# Why Does God Allow Evil? – Study Guide

### Chapter 7: *Wasn't There Another Way? (part 1)*

1. Could God Give Us Free Will Yet Prevent All Evil?

2. Could God Prevent Evil Without Our Knowing?

3. Could God Teach Us Some Other Way?

4. Maybe God Shouldn't Have Created Us in the First Place?

5. Could God Prevent More Evil Than He does?

    a. Gratuitous Suffering and Children

    b. Gratuitous Suffering and Animals

    c. The Cosmic Lesson

**Study Questions: Chapter 7: "Wasn't There Another Way?"** *(part 1)*

1.  As Jones observes on page 125, "If you can't imagine how God could have done better," then saying " 'I don't know—I'm not God' is a copout"[1]
    Why is this a copout?

2.  Jones quotes a famous (former) atheist, Antony Flew. Flew said God might have "created people who would always as a matter of fact freely have chosen to do the right thing."[2] Recall what Jones observed in our last chapter: "A being isn't morally free unless she can choose to use that free will wrongly."[3]

    Read Proverbs 16:9, Ephesians 2:1-3, and Romans 6:17.

    Are we free, or does God determine everything?

3.  A compatibilist "believes that even though you can never do other than you do, a person is still free as long as he is doing what he *wants* to do."[4]

    In other words, the concept that people have free will is *compatible* with the belief that God determines every thought or deed so that they could not have done other than they do unless God were to otherwise will it."[5]

    Read 2 Samuel 24:1, Acts 2:23, Acts 4:27-28, and Genesis 50:20.

    Do you think Scripture supports compatibilism?

4.  A libertarian (aka an incompatibilist) believes that the statements "you have free will" and "you can never do other than you do" are *incompatible*.

    Read 1 Corinthians 10:13. Compare Exodus 4:21 and Exodus 8:15.

    Do you think Scripture supports incompatibilism (aka libertarian freedom)?

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[1] Clay Jones, *Why Does God Allow Evil?: Compelling Answers for Life's Toughest Questions* (Eugene, OR: Harvest House, 2017), 125.
[2] Ibid., 126.
[3] Ibid., 110.
[4] Ibid., 127.
[5] Ibid.