

Sermon Notes

Overcoming Evil Part 5: Spiritual Fervor

September 23rd – 24th, 2023

- **Overcoming Evil: Part 5 Spiritual Fervor. Romans 12:11**
 - This is it isn't it!?!?! If we did these things we would overcome evil with good!!!!
 - Who in here has 100% devoted yourself to living for Jesus?? Like, for real totally all in??
 - Did it turn out as you expected or were there some roadblocks along the way?
 - Let's look at these three things and see how we can live this out in the wisdom of God.
- 1) Never be lacking in zeal. Basically means stay diligent and strongly engaged in the things of God.
 - Pattern of this world: lacking zeal. I'd describe that as tired of God and corrupted.
 - Disinterested. Putting up with false teaching and ungodliness inside and out. Not good.
 - Our desire is to be full of zeal for the Lord!! Amen!?!?!?
 - Problem, I've seen too much of **Romans 10:2** when people are zealous. They miss it.
 - Just because you are zealous doesn't mean you are right!!
 - We see this in **1 Corinthians 1:11-13, 3:1-4**.
 - Christians can get zealous for their brand, but forget to follow Jesus!
 - Same deal, different manifestation in **1 Timothy 1:3-7**.
 - This "confidence" is misguided and gets everyone off track.
 - Next level problem: Result of a prevailing misguided zeal is that good people disengage.
 - I love a good theological/biblical discussion! This misguided zeal on the other hand...
 - However, same problem if we lack zeal!! The gospel isn't proclaimed and it fades away!
 - Don't miss it to the one side or to the other! Never be lacking in zeal!
- 2) Keep your spiritual fervor! Basically means keep your supernatural connection with God strong.
 - Pattern of this world: only think religious thoughts, but never spiritually connect with God.
 - Some people are zealous for the false doctrine that spiritual fervor isn't for today!
 - When we lack spiritual fervor, we end up with dead religion. Ever seen that?
 - You know where the well is, go get a drink! **Luke 11:9-13**
 - Problem, sometimes instead of the Holy Spirit's fire, we end up with wild fire!
 - I LOVE **1 Cor 14:23-25**.
 - What a contrast! Out of our mind vs God is really among you!
 - Next Level Problem: Wildfire chases away "normal" people and encourages dead religion.
 - Interestingly, lacking spiritual fervor brings dead religion as well!!
- 3) Serving the Lord. This is tied to being zealous for God and keeping your spiritual fervor!
 - Pattern of this world: only serving yourself and letting go of serving God.
 - Jesus expects his disciples to get the job done! Let's catch the heart. **Matthew 9:35-38**
 - It's not that we earn points with God, it's that there is important work going undone.
 - If we are zealous and full of spiritual fervor, serving the Lord just happens! **James 2:14-17**
 - The change is from the inside out. Grow your faith and actions will follow!
 - Problem: when serving God becomes a loveless transaction with God. Legalism. Judgmentalism.
 - Forced service when your heart isn't in it merely to try to avoid punishment.
- There is beauty in **Romans 12:11**. There are also potential pitfalls. Let's take hold of the beautiful thing!
- We can see the wonderful truths of the Gospel of Jesus Christ come out, but we also see the corruption and ugliness that can overlap these truths in religious culture.
 - Closing verse: **Matthew 24:12-13**
 - I want you to see through the yuck to the beauty and power of God. Then you can be zealous for the right things. You can be spiritually vibrant. You can serve the Lord and help lots and lots of people and you can last to the finish!!
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.