

The Inscrutable Question: Warnings against Cosmic Involvement; Divine Good vs. Human Good: Assets that Develop Divine Viewpoint & Produce Divine Good

- 38- Because the “philosophy” of Empedocles assumed that all matter just recycled then it was forbidden to eat meat since the animal might be a former member of the human race. This heresy is addressed by Paul in:

Colossians 2:20 - If you have died with Christ to the elements of the world [στοιχεῖον τοῦ κόσμος, *stoicheion tou kosmos*], why, as if you were living in the world, do you submit yourself to decrees, such as,

v. 21 - “Do not handle, do not taste, do not touch!”

v. 22 - —in accordance with the commandments and teachings of men?

v. 23 - These are matters which have, to be sure, the appearance of wisdom in self-made religion and self-abasement and severe treatment of the body [**human good and evil**], but are of no value [**no rebound**] against fleshly indulgence [**the subordination to the first husband**].

- 39- Paul even seems to be warning Timothy about these very things in a passage we recently noted:

1 Timothy 6:20 - O Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to you [παραθήκη, *paratheke*: **deposit**], avoiding worldly and empty chatter and the opposing arguments of what is falsely called “knowledge” [**human viewpoint**]—

v. 21 - which some have professed and thus gone astray [ἀστοχέω, *astocheo*: **deviate, swerve, depart or miss the mark**] from the faith [**into human good and evil**].

- 40- A believer who is involved in religious activities designed to please God or who tries to worship in a way that is in opposition to the standards of Scripture is functioning under human viewpoint, human good, and evil.

- 41- He must reorient to the standards of Christ, otherwise he must be punished for his wrongdoing:

Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men;

v. 24 - knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve.

v. 25 - For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality.

- 42- These consequences include several things. We have recently noted divine discipline which solicits rebound adjustment and resumption of Bible study. If ignored there is ultimately the terminal discipline of the sin unto death.

- 43- And also there is the unfortunate loss of rewards for both time and eternity. The latter is the subject of:

2 Corinthians 5:10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good [**divine good resulting in rewards**] or bad [**human good and evil resulting in loss of rewards**].

- 44- The evaluation of the believer’s works in time and the differentiation of divine good from human good is the subject of our next paragraph.

B. Divine Good vs. Human Good

- 1- There are two ways of thinking: (1) divine viewpoint based on Bible doctrine in the stream of consciousness and (2) human viewpoint based on the doctrines of demons in the stream of consciousness.
- 2- Divine viewpoint is developed in the soul of the believer through grace. Following salvation the grace of God provides a package of assets that enables the new believer to grow in grace and acquire His viewpoint:
 - 1) Logistical grace: the divine guarantee of the necessities of life in two categories, (1) physical sustenance, e.g., food, clothing, shelter, etc., and (2) spiritual sustenance, e.g., a completed canon, a local church, a pastor-teacher, and human I.Q.
 - 2) The filling of the Holy Spirit: His mentorship utilizes the grace assets of the human spirit and human I.Q. to create spiritual I.Q.
 - 3) The Grace Apparatus for Perception: this is the system by which the Divine Academy of Grace Didactics functions to instruct the believer's soul in the divine viewpoint of God.
 - 4) From this grace system is developed an inventory of ideas that enables the believer under the power of the Holy Spirit to make good decisions from a position of biblical strength and resolve exigencies through application of ten biblical problem-solving devices.
- 5- All production from this system is divine good and is the means by which the Holy Spirit glorifies Jesus Christ in the Church Age.
- 6- The believer is personally unable to glorify Jesus Christ. His participation in such an event is completely dependent upon grace assets. Therefore, when such glorification occurs it cannot be the result of human merit but grace function under the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 7:38 - "He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said [**Isaiah 12:3**], 'From his innermost being shall flow rivers of living water.'"

v. 39 - But this He spoke of the Holy Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive; for the Holy Spirit was not yet given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

- 7- The "living water" in verse 38 is identified by John in verse 39 to be the Holy Spirit. Those who believed in Christ were promised the indwelling of the Holy Spirit after the glorification of Christ in heaven. We are in the process of studying this in:

Hebrews 2:9 - But having been made inferior to the angels for a brief period [**the Incarnation**] for the purpose of suffering spiritual death, we keep on seeing something of value, Jesus and only Jesus, having been crowned with glory and honor, in order that by means of grace from the source of God, He should taste spiritual death as a substitute for every person.

v. 10 - For it was proper for God, because of Whom are all things and through Whom are all things, since He was bringing many sons to glory, to bring to the objective [**spiritual death on the cross**] the Crown Prince of their salvation through suffering.

- 8- Once Christ was crowned with glory then the Holy Spirit could begin His mission of glorifying Jesus Christ on earth during the Church Age. This is presently being accomplished through the grace system of didactics we have just discussed.



- 9- By teaching believers doctrine they advance in their knowledge of divine viewpoint all the way to spiritual maturity where they produce maximum divine good which glorifies Christ.
- 10- The Holy Spirit is the agent for glorifying Jesus Christ in the Church Age and this is accomplished through the three spiritual skills:

John 16:14 - He [the Holy Spirit] shall glorify Me because He shall take Mine [doctrine in the mind of Christ], and shall disclose it to you [filling of the Holy Spirit plus GAP results in divine viewpoint].

- 11- The more the believer knows about the thinking of Christ the more the Holy Spirit is able to glorify Christ through him.
- 12- Thus divine good originates from the thinking of the believer who has an inventory of divine viewpoint from which to draw under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
- 13- Maximum efficiency in the production of divine good requires four ingredients:
 - 1) The filling of the Holy Spirit which is the *sine qua non* for being in the directive will of God.
 - 2) Consistent progress in the double-column advance, (1) spiritual growth under the Grace Apparatus for Perception in the left column and (2) the development of reciprocal love for motivation in the right column. This produces momentum toward the objective of spiritual maturity.
 - 3) Spiritual maturity is attainment of cognitive invincibility, the level of spiritual advance that gives the believer the discernment to execute divine good utilizing the right doctrine at the right time under the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
 - 4) The result is invisible historical impact by the mature believer. He does not draw attention to himself but his act of divine good results in maximum glorification of God and of Jesus Christ.