

Christ's Mission Making a Case for Christ

1. Logical reasons why an all-powerful, all-loving God would allow suffering in this world: human freedom, the nature of love, benefits of consequences, etc
 - a) see LOST: In Search of Answers series
 - b) other books like, *When God doesn't make Sense*, by Dobson etc etc
2. How can you be a Christian and have faith in Jesus when so many people are suffering and hurting and broken today?
 - a. many have missed the mark on this topic of Christianity and suffering
 - b. wrong approach - "If you have the faith, if your soul is in the right place, then you will be _____, happy, and wealthy"
 - c. Do we really think we can manipulate God like that? Is God nothing more than our toy genie in a bottle?
 - d. Is God, who created the universe, interested in something much deeper, much more _____, for us than health, wealth, and happiness?
3. The life, teachings, and death of Jesus
 - a. What should we expect (concerning suffering) from this God that we claim to believe in who has revealed himself to us in Jesus Christ?
 - b. What kind of example did Jesus set concerning suffering?
 - 1) not one person has ever suffered _____ than Jesus
 - 2) From Abraham to Joseph to Moses & the prophets, to pretty much all the disciples & certainly Paul, the story is the same- they all suffered. Did they not have _____?
 - c. Jesus healing of the paralytic (Mt 9)
 - 1) Jesus healed the paralytic to prove to his antagonists that he could _____ the paralytic's sins
4. What was Jesus' mission? What should we expect of God?
 - a. If belief in God is simply about relieving _____ suffering in this life, so we are healthy, wealthy and happy, then truth be known, I don't know why *anyone* would *ever* believe in God, because *most* people at one time or another are *not* healthy, wealthy, and happy
 - b. Jesus' primary mission was to relieve _____ suffering, the suffering of your soul
 - 1) Jesus was about leading us to:
 - a) the Way of peace *in the midst of* suffering
 - b) the Way of HOPE *in the midst of* suffering
 - c) the Way of love, joy, contentment, rest even in the midst of *suffering*
 - d) the Way to the heavenly place where no one will ever suffer again
5. 1 Peter 1:6-7, "For you are receiving as the goal of your faith, the salvation of your soul
 - 2b. healthy d. profound 3b. more 2) faith 1) forgive 4a. physical b. spiritual