CHRISTIAN RESPONSE TO EVIL

Scripture Reading: 2Cor. 4:7-10

Introduction:
1. One does not have to look far to see all the evil that is in the world today.
2. We must deal with evil in a godly manner.
3. To accomplish this, we must...

I. UNDERSTAND EVIL
   A. EVOLUTIONIST ARGUMENT
      1. God is all-powerful and all-loving, yet evil exist.
      2. However, evil is a biblical (or theological) term. -cf. Rom 7:7
   
   B. FREEWILL
      1. Animals are driven by instinct -e.g. Bird flying south for the winter.
      2. God gave man freewill.
         a. Garden of Eden
         b. Cain and Abel
      3. We are motivated to obey by love, not instinct -Jn 14:15

II. TAKE PROACTIVE STEPS AGAINST EVIL
   A. PERSONAL:
      1. We must study -Hos 4:6; 2Ti 2:15
      2. We must be committed, otherwise we will not persuade others.
   
   B. FAMILY:
      1. Teach biblical lessons -De 6:6-9; Ep 6:4
      2. Teach by doing -Ja 1:22; Mt 7:24-ff
   
   C. CHURCH:
      1. We spur one another on to love and good works -He 10:24, 25
      2. We do not want to lose anyone back to the world -Ga 6:1
   
   D. COMMUNITY:
      1. Individually -our example before others -Mt 5:13-16; 1Ti 4:12
      2. Collectively -We should have favor before men -Ac 2:46, 47

Conclusion:
1. Amid evil, let us never become discouraged, but shine our lights -Ph 2:14-16
2. The first century church grew and flourished in an environment that did not want it.
3. God's hand is always with us!