

# CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVES: EVIL

Creation

## THE REALITY OF EVIL IN THE WORLD

- Defining evil
- Subjective evil
- Objective evil
  - Perspective
  - Criteria
- Is there real evil or is it all a matter of point of view?
- The mystery of God's will and our ability to judge

## THEOLOGICAL PRINCIPLES

- God is the creator of everything
- Everything that God creates is good
- Matter is good
- Evil cannot be a force in and of itself; it must be a perversion of good
- God cannot be the source of evil
- Evil must arise from perfection
- Matter is not created as a remedy for evil
- Evil is not natural to the world
- The world is corrupted

## DEFINING EVIL: PRINCIPLES

- Privation
- Detraction from the good
- Limiting of the good

## THE ANGELS REVISITED

- Mediators of the divine presence
- Agents in the Son's creation of the world
  - see Louis Boyer, *Cosmos* (Petersham, MA: St. Bede's Publications), chapters 20-21.

## THE FALL OF THE ANGELS

- Source of the angels' fall
- Result
- When
- Corruption of the world

## THE SOURCE OF HUMAN EVIL

- Humanity's role in the development and redemption of the cosmos
- Origin of the fall
- Result of the fall

## MAKING SOME SENSE OF EVIL TODAY

- Human agency
- Developing cosmos
- Limited perspective
- Demonic effects

- Dealing with evil in the light of the cross
- Theodicy

## THE ROLE OF PRAYER

- Prayer and divine causality
- Miracles

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

- David Fergusson, *Creation* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014)
- Colin Gunton, *Christ and Creation* (Portland, OR: Wipf and Stock, 2005).