

XXXVI. WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS
LESSON THIRTY-SIX
... 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 NINTH and TENTH Commandments, in order that, we might accordingly, order the course of our lives.

THE NINTH AND TENTH COMMANDMENTS

"Thou shalt not covet thy neighbors' house. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his livestock, nor anything that is thy neighbor's." Exodus 20:17.

What does God particularly want us to discern in the last two commandments?

Romans 7:7

James 1:14,15

Leviticus 19:2

Matthew 5:48

Psalms 37:4

Conclusions: God would have us discern that in His sight evil desire, or lust, is indeed sin and deserves condemnation; and that we should not have any evil lust whatsoever in our hearts, but only holy desires and love of God and of all that is good.

... DISCERNING GOOD

What specifically is the GOOD which we are to discern from these last two commandments?

Galatians 5:13

Galatians 6:6

Ephesians 5:21

Philippians 2:3,4

Hebrews 13:5

Romans 13:14

1 Timothy 6:8

Bible example: Paul returned a runaway servant to his master Philemon. Epistle to Philemon.

Conclusions: We would discern from these two commandments that it is GOOD to be a service to our neighbor by helping him keep his inheritance or house; and to serve him by helping him keep his wife, servants, livestock, and all that he has; and to be content with what God has given us.

... DISCERNING EVIL

What specifically is the EVIL which we are to discern from these last two Commandments?

Exodus 20:17

Deuteronomy 5:21

Romans 7:14,18

Romans 8:7

Romans 13:9

James 1:14,15

Ephesians 2:3

1 Timothy 6:8-10

Bible examples: Ahab coveted Naboth's vineyard and obtained it by a show of right. 1 Kings 21:1-16. - David coveted Uriah's wife and took her. 2 Samuel 11:2-4. - Absalom estranged the hearts of the people from David. 2 Samuel 15:1-6.

Conclusions: From these last two commandments we would discern that it is EVIL to covet, that is have a sinful desire or lust for anything that belongs to our neighbor.

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Does wanting something which we don't have mean that we are not content with what we do have?

RESPONSE TO THE TRUTH

These commandments mean that we should love and fear God that we may not craftily seek to get our neighbor's inheritance or house, nor obtain it by a show of right, but help and be of service to him in keeping it; likewise, that we may not estrange, force, or entice away from our neighbor his wife, servants, or livestock, but urge them to stay and do their duty.

Is this reflected in your life? Yes _____ No _____

If not, why not?

THE CLOSE OF THE COMMANDMENTS

"I, the Lord, thy God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate Me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love Me and keep My Commandments." Exodus 20:5,6.

Galatians 3:10

Ezekiel 18:20

Hebrews 12:5-11

Deuteronomy 5:31-33

Deuteronomy 28:1,2

Psalms 81:8-16

1 Timothy 4:8

Romans 3:19

Genesis 32:10

DISCUSSION QUESTION

Why does God say, "I, the Lord, thy God, am a jealous God"?

With what does God promise to all that transgress His Commandments?

Who does God promise to punish?

What does God mean when He promises to visit the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate him?

Why does God promise such punishment?

What does God mean by promising mercy unto thousands of them that love Him and keep His commandments?

Why does God add such promises?

What does this mean? It means that God promises to punish all that transgress these commandments. Therefore we should fear and love God that we not act contrary to them. God, also, promises every blessing to all that keep these commandments. Therefore we should, also, love and trust Him and willingly do according to His Commandments.

END OF BOOK 5 Foundation Series

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