



# *The Things That Matter*

**Christian Life Assembly**

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*Epicurus, philosopher (c. 341-270 BC)*

- Is God willing to prevent evil, but not able? Then he is not omnipotent.
- Is he able, but not willing? Then he is malevolent.
- Is he both able and willing? Then whence cometh evil?
- Is he neither able nor willing? Then why call him God?





# **Theodicy**

***- defense of God's goodness and omnipotence  
in view of the existence of evil.***





# *God is Omnipotent*

- El – Shaddai (God Almighty)
- “The power of God is that ability and strength whereby He can bring to pass whatsoever He pleases, whatsoever His infinite wisdom may direct, and whatsoever the infinite purity of His will may resolve. . . . As holiness is the beauty of all God’s attributes, so power is that which gives life and action to all the perfections of the Divine nature. How vain would be the eternal counsels, if power did not step in to execute them. Without power His mercy would be but feeble pity, His promises an empty sound, His threatnings a mere scarecrow. God’s power is like Himself: infinite, eternal, incomprehensible; it can neither be checked, restrained, nor frustrated by the creature.” Stephen Charnock





# Omnipotence

- Job 42:2 *I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you.*
- Job 37:23 *The Almighty is beyond our reach and exalted in power;* in his justice and great righteousness, he does not oppress.
- Heb 1:3 The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, *sustaining all things by his powerful word.* After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven.





# Omnipotence

- Jer 32:17 Ah, Sovereign LORD, you have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and outstretched arm. Nothing is too hard for you.
  - Jude 24 To him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy—25 to the only God our Savior be glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and forevermore! Amen.”
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# Omnipotence

- John 10:17 “The reason my Father loves me is that I lay down my life—only to take it up again. 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down and authority to take it up again. This command I received from my Father.”
- Psalm 135:6 “The LORD does whatever pleases him, in the heavens and on the earth, in the seas and all their depths.”
- Jer 10:12 He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.



# Omnipotence

- Eph 1:15 For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, 16 I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might 20 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, 21 far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. 22 And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, 23 which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.



# *Omnipotence*

- Eph 1:19 “and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe.”
  - Paul is convinced that the power of Christ in us, and for us, is immeasurable – limitless.
  - We may not feel it, we may not even experience it, but it is nevertheless real and accessible to us.
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## *Protecting Power*

- Consider for a moment that all around us are disciples of Satan - demons, who want to harm us, but can't.
  - Is that not power? The very fact that our lives are not wrecked and destroyed is testimony to the power of God.
  - Just as God limited Satan himself in attacking Job, so the power of God constrains our enemies.
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## *Protecting Power*

- We are dull spiritually and are therefore generally unaware of all that God protects us from.
  - Psalm 34:7 For the angel of the Lord is a guard; he surrounds and defends all who fear him. 8 Taste and see that the Lord is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in him!
  - Even more amazing, is that God is at work protecting us even when we are mostly disengaged from the facts on the ground.
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## *Preserving Power*

- We often fail to appreciate the depth of our proclivity to sin, and when God keeps us from it, we are frequently unaware.
- If you are having some success in the daily battle with sin, do not think it is solely due to your own strength.
- Phil 1:6 And I am certain that God, who began the good work within you, will continue his work until it is finally finished on the day when Christ Jesus returns.





## *Preserving Power*

- In many way, the very integrity of God is at stake everyday in our struggle with sin.
- Why? Because He has promised to keep us and to complete the work He started.
- So, I think I should feel rather secure in Christ and what He is doing in me, because it is about Him!





## *Appreciating His Power*

- If you are like me, you stumble through life at times oblivious to what Christ is doing in us.
- So Paul prays, “I do not cease to give thanks for you, remembering you in my prayers, 17 that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, 18 having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, 19 and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might.”





## *Appreciating His Power*

- Paul goes on to say, “This is the same mighty power that raised Christ from the dead and seated him in the place of honor at God’s right hand in the heavenly realms’.
- The same power that raised Christ, and exalted Christ, is not only available to us, but it is already working in us and for us.
- 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 1:5 And through your faith, God is protecting you by his power until you receive this salvation, which is ready to be revealed on the last day for all to see.





## *Appreciating His Power*

- **The power of death has been broken.**
  - **We have been elevated to be joint heirs with Christ.**
  - **All 'other' authorities in the universe have been subjugated to Him.**
  - **All things are 'under His feet' and He is the head of the church.**
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## *Appreciating His Power*

- We have a real enemy who hates us and would steal from us, kill us, and destroy us but for the protecting power of God.
  - We live in a dangerous world that is filled with things that could harm us, and sometimes do.
  - But, only with His permission.
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# *Appreciating His Power*

- God is heavily invested in us and as such has given us promises.
  - John 17:11 Holy Father, you have given me your name; now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are.
  - John 10:28: “And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.”
  - Romans 8:38-39: “For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
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## *The Comfort of an Omnipotent God*

- The rise of ISIS is more than some distant threat.
  - The world's financial system stands on the brink of disaster.
  - The threat of disease hangs over us everyday.
  - Political instability is not hard to imagine.
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*In the face of such problems and threats, what are we to do?*





## *Omnipresence, Omniscience, Omnipotence*

- In the face of the very real threats I just spoke of, we have to make a decision.
- Will we wring our hands, worry, and hope that such things somehow miss us?
- Or do acknowledge the dangers, cast those cares on Christ, and get on with serving Him?
- Christ has power over all of our adversaries and problems!





# *Questions*

