



The Western Wave



Christ, Suffering and Job

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Job is frequently thought of as a theodicy, a response to explain the existence of God in the midst of evil. The question of Job is: Can good people suffer? The answers are that: (1) the concept of retributive judgment is not the

sole method that God utilizes in this present life – the common conceptions of “cheaters never prosper,” “the good always come out on top,” and the karma laden, “what goes around comes around” are not always true in this life; (2) God has a divine plan that is unknown to us, but a plan that we need to accept; and (3) everything works out at the very end, better than we thought (Job chapter 42).

From an authorial intent perspective the above is true. This is what the text says. So we help people who are suffering by telling them about Job. If they are in anguish about why they are suffering greatly when they

didn't do a really big wrong, we tell them about Job. God has a plan that we don't know about, but his purpose is good, so we must trust God. This is good counsel, sound, but it is also lacking and incomplete in light of the triumphant Christ.

The issue is who is Job really pointing to? Clearly, Job is to help us with the present consoling of the hurt. But is there more to Job? Is there an ultimate Job, or are we all mini-Jobs?

In conversing with people who have an

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Important Dates

- April 8 Easter
- April 13 Christian Therapist Fellowship, 12pm to 2:30pm. See pg. 4.
- April 14 Spring 2012 semester ends
- April 16-27 Spring Break
- April 25 New Student Orientation, 6:30-9:30pm
- April 30 Summer 2012 Semester Begins
- April 30- May 4 Summer tuition due
- May 28 Memorial Day Holiday, Campus Closed
- June 13 [Discover Coaching](#), 6:30pm-8:30pm. See pg. 4.
- June 24 2012 Commencement, 4:30pm

[Campus Connections](#) from May-June, 2012
[Community Calendar](#) dates

CONTINUED FROM FEATURE ARTICLE, "CHRIST, SUFFERING AND JOB"

understanding of Job but who also suffer, they all saw themselves as Job. No one is ever the other character; they never identify themselves as Eliphaz, Bildad, or Zophar. But in such an identification lies a problem. Job is described as perfect. God says to Satan in Job 1:8, "And the LORD said to Satan, 'Have you considered My servant Job? For there is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, fearing God and turning away from evil.'" Then read the testimony of Job's character in chapter 31. He has never lusted, lied, mistreated people, not taken care of the poor, put his trust in money, rejoiced at the demise of his enemies, not helped the traveler, or covered sin. You see, we all want to be Job when experiencing suffering, but none of us are even close to being Job in character.

Who am I? The more I understand the Gospel, understand my sinfulness and limitations,

and the more I read the description of Job's character, the more I realize that I am not Job, neither will I ever be Job. We are not Job; we are his friends giving bogus advice, and his children who die as props to the story, the family brought back to life in chapter 42. The general plotline of Job comforts us, but a closer reading of the details of Job condemn us. Job suffers unjustly specifically because he is righteous and blameless. Natural man does not fall under this category.

Is there an ultimate Job? Is there someone who fits the plotline of Job and the details of Job better than us? Is there a redemptive-historical purpose for Job? The answer is "yes!" The battle between Satan and God; the righteous and blameless one suffering at the hand of Satan, and at the hands of his supposed friends; the unusual restoration in chapter 42, suggests that the ultimate Job is

not us, but Christ.

From the overall Job plotline, the moral of the story is that we are to trust in the wisdom of God that is beyond human comprehension and experience. But now in Christ we have the fuller story. It is more than humans suffering and taking that suffering because God willed it. It points to the Son of the living God suffering and being more faithful in that suffering than Job ever could. And through Christ, we have a better understanding of suffering. Through Christ's suffering comes his triumph. When we comprehend this, suffering for the believer changes from the thought that we endure the suffering that God doles out to us because he is all wise to the thought that we endure suffering because Christ has endured even greater suffering for us. Through our faith in Christ, we share in his triumph.

Summer 2012 Counseling Electives

Art Therapy Introduction

(CNS 565FS)

1 credit, 15 CEUs,
taught by **Ann Arnold**, M.A., LMFT

**Wednesday, 7/18 and 7/25
from 5:30 - 9:45pm, &
Friday, 7/27 from 9am - 3:30pm**

This is a great addition to the MFT program, whether you want to use it occasionally in your counseling practice or have a niche in Art Therapy.

Sex Addiction: Setting the Captive Free from Bondage

(CNS 564WS) -

2 credits, 30 CEUs,
taught by **Mary Anne Fifield**,
DMFT, CAS, CSAT-S, LMFT

**Saturday, 7/28, 8/4 & 8/11
from 8am - 5:55pm**

This course will offer an overview of the core imperatives that must be understood and considered by the helping professional for an individual's and family's successful recovery from Sex Addiction.

For more information, contact
Dan Jackowitz at danj@westernseminary.edu
or 408-356-6889 ext. 414

Campus News

SUMMER 2012 REGISTRATION CONTINUES

Summer 2012 Registration continues, however late fees will be incurred for each add and drop. Check SIS to see the fee schedule. The [Summer 2012 Course Schedule](#) is online. Check in with your advisor for course recommendations, course load, and sequencing. [Summer syllabi](#) are posted on the website.

THE SPRING 2012 STUDENT DIRECTORY

We will not be distributing a Summer 2012 Student Directory, but if you would like one from the Spring 2012 semester, there are still some available. Please contact [Carrie Priest](#) to request one and it will be placed in your campus mailbox.

BEFORE THE SPRING SEMESTERS ENDS

Please remove any unwanted food from the refrigerator or label your items by Saturday, April 14. The refrigerator will be cleaned

out before the summer semester begins. Anything that isn't labeled may get thrown away. Thank you!

LIBRARY BOOK SALE

Thank you for participating in the recent library book sale. Due to your purchases, the library received over \$250 in book funds that will go toward the purchase of future required-recommended textbooks, media, and supplies. In a matter of weeks (end of April) look for another round of books for sale which this time will include a greater percentage of MFT/Counseling books. Thanks again for your support and participation in the Western book sale.

THE WESTERN TRANS-FORMED BLOG

Did you know we have a Western blog called "[Trans-formed?](#)" The purpose of the blog is to get people to have discussions about what it means to be "living the gospel in an every-

day world" and then actually living that out. Anyone can participate in the discussion or submit topics to post under the "write for us" menu.

THE GOSPEL COALITION 2012 NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE - JUNE 22-24, 2012 ORLANDO, FLORIDA

This conference is for women but is not all about women. It's about the gospel of Jesus Christ. It's a time to learn more of what Scripture says to us - and to say it to each other, to dig deeper into the character of God and his purpose for his people; and share biblical encouragement. Several renowned Bible teachers, including three TGC founding members, will explore the theme "Here is Our God!" by guiding us through the Bible's unfolding revelation of God to human eyes and hearts.

Postcards with more information are in the lobby, or visit [The Gospel Coalition](#).

Campus Connection

DISCOVERY SESSION

An informational event
for those who long to
advance the gospel as

AUTHORS.
LIFE COACHES.
PASTORS.
SERVANTS.
THERAPISTS.
CHAPLAINS

May 12 & June 16 Ministry Specific
May 19 & June 2 MFT Specific

SAN JOSE CAMPUS
11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

[REGISTER NOW](#)



DISCOVER HOW **COACHING** MOVES PEOPLE FROM
limping faith to vibrant faith
drifting to discovering their potential in Christ
getting stuck to achieving goals
reacting to life's demands to living in freedom and balance

DISCOVER COACHING

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012 - 6:30-8:30 PM



- Featuring Chad Hall, Professional Certified Coach and Director of Coaching for Western Seminary
- Live coaching demonstrations
- Testimonies from coaches in ministry and business fields

REGISTER by June 6 for this free event.

For additional information, contact Lisa Mueller at lmuller@westernseminary.edu or 408-356-6889, x415

LOCATION: 469 El Camino Real, Suite 205, Santa Clara



WESTERN SEMINARY
San Jose Campus

Christian Therapist Fellowship

Spring 2012 - April 13 from 12pm-2:30pm

Topic: UN-Common Knowledge - The Brain

- For:** MFTs/LCSWs
- Who:** Dr. Bradley Johnson, a Christian Psychiatrist from the **Amen Clinic**
- His Specialty:** Psychopharmacology, Addiction, Dementia Care, and other Complex Disorders
- Where:** Western Seminary San Jose
- CEUs:** 2 CEUs for only \$5
- Lunch:** \$5 or bring your own



RSVP to **Dan Jackowitz** at danj@westernseminary.edu or 408.356.6889 x414.
Join the **CTF Facebook page** to keep in touch with the Christian Therapist Fellowship.

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