"eschew evil, and do good;"

When I was a child, the fact that there was evil around was not unknown to me, it just wasn't a part of my daily thoughts or life. As a youngster, time was spent doing what chores were asked of me, doing homework during school times, and playing in the dirt with plastic cowboys, indians, and soldiers.

Teenage years changed things somewhat as we moved to town when I was 15 and I spent much of my time being involved with the high school band. I also went to work afternoons and Saturdays at a local hardware store, moving on to be a grocery store delivery boy the same day I turned 16 and got my drivers license. Evil was around of course, but it was mostly limited to an occasional curse word from a co-worker at the hardware store, or someone stealing a cake at the grocery store. The evils which prompted such things as the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Viet Nam War weren't that much of a reality until just before graduation.

By this time in life, I had observed those who flirted with evil, meaning, they rode the thin line of what they thought they could get away with. They weren't evil kids, just had a mean streak, always pushing the limit to see how far they could go before getting caught.

No loving parent wants to see their child push the limit, always testing the boundary between good and evil. God tells us in no uncertain terms just what He expects of us as Children of God. I Peter 1:16 says, **"…Be ye holy; for I am holy."** There is no fence straddling here, just a positive declaration by our Lord of how we are to be - **"holy"** as He is holy. There is a way to accomplish His directive - **"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you"** (II Corinthians 6:17). To be received of Christ is do that which pleases Him and having an intimate relationship of joy, peace, and godly love.

Perhaps the best way to **"eschew evil, and do good;"** is to **"seek peace, and ensue it"** (I Peter 3:11). Even in the midst of all the evil in our world, our nation, and our communities, Peter shares this admonition - **"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing. For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:…"** (I Peter 3:8-10).

My mind is not delusional to think that evil is not always close by. We are mindful of it everyday. However, we can lean on our Lord, for Peter said in verse 13 - **"And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?"** *"Think About It!"*