Earthquakes, Tsunamis, & Other Human Suffering

- Because God Exists and is Both Almighty and Good -

The recent catastrophes in Japan and the appalling suffering they have caused have raised anew an old question: "What was the relation of God—the triune, one, true, and living God of the Christian faith—to these calamities?"

Enemies of the Christian faith have argued that if God is good, He would not allow such suffering, but if He does not control the catastrophes, then He is not almighty. Either He is not good, or He is not almighty. In either case, He is not God.

Contemporary theologians, both Roman Catholic and Protestant, deny that God had anything to do with the evils that devastated parts of Japan. They deny that God is almighty. Thus, they deny that He is God. Some respond to the pressing question about God's involvement in the suffering with the foolish answer that God (evidently helplessly) stands by weeping with suffering humans.

Reformed theologian David J. Engelsma, professor of theology emeritus at the Protestant Reformed Seminary in Grand Rapids, MI, will give the Reformed (and classic Christian) answer to the question about the relation of God and evils in a public lecture on Thursday, October 6, at 7:00 P.M. in Loveland, CO. The lecture will be given at Loveland Protestant Reformed Church, located at 709 E. 57th Street, Loveland.

The public is invited to attend. For more information, call (970) 667-1347.

Heidelberg Catechism, Lord's Day 1

Q. What is thy only comfort in life and death?

A. "That I with body and soul, both in life and death, am not my own, but belong unto my faithful Savior Jesus Christ; who, with his precious blood, hath fully satisfied for all my sins, and delivered me from all the power of the devil; and so preserves me that without the

will of my heavenly Father, not a hair can fall from my head; yea, that all things must be subservient to my salvation, and therefore, by his Holy Spirit, he also assures me of eternal life, and makes me sincerely willing and ready, henceforth, to live unto him."

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