

Of course, the influence of the Gospel restrains evil and encourages external morality. Each person that is saved diminishes, by the amount of sin from which he or she is delivered, the evil in the world. Each person saved adds to the amount of salt and light in the world. Each true Christian church is an influence for good in its community. And wherever the Gospel has gone and spread, its influence in the social, civic, and moral spheres has been enormous!

4. The providences of God, at times punishing moral evil or rewarding moral goodness

At times it appears that God so arranges circumstances that He is seen as openly punishing moral evil by bringing temporal calamities on those who do the evil, including such calamities as illness, accident, bereavement, domestic disruption, or loss of position or possessions.

Amos 1:6-11 -- "But I gave you also cleanness of teeth in all your cities  
And lack of bread in all your places,  
Yet you have not returned to Me, declares the Lord  
And furthermore, I withheld the rain from you  
While there were still three months until harvest.  
Then I would send rain on one city  
And on another city I would not send rain;  
One part would be rained on,  
While the part not rained on would dry up.  
So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water,  
But you would not be satisfied;  
Yet you have not returned to Me, declares the Lord.  
I smote you with scorching wind and mildew;  
And the caterpillar was devouring  
Your many gardens and vineyards, fig trees and olive trees;  
Yet you have not returned to He, declares the Lord.  
I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt;  
I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured  
horses,  
And I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils;  
Yet you have not returned to Me, declares the Lord.  
I overthrew you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah,  
And you were like a firebrand snatched from a blaze;  
Yet you have not returned to Me, declares the Lord."

At other times God so arranges circumstances that He is seen as openly rewarding moral uprightness by bringing temporal blessings upon those who do the good, including such blessings are long life, recovery from serious illness, material prosperity, or success in business or profession.