

LECTURE 10:
Is Human Suffering Justifiable? (Part 1): Laying the Groundwork

THE CLASSICAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

- I. In solving the problem of evil, our foundational—but not complete—answer is that our suffering is God’s just retribution for our sin:
- II. For those who catch a glimpse of the “sinfulness of sin,” the problem of evil virtually disappears

WHY THE CLASSICAL SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM OF EVIL STRIKES
MODERN MEN AS UNSATISFACTORY

- I. The perceived force of the classical explanation is relative to our audience’s moral outlook; this is why modern man’s moral worldview is the chief obstacle to our answering the problem of evil *today*:
- II. In solving the problem of evil, we must attempt to show men that they are sinners, which means...

DEFENDING THE CLASSICAL SOLUTION IN THE MODERN DAY

- I. Phase 1—Reposition them within the Classical and Christian moral order
 - A. Step 1) Force them to confront their actual belief in the *objectivity of moral wrongness*
 - B. Step 2) Show them that the truth of this belief presupposes theism:
- II. Phase 2—Personalize their position within that order
 - A. Step 1) The boomerang strategy
 - B. Step 2) Unmasking strategy
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
- III. Why our *proof* will ultimately fail to *persuade* until the Spirit converts them