

CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

249 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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MY NAME

DATE

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THE APPEARANCE OF EVIL

- What Do We Mean?** (1 Thess 5:22) “_____from ____ appearance of ____.” This is the entire verse and it does say everything that even “hints at” being evil. The GK of the NT in this verse means *fashion, shape, sight*. The command is not to abstain from evil, rather to abstain from anything that even looks to be evil. We humans want a simple “laundry list” but it isn’t that easy. Why? The Christian life is one of faith and (Rom 14:23) “*whatsoever is not _____ is sin.*”
- Is It Evil Or Not?** We know we may participate only in good faith. (Rom 14:5) “*Let _____ man be fully _____ in his _____ mind.*” This means that *you* must remove any doubts that *you* may have about the wrongness of whatever faces you before *you* can be associated with it.
- Why Is This Necessary?** (a) It is important that you have good self-esteem. (Prov 4:23) “*Keep thy _____ with all _____; for out of it are the _____ of life.*” Knowing that you engage in doubtful practices is an obvious sign of weakness. (1 Tim 5:22) “*Keep _____ pure.*” (b) Christian (Mt 5:16) “*let your light _____ before men, that they may _____ your good works, and _____ your Father which is in heaven.*”
- Don’t Offend** Jesus taught (Mk 9:43) that “*if thy _____ offend thee, _____ it off.*” Did he really mean it? YES! Wouldn’t such self-mutilation be barbarous? YES! His point: Any of us would gladly “keep our hands to ourselves,” quit stealing, or making obscene gestures if the alternative was having our hand lopped off. (V47) “*If thine _____ offend thee, _____ it out.*” One could control the “roving eye,” reading filthy literature, surfing the Internet for pornography, or gazing in lust if he/she knew the immediate consequence would be having an eye gouged out. (Mt 10:28) “*but rather fear him which is able to destroy both _____ and _____ in _____.*”
- Don’t Go There!** Do I have to do it? That’s a good question. Remember (1 Cor 6:12) that “*all things are not _____.*” Some things are not *proper, suitable, or workable*. Christians are to (1 Cor 6:18) “*_____ fornication*” and (2 Tim 2:22) “*flee also youthful _____.*” James taught (4:7) “*resist the _____, and he will _____ from you.*” Avoid the look, taint, smell, or suggestion of anything that “could be” bad. That’s what God commands.
- Avoid Hypocrisy** Appearances can be deceiving. Jesus indicted the scribes and Pharisees (Mt 23) comparing them (V27) to “*_____ sepulchres*” that “*_____ beautiful outward*” but are “*full of _____ men’s _____.*” The hypocrite is a pretender. (V28) “*Ye also _____ _____ righteous unto men.*” It is hypocrisy to (Isa 5:20) “*call evil _____, and good _____.*”
- Look For Good** Your mind can hold only so much. Fill it with good and crowd out evil. Paul gives us a list. (Phil 4:8) “*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true---honest---just---pure--- lovely--- are of good report; if there be any _____, and if there be any _____, think on these things.*” It is true of all men (Prov 23:7) that “*as he _____ in his _____, so is he.*”