Lesson #

Theology – The Silence of God

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Lesson Commenced: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lesson Completed: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

\* The *Silence of God* is one of the great truths concerning God’s revelation of Himself. The silence of God is one of the great problems in life, and one of the problems discussed in the word of God. There is no problem being discussed in this present time that is of any importance at all alongside this particular problem. The basic problem of mankind is “Why do the righteous suffer?” If there is any God out there, and if He is a loving Father, why is He silent? Why does God allow this or that to happen? Why didn’t God prevent sin from coming into the world if He could have prevented it in the first place? All of us have been involved in this kind of questioning. This problem has created more agnostics, atheists, and humanists than any other thing in man’s depraved nature, the question of why God is silent and why He doesn’t speak up. This problem in the Bible is dealt with in the great book of Job, the oldest book ever written. The book of Job deals with the classic problem-Why do the righteous suffer? The great sufferer Job spoke truthfully when he spoke.

“Oh that I k \_ \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_ \_ I m \_ \_ \_ \_ f \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_! that I might come even to hisseat! I would order my cause before him, and fill my mouth with arguments.” ***Job 23:3,4***

\* The Harvard Five Foot Shelf of Classics has no answers for the question. An unsaved scientist sitting down at the bedside of a dying man cannot comfort him. All he can tell him is that his body will rot, and he will become fertilizer and some animals will eat him. Science has never solved one of mankind’s problems and never will. Science has never solved the problem of death. Science has not stopped diseases-one stops, one starts. Science has not stopped suffering, starvation, famine, poverty, birth defects, hurricanes, Tsunamis, droughts, greenhouse gases, or the sun and magnetic field diminishing. What has science done? Nothing! Look what Thomas A. Edison said about having the answers.

“We do not know one-millionth part of one percent about anything. We do not know what water is. We don’t know what light is. We do not know what gravity is. We do not know what electricity is. We don’t know anything about magnetism. We have a lot of hypotheses, but that is all.”

\* The problem is, if there is a loving God, why is He silent? Why does He allow a mans arms and legs to get blown off in war and have to live like that for the rest of his life? Why mongoloid babies? Why didn’t He just make everything perfect? Job, the desperate man who lost everything he had, sat down on the ground for seven days and nights and didn’t open his mouth. But when he finally got going, he accused God of everything short of murder. What would you have been like?

\* You see, this is where man, and the modern international socialists are trying to handle things. They say “See, look at all the poverty, diseases, death, starvation, etc. If there was a God that cared, He would do something about all this. Let’s all come together and make the world a better place, and get rid of inhumanity, and make the world safe, with all men living free blah, blah, blah blah.” And, this is on the presumption that what is here can be fixed by education and science, without having to consult God. So, having kicked God out, the wickedness goes right on, and man says, Why? He cannot tell you why?

\* Job is a perfect example of a person trying to get an answer from God concerning punishment, and he gets no answer. For all apparent reasons, he is suffering unjustly. As a matter of fact, Job suffers the most excruciating torment any man could possibly suffer: he loses all of his children and all of his property, he loses his health, his wife turns against him, and then, his friends turn against him. There could be very well some of you doing this study right now going through some of this, or in some of these circumstances, and you could well ask also about the Silence of God.

\* If you don’t believe in God or Hell you have no answers. If you don’t believe in a God that punishes sin in this world and in the next world you have no contribution to make to this world or the next. People talking about making the world a better place. You cannot explain the problem of human suffering apart from the problem of sin. However, some sinners have tried to devise some answers.

* The **Deists** says: God is a good God, but He has no time to look after the details of life. God is only a spectator of the affairs of this life. He is a sort of energetic force field in the back end of the universe that, having kicked things off, lets them run. These people are sometimes called “theistic evolutionists.”
* The **Atheists** says: The Silence of God proves that God is a myth. A living God or a real God would speak. Which ignores the fact that God has spoken. As a matter of fact, He has spoken for a length of 1200 pages, through more than 2000 years of history, with 24 people writing down the words.
* The **Materialist** says: The world is governed by the law of chance without a personal God. We are all at the mercy of blind chance. This is called “situation ethics” by Joe Fletcher who thinks that you cannot predict accurately. Past, present, and future mean nothing. Time is relative, motion is relative, distance is relative. The entire universe is governed by Darwin’s law: blind chance and accidental evolution.

\* You have got to be bananas to believe that mess. Once you reject the Bible, you plunge into great darkness.

“Then Jesus said unto them,Yet a little while is the light with you.Walk while ye have the light, lest darkness come upon you: for he that walketh in darkness k \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ n \_ \_ whither he goeth.While ye have light, b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_i \_ t \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_ \_, that ye may be the children of light. These things spake Jesus, and departed, and did hide himself from them.” ***John 12:35,36***

Negative Theories as to the Silence of God

1. God is **Indifferent**

When Jesus Christ suffered on the cross, He cried,

“And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, M \_ G \_ \_, m \_ G \_ \_, w \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

m \_?” ***Matthew 27:46***

What Jesus said sounds pretty indifferent doesn’t it? But the truth is, God cared so much for souls, and Christ cared so much for souls that He continued to pour out His wrath on Jesus Christ. The Bible says this of Jesus Christ.

“But he was w \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ for o \_ \_ transgressions, he was b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ for o \_ \_ iniquities: the c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of o \_ \_ peace was u \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_; and with his

s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ w \_ are healed.” ***Isaiah 53:5***

“Yet it p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ the LORD t \_ b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ him; h \_ h \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ him t \_ g \_ \_ \_ \_:when thou shalt make h \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ an o \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.”

***Isaiah 53:10***

“Him, being delivered by the d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and

f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain:” ***Acts 2:23***

The fact of the Scriptures is that, what happened to Jesus Christ was done by God on Purpose! God is far from indifferent! Wouldn’t you say?

1. God is **Unobservant**

People imagine and say that God is silent because He does not see. We know that this is not so because of what the Bible says.

 “The e \_ \_ \_ of the LORD are i \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_,b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ the evil and the good.” ***Proverbs 15:3***

 If there is any God up there at all, He is omniscient. He is all-knowing, all-seeing, and

 all-understanding. God notices!

1. God is **Unloving**

People say this is why God does not speak. Because He does not really love anyone. Any born again child of God knows that God loves them if just by His parenting towards them. There’s no such thing as being a child of God and not getting a whipping. The good parent who truly loves his child will correct and punish the child once in a while.

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you a \_ u \_ \_ \_

c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, My son, despise not thou t \_ \_ c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of the Lord, nor faint when thou art r \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of him: For whom the Lord l \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ h \_ chasteneth, and

s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ whom he receiveth.” ***Hebrews 12:5,6***

To say that God is silent because He does not love you is foolishness especially from a child of God. A man said one time, “I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining, I believe in God, even when He is silent, and I believe in love even when I am alone.”

1. God is **Unwilling**

God see’s the end from the beginning and plans our lives. God is perfectly willing. Let’s look at what the Scriptures say.

“The Lord is n \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is

l \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ to us-ward, n \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ that any should perish, but that

a \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ c \_ \_ \_ to repentance.” ***1 Peter 3:9***

“Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I h \_ \_ \_ n \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked t \_ \_ \_ f \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ w \_ \_ and l \_ \_ \_: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for w \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_ y \_ d \_ \_, O house of Israel?” ***Ezekiel 33:11***

Does this sound like the words that would be coming from a God that is unwilling? Do you think God gets enjoyment out of people ending up in Hell? This kind of thinking is not Bible doctrine. Does the God of grace and Father of the Lord Jesus Christ get satisfaction or some gross sadistic pleasure in seeing people burn in the lake of fire? This is the thinking of a Bible rejecting person who is on his way to hell and is convincing himself and whoever else he can there is no hell. God never created man with the intention of damning him to the lake of fire. Hell was not created for man.

“Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from meme cursed, into everlasting fire, p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ f \_ \_ t \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_ \_ and h \_ \_ a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_:” ***Matthew 25:41***

God commands men to repent. He wants them to repent, is willing for them to get right, waits for them to get right, and deals with them so that they will get right. People choose to go to hell, not because God wants to send them there. God has not been silent concerning His willingness. God is willing!

Biblical Answers for the Silence of God

\* Now let’s look into some Biblical answers as to why God is silent. Of course, this is not a complete list. We understand that God is Sovereign, and can do anything He wants at anytime He chooses, and does not have to give explanation to any of us. But, there are some explanations for His silence that God has shown us, and we can learn from. Lets study and apply these.



1. **Common SenseView** explains the Silence of God

A lot of the problems that we have concerning the silence of God, we already have answers

and solutions to. We know and understand why God is being silent, but we, ourselves, will

not acknowledge it. A lot of difficulty is the result of deliberate sin, due entirely to

carelessness, neglect, and folly, which sometimes are called unintentional, or accidents, but the Bible calls wickedness. We know God is being silent and know why. The Scriptures say this about it.

 “Be n \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_; God is n \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_: for whatsoever a mansoweth, that shall h \_ a \_ \_ \_ r \_ \_ \_.” ***Galatians 6:7***

 If we are living wicked lives in front of the Lord, and not at all trying to fight the sin or rid

our lives of it and unrepentant, what else should we expect from the Lord but silence. He is

not going to acknowledge our bad as good. Do not married folks even give the “silent

 treatment” to one another when something is wrong in the relationship. God cannot, and

 will not be manipulated by anyone. Until we fix what is “our” responsibility to fix, the Lord

 might choose to be silent. Do not deceive yourself. God is Holy all the time. A preacher said

 one time, “A lot of folk sow a crop and then spend the rest of their life praying for crop

 failure.” If you sow it, you are entitled to reap it, aren’t you?

 “If we c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ o \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_, he is faithful and just to f \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ u \_ our sins, and to

c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ u \_ from a \_ \_ unrighteousness.” ***1 John 1:9***

God will, if you will! Common sense!

1. The **Bible View** explains the Silence of God

Is it right that my puny mind should question the workings of Almighty God? I have a finite mind; God has an infinite mind. What would I know about it? Here is the Lord speaking.

“For my thoughts a \_ \_ n \_ \_ your thoughts, n \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a \_ \_ your ways my ways, saith the LORD. For as the heavens a \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ than the earth, s \_ a \_ \_ my ways

h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.” ***Isaiah 55:8,9***

Doubtless, God’s master plan for my life will have to include sorrow, suffering, trials, testing, and pain. Why should I be exempt? Is “Anyone” exempt? If you don’t have cerebral palsy, don’t some of you have leukemia? If you don’t have leukemia, aren’t some of you in a wheel chair? If some of you are walking around on two good legs, don’t you have ulcers? If some of you don’t have ulcers, don’t some of you have regular sinus headaches? The ones that don’t have headaches, don’t you have bills you cannot pay?

The Lord sent one man into this world without sin and look what the Scriptures say about Him?

“He is despised and rejected of men; a m \_ \_ o \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

w \_ \_ \_ g \_ \_ \_ \_: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he w \_ \_ d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and we esteemed him not.” ***Isaiah 53:3***

 “Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each

e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ o \_ \_ \_ \_ b \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.” ***Philippians 2:3***

Why should I be exempt from trouble? Is anyone?

1. The **Philosophical View** explains the Silence of God

Human free will involves the consequences of actions, Human freedom means more responsibility. Adultery leads to diseases many times. Rates of AIDS and other venereal diseases in America have gone up 800 percent in 20 years. You say, “Well, what should God do about it?” What makes you think He should do anything about it? When people take the attitude that adultery and fornication is what you call “the new morality” or “adult consent” when God has already told you what they are and what they will result in. What do you think God is going to do about it? Help you out? Gods silence has to be looked at philosophically also sometimes. Human freedom means moral responsibility. If you are not willing to be morally responsible for your freedom, then get ready to reap, because you will reap whether you take the responsibility or not. Even a drug addict shooting heroin will tell you just before his next fix, “This is probably going to kill me.”

1. The **Jealous View** explains the Silence of God

“Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God a \_ a j \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ G \_ \_, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;” ***Exodus 20:5***

God will seek to divorce the believer from everything and cause him to cling closer to Him. The Lord wants the attention of His people. The Lord wants the love of His people, and to be loved by His people.

“F \_ \_ G \_ \_ s \_ l \_ \_ \_ \_ the world, t \_ \_ \_ h \_ g \_ \_ \_ his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” ***John 3:16***

“Herein i \_ l \_ \_ \_, not that we loved God, but that h \_ l \_ \_ \_ \_ u \_, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” ***1 John 4:10***

Don’t you suppose that God wants some love in return from the believers? Don’t you know that it disturbs the Lord to see the believer loving all this godless slop out in the world, when the believer ought to be loving Him?

“Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt l \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ L \_ \_ \_ thy God with a \_ \_ thyh \_ \_ \_ \_, and with a \_ \_ thy s \_ \_ \_, and with a \_ \_ thy m \_ \_ \_. This is the first and great commandment.” ***Matthew 22:37, 38***

Now, if you love the movies, stereo equipment, “rock and roll,” baseball, football, wife, husband, children, motorcycle, house, family, car, business, money, Sunday school, clothes, etc., etc., etc. more than the Lord, then what are you but a twentieth century idolater. Do you know what God will do? God will let suffering and affliction come to His people and cut them off, until they will have to lean on Him. God is Jealous.

1. The **Reckoning View** explains the Silence of God

You are living now in the “day of man,” the “day of sin,” and in the “day of grace” in this age. God is inviting people to come home. The silence of God will some day be broken with “audible condemnation.” God will yet reckon His accounts with men in their relationship to God. That is, the reckonings in God’s books are not all in yet. When we talk about the silence of God, we are talking from a temporary standpoint. You say, “Why doesn’t God do something about this?” He is going to! “Why doesn’t He do something about that?” He’s going to! You ask, When? Answer? Quicker than you want to find out!



 “W \_ \_ u \_ \_ \_ y \_ \_ that d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ the day of the LORD! to what end is it for you? the day of the LORD is d \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, and n \_ \_ l \_ \_ \_ \_.” ***Amos 5:18***

“Because sentence against an evil work is n \_ \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_,

therefore the heart of the sons of men is f \_ \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ in them t \_ d \_ e \_ \_ \_.”

***Ecclesiastes 8:11***

A Farmer wrote a preacher one time, and said, “I plant on Sunday, harvest on Sunday, plow on Sunday, and here it is October, and I’ve got the biggest bank account of any farmer in the state. How do you account for that?” The preacher wrote back, and said, “God doesn’t settle accounts in October.”

There was another man that was mad at God one time and looked up toward heaven and said, “Come on down here God, and I’ll gouge your eyes out!” Later the man thought about what he had said and repented of his words. True story.

God will settle with every man, the lost at the Great White Throne Judgment, and the saved, at the Judgment seat of Christ. Then, everyone will see how it is going to come out.

“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be s \_ \_ \_ \_ to h \_ \_ \_,

s \_ \_ \_ to s \_ \_ \_ \_, s \_ \_ \_ tow \_ \_ \_ \_:” ***James 1:19***

1. The **Impatient View** explains the Silence of God

If you have suffered all of your life and supposed that it was needless and without purpose, when you get home to the Judgment Seat of Christ, Christian, you will find out there. It will all make sense then.

“Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do t \_ \_ \_ k \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ n \_ \_

n \_ \_; but t \_ \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ k \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.” ***John 13:7***

Our trouble sometimes is impatience. And, how impatient we can be, you know?

“That the t \_ \_ \_ \_ of y \_ \_ \_ f \_ \_ \_ \_, being much m \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might b \_ f \_ \_ \_ \_ u \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ and

h \_ \_ \_ \_ and g \_ \_ \_ \_ at the appearing of Jesus Christ:” ***1 Peter 1:7***

There are sufferings and trials that you will go through on this earth that you will know nothing about, as far as why you were sent them, until you get home to glory. The most terrible tragedy that could happen to any man or woman on the face of this earth, bar none, would be to live a life of poverty, disease, suffering, torture, and dying, and then to die without Christ and go out into a lake of fire. There is hell here and there is hell hereafter. That is the most horrible thing that could happen to a person.

If you are saved, the worst things can get, and they can get pretty bad, is in this life, here on earth, in the body, right now. The worst, it is going to get! As a child of God, you have God’s promise that it will all make sense, will be explained, and you will never have to go through it again. God promises! Unsaved folks do not have these promises.

 “But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart

of man, the t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ w \_ \_ \_ \_ G \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ f \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ that l \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_.”

***1 Corinthians 2:9***

1. The **God’s Glory View** explains the Silence of God

A great colored preacher said one time, “Heaben am de place fo understandin, an Earth am de place fo trust.” Those are some of the greatest words ever spoken by a mortal man. Look at what the Scriptures say about a man that was born blind.

“Jesus answered, N \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ h \_ \_ \_ t \_ \_ \_ m \_ \_ s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, n \_ \_ his parents: but

that the works of God should b \_ m \_ \_ \_ m \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ in h \_ \_.” ***John 9:3***

There might not be any reason in the world why, what is happening in your life should be

happening. You might have searched yourself and your family for reasons as to the

meaning of the thing and have come up void. However, according to the Scripture,

it can still make perfect sense, (the reason,) maybe not to you right now, but to God it does.

You may suffer. You may suffer, not for your sins, but to make you a blessing to somebody else. You may suffer, not for your sins, but that you may comfort those who are also in sorrow and trouble. You may suffer, not for your sins, but to make Heaven more real to you, and that you might desire it, rather things here on earth.

“S \_ \_ your affection on t\_ \_ \_ \_ \_ a \_ \_ \_ \_, n \_ \_ on t \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ o \_ t \_ \_ e \_ \_ \_ \_.”

***Colossians 3:2***

You may suffer as a righteous person. A lot of people do. You may suffer as a good person and go through all kinds of testing’s, trials, and tribulations, not because of your sins, but to teach you that when God says something, He means it, that Gods promises are true, and that Gods grace is sufficient for you, and that you through suffering may be a partaker of His Holiness.

 “And our hope of you is stedfast, knowing, that as ye are p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of the

s \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, so shall y \_ b \_ a \_ \_ \_ of the c \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.”

***2 Corinthians 1:7***

“For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure;

but h\_ f\_ \_ o\_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_, that we might be p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of his

h \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_.” ***Hebrews 12:10***

 “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but b\_ t\_ \_ \_ p \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of t \_ \_ a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ of the gospel

according to the power of God;” ***2 Timothy 1:8***

Blessed are they who have nothing to say,

And who cannot be persuaded to say it.

I have never been hurt by anything I didn’t say.

~Calvin Coolidge~

A wise man is one who thinks twice

Before saying nothing.

The Silence of God

Amen