

## The Believer's Interim Life from Salvation to Maturity, Rom 12:1-3; the Anthropopathism of "Hate": Disapproval; Evil: the Policy of Satan as Ruler of the World, Prov 8:13

24. The most dangerous and challenging time of a believer's post-salvation life is that period of spiritual growth between salvation and maturity. This stage is the believer's interim life, a period discussed by Paul in:

**Romans 12:1** - I urge [ παρακαλέω, *parakaleō*: a military commander motivating troops before battle ] you, therefore, fellow believers, by grace blessings [ οἰκτιρμός, *oiktirmos*: anthropopathism of emotional compassion; God is rational, therefore, the idea is grace ] from the justice of God, that you place your bodies under orders [ παρίστημι, *paristēmi*: military term from ancient Greece<sup>1</sup> ] as a living, holy sacrifice [ rebound and the filling of the Holy Spirit ]. This is well-pleasing [ εὐαρέστος, *euarestos*: acceptable ] to our God—your rational [ λογικός, *logikos*: all worship is rational not emotional ] and spiritual worship.

**v. 2** - Also stop being molded [ μὴ συσχηματίζω, *mē suschēmatizō*: to be conformed to<sup>2</sup> ] by this world [ αἰών, *aīōn*: this dispensation, i.e., the Church Age ] but be habitually transformed [ customary present passive imperative of μεταμορφώω, *metamorphoō*: inner conversion ] by the renovation [ ἀνακαίνωσις, *anakainōsis*: deconstruct and rebuild ] of your thought, that you may prove [ δοκιμάζω, *dokimazō*: to test for the purpose of approval ] what the will of God is, namely, the good, the well-pleasing and the complete [ the advance to spiritual maturity ].

**v. 3** - For I say through the grace which has been given to me, to everyone who is among you, stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think [ **spiritual self-esteem** ], but think in terms of sanity for the purpose of being rational without illusion as God has assigned to each one a standard of thinking from doctrine.

25. The renovation of thought that occurs in the soul of the grace oriented believer replaces the fear of anticipated punishment with respect and reverence for a just and loving God.
26. This is the result of spiritual growth and the gradual acquisition of wisdom. With a transformed soul oriented to divine viewpoint, the believer assumes Lady Wisdom's attitude in Proverbs 8:13—he hates evil.

**Proverbs 8:13a** - "Respect and reverence of the Lord ...

<sup>1</sup> "Polybius, 'he set his cavalry on both wings'; Homer, 'to place oneself at the disposal'; Demosthenes, 'to stand by'; Aristophanes, 'to be on hand.'" (Bo Reicke, "παρίστημι, παριστάνω," in *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, ed. Gerhard Friedrich, trans., and ed. Geoffrey W. Bromiley [Grand Rapids: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1967], 5:837-38.).

<sup>2</sup> "Conform: to be in agreement or harmony with; to be obedient or compliant; to act in accordance with prevailing standards or customs" (*Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, 11th ed.).

27. The anthropopathism of hate is Qal infinitive construct of the verb שָׂנֵא **sane'** which is commonly translated with the preposition "to" plus a verb, as in "Respect and reverence of the Lord is to hate evil."
28. In this context, *sane'* is used in the follow manner:  
 שָׂנֵא (*sane'*). It expresses an emotional attitude toward persons and things which are opposed, detested, despised and with which one wishes to have no contract or relationship. Whereas love draws and unites, hate separates and keeps distant.<sup>3</sup>
29. Wisdom, the righteous standards of divine veracity, rejects all ideas, philosophies, ideologies, and worldviews that are in opposition to truth. This conglomeration of human viewpoint is characterized as evil, the noun רָעָא *ra'a'*.
30. The biblical concept of evil covers so many aspects of the cosmic system's modus vivendi that some principles are needed to help define it. Isaiah establishes the duality between evil and its polar opposites in:  
**Isaiah 5:20** - Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!
31. Here are some principles that help define evil and its manifestations of darkness and bitterness among a host of others:
- 1) Whereas grace is God's policy in establishing a relationship with mankind, evil is Lucifer's policy as the ruler of this world.
  - 2) It is Lucifer's intent to make himself "like the Most High" (Isaiah 14:14b), therefore, his plan's objective is to bring about perfect environment in a pseudo Millennium before the Second Advent.
  - 3) Since Lucifer cannot prevent, control, or restrain sin his plan attempts to use sin as a means of producing human good and evil.
  - 4) Evil is the result of the coordination of sin and human good. Sin occurs by submission to the trends and lust patterns of the sin nature which in turn allows the sin nature's area of strength to motivate human good. This results in sin being excused by means of self-righteous arrogance the result of which is evil.
  - 5) Although Lucifer is the most brilliant of the created beings, he is incapable of ruling the world he controls, therefore, a fortiori – with even greater reason – less intelligent humans cannot rule it either. Man cannot solve man's problems with human solutions.
  - 6) When men try to rule through human viewpoint, they operate from the source of the cosmic systems which produces various categories of evil.

<sup>3</sup> R. Laird Harris, Gleason L. Archer, Jr., and Bruce K. Walke, "שָׂנֵא *sane'*," in *Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 1980), 880.

- 7) Evil policies always result in the destruction of a society since those it places in power destroy legitimate authority and the divine institutions.
- 8) The genius of God's plan is nonmeritorious grace which keeps Him in control of believers through divine justice, whereas the weakness of Lucifer's plan depends upon the cooperation of the human race which he is unable to control.
- 9) Unbelievers and believers, regardless of the dispensation, are under constant assault from the Luciferian forces of evil – the battleground is the soul and his artillery is thought and the thought he promotes is laced with human good.