

EVIL IS A THOUGHT PATTERN

Is it Yours?

Are You Influenced by the Word or by Evil?
Are You Sure?

taken from
1 Timothy 1:18

Second in a Four Part Series

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EVIL IS A THOUGHT PATTERN IS IT YOURS?

Tonight we're in 1 Timothy 1:18. Paul's writing to Timothy in Ephesus to encourage him to communicate the Word of God. Timothy here appears as if he was a student of the Word, but he's pretty poor at application. As we go through Timothy we'll see some of the concepts. In verse 18 where we stopped last time, he's telling him that he should war a good warfare. One of the issues in the spiritual conflict is one that we're studying on Sunday nights in the book of Hebrews, which is an unseen spiritual conflict.

But, there are other principles along with that. One of the conflicts would come under the word "evil." Throughout your Scriptures you'll find the word "evil." Most of the time when you read that word, you think about something that is overtly evil, something that is distasteful, and so on. One of the great issues throughout Timothy is the principle of evil. *What does the Bible have to say about the principle of evil?*

We'll take this up point by point so you'll be able to get it. We'll tie in some verses with it. As far as a definition for "evil" goes, we could say that **evil is the operation of Satan as the ruler of this world.** In other words, evil is something that Satan throws out, some platform, some viewpoint.

You know, there are some viewpoints that are human. There are some viewpoints that are satanic, and there are some viewpoints that are Divine. Well, evil is Satan's method of operation. Evil includes many, many things, and **not sin particularly.** Occasionally sin is included in the word "evil," but not mainly. Evil would include **human good, as apart from Divine Good. Human good and evil would be something like the attempts to solve the problems of life apart from the Lord. That would be evil. It's not something overt, but it's a system. It's a plan. It's thoughts. It's attempts to solve the problems of life apart from God. Only God can solve**

the problems of life. Only God can solve your problems. Any attempt to solve man's problems by man's efforts is called EVIL!

Evil would include humanitarianism. Evil would include philanthropy. Evil would include socialism. Evil would include sociology. Evil would include, for example, public welfare. These are all a part of Satan's plans. In other words, **Satan is trying to bring in a panacea, or panaceas, with his own system apart from God.** God says "I'm the One who can solve your problems." But, Satan says "Forget Him. I've got some systems that are better than His."

That's trying to bring in a Millennial situation without the Lord Jesus Christ and the Millennial reign of Christ. **Evil would include the social gospel, which is man by man's efforts trying to gain salvation through some works.** Or like having eternal life by helping someone cross the street. God would definitely not, for example, shut the gates of Heaven on a person who has sent food to Africa. That's the social gospel.

Building better water systems in some remote part of the world. Solving social things. Social action. Distortion of law. The distortion of any system of establishment in order to solve social and economic problems. We have seen in our day where there have been certain principles of law that have been distorted to solve the social and economic problems of the world. Greater good for the greater number.

Evil would be legalism. Evil would be religionism. Religion says that they can give you a plan whereby you can have eternal life apart from Christ. That's evil. Every deviation from the Word of God and the constituted laws of Divine Establishment are evil. Remember, you have to distinguish, as a born again believer, in your soul, the difference between sin and evil.

Sin and evil both originate from Satan. So, they have a common source. But, they are distinguished in Scripture regarding the human race. Sin comes from the old sin nature and your area of weakness. The area of weakness in your old sin nature produces sin. Hebrews 12:1 says, *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, Let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”* So, in your old sin nature there’s an area of weakness. **Every time that you’re out of fellowship you go to that area of weakness. That’s the sin that so easily besets you.** So, sin comes from the area of weakness of the old sin nature.

There are three categories of sin that are depicted in the Scripture and not one of them is cards or TV. I don’t know if I should tell you about them because you may get involved with them. Sometimes when you’re teaching a subject like this, which may be new for someone, then they start doing it. Anyway, it’s better to know than not to know.

- The first area is **Mental Attitude Sins**. Mental Attitude Sins include sins like envy, jealousy, pride, hatred, implacability. They are all mental.
- Then there are **Verbal Sins**. These include gossip, maligning, judging other people. These are all Verbal Sins.
- Then, there’s a third category which is **Overt Sins**, like murder, for example. That’s the area of sin which comes from your old sin nature always.

Now, evil comes from what the Bible calls the heart, which in reality is the thinking part of the mind. Here is your soul:

- You have *self-consciousness* where you are aware of yourself and things around you.
- Then there’s your *mentality* where you think.
- There’s your *volition*, where you make decisions in life. You decide to do one thing or the other.
- Then *emotions*, where you appreciate the things you see and do.

- Your *conscience* is like a little ruler, which is your norms and standards.

That’s your soul. It also includes the old sin nature. **The old sin nature includes your area of weakness, which produces sin, your area of strength which produces human good, and there’s a lust pattern in your area of weakness. When you’re out of fellowship in your area of weakness you produce sins and in your area of strength you produce human good.**

Sin comes from the area of weakness in your old sin nature. **Evil comes from the mentality of the soul. It’s your thought pattern. Evil is a thought!** So, evil comes from the heart, as the Bible says, the heart, but the Greek word is actually KARDIA, which is the mind. The Hebrew word is LOBE, which is also the mind. **The Bible never talks about the physiological pump.** So, evil comes from what the Bible calls the heart, which is really the thinking part of the mind. **It says that the heart is the source of evil and so then evil is a thought!**

Now, sin can be a thought also. But it can be many other things. There’s one sin, for example, which is always tied up with evil, and that’s the sin of pride and arrogance. You know, the first sin that was ever committed was committed by Satan, and that was pride, or arrogance. This led to Satan’s policy and Satan’s revolution, which was evil, a thought pattern.

So, evil and pride are always tied in together. The person who practices evil either has blind arrogance, or obvious arrogance. So, both sin and evil originate from Satan, **but sin comes from the old sin nature, and evil comes from the heart, or the mind.**

The way that sin is handled is by confession of sin, 1 John 1:9, *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”* The reason why we can do this is because 1 John 1:7 says, *“the blood of Jesus Christ keeps on cleansing from all sins,”* because on the Cross, Jesus Christ bore the sins of the whole world.

But evil was not handled at the Cross.

Since evil is the issue in Satan's rule, then evil will continue to exist throughout the course of human history until the Second Advent of Christ. Evil will not be abolished until the Second Advent of Christ. Because at the Second Advent of Christ, Satan will be removed as the ruler of this world and **Jesus Christ will become the Ruler of this world and evil will be abolished.** But, throughout the course of human history evil must exist, because evil is the policy of Satan. Satan is called many times in the Bible "the evil one."

Don't be too superficial when you read the word "evil." **Don't think of Satan as being some grotesque individual producing some real gross overt sin. He's very scintillating. He's very clever. And evil is just a thought pattern or a system.** So, evil is the policy of the evil one. The principle is that Satan's free will and man's free will must operate until this unseen conflict is resolved.

We've studied in detail vocabulary words for "sin" so we won't repeat them. A believer who is oriented to the Grace of God is **always** protected from evil. Obviously, a person who is a believer, who is Grace oriented, has the Word of God built up in their soul. And **having the Word of God in your soul, this is your insulation against evil.** In other words, the doctrinal thoughts of the soul come through the daily function of "*Growing in Grace by the knowledge of our Saviour Jesus Christ.*"

The Word is communicated. The Word goes into your mind and it becomes objective reality. And it's understood by means of God the Holy Spirit who controls the soul at that time when the information is presented. God the Holy Spirit makes it objective reality.

At that particular point it is academically understood. Then, the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ has human volition which must go into operation. **When you have a positive attitude towards the Word and the information that was communicated, that positive attitude of faith causes the Word of God to be transferred to the human spirit, where it becomes full knowledge, where it is useable.**

There it becomes the basis of orientation to life and insulation against evil. The memory center of the believer processes this information into vocabulary storage and categorical storage and also processes the information so that you have new norms and standards and a new conscience is developed.

Over in 2 Corinthians 10:5 it says "*Bring every thought into captivity for Christ.*" That's talking about this process, by which evil is eliminated from the soul. In other words, **the soul becomes the real battleground in this unseen conflict.** Your soul was saved when you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour. Your salvation includes the fact that in eternity you will have a new body. You will have a resurrection body.

In the mean time, between the point of salvation and your resurrection body, in your soul there is an issue that exists. **Satan is seeking to capture that soul by a system of thinking called evil.** This is angelic-type thinking which is in revolt against God. **He's trying to steal your thought pattern.** See, he can't take away your salvation! He can't indwell you because of God the Holy Spirit, the Lord Jesus Christ, and even God the Father indwelling you. It's the principle of "*He that is in you is greater than he that is in the world,*" So, he can't indwell you. He **can't** take away your salvation. He can't take away your spiritual gift. **But, he can nullify you by capturing your soul by thoughts.**

Just think for a minute. How many people do you know, for example, in Washington? That's a place of evil. I don't mean the playing of cards, or the dancing in the streets, or drinking vodka. I mean **they are trying to solve the problems of the world by human good and social action. That's evil!** We're up to our neck in evil. In other words, they're not using the *Divine Viewpoint*, or God's Plan of solving these problems.

The only protection that we have as believers is the Word of God and it acts as an insulation against evil. In Psalm 21:11 it says that a Grace-oriented believer is protected from evil. Every one of these passages that I

will give you will have the word "evil" in it. Maybe you've read them before and haven't seen them in this light. Psalm 21:11 says, "For they stretched out evil against you: they devised a conspiracy which they are not able to carry out." In this passage you are talking about a system of thinking which is evil. "For they stretched out evil against you: and they devised a conspiracy which they are not able to carry out."

So, there is a system and a thought pattern. **But they can't capture your soul, because here is a believer who has the Word of God as his insulation and protection.** It's like a shield and these thoughts just bounce off. You say "No way!" If someone says to you for example, "The United Nations is the answer to the world's problems," but the United Nations is 60+ years old and they started 60+ years ago and they said that they would cease wars. Ever since they got in, they started more than we have. And so we know that is the United Nations. Before that was the League of Nations, before you were born, but they had changed the name but the poison was the same. **It's man by man's efforts trying to solve man's problems. It won't work! That's evil.**

"For they stretched out evil against you: and they devised a conspiracy which they are not able to carry out," Psalm 21:11. Due to the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ controls history, and due to the fact that we're dealing in Psalm 21 with a believer who's interested in the Word of God, the conspiracy and the evil that was brought against David did not succeed. David was free from the influence of evil and therefore, every evil conspiracy against him was eliminated by the Lord.

Now, in Proverbs 12 we have the same subject in three different verses. In Proverbs 12:12 it says "The evil desires the plunder of evil men: but the root of the righteous," the "root of the righteous" is simply the Word of God in the soul, "produces and protects." In other words, Proverbs 12:12, "The evil desire the plunder of evil men: but the root of the righteous protects and produces."

And then in Proverbs 12:20, "Deceit in the mind of those who devise evil: but counsellors of prosperity or establishment, have happiness in the mind." Once again we see the principle: There is a system of evil. It's a bombardment of a thought pattern. But the Word of God not only produces protection against evil, but the same Word jointly produces happiness in the soul.

Then in Proverbs 12:21 it says, "So no evil happens to the believer, but the evil ones themselves are filled with trouble." It's interesting because a believer can go home two ways. I don't know whether you know it or not. You can live a full life, which can be any age. Full just means as far as God's plan for you is concerned. You know God has a plan for your life. If you're positive to the Word you'll come to a full age, and that means God's allotted time for you. Now, the age varies according to what plan He has for you. But you can come to a full age if you're positive to the Word of God.

Actually you go home when you are ripe if you are a positive believer because the illustration is of corn in season. It's the agricultural illustration of full age. But, you can go home another way by shortening your life, which is called the **sin unto death**, spoken of in 1 John. That means that you are negative to the Word of God for a long time and you stay negative. So you "short-circuit" yourself, as it were. You still have eternal life but you go home before your time. There's another way for you to go home: if the Rapture occurs. But that would be full age for you at that point anyway.

So, actually we can say that the type of death a believer dies, the nature of that believer's death, depends on what happens to that believer's soul after salvation. **If you were influenced in your soul by evil, then you will probably go out under the sin unto death, which would be a horrible, miserable death,** which we studied in Proverbs. That would be the worst Divine discipline which could ever occur in the life of a believer.

1 Corinthians 11 gives us the same concept. When a believer is negative to the Word

of God it says that this is why some are weak, some sick, and some sleep. Sleep is Christian death, with the connotation of waking up.

So, there are three disciplines to a perpetually negative believer. There's weakness, there's sickness, and then there's death. So, **the worst discipline that could ever happen to a born again believer is to be taken home before his time, and that would be the sin unto death.** But, if, during your life as a born again believer, you are **influenced by the Word of God in your soul, then you will have the most wonderful, relaxing, glorious death that could ever come to anybody.** All you have to do when you contemplate death as a believer, is just take in the Word of God and when that opportunity comes, you will never even know it. You'll be absent from the body and face-to-face with the Lord. *Who's afraid to go home?*

David understood this, probably more so than any. Job understood this very well. And Job said, *"Though skin worms destroy my body, I know that I will see the Lord face to face."* And David said that *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the believer who dies."* Precious means most valuable. Then Paul came along and picked up the same concept and wrote *"For me to live is Christ, but for me to die is gain."* So, there are three illustrations that tell you they knew something about Christian death.

David understood it in Psalm 23:4 where he said, "Yea." I don't know whether you've ever studied the "yeas" in the Bible, but they are very interesting. Or, did you just pass them by? It's really interesting, the genius of God the Holy Spirit. You know, if you take a word like "yea," you read it and you said that means "yeah." All right? There's a unique principle about this. When God has exhausted Himself, if He could exhaust Himself, which He couldn't, but this is just language of accommodation. If God could exhaust Himself and He couldn't say anything more, then He tacks it on and He says "yea." He says *"Six things do I hate, yea, and the seventh."* "Now, here's one more." So, this is an emphasis. See, in Scripture there are no periods, question marks, ex-

clamation marks, dangling participles, but everything is decided by syntax. This is where He gives you an emphasis. There's no underlining in the Bible. You should, but in the original language there isn't any.

This word "yea" has great meaning in Psalm 23:4. *"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil."* Now, that's not sin. That's evil. That's satanic thinking. David knew that his death would be free from evil, and that it was.

How about Romans 8:28 and Genesis 50:20? *"They meant it for evil, but God meant it for good to deliver many souls alive."* What is that evil? It's a thought pattern – Satanic thought pattern. They intended evil, but **God converts evil into blessing.**

Jacob was speaking and he was blessing the two sons of Joseph. And he said to Ephraim and Manasseh as he crossed his hands, *"If you remember, the Angel, the Lord Jesus Christ, redeemed me from all evil."* That's not again sin. That's evil. **In other words, all blessings and all happinesses are based upon being free from evil.** He was actually saying in effect that their blessings, Ephraim and Manasseh, would depend upon, entirely upon, the Grace of God.

Psalm 37:16-19 is another passage. It says *"better the little,"* that is what the Grace believer possesses, *"than the abundance of those who are in evil."* **So, if you're great in the field of materialistic things, if you're great in the field of wealth or success or prosperity, the things which are usually associated with happiness, you have an evil.**

See, money will make you miserable. Social life will make you miserable. Even a promotion will make you miserable if you're involved with evil. Evil again, is a thought pattern. **Whatever it is in your life that you want, if your soul is controlled by whatever it is when you attain it, it will bring you misery instead of happiness.** This is one of the big delusions about money and all other things which are related to promotion and success and blessing in life.

In this same passage he says *“better is a little, than the abundance of many evil ones; for the arms of the evil will be broken, but the Lord sustains the Grace-oriented believer.”* The Lord knows the days of the Grace believer and they have a future blessing as well. And it says there *“Their inheritance will be forever and they will not be ashamed in the time of historical evil: and in the days of depression they will continue to have an abundance.”*

So, we have a principle: **Historical adversities do not affect the born again believer who is influenced in his soul by the Word of God.** That’s what this passage in Psalm 91:10 says. *“No evil will befall you.”* David understood this. He was never under the influence of evil, except for two occasions in his life.

Now, Psalm 97:10 brings out the same concept. See, some of these passages we may have studied before and looked at evil as something different. When you look at it this way, then you see it’s something entirely different. Psalm 97:10 says *“You who love the Lord will learn to hate evil: the Lord who preserves the souls of the godly ones delivers you from the hands of the evil one.”*

You see, you come to love the Lord by maximum knowledge of the Word of God. The more of the Word of God that you have in your soul, the more you are going to have a relationship and a love affair with the Lord. The greater your capacity for loving the Lord through the Word of God, the more that you will be able to discern and despise evil as a thought pattern of Satan. The thinking of evil will, therefore, have no effect in your soul, and you will be insulated in your soul, against these thoughts which can make you or break you. **The thoughts that make you a great person are the Word of God. The thoughts which will destroy you are evil, satanic thoughts.** So, thinking then, means to be using your soul as a battleground. All thoughts in life are actually fighting over your soul!

You know, if you go to a show, if you read a newspaper, if you read a magazine, or listen to the radio, TV, books, or whatever it is, education so-called, they are all fighting for your

soul. When you’re taking in a maximum amount of the Word of God, it immediately eliminates and drives away, repels, all the thoughts which are related to Satan’s policy known in the Scripture as evil.

Now, in Psalm 119:101 it says *“I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I may guard the Word.”* In Psalm 121:7 it says *“The Lord will protect you from all evil.”* He will guard your soul. This is always accomplished through the Word.

So that in Proverbs 1:33 it says *“He that listens to the Word shall live in security and shall be at ease from the dread of evil.”* Every one of these verses, and many more, have this concept. Proverbs 2:10-14 says *“For the Word will enter your mind, and knowledge of the Word will be pleasant to your soul. Application of the Word will guard you, understanding will watch over you, deliver you from the way of evil.”* Every where you turn in the Bible **it is the Word of God that protects you from evil.** The Word of God is Divine thinking, *Divine Viewpoint.* Evil, then, becomes Satanic thinking.

The Word then, is the genius of God expressed. Whereas evil is counterfeit. It’s genius, but it’s the genius of Satan expressed. God has expressed Himself and expressed His genius by His Word. Satan is a genius and he has expressed himself by his word. His title is evil. **God’s title is Grace.**

Scripture says *“For those who leave the path of righteousness,”* that’s a believer who is negative to the Word, *“who walk in the ways of darkness, who delight in doing evil and find happiness in the distortions of evil.”*

Now, there is protection from all of these. Proverbs 3:7 says *“Do not be wise in your own eyes: fear the Lord and turn away from evil.”* *“Fear the Lord”* again is occupation with Christ, again, looking at life from the *Divine Viewpoint,* and that causes you to turn away from evil.

Proverbs 19:23 says *“Occupation with the Lord is capacity for life: so that one may sleep satisfied, never visited or never touched by evil.”* **The Word of God in your soul is the only protection that we have against evil.**

Because, you must remember that no matter how smart you are, no matter how great your IQ is, Satan is much smarter.

Occasionally you'll run into people whose lives have been changed radically and you'll wonder about it. You'll find out, after due consideration, that it is the influence of evil. God says *"Don't be afraid of those who destroy the body: be afraid of those who can destroy the soul."* **Evil is smarter than any of us.** Evil, then, becomes to our disdain, the genius of Satan.

Satan is smarter than any of us and we have no protection against evil except when we're grounded in the Word of God. *"The children of darkness are wiser than the children of light."* The believer who is negative to the Word of God causes himself to be changed into evil. **When you reject the Word of God, you reject your own protection and your only insulation against evil.**

Proverbs 5:13, 14 says *"I have not listened to the voice of my teachers, nor have I concentrated on their instructions. I was immediately in evil in the middle of the assembly in the congregation."* Solomon's personal testimony. *"I have not listened to the voice of my teachers"* is a negative attitude towards the communicated Word. *"Nor concentrated on their instructions"* is a negative attitude towards the communicated Word. *"I was immediately in evil in the middle of the assembly in the congregation."* This is Solomon's personal testimony. And for documentation on this, read Ecclesiastes and see his frantic search for happiness – following satanic thinking, following evil, and leaving God completely out. He didn't listen to the Word and he didn't concentrate on it and he was involved with evil.

So, we come up with a principle: **The issue to the born again believer is this: Are we influenced by the Word of God, or are we influenced by evil?**

You have free will. I have free will. And we all have to decide. You have to know what to do about it. Proverbs 11:18, 19 says that a negative believer earns wages of deception, but he who sows Grace has his true reward.

"He who is persistent in Grace through life, but he who pursues evil pursues his own death." That's the principle of the sin unto death. The choice that we have then is this: We can choose evil, and as a result of that, the sin unto death. Or we can choose to be positive to the Word of God, which results in great blessing.

Proverbs 14:22 says *"Will they not go astray, those who devise evil? but Grace and Truth to those who devise the absolute Good."* Proverbs 15:3 says *"The eyes of the Lord are in every place,"* that's His omniscience, *"watching the evil and the good."* That's omniscience and omnipresence.

In other words, Divine omnipresence is a factor in providing discipline for a believer who is negative, the believer who is influenced by evil. At the same time providing blessings for the believer who is Grace oriented, who is under the influence of the Word of God. **If you don't think that is genius!** *"The eyes of the Lord are in every place, watching the evil and the good,"* having the discernment. So, it is a factor as to whether or not we are disciplined or blessed.

Proverbs 16:6 says, *"By Grace and Truth one recovers from being negative: by occupation with the Lord one is insulated from evil."* Proverbs 22:3 says, *"The wise sees the evil, and hides himself: but the ignorant one goes into the evil and is punished by it."* Proverbs 24:1-4 warns against ever being influenced by evil. It has a pseudo-stimulation, which is destructive.

In Ephesians 5:16 we have the principle of redeeming the time, *"because all days are evil."* Again, that doesn't mean overt sinfulness. It doesn't pertain to pornography. It's talking about a thought pattern. **It's a very subtle thought pattern.**

"Redeeming the time because all days are evil." Time is redeemed through the establishment of some maturity formed in your soul by the Word of God. 2 Thessalonians 3:2, 3 says *"that we may be delivered from perverse and evil men, for all men do not have the Word. But the Lord is faithful, He will strengthen you, and protect you from all evil."*

That's where we need to be historically as a nation. Right here. We need to be protected from evil by the Lord. **We need a resuscitation of our national life based on the Word of God.** You know, that was the foundation of our country. Therefore, today we're losing everything that is important. We're in danger. Follow me in this **concept of surrendering everything that we have to the principle of evil.** Religion, do-goodism, and so forth. Man by man's efforts trying to solve man's problems.

For example, if you happen to be in business, you can see the rapid advance of evil in business in every form. It's coming on in gallops. If you are in professional life you see it. If you're in the business of fighting crime, pardon the expression – crime isn't fought any more, crime is pacified. If you're a police officer or in law enforcement you see evil advancing. Some night I'd like to have a friend of mine come up here, who works full-time in prison, and just tell you what's going on. But I don't think you'd believe him. It's unbelievable. They have one floor for homosexuals alone. But, that's not all of it. I can't even express it. If you're in the judicial end, you see the same thing.

Take for example the profession of medicine. **Socialized medicine, you can quote me, is a ghastly evil.** Yet we're going for it because England went for it. Anything that England went for we should never go for. That's why we're here and they are there. Why do you think we're here? Because of England. Now we're going back to England again and copying their socialism. Now we're trying to socialize medicine. What's that? That's evil. **Socialized medicine destroys the very greatness of our medical practice.** The great medical practice that we have comes from free enterprise.

You may complain about a doctor bill from time to time, but you don't realize that that doctor starved all the way through school to get that M.D. degree and then he starved in order to buy the equipment that he has. Do you know what an investment he made? He may turn around and charge you \$50 or \$100 and it's worth it because 9 times

out of 10 you'll walk out alive. But, under socialized medicine you'll walk out dead.

Let's face it, every standard of every profession has been lowered because of evil. Our government is involved with evil. The military is involved with evil. **The Word of God neutralizes evil.** See, we wouldn't even know anything about what the true concept of what evil was if it wasn't for the Word of God. We'd be walking around like idiots.

This particular point now is really important. This is the basic concept of the recovery from the influence of evil. **If there are those who are under the influence of evil, there is recovery.** Psalm 54:5 says, *"The evil will return to those who lay in wait for me, and put them in silence with Your Word."* The concept of the Word of God neutralizing evil means that once you have come under the influence of evil, the **only possible recovery demands that you take the Word of God in in order to eliminate erroneous thoughts, human viewpoint, or the satanic policies which lie within the soul.** For that reason Romans 12:21 says *"Be not overcome with evil, but overcome the evil with absolute good."* That has nothing to do with witnessing. It has nothing to do with giving, or giving up, or 10%. The "absolute Good" being the Word of God.

But, on the other hand, in this great conflict, evil distorts the Grace of God. This particular distortion shows us the concept that one little evil thought, one satanic viewpoint, can cause the infiltration of evil into your soul. Psalm 38:19, 20 says *"My enemies are vigorous and numerous; and many are those who hate me wrongfully. They will repay evil for good. They oppose me because I follow the absolute Good."*

So, the concept is that any time a person follows the absolute Good, which is the Word of God, any time a person begins to realize in their life the importance of the Word of God, he immediately is subjected to many subtle and many obvious attacks. **The attacks of evil are always subtle. It distorts the believer to the point where the believer goes negative to the Word of God.**

I'll tell you this. It's one thing to accept Christ as Saviour. It's one thing to live your life according to the Word of God because evil will be rampant.

Psalm 52:1 says, "*Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The Grace of God endures all the day long.*" "*Why do you boast in evil, O mighty man? The Grace of God abides all the day long.*" Now in Psalm 52:1 you should underline the rest of that passage. "*The Grace of God endures all day long.*" **The fact that the Grace of God endures in spite of evil indicates that even though evil attacks, and evil attacks by distorting the Grace of God, Grace is the fact that it brings us back around again. Stay with the Grace of God!**

1 Corinthians 15:33 is a passage that's been awfully misquoted. It says "*Be not deceived. Evil company corrupts good manners.*" But the word is "good morals," not "good manners." Now what does that mean? Evil company isn't some grotesque person. Who would be evil company?

Evil company refers to some of the nicest people you ever know. "Let's take all of our money and send it to the starving people in India." Now, that's a nice person. People in India need the Lord Jesus Christ, but they don't want Him. They want to worship cows. Do you understand? And now you help them worship cattle.

Some of the nicest people in the world are evil. You know, some of them are very attractive. For example, Robert Redford. "He's so charming." He's so evil! He wears plastic shoes and belts because he wouldn't hurt an animal. "Save the animals!" What about save the soul? No animals! Evil, it's attractive. I get a kick out of all of these entertainers who they ask to come out with all of these proclamations. Where did they get their viewpoint from? What makes them an authority?

Some people who stimulate you are evil. Some people who may be successful in many fields of endeavor, people that you may enjoy, can be evil. **When there is any social intercourse of any kind, it's inevitable that you**

will receive thoughts. Thoughts will be thrown out, concepts, and they're evil. **And when you accept these concepts, you accept them because you accept the person.** Then you have corrupted your soul. A nice, pleasant, scintillating person with 7000 degrees has corrupted your soul. It's the concept of the corruption of your soul that is found here in 1 Corinthians. "*Be not deceived, evil company corrupts good morals.*"

Evil also distorts Divine Establishment. Psalm 50:16-21 says, "*But to the evil man, what right do you have to distort My laws, says the Lord.*" These are laws of establishment. You know, there are laws being distorted today right before our eyes. Laws have been distorted and they have been used for panaceas.

You know, this guy has a panacea for life. Another guy has a panacea for life. **But the only panacea that exists in life is the Word of God.** And the use of law to become a panacea is a satanic distortion and a satanic function. The Lord says in Psalm 50:16 "*What right do you have to distort My laws and to take My covenants in thy mouth, for you hate discipline.*" One of the basic characteristics of evil is rejection of Divine authority and constituted Divine authority through the laws of establishment. "*You hate discipline,*" or authority, "*and you cast My Words behind you. You see a thief and you are pleased with him. You socialize with adulterers and you send your mouth loose on evil,*" Psalm 50:15-21.

That's the concept of criticizing what you do not understand. Have you ever run across someone that always criticizes something that they don't understand anything about it? They may criticize you. And they may say something about you, and that's not you at all. They don't understand you, but they criticize anyway.

And He says in this Psalm, "*and your tongue framed deceit. You sit and speak against your brother; you slander your mother's son.*" You'll notice that evil in this passage is also related to sins of the tongue – maligning, gossiping, judging other people. "*These you have done, but I have kept silent. You thought that I*

was just like you." And that's the thinking of evil.

I want to give you that passage once more. Psalm 50:21, the Lord is speaking. He says "These you have done, but I have kept silent. You thought," God said, "that I was like you." **And that's the thinking of evil.** Here is a blasphemous thought, that God does nothing about these things. "You thought that I was just like you." He says "I will reprove you. I will state the case in order before your eyes. I will start with the disciplinary system of warning. Then we will go to intensive discipline and then, if necessary, to dying discipline." That's the concept in Psalm 50.

God was very patient. God gives the human race every opportunity to recover from evil. Those who refuse to recover from evil will go out under the sin unto death. Negative believers are influenced by evil. That's told in Psalm 36:1-4. In that particular passage we have the principle that evil begins at certain stages when a believer is negative. For example, in the opening stage, when you become negative to the Word of God, there's a **reaction stage**. You generally have a reactor factor, such as self-pity. And another one of them is loneliness.

Once you start a frantic search for happiness, it's inevitable that you will come into contact with evil. While it's in a stage when it isn't dangerous, by the time you get into **operation boomerang**, the intensification of your reaction, you're off on a flying start.

Then with your emotions dictating to your soul instead of responding, **when the emotions begin to rebel against the mentality of the soul, then you're in trouble.** As we've studied before in Ephesians, a vacuum is opened up and in comes the doctrine of demons, which we studied in 1 Timothy 4:1, which are evil thoughts. So, this is quite a subject and we haven't yet completed it.

Next time when you look at a passage for evil, think about the Evil One. **Think about a system and a thought pattern, not something overt necessarily.** Try to distinguish it from sin. See if you can make the distinction and realize that we do have protection from that. In other words, if you're positive to the Word, you have the *Divine Viewpoint*, you'll live your life by that, you don't even have to know what the other is. You already have that which will combat it when it comes in. When someone shoots a concept at you and you have a Divine norm and standard, it acts as a buffer and you immediately say "No way. There is no way."

It may come in like something very beautiful like "We're all going to Heaven." See? Well, that's a nice thought. You want everybody to go to Heaven. That's good. And then you have a thought that says "No. It says 'No man comes unto the Father but by Me'." Then they say "Well, we're all the children of God." And you say "No. Galatians 3:26 says 'We're all the children of God by *faith in Christ Jesus*'."

So you begin to have a buffer towards these good thoughts. "What about the people who have never heard about Christ?" "Yeah, what about that? God can't send them to hell." Then you come up with the thought that God is omnipresent and God is omniscient and God is fair and "He's not willing that any should perish. He doesn't want them to die. **So any time that they want to have a relationship with Him, He's there.** He doesn't even need a missionary. So, immediately you have concepts that help you to combat this evil thinking.

You're not going to get hooked on something bad. You're going to get hooked on something good. Actually it's good versus satanic good, or human good, either way.

This pamphlet was taken from a class taught by Buddy Dano in his series on 1 Timothy on May 1, 1985.