

¹¹ I have seen something else under the sun:

The race is not to the swift

or the battle to the strong,

nor does food come to the wise

or wealth to the brilliant

or favor to the learned;

but **time and chance happen to them all.**

¹² Moreover, no one knows when their hour will come:

As fish are caught in a cruel net,

or birds are taken in a snare,

so people are trapped by evil times

that fall unexpectedly upon them.

Ecclesiastes 9:11–12



UNSETTLING QUESTIONS



What Does it Mean to be Human? – Sep 9

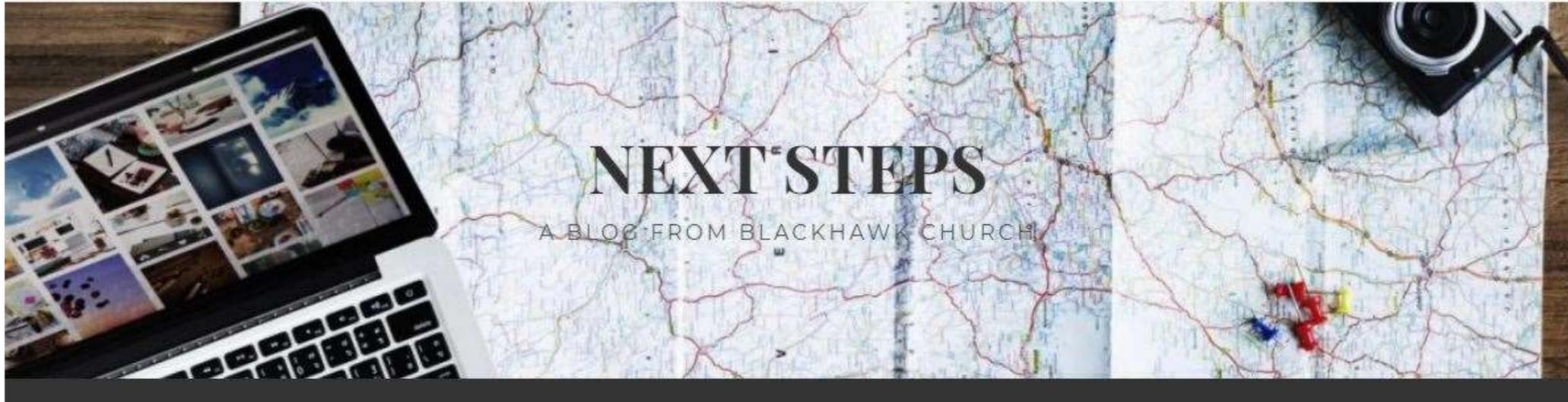
Why Should We Believe in God? – Sep 16

Why Would a Loving God Allow So Much Suffering? – Sep 23

Why is Sex Such a Big Deal? – Sep 30

Can the Bible be Trusted? – Oct 7

Is Jesus Really the Only Way? – Oct 14



UNSETTLING QUESTIONS

SEPTEMBER 5, 2018

Series Introduction:
Unsettling Questions



AUGUST 2, 2018

Wired to Serve



JULY 23, 2018

4 Tools to Help You
Understand Scripture



JULY 16, 2018

How to fight
discontentment in a
#blessed world



Next Steps Blog
blog.blackhawkchurch.org

Philosophical Question:
Where is God? (Does he exist?)

Psychological Question:
Why is this happening to me?

Pastoral Question:
How can I possibly get thru this?

Different Kinds of Evil

Moral Evil – humans causing harm and suffering

Natural Evil – some sickness; flooding; earthquakes;
famine; plagues

Social Evil – racism; poverty; discrimination; slavery

Supernatural Evil – Satan, etc

The Problem of Moral Evil

- If God exists then He has maximal goodness, maximal knowledge, and maximal power.
- If God is all good, He **should** destroy evil.
- If God is all knowing, He **would** destroy evil.
- If God is all powerful, He **could** destroy evil.
- Evil is not destroyed.
- Therefore, there is no such God.

Answer #1 – The “Free Will” Defense

God loves us and desires to be freely loved by us. So, God gave us the gift of freedom. To be free, however, means it is possible to love God or not. To do good or not. Therefore, it is possible for some forms of human suffering to come from the actions of human beings who freely choose to do evil. It is logically impossible for God to create free human beings who perform good actions all the time because with freedom comes the freedom to be unloving. ...

Answer #1 – The “Free Will” Defense

...So, while God has maximal power, knowledge, and goodness, he does not have the power to make a free human being choose good at all times. The only way to ensure a world free from undeserved suffering is to eliminate freedom. God can't do that.

Things God Can't Do

- He can't stop being God.
- He can't create a super God (someone superior to Him).
- He can't begin.
- He can't end.
- He can't learn.
- He can't be over here but not over there.
- He can't lie.
- He can't go against his nature.

Natural Evil/Suffering

- Some caused by humans.

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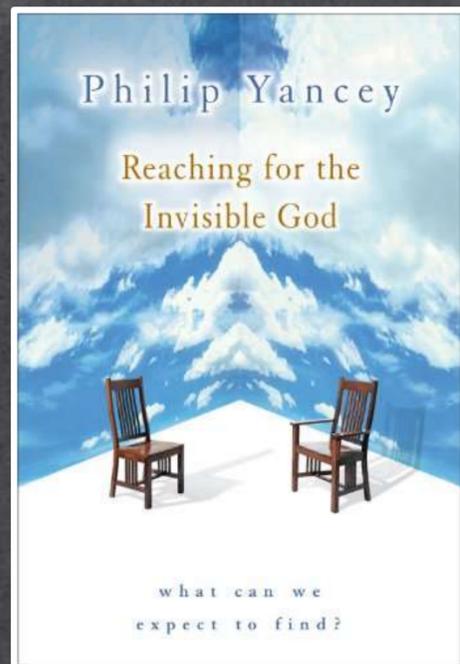
In 2016, an estimated 36.7 million people were living with HIV (including 1.8 million children). Since the start of the epidemic an estimated 78 million people have become infected with HIV and 35 million people have died of AIDS-related illnesses. The vast majority of people living with HIV are in sub-Saharan Africa (25.5 million).

Avert.org

Natural Evil/Suffering

- Some caused by humans.
- Some are the result of time and chance.
- Some are mind boggling in their scope.
- No absolute security this side of Heaven.

On my travels overseas, I have noticed a striking difference in the wording of prayers. Christians in affluent countries tend to pray: "Lord, take this trial away from us!" I have heard prisoners, persecuted Christians, and some who live in very poor countries pray instead, "Lord, give us the strength to bear this trial"



Philip Yancey
Reaching for the Invisible God

²⁰ Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day,
or like vinegar poured on a wound,
is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

Proverbs 25:20

¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; **mourn with those who mourn.**

Romans 12:15

¹ My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me,
so far from my cries of anguish?

² My God, I cry out by day, but you do not answer,
by night, but I find no rest.

23 Awake, Lord! Why do you sleep?

Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever.

24 Why do you hide your face

and forget our misery and oppression?

25 We are brought down to the dust;

our bodies cling to the ground.

26 Rise up and help us;

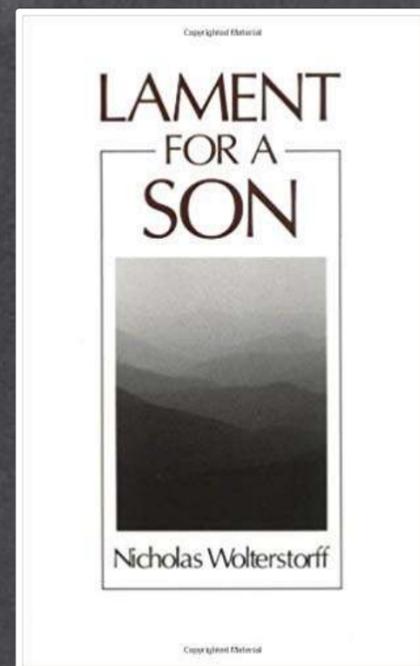
rescue us because of your unfailing love.

Psalm 44:23-26

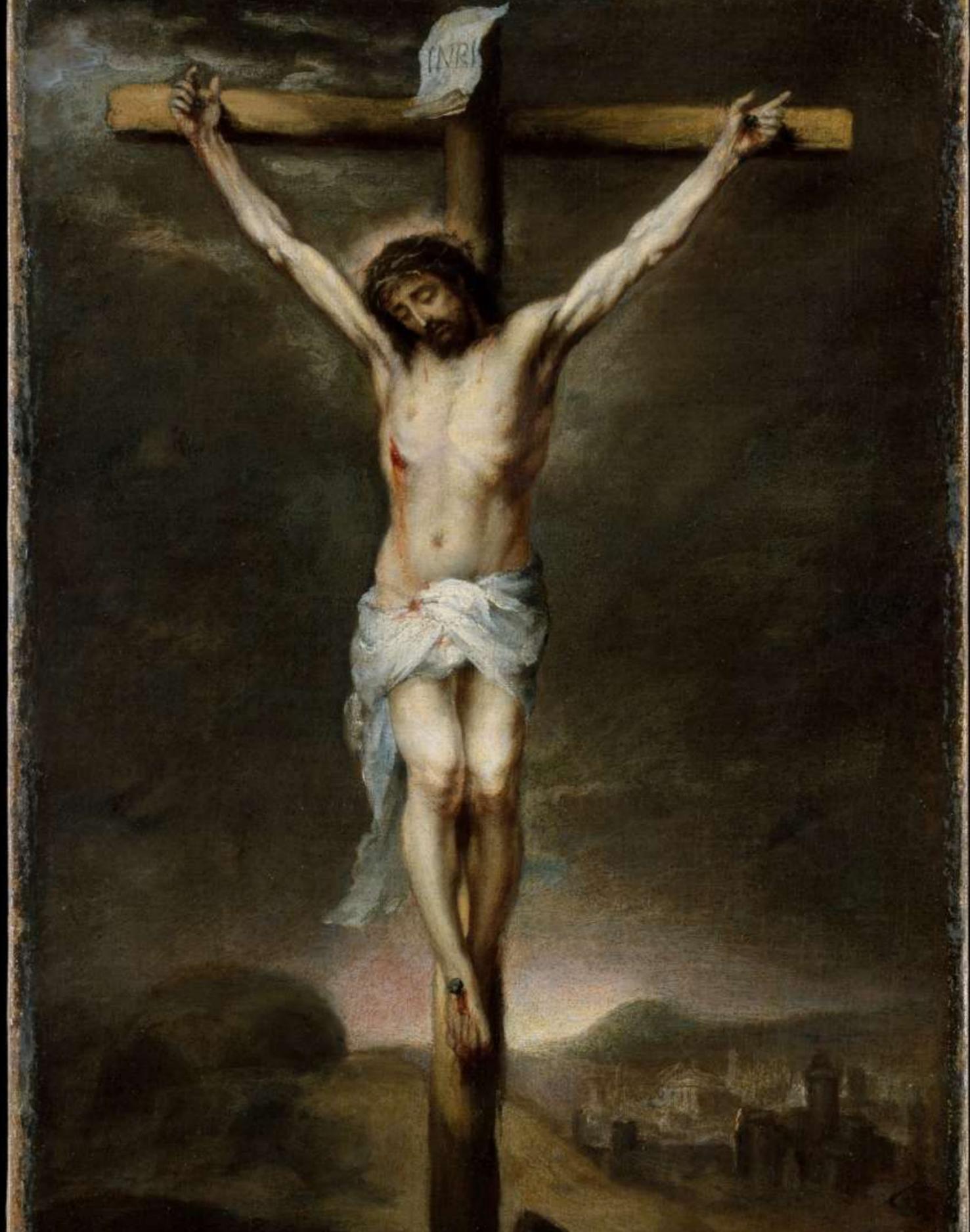
¹⁸ The LORD is close to the brokenhearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

Psalm 34:18

I have no explanation...I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and resurrecter of Jesus Christ. I also believe that my son's life was cut off in its prime. I cannot fit these pieces together. I am at a loss. I have read the theodicies produced to justify the ways of God to man. I find them unconvincing. To the most agonized question I have ever asked I do not know the answer. I do not know why God would watch him fall. I do not know why God would watch me wounded. I cannot even guess.



Nicholas Wolterstorff
Lament for a Son



עִמָּנוּ אֵל

IMMANUEL - GOD WITH US

MATTHEW 1:23