

Palisades Community Bible Church

Online Bible Study

What Is Really Wrong In The World?

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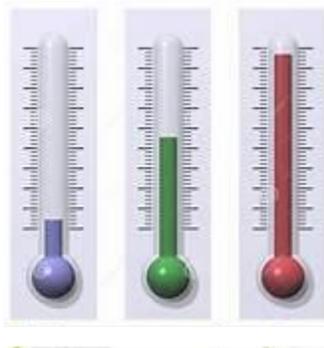
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What Is Really Wrong In The World? Before we answer this question, let's lay a foundation for understanding the answer. You may not get the connection right away, but soon, you will.

Example #1:

Did you know that "cold" does not exist? What we call cold is actually the absence of heat. Cold is not energy; it is the absence of energy.

Heat is energy. Heat can be measured and controlled. Cold is simply a term for the lack of heat. The "colder" something is, the less heat it contains. To call something cold is simply shorthand for less heat.



Think of water in its liquid state. If you remove the heat from it, it will freeze solid. If you apply heat to the solid state, it will return to a liquid. More heat will turn it to a vapor. This can only be reversed by removing heat. Cold does not exist.

Example #2:

Did you know that "darkness" does not exist? As with cold, the word we use to describe the absence of light is dark. Dark, as with cold, is not energy. It is the absence of energy. Light is energy. Light can be measured and controlled. There is only light energy in varying amounts. A very low amount of light is what we call dark.



Think of being inside a deep cave in which no natural light can be perceived. The darkness is simply the absence of light energy. Strike a match in there and the light energy will easily penetrate the dark. You cannot add enough darkness to make the light go away.

Example #3:

Did you know that “evil” does not exist? There is only God, or the absence of God. The presence of God is energy. The absence of God’s energy (Jesus) is how we describe evil; wickedness, sin, etc. Evil is man’s natural state in the absence of God. Darkness is the natural state in the absence of light. Ice is the natural state of water in the absence of heat. Man without God is in an evil state.

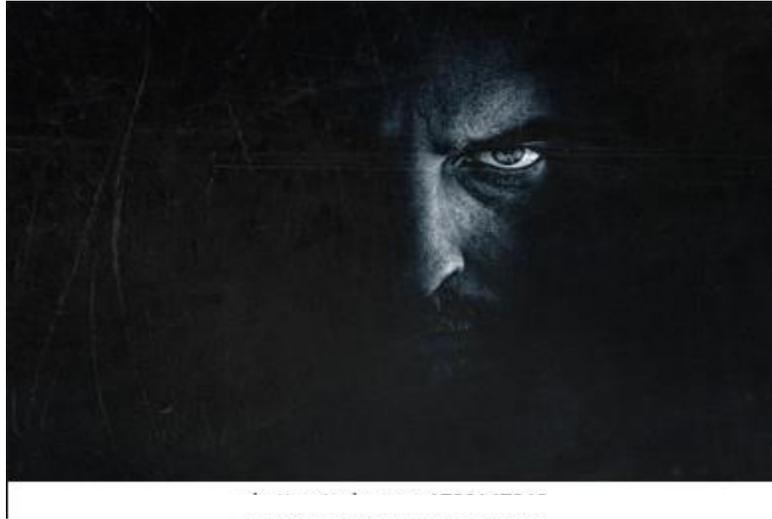


In the same way that heat and light make cold and dark disappear, the presence of God drives out what we call evil. In the human’s natural state, without God, s/he is incomplete. Once God enters the human, s/he becomes complete (as God designed us), and the evil is replaced by God’s presence (Jesus). Evil is what we have when God is not within the human. In the same way, darkness is what we have when light is not present. When Jesus is truly in a person’s heart, the Holy Spirit begins to drive out evil.

As with heat and light, the less you have, the colder and darker it gets. The less you have of God in your life, the more evil you see manifested. Absolute zero God results in the most wicked of behaviors. In every case, when a sinful person turns to God through His son, Jesus, that wickedness is replaced.

What's Going Wrong In The World?

We look around our world, today and are appalled at the rampant advancement of sin. What we once called good is now bad. What once was up is now down. The repudiated is now respectable. What we are seeing is a world that has driven God out.



Ecclesiastes 3:16 Furthermore, I have seen under the sun that in the place of justice there is wickedness and in the place of righteousness there is wickedness.

Genesis 6:5 Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

(Note that Ecclesiastes was written about twenty-two to twenty-four hundred years ago. Genesis was written about five to six thousand years ago. Nothing has changed in the human condition! We are all sinners in need of Jesus.)

It is the nature of a sinful person to fill his life with the things of this fallen world. God has given man full freedom to choose Jesus, or to reject Him. Those who reject Jesus are devoid of the very things Jesus taught. They disregard God's commandments. They lack the presence of God which fills these voids.

James 1: 13 When tempted, no one should say, "God is tempting me." For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He tempt anyone;

14 but each person is tempted when they are dragged away by their own evil desire and enticed.

15 Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.

16 Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters.

17 Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.

18 He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of first fruits of all he created.

The greatest of all God's creations is human kind. We were created in His image. And, as with Adam and Eve, people often choose to live with limited amounts of God. We are tempted, not because temptation has power, but because our choice gives temptation power over us. The place in which Jesus belongs in our life is empty, making us weak. We choose to turn off the light. We choose to stand in the cold.

Illustration: When I walk into a diner, I see the pies and cakes on display. I immediately want them. Deserts have no power, but I want them. My emptiness gives them power to entice. I'm tempted. However, after I've had a nutritious meal, I look at them with zero desire. I'm filled with good food, so the deserts are not even interesting. Likewise, when one's heart is filled with Jesus, the desires of this world become uninteresting, even repugnant.

God is love, He is truth, He is merciful, He wants his children to live in the light. God's energy is powerful. Yet, so many choose the degree to which they allow God into their lives. If one is suffering without love, without truth, without hope, is it not because s/he has chosen 'cold, dark and evil'. Have they not chosen to limit Jesus?

To be sure; many who walk without Jesus, and choose to live in an evil condition, DO have power. They may be strong, either physically or politically, or they may be just plain selfish. Evil has no power of its own. As James 1: 15 (above) states; **Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death.** Evil must be given energy, by a person, in order to have power. Evil that is not chosen is inert.

Those who reject Jesus receive the natural results of a Godless life. It's a choice. Those who put their faith in Jesus receive the natural results of a life in Him. It's a choice.

Perhaps, now, it is a more informed choice?

John 3: 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, 'You must be born again.'

John 14: 15 "If you love me, keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another advocate to help you and be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

Acts 2: 38 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

John 3: 16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.