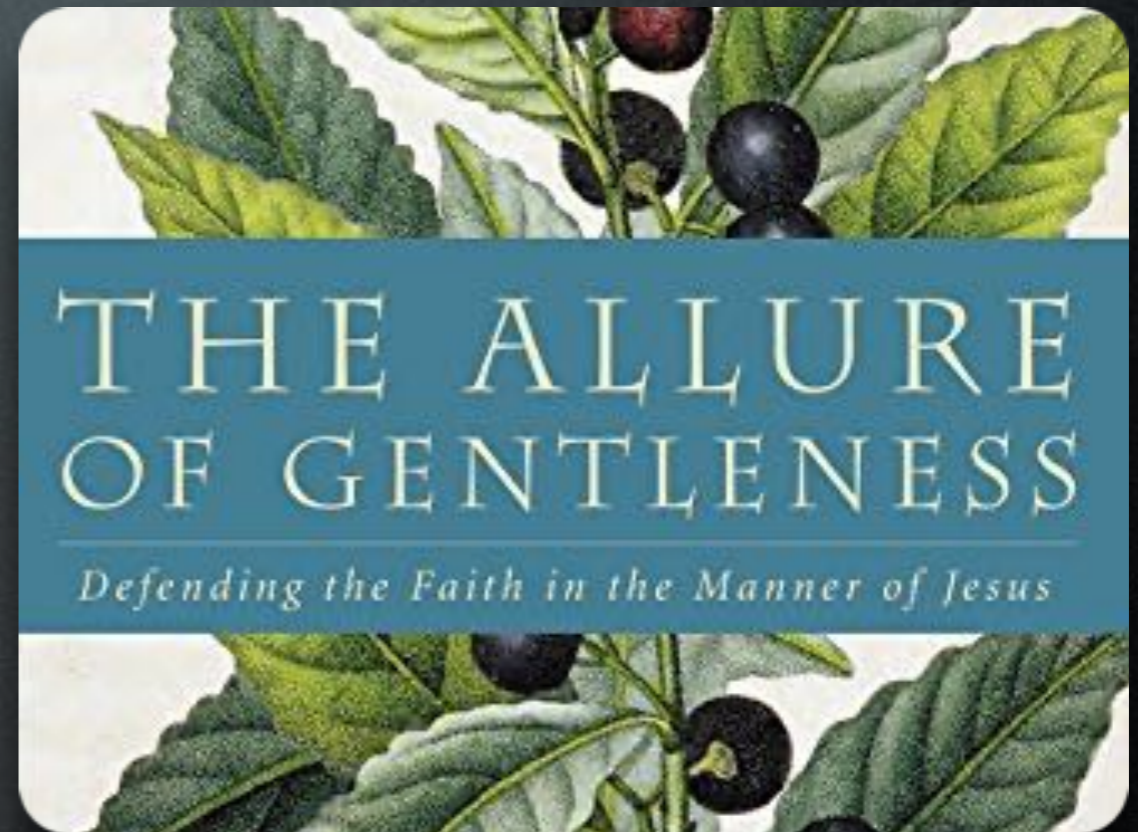


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## Chapter 5 Review

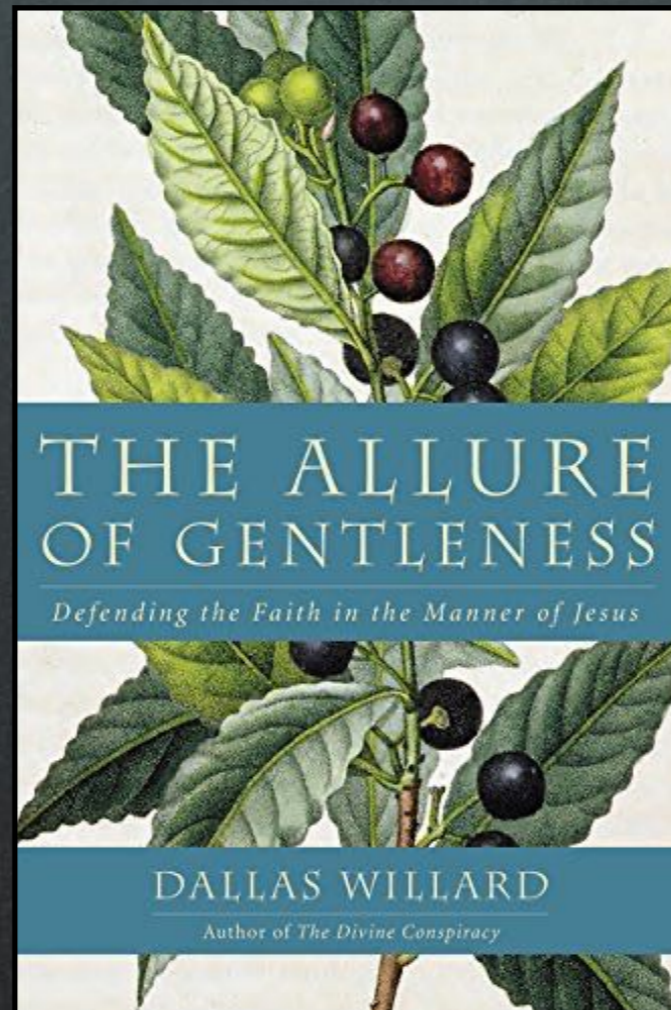
God is working for the **GOOD** of **His Crown Jewel** of Creation through **CULTURE** in **HISTORY** and His historically reliable **WORD** to create a **COMMUNITY** of **LOVE** that seeks Him and finds life in Him.



# THE ALLURE OF GENTLENESS

Session 6

Chapter 6 - *“The Problem of Pain and Evil”*



# THE ARGUMENT of PAIN and a GOOD GOD

*“A deadly blow to the Christian faith?”*

*“Why do evil & suffering exist in the world?”\*\**

PREMISE #1 — If Christianity is true, then God is both benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful.

PREMISE #2 — If God is benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful, then He will see to it that we do not suffer.

PREMISE #3 — God does not see to it that we do not suffer.

CONCLUSION — Christianity is false, since God is either not benevolent or not powerful, to which the presence of suffering testifies.

\* \* Referenced in Chapter 5, p. 91

PREMISE #1 — If Christianity is true, then God is both benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful.

Part A — God's benevolence is not sentimental.

Love is...

- 1) Devoted to the good of others.
- 2) Not to be confused with desire.

Part B — God is infinitely powerful - God can take care of His own business including caring for human beings.

PREMISE #2 — If God is benevolent toward humankind and infinitely powerful, then He will see to it that we do not suffer. \*

Q - Why would God not allow humans to suffer?

A - Because pain is the worst possible thing!

*A friend would stop the pain if possible.*

\* - “The 2nd premise is where the argument turns.”

(115-116)



## **SEPARATING PAIN from EVIL**

*The deft touch of a highly skilled neurosurgeon  
with the brain not on the brain.*



(116-119)



## **The Heart of the Argument: The Value of Pain**

**Pain is the ultimate of evils!**

We just don't like it, which doesn't make it bad.

**Pain is never preferable!**

Unless dying, betraying conviction, losing a friend.

**Pain serves no good end!**

Pain & Pleasure make Human Life & Character possible.

(116-119)

*“The gold of human character is dug from tortuous mines.”*

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(118)

## **REJECTION of the ARGUMENT**

God allows people to suffer because He is benevolent.  
It is for our best.

*~ Paradise Found ~*  
I want what I want,  
I'm insulted if I don't get it.

(119)



Why EVIL - Is God responsible for all evil?

*“The single most practical, urgent problem for Christians.”*

God made us capable of doing wrong knowing we would, therefore it's His fault.

“Mom & Dad, it's your fault!”

(120-121)

## **The Classical Argument**

*If God Could and is Good, He Would!*

Human beings act too!

A World of Free Personaliy & Natural Law.

To think God is not good is to think the  
deadliest of thoughts.

(121-122)



## Chapter 5 Flashback

“Oh, that is what it is all about...that He might create a larger community of the redeemed,  
...a community of love that chooses to be His,  
that diligently seeks until it finds Him,  
and in Him the fullness of life,  
...people who have experienced free development  
of Christlike character.”

(97)



## **What is God's purpose in human history?**

“Crown Jewels in a free, loving community.” (Ch. 5, p. 96)

The world that contains the possibility of evil is the one that also contains the greatest possibility of good. (122)



## IN A PERFECT WORLD

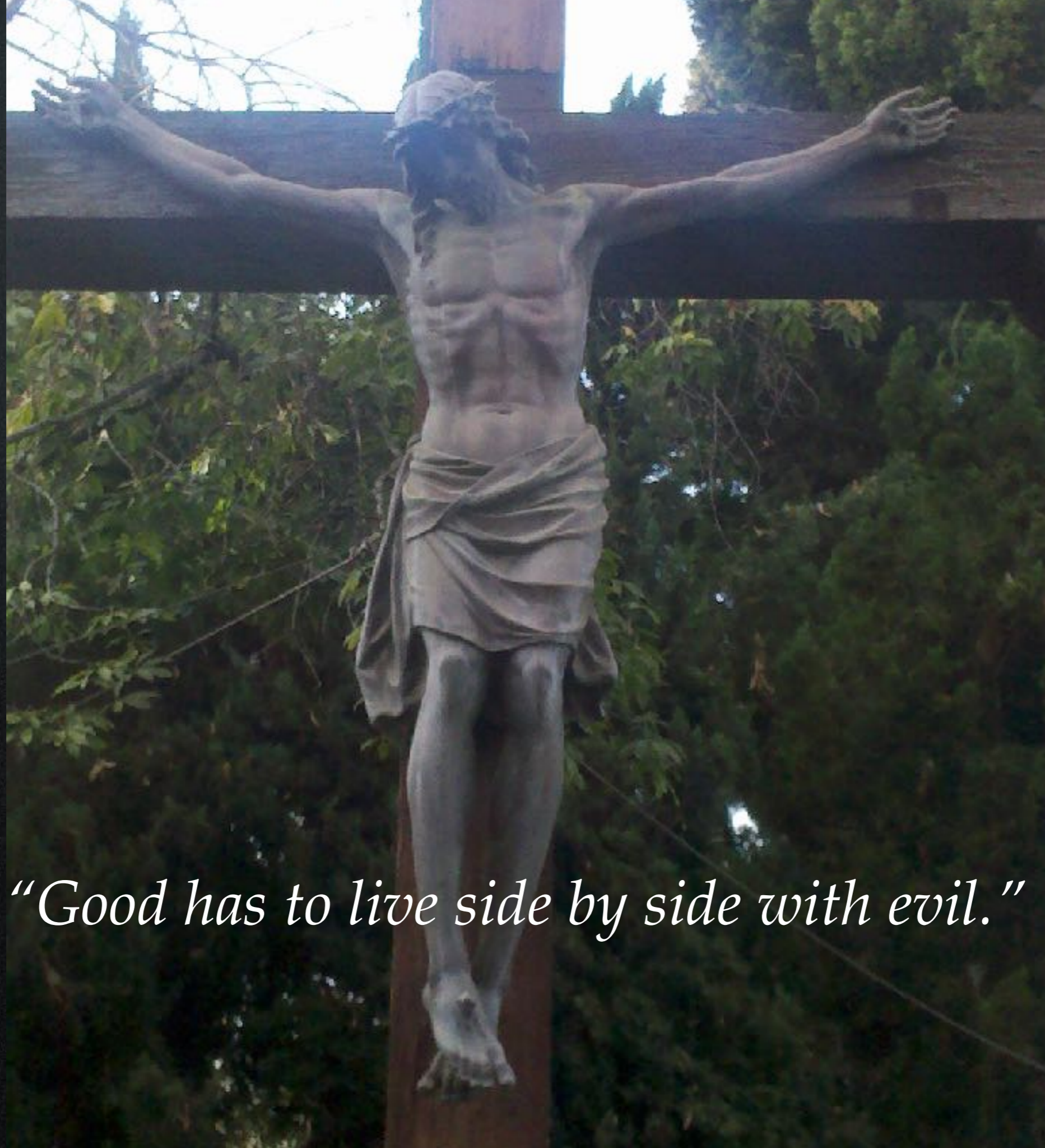
*Why didn't God make humankind wholly good  
in a wholly good environment? (123)*

*Create my perfect world with my needs in mind?! (124)*

- 1.) "My good world" is not necessarily a better world.
- 2.) Why do objectors get their way not the the many who find life as it is to be good?
- 3.) God is obligated to suit personal taste:  
What I want or He's a bad boy.







*“Good has to live side by side with evil.”*

# CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

Parenting: “Make good choices!”  
To avoid trouble or make good habits?

Moral development is possible only in a world  
of genuine freedom.

\* Children have to choose...to learn...to grow. \*

Good persons must live in a world where doing evil  
is a readily available option.

Character develops through action.

(125-127)



*“Parenting is pain management.”*

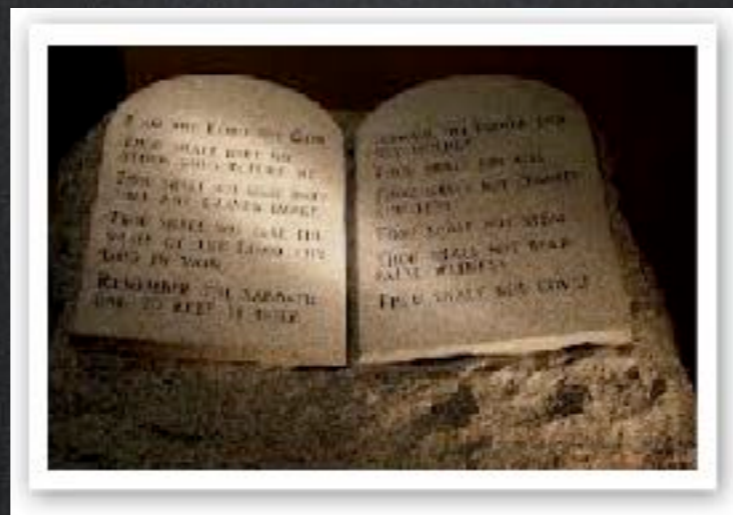
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## THE IMPORTANCE of ORDER

*"The nature of human action and interaction requires a reign of law or orderliness."*

Dysfunctional or Functional Family & Community



(127-128)

## Chapter 6 - *“The Problem of Pain and Evil”*

### **DILEMMA DISSOLVED**

The classic dilemma is dissolved by setting existing evil in the context of the good that God achieves in permitting (but not producing) moral evil.

*“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake  
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”*

(128-129)

## THE CHRISTIAN RESPONSE to PAIN & EVIL

1st — Accept the full reality of suffering knowing God is there and good will triumph.

2nd — God does not do evil. He knows better.

Job 13:15, “Though...yet!” Job - Not the exception but the rule

3rd — A World with Pain & Evil develops creatures of the highest value.

4th — God is going to win.

Joel 2:25-27; Psalm 23:1; Romans 8:28; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

“A God-Bathed World” - *The Divine Conspiracy*, Chapter 3

(129-133)



*“There is no tragedy for those who rely on God.”*

(133)

**HUMAN RESPONSIBILITY  
&  
THE OTHER PROBLEM of EVIL**

Problem #1 - Why is Evil here?

Problem #2 - How to get rid of Evil?

(134-136)



## **FIVE ACTIONS to RID THE WORLD of EVIL**

- 1.) Cease to do evil — Start where I am and do something
- 2.) Trust the goodness & greatness of God
- 3.) Turn loose the chain of Self-Deification
- 4.) Deal with the root cause — ANGER — by surrendering my will to God
- 5.) Stand against evil unconcerned about what happens to me

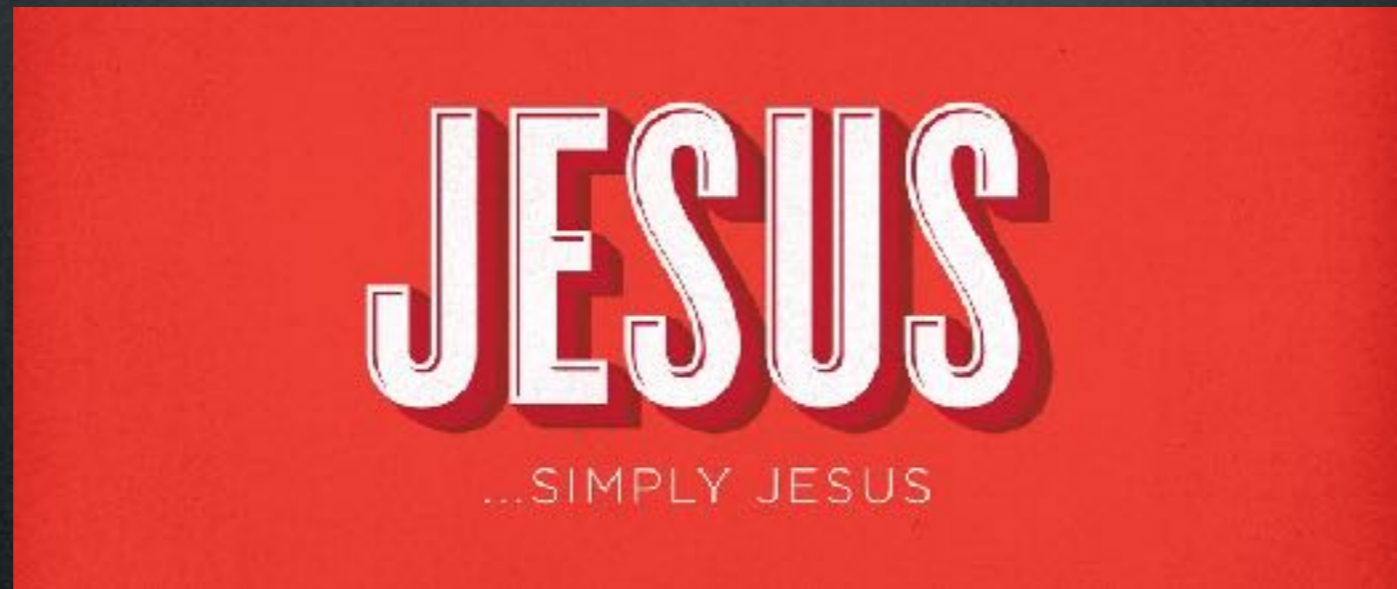
*“Not perfect, just a lot better.”*

(135-136)



ENROLL in the SCHOOL

of



(136-137)  
(21, 26, 166)

# Q&C

Your Questions & Comments are welcome!

(Use the Q&A on the bottom of your Zoom screen)



Q&A

*“We all can do what is right,  
but for the most part we don’t want to.”*

(137)



**Meditation** — *Ephesians 1:7, 18; 2:7, 3:8; 4:7*

**V-I-M in your next 10,000 minutes...**

**VISION** — What “incomparable riches of glorious grace” do I see in Jesus?

**INTENTION** — How much of my world do I expect, request, demand or complain about?

**MEANS** — Which “Five Actions against Evil” will Jesus & I work on this week?

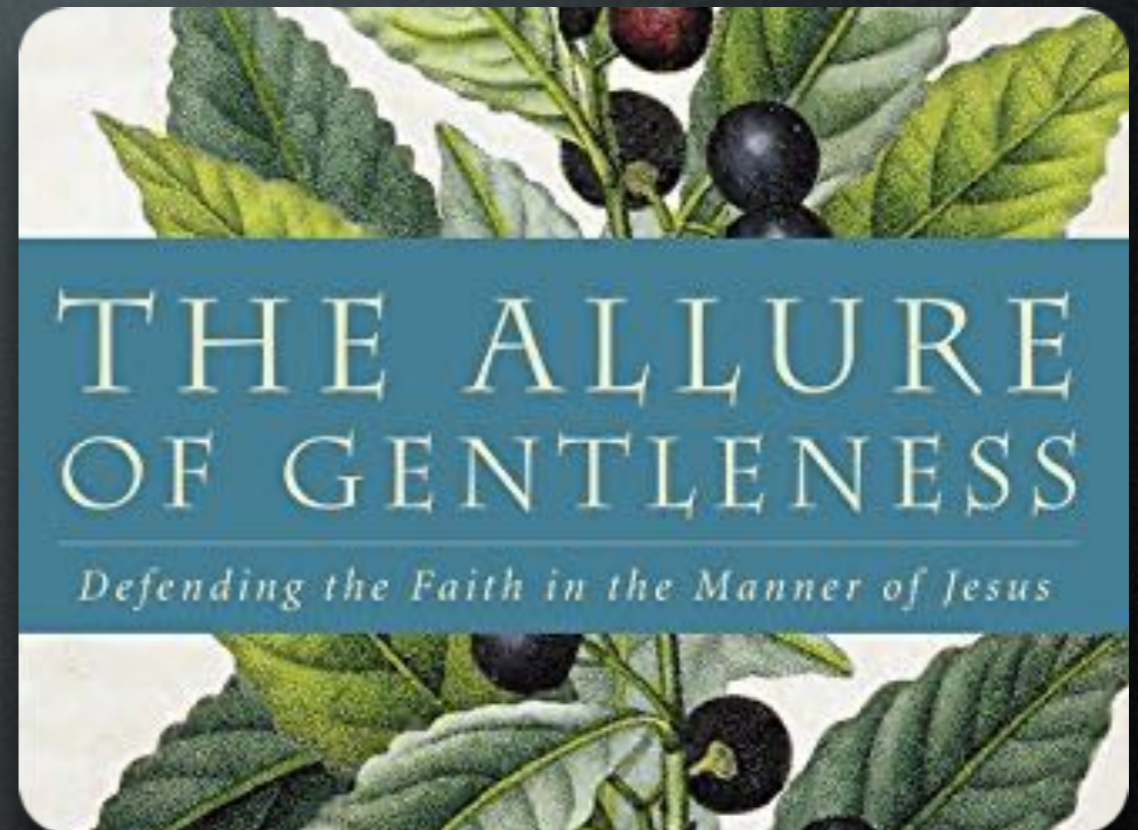


## Chapter 6 Summary

Pain & evil exist because God permits them but He does not produce them.

Separating pain from evil makes good character possible through pain, and without evil, there is no possibility of good, but our good God wins over evil.

With guidance and help from Jesus, we can stand against evil, if we choose to.



The best way of taking a stand against evil is simply relying on Jesus Christ to guide and help us.

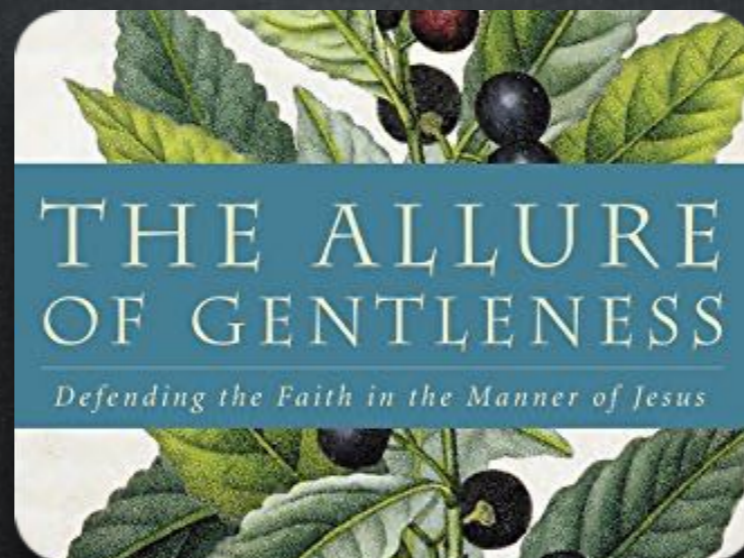
*Jesus IS what I OUGHT to be!*



(136-137)

## **Next — Final Session 7**

Chapter 7 - Living and Acting with God  
(pp. 141-170)





# **A CELEBRATION of COMPLETION**

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From Jesus College & Dallas Willards Ministries  
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# CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

*This Certifies that*

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*Has respectfully and gently completed in October, 2022, the Course*

**THE ALLURE OF GENTLENESS**

Doug Webster

DOUG WEBSTER



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in your next  
10,000 minutes  
in the School of Jesus!

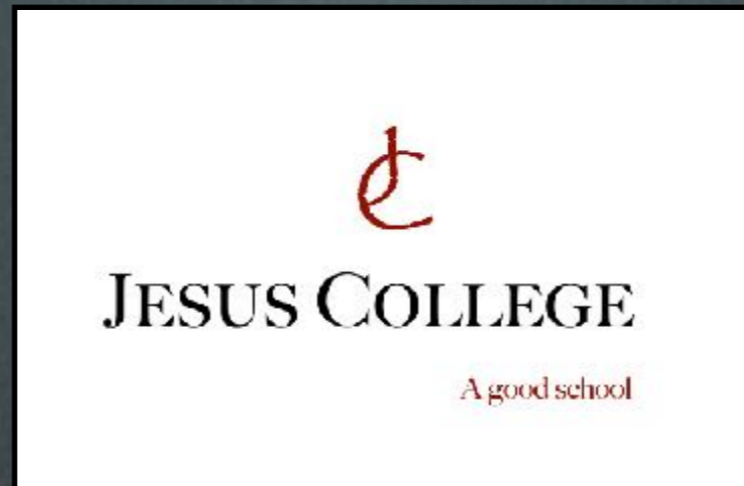
*Doug*



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*“A Student of the Superior Benefactor”*

Apprentice to Master Love — //Verbs  
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