

Do not be OVERCOME by

Evil,

But OVERCOME evil with

Good.

- Romans 12:21

The elements of our worship, as prescribed by God's word, are as follows:

- **SINGING:** Ephesians 5:18,19; Colossians 3:16
- **PREACHING/TEACHING:** Acts 2:42; Eph. 4:11,12
- **PRAYING:** Acts 2:42; Acts 12:5
- **LORD'S SUPPER:** 1 Corinthians 11:23-26; Acts 20:7
- **GIVING:** 1 Corinthians 16:1,2; 2 Corinthians 9:6,7

**COME WORSHIP
WITH US!**

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY...9:00
SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP.....10:00
SUNDAY EVENING WORSHIP.....6:00
WEDNESDAY EVENING SERVICES....7:00



- www.defendthegospel.com
- 1st Sunday Singing Night: 6 pm
- 5th Sunday Night: Guest Speaker
- Men's Business Meeting. 1st Sunday night of each month Following Services.



SOUTHSIDE SEARCHER

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"They...searched the scriptures daily..." -Acts 17:11

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DESTROYING ENEMIES

Michael Pickford

MOST PRESIDENTS OF THE United States become famous for their quotes. Abraham Lincoln was no exception. We discussed two of his quotes in previous articles. Now I'd like to consider another Lincoln quote which states, "Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"

Dealing with enemies has been a challenge for humanity throughout history. When we speak of destroying our enemies, we often think of something aggressive and harmful. When someone does us wrong or abuses us in any way, it causes us pain. And we want to inflict pain on them in return. But there's another way, a superior way, to destroy our enemies.

Abraham Lincoln's quote was doubtless inspired by the Lord's teaching in Matthew 5:43-48. He said in verses 43 and 44, "You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you."

In two sentences Jesus turned the conventional way of dealing with enemies on its head. Then he gave the true path to destroying our enemies. Not by causing them harm, but by actively doing good things for them. The hope is that it will change their attitude toward us. When we do something good for them or come to their side at a time of need, they're ashamed of the way they've treated us. You have destroyed your enemy by turning them into a friend. Paul taught the same lesson in Romans 12:14-20. He spoke of heaping coals of fire on their heads by doing good to them. The heaping of the coals of fire is a figure of speech that indicates shaming them into better behavior. If we shun vengeance and return good for evil instead, we can destroy our enemies by making them our friends.

We also shouldn't overlook the significant statement of Jesus when he admonished us to pray for our enemies. Pray instead of plot. Don't spend your time devising ways to get back at your enemy by returning evil for evil. Spend your time praying for them by name. Pray that you will have the strength to do the right thing toward them. And pray that the good acts you do for them will have the desired effect.

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BE SOBER

David Eldridge

Time and again, the Bible commands Christians to be sober. To be sober is to be “of sound mind...hence self-controlled, sober-minded” (Vine’s). The Bible stresses the need to be sober...

In Looking at Self: Paul states, “For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly...” (Rom. 12:3). We fail to think soberly when we fail to be humble. Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:3). To develop poverty of spirit, remember that without God we would have nothing (cf. Rev. 3:17), and know that even when we have done all we can, we are accounted as unprofitable servants (Lk. 17:10). When we see our sinful state before God (Rom. 3:23), the punishment that we deserve (Rom. 6:23), and the price that was paid that we might escape (Rom. 5:8), we cannot help but be humbled. Thinking soberly, if we humble ourselves, God will bless us: “Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He will lift you up” (Jas. 4:10).

In Our Behavior: Sobriety of life is required of all Christians. It is required of those who desire the office of an elder (1 Tim. 3:2), of their wives (1 Tim. 3:11), of women old and young (1 Tim. 2:9,15; Tit. 2:4), and of aged and young men (Tit. 2:2,6). Note Paul’s words in Titus 2:12: “Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age.” Does this mean one is to be so grave that they never smile and enjoy life? Of course not! However, we must be very serious deciding the way that we live, understanding that the way we live today affects our eternal destiny. Sometimes it is easy to fall into the same trap as the rich man of Luke 12:16-21. The rich man was lulled into a feeling of self-sufficiency and carelessness by his gain. This is evident when he said to his soul, “Take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry” (vs. 19). However, his life of carelessness would end in ruin, for that very night would be his last (vs. 20). We must be careful, serious, and sober in this life.

In Our Teaching: Paul, after having an accusation of madness leveled at him by Festus, declares, “I am not mad, most noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and soberness” (Ac. 26:25). Paul, as he taught the gospel of Christ, was doing so in a serious and reasonable way. We

must develop the same in our teaching. We do so by realizing the important task at hand. Paul told Timothy, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee” (1 Tim. 4:16). The seriousness of the message we teach is seen in the fact that our soul, and the souls of others, depends on it. Realizing the great task we have of teaching the gospel, let us prepare to teach and present the truth in soberness, being serious-minded and reasonable.

In Watching For Our Enemy: Peter warned, “Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour” (1 Pet. 5:8). To watch for our enemy, we must learn the ways that he operates. John explained this in 1 John 2:16: “For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world.” Knowing this, we must always be on guard, because “we are not ignorant of his devices” (2 Cor. 2:11).

In view of eternity, be sober that you might be afforded rest in Heaven! -

DUTY LIST...

SUNDAY MORNING

- Announcements.....Michael Pickford
- Scripture Reading...Michael Pickford
Reading: Proverbs 21:9-16
- Song Leader.....Kenny Todd
- Opening Prayer.....Jason Hubbard
- Lord’s Table:
 - Lead.....Kenny Johnson
 - Serve.....Jeff Isbell
 - Serve.....Lynn Buttrey
- Closing Prayer.....Michael Pickford

SUNDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Lynn Buttrey
- Lord’s Table.....Lynn Buttrey

WEDNESDAY EVENING

- Song Leader.....Michael Pickford
- Invitation.....Kenny Johnson

Thank You For Serving!

GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

There is only one true saving plan of Salvation outlined in Scripture. No substitutes will do. Have you really been saved? Get out your Bible and study the plan below.

- Hear The Gospel: Romans 10:17
- Believe: Mark 16:16; John 8:24
- Repent of Sin: Acts 2:38; 17:30
- Confess Faith: Romans 10:9, 10
- Be Baptized: Mark 16:16;
Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16; 1 Peter 3:21
- Remain Faithful: Rev. 2:10

Obey Today!

***Home Bible Studies
Available Upon Request!***