

- i. It points to God's way and away from the way of James and John
- ii. We are called to implement God's way of dealing with evil, the way of suffering love.
- iii. The church is both part of the solution and part of the problem, as was Israel.
- iv. When God came down to deal with evil, what did it look like?
 1. God leading an army of avenging angels to destroy evil by killing evil doers?
 2. God coming as the suffering servant who died in love for the world?

B. Imagine there's no evil!

- a. In Chapter 1 Wright wrote that we often ignore evil until it hits us in the face and then we react immaturely to it. We attribute it to "them" and believe we can eliminate evil by eliminating "them". Or we say nothing can be done about it and simply give up dealing with it effectively.
- b. In Chapter 2 Wright mentions God's plan to deal with evil through Israel. God has entered the battle with evil in our world through Israel. Israel however becomes flawed and part of the problem.
- c. In Chapter 3 the Evangelists tell how God dealt with evil through the life, death, and resurrection of His Son. On the cross cosmic and political evil burn themselves out. They fail to defeat God's plan. We understand the cross to be a victory and not a defeat only through the resurrection. Resurrection announces the ultimate end of sin and death.
- d. In Chapters 4&5 Wright will sketch out how the Church must implement and anticipate God's ultimate victory which Christ set in motion.

- e. Early Christians proclaimed that Jesus' death and resurrection is the foundation, model, and guarantee of God's ultimate purpose to rid the world of evil and establish His new creation of justice, beauty, and peace.
- f. The Church's work in the wider world.
 - i. The future promises a world free from evil altogether. We are invited to live in the light of that promise. We are asked to live lives which believe that is where this is all heading.
 - ii. Can we "Imagine there's no evil"? Wright says John Lennon was wrong when he wrote "It's easy if you try"! We find it very hard to imagine such a world since we have no experience with it.

We must avoid the dualistic thinking mentioned above (We are good/They are evil). (Heaven and a purely spiritual life vs what we have now). Or the form of it