Responding to Evil

Romans 12: 17-21



Evil Exists

...even here in America!

40s Angeles Times On The Lantonet was parameters

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2001 TERRORISTS ATTAC NEW YORK, PENTAGO

Thousands Dead, Injured as Hijacked U.S. Airliner Ram Targets; World Trade Center Is Destroyed



Tragedy: Assault la Manhattan in chac Three of the flights en route to LA., on San Francisco. Presi Bush puts military o highest alert, closes borders and vows to find those responsible

Bygeraldrie eaum LDG Maggie Fari By CHECKING STEEL

NEW YORK Perroris Street at the presument synthesis of America's wealth and might breaty, flying April and and into the World These Center and the the Partieon, killing and injurial theorement of people

As a horrdest nation watches on television the Juin tower of the World Trade Center in lower Madatus orthocal and flaming rather after too Boeing 1872 ranged they upper trainer A Absent God, evil evokes a response:

Vengeance

Self-defense

Passive resistance

Escape

Learned helplessness



God-evoked Response

The Godly don't repay evil for evil

- Paul's instructions
 - Romans 12:17a
 - I Thessalonians 5:15
- Solomon's wisdom
 - *Proverbs* 20:22
- Jesus
 - *Matthew 5:39*
- Peter
 - I Peter 3:9

The Godly respond with good

- Paul
 - Romans 12:17b 10
 - We regard good things
 - We can seek to live peaceably
- Law of Moses
 - Exodus 23:4 5
- David's example with Saul
 - I Samuel 24:7

Vengeance is God's

- A divine prerogative, Romans 12:19
- He administers it justly, Nahum 1:1-8
 - He is slow to anger
 - He knows the hearts of men
- He has the tools to administer vengeance
 - Governments, Romans 13:1-4; I Peter 2:13-14
 - He gives men up to depravity, Romans 1:18-32
 - He will come in flaming fire, II Thessalonians 1:7-9

Thankfully, not mine

- My wrath does not produce the righteousness of God, James 1:19-20
- My wrath is often just a work of the flesh,
 Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8

Victory over evil is likely (though not assured in this life)

Goal is to overcome evil, *Romans 12:21*

- The defender or passive resister convinces the evil-doer that "might makes right"
- Evasion or learned helplessness confirms the evil-doer's assessment that we are cowardly or weak

By active good will

- This is how God changed the world, Romans 5:8; John 3:16; Romans 2:4; I Peter 2:21-25
- Jesus provides the example
 - Many turned from evil faced with sacrificial love
 - We can walk in His steps

- We may never be called to manifest the power of responding to evil with good in such a remarkable way
 - We can begin by responding to personal abuses
 - We can respond on a smaller scale
- Thus responding will not always convert the evil-doer
 - Jesus was still crucified, Hebrews 12:2-3
 - Jesus, nevertheless, committed His cause to God, I Peter 2:21-23, 4:19
- We will always demonstrate
 - We aren't like evil-doers, Luke 6:3-34
 - We are like God, Luke 6:35-36
 - In this, we are always blessed, I Peter 3:9-12

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