

## Evil – Abstain (Part 1)

*"Abstain from every form of evil."*

### I THESSALONIANS 5:22

1. To obey this command, it's necessary to learn what evil is and what forms it takes...

The word *"Evil"* has a distinct technical and categorical meaning in the Word of God. It is not simply a generic word referring to anything that is bad or sinful.

The word *"Evil"* refers specifically to the policy of Satan as the ruler of this world. Evil is the modus operandi of Satan, from the time of his fall throughout the angelic revolution and down to the point when he became the ruler of the world.

2. Satan is directly opposed to anything involving the Lord Jesus Christ. Satan's is devoted to distorting or obscuring any truth related to Christ.

*2 Cor. 4:3, 4 – "And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, in whose case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelieving, that they might not see the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God."*

Evil is Satan's system, by which he administers the rulership of this world. He uses his world rulership to try to bring about the downfall of Jesus Christ. Satan tries to turn as many people away from Christ as possible.

Satan's evil brings about two major consequences on earth: *sin* and *human good* (the motivation of evil); both are based on errors in thinking. The sin of self-righteousness, combined with human good or sincerity, produces a saturation of evil in a nation.

## Evil – Abstain (Part 1) (Continued)

One of the main reasons for learning about evil from the Bible is to learn that man cannot solve his problems by human solutions. Any effective solution to a human problem is a *divine solution*. And there is an answer in the Bible for every human need or problem.

Anything that is outside of the plan of God is part of Satan's strategy of evil. Therefore, any person who is consistently involved in the cosmic (Satanic) system is directly involved with evil.

Evil results in the destruction of society – the malfunction of society. Evil causes the removal of legitimate authority and its function under the laws of divine establishment. Just as grace and doctrine represent the genius of God in relationship to the human race, so evil represents the genius of Satan in relationship to the human race.

Therefore, what you think and how you think is very important.

There are two ways of thinking:

- Vertical (Divine) viewpoint is thinking God's Truth, which glorifies Christ.
- Horizontal (Human) viewpoint is thinking Satan's concepts, which dishonors Christ.

Therefore, the issue is thought versus thought.

## Evil – Abstain (Part 1) (Continued)

Evil attempts to produce a human good panacea, which is expected to solve the problems of life apart from God's Word and divine establishment. So, evil is often a distortion of doctrine or a distortion of the laws of divine establishment. Satan's original sin was a distortion of Biblical concepts.

Evil comes in many forms:

- Altruistic humanitarianism
- Philanthropy
- Religion
- Legalism

### The Originator of Evil

Evil originated and existed before human history. Satan himself is the very means by which it was transmitted from previous creature existence into human history.

The origin of evil is Satan's genius to devise a system to oppose God.