

Unmasking Evil
Part 9
By Boyd Yahn

Hello everyone, it is July the 27th of 2025, and it seems like almost forever since we have done a study. This is part 9 of the Unmasking Evil series. It just seems like such a long time since we sat down and planned a study. This summer has been chalk full of things to do.

0:00:27

Thankfully the grandkids have been around a fair bit and we've picked wild strawberries in season, and now we're in the Saskatoon berry season and the tame raspberry crop is plentiful and ready to harvest. And these things just seem to come one after the other, and if you don't stop and smell the flowers and take advantage of the harvest God has provided it just simply doesn't happen.

0:00:53

Thankfully our fruit deepfreeze is filling up and pretty much chalk full now. The lake creatures we catch have been a little more elusive than usual, but we managed to replenish the stock somewhat and of course have been blessed enough to partake of possibly more than our share of fresh fish fries from the lake to the frying pan, and those are pretty special.

0:01:20

We came home a couple days ago; basically, chased off by very heavy smoke conditions where the nearby forest fires and the winds carrying the smoke made things very unpleasant. We drove home through 200 kilometers, that's 120 miles for those that speak another language, where the visibility and heavy smoke in the daytime ranged from one quarter to one half a mile. It would not be something I'd care to drive in at night; the smoke, very likely, would have reflected back from the lights of the truck and make it very difficult to see.

0:02:04

The fires to the northwest of our lake were likely lightning started and it was quite a thing to see trees torch, visible with flames, from eleven miles away in the middle of the afternoon. We could sit on the beach and look across the lake eleven miles away, and obviously we couldn't see the individual trees going up in flames, but we could certainly see the fire below the smoke. That was quite a thing; we should have gone down at night and had a look, but just chose not to do so.

0:02:56

But it's been interesting, a good thing those lightning strikes struck on the north side of the lake, which is eleven or twelve miles away from us, instead of right where we are. The cabins would have been imperiled in our part of the world if they had done so. We need a two-inch, three-day soaker of a rain to put the fires out and also water the blueberries and cranberries that survive the fire. Whole sections of lake front trees, where the fires were, are now just blackened silhouettes. One never knows what the summer will bring, and for sure, one of our favorite cranberry and blueberry picking haunts is no more; it's burnt out right to the beach.

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0: 03:43

One thing about taking a hiatus from study for a bit, is that it allows one to reflect as to what has been learned during the previous parts of this series. You have to give some time for the pieces to fall into place. Joining the dots of Galatians 5:19 – 21 is one such thing. All of the works of the flesh listed there are the various personifications of evil and wickedness.

0:04:19

And a portion of verse 21 really stood out to me at this time. It's funny how that works; we've read scriptures over countless times, and all of a sudden, a certain passage or a certain portion just really gravitates to our attention. And after the laundry list of evil in verse 19 through verse 20, and part of verse 21, the statement is made there that those who practice such things will not be in the kingdom of God.

0:04:57

Let's just read them, and put that into context. It says:

¹⁹Now the works of the flesh are evident,

This is verse 19.

which are: adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lewdness,

If we look about our society today, do we see that, or are we bombarded with that in basically every place we look?

²⁰idolatry, sorcery, hatred, contentions, jealousies, outbursts of wrath, selfish ambitions, dissensions, heresies, ²¹envy, murders, drunkenness, revelries, and the like;

0:05:44

So, can we see that in an evil and wicked society? Then it goes on to say:

of which I tell you beforehand,

Don't forget; I want you to know.

just as I also told you in time past,

So, the writer in Galatians, Paul, is consistent here.

that those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

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0:06:16

Have we seen in the various, in my case the Churches of God community or congregations; have we seen selfish ambition? Have we seen dissention, have we seen hatred and have we seen contention? Just to pick out a few. And those who practice such things will not be in the kingdom of God.

0:06:55

It is important to consider, when we read the phrase “the kingdom of God”, what is that actually talking about? The phrase can mean different things. The entire creation is the kingdom of God; He made it, it’s His. God is also going to set up a literal kingdom of God here on the earth.

0:07:32

It can also be a reference to life at another level of existence; the kingdom of God, immortal and incorruptible life. We now live in a kingdom of men. Salvation requires, or shows us that at some point we will live in the kingdom of God, and if we practice any of those things in Galatians 5, verses 19 – 21, we will not inherit the kingdom of God.

0:08:11

The kingdom of God, currently occupied by the Father and Christ, have no evil or wickedness. The born to spirit brothers and sisters of Christ will be like Christ, having no evil or wickedness in them. Rather, they will all have the spirit of Christ, and instead of evil and wickedness, as God defines it as we are learning, we’ll rather have the fruits of the Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5, verse 22.

0:09:00

The fruit of the Spirit, the fruit of God, is:

22... love, joy, peace, longsuffering), kindness, goodness faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control.

So, rather than the first things in that list, those born into the kingdom of God will have those things spoken of in verses 22 and 23.

Their mindset will be completely transformed from what it was.

0:09:33

Which one of these meanings of the phrase, “kingdom of God” do you feel best meets the application to the context? Is it possible we did not stop to consider such in the past? When we read the list, do we naturally see evil being shown to us in verses 19 – 21, and goodness in verses 22 and 23, or are they just words?

0:10:06

If we look about society today, can we see evil everywhere? If Satan knows the practicing of these things denies entrance into the kingdom of God, do you think he

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might want to influence mankind, generally, to do them? Are we not bombarded by all these things continuously as we live in this world, finding that we need to be on guard constantly? The corruption of the various governments of the world stands a testimony as to how evil and wicked this world currently is.

0:10:56

I was reading a piece on Zero Hedge here where Dan Bongino, the deputy director of the FBI, is astonished at what he is finding out; even him, who was targeted; he was blown away by the things he's coming to understand.

0:11:22

When we read through Galatians 5, verses 19 – 21, do we, the ekklesia really want an existence free of such things? Have we seen any of these things in the fellowship we might have had in the COG community, and do we understand that those who practice these things will not be in the kingdom of God?

0:11:50

I found it worthy to at least think on these things. I was talking to someone the other day and they mentioned their view of this world and the people in it has been changed, perhaps dramatically, as we are coming to discern good and evil, as Hebrews 5:14 charges us to do. More and more I'm personally seeing that arguing over this doctrine or that, or this belief or that, produces the works of the flesh in those who claim to be the ekklesia in the true church.

0:12:28

How does that fit for you? You know, verse 20, have we seen contentions, jealousy, outbursts of wrath, dissention, heresy; do we see any of that produced by quibbling over various doctrines or various issues? Well, what about verse 24.

²⁴And those who are Christ's

Or are being made over into the image of Christ.

have crucified the flesh with its passions and its desires.

0:13:09

How are we doing in the crucifying the flesh, with its passions and desires department? How are we doing in the making idols of ourselves department, while telling others what to believe, rather than telling folks what we understand, and why, and let them do their own thinking, vetting and their understanding against the scriptures?

0:13:53

Is that what we do? Do we tell people what to think, or do we tell people what we think, why we think it and allow them the ability and the space to consider in light of their own understanding.

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0:14:11

How many Nicolaitans, which Christ twice stated He hates, their doctrines and their deeds in Revelation 2, because they lord those thoughts over the brethren; Christ's brothers. Do we think Nicolaitans will be in the kingdom of God? Are their deeds evil and wicked? Is that why Christ hates their deeds and their doctrines? What do you actually think?

0:15:01

If we take a look at these passages, what can we glean? So, let's look at Revelation 2:6, let's see what it actually says and what we might conclude. Revelation 2:6 tells us: But you; speaking to the Ephesian church, the congregation at that time.

⁶... this you have, that you hate the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which I also hate.

0:15:33

And hate is an awfully strong word, and the Greek word is G3404. It carries, according to Words Help, to detest as a comparative basis, to love someone or something less than someone or something else, to renounce one choice in favor of another. Since the meaning of Nicolaitan is to lord it over the laity, expressed in the name of self, the laity is the brethren. These individuals place themselves as the laity's head, rather than Christ.

0:16:21

If Christ is to be the head of the ekklesia, and the true ekklesia have both the presence of both the Father and the Son in them, as we are told in scripture. That's reality! The Nicolaitans lord it over those that live within the ekklesia. It's not too likely that's going to turn out really well for them.

0:16:58

The bible is quite clear that there is one mediator between the ekklesia and Yehovah, and that is His Son, the Christ. Replacing Christ, or at least attempting to do so wouldn't seem to be the thing to do. Yet, back in the day, we were expressly told that all information flows from God to the ministry and down to the laity. Anything of importance would then be passed on to the laity as needed, through the ministry or corporation generally. And this is not exclusive to the COG world.

0:17:48

If Christ hates the deeds of the Nicolaitans, then it's a fair bet Satan loves the deeds and doctrines of them as they seek to lord it over the ekklesia and those that live within them.

0:18:11

If we look at Revelation 2:15, the second place that that is actually mentioned. It's not so much the deeds here, it is the doctrines of the Nicolaitans, and one of those doctrines would appear to be that all information comes from God through them to us.

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0:18:36

And yet in the scriptures the information comes from the Father through Christ, to us. And if we accept that understanding comes from God or Jesus Christ to the ministry to us, it makes a mockery of what we are told in Matthew 11, verse 27. And let's read that where Christ says:

²⁷All things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows the Son

They are not going to know the true Christ.

except the Father.

Reveals Him to us.

Nor does anyone know the Father except the Son, and the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him.

0:19:38

If the Son wishes the Father to be revealed to someone, He is not revealed through a ministry or church. He reveals it to that individual directly, the one to whom the Son wills to reveal Him. So, we can see here why there's an issue with the Nicolaitans. And we need to ask ourselves, are Nicolaitans evil, and could they be wicked as well?

0:20:22

Do we now have the tools to recognize such; and what do we actually think? As one might logically expect, the book of Proverbs is a wealth of information regarding the wicked and their activities. We are not left without waymarks to help us understand what that really is. We do however, need to pay attention to and think about what we are told. This is something that has never been a focus or investigation for me personally until this recent series.

0:21:15

I hope it is entirely different for you and in this hiatus, I hope many of you, you know, would have picked up the ball and ran with it, and said maybe I should have been looking at some of this stuff and wandering through your concordance and looking up all the references to evil and wickedness and begin to shape and begin to form some understanding that perhaps we just didn't focus on, laser like, and pay attention to.

0:21:52

So, bear with me here, if you guys are lightyears ahead, which you probably are. Let's go to Proverbs 2, and let's read verses 1 – 9 and actually take some time to stop and think here a bit.

¹ My son, if you receive my words, and treasure my commands within you,

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How do we feel about God's word, do we treasure the commands of our Father?

²so that you incline your ear to wisdom, and apply your heart to understanding;

0:22:34

There is something that we need to do. We need to listen when information about wisdom is doled out. And we need to take our heart and focus it on understanding.

³yes, (He says) if you cry out for discernment,

We are trying to discern good and evil. Do we cry out for discernment? Show me the way. How can I determine this?

and lift up your voice for understanding,

Do we do that to God? Do we really want to understand? Or do we want somebody else to understand and pass that along to us so that we don't have to think? What is it that we do want?

⁴if you seek her as silver, and search for her as for hidden treasures; ⁵then you will understand the fear of Yehovah, and find the knowledge of God.

0:23:50

Do we really want to find the knowledge of God? Do we understand the fear of Yehovah?

⁶For Yehovah gives wisdom;

It is available.

from His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

So, if we actually seek wisdom, knowledge and understanding; it comes from our Father. Do we go there to look, do we really want understanding?

⁷he (The Father) stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;

We do not walk alone. Yehovah is a shield to those who would walk uprightly.

⁸He guards the paths of justice, and (He) preserves the way of His saints. (If we want to be one of His Saints). ⁹Then you will understand righteousness and justice, equity and every good path.

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0:25:21

So, we're given very specific direction here in Proverbs 2 of what we, individually, need to do to understand good. And it's important to understand good if we are going to discern the difference between good and evil. If we go back to Psalms, there's something that came to mind as I was reading that.

0:25:56

Let's go to Psalm 111, and we are going to look at verse 10. I was talking to somebody the other day who had no fear of God, and I thought, you know, this is exactly like it talks about in Jude. Certain people crept in unawares; they had no fear of God. Everything is great, I can do what I want, I'll always be forgiven. And you know, this scripture came to mind.

¹⁰ The fear of Yehovah is the beginning of wisdom;

0:26:38

So, if there is no fear of Yehovah, wisdom hasn't even started.

a good understanding have all those who do His commandments.

So, if an individual will not do His commandments, feeling that Christ did them for him, and that he doesn't have to do them, exactly how much understanding do you think that individual is likely to have?

0:27:15

It's pretty straight forward when you actually stop and think about what this passage is telling us. Those who refuse to do God's commandments consider themselves wise, but in reality, they are something far, far different.

0:27:39

If we go on, let's read Proverbs 2, verses 10 – 15. Something that I think the ekklesia actually want and desire.

¹⁰ When wisdom enters your heart,

Not your spirit, but your heart, the very center of your being, when that happens.

and knowledge is pleasant to your soul,

0:28:00

Have you ever come across somebody who learns things of God, and it's anything but pleasant to them? Where they don't know, don't care to know, and don't want to know because it is very unpleasant to them, which is what we would expect.

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¹¹discretion will preserve you; understanding will keep you, ¹²to deliver you from the way of evil, from the man who speaks perverse things,

Will we come across people in our physical life who speak perverse things? We are being warned about that, and yes, we will.

¹³from those who leave the paths of uprightness

They have known God and His ways, but they leave God.

to walk in the ways of darkness;

So, rather than walking in the light, they've made a choice to walk in the darkness.

¹⁴who rejoice in doing evil,

They like doing evil.

and delight in the perversity of the wicked;

0:29:45

Have you ever run across anybody like that? They knew, and they become something entirely different.

¹⁵whose ways are crooked, and who are devious in their paths;

Always stick handling, always seeking to find an angle to benefit the self. Have we come across individuals like this in just living this physical life?

0:30:23

The evil and the wicked ones are devious in their thoughts, and actually relish in it, they delight in it; these ways of wickedness. And I have come across people exactly like that. We need not be deceived about the end result of the wicked, for if we go down to Proverbs 2, and verse 22, we are told something very simple and very easy to understand.

²²but the wicked will be cut off from the earth, and the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

0:31:09

It is comforting to know that God's word is truth, and this event is certain. When God says something, we can actually go to the bank with it. The ekklesia, if you feel you are one of those, can expect to be sought out and targeted by the wicked. Expect it. We are warned about that in Proverbs 3, verses 25 and 26, where we are told:

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²⁵Do not be afraid of sudden terror, nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes;

So, expect it.

²⁶for Yehovah will be your confidence, and will keep your foot from being caught.

0:32:11

So, these challenges are going to come, and if we know our God, and what He would have us do, we have a way around what we will have to face. Is Yehovah well aware of who is who? Well, let's go down to verse 31 of Proverbs 3.

³¹Do not envy the oppressor, and choose none of his ways;

Do we recognize the oppressor when we see one?

³²for the perverse person is an abomination to Yehovah,

0:33:16

So, here we learn what our Father actually thinks about the perverse person, the evil person, the wicked person. They are an abomination to Him and we'll cover a little bit more on that as we go ahead.

but His (The Father's) secret counsel is with the upright.

Not with a ministry who can council the upright, His secret counsel is with the upright.

0:33:59

³³The curse of Yehovah is on the house of the wicked,

If we deceive ourselves into thinking God doesn't know the difference between the evil and the wicked and the upright and the righteous, we need to take some time and think that through.

but He blesses the home of the just. ³⁴Surely He scorns the scornful, but gives grace to the humble.

0:34:40

Invariably when looking at the topic we are, and coming across the word abomination shouldn't really be a surprise. We would expect to see that I would think, and it's always good to define things such as that.

0:34:58

If you look up the word abomination, it is the Hebrew word H8241, shetseph, and it actually means disgusting, filthy, detestable, and idolatress in the Hebrew. And the Greek word is G946, I'm certainly not going to try to pronounce it, but it has the inference in it that it's a

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stench to God. It's when people refuse to hear and obey His voice. It's disgustingly abhorrent. So, abomination in the Greek has the reference of a stench to God.

0:35:59

The ekklesia are given an admonition in Proverbs 4, and we'll read verses 14 – 27. The ekklesia are told specifically:

¹⁴Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of evil.

The two here ever so clear. Can we not see why we are charged to discern good and evil as we grow up spiritually. Let's go on.

¹⁵Avoid it, do not travel on it;

The road the wicked travel on.

turn away from it and pass on. ¹⁶For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; and their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall.

0:37:06

They are in it up to their ears; it drives them constantly. They don't sleep at night unless they've done evil during the day.

¹⁷For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

I was just listening to a Martin Armstrong piece talking about the people who really pull the strings in this world, and of course we understand that we don't wrestle against flesh and blood, but these are the puppets he sees and they eat the bread of wickedness and they drink the wine of violence.

0:37:54

They seek war, they desire war, they're just horrible people, and we find them in positions of power in Satan's world. Why would we be surprised at that? Let's go on.

¹⁸But the path of the just is like the shining sun, that shines ever brighter unto the perfect day. ¹⁹The way of the wicked is like darkness; they do not know what makes them stumble.

0:38:32

They are spiritually drunk, they cannot see. Their world falls apart, and they don't know why, because they have gone down the wrong path.

²⁰My son, give attention to my words; incline your ear to my sayings. ²¹Do not let them depart from your eyes;

The commandments and the ways of God.

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keep them in the midst of your heart; ²²for they are life to those who find them, and health to all their flesh. ²³Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of it spring the issues of life. ²⁴Put away from you a deceitful mouth, and put perverse lips far from you.

0:39:22

You know, you look at the 144,000 in Revelation 14, and there was no deceit in their mouths. And you see the connection there. If one desired to be part of the 144,000, would they put a deceitful mouth far away from them? Going on.

²⁵Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. ²⁶Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. ²⁷Do not turn to the right or the left; remove your foot from evil.

0:40:04

There is a path for the righteous, and we are to not go in the directions of evil. Can we also not see how we might be steered to overlook such direction, and to not more completely understand the mind of those who live in us. I marvel, why hasn't this been a focus in the past? You would almost think it would have to be, and yet it wasn't in my case, perhaps it was in all your cases, and great if it was.

0:40:47

We're told of the struggle and the folly of the wicked in Proverbs 5, verses 21 – 23.

²¹For the ways of man are before the eyes of Yehovah, and He (Yehovah) ponders all his paths.

So, if somehow, we don't think that the God of the universe doesn't wonder about where our little feet wander, and our mind wanders; that we're not studied by Him to see what choices we make, perhaps we might want to rethink that equation.

0:41:30

Speaking of the evil and the wicked.

²²His own iniquities (Walking in the wrong path) entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin. ²³He shall die for lack of instruction, and in the greatness of his folly (He is a fool) he shall go astray.

And we are given further insight into the wicked in Proverbs 6, where we'll take a look at verses 12 – 15.

¹²A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth; peevish) ¹³he winks with his eyes, he shuffles his feet, he points with his fingers; ¹⁴perversity is in his heart, he devises evil continually, he sows discord. ¹⁵Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.

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0:43:28

At some point along the way for the wicked, the wheels simply fall off. Going on it says:

¹⁶These six things Yehovah hates, yes, seven are an abomination to Him:

And now that we know that an abomination is a dreadful stench to Him; they're disgusting to Him, they're idolators. Perhaps this passage will take on a deeper meaning, or a deeper thing to consider. Our Father hates:

¹⁷A proud look (He hates) a lying tongue,

0:44:15

The amount of lies today in the world in the news, is simply off the charts. Satan loves that. Our Father hates that. Our Father hates:

hands that shed innocent blood, (Yet He allows it) (He hates) ¹⁸a heart that devises wicked plans,

And Christ defined what was wicked for us.

(and) feet that are swift in running to evil,

0:44:54

There are people who relish evil. If we know what evil is and we can see people running to that, we know they are evil by not our own definition, but rather, our God's.

⁹a false witness who speaks lies, one who sows discord among brethren.

Do we see a bit more clearly now what our Father thinks of these things? You think He can see the evil and wickedness that goes on all around us? And would He not want us to share in the same knowledge, so we can see that and recoil from it, and remove it from ourselves?

0:45:45

Would you do that? Can we see more clearly now? I'm going to finish up in proverbs 9, there is just so much material here, I have no idea where to stop, but this might be a good spot. Let's look at Proverbs 9, and we'll read verses 7 – 12 and consider them. It tells us here:

⁷He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, and he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself.

Isn't that interesting?

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0:46:28

So, then:

⁸Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you;

Have you ever tried to rebuke a scoffer and it didn't work out so well? Don't correct one, lest he hate you. On the other hand

rebuke a wise man,

Wisdom begins with the fear of the LORD. So, we have a place of commonality.

and he will love you. ⁹Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

0:47:18

And again, in a reference that goes back to Psalm 111.

¹⁰The fear of Yehovah is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One

We need to know about our Father.

is understanding.

And we know the seven things that are an abomination to Him, so we can begin to understand the mind of God, so we can see how He hates evil and wickedness. And why He tells us to come out of that and embrace the things of His mind, becoming at one with Him like Jesus Christ was. Going on he says:

¹¹For by me (By Yehovah) your days will be multiplied,

Not might be, will be.

and years of life will be added to you.

Is there some impetus for us to do that?

¹²If you are wise, you are wise for yourself,

0:48:42

Wisdom begins with the fear of Yehovah, and the only one who decides if you are going to fear Yehovah, is you.

and if you scoff, you will bear it alone."

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Before God we are all alone. So, I think that's a good spot to cut it off.

0:49:11

I don't ask for a lot, but I would like to ask, I've been struggling personally, my body is not regenerating energy to repair itself and my mitochondrial energy is very low. And I'm trying to get rested and trying to recover from that, but if I might ask for your prayers in that area, that I might be strengthened and raised up physically, and that leads up to a strengthening mentally as well. Ah, I would ask that of you, if you don't mind. My medical guy tells me that we do have to get that stopped and get that fixed. So, I would kindly ask those who would care to, to, you know, put in a word to our Father that I may be strengthened and restored to some level of vigor that I would like to get back to. So, thank you very much for that. And hopefully we'll be able to get a part 10 done and recorded in good time. Bye for now.