

REMINDER #2 REGARDING EVIL AND SUFFERING—  
GOD’S PLACE AS CREATOR IS SUPERIOR TO OURS

**INTRODUCTION**

Last week in our series on “Why does a loving, all-knowing and all-powerful God, allow evil and suffering in the world,” we were reminded that God’s Performance of Goodness and Justice is superior to ours. We noted that God’s goodness is declared in His Word. In Ps 119:68 we read: “Thou art good, and doest good.” Why does God **do** good? Because He **is** good; it is one of the attributes that make God, God.

God’s goodness is not only declared in His Word—it is also demonstrated in the world. Psalm 145:9 reminds us that “The Lord is **good to all**: and His tender mercies are over all His works.” In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus told the multitudes that the Father “maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.” God allows the evil and the unjust—those who **refuse** to accept Him as Master and Savior in their lives—to live and breathe. He allows their crops to grow and their animals to give birth and their vehicles to work—just like He does for believers. He gives them children and health and jobs and sometimes wealth—just like He does for believers. He allows them to eat and drink, heals them, and protects them from danger—just like He does for believers. Would we be good to our **enemies** if we were God? **Are** we good to your enemies although we are not God? God most certainly is, isn’t He? “The Lord is good to all: and His tender mercies are over all His works.”

Not only is God’s goodness superior to ours, so is His justice; His punishment of evil. Because He is all-knowing, He knows WHO did WHAT—and WHY. He does not forget....He does not over-react....He will ALWAYS punish perfectly—at the time HE deems fit. How blessed we are to have a God that delights in mercy and does not immediately give us what we deserve in the way of punishment. Psalm 103:10-11 “He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is His mercy toward them that fear Him.”

I agree with Randy Alcorn who wrote: “Fallen beings could not survive in a perfectly just world where God punished evil immediately” (331). How glad we ought to be that God is rich in mercy and that His tender mercies are over all His works! Although we don’t always understand why God does what He does, we must be convinced of the fact that God’s performance of good—and punishment of evil—is superior to ours and that He **knows** what is best and **does** what is best.

**Text:** Romans 9:20-21

**Title:** God’s Place as Creator is Superior to Ours

**1. The Declaration that God is Creator**

A. God claims to be the Creator

**Turn to** Genesis 1:1 “In the beginning God *created* the heaven and the earth.”

**Psalm 100:3** “Know ye that the Lord He is God: it is *He that hath made us*, and not we ourselves; we are His people, and the sheep of His pasture.”

**Isaiah 42:5** “Thus saith God the Lord, He that *created* the heavens, and stretched them out; He that spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; He that giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk therein:”

**Isaiah 45:12** “I have *made the earth*, and *created man* upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.”

**Colossians 1:16** “*For by Him were all things created*, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: *all things were created by Him*, and for Him:”

## B. God names Himself the Creator

**Ecclesiastes 12:1** “Remember now thy *Creator* in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;”

**Isaiah 40:28** “Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the *Creator* of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.”

**Romans 1:25** “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the *Creator*, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”

**I Peter 4:19** “Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to Him in well doing, as unto a faithful *Creator*.”

How do we **know** God created? We have to be honest with the fact that we were not there—and neither was Moses who wrote the book of Genesis. Even Adam and Eve **weren't** there until AFTER God had created. You know who else wasn't there? The believers and promoters of evolution!

Since we cannot go back in history to the time BEFORE God created and since we cannot recreate a situation where nothing exists, how do we know God was the Creator?

By faith! Hebrews 11:3 “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

It is also important to realize that the evolutionists also operate under faith because they cannot go back in time either; nor can they recreate a situation where nothing exists. In other words, neither creationists or evolutionists can use observational science to prove how the world was created.

In my opinion, it takes more faith to believe a tornado can go through a junkyard, pick up a bunch of pieces from a bunch of random cars, and spit out a beautiful, functional vehicle at the end—an illustration of how evolution works! Why not just believe Someone created it? Because they do not WANT TO!

## **2. Demonstration of God's Wisdom as Creator**

### A. Seen in the Word

**Psalms 104:24** “O Lord, how manifold are thy works! *in wisdom* hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.”

**Psalms 136:5** “To him that *by wisdom* made the heavens: for His mercy endureth for ever.”

**Proverbs 3:19** “The Lord *by wisdom* hath founded the earth; by understanding hath He established the heavens.”

**Jeremiah 10:12** “He hath made the earth by His power, He hath established the world *by His wisdom*, and hath stretched out the heavens by His discretion.”

### B. Seen in the World

**The eye:** So complex is the eye, that even Darwin himself in *The Origin of Species* wrote: ““To suppose that the eye, with all its inimitable contrivances [unique skill] for adjusting the focus to different distances, for admitting different amounts of light, and for the correction of spherical and chromatic aberration [color fringing], could have been formed by natural selection, seems, I freely confess, absurd in the highest degree possible.” In other words, he admitted it was absurd to believe the eye formed by chance, but chose to believe in that possibility anyway!

**The fertilized human egg:** “A single fertilized egg (zygote), the size of a pinhead, contains chemical instructions that would fill more than 500,000 printed pages. The genetic information contained in this “encyclopedia” determines the potential physical aspect of the developing human from height to hair color. In time, the fertilized egg divides into the 30 trillion cells that make up the human body, including 12 billion brain cells, which form over 120 trillion connections.”

**The earth’s water:** “The solid state of most substances is denser than their liquid state, but the opposite is true for H<sup>2</sup>O, which explains why ice floats rather than sinks. If water were like virtually any other liquid, it would freeze from the bottom up rather than from the top down, killing aquatic life, destroying the oxygen supply, and making earth uninhabitable.”

No wonder God inspired Paul to write **Romans 11:33** “O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out!”

### **3. Demonstration of God’s Power as Creator**

We’re in Genesis 1, notice

V 3 “And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.”

V 6 “And God said, Let there be...and it was so” (v 7)

V 9 “And God said...and it was so.”

V 11 “And God said...and it was so.”

V 14 “And God said...and it was so” (v 15)

V 20 “And God said...and God created” (v 21)

V 24 “And God said...and it was so”

V 26 “And God said...so God created” (v 27)

**Psalms 33:6, 8-9** “By the *word of the Lord* were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of His mouth....Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him. For He *spoke*, and it was done; He *commanded*, and it stood fast.”

**Hebrews 11:3** “Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the *word of God*, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.”

It is impossible to miss the fact that the Bible stresses that God is so powerful that He *spoke* the world into existence!

### **4. Attitudes we should have in light of God being our Creator**

My guess is that hearing that God is the Creator—and we the created—and that God demonstrated both wisdom and power as the Creator was not “new” news to you. So, what is the significance of these truths and how does it tie into helping us wrestle with the problem of evil and suffering in the world? Based on the fact that God is God—and we are not; that He is infinitely wise—and we are not; and that He is all powerful—and we are not; I believe there are at least two attitudes that we should adopt.

#### A. Humility

Notice **Psalms 50:21** “...thou thoughtest that I was altogether such an one as thyself...” God is not a mini-version of us—He is far above us.

**Isaiah 55:8-9** “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

Randy Alcorn writes: “Part of being fallen is thinking we know more than we really do” (repeat; 355). He then suggests that if we knew even **1 percent** of what God knew—which is undoubtedly a high number—there would still obviously be 99 percent that we didn’t know. He then poses this question: “Is it possible that some kind of rational explanation exists—if we were smart enough to understand it—for why this good God permits evil and suffering” (355). Our lack of wisdom should humble us.

Our lack of power should also humble us. We can’t create something out of nothing by merely saying the word, but God can—and He did! The universe is not held together by **our** power, but it is held together by God’s. We can’t look on the proud and bring him down like God can—and does. Notice **Job 40:11-14**

“Cast abroad the rage of thy wrath: and behold every one that is proud, and abase him. Look on every one that is proud, and bring him low; and tread down the wicked in their place. Hide them in the dust together; and bind their faces in secret. Then will I also confess unto thee that thine own right hand can save thee.”

### B. Trust

**Proverbs 3:5-7** “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.”

We get in trouble when we lean on our own understanding, don’t we? Alcorn suggests that if you have sufficient wisdom, power, and goodness to create a universe that is superior to God’s, that you should go ahead and create it! But since we can’t, “We who have not formed galaxies and fashioned worlds should not be so quick to tell God how to run His universe” (358).

Do you trust God? Job did—even after losing his children, health, and wealth. His wife was telling him to give up, his friends were of no help, and Job felt as if his life was over. But through it all, Job was still able to say “Though he slay me, yet will I trust Him” (Job 13:15).

Paul was persuaded “that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:38-39).

### **CONCLUDING THOUGHTS:**

1. Have you arrogantly assumed your wisdom is superior to God’s? Have you been murmuring and complaining because God is allowing things into your life that you wish He wouldn’t or because He is not doing things you wish He would? It is natural to do that because we are sinners—but it is also **sin** that needs to be confessed and forsaken.
2. Second, do you trust Him? Don’t just accept the fact that God knows best and does best—**embrace** it. Embrace the fact that although you don’t necessarily know **why** God is doing things, because God has the power to “fix” things but is choosing not to, He has His reasons.
3. Lastly, are you saved? The arrogance behind questioning **why** God is doing something is one thing, but the arrogance behind rejecting God’s way to heaven—and trusting your own way—takes pride to a whole another level. Jesus is calling. If you haven’t answered that call, why not do that today?