

# Why Is There So Much Evil in the World?

*By Bryan Gibson*

Those who are skeptical of God's existence sometimes ask this question. If God is real, they say, why is there so much evil? There is plenty of evil, no question about it. We don't have to look far to see covetousness, maliciousness, envy, murder, strife, deceit, violence, sexual perversions of every kind, etc. But why do we have all this? Is God to blame? Hardly. The blame should be placed squarely on the shoulders of man.

In Romans 1 a description is given of the ancient world, but it could just as easily describe the world in which we live today. The list of sins given above is taken directly from that chapter, where you will also find many more (see Romans 1:24-32 for the disgusting details).

But let's get back to the original question. Why all this evil? Why do men behave this way? According to this same chapter in Romans, the downward spiral begins when men do not acknowledge God, despite abundant evidence to the contrary. They do not glorify Him, or give thanks to Him (1:20-21). Without the humility that accompanies the knowledge of God, their hearts are filled with pride, and they begin to worship the things of creation rather than the Creator himself (1:22-23, 25). Their focus now is on serving self rather than the Creator. Little effort is spent in restraining their desires. With their desires unchecked, their actions become unclean, vile, dishonorable, and hurtful to themselves and to others (vv. 24, 26-32). Obviously, some don't slide as far as others, but you can't push God out of your mind and not be affected in a negative way.

Yes, there is a lot of evil in this world, but it's not hard to see why. When men reject God, in whom there is nothing but good, evil will be the result. It kind of makes you long for a place where nothing but righteousness dwells (2 Peter 3:13).