

Reversing Moral Foundations

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Isaiah 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

We are in an era when we are seeing wickedness boldly displayed by people of every station in life including men in positions of power and influence. We are witnessing the loss of morality and principles by mankind at a rate that has only been realized one other time upon earth...that time was in the last days of the old world before God destroyed mankind in the flood.

There has been a steady program during the 20th and 21st centuries to totally destroy the foundations of moral societies. For generations, the seducers of this world have been propagandizing human societies to believe that right and wrong are relative. In that campaign, they have brainwashed many souls into believing that right can be wrong under some circumstances, and wrong can be right under others. They are removing an ancient landmark. That landmark is God-centered moral principle. Solomon once wrote (**Ecc. 12:13**) “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.” Many think this is a statement for the religious. It is not. It is a statement for mankind.

There is a concerted effort among a massive following of Satan today that aims to undermine and destroy any knowledge of the difference between right and wrong among mankind, and to wipe out any fear of God from the face of the earth. In America, members of that group are called progressives or liberals. Elsewhere in the world they are called other things, but their agenda is the same. God describes them in **Romans 1:22-25**: “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, 23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man (*humanism personified*), and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things (*worshipping nature and natural things*). 24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves (*this is the sudden planet-wide obsession with homosexuality and transgenderism*): 25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and **worshipped and served the creature** more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.”

As believers, we should not only be aware that such people are either sworn enemies of Christ, or are unwitting pawns of the devil. In either case, they are a threat to a moral civilization, and they deny and rebel against the holiness of God, the law of God, the

principles of God, and the rulership of God over the earth. This rebellion can be identified, and in brief, our text verse does just that.

We want to consider what the Lord tells us about these people so that we can beware. Darkness and light never occupy common ground, good and evil never have a common agenda, and Christ and Belial never agree. Knowing this, we must accept that we can never have terms of peace with wicked men who plot the overthrow of the principles of God. We must remember that Christ said he came not to bring peace, but a sword; and the evil that boasts openly today is the very target for that sword. We must resist the evil around us, not yield to it. We must stand up and stand out in a world gone insane with wickedness. To do that, let us understand the difference between evil and good; the difference between dark and light. Let's learn to recognize those who war against our Lord.

I. They call good evil, and evil good

- ❖ There is nothing quite as perverted as the kind of thinking that either actually believes that good is evil and evil is good; or that uses such an argument to have things their way.
 - How can we illustrate what it means to call evil good and good evil? One good illustration can be seen in the current attitude by some Americans about the national debt.
 - We have lately heard some politicians declare that everyone who says we should reduce government spending and not increase the debt ceiling are trying to destroy America, are trying to take benefits away from our old folks, and are kicking underprivileged children out of the healthcare and social security system. This is a classic case of calling good evil and evil good.
 - Reason tells us that it is not good to be in debt to the point that we cannot pay our monthly payments. Reason also tells us that it is good to not go into debt to the point we owe more each month than we earn. Evil will come upon us; and it is an evil to do this. Our national debt is so large we can't make the payments on it. We are only paying the interest. But some politicians are saying that to want to stop spending, to cut back on spending, to cap spending is evil, and that spending more is good. This is calling evil good and good evil. The people who do this are enemies of Christ. Any one who tries to make you believe that evil is good is an enemy of Christ.
 - Here's another way we can illustrate calling good evil and calling evil good:
 - Some of our government leaders are saying that we should have abortion on demand and that we should all have to pay for it. In fact, because of the way such government leaders have handled the issue, we have been paying for

abortion on demand. We can be thankful that President Trump set regulations that prevent clinics from referring women for abortion, and some time this year a rule mandates that abortion activities of a clinic and regular health services cannot be under the same roof. Withdrawing federal funding for abortions is the goal in this.

- They say that anyone who does not want to make sure that women in need of this service can have it are robbing some of their fellow Americans of their rights. They say that the actions to take funding away from abortion work is based on "ideological agenda." Now we all know that robbery is evil. So, these government leaders and abortion advocates are saying that those of us who do not want the government paying for abortions with our tax dollars are evil...robbers; while what we want is for every American to be able to choose whether or not they want to participate (as in paying our tax dollars) in murder. It is good not to murder; and it is good to teach that people ought not to murder. It is evil to murder; and it is evil to force people to pay for murder who do not want to. Government officials who have approved of abortion on demand, and pay for it with our tax dollars say that it is good. This is calling evil good, and good evil. These people are enemies of Christ!

II. They put darkness for light and light for darkness

- ❖ The Lord is telling us here that these enemies of God try to make things that are from the kingdom of Satan to be things that are of the Kingdom of God, and vice versa. How can we illustrate that from what is going on today?
 - The U.S. White House has celebrated Ramadan during the last three presidencies, which included Clinton, George Bush, and Barak Obama. Do you know what Ramadan is? It is the Islamic holy month. Do you know what Islam is? It is a religion concocted by Mohammed. The religion he concocted teaches that under certain circumstances murder is righteous, lying is acceptable, and Jesus was just a good man, but is not the only begotten Son of God. Islam teaches that these things are truths from the only true religion and come from the only true god whose name is Allah. Islam teaches that followers of Jesus as the Christ are heretics and infidels and that their teachings come from the lowest hell, and that they may be enslaved or killed by devout Muslims. Does this not sound like **putting darkness for light and light for darkness**? These are enemies of Christ.
 - In 2011, melding of Christianity and Islam began in earnest in the U.S. At that time, 50 so-called Christian churches (*in 26 states*) banded together to have a day of worship in which they would read selected verses from the Qu'ran, the Islamic bible, in their church services. They are reading verses from the Qu'ran like it was a holy book which teaches the truth of God. **These churches are putting darkness for light and light for darkness.**

- The following headline and introduction was given by The American Dream, (an internet conservative watchdog) to announce this event: **Another Step Closer To A One World Religion: 50 U.S. Churches To Read From The Quran On Sunday** - The three main pillars of the "New World Order" that the global elite want to bring about are a one world economy, a one world government and a one world religion. A lot of attention gets paid to the development of the first two pillars, but the third pillar gets very little attention.
- But the truth is that a one world religion is getting closer than ever. "Interfaith" conferences and meetings are being held with increasing frequency all over the globe. Major global religious leaders are urging all of us to focus on our **"shared" religious traditions**. The belief that all religions are equally valid paths to the same destination is being taught in houses of worship and at religious institutions all over the globe. This "interfaith movement" is being promoted by NGOs, "charitable foundations" and top politicians and it is being backed by big money all over the planet.
- They are putting darkness for light and light for darkness. They are enemies of Christ!
- In the last 9 years, U.S. or state governments have been funding, supplying manpower, or selling Islamic leaders land at enormously low prices to build Islamic mosques both in the U.S. and in Afghanistan. For a government which viciously attacks any supposed overlap of so-called "church and state," when it involves a Christian enterprise, this government has suddenly felt it could favor a particular religion with help and money.
- This is putting darkness for light and light for darkness

III. They put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter

- ❖ In this the Lord tells us that they put sin for righteousness and righteousness for sin
 - Illustrate: Lets hear God's principles about how people are to work for what they get: **Eph. 4:28** Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with *his* hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth. **2Thess. 3:10** For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.
 - Just now, we are hearing all around the earth that the rich have too much and those who are saying these things are saying it is time for the rich to give them their share.
 - This socialist dogma began in the days of Franklin D. Roosevelt, but lately, under Obama himself people with these ideas began to openly express them.
 - Obama declared (in the Joe the plumber interview) that he intended to "spread the wealth around."
 - Today, 5 of the current top 10 Democrats running to be nominated for the

candidate for president have absolute socialist agenda

- There are editorials by progressives (I would rather call them Marxists) who say that it is only fair...only social justice...to take from the rich and redistribute the wealth.
 - ◆ Do you know where this attitude, this philosophy comes from? It comes from greedy minds of those who have an entitlement mentality which they learned as a result of brainwashing by the Marxists of the world, teachers in our public school system...especially our colleges, and as a result of being supported by a nanny state.
 - ◆ This line of thinking denies the righteousness of the principles taught in the two verses I quoted. These “social justice” advocates are declaring that the people of the world who work and sacrifice to get what they want are wicked, selfish, mean...that is sinful, and that they should have their possessions redistributed to those who have less. Those people who have less in a society like America usually don’t have enough because they’re not willing to work for it! They are defying the principles of God set forth in **Eph. 4:28** and **2Thes. 3:10**.
 - ◆ These “social justice” advocates are putting bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter. They are saying, "Don’t work as the Lord commands, but rather live off someone else." Sin is called being right and being right is called sin!!
- One more illustration will do: God instituted marriage between a man and a woman (Genesis 2:21-24). Now we have governments, human rights organizations, and a world literally saturated with homosexuals who are saying that we **MUST** allow homosexuals to **marry** each other and we **MUST** recognize those as **true marriages**; and that we are robbing some people of their rights when we oppose it, we are prejudiced, narrow-minded, bigots, and haters.
- So, for them, gay marriage is righteous and people who hold to **God’s principles for marriage** are sinful and wicked (see list above). Bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

IV. Notice God’s plans for these people

❖ “Woe unto them....”

- **Isa. 5:24** Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, *so* their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.
 - This judgment is brought to pass because they have treated the law of the Lord as garbage.
 - They have done all they could to make it disappear out of the land

- They have hated it, rejected it, by their attitude toward God's law they have nullified it in their culture
- Then, also, they have discounted the word of Christ
- They have rejected His invitation and His warning of things to come
- So, destruction has been promised to them by the Lord
 - God is setting fire to the base of their strength (devoureth the stubble and kills, or causes to rot, their very root)
 - Like a flame forms at the base of grass or hay that is being burnt, they are destroyed at the foundation of their existence (we read in **Rom. 1:28**, God gives them over to a reprobate mind-this is God's own rejection of them as those slated to be destroyed)
 - Then as their foundation is consumed by the judging anger of God, their wicked fruit, their personal growth collapses and falls to the ground to be turned into little bits of ash (their blossom shall go up as dust)