

# THE END NEVER JUSTIFIES THE MEANS

## AND WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU'VE DONE EVIL

*"(as we be slanderously reported, and as some affirm that we say,) Let us do evil, that good may come? whose damnation is just."*

~ Romans 3:8

### 1. The End Never Justifies the Means

- a. This an essential principle of Biblical justice (as opposed to social or secular)
- b. The end is the outcome, goal, or conclusion; the means is how you get there.
  - i. Error #1 - You can do bad, if the end is good.
  - ii. Error #2 - What you do is not bad, if the end is good.

### 2. Noble Lies Are Evil (#1)

- a. Plato's noble lie/ pious fiction as perpetuating a falsehood for a noble cause
- b. "for the greater good", all false propaganda, religion, Christmas, "whatever it takes"
- c. But truth is the cause - 2 Cor 4:2, Eph 4:15, 4:25
- d. Paul uses "any means" within his means as a servant of God - 1 Cor 9:19,22-25, 6:13
- e. We are servants of righteousness (by grace) - Rom 6:1-2, 6:15-16
- f. God says the end of those things is death not good - Rom 6:21
- g. Jesus did not sin to save you, he did everything right to save you - Rom 3:26
- h. Doing evil is damnable, even if the end is good - Titus 1:2, Rom 3:6-8

### 3. Wrong is Never Right (#2)

- a. *"right and wrong depend on the situation", "love thy neighbor", "don't judge"*
- b. The Father of Situational Ethics (in the 20<sup>th</sup> c) - Joseph Fletcher, Episcopal Humanist
- c. Robin Hood theology: wrong is acceptable if the end is for love - 1 John 4:8
- d. Famous example: Rahab - was her lying good since it protected Jewish men? No.
- e. Bad things happen, and they are still bad - Gen 50:20, Rom 8:28, Eph 5:7,11
- f. It is better to obey than sacrifice (to God out of love) - 1 Sam 15:22
- g. Sin has consequences: David, 2Sa 12:24 -Thieves Pro 6:30 - good intent, Heb 4:12
- h. Jesus still died for sins, even though he purposed to die and for love's sake - Rom 5:8
- i. A holy and perfect God is right, and defines wrong, not our circumstances.

### 4. What to Do When You've Done Evil

- a. How can you justify where you stand (an end) if you did wrong to get there?
- b. The grace of God doesn't justify evil means, it justifies sinners by the means of Christ
- c. 1) Acknowledge the good end, and the wrong means.  
Do you sorrow? The Holy Ghost does - Ps 50, 2Cor 2:7, Eph 4:30
- d. 2) Can you make it right? Do it. Clear yourself. 2 Cor 7:10-11, Gal 6:1-2  
Can't make it right? Make the right choice starting today. Phi 3:13, Eph 4:28
- e. 3) Do not justify your wrong, trust Christ to save you from it - Gal 2:17-21