

A Study About Elders

(Part 20)

I. Introduction:

A. There have been times wherein it was very difficult to find good men on earth (**Psalms 14:1-4**).

1. In a prophesy about the first coming of Christ, Isaiah established that apostasy was rampant (**Isaiah 53:6**).
2. As of the first century, evil men were only going to get worse (**II Timothy 3:13**).
3. Remember, few will be saved (**Matthew 7:13-14**) and few were saved in the first destruction this planet has seen (**I Peter 3:20-21**).

B. Some have been so corrupt that they don't even know how to do good (**Jeremiah 4:22**).

1. As we have discussed often, a mature Christian can discern the difference between good and evil (**Hebrews 5:14**).
2. We have to define good by what is acceptable in the sight of God (**Deuteronomy 12:28, Deuteronomy 13:18, and Hebrews 13:21**).

II. Body: A Lover Of Good Men (**Titus 1:8**).

A. The terminology "lover of good men" comes from the Greek meaning: "fond of good, i.e. a promoter of virtue: — love of good men" (Strong's # 5358). It only appears in this one verse.

1. We are talking about someone who is set on good, doing good, loving good, etc. (**Psalms 34:14, Proverbs 11:27, and Galatians 4:18**).
2. The mindset of saints should be directed towards what is good (**Philippians 4:6-8**).
3. According to God, good and evil is revealed by action (**III John 1:11**).
4. Understand, there have been those whom are the opposite of this instruction (**Psalms 52:1-4**).

B. Loving, being fond of - good (**Amos 5:15**).

1. A "do-gooder" (**I Peter 3:8-12**).
2. If you love the Lord, you should hate evil (**Psalms 97:10, Proverbs 8:13, and Romans 12:9; cf. Psalms 36:1-4**).

C. Loving good and hating evil equips an elder to exhort, convict, rebuke, etc. (**Titus 1:9-14**).

1. He will hate every false way (**Psalms 119:104**) and therefore be set to contend against evil (**Proverbs 28:4**).
2. Since he loves good, he will understand what one sinner can do to what is good (**Ecclesiastes 9:18**).
3. To protect the good, he'll not ignore even that one sinner (**Hebrews 12:15**).

4. This man will be an adversary to those whom render evil for good (**Psalms 38:20** and **Psalms 139:21-22**).

D. When leaders loved the evil instead of the good (**Micah 3:1-12**).

1. Elders likened to the evil of the past, who would be trusted with purposed funds (**Acts 11:27-30**), would not use such properly (**Amos 8:4**).

2. They will make the Lord's people to err (**Isaiah 9:16**, **Jeremiah 23:1-2**, and **Matthew 15:1-14**).

3. Truth teachers will be cut down (**Amos 5:10-13** and **Acts 7:51-58**) and commanded NOT to teach truth (**Acts 4:1-5:40**).

4. God has shown, He will destroy His people when leaders love evil and cause the flock to follow such (**Jeremiah 6:13-19**).

III. Conclusion: Ever follow that which is good (**I Thessalonians 5:15**).