

Sermon Notes

Overcoming Evil with Good

August 26th – 27th, 2023

- **Overcoming Evil with Good**
- Today we are looking at Romans 12, with a strong emphasis on **Romans 12:21**.
 - The building has suffered harm. That means it's time to overcome evil with good!
 - Have you suffered harm? Of course you have!
 - That means you have felt this tension between being overcome vs overcoming.
- How do we actually do this???
 - Let's go through Romans 12 for context and insight, then I'll give you 4 practical steps.
- **Romans 12:1-21 then back to Romans 12:1-2**
 - So, what are the patterns of this world that we are to not conform to?
 - Here are a couple: 1) Selfishness, 2) Hate as a pastime.
 - What is a non-conformist stance relating to those patterns?
 - 1) Give more than you take in life. Put others first. Quiet your wants for a greater good.
 - 2) Live a life of love and wisdom.
 - Internet algorithm baits you into thinking "I should hate those idiots!!"
 - It's ridiculous that people hate people they haven't even met.
 - Would you say that our culture is pretty messed up?
 - This give us a incredible opportunity (if we don't conform) to show the difference Christ makes for us and can make for others!
 - When we are not overcome by evil, hate, foolishness, we have a testimony!
 - Unfortunately, if we are caught up in (overcome) by evil, hate, and foolishness, then we suffer and the Lord looks ridiculous. **Romans 2:23-24**
 - Don't be a Christian internet troll...
 - And really really really don't hate people for fun that Jesus died for.
- Four practical steps for actualizing **Romans 12:21** in your heart. ('cause that's where it all starts.)
 - 1) Put some faith on it!!
 - Faith moves mountains.
 - I take verses like this as a promise. I can overcome and not be crushed!
 - 2) Pray and ask the Lord for help.
 - You have not because you ask not. God wants you to overcome, so get some help!!
 - There are different kinds of prayer. This may take some time hanging out with God.
 - To take that a step further...
 - 3) Invite the Holy Spirit in.
 - Being filled with the Holy Spirit will bring the fruit of the Spirit.
 - If you want love and wisdom, a little spiritual heart surgery may be what you need!
 - 4) DO IT!!
 - Sometimes you don't feel it until you do it.
 - Obedience can start as a struggle, but then you learn as you go and it gets fun!
 - 4 steps from John 8:31-32 explains this quite well.
 - Offer forgiveness. Give some help. Watch your tongue. Cut out negative influences.
- Isn't it great to be together! (Next week: Overcoming Together from Romans 12:3-8, etc.)
 - We all have hurts and struggles, both externally and internally.
 - My last point is this: Jesus doesn't want you facing all of that alone.
 - That's the real point of **Romans 8:28**.
 - Invite Jesus into your struggles. He will meet you there and teach you how to overcome evil with good.
- Get personal prayer by emailing prayer@goodhope.ag.