

**Tuesday, January 12, 2021**  
**Devotional Thoughts from Pastor Jim Murr...**

**"Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light  
and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!  
Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!"**

*Isaiah 5: 20-21*

As you read this, you would think it was written just yesterday! It sure does fit with where our world, including our own nation, seems to be heading, if it has not already arrived there. Good and evil, right and wrong, are being swapped with one another. Good is being called wrong and wrong is being called good. Why is that? The short answer is "sin." But that still begs the question, why does sin want to swap good and evil?

I guess that's just what sin does. Sin is rebellion toward God, and God is good. And so, when sin is given full license, it will desire and pursue the wrong. When sin is allowed to have free reign, it changes from being mistaken, naive decisions to being full-fledged, "I'm going to do things not just MY way, but the wrong way, and the more I hear about the right way (the Godly way), I'm going to willingly and purposely choose the ungodly way."

Let's not you and I get on board with that. Let's allow God's Word and the Holy Spirit to have full reign in our hearts and lives, because the passage printed above begins with the word: "Woe!" "Woe to those who call evil good and good evil." In the Bible, the word "Woe" means that someone should expect judgment from God. God will not just forever look the other way.

People's judgment about what is right and wrong just seems to be really out of whack. It has been that way for a long time, to be sure; but it seems like the train has finally gone off the rails. But no surprise. The Bible predicted such things. As a follower of Jesus, please don't allow yourself to get sucked into a worldly way of thinking. Before you make a choice in life ... before you pursue a course of action, check with Jesus to see if He would be willing go along with you. If Jesus would not do be willing to do what you are considering doing, then don't do it. If there is something that Jesus would do, then do that instead. How do I know what Jesus would do? I check His Word. I read the Gospels which describe His way of life while He was on earth.

God sees everything that is going on in our world and in our country. And where our world has gone off the rails, He says, "Woe!", meaning "Be careful." As Christ-followers, we have a different Master than the world does. If you're thinking I'm saying that the world's master is the devil, that's not what I'm thinking. The "master" I'm referring to is the "master" of "SELF!" The Bible says, "But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be LOVERS OF SELF, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people." (2 Timothy 3: 1-5)

Again, this sounds like it was written just yesterday. Nothing is different than it was when this was written. We are just further down the road.

But God is working out His plan of redemption for you and me, and for all who trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior. The Day will come when the skies will part and Jesus will be revealed in blazing fire with all of His holy angels. Jesus says that when the time draws near for His return, those who have been waiting for Him should lift up their heads, for their redemption is drawing near!

God's Peace!  
Pastor Jim