

# Your Questions & Answers ... Archived January 2011

*Mike F. asks,*

## **"Where does evil come from?"**

The first thing we need to do in answering this question is to define "evil". The dictionary has several definitions: bad; wicked; causing an undesirable condition, as ruin, injury or pain. Thus evil is usually viewed from the person receiving the undesirable condition which, as we shall see, does not necessarily mean it is wicked from God's point of view. Also we have to remember that the heart of man is full of evil. The following are some of the Bible passages that help us answer this question:

*"Moses besought the LORD his God and said, LORD why doth thy wrath wax hot against thy people.....Turn from thy fierce wrath, and repent of this evil against thy people.....And the LORD repented of the evil which he thought to do to his people." Exod. 32: 11-14*

*"He cast upon them the fierceness of his anger, wrath and indignation , and trouble, by sending evil angels among them (the Egyptians)." Psa.78:49*

*"I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the LORD do all these things." Isa. 45:7*

*"I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit." Jn. 15: 1-2*

*"From within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: all these evil things come from within, and defile the man." Mark 7:21-23*

We believe with Jeremiah that "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (17:9) and we fool ourselves if we do not see that. We also believe that God is active in our lives and causes evil to come into our lives that we may bring forth more fruit and become more like Jesus, the true vine.

Next time we will again let the Bible answer your questions.

*Keep reading His word, prayerfully!*