

September 11, 2011

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Monday

Rom. 5:8 God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that *while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

How did Jesus respond to evil? He suffered its torture and paid its price. He looked upon evil men and determined to camp in their midst as God's missionary of Good News. He determined to convert evil men into the children of God, even at the cost of His life. He viewed the worst, the vial, the lost as worthy of love and salvation. If you desire to be God's child responding to evil and evil men, you cannot ignore Jesus response? We are not talking of a national response or cultural response or a political response. We are talking of your response to others.

Tuesday

Rom. 7:21 I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wants to do good.

God's character alone is the measure of good, of righteousness. Anything that deviates from God's nature and will is evil. One of the sobering, horrifying facts of history is that when men try to determine what is good or evil, they inevitably call good evil and evil good. America throughout history, from slavery, to Indian displacement, to syphilis experimentation, to the persecution of Baptists, to the present-day horror of abortion on demand, has at times called evil good and good evil. Do not think that you are qualified of yourself to determine that which is good or evil. The word of God must be your measure. Personal obedience must be your determined venture. How do you measure your words and actions?

Wednesday

Luke 6:42 How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye.

When is the last time that you were consciously aware of being corrected by God and then as a result of that correction you changed your attitude or actions? For the growing disciple of Jesus, such should be a regular experience. You may have very little power to correct all of the societal evils you see, but with the Holy Spirit's help you can make a big difference in the sin that proceeds from you.

Thursday

Eph. 4:29 Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.

The Internet, a harsh political climate, and September 11 have conspired as excuses for many Christians to forget God's explicit instructions. Innuendo, racist remarks, half truths, and unverified 'facts' are spread like wildfire to friends and acquaintances. How often God is grieved by the reactionary 'forward'. Those who long ago learned not to be sucked in by malicious chain letters see no problem with electronic chain email covered by Internet anonymity. What does God's word say?

Friday

Rom. 12:17 Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Respect what is right in the sight of all men.

God created you to be free to choose, to love, to relate, to be personal. What God could not do is to create you (or anyone else) as free to choose and yet somehow preclude you from choosing to do evil, hurtful things. The ability to make personal choices defines you as a person. The ability to make personal choices allows you to relate meaningfully to others and to God. That ability to choose makes you (and everyone else) capable of choosing to do good, to relate lovingly, or to do evil and to relate through hateful actions. Understand that being able to choose defines you as a person. And what you personally choose to do makes a world of difference.