

Here's how you can come back to God and assure your place in Heaven.

God has done everything necessary for you to be forgiven and to live with him and his people in a new perfect universe for ever. Why not admit you have contributed to the evil in this world, ask for forgiveness and for help to become his child.

Some have found a prayer like this one a helpful place to start:

“Lord I am tired and sickened by the evil in this world. I am also sorry for all the evil things I have done personally. Please forgive me. I can see that I can no longer go on ignoring you and from now on I want to take you seriously and let you be the one to determine the way I should live. I also commit myself to searching for a deeper understanding of your truth and the way that should impact my life from now on”. Amen

You should then seek out a church in your area to begin to fulfill this promise. Talk to the person who gave you this leaflet or try our church.

Let us answer your questions

Camden Presbyterian Church

Rev. Warren Hicks
PO Box 286
Camden 2570
N S W

Phone: (02) 4658-1723
Email: hicksi@dodo.com.au

Looking Deeper

Has God Let you Down?

Reasons why you might want to rethink that position



“Mr. God, it is the decision of this court to find you guilty”

During the World War II, some Jewish intellectuals in a concentration camp held a mock trial. God was the accused and they took their task very seriously. After weighing all the “evidence” they found him guilty of gross negligence towards Mankind.

How would you have voted?

Has the overpowering evil and suffering of this world really sickened you? Have things happened in your life that have made you angry with God or at least highly cynical about the claim that He is both loving and in control of his universe?

What is the source of all evil?

Evil is not a *thing* that needs to be created. In fact the word *evil* is really a word used to describe the moral characteristics of other things like thoughts, words and actions together with their consequences. We sometimes use the word as a noun, not because there is such a thing in itself but to help talk about it.

So God didn't create anything that was evil—everything he created and everything he does is good. The evil came when we humans, given the capacity to make moral choices, chose what is wrong. Man has rejected God and the very laws which were meant to preserve the goodness in all he created—evil is the result.

So the question “why does God allow evil” is more accurately expressed: “why does God allow evil things to occur?”

The answer is that God created us as real people who are capable of having a real relationship with Him. That can't work unless we are able to choose not to have a relationship with Him. Since God is the only source of true goodness

the natural consequence of not wanting to have a relationship with Him is that we will lose the ability to uphold the good he created, and do evil. In other words we will do what is evil because that is the natural outcome of rejecting God. Like the law of gravity it is one of the inescapable laws that govern our universe.

The Bible has the only explanation for the existence of evil that makes sense and gives mankind hope

The other thing about choice is that for it to be real there must be real consequences. If you chose for example, to harm something or someone you should be expected to see the effect of that harm. Otherwise life would be like a meaningless computer game in which we would never learn that evil was truly evil.

The Bible gives us hope.

The Bible has the only explanation for the existence of evil that makes sense and gives mankind hope. If, as some believe, God is the source of evil then we would have every reason to hate him. That would also mean there was no solution to evil—here or in Heaven.

The Bible says that we caused the problem.

While that may offend many people it is in fact the truth and the only answer that leaves us with any hope. God has already done something to solve that problem—in fact he would never had told us what our problem was if he didn't plan to solve it. Nor would he have told us about the perfect world he created in the first place if he didn't plan to re-create it.

Here is what God has done...

Two thousand years ago God sent Jesus, the eternal Son to this earth as a human being. He lived the perfect life we should have lived, yet he died the appalling death we deserved for the things we have done. His death pays the penalty of our sin and makes it possible

for us to come into relationship with God and escape evil forever.



Evil continues in this world today so we will take God's solution seriously

In the meantime God allows evil things to continue as a mark of his love for us. He wants us to see the futility of trying to live without him—he wants us to see the horrible consequences of our anger, dishonesty, jealousy, greed, and a million other destructive attitudes that end up in appalling actions and make living on this planet so insufferable.

If you think the pain in this world is an argument against there being a loving God then you have missed the point. God allows you to suffer so you will see the need to return to him, be forgiven and be given a place in his new indestructible, evil free universe forever.

Therefore tell the people:
This is what the LORD Almighty says: 'Return to me and I will return to you,' says the LORD Almighty.
(Zec 1:3)

Turn over to see how to respond to God