Overcoming Evil

Introduction: **Romans** **12** begins telling us Christians to “Present our bodies as living sacrifices to God.” This admonition is continued with several things for us to do, ending with “Be not overcome with evil, but overcome evil with good.”

We have a constant battle with evil because we live in evil days, **Ephesians 5.15,16.** The devil is “seeking to devour us”, **1 Peter 5.8**. He is “subtle” in his attacks, **2 Corinthians 11.3**. He has many ways to trick and beguile us**, Ephesians 6.11**. On the positive side, we can and must overcome evil, **Ephesians 6.13.**

**I) An Example of Success and Failure In Overcoming Evil,**

**A) Joseph succeeded, Genesis 39.1-11**

!. Why? How?

2. This evil was present because there was the opportunity due to his master’s trust in him, **v. 8,9**

3. He knew

a. What was proposed was wicked, **v. 9.**

b. God would not approve of such action, **v. 9**

c. The way to overcome was to run, **v. 12**.

**B) Peter failed, Luke 2.54-60**

1. He promised his loyalty, but denied his Lord (Lip service).

2. He sought personal safety and shirked his responsibility.

3. He sought refuge from harm rather than strength to endure.

4. He “followed afar off” rather than close, **Luke 22.54.**

5. He warmed himself by the fire of the enemy, **Luke 22.55,56.**

6. He forgot the words of the Lord, **Luke 22.61.**

7. He failed to watch and pray, **Luke 22.40.**

***Note: Failure does not have to be permanent. Peter repented.***

**II) There is Much Evil To Overcome**

**A) Evil and evil men will grow worse and worse, 2 Timothy 3.13.**

**B) Lust is our own evil desires that we have to battle, Romans 7.21.**

**C) We live in “evil days” Ephesians 5.16.**

1. Mocking of God, eastern religions, anti-religion, denial of God, etc.

2. Moral corruption, breakup of families, murder under the guise of choice, etc.

**III) How Can We Overcome Evil?**

**A) By resisting it, James 4.7.**

1. One can’t resist evil by taking part in it, by going along with it. Self control.

2. Situation ethics seeks to get us to think of evil as acceptable.

**B) By quoting scripture in times of temptation, Matthew 4.1-11.**

1. Knowing God’s word gives us ammunition.

**C) By fleeing its presence, 2 Timothy 2.22.**

1. Don’t stay in its presence, things closer are harder to avoid.

2. Stay away, danger ahead, tells us to avoid at all cost.

**D) By avoiding “evil companions”, 1 Corinthians 15.33.**

1. Your acquaintances says something about you.

2. They will try and get you to say, and do things which are evil.

**E) By thinking pure thoughts, Phil. 4.8.**

1. Where to mind goes the body followings.

2. Fill your mind with vulgarity, ungodliness, you will think those things.

**IV) What Wil be Gained By Overcoming Evil?**

**A) A better life now. Godliness is profitable in this life, 1 Timothy 4.8.**

1 A lot of the heartache of life is self-inflicted. Bad choices leads to bad results.

2. A good life is the result of godly choices.

**B) A crown of life, James 1.12.**

1. Eternal blessings, **Revelation 3.5,21.**

2. Right to the tree of life and entrance into the eternal city, **Revelation 22.14.**

Conclusion: The rewards are for those who overcome. You can overcome sin through the blood of Christ contacted in baptism, **Romans 6.4.** Then be “faithful unto death, and you shall receive a crown of life” **Revelation2.10.**

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