

XXXIV. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
LESSON THIRTY-FOUR
... 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 Seventh Commandment, in order that, we might accordingly, order the course of our lives.

THE SEVENTH COMMANDMENT

"Thou shalt not steal" Exodus 20:15

...DISCERNING GOOD

According to the Seventh Commandment, what Good (godly behavior) are we to discern?

Exodus 23:4

Matthew 7:12

Matthew 5.42

Proverbs 19:17

Leviticus 19:36

Hebrews 13:16

1 Corinthians 13:4,5

Bible examples: Abraham gave Lot the choice land. Genesis 13:9. - Abraham rescued Lot from the enemy and recovered his property Genesis 14:12-16. - Zacchaeus promised to restore fourfold what he had taken by fraud and to give half of his goods to the poor. Luke 19:8.

Conclusions: We would discern from the Seventh Commandment that it is GOOD to:

1. Help our neighbor to improve and protect his property and business;
2. Help him in every need;
3. Rejoice when we see him prosper.

...DISCERNING EVIL

According to the Seventh Commandment what EVIL (ungodly behavior) are we to discern?

Exodus 20:15

Leviticus 19:11

1 Corinthians 6:10

Proverbs 29:24

1 Thessalonians 4:6

Leviticus 19:35,36

Deuteronomy 27:17

Psalms 37:21

Proverbs 28:24

Psalms 15:5

Habakkuk 2:6

Jeremiah 22:13

James 5:4

Deuteronomy 24:15

Luke 12:1

1 Timothy 6:9

Romans 1:29

Psalms 10:3

Proverbs 18:9

Luke 15:13,18

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

Ephesians 4:28

Bible examples: The men who fell upon the traveler on the way to Jericho robbed him. Luke 10:30. - Achan stole when he secretly took a garment and silver and gold. Joshua 7:20-22. - Judas was a thief. John 12:6. - Gehazi obtained a present by lying and trickery. 2 Kings 5:20-24.

Conclusions: We would discern from the Seventh Commandment that robbery, theft, fraud, usury, gambling devices which obtains, or seeks to obtain, what is, or should be, another's property, covetousness, squandering, idleness, or any other means to cause someone to suffer loss or want IS EVIL.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Is taking advantage of government programs EVIL?

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

This commandment means, that we should fear and love God that we may not take our neighbor's money or goods, nor get them by false ware or dealing, but help him to improve and protect his property and business.

Is this reflected in your life? _____ Yes _____ No

If not, why not?