

Personal/Small Group Study

Week of March 17, 2024 A.D.

Overcome Evil with Good

The people of the world are in rebellion against God and against His Son Jesus the Christ. God has called all Christians to rebel against the rebellion and to overcome evil with good.

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read 1 Peter 1:1-2

1. What does it mean to be a “stranger in the world”? Was Jesus a “stranger in the world”? Does Jesus expect every Christian to live as a stranger in the world? If not, why not? If so, why?
2. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “The more I allow Jesus to guide and control my life, the less concerned I become about satisfying my material, physical, sensual, and personal desires.”
3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “The world is all about power, wealth, and personal satisfaction. Being a Christian is all about dying to the things of this world and choosing to live for Christ.”
4. To be “sanctified” means to be “set apart from a common use to a holy use.” What is the “sanctifying work of the Spirit”? Are all Christians sanctified? What role does (a) your personal desire, (b) your personal commitment, and/or (c) your personal effort play in your personal sanctification?
5. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Because salvation is through faith alone in Christ alone, my personal obedience to Christ is irrelevant to my life on earth.”

Read 1 Peter 2:11-12

6. Please identify some attitudes and patterns of behavior which confirm that a Christian is an "alien and stranger in the world."
7. Please identify the "sinful desires" which "war against the soul" of (a) every Christian and (b) every non-Christian. What harm results (and to whom) when a Christian does not "abstain from sinful desires"?
8. Are people who are doing good ever accused of doing wrong? If so, how? If so, why? In the eyes of God, what distinguishes a good deed from a bad deed?
9. Does God expect all Christians to do good deeds? If so, (a) how often? (b) for whom or to whom? and, (c) why?
10. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Jesus did not die to make us good. Jesus died to make us holy."

Read Ephesians 2:8-10

11. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "Good works do not save us from going to hell. God saves us and God empowers us and expects us to do the good works which He has assigned for us to do."
12. Read verse 10. What does it mean: (a) to be God's workmanship; and (b) to be created in Christ Jesus? Does God have a purpose for your life? If so, do you have a spiritual obligation to God to (a) discover your purpose and (b) fulfill your purpose? Why?

Conclusion: This world is not our home. We are simply strangers passing through. Our mission is to discover and to do the good works which have been personally assigned to each of us by our Lord Jesus; and, which we have been fully equipped to accomplish those works through the power of the Holy Spirit. Nothing else really matters. "You think about that." Amen.