

# 3 JOHN 11 - GOOD VERSUS EVIL: -

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**NOTE:** - All Bible texts are taken from the King James Version; and the compiler has supplied all emphasis throughout this Study Document.

**“BELOVED, FOLLOW NOT THAT WHICH IS EVIL, BUT THAT WHICH IS GOOD. HE THAT DOETH GOOD IS OF GOD: BUT HE THAT DOETH EVIL HATH NOT SEEN GOD.”**

- “Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good.”

The Scriptures repeatedly exhort us to do good and to abstain from the doing of evil.

Psalms 34:13 - 16: - “Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. **Depart from evil, and do good**; seek peace, and pursue it. **The eyes of the LORD [are] upon the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their cry. The face of the LORD [is] against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.**”

Psalms 37:2 - 31: - “**Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore.** For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off. **The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever. The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. The law of his God [is] in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.**”

Amos 5:14 & 15: - “**Seek good, and not evil, that ye may live:** and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. **Hate the evil, and love the good,** and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.”

Romans 2:6 - 11: - “**Who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:** But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath, tribulation and anguish, **upon every soul of man that doeth evil,** of the Jew first, and also of the Gentile; **But glory, honour, and peace, to every man that worketh good,** to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile: For there is no respect of persons with God.”

Romans 7:12 & 13: - “**Wherefore the law [is] holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good. Was then that which is good** made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me **by that which is good;** that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful.”

**NOTE:** - The commandment that is labeled by Paul as being good is the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment – “*Thou shalt not covet.*” – Romans 7:7.

The Law of Ten Commandments that God himself proclaimed from Mount Sinai is called “good” in the scriptures.

Nehemiah 9:13: - “**Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments.**”

**NOTE:** - Putting the passage from Romans 7:12 & 13 together with this passage from Nehemiah 9, we can clearly see that the Ten Commandment Law IS GOOD indeed. And applying the command of 3 John 11 to follow after the good, we clearly should follow in the righteous path of obeying the good and holy Law of God’s Ten Commandments.

Romans 12:9: - “[Let] love be without dissimulation. **Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good.**”

Romans 12:21: - “Be not overcome of evil, but **overcome evil with good.**”

1 Peter 3:10 - 13: - “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: **Let him eschew evil, and do good**; let him seek peace, and ensue it. **For the eyes of the Lord [are] over the righteous, and his ears [are open] unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord [is] against them that do evil.** And who [is] he that will harm you, **if ye be followers of that which is good?**”

- “He that doeth good is of God: ...”

Everyone who does righteousness has been born of God. Obviously, if you have been born of God, you must be “*of God*”.

1 John 2:29: - “If ye know that he is righteous, **ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.**”

God accepts whoever fears him and does righteousness.

Acts 10:34 & 35: - “Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation **he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.**”

- “... but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.”

Everyone who sins has not seen or known God.

1 John 3:6: - “Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: **whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.**”

Everyone who commits sin “*is of the devil*”. (This is the opposite condition when compared to those who are doing good whom John describes as being “*of God*”.)

1 John 3:8: - “**He that committeth sin is of the devil**; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.”

Everyone who does not do righteousness is not “*of God*”.

1 John 3:10: - “In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: **whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God**, neither he that loveth not his brother.”

The apostle John in the immediate context of this 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter of his epistle has defined SIN as THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW.

1 John 3:4: - “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: **for sin is the transgression of the law.**”

☞ **Committing sin (transgressing the law) is the equivalent of doing evil, that we are warned against participating in, according to John’s exhortation in 3 John 11.**