

A World Where Evil Is Good

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Malachi 2:17 Ye have wearied the LORD with your words. Yet ye say, Wherein have we wearied him? When ye say, Every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD, and he delighteth in them; or, Where is the God of judgment?

Malachi 3:13-18 Your words have been stout against me, saith the LORD. Yet ye say, What have we spoken so much against thee? Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts? And now we call the proud happy; yea, they that work wickedness are set up; yea, they that tempt God are even delivered. Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Isaiah 5:20-24 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.

Luke 16:15 And he said unto them, Ye are they which justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God.

Amos 5:14-15 Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

John 5:28-29 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

3 John 11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

- I. Has anyone noticed the campaign to decriminalize all evil things?
 - A. I read an article this week about the push to legalize prostitution.
 1. It was entitled: "Is Prostitution the Next Vice to Be Legalized?"
 2. The reasoning of those who are promoting it's decriminalization is that it is the oldest profession and after thousands of years of failure in trying to stop it, it is now time to face reality and just accept the fact that people are going to do it.

3. The minds of this generation are so conditioned now that they will readily accept that reasoning.
 4. But do we really want to go there? Because this same reasoning can be applied to every evil thing that men do, because they have been doing it since the beginning.
 5. Another news article this week was about a bill in California to partially decriminalize pedophilia on the basis that these people are simply born with this desire and cannot help themselves.
 - a) Where did they learn that kind of reasoning? Obviously, in the churches of this generation; it has become the basic universal doctrine that takes away the guilt of their sin.
- B. There was a time when the law and morality were the same thing.
- C. Just 100 years ago there was enough moral character in this nation to outlaw all liquor.
- D. But after decades of apostasy in the churches the people who are called by God's name have so lost their savor that good and evil have not only lost their meaning, but have even swapped places.
- E. So that what was good is now evil, and what was evil is now good.

Proverbs 17:15 He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

Proverbs 24:24-25 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him: But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

- F. Adultery and fornication were considered evil by most people – religious or not, and therefore illegal, but now these sins are considered completely acceptable by most people – even those who profess to be followers of Jesus, and therefore not only legal, but facilitated and encouraged by the government, the schools, the entertainment industry, and every other medium of influence – including preachers and churches.
- G. Sexual morality is like a pillar of all morality, so when those knots were untied the moral decline quickly became a runaway train.
- H. The lines between good and evil have been erased, little by little, and one at a time, but the pace has picked up drastically in the past 10 years.
- I. In all areas of life, and in all matters of relationships between people, the discernment between good and evil has been annihilated. Some of the things that are gone are:
1. Respect and submission to any kind of authority, in the home, school, workplace, the road, the military, the police, or any other authority or dignity.
 2. Truth – it is very hard to find, and is buried so deep in all the lies that hardly anyone will take the time to dig deep enough to find the truth in any matter.
 3. There is no order anywhere, in anything – all is chaos and confusion;
 - a) The home and the role of men, women, and children.
 - b) In business, health care, government, schools, the workplace.
 4. Stability and soundness of mind – the rope has been cut from the anchor and there is no foundation anymore, so there is only increasing confusion, for everyone, concerning everything.

- a) Almost everyone has no idea anymore about what is right and wrong and how to make their decisions – so they just pretend they do.
 5. Justice – no justice to be found anywhere; in the courts, in the media, in the home, in the churches – everywhere lies prevail and truth is evil spoken of.
 6. The distinction between the genders; dress, appearance, deportment, and role in life.
 7. Sanctity of marriage – sodomites demand the right and the respect of marriage, while others regard it as something awful and undesirable, and take all the benefits without the commitment and try to pretend it is the same thing.
 8. Basically, everything right and good and wholesome is gone and all we have left is the poison and filth and rot of a sinful, depraved, cruel, and hateful world full of God-hating sinners.
- II. When all the vices are legalized and all virtue is criminalized, what kind of world will it be?
- A. How many people want to live in a world where it is not illegal to murder, rape, or rob, or do any other kind of harm to another person?
 - B. How many people want to live in a world where the only thing that is a crime is speaking truth and standing against these things?
 - C. We already have to watch and be on guard everywhere we go.
 1. We have to carry weapons to defend ourselves, just like living in an uncivilized jungle or lawless third world country.
 2. We have to have cameras everywhere, and keep everything locked at all times.
 3. We are in real danger of being a prey anywhere we go, and women and girls are especially at risk.
 4. We have to guard our children every minute, where we used to let them play in safety.
 - D. But what will it be when the right and the ability to defend ourselves is taken away and made illegal?
 1. When we are “thrown into the lions den” so to speak, and are made subject to all the abuse that evil people want to heap upon us?
 2. When they have all the rights and we have none – not even to speak the truth?
 - E. This is a matter that every person should be concerned about and seeking to do something about.
 - F. There are some answers and some things to consider and to do about it.
- III. The question we need to sincerely ask ourselves is, “How much am I involved in redefining good and evil?”
- A. It is foolish of us to think that we have not been affected by this matter.
 - B. If we have become tolerant of what we used to consider wrong, then we have swallowed some of the poison.
 1. Any softening of hatred for evil is not a sign of growing in grace, but of apostasy from the truth.

Psalm 97:10 Ye that love the LORD, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked.

Proverbs 8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

2. True growth in grace will change the way we deal with the evil, but will not change our attitude and opinions about it.

Hebrews 5:14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

- C. How many wrong things have you reassigned to be right things?
 1. I have watched as many who profess to be Christians have changed their opinions and convictions about dress, drinking, profanity, fornication, homosexuality, child-rearing, perversions of the Bible, church attendance, tithing, faithfulness, and much more.
 2. Every time they have had to change their doctrines of salvation to accommodate their tolerance of evil.
 3. So what do you do now that you used to consider wrong?
 4. And what have you stopped doing now that you used to consider the right thing to do?

IV. How should the people of God deal with this race to justify the wicked and to condemn the just?

- A. The first thing God's people need to do is to stay together and to be close to one another and to communicate with one another often.

Malachi 3:16-18 Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name. And they shall be mine, saith the LORD of hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth his own son that serveth him. Then shall ye return, and discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not.

Hebrews 10:25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

1. This is the best way to maintain the anchor of truth.
2. The context here in both passages is about being steadfast and faithful to truth and not being led astray by the world around us, or our own foolish heart, mind, and lusts.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

- B. We must encourage one another and edify one another in love.
- C. We must remind one another often of the truths of the Word of God.
- D. We must speak to one another of the evil around us and mark it for what it is.
 1. It is important that we not pretend that it is not there, because silence is consent and it will be assumed that we are ok with the evil, little by little, and one thing at a time.
- E. We must make up our mind who we are and who we belong to, and set our course, and not change it, no matter how hard the wind blows contrary to us.