

book of the month | March 2025

Defeating Evil – Scott Christensen

Our booktable carries books that the elders believe would be worth the investment of your time, effort, and focus to read and think deeply about. We have carried Scott Christensen's very thick but excellent book *What About Evil? A Defense of God's Sovereign Glory*. However, that book is thick and probably a more exhaustive treatment that many are willing or able to work through. Thankfully, Christensen recently released a shortened, more accessible and practical version on how God relates to the evil in the world. We are happy to recommend this book, *Defeating Evil: How God Glorifies Himself in a Dark World*, as March's book of the month. Please consider buying it and committing to read it this month. You will be able to complete this in just 7-8 pages a day—an incredibly worthwhile investment.

How can a good God allow evil in the world? In *Defeating Evil*, Scott Christensen answers this question biblically, helping Christians trust, worship, and glorify God more fully in our hearts, minds, and lives. March's Book of the Month is available for \$14; pick up a copy and read along with us. At just 7-8 pages a day, you'll work through one of the clearest, most faithful treatments of how God superintends all things—both good and evil—to accomplish His will and display His glory.

Understanding the Bible's answer to the 'problem of evil' is crucial to a right view of God's glory. When we encounter evil in the world, we may be tempted to question God's goodness or power. However, *Defeating Evil* demonstrates that God's sovereignty over evil is not a contradiction to His goodness but the very means by which He accomplishes His eternal purposes. The book unpacks how all evil—small and great—ultimately serves to magnify God's glory through Christ's victory. Thinking deeply about this topic—practically, worshipfully, and realistically—will prepare you for the trials that inevitably come. This is not just a theological concept to consider but a reality that impacts how we trust and glorify God in all circumstances.

Suggested One-Month Reading Plan (Average 7-8 pages per day)

Week 1: Monday 3/4-Sunday 3/9

Foreword & Preface (5 pages)
Chapter 1 (20 pages)
Chapter 2 (22 pages)
Chapter 3 (6 pages)

Week 2: Monday 3/10-Sunday 3/16

Chapter 3 (14 pages)
Chapter 4 (19 pages)
Chapter 5 (22 pages)

Week 3: Monday 3/17-Sunday 3/23

Chapter 6 (21 pages)
Chapter 7 (21 pages)
Chapter 8 (12 pages)

Week 4: Monday 3/24-Sunday 3/30

Chapter 8 (10 pages)
Chapter 9 (21 pages)
Chapter 10 (21 pages)

Evil is not meaningless. God doesn't just come up with a plan B when evil appears. Rather, God is completely sovereign over evil and has His own superintending purposes in evil. He uses it to accomplish His perfect will without compromising His holiness. Christ's victory at the cross is the ultimate answer to why God allows evil. The crucifixion—the greatest act of evil in history—was also the very means by which God displayed the fullness of His justice, wrath, mercy, and love. Rather than merely permitting evil as a regrettable necessity, God ordains and directs it toward His greater purpose: to magnify His glory through Christ. This book unpacks how all things—both good and evil—serve this divine plan, culminating in the final defeat of Satan, sin, and death. Christensen demonstrates this and more from God's Word with pastoral skill, clarity, and tenderness.

I believe this book will deepen your trust in God. It will cause you to worship Him better and enable you to glorify Him more thoroughly in all of life, especially when you face evil and its tragic, ugly consequences. I strongly encourage you to read the book with a pencil in hand. Take notes. If possible, find somebody else to read it with at the same pace, perhaps with the suggested reading plan, so you can discuss points that are hard to understand, difficult to accept, or particularly encouraging.

Your pastor-elder,
Jacob Hantla

