

“A Study in James”

Text: James 1:21

“²¹ So put out of your life every evil thing and every kind of wrong. Then in gentleness accept God’s teaching that is planted in your hearts, which can save you.”

1. **HOW** can we know what is “evil” and what is “wrong?” We go to the _____, God’s Word. It is our manual for living the Christ-like life. It is our guide, complete with instructions and guidelines on all matters dealing with life.

Ephesians 4:22-31 – “²² You were taught to leave your old self—to stop living the evil way you lived before. That old self becomes worse, because people are fooled by the evil things they want to do. ²³ But you were taught to be made new in your hearts, ²⁴ to become a new person. That new person is made to be like God—made to be truly good and holy.

²⁵ So you must stop telling lies. Tell each other the truth, because we all belong to each other in the same body. ²⁶ When you are angry, do not sin, and be sure to stop being angry before the end of the day. ²⁷ Do not give the devil a way to defeat you. ²⁸ Those who are stealing must stop stealing and start working. They

should earn an honest living for themselves. Then they will have something to share with those who are poor.

²⁹ When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others become stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you. ³⁰ And do not make the Holy Spirit sad. The Spirit is God’s proof that you belong to him. God gave you the Spirit to show that God will make you free when the final day comes. ³¹ Do not be bitter or angry or mad. Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil.”

Ephesians 5:3 – “³ But there must be no sexual sin among you, or any kind of evil or greed. Those things are not right for God’s holy people.”

I Peter 2:1 – “So then, rid yourselves of all evil, all lying, hypocrisy, jealousy, and evil speech.”

Galatians 5:13-26 – “¹³ My brothers and sisters, God called you to be free, but do not use your freedom as an excuse to do what pleases your sinful self. Serve each other with love. ¹⁴ The whole law is made complete in this one command: “Love your neighbor as you love yourself.” ¹⁵ If you go on hurting each other and tearing

each other apart, be careful, or you will completely destroy each other.

¹⁶ So I tell you: Live by following the Spirit. Then you will not do what your sinful selves want. ¹⁷ Our sinful selves want what is against the Spirit, and the Spirit wants what is against our sinful selves. The two are against each other, so you cannot do just what you please. ¹⁸ But if the Spirit is leading you, you are not under the law.

¹⁹ The wrong things the sinful self does are clear: being sexually unfaithful, not being pure, taking part in sexual sins, ²⁰ worshiping gods, doing witchcraft, hating, making trouble, being jealous, being angry, being selfish, making people angry with each other, causing divisions among people, ²¹ feeling envy, being drunk, having wild and wasteful parties, and doing other things like these. I warn you now as I warned you before: Those who do these things will not inherit God's kingdom. ²² But the Spirit produces the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control. There is no law that says these things are wrong. ²⁴ Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified their own sinful selves. They have given up their old selfish feelings and the evil things they wanted to do. ²⁵ We get our new life from the Spirit, so we should follow the Spirit. ²⁶ We must not be proud or make trouble with each other or be jealous of each other."

So, we can see by reading these various passages of scripture that God has certainly been specific in what He means by “every evil thing” and “every kind of wrong thing.”

2. HOW, then, do we go about getting rid of stuff in our lives that no longer fits with our “new” nature as a Christian?

A. Jesus knows and understands our weaknesses.
Come to Him **BOLDLY** for _____.
(Hebrews 4:15-16)

B. _____ and pray to avoid temptation.
(Matthew 26:41)

C. _____ God for the way _____ when tempted.
(1 Corinthians 10:13)

D. Remember.....God _____ from temptation
and the evil one. (Matthew 6:13)

E. Submit to God and _____, **RESIST, RESIST**
the devil. (James 4:7)

F. Depend on God's _____. (Philippians 4:13)

G. God delivers from _____ power of darkness.
(Colossians 1:13)

H. Commit your _____ to Jesus.
(1 Corinthians 6:12-13)

I. Learn to walk in the spirit, by _____ to the
Spirit. (Galatians 5:16)

Romans 12:2 says: **“Do not be shaped by this world; instead be changed within by a new way of thinking. Then you will be able to decide what God wants for you; you will know what is good and pleasing to him and what is perfect.”**

3. In order for us to be “_____” into reflections of Christ, the word of God must be planted in our minds.

4. IF God's Word grows within us, it will save us, transform us, _____ our behavior, beliefs, attitudes, and conversations.

James gives us good and wise counsel in this verse:

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