

“THESE WILL MAKE WAR WITH THE LAMB”: THE REALITY AND DANGER OF EVIL

Introduction

- 1) The book of Revelation describes a great conflict between good and evil
 - a) War in heaven between devil and his angels and Michael and his angels (Rev. 12:7)
- 2) This conflict is not new – it has been since the beginning (Rev. 12:9)
 - a) Devil/Satan = represented in “that serpent of old” (Gen. 3:3-15)
 - b) In the garden of Eden, conflict and enmity was introduced to mankind (Gen. 3:15)
 - c) Evil is the stimulus behind all conflict, strife, and division (1 Kgs. 18:18; Acts 20:29-30)
- 3) Evil is very real and we need God’s help (Psa. 40:11-13)

I) THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL

- A) In the Garden of Eden was the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil” (Gen. 2:9)
 - 1) Good and evil are real and can be known and discerned by man (Gen. 3:22; Heb. 5:14)
 - 2) Good and evil are not subjective inventions of the human mind, but objective realities
 - a) Based on the same objective standard applicable to all men – God (Psa. 119:65-68)
- B) Beware of these deceptions concerning good and evil
 - 1) Good and evil are subjective and cultural (No! – 1 Cor. 6:9-10)
 - 3) Good and evil are interchangeable (No! – Isa. 5:20)
 - 2) Good and evil are both extreme positions to be avoided (No! – Amos 5:15; Rom. 12:9)

II) EVIL REVEALED IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION

- A) Evil threatened the saints in the seven churches (2:9-10, 13-14, 20; 3:9)
- B) Conflict, persecution, death revealed in the opening of the seals (6:3-11)
- C) Those who would not repent of sin (9:20-21)
- D) The beast kills the two witnesses (11:7)
- E) War in heaven between good and evil (12:7)
- F) Beasts arise from the sea and land (13:1-18)
- G) The harlot woman riding on the scarlet beast (17:1-8)

III) THE TRUE NATURE OF EVIL

- A) Evil is the opposite of good (Isa. 5:20; Mk. 3:4)
 - 1) Evil is thinking and acting in opposition to God (Gen. 6:5, 11-12; Jn. 3:19-20)
- B) Evil is very real and extremely dangerous (Prov. 4:14-17; 6:26-27)
 - 1) Wickedness begins with evil defiling the heart [mind, soul] of man (Matt. 15:18-19)
 - 2) He who thinks evil, will do evil, and become evil (Matt. 12:34-35)
 - a) Wrath (violence), pornography (sexual immorality), greed (theft), sensuality (immodesty)
 - 3) Unless repent and turn, evil gets progressively worse (2 Tim. 3:13)
- C) We must hate every evil way (Prov. 8:13; Psa. 97:10 – turn from, expose, fight against)

IV) DECEPTIVE LIES OF EVIL

- A) “It’s all right if everyone is doing it” (Ex. 23:2)
- B) “But my friends are doing it” (1 Cor. 15:33)
- C) “It’s not evil if you don’t agree that it is” (1 Cor. 6:9)
- D) “Sow your wild oats while you’re young” (Psa. 119:9-11))

- E) "A little bit won't hurt you" (2 Tim. 3:13)
- F) "It's not as bad as you think" (Psa. 51:3-4)
- G) "If you're sincere, then it's not evil" (2 Jn. 11)

V) THE CHRISTIAN AND EVIL

- A) Do not imitate evil (3 Jn. 11)
- B) Abhor evil (Rom. 12:9)
- C) Turn away from evil (1 Pet. 3:10-12)
- D) Abstain from evil (1 Thess. 5:22)
- E) Expose evil (Eph. 5:11)
- F) Overcome evil with good (Rom. 12:21)
- G) Fear no evil (Psa. 23:4)

Conclusion

Satan is real and must be resisted (1 Pet. 5:8-9); we must seek the way of escape from every temptation of evil (1 Cor. 10:13). We can overcome him (Rev. 12:11) and be more than conquerors (Rom. 8:37)!

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff they comfort me" (Psa. 23:4)