

1 John Series

Lesson 19

Charles Clough

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| 1:1–4 | Prologue—call to sharing eternal life with God through the apostles |
| 1:5–2:11 | Preamble—daily interacting with the Triune God |
| | 1:5–2:2 fellowship with God the Father at His Holy Integrity |
| | 2:3–8 fellowship with God the Son at His Commandments |
| | 2:9–11 fellowship with God the Holy Spirit at His work in believers |
| 2:12–27 | Purpose—call to resist the doomed world system and its Christ-denying teachers |
| | 2:12–14 resistance begins with confidence in the Spirit's work in one's life |
| | 2:15–17 resistance utilizes the strategic envelopment of the world-system being accomplished by the Father |
| | 2:18–27 resistance adheres to the Spirit-confirmed, once-for-all time apostolic doctrine that renders innovation unnecessary and contradictory |

Three Self-Evaluations

Am I responding to an inner feeling in order to violate God's design?

Am I responding to an external attractive object that I want enough to disobey God's Word?

Am I so immersed in my plans that I've forgotten my creature status?

The Real “Progress” During the Church Age

“The darkness is passing away, and the true light is already shining. ... And the world is passing away, and the lust of it, but he who does the will of God abides forever.”

1 John 2:8, 17

“You are worthy to take the scroll and to open its seals; For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation and have made us kings and priests to our God and we shall reign on the earth.”

Revelation 5:9–10

Strategic Envelopment

“Effective results in war have rarely been attained unless the approach has had such indirectness as to ensure the opponent’s unreadiness to meet it. The indirectness has usually been physical, and always psychological. In strategy, the longest way round is often the shortest way home. ... The aim is to weaken resistance before attempting to overcome it; and the effect is best attained by drawing the other party out of his defenses.”

~B. H. Liddell-Hart, *Strategy*, p. 25.

Examples of the “Indirect Strategy”

“Now is the judgment of this world, now the ruler of this world will be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself. ... After the piece of bread, Satan entered into [Judas]. Then Jesus said to him, ‘What you do, do quickly.’ ... He then went out and it was night.”

John 12:31–32; 13:27, 30.

“We do not speak the wisdom of this age, nor of the rulers of this age, who are coming to nothing. But we speak the wisdom of God ... which none of the rulers of this age knew, for had they known, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.”

1 Corinthians 2:6–8

Examples of the “Indirect Strategy”

“Put on the whole armor of God that you may be **able to stand** against the [cunning trickery] of the devil. ... Take up the whole armor of God that you may be **able to withstand in the evil day**. ... **Stand therefore**, having gird your waist with truth. ... And above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to **quench all the fiery darts** of the wicked one. ...”

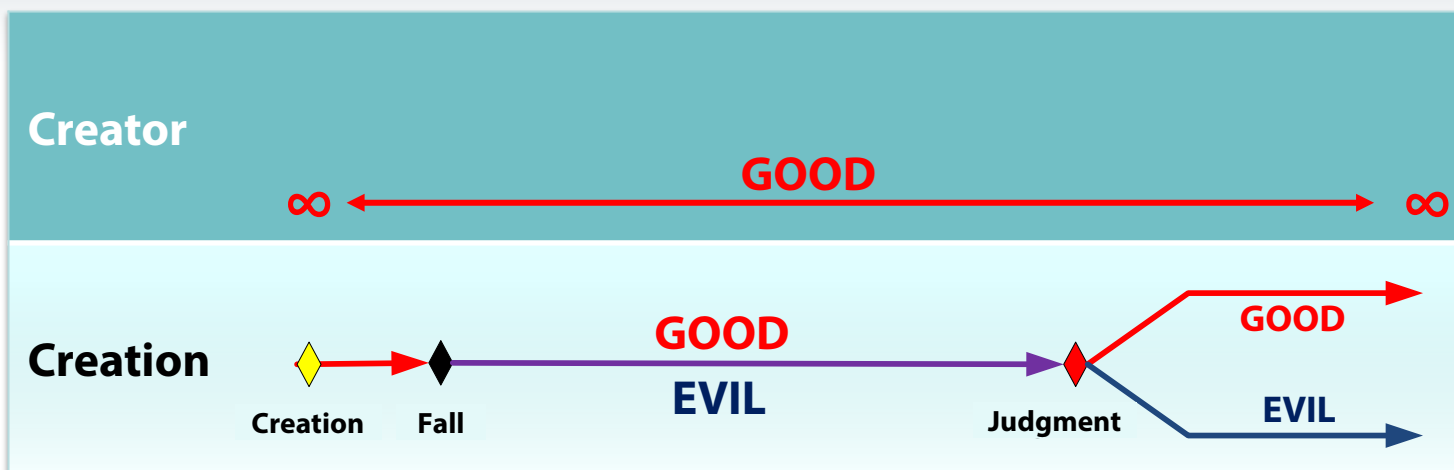
Ephesians 6:11–16

“Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be **ready to give a defense** to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you ... that when they defame you as evildoers ... they may be ashamed.”

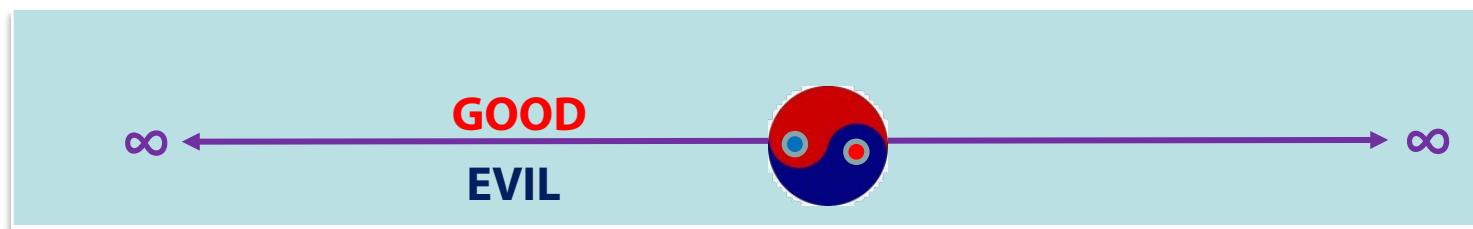
1 Peter 3:15–16

Who has the REAL “Evil Problem”?

Christian: Good / Evil mix is “abnormal” and temporary



Pagan: Good / Evil mix is permanently “normal”



The Eternal Quarantine of All Evil

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it from whose face the earth and heaven fled away. ... And I saw the dead—small and great—standing before God. ... And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ... And anyone not found in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

Revelation 20:11–15

“I saw a new heaven and a new earth. ... but the ... unbelieving ... murderers, sexually immoral, ... idolaters ... shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire ... the second death.”

Revelation 21:1–8

The “End” in Western Enlightenment Thought

"That Man is the product of *causes which had no prevision* of the end they were achieving; that his origin, his growth, his hope and fears, his loves and beliefs, are but the *outcome of accidental collocations of atoms*; that no fire, no heroism, no intensity of thought and feeling, can *preserve an individual life beyond the grave*; that all the labours of the ages, all the devotion, all the inspiration, all the noonday brightness of human genius are *destined to extinction in the vast death of the solar system*, and that the whole temple of Man's achievement must inevitably be *buried beneath the debris of a universe in ruin* – all these things, if not quite beyond dispute, are yet so nearly certain, that no philosophy that rejects them can hope to stand. Only within the scaffolding of these truths, only on the firm foundation of unyielding despair, can the soul's habitation henceforth be safely built."

Bertrand Russell, "A Free Man's Religion" (1903) essay in *Mysticism and Logic* (1917) pg. 4546.

The “End” in Eastern [Hindu] Thought

“There is no plurality and no change. Nature which presents the appearance of plurality and change is mere illusion (maya).”

Paul Deussen, *The Philosophy of the Upanishads*, trans. A. S. Geden (Edinburgh: T & T Clark, 1906), 237

The Eternal Blessedness of the Redeemed

“Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them. ... And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away. ... Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold I make all things new,’ and He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’ ”

Revelation 20:11–15