

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**February
24
2019**

CONSIDER WHAT IS GOOD

Jim Stauffer

“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes And clever in their own sight!” (Isaiah 5:20,21)

If ever there was a time in the world when this admonition was needed more, I am not sure when it would have been.

Calling evil good is not something we wake up some morning and decide to do. It is a process that takes place. One of the things necessary for it to happen is for conscience to be altered. This, Paul says happens to men who are deceived by Satan’s angels who to them appear to be angels of light **(2 Cor. 11:13-15; 1 Tim. 4:1-3).**

Satan has his own methods of leading men to *enjoy the passing pleasures of sin* **(Heb. 11:25).**

Some of us stand by in observation of this in our nation and ask what has happened to the old America we once enjoyed. Not having lived anywhere else I suspect there are many in other nations around the world who feel the same.

One of the things we experience in this generation is the confidence our basic needs in life will be cared for. Many countries have socialistic policies that attempt to see the government fill the needs of any and all citizens. Our country has become that way as well.

You may ask, “How does this affect the spiritual stability of the people?”

I would submit to you the extreme amount of time men have on their hands does not always lead them to be productive and to conduct themselves honorably.

Jesus alludes to the vacuum of heart and soul that can exist when one eliminates evil but does not replace it with good. **Mat. 12:43-45** *“Now when the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and does not find it. ‘Then it says, ‘I will return to my house from which I came’; and when it comes, it finds it unoccupied, swept, and put in order. ‘Then it goes and takes along with it seven other spirits more wicked than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the*

first. That is the way it will also be with this evil generation.’” It discovers a place it can occupy and wield its influence and soon a man is drawn from the marvelous light to which Christ has called him to calling *the way of Balaam, son of Beor, who loved the ways of unrighteousness, good (2 Pet. 2:15).* He is now given over to the *lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life (1 Pet. 2:15-17).*

Once those choices are made then enjoyed and accepted as a way of life, he must in defense of his own integrity be called good.

Homosexuality became acceptable in man’s search for greater sexual pleasure. He went deeper and deeper into degradation. Many other sexual deviations warned against by God are now called good. Abortion as a matter of convenience for women who do not want the responsibility of a child to raise is called good. Pornography which is designed to incite men to greater sexual pleasure is now deemed, “normal”. Deceit in business and politics is rampant in our society in search of things sought through covetousness. These are all called good by men.

Isaiah says woe to those who do such things. Why? Because they will give an account to the God who disapproves **(Rom. 14:12).**

May we fearlessly stand as the watchmen of God, never forsaking our duty **(Ezek. 3:16-21).**

Should We Be Envious Of The Workers Of Iniquity?

Edward O. Bragwell, Sr.

It is hard for a poor youngster to not be envious of the community drug dealer riding the streets in his Town Car or Cadillac. It is hard for a hardworking man to not be envious of his neighbor who, although known for his questionable business practices, lives the life-style befitting the “rich and famous.” It is hard for young Christians to not be envious of their more popular peers, who may not be constrained by the

moral strictness that should govern a Christian's behavior. It is hard for evangelists, elders and other members of congregations where the attendance and facilities are paled by some of the more "progressive" churches in town, to not be envious of their religious neighbors' inflated crowds and fantastic facilities. David, Asaph and Solomon all address this problem. Please read **Psalm 37**, **Psalm 73**, and **Proverbs 24:1, 19-20** now. David warns, *"Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the workers of iniquity"* (**Psalm 37:1**). Asaph relates his own experience with such envy: *"For I was envious of the boastful, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked"* (**Psalm 73:3**). Solomon gives a similar warning to that of David, *"Do not be envious of evil men"* (**Prov. 24:1**). Again, *"Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the wicked"* (**v. 19**).

All three writers reach the same basic conclusion. It is foolish to be envious of the seeming success and prosperity of those who are not obeying the Lord because such prosperity is just a mirage. It is not real. It is not lasting. David says: *"For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb."* (**Psa. 37:2**). *"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass . . . For evildoers shall be cut off; but those who wait on the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while and the wicked shall be no more. But the meek shall inherit the earth, and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace"* (**Psa. 37:7, 9-11**). You see, one of the troubles with envying the prosperity(?) of the wicked is the temptation to forge ahead with creating our own prosperity without waiting on the Lord.

Asaph, after admitting his own envy (**Psa. 73:3**), goes ahead and points out both why he was so envious and why it was so foolish. He was envious because of the perception that he had of the prosperity of the wicked: *"They are not in trouble as other men, nor are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride serves as their necklace; violence covers them like a garment. Their eyes bulge with abundance; they have more than heart could wish. They scoff and speak wickedly concerning oppression; they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walks through the earth. Therefore his people return here, and waters of a full cup are drained by them. And they say, 'How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?' Behold, these are the ungodly, who are always at ease; they increase in riches."* (**Psa. 73:5-12**). Then he looked at his own perceived lack of prosperity: *"Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocence. For all day long I have been plagued, and chastened every morning."* (**Psa. 73:13-14**). He then says, *"When I thought how to understand this, it was too painful for me -- until I went*

into the sanctuary of God; then I understood their end." (**Psa. 73:17**). Once one understands their end, those who are boastful and wicked are no longer objects of envy but of pity.

Solomon says, *"For there will be no prospect for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out."* (**Prov. 24:20**). Then he admonishes his son: *"My son, fear the Lord and the king; do not associate with those given to change; for their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?"* (**Prov. 37:21-22**).

The wicked, not content with God's way and His established order, call for change to their own ruin. There is no reason to be envious of such.

Young man, let the drug dealer have his big cars. You play it straight and obey God. You will prosper long after his cars have rusted in the junk yard. Hard working brother, let your neighbor, with his questionable ethics, have his mansion on earth. Long after his mansion has fallen to the ground you can have a mansion in heaven. Young Christian, let your popular peer have his or her moment in the sun with his or her compromise- gained popularity. When you mature as a Christian and then go on to the end of your earthly journey, you will see that it is you who should have been envied and not the other way around.

Brother or sister, let the First Denominational Church or the First Liberal Church have their huge crowds drawn together by carnal enticements. Let them have their fantastic facilities designed to appeal to the secular notions of a carnally-minded public. Let them have their unscriptural practices that appeal to those who have little respect for scriptural authority. Such balloon prosperity will burst sooner or later. Plant and water, leaving it to God to give the increase. (**1 Cor. 3:6**). Again, *"Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass"* (**Psa. 37:7**).

Let us work hard to convert every soul possible to the Lord and to build up the church. Few would argue that we are doing enough along these lines. Yet, we need to understand that the Lord's way may not produce the dynamic and spectacular visual results that men often desire and experience, but it will produce the lasting results that the Lord wants. If the Lord prospers us with great numerical growth and comfortable facilities to aid in doing His work, let us rejoice and be thankful. However, before we look at the growth and facilities of our religious neighbors either with envy or admiration and start calling for changes in the Lord's church that would compete with them, let us first ask ourselves from whence did their prosperity come -- from God or men? If from men, it will not last. It is a mirage.

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FALSE DOCTRINE; FALSE TEACHERS

"If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself. Now godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, [and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows]" (1 Timothy 6:3-10).

It was incumbent upon Timothy to continually press the demands of the gospel on his hearers; notably, the Christians he was working with in the city of Ephesus. While Paul and others had previously done much good work in the city and in surrounding areas, the ever-present threat of false teaching was real. If anyone teaches anything that does not comport with healthy, sound teaching, that false teaching must be challenged. Words that do not lead to Christ and godliness are false words. The person teaching such, in reality, knows nothing; rather than wholesome teaching, that person argues, disputes, and engenders envy and strife, which often results in false teaching. Here the focus is not on the Lord's will, but man's will; these men have false minds; their motivations are impure; their intent is to profit from their teaching, thinking their pursuit of godliness will somehow bring them profit. Paul says: Turn away from such men.

True godliness with contentment is great gain. Godliness is not subjective; we don't determine what godliness is; we don't get to determine how we should live. True godliness grows out of respect for God; all Christians must pursue godliness (1 Timothy 2:10). The right attitude about *things* brings true contentment; the spiritual becomes of greater value than the material. We bring nothing into the world; we come and go empty-handed, at least as far as this world's goods are concerned. *"Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord" (Job 1:21).*

"As he came from his mother's womb, naked shall he return,

To go as he came;

And he shall take nothing from his labor

Which he may carry away in his hand" (Eccl. 5:15).

What is the point? Can we enjoy the blessings God

gives us? Yes. Do we have to take a vow of poverty in order to be Christians? No. But we must remember that material gains are not the primary objectives of this life.

We sing: "Earth holds no treasure but perish with using." Let us mean that, or stop singing. The necessities of life are just that—necessary. But when we have what we need, why do we want more? We may never "be rich." But why do we want to BE rich? The attendant evils of such a mindset places us in spiritual jeopardy. If we are not careful, we can become just like the false teachers that Timothy had to confront. When we lose our focus on the Lord, we become vulnerable to all kinds of temptations, troubles, and pain. Oh, we would never follow false teaching! Really? Remember that seduction comes in many forms.

Randy Harshbarger

Time for Review!

As you may remember, the theme for many of the articles I plan to write for you this year is going to be "Hidden in My Heart" which is taken from **Psalm 119:11** which says in the NASS95, *"Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You."* One of the best things we can do for our own well-being, as well as that of our children and family is to memorize large portions of God's word. It will encourage us when times are tough and warn us of pitfalls to be alert to when things seem good.

The idea this week is to take time to review the scriptures we have already memorized this year. It does little good to memorize a scripture one week simply to forget it the next week while we are memorizing new scriptures, which will in turn be forgotten the week after. The whole idea is to memorize the scripture so that we will always have it with us, which brings us to the First Three Laws of Learning: Repetition, Review and Repetition. The Apostle Peter says in **2 Peter 1:12-15** that he was not above reminding his readers of things he knew they already knew and that he was doing this so that after he was no longer on the scene they would be able to call them to mind. He also says the same thing in **2 Peter 3:1**, *"This is now, beloved, the second letter I am writing to you in which I am stirring up your sincere mind by way of reminder, that you should remember ..."*

This week, I want to suggest that you go back and review your scriptures already memorized. After all, memorization is a "Use it or Lose It!" kind of game.

Cleveland R. Reddinger Jr.

"Remember the word that I said to you, 'A slave is not greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they kept My word, they will keep yours also." (John 15:20)

Let us be reminded to pray for those we support who are preaching in other areas of this country and also of the world. Remember to pray for Kyle Bennett in Boston Ma., Matt Hodge in Marshfield, Mo. and Cleveland Reddinger in El Dorado, Ks. Overseas we need to remember, Wilfredo Pelino and Jonathan Sapitula in the Philippines as well as Moses Tivane in Mozambique.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

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NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN PATRICK, STEVE AND SUZANNE WIMP, ALMA BAUMGARTNER, TRACY RICHARDSON AND LORENE PARKER.

BIBLE CLASSES SUNDAY MORNING:
THE PSALMS - RON PECK - TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING:
HEAVEN AND HELL
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY SERMON: LEARNING TO BE A
DISCIPLE

SPRING GOSPEL MEETING:
MAY 17-19
ROGER SHOUSE



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10