

## EVIL IN OUR TIME

Galatians 1:1-12

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## This Present Evil Age

Galatians 1:3-5 – Jesus died to deliver us

Matthew 6:11-13 – Satan is the evil one

Romans 12:9 – Abhor evil, cling to good

Luke 18:18-19 – God is the source of good

Hebrews 5:12-14 – Discern good and evil

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## Defining Evil

1 Thessalonians 5:22

- *poneros*: hurtful, wicked
- *kakos*: worthless, depraved
- *sapros*: rotten, corrupt
- Real – Matthew 5:43-48
- Comes from the heart – Mark 7:21-23; Matthew 9:2-4; 12:33-37
- Against God's Will – John 5:25-29

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## Evil Calls Evil "Good" Evil Calls Good "Evil"

- Woe to those who do so – Isaiah 5:20-21
- Sin of every sort (godlessness)
  - Moral corruption
  - Relativism versus absolute truth
  - Sexual perversions
  - Religious apostasy

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## The Progression That Leads To Calling Evil Good And Good Evil (cf. James 1:14-15)

- First we overlook evil (cf. Proverbs 19:11; Matthew 21:12-13; Ephesians 6:10-13)
- Then we permit evil (cf. Malachi 1:6-14; Matthew 27:24)
- Then we legalize evil
- Then we promote evil
- Then we celebrate evil
- Then we persecute those who still call it evil

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## The Progression That Leads To Calling Evil Good And Good Evil

### Overlook Evil

- Begin to tolerate evil
  - "Everybody does it."
  - "Nobody is harmed."
  - "It's a personal choice and none of your business."
- Jesus does not tolerate evil – Matthew 21:12-13 – "drove out all"
- We must not – Ephesians 6:10-13; 5:15-16)

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## The Progression That Leads To Calling Evil Good And Good Evil

### Permit Evil

- Parents, schools, governments, churches
- Pilate – John 19:10; Matthew 27:24
- We must not – I Thessalonians 5:22; I Corinthians 5:13

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## The Progression That Leads To Calling Evil Good And Good Evil

### Legitimize (legalize) Evil

- Satan's tactic (flesh, eyes, pride) – Genesis 3:4-6 (I John 2:16)
- "The end justifies the means," (theft, abortion, gambling, pornography, etc.) – Romans 3:8
- We must not – Ephesians 4:27

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## The Progression That Leads To Calling Evil Good And Good Evil

### Promote Evil

(II Chronicles 19:2)

- Religious promotion – Matthew 23:14-15
- Denominations "blessing" same-sex marriages
- We must abstain from, not promote – I Thessalonians 5:22; Ephesians 5:11

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## The Progression That Leads To Calling Evil Good And Good Evil

### Celebrate Evil

- Satanic Temple altar, Pride month, hate groups
- Judah and Jerusalem – Jeremiah 32:31-35 – "provoke me to anger"
- We must celebrate righteousness – Ephesians 4:20-24 – "in true righteousness and holiness"

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## The Progression That Leads To Calling Evil Good And Good Evil

### Persecute Those Who Still Call It Evil

- "Judgmental, hateful, intolerant, bigot, self-righteous"
- "Cancel Culture" tries to silence those with whom they do not agree
- Follow the apostles' examples – I Corinthians 4:9-13; II Corinthians 4:7-15; 6:3-10

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## What We Do When Evil is Called Good and Good Evil

### Do not render evil for evil –

Romans 12:17-21 – "do what is honorable"

- I Peter 3:13-17:
  - God's blessing is on you
  - Always be prepared to give answers
  - Maintain good conduct
  - Suffer for doing good
- Be salt and light, Matthew 5:13-16; Ephesians 5:8

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**“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”**

Acts 16:30

- ▶ Hear the Word of God
  - ▶ Romans 10:8 – “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”
- ▶ Believe that Jesus is the Savior
  - ▶ Romans 10:11 – “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

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**“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”**

Acts 16:30

- ▶ Repent of your sins
  - ▶ Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”
- ▶ Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
  - ▶ I John 4:15 – “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

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**“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”**

Acts 16:30

- ▶ Be immersed in water for forgiveness
  - ▶ Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
- ▶ Remain faithful
  - ▶ Hebrews 3:14 – “For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”

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