

Shall We Do Evil That Good May Come?

Introduction:

- A. A quick survey of Romans shows that it can be broken down into four points: (1) Need for righteousness: "All have sinned" (Rom. 3:9, 23). (2) Provision: "Law, prophets spoke of righteousness to come" (3:2 1). (3) How to become righteous: Obedience to gospel. (4) Responsibilities imposed on those who are made righteous (Rom. 6, etc.).
- B. Consider the problem which some had with being made righteous by God's grace. Paul shows the Gentile were given over to a reprobate mind (Rom. 1), Jew guilty of same kind of deeds (Rom. 2). "None righteous" (3:10). His purpose was to cause Jew to see that God is no respecter of persons: It is not that God blessed one simply because he was a physical descendant of Abraham. There were Gentiles who kept things contained in the Law. The true "Israelite" is "one of the heart."
- C. When Jews rejected God's covenant with them, it gave an opportunity to extend grace to the Gentiles, "Good came from evil." Paul had to contend with the argument, "If through the conduct of the Jew, righteousness became available to all can God be just in punishing the Jew?" (Note answer in 3:5-6). These misunderstood Paul's teaching (Note vs. 5:19). Sin abounded, opportunity to show grace, "Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?" (6: 1).

Rom 3:5-6 - But if our unrighteousness demonstrates the righteousness of God, what shall we say? The God who inflicts wrath is not unrighteous, is He? (I am speaking in human terms.) What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

Rom 5:19 - For as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, even so through the obedience of the One the many will be made righteous.

Rom 6:1 - What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?

[Common attitude of people: the end justifies the means!! "The end results determines if matter is right or wrong."]

I. God Can Overrule Evil To Bring About Good

[We must accept this conclusion if we accept the God of the Bible. God is at work in affairs of people. "Providence" can bring about good from evil.]

A. Joseph's brothers sold him into bondage

1. He rose in power; made provision for time of famine in Egypt
2. Brought his own family to Egypt to provide for them.
3. At time of father's death, brothers remembered their evil act - Gen. 50:15-20

Genesis 50:15-20 - When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "What if Joseph bears a grudge against us and pays us back in full for all the wrong which we did to him!" So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father charged before he died, saying, 'Thus you shall say to Joseph, 'Please forgive, I beg you, the transgression of your brothers and their sin, for they did you wrong.'" And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father.'" And Joseph wept when they spoke to him. Then his brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." But Joseph said to them, "Do not be afraid, for am I in God's place? "As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good in order to bring about this present result, to preserve many people alive.

4. We may not always see the good that is being produced.

B. Israelites suffered in Egypt. Pharaoh, a wicked, heartless ruler, was raised up for a purpose - Exo 9:16

Exodus 9:16 - "But, indeed, for this reason I have allowed you to remain, in order to show you My power and in order to proclaim My name through all the earth.

C. Death of Christ (Acts 2:23)

Acts 2:23 - this Man, delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God, you nailed to a cross by the hands of godless men and put Him to death.

1. Acts 3:14-15 - Because of the wickedness of people;

Acts 3:14-15 - "But you disowned the Holy and Righteous One and asked for a murderer to be granted to you, but put to death the Prince of life, the one whom God raised from the dead, a fact to which we are witnesses.

2. Good accomplished. Essential to make people righteous.

D. In all these cases, as well as others, God brings good from evil. But does this justify the evil?

II. ***How To Determine Distinction In The Good And Evil?*** (People call evil good and good evil).

A. People's perception is distorted

1. People engage in many things he thinks to be good, but in reality, are evil

a. Jesus told disciples there would be a time when people would persecute them, thinking they were doing service to God - Jn. 16:2

John 16:2 - "They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God.

b. Early disciples suffered persecutions (see Acts 8 - Death of Stephen, disciples scattered abroad).

2. Good came from evil

3. Saul "thought" he was doing the right thing

B. Only way to determine good or evil is by what is revealed in the word of God

1. God knows the outcome

2. If not in the word, not authorized, doesn't please Him

3. Therefore, it is evil - see Matt. 7:21-23

Matthew 7:21-23 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven will enter. "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

C. David attempted to move the Ark of the Covenant on a new cart - 1 Chron. 13:9

1 Chronicles 13:9 - When they came to the threshing floor of Chidon, Uzza put out his hand to hold the ark, because the oxen nearly upset it.

1. Uzza killed

2. Actions were without authority

3. No greater example to teach the lesson

III. ***People Use Idea Of "Good Result" To Justify Practices***

A. Men use idea of "good result" to justify: practices. Practices which are detrimental to society are "justified" by the "good results."

1. "Sin taxes" - Alcohol, tobacco, gambling, etc. "Legalize practice, tax it, because people will

do such any way.”

B. "Situation Ethics" - Situation determines conduct. if act is from love, good results, then justified.

1. Lying justified at times: "if truth would hurt." "Could contribute to the emotional stability of a person." R.C. "Mental Reservation." - Rev. 21:8

Revelation 21:8 - "But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

2. No area where more prevalent than "sexual conduct."
 - a. Immoral, impure acts justified by "love."
 - b. "Adultery can result in more contented, healthy relationship."

C. In realm of religion:

1. Denominationalism "justified" by good results. "All can worship God in way they see best."
 - a. Jn. 17:21 is ignored.

John 17:21 - that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me.

- b. 2 Cor. 1:11-13 is ignored

2 Corinthians 1:11-13 - you also joining in helping us through your prayers, so that thanks may be given by many persons on our behalf for the favor bestowed on us through the prayers of many. For our proud confidence is this: the testimony of our conscience, that in holiness and godly sincerity, not in fleshly wisdom but in the grace of God, we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially toward you. For we write nothing else to you than what you read and understand, and I hope you will understand until the end;

2. Brethren:
 - a. Century ago, instrumental music "justified." "So many congregations can't sing. Makes for more pleasing worship service." To whom?
 - b. Cooperation of congregations (collective).
 - c. Recreation, entertainment. 'took at the good. It attracts, holds young people."

IV. God Can Bring Good From Evil, But The Evil Is Not Justified, Nor The One Who Practices Such.

A. Reason for question of Rom. 3:6-7

Romans 3:6-7 - May it never be! For otherwise, how will God judge the world? But if through my lie the truth of God abounded to His glory, why am I also still being judged as a sinner?

B. If it is true that "good" would "justify" evil then how can God justly condemn ANY SIN?

Conclusion:

- A. God can be glorified in all situations by His working good. But God desires to be glorified (honored) by people doing what is right, by doing what is revealed.
- B. Should desire to walk so as to glorify, please God.
- C. Glorified when men honor Son. When men are obedient to His commands, become a child of God.
- D. Those who do good will be rewarded.
- E. "One who does evil that good may come pays a toll to the devil to enter into heaven."