

20/20  
VISION

IS YOUR LIFE IN FOCUS?



CAN  
YOU  
SEE  
HEAVEN  
FROM  
HERE?



# **W E E K 4**

**PAIN: PROBLEM & PROMISE**

C. S. LEWIS  
THE  
PROBLEM  
OF  
PAIN

GEOFFREY BLES : THE CENTENARY PRESS

GEO. MANSELL



## **PAIN - A DEFINITION**

**ANY EXPERIENCE, WHETHER PHYSICAL OR MENTAL,  
WHICH THE CREATURE DISLIKES**

I. VISION IMPAIRMENT: PAIN MAKES MY FAITH FUZZY



**\*THE PROBLEM OF PAIN – A CREATURE'S LOGIC**

## THE PROBLEM OF PAIN - A CREATURE'S LOGIC

PREMISE 1 - IF GOD WERE GOOD, HE WOULD WISH TO  
MAKE HIS CREATURES PERFECTLY HAPPY.

QUESTION - IF GOD WERE GOOD, WHY DOES HE NOT  
WISH TO MAKE HIS CREATURES PERFECTLY HAPPY?

OBSERVABLE, PERSONAL REALITY - THE CREATURES ARE  
NOT HAPPY.

CONCLUSION - GOD LACKS EITHER GOODNESS OR POWER,  
OR BOTH.

QUESTION - HOW CAN WE RECONCILE THE FACTS OF PAIN



## THE PROBLEM OF PAIN - A CREATURE'S LOGIC

PREMISE 1 - IF GOD WERE GOOD, HE WOULD WISH TO MAKE HIS CREATURES PERFECTLY HAPPY.

PREMISE 2 - IF GOD WERE ALMIGHTY, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO WHAT HE WISHED (MAKE HIS CREATURES PERFECTLY HAPPY).

OBSERVABLE PERSONAL REALITY: THE CREATURES ARE NOT HAPPY.

CONCLUSION: GOD LACKS EITHER GOODNESS OR POWER.

CONCLUSION: GOD IS EITHER NOT GOOD OR NOT ALMIGHTY.

## THE PROBLEM OF PAIN - A CREATURE'S LOGIC

PREMISE 1 - IF GOD WERE GOOD, HE WOULD WISH TO MAKE HIS CREATURES PERFECTLY HAPPY.

PREMISE 2 - IF GOD WERE ALMIGHTY, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO WHAT HE WISHED (MAKE HIS CREATURES PERFECTLY HAPPY).

OBSERVED AND PERSONAL REALITY- THE CREATURES ARE NOT HAPPY.

CONCLUSION: GOD DOES NOT EXIST.

BY J. L. GORDON



**THE PROBLEM OF PAIN - A CREATURE'S LOGIC**

**PREMISE 1 - IF GOD WERE GOOD, HE WOULD WISH TO MAKE HIS CREATURES PERFECTLY HAPPY.**

**PREMISE 2 - IF GOD WERE ALMIGHTY, HE WOULD BE ABLE TO DO WHAT HE WISHED (MAKE HIS CREATURES PERFECTLY HAPPY).**

**OBSERVED AND PERSONAL REALITY- THE CREATURES ARE NOT HAPPY.**

**CONCLUSION - GOD LACKS EITHER GOODNESS OR POWER, OR BOTH.**

**-THIS IS THE PROBLEM OF PAIN, IN ITS SIMPLEST FORM-**

**\*POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES WITH THIS LOGIC**



**INVERTS THE CREATOR/CREATURE HIERARCHY**

**INSISTS THAT THIS PLACE BE THAT PLACE**



**IGNORES/MINIMIZES THE REALITY OF PAIN I CAUSE**

**OFTEN LEADS TO FINAL AND UNREPENTANT REBELLION**



## II. VISION CORRECTION: PAIN BRINGS MY FAITH INTO FOCUS

**\*GOD'S PROMISES**  
**ROMANS 8:17-18, 28-30**



**\*HE PROVIDES A CALLING TO EMBRACE:**

**ROMANS 17-18, 28**

**17 NOW IF WE ARE CHILDREN, THEN WE ARE HEIRS—HEIRS OF GOD AND CO-HEIRS WITH CHRIST, IF INDEED WE SHARE IN HIS SUFFERINGS IN ORDER THAT WE MAY ALSO SHARE IN HIS GLORY.**

**18 I CONSIDER THAT OUR PRESENT SUFFERINGS ARE NOT WORTH COMPARING WITH THE GLORY THAT WILL BE REVEALED IN US.**

**28 AND WE KNOW THAT IN ALL THINGS GOD WORKS FOR THE GOOD OF THOSE WHO LOVE HIM, WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED ACCORDING TO HIS PURPOSE.**

**“THE SON OF GOD SUFFERED UNTO THE DEATH, NOT THAT  
MEN MIGHT NOT SUFFER, BUT THAT THEIR SUFFERINGS  
MIGHT BE LIKE HIS.”**

**GEORGE MACDONALD**



**\*HE PROVIDES HIS SON AS A PORTAIT:**

**ROMANS 8:29**

**29 FOR THOSE GOD FOREKNEW HE ALSO PREDESTINED TO BE  
CONFORMED TO THE IMAGE OF HIS SON, THAT HE MIGHT BE  
THE FIRSTBORN AMONG MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS.**

**\*HE PROVIDES MY PATHWAY TO GLORY:**

**ROMANS 8**

**30 AND THOSE HE PREDESTINED, HE ALSO CALLED; THOSE HE CALLED, HE ALSO JUSTIFIED; THOSE HE JUSTIFIED, HE ALSO GLORIFIED.**



III. SUMMARY: MY PAIN IS BEST EXAMINED WITH ETERNITY IN VIEW

**I CONSIDER THAT OUR PRESENT SUFFERINGS ARE NOT  
WORTH COMPARING WITH THE GLORY THAT WILL BE  
REVEALED IN US.  
ROMANS 8:18**