



SEPTEMBER 2010

# STRAIGHT TALK

*“And God saw every thing that He had made,  
and behold, it was very good.”* (Genesis 1:31)

## GOOD AND EVIL

### WHAT IS “GOOD”

In Bible terminology, “good” can mean “sinless” or “morally virtuous” ... but in most cases it doesn’t. Likewise, “evil” can mean “sinful & morally wicked,” but in most cases it doesn’t. Typically these terms have no moral implication.

In the Bible, “good” usually means “complete,” “fitting,” or “normal.” *“And out of the ground Yahweh God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good (fitting) for food;”* (Gen. 2:9). Food has no moral agency. The Hebrew word for “good” is “**tob**.”

In the Bible, “evil” usually means “distress” or “adversity.” *“...few and evil (distressed) have been the days of the years of my life”* (Gen. 47:9). Jacob’s days were rough, not wicked. The Hebrew word for “evil” is “**ra**.”

Only by reading the context of the verse can we determine whether “good” (**tob**) or “evil” (**ra**) have moral implications. In most cases they don’t.

In Mark 10:17-18, Jesus reprimands a man for calling Him “good.” Jesus stated that there was *“...only One good, and that is God.”* Here, the Greek “**agathos**” carries with it a bit more meaning than the Hebrew “**tob**.” Here Jesus made distinction between Himself and Yahweh in that He was still mortal (susceptible to error and sin) and vulnerable to death. Yahweh was not. Of course Jesus became immortal later when He was raised. But the point is this: when Jesus denied being “good” He did not mean it in the moral sense, for although He was yet mortal He was never immoral and He never sinned against God.

Word meanings in English, as in Hebrew and Greek, often rely on context. “Good” and “bad,” for instance, may or may not carry moral implications of virtue ... depending upon the context.

Now let us look at some pertinent scripture to see more of this point.

### THE CREATION IS GOOD

After Yahweh created the earth and set everything in order exactly as He wanted it, He looked upon his creation and pronounced it “VERY GOOD” (Gen. 1:31)

No surprise. Of course it was “good.” God doesn’t do

sloppy work. So, just what did He mean when He said it was good? What did “good” mean?

Obviously He couldn’t have meant morally “good” since most of the creation had no moral capacity. Most of God’s creation had no mind or conscience ... so it had no capacity for being morally virtuous or morally wicked. Only man had that capacity. In all of God’s creation only man had the ability to be moral. Animals, plants and minerals (i.e., most of everything that exists) are not moral objects. They have no capacity for morality. They are neither virtuous, nor wicked. They can only be what they were created to be. Rattle snakes act like rattle snakes, termites act like termites, and giant squid act like giant squid. No moral implication is possible with these.

Thus, God did not mean that his creation was morally good (virtuous). Rather, He meant his creation was the way it should be. It was exactly as He designed it. It was “good” in the sense that it was complete, fitting and normal.

The creation was “good.” A good tree looked and behaved just the way God designed trees to be. A good skunk looked and behaved (and smelled) just the way God designed skunks to be.

And need I say? ... a “good man” looked and behaved as God designed him to be. We could say a good man was a “normal man. He was “normal” in the sense that he was the way God created him. And God pronounced this “good.”

Thus, in terms of how things were created, “good” meant “normal.” God created man to be normal.

### WHAT ABOUT SIN?

Now, if God’s complete creation was good ... and if man was good ... how did Adam sin?

Pagan myth tells us that a mythological being named “Satan” introduced sin into the world. The Bible doesn’t say this, but the churches (having adopted paganism) interpret the Bible to support this myth. The myth purports that “Satan” was once a beautiful angel in God’s heaven. It is further claimed that “Satan” was the most beautiful and splendid of all the angels. Then, unexplainably, he suddenly became prideful rebelled against God, and was cast out of

heaven. Thus “Satan” became God’s arch enemy.

As the enemy of God (the myth continues), “Satan” took to influencing mortal men to sin and thus turn against God. This, then, is how they say Adam was turned into a sinner ... and the implication of “evil” was associated with God’s sworn enemy “Satan.” So the myth of “Satan” has flavored the churches’ definition of both “good” and “evil” so as to make it all sound as if it always implies morality and virtue.

Of course, if we remove the myth of “Satan” out of the equation, and read the Bible for what it really says (rather than what the paganized churches teach) we can see a very different picture. God created Adam with the capability of sinning ... and thus Adam had the moral capacity to follow his Creator, or rebel again Him. This was the moral capacity God created within Adam ... and He called all this “VERY GOOD.” Think about it. Adam’s capacity to sin was part of God’s GOOD creation. Thus, Adam’s capacity to sin was “GOOD.” It was “good” because it was the way God created him. It was the way God wanted him.

Being “normal” and “good” ... including having the capacity to choose to rebel against God, or to choose to follow God ... is exactly the way God created man. This is you. This is me. We are normal. We can choose to sin, and we can choose to not sin. This is God’s created state of normalcy and goodness.

Being normal includes having the capacity to rebel against God. But when we rebel we reap the judgments. If we refrain from rebelling against God we reap the blessings. Its pretty fundamental and simple.

## THE TWO SINS

*16. If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and He shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.*

*17. All unrighteousness is sin: and there is a sin not unto death.*

1Jn. 5:16

Here we see plainly that there are two categories of sin. One is “unto death,” and the other is “not unto death.”

In Numbers 15, Moses defines these two categories. One sin is “rebellion against God.” The other sin is the result of ignorance, incompetence, weakness or confusion. In other words, a sin “not unto death” is one that is not done “presumptuously” or rebelliously.

*25. And the priest shall make an atonement for all the congregation of the children of Israel, and it shall be forgiven them; for it is ignorance: and they shall bring their offering, a sacrifice made by fire to Yahweh, and their sin offering before Yahweh, for their ignorance:*

*26. And it shall be forgiven all the congregation of the children of Israel, and the stranger that sojourns among*

*them; seeing all the people were in ignorance.*

*29. You shall have one law for him that sins through ignorance, both for him that is born among the children of Israel, and for the stranger that sojourns among them.*

*30. But the soul that acts presumptuously, whether he be born in the land, or a stranger, the same reproaches Yahweh; and that soul shall be cut off from among his people.*

*31. Because he has despised the word of Yahweh, and has broken his commandment, that soul shall utterly be cut off; his iniquity shall be upon him.*

The “sin unto death” is a sin of morality (i.e., done in hostility, insolence or rebellion). A sin “not unto death” is a sin done in error or weakness ... not intentional rebellion.

All normal (good) people make mistakes. Mistakes are one form of sin. Therefore, normal, good people sin by mistake or ignorance. They are not held morally accountable for sins of ignorance or error.

However, when a man knowingly sins against God ... that is a “sin unto death.” This sin stands against the man until he repents of his rebellion. This man dies spiritually as the result of his sin, and he remains spiritually dead until he repents and turns back to God. This comes under the heading of “calling good evil, and calling evil good.”

*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!*

Isaiah 5:20

*31. Wherefore I say to you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men: but the blasphemy against the holy spirit shall not be forgiven to men.*

*32. And whosoever speaks a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaks against the holy spirit, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this age, nor in the one beginning.*

*33. Either make the tree good, and his fruit good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.*

*34. O generation of vipers, how can you, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks.*

*35. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart brings forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things.*

Mtt. 12:31-35

“Holy” means “separate.” “Holy spirit” is motivation to be separate from the masses when they are wrong. “Blasphemy of holy spirit” equates to calling good evil and evil

good. In other words, this is when a man knowing chooses wrong over right. This is a willful sin; a moral sin ... not merely a sin of ignorance.

### **GOOD MEN CAN SIN**

Thus we have now seen that God created man with a capacity for morality. Man can choose to rebel, or not rebel against God.

At the same time, God created man mortal and prone to sin. But the question is WHICH SIN? Which kind of sin was considered normal in man when God pronounce him "good"? Was it sins of ignorance, or sins of rebellion?

The wages of sin is death (Rom. 6:23). That means that mortality equals the propensity to sin. Adam was created mortal and with the propensity to sin. Otherwise, Adam could never have died. Thus, Adam was created a sinner. But was he created a "presumptuous" sinner? Or was he created a sinner by "ignorance"? Obviously, when Adam chose to rebel against God and was punished by being banished from Eden, it was because Adam sinned presumptuously. But this was over and above the natural sin nature (mortality) with which Adam was originally equipped.

Adam, before he rebelled against God, was mortal and thus a sinner. Yet, while in that condition Adam was pronounced "very good" by his Creator.

I know this is heavy thinking, but you can do it. Use the good brain God has given you and put on your thinking cap.

Adam was (a) mortal. Mortal meant (b) Adam was a sinner. Adam was a sinner by ignorance (c) before he rebelled against God. Therefore, (d) being a "normal" "good" man includes being a "sinner by ignorance."

There you have it. Now, don't let religious folks push you around and make you feel guilty or bad just because you are NORMAL. NORMAL IS GOOD. And "normal" includes the capacity to sin ... or make mistakes and be ignorant.

What "normal" and "good" does NOT include is WILLFUL REBELLION AGAINST GOD.

### **GOOD = NORMAL**

According to God, Mosquitoes, bacteria, poison ivy, and Tasmanian Devils were all created "good." They were "good" in that they were "normal" ... even when they caused man misery. They are doing what God created them to do.

When you think about it, most things on Earth are "good" ... because they have always done exactly what they were created to do. Rocks have done what rocks were created to do. Clouds do what they were created to do. Lions and lambs all do what they were created to do. They are all "normal" and "good."

The planet Earth itself is "normal" and "good." It does, and is, just what God created it to be. The Earth is a complex system that sustains and nurtures life. It is "good" for mankind. Earth is an amazing and intricate system comprised of many individual parts ... all working together.

God created the Earth system as his own perfect design ... and it is "good." Earth is a marvelous and wonderful system ... and God put us here and commanded us to keep it and respect it. As far as man has explored, Earth is

still the only known place in the Universe that is friendly and supportive of life as we know it. God's Earth is a beautiful thing. It supplies everything man needs for a perfect life ... with one exception. Man also needs guidance. The physical creation cannot supply that. It must come from God.

On Earth, man is like a child born to parents who furnish him with a home, food, and room to run and play. That child has all the material things he needs for a good life. But from a moral standpoint he needs guidance as well ... otherwise he will not learn how to preserve and properly use the good things given to him. So this is where morality comes in. Morality has to do with intent more than action. A mistake can cause damage, but have no moral implication. However, an evil intent (i.e., to wrongly hurt someone) is morally wrong even when it yields no actual damage.

Like the child in the illustration above, man too needs guidance. He needs to learn how to use and preserve the good things of this Earth. To this end, God gave man the Bible as a maintenance manual for the "good" things He has given to mankind. Notwithstanding, churches teach that the Bible directs man away from the Earth. In essence, churches teach that we must be taken from Earth's friendly, nurturing environment to a place they call "Heaven" which they assume is somewhere "up" in the sky (apparently in outer space).

Thus, churches teach that Earth was not created good. According to them, Earth has only facilitated man's defeat and failure. It deserves to be destroyed. Most churchgoers look forward to Earth's destruction. Strange isn't it?

### **MOTIVE TO BE GOOD**

Man is unique in God's creation in that he was created with a mind and conscience that gives him moral capacity. Man's moral compass is measured by his intent (spirit).

"Normal" man comes equipped with a moral drive as standard equipment at birth. He naturally feels a moral requirement to refrain from offending others ... and when he fails this he feels guilt. Man's conscience (if it is working properly) reads his moral compass. It tells him when he does anything that goes against his moral training. And if his moral training is not too far off base, his conscience serves him well.

However, if one's moral training happens to be wrong, then his conscience will read faulty signals. After all, one's conscience can only work with the tools given it ... and if those tools (his moral training) are wrong, then his conscience will mislead him.

For instance, if I am trained to believe that theft is wrong, then my conscience will sound an alarm in my head if it perceives that I have stolen something. However, if a man is born into a society with no scruples against theft, his moral compass (his conscience) would point in a different direction. He could steal without a conscience pain.

Would this man be "normal"? Well, yes ... in the eyes of his twisted society. But in the eyes of God he would not be "normal" or "good" ... because his twisted society had perverted him and changed him from the way God had made man.



## FALSE GUILT

Now lets consider an example of a man born and raised in a strange society where he is programmed to believe that he is intrinsically defective ... that he was born defective and there is nothing in this life that can be done to fix him. Lets call this mind set "the church paradigm."

Churches are pagan. Start with that premise and you'll begin to understand what has gone wrong here in America. Churches are NOT CHRISTIAN. They are pagan. That is why they don't work right. They are anti-Christian.

Church theology has programmed Americans to think that they are born flawed ... due to some kind of curse that God placed upon mankind. Church theology also claims that Earth, as well, is flawed and must be destroyed at some time in the future. In other words, God just couldn't get it right, and He needed another go at it. Next time maybe He'll get it right.

Of course, this is absurd and silly. God doesn't make mistakes. God's creation is NOT flawed. It is NOT a mistake. Man is not a mistake. Man is exactly the way God created him, and God does not condemn man for being the way He created him to be.

## THE TREE

In the Garden of Eden Yahweh identified one exclusive tree that was forbidden. Adam was permitted to partake of the other trees, but to partake of the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" was against God's law.

At that point, Adam's status was "very good." He had no curse although he was mortal.

If a man is "cursed" he arrives at that unhappy state due to his own actions ... not due to an inherent flaw inflicted upon him by God ... a flaw for which man has no responsibility and over which he has no control. For God to hold man guilty for something over which he has no control would be unreasonable and unfair ... especially if it was due to something God Himself did. But God is not unreasonable and unfair. God does not condemn man for being the way God made him.

God made man to be capable of sin, and thus mortal. He also created man to look to God for guidance. God is THE FATHER of his creation. Man was created to look to God as FATHER. There is no flaw in this arrangement. God pronounced this to be "very good."

Man was a sinner by ignorance, and yet God said this was "very good." This was "normal," and it was "good" as long as man looked to God for law and guidance. It continued to be "good" and "normal" until man began looking to himself for law and guidance. At that point the "good" was lost. This was Adam's sin in Eden. Adam, coaxed by the serpent (politician) elected to rebel against God as lawmaker. Lawmakers decide what is "good" and what is "evil." This is what is meant by "*partaking of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.*" It equated to thinking of yourself as a lawmaker.

The "*tree of the knowledge of good and evil*" represents godship. God commanded man to abstain from being his own god. Adam chose to rebel against this law. That choice

caused him to "*die in the day that he ate thereof.*" He didn't die biologically. He died spiritually because his mind and heart were turned. He changed his faith and threw away his normal state of grace under God. Adam threw away his "normal" goodness. He adopted an immoral concept that not only hurt him ... it also carried through to corrupt the faith of generations that came after him (Rm. 5:14).

## THE CHURCH PARADIGM

Churches teach churchgoers that man must achieve a superhuman status in order to please God. They teach that God is not satisfied with us the way we come into this world at birth. They also teach that unless we employ them to "save" us we have no chance of finding grace in the eyes of the Lord. This is patently pagan nonsense.

Jesus said, in essence, that little children were representative of the Kingship of Heaven. They were not defective or in need of being "saved" by some pagan church ritual. The "little children" to whom Jesus referred were "good" and "normal" from birth. It isn't until later, after the pagan churches and the Babylonian educators and politicians get at them that they become twisted and lost from their Creator.

So, you see, you are the work of God. You are not defective. You are a child of God, and He wants you to be just the way He made you. Included in your makeup – the way He made you at birth – is your inherent need for God's guidance. We all need God's guidance. That makes us dependant upon God. It does not make us defective any more than it makes a baby defective because it is dependant upon its mother. Without parents a baby cannot survive. That's the way God designed babies. They are not defective. By the same token, man was designed by God in such a way that we cannot survive without Him and his guidance. This condition – the way man is made – is exactly what God called "very good."

Now you know!. So, don't let the pagan churches, with their pagan doctrines, trick you into thinking that God is dissatisfied with the way He made you! And don't let them brainwash you into a false guilt trip by convincing you that you were born a condemned "sinner" – that God condemns you for being the way He made you.

What is required for you to please God is to believe in Him and seek his guidance. Today this is done through his Son Jesus, our Savior and King. When we seek guidance from Jesus He gives us truth and life from his Father.

Americans have, for the most part, succumbed to the lies of the pagan churches. This, then, has made them susceptible to the idiocy and chicanery of the politics of state. Judgment is now upon the people of America because they traded Jesus and truth for a false god called church and state ... and what we are now seeing is a change that can no longer be ignored.

God has given each of us a good brain. My advice is USE IT! Don't let your adversaries tell you what to think. Trust Jesus to reveal truth to you.

God be with you,

