Job is frequently thought of as a theology, 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 consolation 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
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.
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 everyday 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.

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 lmueller@westernseminary.edu or 408-356-6889, x415
LOCATION: 469 El Camino Real, Suite 205, Santa Clara

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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