

He That Doeth No Evil to His Neighbor

Scripture reading: Matthew 5:43-44

This title does not suggest that we could do evil to our enemies but not to our neighbours; what it does suggest is that we should do no evil at all.

Matthew 5:43-44, *“Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”*

Evil is continuously attacking the believer, and the idea is not so much to punish him or her, but it is to get the Christian to do evil in retaliation. There is no right about revenge. A blow struck in anger cannot be of God or righteousness. The child of God therefore is in a constant battle to keep himself from participating in evil. Devils will see to it that the word gets to you of what someone is saying about you, in order that you may say something against him. We see therefore, that evil is ever present with us and we must be on our double watch in order to overcome in this area.

God gives us a great deal of instructions pertaining to dealing with each other. Of course LOVE is the main ingredient in our human relationship one with another. Nevertheless, sometimes we do hurt those we love, sometimes inadvertently.

On this score, God placed four ordinances in the church (one is controversial). Each of these ordinances is a covenant with one another and with God. It is very important that we have the right relationships first at home and then with our neighbours (Christian brethren as well as sinners), then by these we learn to have right relationships with the world at large.

The ordinance of *communion* is directly aimed at us making a covenant with each other by the Blood and Body of Jesus Christ. The Blood is the Life which we share and the Body we are. *Baptism* is a covenant to follow Jesus in His ministry through His Body; *marriage* is a covenant with your partner to be one in Him; and *washing of the saint's feet*, though controversial it may be, does serve to bring the brethren together in love.

(Excerpt from *The Omega Message*, August 1983)

Thought for today: Evil is ever present with us and we must be on our double watch in order to overcome.