hebrews 2:14
“Wiles of the Devil” (Ephesians 6:10-11) not the wiles of your _____ . (73)
Jesus came to destroy _____ - Hebrews 2:14

Satan’s Three Weapons of Temptation (74-77) I John 2:15-16

Tempted in All Ways Like Us (77-79) [Chart - p. 78]
Satan uses three patterns and makes us think we are doing what we want to do. (78)

Masters of Justification (79-80) Genesis 4:9 - Cain
Foolishness if we stop to think...Satan counts on our not stopping to think. (79)

Fearing Our Desires (80-81) Psalm 23:3 - *Right paths*
Satan uses not only our desires to deceive us but also our _____. (80)

Thoughts of the Heart (81-82) Genesis 6:5-7 - Noah
1) Our heart is the source of our actions
2) Our thoughts are where Satan applies his trade

Of First Concern (82-83) I Samuel 3:9 - Samuel; Prov. 4:23, Rom. 1:28, Ps. 119:11
The heart is our point of contact with God’s unlimited capacity to protect and provide.

A Lesson from the Victorious One (83-84) John 14:30
Jesus responded with the Word of God.

The Battle Plan in the Garden (84-86) John 12:32
The Trinity’s winning strategy - Christ’s death and resurrection
Jesus Idea - This world is a perfectly _____ and _____ place in Jesus & His Father. (86)

If at First You Don’t Succeed... (86-87)
Jesus victory over Satan...Satan now focused on those who believed in Jesus (86)

A Whirling World of Ideas (88-89) Ephesians 4:14
The primary means Satan - _____ that govern society’s individuals

The Vision Dims (89-91) John 5:44
Truth does exist, but it does not come easily (90) Looking Good vs. Knowing Good. (91)

Destroying the Citadel of Satan (91-93)

Session 1 Meditation & Application Ephesians 4:17-18, II Corinthians 10:4-5

- 1.) How well do I know and recognized the “wiles of the devil”, his “snare”?
- 2.) What is my motivation to look good? What am I willing to do to accomplish it? (p. 80)
- 3.) What will I practice this week to take every thought captive in obedience to God?

Session 3 - The Problem of Pain & Evil

Book Content: Chapter 6 - *The Allure of Gentleness*

The Argument of Pain and a Good God *“Is this a deadly blow to the Christian faith?”*

PREMISE #1 — If Christianity is true, then God is both _____ & _____

PREMISE #2 — If God is as stated above, He will see to it that _____

PREMISE #3 — God does not do Premise #2 CONCLUSION: Christianity is _____

Premise # 1 — God is Benevolent & Powerful — Part 1 and Part 2

Premise #2 — A Benevolent & Powerful God will not let humans suffer. [*Turning point*]

PAIN separated from EVIL — The Important Distinction (p. 116-119)

—> The Heart of the Argument — The Value of Pain

Rejection of the Argument (120-121)

People suffer because God is Benevolent. It is for our best.

Is God responsible for all Evil? *“The most practical urgent problem for Christians.”*

Classical Argument — If God is Good and He Could...He Would! (121-122)

God’s purpose in human history - _____

“In a Perfect World” — Why didn’t God make all wholly good? (123) - Three Observations

Character Development (125-127)

Set Evil in the good that God achieves by _____ not _____ Evil

The Christian Response to Pain & Evil (129-133)

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!”*

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

4th — God is going to win. Joel 2:25-27; Psalm 23:1; 2 Cor. 4:17-18

Our Part with the Other Problem of Evil (134-136)

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

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 wanter wishing for my perfect world?

4.) Which of the “Five Actions of Me & Jesus vs. Evil” are we working on together?

Jesus College Postscript

Thank you and God bless you for venturing further up, further in the Kingdom Among Us. We trust you have had a fresh hearing of Jesus. May your quietly transforming, conversational friendship with God immersed in the Trinitarian community be pervaded with joy, relaxed with shalom, and filled with agape, as you practice and become the kind of apprentice of Jesus who willfully seeks the good of God, others and yourself.

For more resources to strengthen your life in the easy yoke with Jesus through Dallas Willard’s wise, warm, winsome teaching:

[Dallas Willard Ministries](#)

[Jesus College](#)

[HarperCollins](#)

The Study Guide work was prepared by Doug Webster of Jesus College. We welcome your comments, suggestions and ideas on how we might better help you strengthen your apprenticeship with Jesus in the With-God life.

info@JesusCollege.com



JESUS COLLEGE

A good school