

# **“Evil and How to Combat It”**

## **2 Cor. 4:7-10**

### Introduction

- I. Contrary to what many believe, there is actual evil in this world (cf. Psm. 23:4).
- II. In the first century, Christians were surrounded by evil, much like today (2 Cor. 4:7-10).
- III. We must recognize what evil is, and do all that we can to combat it (Prov. 8:13).

### Discussion

- I. Evil exists, and is not that hard to identify.
  - A. Evil is mentioned early in the history of man (Gen. 6:5-7).
    1. Mankind had moved away from obeying God, thus evil became present (James 1:13; Mark 7:20-23; Heb. 3:12; cf. Jer. 29:11; Eccl. 12:1).
    2. There is a concerted effort to encourage evil to be accepted (Isa. 5:20).
  - B. Evil exists when certain characteristics are found (Luke 6:45; James 3:16; 1 Tim. 6:10).
- II. How do we combat and defeat evil?
  - A. Learn, and teach our families, the Word of God (Deut. 6:6-9; Eph. 6:4; cf. James 1:22; Matt. 7:24ff.)
  - B. Love as God loves (1 Cor. 13:4-5).
  - C. Hate as God hates (Prov. 6:16-19; 8:13; Psm. 97:10; Rom. 12:9)
  - D. Remove evil from our own lives (Psm. 34:14; Prov. 3:7-8; Eccl. 11:10; Isa. 1:16; 1 Thess. 5:21-22; 1 Pet. 3:10-11; cf. Zech. 1:4; 2 Tim. 4:18; Eph. 6:13).
  - E. Seek, and do, good (Amos 5:14; Rom. 12:21; 1 Thess. 5:15; 1 Pet. 3:9).

### Conclusion

- I. We must not deny that evil exists.
- II. However, if we obey God, then evil will not defeat us (Matt. 6:13; 2 Thess. 3:3).