

Session #2 – Compatibilism: God & evil, cause(s) & culpability

1. Session #1 – revisited

2. Homework – theodicy

Homework exercise – Apologetics 101

If God is all-powerful and all-good, why is there suffering / evil in the world?

How would you respond to this objection / argument? Which Scriptures might you refer to?

3. God and evil – the issue of theodicy

A. Definitions & the dilemma (theodicy)

B. The particular dilemma for the Christian

C. The mystery of evil

its origin

its essence

D. The reality of evil – “sin, the world & the devil”

E. God & evil

sovereign over all evil

condemning of all evil

able to use

BUT not responsible for

Implication – asymmetry

3. God and causation – the hardening of Pharaoh’s heart

Exodus 4:21 (7:3, 9:12)

Exodus 7:13 (14, 22)

Exodus 8:15

A. caused & uncaused,.. what’s at stake? (causation & culpability)



B. multiplicity of causes (Aristotle)

C. diversity of causes (Genesis 50 – contrasting!)

D. ultimacy of causes (cross – Judas, John 13 & Acts 2)

Implication – freedom & responsibility

4. The Will of God – revisited

A. freedom?

B. repenting / “relenting” (Jonah)

C. multiple (eternal/decretal & revealed)

Implication – compatibilism

Homework exercise – theology 101

How should the incarnation of the Son of God impact the way we think about God’s sovereignty & human responsibility??