



# CHRIST IS THE ANSWER INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

## Cristo è La Risposta Newsletter

### Sermon-Teaching from Clark Slone

I put my heart and soul in this. I know it is a little long but I pray it will be a blessing and give hope in this time of extreme evil around us. Thanks for your love time patience and interest. Brother Clark

## The Face and Effect of Evil

### By Clark Slone

In the beginning of history God created the tree of good and evil. Since that time these have been the two most important issues in the history of man. I want to talk about the subject of evil and it's consequences to all of us.

I was surprised when I looked up the definition of evil. It's very simple; Evil is the principle that causes pain and harm; It is immoral and always threatening. I thought there would be much more of a description!

In the 70's and 80's I had the great blessing of knowing a German sister by the name of Anna Lisa Wirsing. She lived in an old suburb of Munich and was the founder of the MS Center for Germany after the war. She took care of some of the greatest personalities in the world.

From the beginning of our work in Germany she provided her home as a center of operations for Europe and Asia. I spent much time with her over the years, staying at her home during trips to other points in north Europe. She was always kind, and a true example of faith and love.

One of the many subjects we discussed in late evenings over a hot strong cup of German coffee was Adolph Hitler. She was a personal friend of his in the early days of his political life, and was often invited to the "Fuss Ganger Strasse" to eat, drink and talk politics. They would laugh and talk for hours about current issues. Anna, by the way, was from a well known Jewish family.

She said something once that made the hair stand up on my neck. "Adolph was such a good boy at that time!" In shock I replied that I had never heard of anyone calling Adolph Hitler a "good boy."

"Oh yes," she said, "At the time he felt he could bring good back to Germany. And he was a man full of good ideas then. But there was a group of men who started influencing him in a very bad way, lead by a man called Goebbels. They poisoned Hitler's mind. I saw it happening, but he stopped listening to good council."

Here was a "good" man; but evil was beating at his door, and Satan was setting him up to become one of the supreme human examples of evil, death and pain. I thought deeply about the power of bad company; and I wondered, could evil do the same to us?

It has been said that all evil men were at one time good. The beginning of evil is by wrong acts of reasonably good people. Then the principle of sin is birthed and multiplies as it always does. Evil is a progressive process. That's why some very good people become evil. Those who permit this in their lives take on an insensitive conscience. Hitler is a great example of one who was at one time a very sensitive Austrian artist who painted and appreciated nature and the beauty of creation.

In the beginning God said of His creation it "was good," and even "very good." But then, because of sin and rebellion, it changed. Even Lucifer was not originally evil.

A national magazine published the testimony of a mafia killer. He had been accused of assassinating a crime boss. The FBI gave him a concession that if he would provide them with information he would be pardoned of any past crimes he had committed and given protection. He confessed to 120 assassinations! He was asked how a person could be so evil, or if he ever felt remorse about the families and children who lost loved ones? He replied that his first murder was very difficult. He thought of grieving children and relatives and had trouble with his conscience and sleeping. The next murder was also difficult... but not as bad as the first. The more people he murdered, the easier it became. Even to the point that he would take a sack lunch to his assassinations, and would eat his meal at the scene of the crime! He no longer felt any remorse at all for his actions. That is exactly the way of evil. The more evil we do, the harder our conscience gets, and the worse we become.

A time came when like Eve in the garden Hitler was presented with a choice between good or evil, and he chose evil. We are presented continuously with the exact same choice. God had said to Adam, "in the day you eat of the tree (choose evil) you will die." It is no different today. That is why it was so important for Jesus to come and die for His beloved creation to defeat evil. He knew the heart of man was evil. We are not born evil but there comes a point in life when we choose between life or death. Some say, "But Eve didn't die. She was just cast from Gods presence." But that's not so, as she did die some 900 years later. God is patient, even in the face of the greatest evil. Don't be deceived, as God is not mocked by evil. Never let His patience be taken as a sign of acceptance.

We must be very careful when people do good to us, and yet we repay it with evil. This is a transgression of a divine principle and brings judgment upon ourselves. It shows a lack of gratitude, and that we do not value their goodness. God has done only good, and yet we say to Him by our actions that we simply do not care for the good He has done for us. If we continue it will bring about a seared conscience and will not be long before we are calling good evil, and evil good. This is the path of becoming a reprobate. Isaiah 5:20 says, "Oh what sorrow awaits those who call good evil."

The term "given over to evil" signifies that one is consumed by selfishness. It's a condition where a person sees only his own will, and cares nothing for the consequences to others. Others become second place in our life, and life becomes all about self, until we are consumed with our self. There is no longer any concern if pain, harm or discomfort is caused to others. All that is considered is our own will, contentment, or satisfaction, and at any cost. Our interests and desires become preeminent over everything else in life. Lucifer is the best example of this, and his end should speak strongly to our heart and wake us up if this principle is seducing us.

God said on the tree is good and evil. Satan said it was not that way, and is still telling us the same lie today. His goal has not changed; to kill and destroy those who God loves with the principle of evil working in personal lives and communities. God's Word tells us to "cling to what is good" for an important reason - for saving us from evil and eventually to save our eternal souls. Romans 12:9 tells us that just as Satan questioned Eve, he questions the Word today and perverts what has been said.

We have created amongst ourselves in these present times another concept of good and evil. May I call it the gray area? A principle that is not black, but then is not white either. On the tree there was not a third fruit that was somewhere in between good and evil. The Bible created no such category. Either our life is a pursuit of good or evil (see Gal 5:19&22). Evil is always evident amongst its practitioners, but the spirit of this world would like to make it seem very vague (though it is always as clear as the nose on our face). And anyone walking in the spirit of good can see it clearly.

How does this apply to us personally and the church? It is easy to put evil on Hitler, Stalin or Satan. But what about me and those around me in the church? Oh, now the principle is getting a bit personal. When the flesh is manifest amongst us and there are power plays in the church for position, evil is at the door knocking. Some will stop at nothing to put themselves first, even if it means offending, accusing, defaming or spreading false witness to achieve their ends. A position of leadership becomes a political maneuver instead of a divine appointment. There could be very integral desires but evil intent. The means does not justify evil at any time amongst us. Paul battled this in the first church. Paul stated that some had evil desires to use - and profit from - the brethren. Others wanted the prominence of leadership to the point of rejecting Paul from the church he birthed. Division, backbiting, quarreling and fighting were a very sad reality and was a fruit of evil amongst them. This brings not just pain and suffering to those involved, but it weakens the testimony of the Church, and is a sign that evil has snuck its ugly head in the door. Paul admonished us to take a stand against evil and do good. Flee from what is evil and put our arms around the feet of Jesus everyday and hold on for dear life (my interpretation).

Evil is a blinding force and keeps us from clear reasoning. Everything is clouded by how we conceive others and act toward them when evil is present in our relationship. Because of our own evil actions we feel others want to do evil acts against us. Those who practice evil cannot trust others, since they don't trust themselves and fear that what they have sown will come home to them. They live in constant expectation that the evil they have manifested to others will be done to them. This exacts a high price, as peace and hope seem always very far away because no one can be trusted.

Jesus is pure good and those who fall upon Him in faith will never be disappointed. Our tendency is to reach out to mankind as they outwardly can show some good and trust. They seem to listen, love and understand but they are just mankind and will disappoint us when we put our faith in them. God knows what is in all men's hearts. Trust Jesus and you will experience good. All other avenues is at great risk. Evil only increases as we trust humankind and ignore Jesus.

God asked Adam why he was hiding. Do you think God didn't know? Of course He knew, but He wanted Adam to admit what he had become. And why? Because until we face the truth about ourselves we are doomed to a life of living out the horrible principle of evil. There is no escape other than repentance and seeking God's forgiveness. Otherwise our life will be one of loneliness and alienation from God, and eventually from others, as relationships become almost impossible to maintain.

Evil can be acquired as we open our mind to it. What we think about consistently will become what our heart desires, and from there our actions commit what our heart determines. When we let evil take over our mind we open a door to evil actions that affect others and ourselves. Our mind can be literally invaded by evil. Through the multiplied forms and access to media today, pornography and all sorts of evil can triumph if we allow our minds to be filled and controlled by corrupt evil images bombarding our hearts. We live in an era of internet and mass media access, that is determined to sow evil into our lives, and destroy our inner man. The Scripture tells us to flee from evil, and though it may not be easy, those who do will find only good, joy and peace.

Evil as it was in the garden is overwhelmingly manipulative. It will use, deceive and ultimately destroy all those who practice it. Hitler killed those who helped him murder his way to power. This is the crude face and ugliness of evil. And it always repeats itself in the same way.

There is a solution. Even with its powerful hold on mankind from the beginning in the garden. God provided an answer to evil. It is the first fruit of the tree. Evil is all that good isn't. Good gives life. It is preoccupied with others and their well being. It is patient and kind. The only way to subdue the meanness of evil is through the spirit of kindness that can only come through throwing all that we are on Jesus and absorbing His goodness. Everything Jesus did was a cry to our hearts of the way to goodness and kindness.

Evil is not always in your face and screaming at you through its ambassadors. Its very nature is deceptive. Hitler had many tender moments and showed much attention to children and animals. He could present himself as a gentlemanly grandfather, kissing little children and being deeply loving at intimate times in his life. Those who agreed and supported his feelings saw a friendly and jovial personality; but those who didn't were seized as if by a viper being tortured and killed. That is another deceptive face of evil - schizophrenia. When Hitler's will was crossed the evil poured forth devouring even those closest to him. One moment he could be buying his friends beautiful gifts and praising the beauty of nature, and the next moment committing evil as no else in history. He felt he was doing well! Evil made him delusional, as it always does. He tried to battle the evil by making excuses and hiding his true intentions from Germany and the world. He was given over to depression and even though was the Führer of Germany tried to hide in seclusion when he could. No one was permitted to speak the truth of his errors. His whole life was a hiding, lying and deceiving of his very self. But evil is always exposed in the end. There is no hiding even if you are the Führer. This is another sign that evil had consumed him and he was paying a high price for taking of the wrong fruit.

Evil must be dealt with at its roots. Pride and the love of self must be put aside for humility and repentance. Jesus cried out from the cross, Father forgive them. That day evil was dealt a death blow that will be revealed at His glorious return. And today the answer is the same, and that message cries forth that gives hope to all.

In Acts 9:1 we see Saul of Tarsus (later the Apostle Paul) entirely controlled by evil intentions. He desired to kill, torture and imprison anyone who didn't agree with him. He was zealous in his evil intents, and Satan thought he had the perfect executioner of his evil devices against the infant church. But God had other plans! His plans were to make this man one of the greatest champions of faith in the New Testament. There is great hope in this powerful testimony of God overcoming evil with good. Since He can take the most wicked person and transform them into champions of good!

Revelation says that when the seals are broken an avalanche of evil will be loosed on the earth as has never been seen before.

2 Thes. 2:12 Paul is speaking of the sign of the end time's. This is clear why many will be condemned at the last part of mans history on earth. It will be hard for many to repent as they will be enjoying their evil so much. I feel we are seeing this in it's infancy now. The Bible tells us it will get worse before the end. Those walking in the light must be diligent. All the new testament is a warning and guide for all believers. For what? To teach us how to be ready and strong in the face of the great evil that is coming on the earth. But let me encourage you; Even though it seems evil is so dominant and threatening, there is great hope. Jesus overcame evil, and evil will not always be victorious. Things will be different, but we must be patient and watching.

Every time Satan performs his evil on the beloved of God, God uses it to defeat satan and strengthen those who truly love Him. Remember in the end it is all for Him and His glory, not for us.

Jesus said and the Psalmist that all men are depraved (evil). Non are good in themselves. We are not to feel condemned for the evil we feel in our selves but we must feel conviction from a sensitive heart and deal with it through the Word and Christ operating in our lives. Otherwise it is a hopeless situation as depravity is our nature. If we do any good as believers it is only because of Christ not our selves.

Death is not a natural part of life as God intended it. It is the unnatural result of evil. And yet God has removed the ultimate sting of death, which explains the appropriate sense of peace and triumph that accompanies grief at a believers death.

\*\* We as believers in good have a responsibility to partake of the proper fruit by loving, having a heart of compassion for others, and by being generous and kind. Let these attributes abound in you and you WILL overcome evil.

AMEN. Love Brother Clark