

Ephesians 5: 6-16

6 Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of these things the wrath of God comes upon the sons of disobedience. 7 Therefore, do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light 9 (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Ephesians 5: 6-16

11 Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them;

12 for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret.

13 But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Ephesians 5: 6-16

14 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, And arise from the dead, And Christ will shine on you."

15 Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,

16 making the most of your time, because the days are evil.

† Church teachings are typically :
focused on the listener who
desires to follow Christ.



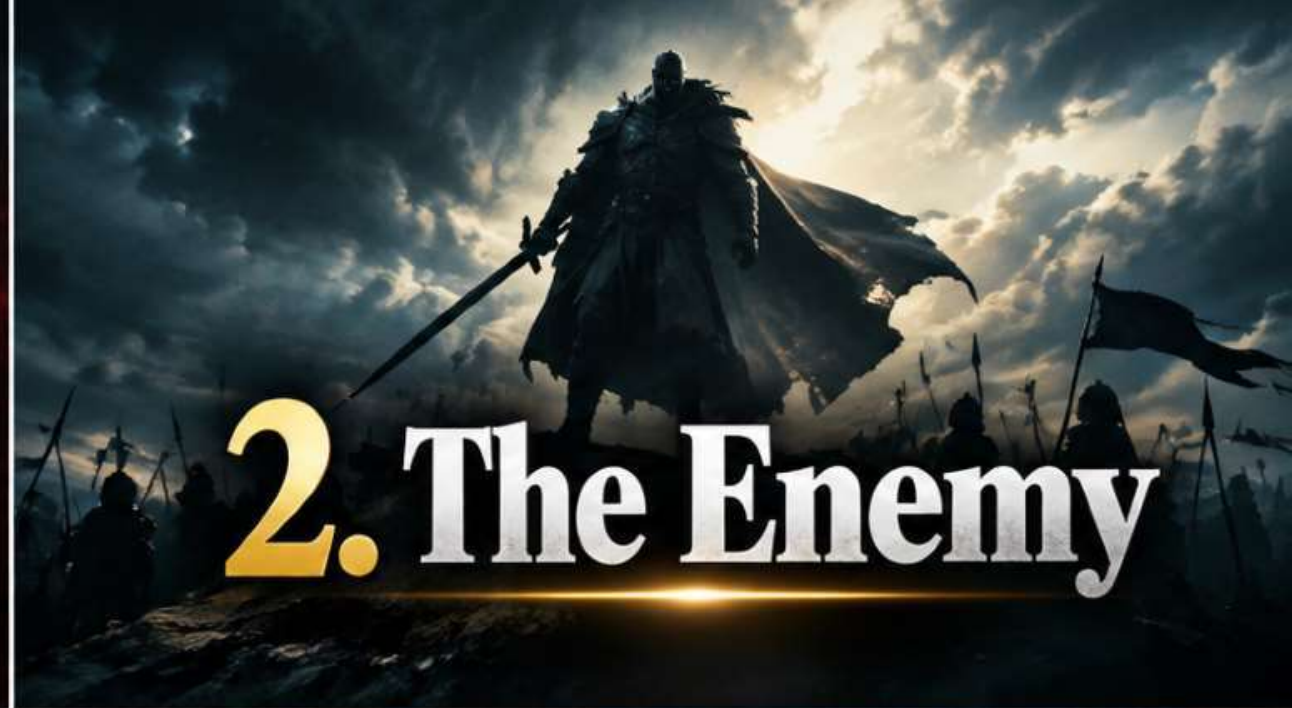
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• However, understanding how to discern
and evaluate evil in others is a very
important part of knowing what is "evil".





THE REALITY
— OF —

EVIL



The enemy opposes God, His people and His plans.

If the enemy can destroy our identity in Christ and heap on shame, we are far less effective for the kingdom of God.

When we are consistently experiencing abuse from **"evil doers"**- all we can do is survive, or have life abundantly.



1. The Evil

We are called to be wise as serpents and innocent as doves.

What is evil?

Evil and **wicked** were used interchangeably.

Similarities and the **differences?**

"Evil" in Hebrew: ***ra***, in Greek: ***ponēros***, is categorized as moral evil or natural evil.

A closer look at the original Hebrew, **"ra"** shows that ***"evil"*** ***causes pain or misery.***

Whether moral or natural evil, pain is definitely part of the experience when touched by evil.

Evil in the Bible refers to anything that is morally wrong, harmful or corrupt.

It describes both a state of being (inward corruption) and evil deeds that are contrary to God's nature and will.

“Wicked” in Hebrew: *rasha*, in Greek: *asebēs*, refer to people who live directly in continuous opposition to God, His nature and will.

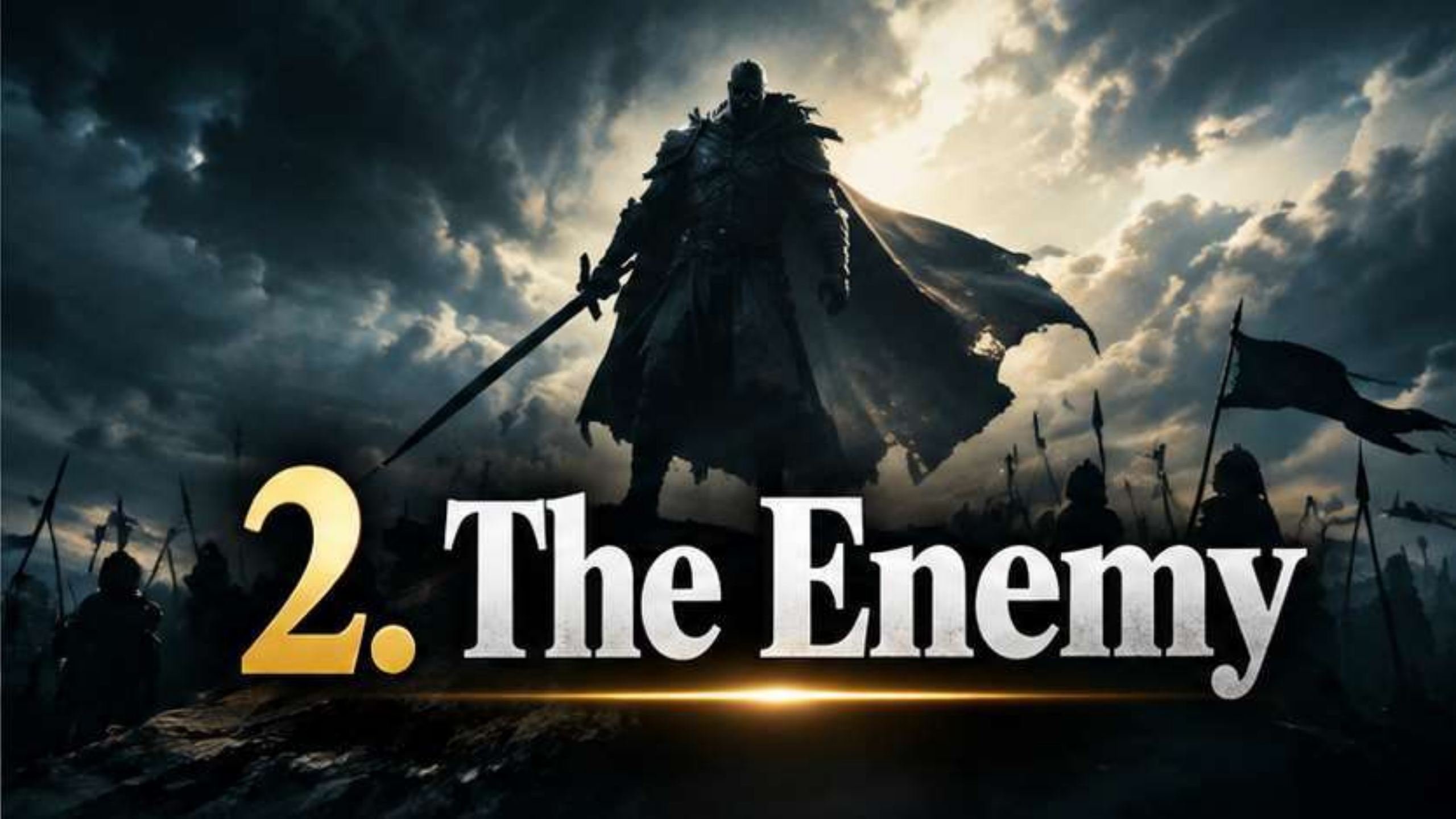
A state of rebellion or deep moral failure.

Evil points to both actions and persons. Whereas, wicked points more often to people.

Someone who is falling under the description of evil or wicked does not have a heart for God.



Dr. M. Scott Peck: "It is not their sins per se that characterize evil people, rather it is the subtlety and persistence and consistency of their sins. This is because the central defect of the evil is not the sin but the refusal to acknowledge it."



2. The Enemy

The Bible describes Satan, the enemy, and reveals his character and intentions.

"Lucifer" reflects his prideful fall from heaven.

"Satan," meaning **"adversary,"** underscores his opposition to God and His people.

"Devil" emphasizes his role as a slanderer and accuser, seeking to harm through falsehoods.

"Tempter" refers to his malicious attempts to lead others into sin.

"Accuser" points to his continual efforts to condemn believers.

"Prince of This World" Satan's influence over unbelievers and his attempts to lead Christians astray are acknowledged.

Satan is Known for Deception

Satan's power relies heavily on deception, as he seeks to maintain control over both unbelievers and believers.

The ***"father of lies,"*** masking his true evil nature by pretending to be light and goodness.

From the Garden of Eden to today, deception is central to sin.

Satan disguises his intentions, making evil appear desirable or harmless, while leading people away from truth and righteousness.

Deception leads to confusion and chaos, making it easier for evil to advance.

Confusion

Confusion is a state of mental uncertainty or lack of clarity.

A sense of chaos, indecision, or disorientation, where you may feel unsure about what to believe or how to act or respond.

How does confusion happen?

Misdirection. Directing attention away from the truth towards something false. Leads people to focus on irrelevant information, making it difficult to discern what is true.

Distortion of Reality: Presenting false information or altering existing facts. Creates a mismatch between perception and reality, causing confusion about what is true and what is not.

Contradictory Information: Making it challenging for individuals to determine which information is accurate. Sows seeds of doubt and confusion.

Emotional Manipulation: Exploits emotions to cloud judgment and create confusion.

Complexity: Weaving intricate narratives or introducing multiple layers of falsehoods.

John 10:10 says, - ***"The thief (Satan) comes only to steal, and kill and destroy. Whereas, Jesus comes to give life and have it abundantly."***

Evil exists in **homes, families, churches** and other places that should be safe, but those are the very places Satan wants to come in and cause pain and destruction.

We are so focused on being ***"peacekeepers",
"loving people"*** and ***"overlooking a multitude of
sin"***.

The Bible teaches those vital concepts for healthy relationships.

However, it can easily be applied to the wrong relationships.



3. The Evil-Doers

Sons of Disobedience

The term ***"sons of disobedience"*** ("children of disobedience") appears in the New Testament, in the writings of Paul.

It describes individuals who reject God's will and live in rebellion against Him, often aligning with sinful or worldly behaviors.

There are people in the world that are under the influence of the enemy.

In **Ephesians 5**, Paul describes those who are living in a pattern of sin. Once in Christ, He transforms us day by day. It is the pattern that we need to be mindful of in ourselves, and also in others.

"Don't be partakers with them". (v7)- There is a separation that keeps children of God safe.

“Fruit” - a pattern of outward actions.

Matthew 7:16-20, So every good tree bears good fruit, but the bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. So then, you will know them by their fruits.

There are people in this world who are instruments in the enemy's hands.

They are under his influence and their choices to persist in destructive patterns wreak destruction in relationships.

Romans 1:28-32 *"And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them."*

Paul is talking about anyone who continuously chooses to rebel against God. God eventually gives them over to the desires of their heart and it is a path of destruction.

What is their destruction?

Psalm 37:9 – *"For the evildoers shall be cut off, but those who wait for the Lord shall inherit the land."*

Proverbs 11:21 – *"Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered."*

Isaiah 13:11 – *"I will punish the world for its evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; I will put an end to the pomp of the arrogant and lay low the pompous pride of the ruthless."*

Warning:

2 Timothy 3:1-5— *But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.*

Are we supposed to judge them?



4. The Evaluation

Ways “**judgment**” is used in the bible.

1. Punitive Judgment or Condemnation: - the act of passing sentence or condemning someone. This type of judgment is reserved for God alone, who is the Ultimate Judge of all, and we are cautioned against taking on this role.

Matthew 7: 1- 2 *Do not judge, or you too will be judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you.”*

2. Evaluating or Discernment: - making wise, righteous decisions and distinguishing between right and wrong, good and evil. It's about discernment and evaluating situations, actions, or individuals according to Biblical standards.

John 7:24 *"Do not judge by appearances, but judge with right judgment."*

Matthew 7:16 *"You will know them by their fruits."*

Reasons people tend to draw back at calling someone or something evil.

First, since all sin is evil and we all sin, calling someone or their behavior evil might bring up feelings of discomfort.

Second, there is fear that calling someone or their behavior evil can be seen as judging.

Third, calling a behavior evil adds pressure to take action.

Fourth, we feel compassion for “why” the person might be behaving in an evil manner.

Fifth, it might appear self-righteous.

The reality that evil exists in this world is a very troubling reality.

As believers, we must overcome evil.

Overcoming Evil:

1. Trust in God's Justice

The Bible consistently teaches that vengeance belongs to God, and it is He who will ultimately deal with the wicked.

Romans 12:19 *"Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord.'"*

Proverbs 24:19-20 *"Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out."*

2. Avoid Retaliation and Overcome Evil with Good

The Bible instructs believers not to repay evil with evil but to respond with love, kindness, and forgiveness.

Matthew 5:44 *"But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you."*

1 Peter 3:9 *"Do not repay evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary, bless, for to this you were called, that you may obtain a blessing."*

The response to wickedness should not be revenge or hatred, but an effort to reflect God's love and goodness.

3. Avoid Association with Evil

The Bible also encourages believers to distance themselves from wickedness and those who practice it, to avoid being influenced by evil.

Psalms 1:1 *"Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers."*

Proverbs 4:14-15 *"Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil. Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on."*

2 Corinthians 6:14 *"Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers. For what partnership has righteousness with lawlessness? Or what fellowship has light with darkness?"*

We are cautioned to avoid aligning themselves with wicked people or adopting their ways. Not only can associating with evil leads us into temptation, but it seeks to destroy believers.

Evil wants to destroy faith, our identity in Christ and heap on shame.

4. Pray for Evil Doers

Jesus taught that instead of harboring resentment, we should pray for the wicked, hoping for their repentance and transformation.

1 Timothy 2:1 *"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people."*

Praying for those who are wicked allows God to work in their hearts, and reflects the compassion believers are called to show.

5. Stay Committed to Righteousness

Rather than focusing on the actions of the wicked, the Bible encourages us to remain steadfast in their own pursuit of righteousness and trust that God will handle the rest.

Psalm 37:27-28 *"Turn away from evil and do good; so shall you dwell forever. For the Lord loves justice; he will not forsake his saints. They are preserved forever,..."*

Galatians 6:9 *"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up."*

The call is to keep doing good and trust that in God's timing, righteousness will prevail.

Keep your eyes fixed on Christ!

Evil is real and troubling but can be overcome.

The Bible tells us to overcome evil with good and no one else is good, but God.

The good God gave us clear instructions in His Word to protect us from evil and spread goodness.

Our edge over evil is in His **"Word"**.

And 2000 years ago, He sent His Word in the likeness of man, His only Son, Jesus, who showed us that **"good"** is possible; it can happen.

*How God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about **doing good**, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him."* **Acts 10: 38**

In His goodness, He offered His own life as payment for our evil deeds. What He did was not only to pay for our sins and evil but to prove to us that evil can be overcome.

He rose on the 3rd day to parade and proclaim that He defeated evil, specifically Satan, the enemy.

What's more? The power to overcome evil is not kept for Himself. He gave it to anyone who believes in Him.

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you..." **Acts 1: 8**

CONCLUSION:

If you always associate with evil people remember, *"Bad company corrupts good character"* (**1 Corinthians 15: 33**).

You are associating with people who will destroy you.
CUT TIES WITH EVIL, BE RIGHTEOUS, NOT SELF-RIGHTEOUS.

If you are a person who is doing evil, God wants you to stop it and turn your life to God through Christ. Repent and ask the Holy Spirit to change you.

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