The Evidential Problem of Evil

Introduction

- Main Point: God only actively determines to permit evils that he has already, at great _____ cost, determined to overcome for his greater _____ and our ultimate _____.

Discussion:

- o *What is a contradiction?*
- o *Why is it possible that God and evil can coexist?*
- o *What does free will have to do with evil?*

The Evidential Problem

- Our faith makes sense both on paper and in our _____.
  - o Once we get to the evidential problem of evil, we push our opposition into a debate of _____.
    - ▪ God is the less _____ alternative in describing why the evil we see occurs

Moral vs. Natural Evil

- Moral evil is evil that has a clear, culpable _____.
- Natural evil is evil that does _____ have a clear culpable subject

Greater-Good Theodicy

- ***Definition***: God works _____ and _____ evil by bringing about His greater good.

- o Gen. 50:20
- We can trust that God's dominion over evil ensures us that God is working all things to the good of those who love him and are called according to his purpose (Romans 8:28)

Gratuitous Evil

- **Definition**: Evil that seems to be so pointless; so painfully surprising; so blatantly acerbic and yet perceivably couldn't serve any possible purpose.
    - o **Skeptical Theism**: Skepticism about one's ability to make a right and accurate judgment about whether or not there is a justifying reason for the _____ we observe
        - ▪ We should know enough to know that we don't _____ that much.

Probability and Evidential Evil

- Scripture _____ for the evil we see.
    - o "The existence of some evil that cannot be fully explained is just what we should expect if theism were true." – Chad Meister