

Bad, Good, Better, or Best?

“...So that you may approve the things that are excellent.”

– Philippians 1:10

There is a story of a pilot who came on the loudspeaker midflight and said, “I have some good news and some bad news. The bad news is, we’ve lost all our instrumentation and don’t know where we are. The good news is, we have a strong tailwind and are making great time.” That’s an accurate picture of how many people live: they have no direction in life, but they’re getting there fast!

We as Christians are to be different because we have divine guidance and eternal goals. Our lives are to be marked by a confident trust in God and pursuit of spiritual excellence.

“Excellent” in Philippians 1:10 speaks of things that are worthwhile and vital. “Approv[ing]” what is “excellent” refers to testing things as one would test a precious metal to determine its purity and value. It goes beyond knowing good from evil. **It distinguishes between better and best.** It involves thinking Biblically and focusing your time and energy on what really counts. It involves cultivating spiritual discipline and not being controlled by your emotions, whims, moods, or circumstances.

I have worked for many organizations and businesses that have rightly adopted the motto “Commitment to Excellence” to convey their desire to provide the finest product or service possible. If secular-minded people strive for that level of achievement, how much more should Christians pursue excellence for the glory of God!

Examine your life. Is it filled with godly love, discernment, and the pursuit of excellence – or has worldly trivia crowded out those virtues? Even during this time of social distancing, to the best of your ability, are you making every effort to take advantage of opportunities for increased fellowship, discipleship, and Bible study? Are you “walking worthy of the ‘vacation’ or ‘vocation’ to which you have been called?” [Eph. 4:1] In a world of mediocrity and confusion, God calls you to excellence and discernment!

– Article submitted by Chuck Wetzel, 05.27.20