

XXXI. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
LESSON THIRTY-ONE
... ABOUT DISCERNING GOOD AND EVIL

INTRODUCTION

We learn from Hebrews 5:12-14 that one of the proofs of being skilled in the Word is the ability to discern both good and evil. To discern good and evil is to understand that good, all that is really good comes only from God; and that evil comes from the devil; and that we who are children of God through the new birth in Jesus Christ are to hate evil and to cleave to that which is good. Amen?

In this lesson, we would see what is good and what is evil according to the Fourth Commandment, in order that, we might accordingly, order the course of our lives.

With the Fourth Commandment we begin the second table of the Law. Whereas, the first table of the Law spoke of our relationship to God, the second table of the Law speaks of our relationship to those around us. We see in Matthew 22:39, the summary of that relationship.

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

Who is our neighbor, and how should we love them?

Galatians 6:10

Matthew 5:44

Luke 10:25-37

Matthew 7:12

Conclusions: Our neighbor is every one of our fellow men; and we should love them as ourselves, showing this love by keeping the commandments of the second table of the Law.

THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt honor thy father and thy mother, that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." Exodus 20:12

In the Fourth Commandment we want to discern GOOD and EVIL in our relationships with the AUTHORITIES whom God has placed over us in the FAMILY, CHURCH, and STATE.

...DISCERNING GOOD

According to the Fourth Commandment, what GOOD (godly behavior) are we to discern?

A. IN THE FAMILY

Exodus 20:12

Deuteronomy 5:16

Malachi 1:6

Ephesians 6:2,3

Colossians 3:20

Ephesians 6:1

Proverbs 23:22

1 Timothy 5:4

Leviticus 19:32

1 Timothy 5:8

Bible examples: Joseph honored his father. Genesis 46:29. - King Salomon honored his mother. 1 Kings 2:19. - Jesus was subject to Joseph and Mary. Luke 2:51. - Joseph provided for his father and brothers and families. Genesis, chapters 42-47.

B. IN THE CHURCH

Luke 10:16

1 Thessalonians 5:12,13

Hebrews 13:7

1 Timothy 5:17-19

Hebrews 13:17

Galatians 6:6

Bible examples: Elisha honored and served his teacher. 2 Kings 2:12. Jesus set at the feet of the Scribes, both listening and asking questions. Luke 2:46.

C. IN THE STATE

Matthew 22:21

Romans 13:6,7

Romans 13:1

Titus 3:1

1 Peter 2:13,14

1 Timothy 2:2

D. OF THOSE IN AUTHORITY

Matthew 20:25,28

1 Peter 5:3

Ephesians 6:4

1 Peter 5:2,3

Acts 20:28

Romans 12:7,8

Romans 13:4

Genesis 9:6

Deuteronomy 1:16,17

Conclusions: The GOOD (godly behavior) we are to discern from the Fourth Commandment is:

- 1. To HONOR our parents and others in authority, that is to REGARD them as GOD'S REPRESENTATIVES;**
- 2. To SERVE our parents and others in authority, by GLADLY doing for them what we can;**
- 3. To OBEY our parents and others in authority in ALL THINGS in which God has placed them over us;**
- 4. To LOVE and ESTEEM our parents and others in authority as PRECIOUS GIFTS OF GOD;**
- 5. Those whom God has placed in authority are to SERVE those whom God has placed under their authority by faithfully carrying out the responsibilities of their position.**

... DISCERNING EVIL

According to the Fourth Commandment, what evil (ungodly behavior) are we to discern?

Proverbs 30:17

Ephesians 6:4

Ephesians 6:6

Romans 13:2

1 Peter 5:3

Acts 5:29

Bible examples: The sons of Eli grieved their father by their wickedness. 1 Samuel 2:12,23,25. - Absalom rebelled against his father and king. 2 Samuel 15.

Conclusions: From this commandment we are to discern that it is **EVIL** to **DESPISE** our parents and others whom God has given authority by **DISREGARDING THEIR DIGNITY**, or **PROVOKING** them to anger by **DISOBEDIENCE** or by any other kind of **WICKEDNESS**.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Why does God add the promise "that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth"?

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

This commandment means, that we should fear and love God that we may not despise our parents and others in authority, nor provoke them to anger, but give them honor, serve and obey them, and hold them in love and esteem.

Is this reflected in you life? _____ Yes _____ No If not, why not?