



Pastor's Update

Sunday, March 17, 2024

“The Evil Day”

In Ephesians 6:13 Paul exhorts Believers to “take up the full armor of God, so that you will be able to resist in the evil day.” The implication is that those who do not follow this injunction would not be able to resist in the evil day. When then is this “evil day?” Three different views are proposed in response to this question.

According to the first view, this “evil day” will be a time of great tribulation and suffering on the earth near the end of the present church age. In the study of Eschatology this view is known as Classic or Historical Premillennialism. Consequently, this time of special tribulation and suffering will be followed by a thousand-year reign (millennium) of Christ on earth. Another variety of Premillennialism (Pretribulational or Dispensational Premillennialism) proposes that Christ will return before the millennium. According to this view, believers who are dead and those who are alive on the earth will be “caught up” (raptured) in the air to be with Christ who will then return to heaven with the believers. When that happens there will be a great tribulation on the earth for a period of seven years which believers will escape.

The “evil day” can also be understood as an overall description of this present age (Gal. 1:4). This view claims that we are already living in the evil days, but, that these will culminate in a climactic “evil day” when resistance will be especially necessary. Just as redemption is already experienced but there will be a final day of redemption, so evil is already present but there will also be a final day of evil. This final day can be described as “the final clash between God’s forces and the cosmic powers of this evil darkness.”

The final way in which the “evil day” is understood is to say that it is any time of crisis or a special temptation. The word “evil” is a translation of the Greek term *ponēros* which can also mean “sick, bad, wicked.” Evil can refer to being in poor physical condition, that is to be ill. For example, in Matthew 6:23 Jesus uses the word in reference to the eye: “If your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness” (see Luke 11:34). When a person receives bad news about their physical health, finances or any of the necessities of life, that’s his or her personal “evil day.”

To conclude, Paul already urges us to make the most of our time because the days are evil (Eph. 5:16). According to Ephesians 5:16, the “evil days” are characterized by drunkenness. Believers, therefore, ought to avoid such lifestyle and instead, seek a higher form of exhilaration by being “filled with the Spirit” (Eph. 5:16-19). May God preserve us during these evil days and give us grace to persevere in our personal evil day experiences.

By God’s Grace and for His glory,
Pr. Francis