

DOCTRINE OF EVIL

“**EVIL**” is Satan's system by which he administers his rule over this world. His system advocates using human good to solve the problems of life apart from the truth of God's Word. It was devised by Satan to oppose God. Just as grace and doctrine represent the genius of God regarding the human race, so evil represents the genius of Satan regarding the human race.

Part of Satan's evil plan is to beat Christ to the Millennium with his own production of what he thinks is a perfect world with himself as the god of it all.

The following seven points are taken from the notes of the 1st Thessalonians Series available on the Country Bile Church website (The Lesson numbers correspond to audios covering these notes). The notes also are from the notes on Evil from the late R.B. Thieme Jr., who was pastor of Berachah Church in Houston, Texas: Lesson Numbers

CHARACTERISTICS OF EVIL

- 1. Evil is a factor that the believer must face which was not judged at the cross. The believer must realize that he cannot confess evil in something like the rebound technique, because evil was not judged at the cross.*
- 2. Human good and evil have been an issue since the fall of man, both before and after the cross. After the cross, the angelic conflict must continue in order to be resolved. The angelic conflict can only be resolved through human volition. Positive volition toward the cross results in faith in Jesus Christ, solving the problem of sin. But salvation could not resolve human good, lust, and evil, because the angelic conflict must continue with some issue.*
- 3. Man must be free to express his volition toward salvation and toward sin after salvation in the rebound technique. But evil must continue or there is no angelic conflict. This is because Satan must have his "equal time." Therefore, human good and evil continue right down to the Second Advent.*
- 4. Man must not only be free to express his volition toward the cross and toward sin after being saved in rebound, but he must also be free to express his volition in the same way Christ did on the cross when He rejected, separated from, and divorced Himself from human good and evil. This takes a lot of doctrine for the believer to do this experientially. The believer's positive volition toward doctrine develops divine viewpoint thinking which rejects evil.*
- 5. Anything not judged does not have a one-second solution. In one second, you can believe in Jesus Christ and be saved. Likewise, in one second you can confess a sin and be forgiven. But there is no one-second solution to anything dealing with evil.*
- 6. That's why the post-salvation epistemological rehabilitation is a daily thing that must go on and on and on in order that you might be able to resist evil. The more doctrine you have, the more you reject evil.*
- 7. All human good is the application of evil to experience.*

CATEGORIES OF EVIL

1. RELIGION

Religion is the worst thing that ever happened to this world. It is all about Satan's biggest lie that man can gain salvation or the approbation of God by his own works. Christianity is not a religion because in Christianity, God seeks man through the work of Jesus Christ on the cross. There is a vast difference between God's grace and man's works / legalism.

Religion is the quintessence of evil, and things done in the name of religion include everything from mass murder, torture, persecution, robbery, extortion, lying, false imprisonment, blasphemy, and theft. It's one thing to steal money from people, but getting them think they're going to heaven because they've given money to the church is the worst evil. Religion lies to people so they'll think they are spiritual, or God will bless them in some way if they give money.

Penance is an integral part of religion. People perform penance who believe religion's lies that Christ's work on the cross was not sufficient enough, so they must continue doing something sacrificially in order to go to heaven. This is anti-grace, unbiblical, and evil.

Legalism is a by-product of religion that overflows into every facet of life. People observe taboos and endless rituals; they dress a certain way, wear their hair a certain way, talk a certain way, eat or drink certain things, and restrict their lives, not according to Scripture, but according to tradition and false notions about the Bible.

LESSON #75 (10-28-10) 1 Thessalonians 5:22

2. INTERNATIONALISM

Internationalism is Satan's system for the administration of this world in opposition to nationalism. Both political and religious systems of internationalism are in opposition to the Word of God. The United Nations, the World Bank, the World Court, the International Monetary Fund, the World Trade Organization, the National Council of Churches, and the World Council of Churches are all evil organizations.

Satan has a much easier job of controlling the earth if authority and power are concentrated in a small group or one person. The tower of Babel was the first attempt at internationalism, but God nipped that in the bud by confusing them with many languages. "The One World Order", "The world community", "the global village" etc. are synonyms for internationalism.

3. TYPICAL POLITICS

Not all politics or politicians are evil but most of them are. Most people who know anything about politics recognize that it is a dirty business because it is characterized by lies and deception. There is nothing wrong with people running for office and doing their best to get elected, but our political system has become exceedingly corrupt. Money is what one needs to get elected, not character or competence.

When politicians campaign, they promise that if elected, they will "bring home the bacon". They brag about passing unconstitutional bills that will bring more money and jobs to their community. One reason our nation is drowning in debt is because politicians promise the voters the moon and then go to the Federal Reserve to pay for it. The Federal Reserve always loans them "money" created out of thin air, and that's why the price of an average new car today is around \$30,000.

Most politicians and both major political parties give the impression that they're able to solve the problems of the world if they only get your vote and more money to create better programs. People who believe them are trusting in man rather than God.

Jeremiah 17:5 . . . Thus says the LORD, "Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength, and whose heart turns away from the LORD."

Politicians are responsible for the awful welfare state that exists in our country. FDR promised "The New Deal" and LBJ promised "The Great Society" which are typical examples of disastrous unconstitutional programs encouraging people to depend on government rather than themselves and the Lord. Before the welfare state began, family and churches took care of people in need and people who were lazy or didn't want to work didn't receive support from Uncle Sugar.

2 Thessalonians 3:10 . . . *For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.*

Foreign aid, affirmative action, political correctness, homosexuals in the military, women in combat, undeclared wars, executive orders, signing statements, anti-Semitism, junkets, multiculturalism, exploding deficits, restrictive and enslaving regulation are a few things on the list of unconstitutional, unjust, and unbiblical activities, way too numerous to address here, that politicians are involved in.

Many politicians are liars who will say or do anything to stay in power. They may kiss babies, go to church, or quote Scripture to build a facade of respectability, but they are not servants of God for good. They are servants of Satan for evil.

The reason they stay in power is because the people allow it, **Jeremiah 5:23-31, 2 Timothy 4:3-4.**

LESSON #76 (11-2-10) 1 Thessalonians 5:22

4. PSYCHOLOGY

The main problem with psychology is that it rejects the fact that God has given us everything we need pertaining to life and godliness simply through growing in grace and knowledge of His Word.

2 Peter 1:2-3 . . . *Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; 3) seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.*

1 Timothy 4:7b-8 . . . *discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; 8) for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*

God's grace and His Word is sufficient to handle the problems of life. We don't have to run to some over-educated, over-priced psychologist to get help because God and His Word is all we need.

Man's problems cannot be solved through psychology or any other human endeavor that excludes the spiritual dynamics unique to the Church Age. Throughout the ages, people have found the answer to their problems in the Bible, and that hasn't changed. God's promises and solutions are still very real and truly sufficient. This is not an attack on psychologists. Many of them may be good people; they just need to find a new career.

5. REVOLUTION

Revolution is an evil that seeks to overthrow legitimate authority. It is a power grab based on power lust. Resistance to tyranny is legitimate, but revolution only replaces tyranny with anarchy.

Proverbs 17:11 *An evil man seeketh only rebellion:*

There is one common denominator in all of these types of evil that the Bible calls the root of all kinds of evil: THE LOVE OF MONEY.

1 Timothy 6:8-10 . . . *If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content. 9) But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction. 10) For the love of money is a root of all sorts of evil, and some by longing for it have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.*

Deuteronomy 16:19 . . . *"You shall not distort justice; you shall not be partial, and you shall not take a bribe, for a bribe blinds the eyes of the wise and perverts the words of the righteous.*

Isaiah 56:11-12 . . . And the dogs are greedy; they are not satisfied. And they are shepherds who have no understanding; They have all turned to their own way, Each one to his unjust gain, to the last one. 12) "Come," they say, "let us get wine, and let us drink heavily of strong drink; And tomorrow will be like today, only more so."

Ezekiel 22:12 . . . In you they have taken bribes to shed blood; you have taken interest and profits, and you have injured your neighbors for gain by oppression, and you have forgotten Me," declares the Lord GOD.

LESSON #77 (11-4-10) 1 Thessalonians 5:22

The World Is Consumed By Evil

"The root evil in the cosmos is that in it there is an all-comprehensive order or system which is methodized on a basis of complete independence of God. It is a manifestation of all that Satan can produce as a complete exhibition of that which enters into the original lie. It is the consummating display of that which the creature—both angelic and human—can produce, having embarked on an autonomous career. The cosmos is not a battleground whereon God is contending with Satan for supremacy; it is a thing which God has permitted, that the lie may have its fullest unveiling."

Chafer, L. S. (1993). Vol. 2: Systematic Theology (100). Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, p. 84

Revelation 12:9 . . . And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world . . .

1 John 5:19 . . . We know that we are of God, and that the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

Jeremiah 9:1-3 . . . Oh that my head were waters and my eyes a fountain of tears, That I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people! 2) Oh that I had in the desert a wayfarers' lodging place; that I might leave my people and go from them! For all of them are adulterers, an assembly of treacherous men. 3) "They bend their tongue like their bow; lies and not truth prevail in the land; for they proceed from evil to evil, and they do not know Me," declares the LORD.

You can't change either doctrine or evil, but they can change you. The believer who seeks to change evil is changed by evil.

"Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived"

(2 Timothy 3:13). In the light of all this disclosure, the dreams of religious guides who predict a transformed, regenerated cosmos as a result of human effort in Christian service are seen to be without foundation. Satan's deceptions continue until he is bound and consigned to the abyss".

Chafer, L. S. (1993). Vol. 2: Systematic theology (100). Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, p. 100.

Our Lord Himself referred to Satan as the prince of this world, **John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11**. We surely are in *Cosmos Diabolicus*, the Devils World, but we are not of this world, **John 17:14 & 16**. That's why **Philippians 3:20** says **"our citizenship is in heaven"**. Believers are called "aliens" and "strangers" in, **1 Peter 2:11**.

"It is not the reason of man, but the revelation of God, which points out that governments, morals, education, art, commercialism, vast enterprises and organizations, and much of religious activity are included in the cosmos diabolicus. That is, the system which Satan has constructed includes all the good which he can incorporate into it and be consistent in the thing he aims to accomplish. A serious question arises whether the presence of gross evil in the world is due to Satan's intention to have it so, or whether it indicates Satan's inability to execute all he has designed. The probability is great that Satan's ambition has led him to undertake more than any creature could ever administer."

(1993). Vol. 2: Systematic Theology (100). Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, p. 100

We live in a dangerous and exceedingly evil environment, but we have nothing to fear. Our Lord Jesus Christ has already conquered the world and has prayed to the Father on our behalf:

John 17:14-17 . . . "I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 15) "I do not ask You to take them out of the world, but to keep them from the evil one. 16) "They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. 17) "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.

Left to our own devices and abilities, we would be torn apart by Satan and his demonic horde, but he can do nothing to us without God's permission. God protects His faithful children from evil. We are not to fear him but are to fear God.

1 John 4:4 . . . You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

2 Thessalonians 3:1-3 . . . Finally, brethren, pray for us . . . 2) that we will be rescued from perverse and evil men . . . 3) But the Lord is faithful, and He will strengthen and protect you from the evil one.

Psalms 97:10 . . . Hate evil, you who love the LORD, Who preserves the souls of His godly ones; He delivers them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 121:7 . . . The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.

Psalms 37:16-19 . . . Better is the little of the righteous Than the abundance of many wicked. 17) For the arms of the wicked will be broken, But the LORD sustains the righteous. 18) The LORD knows the days of the blameless, And their inheritance will be forever. 19) They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, And in the days of famine they will have abundance.

Our God is so great and so powerful that He can take the evil that is used against us & turn it into good.

Genesis 50:20 . . . As for you [Joseph's brothers], you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good . . .

Psalms 21:11-13 . . . Though they intended evil against You And devised a plot, They will not succeed. 12) For You will make them turn their back; You will aim with Your bowstrings at their faces. 13) Be exalted, O LORD, in Your strength; We will sing and praise Your power.

Psalms 91 ... He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.

2) I will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress, My God, in whom I trust!"

3) For it is He who delivers you from the snare of the trapper and from the deadly pestilence.

4) He will cover you with His pinions, & under His wings you may seek refuge; His faithfulness is a shield & bulwark.

5) You will not be afraid of the terror by night, Or of the arrow that flies by day;

6) Of the pestilence that stalks in darkness, Or of the destruction that lays waste at noon.

7) A thousand may fall at your side And ten thousand at your right hand, but it shall not approach you.

8) You will only look on with your eyes And see the recompense of the wicked.

9) For you have made the Lord, my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place.

10) No evil will befall you, Nor will any plague come near your tent.

11) For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways.

12) They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone.

13) You will tread upon the lion and cobra, The young lion and the serpent you will trample down.

14) "Because he has loved Me, therefore I will deliver him; I will set him securely on high, because he has known My name.

15) "He will call upon Me, and I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.

16) "With a long life I will satisfy him And let him see My salvation."

LESSON #78 (11-9-10) 1 Thessalonians 5:22

We can allow ourselves to be influenced by the evil in this world, but we have another problem that comes from within us. Believers have both exterior and interior evil attacks or influence on their lives.

Matthew 15:18-19 . . . the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. 19) "For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.

Proverbs 12:20 . . . Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy.

Romans 7:15-25 ... 15) For what I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I would like to do, but I am doing the very thing I hate. 16) But if I do the very thing I do not want to do, I agree with the Law, confessing that the Law is good. 17) So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 18) For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the willing is present in me, but the doing of the good is not. 19) For the good that I want, I do not do, but I practice the very evil that I do not want. 20) But if I am doing the very thing I do not want, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. 21) I find then the [n]principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good. 22) For I joyfully concur with the law of God [o]in the inner man, 23) but I see a different law in [p]the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner [q]of the law of sin which is in my members. 24) Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from [r]the body of this death? 25) Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, on the one hand I myself with my mind am serving the law of God, but on the other, with my flesh the law of sin.

What should our attitude be towards evil?

Amos 5:14-15 . . . Seek good and not evil, that you may live; And thus may the LORD God of hosts be with you, Just as you have said! 15 Hate evil, love good, And establish justice in the gate [courts]!

God has given us the ability to overcome evil.

Romans 12:21 . . . Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Proverbs 16:17 . . . The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keeps His way preserves his soul.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 . . . But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; 22) abstain from every form of evil.

The good is the plan of God for believers, X + Y + Z. Once under the influence of evil, the only possible recovery comes from learning doctrine. The constant intake of doctrine is the only insulation from evil, because doctrine goes where evil would reside; in the KARDIA, the heart, and there doctrine combats evil.

Proverbs 2:10-15 . . . For wisdom [B.D.] will enter your heart And knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; 11) Discretion will guard you, Understanding will watch over you, 12) To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; 13) From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; 14) Who delight in doing evil And rejoice in the perversity of evil; 15) Whose paths are crooked, And who are devious in their ways;

Proverbs 1:32-33 . . . For the waywardness of the simple will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33) but whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease, without fear of harm."

LESSON #77 (11-11-10) 1 Thessalonians 5:22

We are to fear God, not evil.

Psalms 23:4 . . . Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me . . . The fear [respect, awe] of the Lord helps us to stay out of evil.

Proverbs 16:6 . . . By lovingkindness and truth, iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil. Expanded Translation: By grace and doctrine one recovers from reversionism: and by proper respect for the Lord, one keeps away from evil.

It is clear from scripture that we can keep away from evil and live a life free from it. It is also clear from scripture that we do not live a life free from sin and never will in this life. There is no such thing as sinless perfection but there is freedom from evil.

Proverbs 19:23 . . . The fear of the LORD leads to life, So that one may sleep satisfied, untouched by evil.

Proverbs 3:7 . . . Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil.

Psalms 112:7 . . . He [the mature believer] will not fear evil tidings; His heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.

Psalms 121:7 . . . The LORD will protect you from all evil; He will keep your soul.

Proverbs 1:33 . . . But he who listens to me [B.D.] shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil."

Proverbs 2:10-14 . . . For wisdom [B.D.] will enter your heart and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul; 11) Discretion will guard you, understanding will watch over you, 12) to deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things; 13) From those who leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness; 14) Who delight in doing evil and rejoice in the perversity of evil;

Proverbs 15:3 . . . The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.

Believers will be influenced by evil or by doctrine. If you are influenced by doctrine you have great blessing for life and for eternity but if you are influenced by evil, there is no blessing in time, and you will be a peon in heaven.

So many people fall for evil because it is packaged in the name of good, sincerity, sweetness, and light. The attacks are subtle and only Bible doctrine in the soul alerts the believer to the danger.

The truth of God's Word is the antidote to evil. **Psalms 54:5 He will recompense the evil to my foes; destroy them in Your faithfulness** [EHMETH = truth].

Isaiah 5:20 . . . 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!

There is absolutely no evil in God: **Psalms. 5:4** God cannot be tempted, nor does He tempt anyone with evil: **James 1:13.**

Isaiah 45:7 . . . I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things.

The word RA evil רָע does not mean wickedness in this instance, but rather "sorrow, difficulties, tragedies, or trouble; those things which are the fruit of evil, the fruit of sin. This is the Old Testament way of saying, ***"The wages of sin is death ..."*** **Romans 6:23**. Here, contrasts are presented, first between light and its opposite, darkness, then between peace and its opposite, calamity.

This same usage of the word "evil" is found in the following verse:

Jonah 3:10 . . . And God saw their works, that they turned from their evil way [wickedness]; and God repented of the evil [judgment, calamity], that he had said that he would do unto them; and he did it not.

The same word is used twice in this verse but with two different meanings. When God saw that the Assyrians turned from their evil way, He changed his policy from cursing to blessing. He spared them and did not bring the great calamity He had threatened to bring upon them.

Evil is a type of thinking more than specific acts, and it involves every attempt to solve the problems of life apart from God's grace and Bible doctrine.

A FEW EXAMPLES OF EVIL:

Gun control

CPS snatching children away from parents for using corporal punishment.

Government sponsored welfare

The Women's liberation movement

Hate crime legislation

Acceptance and promotion of homosexuality

All unbiblical and unconstitutional governmental agencies, treaties, programs, regulations, and taxes

The media's liberal bias, preoccupation with trivial nonsense, and promotion of sexual degeneracy

Multiculturalism

School systems and teachers who advance evolution and promote anti-Christian worldviews.

Promotion of racial partiality and hyphenated Americans. Examples: Afro-Americans Anti-Semitism, the KKK, NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People), LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens)

Political correctness (chair person, Native Americans, significant other, higher power, assault weapon)

LESSON #80 (11-16-10) 1 Thessalonians 5:22

Tele-evangelists who lie and prey upon the ignorant populace for financial gain

Courts and judges who ignore the God-given rights of the people

Food manufactures who poison and adulterate food so they can make more money

Law firms and lawyers who use the threat of litigation to extort money from people and businesses

The corporate practice of using lobbyists to bribe politicians

The Catholic Church's cover-up of priests who sexually abused children of their parishioners

Churches that use the "Purpose Driven" marketing techniques to increase attendance