



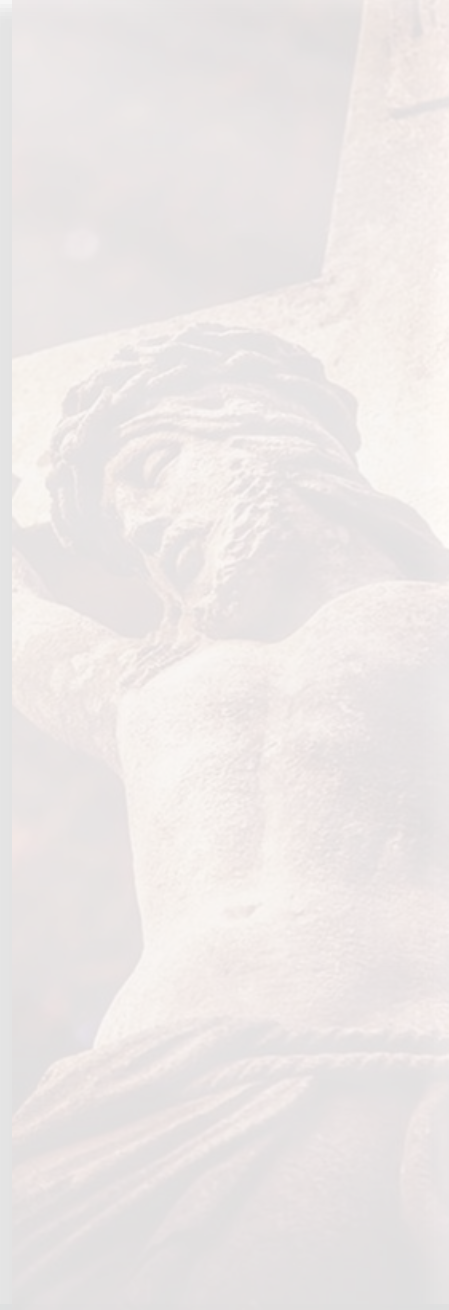
Where is God in the Midst of Suffering?

Steve Osmond



Uncomfortable Truths?

dear sally



THE BOOK OF JOB

The Bible does not shy away from the reality of pain & suffering in the world.

1 Peter

A Common Misconception

Christians are not
the only ones who
need to make
sense of this



Any worldview
needs to deal with
these realities



What do other
worldviews say
about evil &
suffering?



Overview

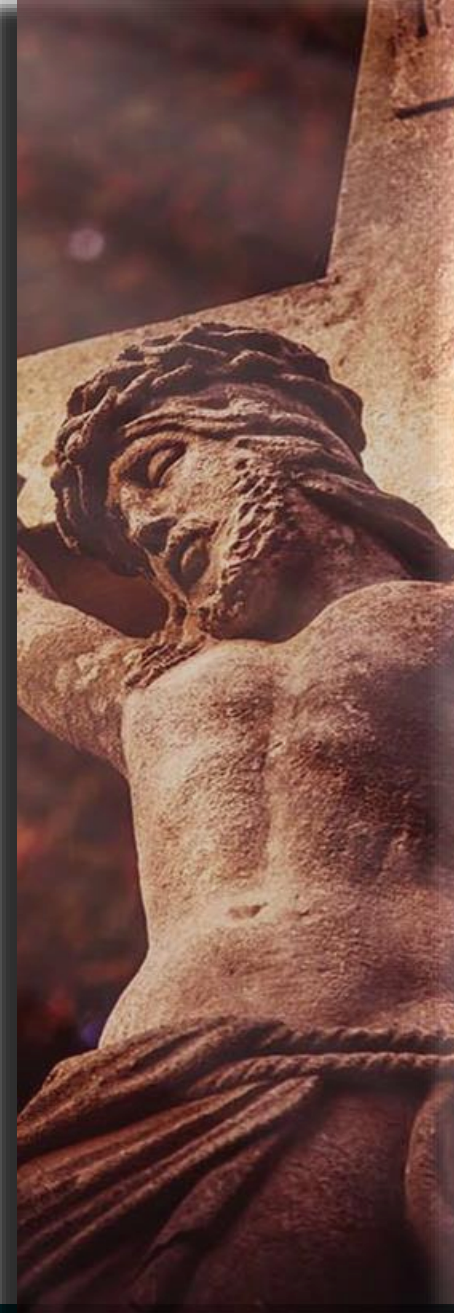
1. The Response of Other Worldviews

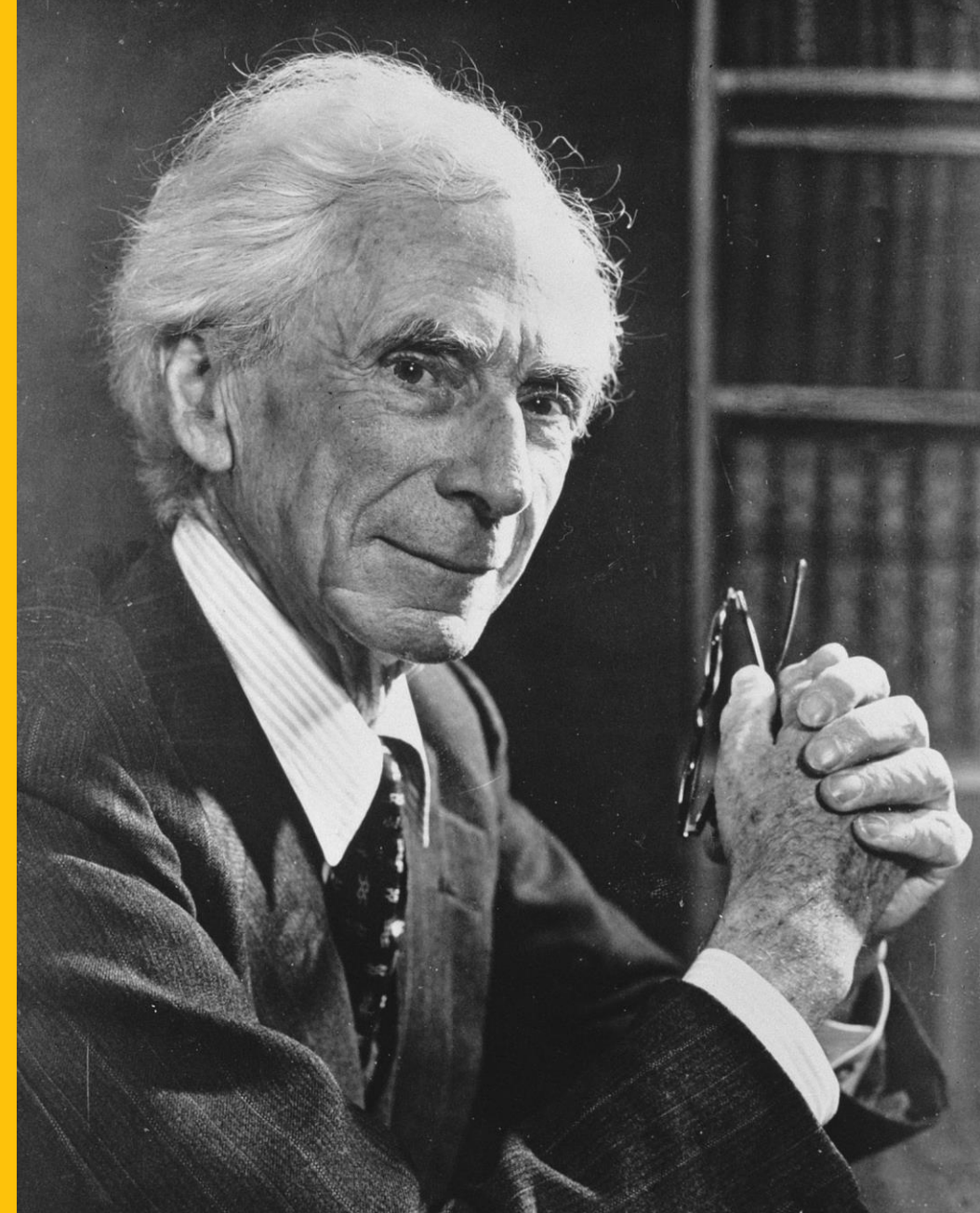
2. The Christian Perspective

a. Logical Response

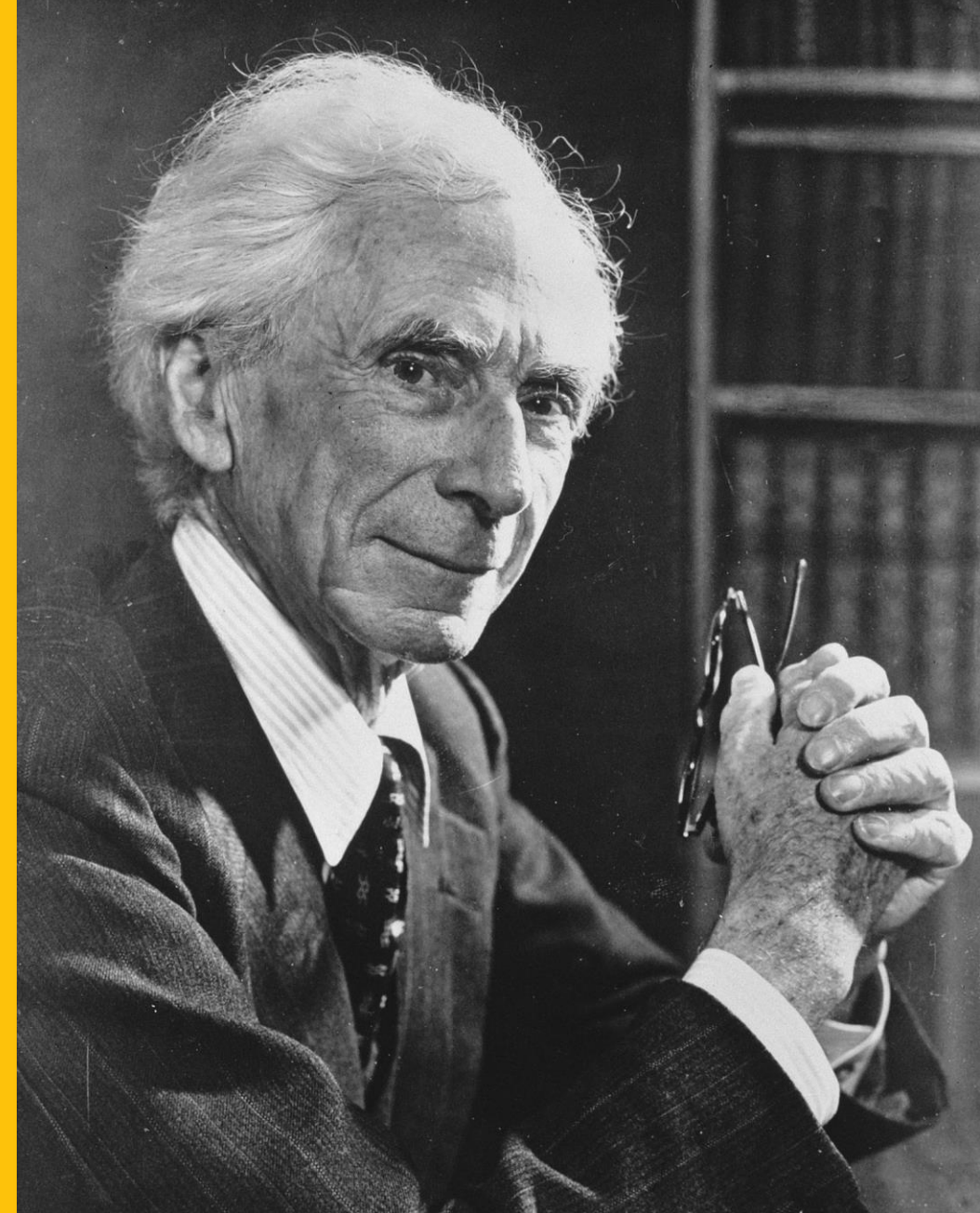
b. Existential Response

3. Where is God in the Midst of Suffering?


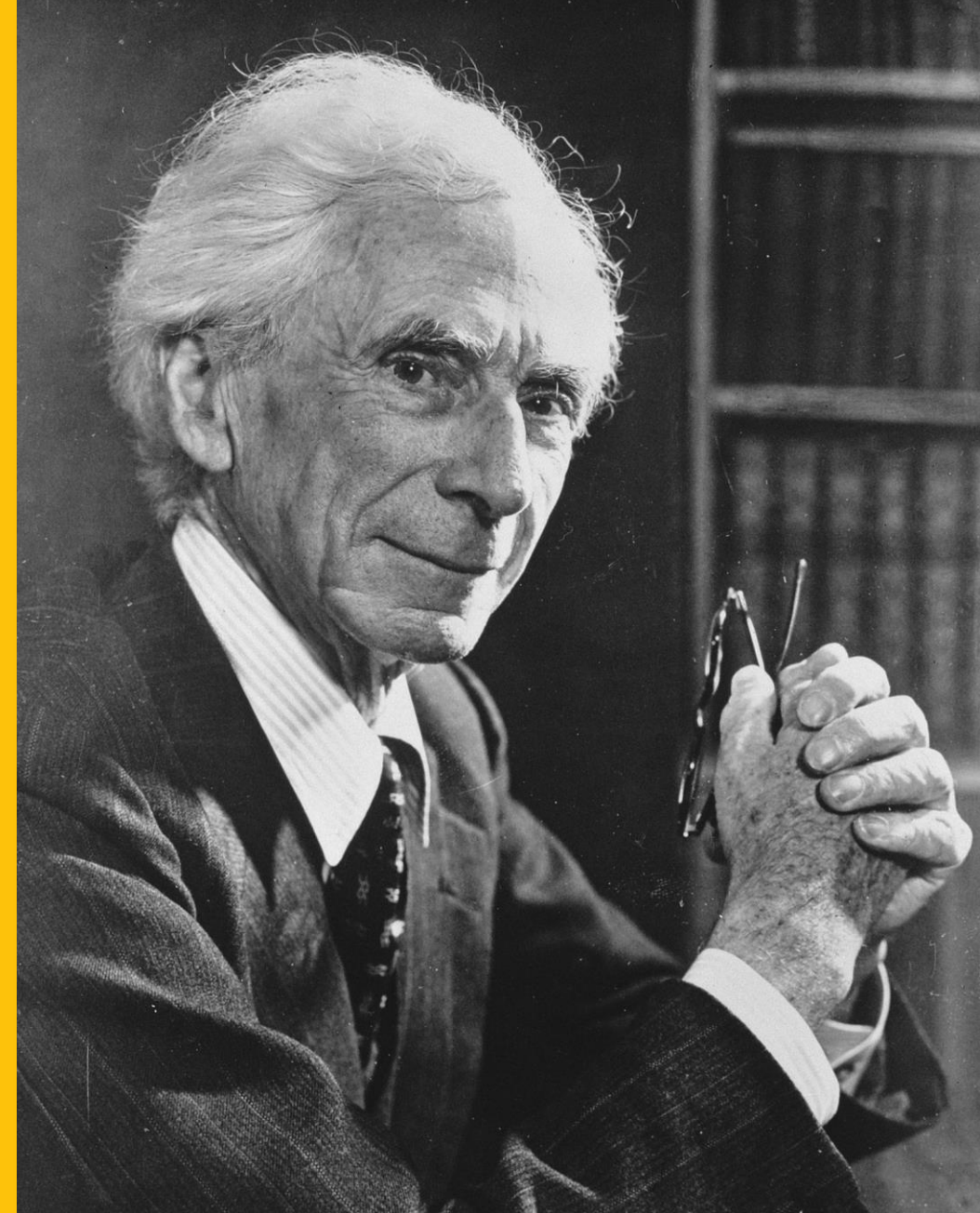




“Three passions, simple but overwhelmingly strong, have governed my life: the longing for love, the search for knowledge, and ***unbearable pity for the suffering of mankind***. These passions, like great winds, have blown me hither and thither, in a wayward course, over a deep ocean of anguish, reaching to the very verge of despair...



Love and knowledge, so far as they were possible, led ***upward towards the heavens.*** But always ***pity brought me back to earth.*** Echoes of cries of pain reverberate in my heart. Children in famine, victims tortured by oppressors, helpless old people a hated burden to their sons,



and the whole world of loneliness,
poverty, and pain ***make a mockery of
what human life should be.*** I long to
alleviate the evil, but I cannot, and ***I too
suffer.***”

– Bertrand Russell



Worldviews?

“...my argument against God was that the universe seemed so cruel and unjust. But how had I got this idea of just and unjust?”

A man does not call a line crooked unless he has some idea of a straight line.”

- C.S. Lewis

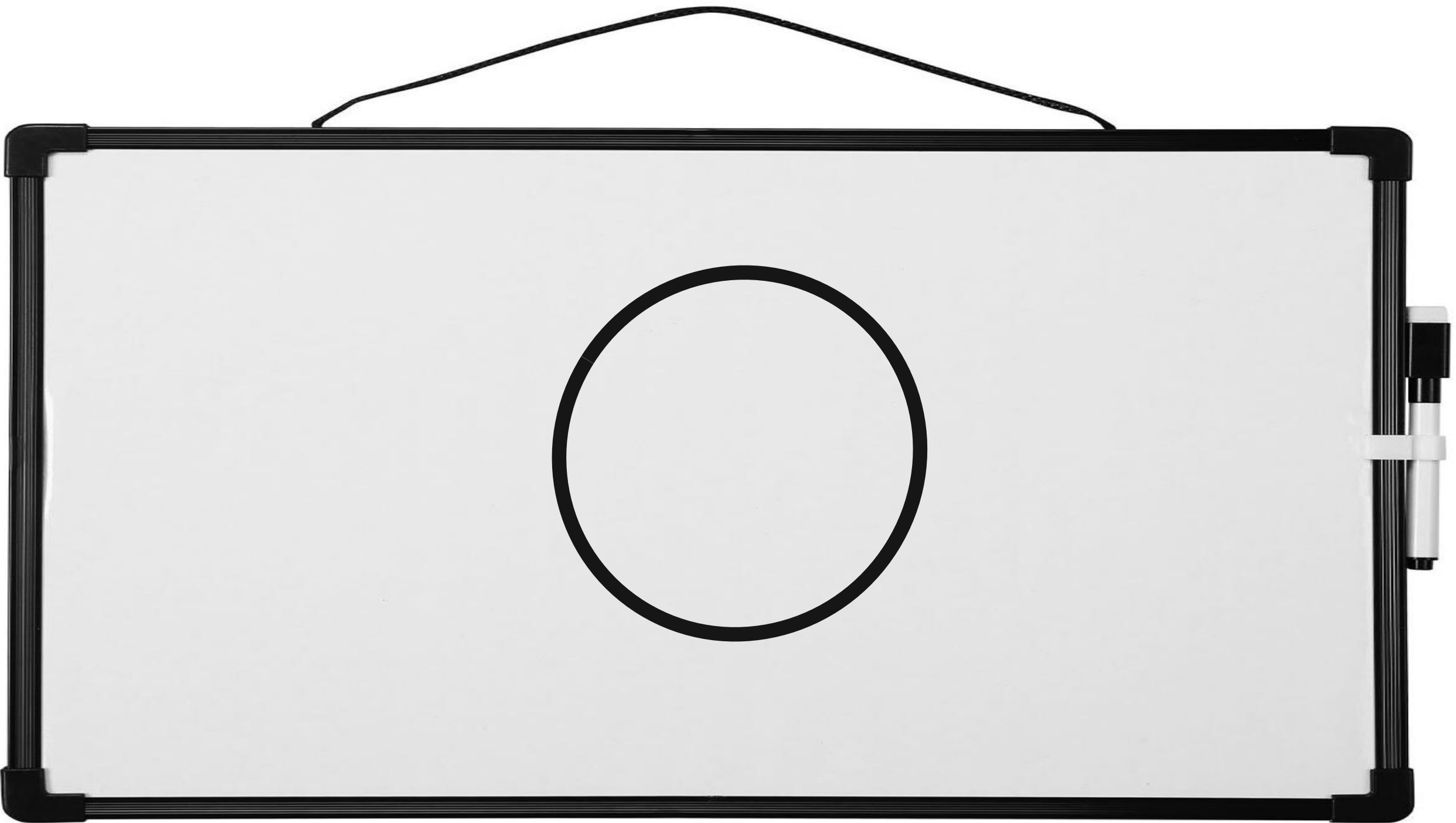


evil
vil
evil

What is the Christian Response?



Biblical Christian Theism affirms both the existence of God and the reality of suffering & evil.



Nature of evil

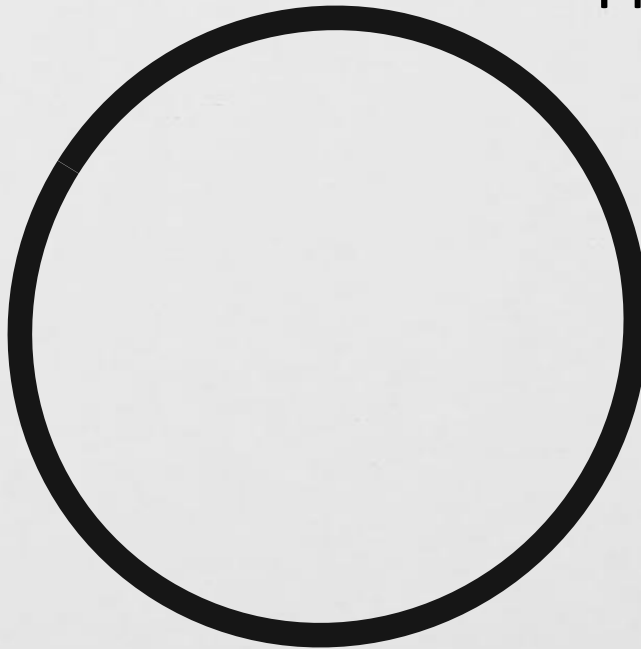
Free will

Assurance God
will defeat it

Nature of
love

Draw us to
God

Soul building



~~Nature of evil~~

Free will

Assurance God
will defeat it

Nature of
love

Draw us to
God

Soul building



Nature of evil

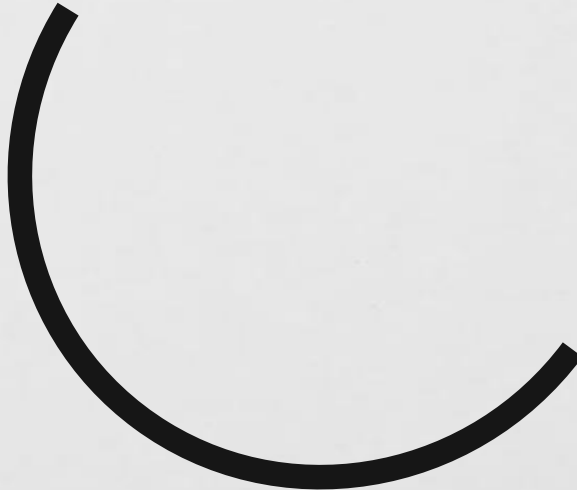
Free will

Assurance God
will defeat it

Nature of
love

Draw us to
God

Soul building



Nature of evil

Free will

Assurance God
will defeat it

Nature of
love

Draw us to
God

Soul building



~~Nature of evil~~

~~Free will~~

Assurance God
will defeat it



~~Nature of
love~~

~~Draw us to
God~~

~~Soul building~~

Nature of evil

Free will



Assurance God
will defeat it

Nature of
love

Draw us to
God

Soul building

The Insufficiency of 'Why'

Answering the *why* of suffering does not soothe the pain.

The Insufficiency of 'Why'

“I do not say, moreover, that he who is at this moment a prey to evil can find satisfaction in any answer no matter how true it may be. The experience of that which is in itself without consolation...can be ***surmounted or, rather, absorbed only by another experience***, of a divine order, - by the experience of paschal love.”

- Jacques Maritain

The Experience of Love



What can surmount, absorb, or overcome the experience of suffering?

‘Paschal Love’

(The Love of Easter)



Where is God in the Midst of Suffering?

Steve Osmond

MSc Zoology, MA Theology & Apologetics

