

**XXXII. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
LESSON THIRTY-TWO
... 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 Fifth Commandment, in order that, we might accordingly, order the course of our lives.

THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not kill." Exodus 20:13.

In the Fifth Commandment we want to discern GOOD and EVIL as they relate to HUMAN LIFE and the WELL-BEING of our- selves and our neighbor.

... DISCERNING GOOD

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

Isaiah 58:7

James 2:15,16

Romans 12:20

Hebrews 13:16

Matthew 5:5,7,9

Matthew 5:25

Matthew 6:15

Ephesians 4:32

Colossians 3:12,

Bible examples: Abraham rescued Lot from his enemies. Genesis 14:12-16. David protected the life of Saul. 1 Samuel 26:1-12. The good Samaritan helped the man who had fallen among thieves. Luke 10:33-35. The centurion was kind to his sick servant. Matthew 8:5-13. Joseph was forgiving toward his brothers. Genesis 45:33.

Conclusions: We would discern from the Fifth Commandment that it is **GOOD** to **HELP**, **BEFRIEND**, **BE MERCIFUL**, **KIND**, and **FORGIVING** towards our neighbor.

... **DISCERNING EVIL**

According to the Fifth Commandment, what **EVIL** (ungodly behavior) are we to discern?

Deuteronomy 5:17

Genesis 9:6

Matthew 5:21

Matthew 26:51,52

Romans 13:9

Matthew 15:19

1 John 3:15

Matthew 5:22

Matthew 5:25

Romans 12:19

Bible examples: Cain killed his brother. **Genesis 4:8**. David killed Uriah through others.

2 Samuel 11:15. Killing through carelessness. **Exodus 21:29**; **Deuteronomy 22: 8**. Judas killed himself. **Matthew 27:5**. Joseph's brothers harmed Joseph and embittered the life of their father by their wickedness. **Genesis 37:23-35**. The Egyptians embittered the lives of the children of Israel by hard labor. **Exodus 1**. The Jews showed their anger against Stephen. **Acts 7:54**. God warned Cain against anger. **Genesis 4:5-7**.

Conclusions: We would discern from the Fifth Commandment that it is **EVIL** to take the life of a fellow man or our own life; to hurt or harm our neighbor in his body, that is, to do or say anything which may destroy, shorten, or embitter his life; to bear anger and hatred in our hearts against our neighbor.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What are some of the ways in which we endanger, harm, shorten or take our own life, without actually committing suicide?

Is it **EVIL** for a believer, a child of God, to kill while a soldier during war time?

If the believer thinks that the war is an unjust war, does that make a difference? Or, When is a war and unjust war?

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

This commandment means, that we should fear and love God that we may not hurt nor harm our neighbor in his body, but help and befriend him in every bodily need.

Is this reflected in your life? _____Yes _____No If not, why not?