Are you doing your best to do good and avoid evil?, on: 2015/4/17 11:35

Are you doing your best to do good and avoid evil?

Unfortunately this is the life and main activity of many people who call themselves Christian.

This is not true Christianity at all. It is a slap in God’s face and sin. No one can be righteous, be reconciled to God, be holy, be perfect, be an new creation, be cleansed from sin or grow in grace by doing this. If any person could do this, than Christ died in vain. This way of live is NOT God’s solution for sin or victory.

Let’s do not forget that when God designed and created man He never intended man to live like that. To live that way actually violates God’s very original purpose and design. His only command was not to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Mankind was created enjoy the very life of God within them. When Adam and Eve ate from this tree they lost this reality.

Now Christ Himself is our very life and it is HIS life within us that is our only hope of glory. Now if you are doing your best to do good and avoid evil then you CAN NOT truly experience His life at the same time. How can you? This is the live of Cain. It is you depending on your own efforts and energies. Yes Cain did labor and worked very hard but it all was in vain. He totally reject God and the His life.

Are you doing that? If yes, then you must stop and repent because as long as you continue this activity you put yourself against God and you will miss out on Christ’s Life.

True Christianity is Christ Himself living and reigning within you. If you are not enjoying Him then you just have a dead religion.

Re: Are you doing your best to do good and avoid evil? - posted by TMK (), on: 2015/4/17 11:51

Tuc-

I admit I like the sentiment of what you are saying, but how do you get around all the NT verses that urge us to DO some thing?

I agree that the HS resides in us, but we are not just jellyfish that just lie there waiting to be moved. We must act. So yes, absolutely we must do our best to do good and avoid evil. Scripture is plain on this matter.

Re: , on: 2015/4/17 12:20

There is a difference between acting from the flesh of man or being led by the Spirit. If we act from what our minds decide is right then it is the flesh. We need to be acting from the inspiration of the Spirit alone and the only way that we can do that is to have the action of the cross crucifying us and working in us moment by moment.

We cannot improve on the flesh, it has to die. At the beginning of our Christian life, we cannot discern what is from us and what is from the Spirit. We can use scripture as a guide but still then, it comes from our own understanding of scripture and may not be appropriate at the time.

We must only act from the powerhouse of the Spirit within.
Re: TMK, on: 2015/4/17 12:29
I am NOT attempting to get around anything.

True Christianity is NOT passive but truly activated by CHRIST HIMSELF living and dwelling within us.

And yes we must only act from the powerhouse of the Spirit within.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2015/4/17 12:57
I did a quick google search regarding commands in the NT. there are many. Who is God commanding, the HS or us?


Phi 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my abs ence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.
Phi 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

Re: , on: 2015/4/17 14:40
Our role is to cooperate. The Holy Spirit instigates and we obey. It is only when the old man is crucified moment by mom ent that the power of our souls is nullified.

Re: - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2015/4/17 14:51
"Whoever would love life and see good days, let him put away perversity from his mouth and keep corrupt talk far from h is lips, let him turn from evil and do good."

This was Peter's counsel which he described as -"the grace of God."

Paul said the grace that brings salvation teaches men to deny ungodliness and worldly lust so as to live soberly, righteously and godly in this present age."

These apostles did not have an issue with exhorting their readers to stop sinning and do what is good. I believe they un derstood grace.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2015/4/17 14:52
But there are certain things we must do or not do regardless of our feelings.

Obviously we must obey the leading of the HS and not quash the Spirit. But, for example, we must flee evil whether we feel like it or not. That's not legalism- just wise.

Re: , on: 2015/4/17 15:03
Lets see what happened when Paul did his best to do good and to avoid the evil.

Romans 7:12-23, "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is go od made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that do I. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members."

Paul found that in his attempt to do good that he could not. He found out that sin was dwelling in him. When he tried to do good things he failed. When he tried to avoid bad things he failed.
What was the cause of this? He found and saw a law operating in him that was at war against his own will, his own desires and God, Himself. This law would always make him a captive and defeat every effort he ever could ever make. He saw that the root cause for all his sinful acts was this law. These outward acts of sin were CAUSED by this law. So the true solution was not to somehow attempt to stop sinning but TO GET YOU FREE OF THIS LAW!

Now that you see the law and sin and death and know that the only solution to it is to be freed from this law.

Now, Paul knew this fact to be true so then he wrote in Romans 7:24, "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"

Now let us look at the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus which is the ONLY solution to this problem.

Romans 7:25, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

The he goes on Romans 8:1-2,"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Now here is the GOOD news, "For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2015/4/17 15:05
I don't like these threads that call out others, I think we would be more fruitful calling out ourselves. Anyone can set back and be an armchair quarterback, I guess if the thread would have been "Are "WE" doing your best to do good and avoid evil?" it would not seem so personal, and the person that started it would not seem so perfect.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2015/4/17 18:15
Hey Bill-

It's a trick question. If you answer "yes" you have fallen into the trap. You are not an enlightened Christian.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2015/4/17 18:21
Tuc-

You are twisting scripture very badly in my opinion. Christianity is not gobbledygook.

You are correct there is no condemnation for children of God because Jesus has paid our penalty.

However we must still do what our Lord commands. When we fail, we repent and keep moving onward. We "press on." Paul described the Christian experience as a race, and he said we must train for this race. We don't just coast along.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2015/4/17 20:45

Quote:
------------------Hey Bill-

It's a trick question. If you answer "yes" you have fallen into the trap. You are not an enlightened Christian.

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Man, after my triple bypass on Feb.7th, my mind has been off a little, but God gave me a second chance, thank you Lord!
Articles and Sermons :: Are you doing your best to do good and avoid evil?

Re: - posted by makrothumia (), on: 2015/4/17 20:59
Perhaps we should make a distinction between those under bondage to sin and those who have been freed from sin, circumcised of heart, and who are now new creations in Christ Jesus.

Reading the New Testament letters one will find numerous exhortations describing actions believers are encouraged to take and evils they are admonished to avoid.

We can safely assume that every encouragement to act and every admonition to abstain was given with the understanding that these actions were only possible through Christ living and working in and through them.

Why should we shrink back from warnings about dullness, apathy, laziness, neglect, and self deception? How often do we see exhortations to diligence, soberness, alertness, endurance, progress, and fruitfulness?

Have we developed an aversion to words like - "ought", "should", "must", "press in", "add", "lay hold", "be armed", "be ready"?

The ability to do any of these requires a moment by moment receiving help through the Spirit declaring the things of Christ to us. But God does make all grace to abound so that any believer can do anything Jesus, Peter, John, James, Jude or Paul said or wrote. These apostles understood that it would take their readers looking to Christ continually to walk in the truths they were calling them to lay hold of.

While it is true without doubt that apart from Him we can do nothing, it is equally true that we and, all who genuinely believe, can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

Believers must ask, seek, and knock. Put off, put on, lay hold, add to, and do all of this diligently - and growth, progress, development, and capacity will be directly affected by the way each hearer applies the grace they have available. With the measure we use it will be measured. Growth and development is not automatic. Christian growth can become stunted and retarded, and the fault of this is not upon Christ, but fully upon us.

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2015/4/18 8:28
Amen Bill!
Amen Makro!