

# DESCRIBING THE WICKED

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## Introduction

One of the great things about the Bible is it not only refers to and describes the Christian it also refers to and describes those who are wicked. We will begin and throughout this book to give the Bible's definition of the wicked. It is amazing how much information God has given us so that we might recognize and perhaps avoid those who are wicked and we should avoid having constant contact with the wicked: (1 Corinthians 15:33) *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."* "Evil communications corrupt good manners" is taken out of Meander a Heathen poet. Paul uses this statement to show how dangerous the conversation of evil men is. It further shows what influence bad principles have on the lives and practices of men. Perhaps he thought the Corinthians might understand this quote that might be fond of such authors. Remember when Paul was in Athens among the philosophers he cited a passage out of Aratus: (Acts 17:28) *"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring."* When writing to Titus he referred to Epimenides concerning the Cretians: (Titus 1:12) *"One of themselves, even a prophet of their own, said, The Cretians are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies."* It appears as though this might have been a common practice of Paul since he was a well studied and learned man. Paul did not use these quotes to show off his education; rather he used them so that his listeners might have a better understanding of what he was saying to them.

By going to the last book of the Bible, next to the last chapter verse eight John gives a list of those who are wicked and in that list you will find that John includes in his list those who are abominable: (Revelation 21:8) *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* By using the word "abominable" in his list of the wicked John actually includes every sinful man and woman because all sinners are an abomination to God. The Syriac and Arabic versions express it by two words, "sinners and polluted", filthy sinners; the character well agrees with Babylon, the mother of harlots and abominations of the earth, and to all that adhere to her, and join with her in her abominable idolatries. From this we can certainly understand why God detests these sinners.

Before going on I must state that the wicked have alienated themselves from God: (Ephesians 4:18) *“Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart:”* It is typical of the wicked to have their understanding of right and wrong “darkened”. It is not their understanding of natural and civil things that is “darkened” but it is their understanding of spiritual things that have been “darkened” Such are ignorant of the nature and perfections of God, his holiness and righteousness; about sin and the consequences of it; about Christ, his person, office, and work, and salvation by him; about the Spirit, and his work of grace upon the soul; and about the Scripture, and the doctrines contained in it. They are without any knowledge of Christ; therefore, they had not embraced him so that they might have forgiveness of their sins. As long as they remain in this state of ignorance they will remain alienated from God. Such a condition was explained a long time ago by Isaiah: (Isaiah 59:1-2) *“Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: <sup>2</sup>But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”* Yes, God has hidden His face from the wicked and He will not hear them.

The good news is that the wicked do not have to remain alienated from God: (Colossians 1:21) *“And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled”* Those who were once “alienated and enemies” can refer to those who are presently living and those who are now in heaven; as many who are presently living and presently dead have been at one time alienated from God. But Paul states the good news that many of those who were at one time alienated from God have now been “reconciled” by God. Those who were once enemies are now friends of God. Those who had separated themselves from God have now been brought back into fellowship with God by His grace. Maybe I should say Christ bought them back by his blood.

#### **The Character of The Wicked**

By character the wicked are deceitful and hated by God: (Psalms 5:6) *“Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.”* The word “leasing” should be paraphrased “speaking a lie”; as the context is referring to matters of religion, such as false doctrines, errors and heresies; all are lies. Many of which deny the deity, sonship and Messi-

ahship of Christ are lies and any who are followers are liars. Any such lies are and abomination to God and He will destroy them. Their destruction will surely come as an eternal destruction of body and soul in hell; for all liars have their part in the lake of fire: (Revelation 20:15) *“And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.”*

The wicked are surely blind and cannot see the truth: (2 Corinthians 4:3-4) *“But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: <sup>4</sup>In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.”* Satan is here called “the god of this world”. Jesus once called Satan “the prince of this world”: (John 12:31) *“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”* This indicates that the time will come when Satan shall no longer have the rule over mankind. Jesus called Satan “the prince of this world because of his influence over the worst and greatest part of the world. There were many in the days of Jesus [and yet today] that are being led captive by Satan; people who are following him voluntarily. By this they are declaring themselves to be his children and he their father and to some Satan is actually their god because of the influence he has over them. How does Satan gain such influence over God’s created? According to Paul Satan “hath blinded” their minds; it is the mind that he blinds not their eyes. The mind is the knowing and understanding part of man. This shows the access and influence Satan has over men. All who do not believe the gospel have had their minds blinded by Satan and they have no enjoyment in the gospel. The influence Satan has over them is expressed as “blinding” them; it diverts them from hearing and believing the gospel. Those who have allowed Satan to “blind their minds” are blinded from “the glorious light of the gospel that is able to save their souls. It is the gospel that is able to enlighten the minds of men and that is what Satan has blinded; resulting in mankind being sinners and wicked in the sight of God.

The Psalmist wrote that the wicked are “boastful”: (Psalms 10:3) *“For the wicked boasteth of his heart’s desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.”* It is bad enough to be wicked but to be boastful about your heart’s desire is even worse! He boasts of his wealth and riches most often acquired by dishonest means; he boasts of his own holiness and thinks himself to be infallible. “The words may be rendered, “the wicked praiseth himself for the desire of his heart” [Gill]. Do you recall that wicked Esau praiseth himself, be-

cause he hath obtained the desire of his soul? The main thought of this verse seems to be a boaster; a man [or woman] who makes proclamation about himself [or herself] as being better than others. It has been almost thirty years ago I went to a preachers meeting with a fellow preacher and friend when there was a new preacher present; on our way home my friend asked me if I had met the new preacher; since I knew very few of the preachers present I asked my friend to describe him to me. He said he was that guy sitting in the back “looking holier than thou”. This friends is a perfect picture of the boasters. They vaunt themselves and have a sense of pride in themselves, which may stem from wealth, strength, beauty or even talents. It is one thing to be proud of yourself but it is quite another thing to be boastful of your accomplishments. This is not at all uncommon among wicked men. They become so shameless that they do not hesitate to publicly boast and often what they boast of should be considered a disgrace. A certain class of young men often boast of the number of women they have been with [which is not always the truth] not realizing that they are bringing shame to themselves and to those they claim to have been with. There is no other way to define such actions but to say they are WICKED ways.

Again referring to the book of Psalms he wrote that the wicked boast of their wealth: (Psalms 49:6) *“They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;”* Regardless of how wealthy you are you cannot give to God a ransom for the soul of your brother: (Psalms 49:7) *“None of them can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him:”* Neither will all of your wealth save you; you cannot buy yourself into heaven; neither can you take your wealth with you. Your wealth will only end up being someone else wealth: (Psalms 49:10) *“For he seeth that wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others.”* The love of money is the root of all evil: (1 Timothy 6:10) *“For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.”* Paul is not telling Timothy that having money is sin; this verse is often misquoted as “money is the root of all evil” and that simply is not what Paul wrote. He wrote that the “LOVE of money is the root of all evil. One of the problems of having money is that it leads to boasting. Have you ever had someone to tell you “I don’t owe anything on my home” or “my car is paid for”? Is that not another form of boasting? Boasting is wicked and sinful.

Covetousness is wicked and leads to wicked ways: (Micah 2:2) *“And they covet fields, and take them by violence; and houses, and take them away: so they oppress a man and his house, even a man and his heritage.”* When a man covets another man’s field to the point where he takes that field away from its lawful owner by violence there is no other way to describe it but to say it is wicked and sinful. The field might lie next to their own fields but when they cannot acquire that neighbor’s field by honest means they take them with violence. That field might be the only means that man has of supporting his wife and family and to take that field by force and violence is wicked. That is how Ahab got Naboth’s vineyard from him! Some are so wicked that they don’t stop at just taking a field they also take the man’s shelter and house from him by violence. He may have labored hard and long to provide a home for himself and family; this is wickedness at its worse.

Paul gives a lengthy list of sins and he includes covetousness in this list: (Romans 1:29-31) *“Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, <sup>30</sup>Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, <sup>31</sup>Without understanding, covenant-breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:”* Notice that Paul lists “wickedness” and right after that he lists “covetousness”. Most all of the sins are of an ugly nature and no less ugly is the word “covetousness”. Covetousness is the desire to obtain what belongs to another. This vice is common in the world, but it would be particularly so where the other vices that are named here abounded. Anytime you have a situation where people are desirous of luxury you are very apt to find covetousness. When Paul wrote this Rome was very desirous of the wealth of other nations and their covetousness led to wars in an effort to satisfy their gratification. So we can see what covetousness can lead to.

### **The Wicked Delight In The Iniquity of Others**

Most often those who are wicked rejoice in the wickedness of others. It is not enough that they commit wickedness themselves they make every attempt to get as many as possible to join them in their folly and when they are successful they have great delight: (Proverbs 2:14) *“Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;”* We have all known those who rejoice in doing

evil; it seems as though they make a game or a sport of just looking for an evil deed to engage in. They take pleasure in sinning and when they have sinned they have no remorse for doing so. They not only take pleasure in their own sin but they delight when they are able to get others to join them; they also delight in witnessing the sins of others even if they have never engaged in the identical sin. This is nothing new; it has been going on for years; Paul wrote of this very situation: (Romans 1:32) *“Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.”* Here Paul describes them very well; he says they know the judgment of God; yet they commit sins that are worthy of death. In other words Paul is saying that they know the difference between good and evil; yet they commit that which is evil and is certain to result in eternal death. To me it is even worse that they take pleasure in them that do evil; I believe that this aggravates their guilt. I’m afraid that they not only have pleasure in others who do evil deeds but I fear they also encourage them to sin. Could anything be worse? Who are they serving; God or Satan?

To phrase it another way “they despise the faithful; a good example can be found in Nehemiah 2:19 *“But when Sanballat the Horonite, and Tobiah the servant, the Ammonite, and Geshem the Arabian, heard it, they laughed us to scorn, and despised us, and said, What is this thing that ye do? will ye rebel against the king?”* As you read on in this book you will see the extent of their hate and ridicule: (Nehemiah 4:2) *“And he spake before his brethren and the army of Samaria, and said, What do these feeble Jews? will they fortify themselves? will they sacrifice? will they make an end in a day? will they revive the stones out of the heaps of the rubbish which are burned?”* You will even find those in the Lord’s church who are of the same mind; as Paul wrote to Timothy: (2 Timothy 3:3-4) *“Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, <sup>4</sup>Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;”* Such people are not above making false accusation against the faithful. Why would anyone go so far as to falsely accuse those who are good? I believe Paul answers this question when he wrote that they are “despisers of those that are good”. I believe that jealousy also enters into the picture.

Solomon, the son of David wrote of sinners who entice: (Proverbs 1:10-14) *“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. <sup>11</sup>If they say, Come with*

*us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: <sup>12</sup>Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: <sup>13</sup>We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: <sup>14</sup>Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:”* Sinners often entice Christians to join them in their sins; take notice of Solomon’s advice; he wrote “consent thou NOT”. If they say to you; “Come on and join in with us; we will have fun” just say “No thank you!” A good example is this; a drunkard does not like to drink alone.

You will often find that the wicked are cowards: (Proverbs 28:1) *“The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.”* I have witnessed trouble makers come into a church and when they get things all stirred up they flee to another church. But the righteous must be as “bold as a lion”. We must contend for the truth: (Jude 3) *“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”* I must admit that I have also seen this verse abused by the wicked who claim they are standing up for the truth when in reality they are only attempting to stir up controversy and trouble. We need to be sure that we are “earnestly contending for the faith [i.e. the word of truth]. We must take extreme caution that the wicked trouble makers do not creep in among us: (2 Timothy 3:6) *“For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts,”* If they are found present we must stand up for the word of God. It is never pleasant; but God’s truth must prevail.

The wicked may even be found to be violent: (Proverbs 16:29) *“A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good.”* If the righteous cannot be enticed with words of honey the wicked may turn to violence! False teachers who are actually grievous wolves that will not spare the flock will attempt to entice you with good words and fair speeches to deceive the hearts of the simple they will not hesitate to shed blood if all else fails. This was certainly witnessed in the early church; even all of the apostles experienced a violent death except John who lived to an old age. Many of the Lord’s churches have been destroyed and taken over by the wicked.

## The Wicked Take Glory In Their Shame

What a shame that those who were created by Jehovah God take glory in that which they should be ashamed: (Philippians 3:19) *“Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.”* Those who are of this frame of mind do not realize that the destruction Paul makes reference to here is ETERNAL DESTRUCTION! Even when informed of this fact they laugh and think they have plenty of time to change their ways. Those who have been warned and continue to sin are identified by the Bible as willful sinners and they have no sacrifice that can save them: (Hebrews 10:26) *“For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,”* When Paul wrote; “whose god is their belly he very well could have been referring to the Cyclops as the belly was the greatest belly to them. Money is often the covetous god of many in our society; have you not known those who gave greater service to money than service rendered to God?

Any service they pretend to be offered to God is only a pretention because they were lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God: (2 Timothy 3:4) *“Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;”* Some even placed religion in the observance of meats and drinks [some of which were forbidden by the Law that Moses gave from God]. Their sole desire was to serve themselves and their bellies; thus it can be said that their belly was their god. Their evil practices were even shameful to speak of. They worshipped their own appetites and they did not live to adorn and honor God; instead they lived for self-indulgence and sensual gratifications. This problem could be found in Rome: (Romans 16:18) *“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.”* This may be witnessed today in those who have an indulgence of some earthly appetite to obtain a function or perhaps a property; or even to gratify the love of dominion. So as you can see that those who have their belly as their god can be for many and varied reasons; many of which are shameful actions.

We will think it strange that they will not hearken to us when we tell them that they are headed for eternal destruction. Just like Israel of long ago many have become hard hearted: (Ezekiel 3:7) *“But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Is-*

*rael are impudent and hardhearted.*” The house of Israel had neither desire nor any inclination to hear and hearken to Ezekiel even though he had been sent by the Lord to warn them. They were capable of hearing and understanding the words he spoke to them but because of their hard hearts they would not hearken, in other words they would not listen to the Lord. Many today are just like the Israelites they have hard hearts and will not hearken to the words of the gospel. Their hearts were harder than a millstone and no admonitions or re-proofs given them had any affect upon them.

By their rejection of rebukes and reproof the wicked illustrate that they hate the light: (Job 24:13) *“They are of those that rebel against the light; they know not the ways thereof, nor abide in the paths thereof.”* Many of the wicked have not always been wicked; some at one time had been righteous but chose to leave the paths of uprightness to walk in the way of darkness: (Proverbs 2:13) *“Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;”* I must admit that I am confused as to why anyone who has been taught the gospel and believed what they heard; their belief being confirmed by obedience would ever choose to go back to the ways of darkness. I suppose parents who have brought their children up in the paths of righteousness are very confused when their once faithful children leave the paths of righteousness and turn to the ways of darkness. Thankfully this is not the ordinary but it does happen to some. There is no other way to look at such circumstances but to say that they hate the light.

Jesus said that everyone who does evil hates the light: (John 3:20) *“For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d.”* It is for this very reason that condemnation has come into the world: (John 3:19) *“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.”* How do we know that they hate the light? We know that they hate the light and love darkness because as Jesus said; “their deeds are evil”. Please notice that Jesus said; “EVERY ONE that does evil hateth the light”. This includes every evil deed and person.

#### **The Wicked Are Hostile Toward God**

Hostility is always bad; but could anything be worse than being hostile toward God? Here is a statement of Paul: (Romans 8:7) *“Because the carnal*

*mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.*” The carnal mind is not only an enemy of God but enmity itself against God. The carnal mind is against His being, it wishes He did not exist and thinks of God just being like himself or herself. The carnal mind in its enmity tries to bury God in forgetfulness. If one is able to forget that God exists it becomes easier to commit all kinds of evilness. When anyone hates the light of God’s word they have no restrictions from having friendship with the world and often they may be found harboring the professed enemies of God. By their actions you can plainly see that they are living as servant of sin and Satan. To hate the light is to love what God hates; paying no heed to what God commands and committing what He forbids. Even their language tells you that they hate the light when they take the name of God and Jesus Christ in vain; they speak profanity without even being aware that they are doing so. Certainly we can see the wickedness and danger of hating the light.

Another characteristic of the wicked is that they are often hypocritical: (Isaiah 29:13) *“Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:”* When is it that people most often draw near to God with their mouths? Is it not when they are in trouble or when they or a member of their family is very sick? Why is it that we are more religious when we have a great need? After some are well you never see them in the worship service. This is being hypocritical. Some make the excuse not to obey the gospel claiming there are hypocrites in the church. There may very well be hypocrites in the church; but I believe I have a better chance of getting to heaven in the church [even if hypocrites are present] than I do outside of the church. Don’t you agree there are a greater number of hypocrites in the world than there are in the church? I might add this; “hypocrites in the church have a better chance of being converted than those who are in the world”.

The truth of the matter is that the wicked do not even know God: (2 Thesalonians 1:8) *“In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:”* If you are acquainted with the wicked no doubt you are aware that they do NOT even know God. Their eternal fate is clearly stated by Paul; he wrote when Jesus comes again he will do so in flaming fire and he will take vengeance upon those that don’t know God. I would

hate to think that Jesus will have anything against me whereby he would seek vengeance against me. Call this a rebuke or a warning or simply good advice but I say it is high time that you become acquainted with God and repent of our sins and obey the gospel.

In the book of Proverbs the wicked are called "loathsome": (Proverbs 13:5) *"A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame."* A righteous man not only hates to be lied to he hates to tell a lie himself; in fact a righteous man will NOT LIE! On the other hand a wicked person will not hesitate to speak a lie; some would rather lie to you than to tell you the truth. I have heard my Dad say that so-and-so has told that lie so many times that he believes it to be the truth. You and I may not always be able to know if someone is telling the truth or lying but I would warn all liars that God knows and he will judge accordingly. Let us look at the word "loathsome"; I will quote from Strong, "A primitive root; to *smell* bad; figuratively to be *offensive* morally: - (make to) be abhorred (had in abomination, loathsome, odious), (cause a, make to) stink". I suggest where sin reigns the person is loathsome. If their eyes were to be opened and their conscience awakened they would even be loathsome to themselves. A sure way of making yourself loathsome is to lie. In my opinion there is nothing more detestable than to lie. If you stop and think about it all sin is a lie; therefore, all sinful men and women are loathsome to themselves, to others and to God.

#### **Wicked People Are Lovers of Pleasure More Than Lovers of God**

You don't have to be around those who are lovers of pleasure more than they love God very long until you recognize their character. Paul was able to recognize them and he wrote to Timothy concerning them: (2 Timothy 3:4) *"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God;"* I feel very sure that the pleasures they are indulging in is sinful pleasure and it may also mean that they take great pleasure in sinning! What they may not realize is that these pleasures won't last. As difficult as it may seem we should choose to suffer affliction with the children of God over sinful pleasures: (Hebrews 11:25) *"Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;"* This verse is referring to Moses who could have had a life of leisure living as the son of Pharaoh in his palace;

but Moses chose to suffer affliction with the people of God. Moses chose those who were the descendants of Abraham whom God had chosen to be his special people. At the time that Moses made this choice the children of Israel were greatly afflicted being slaves to the Egyptians. For most of us this would have been a difficult choice; but Moses chose to do God's will, with God's chosen people. Moses was well aware that if he chose the children of Israel he must also expect trial. Just reflect back to the children of Israel and you will find them to be poor, crushed and despised; they were a nation of slaves. If Moses identified himself with them his condition would be like theirs. Trials and dangers would follow him all the days of his life. If he had remained in Pharaoh's house he would have been treated with honor and respect; but Moses made the choice to suffer affliction with the people of God. We must give earnest consideration of the suffering we must undergo as Christians; it is when we become Christians that we become enemies of Satan and it is at this time that he will begin putting trials and temptations before us. There are many in the world who will not accept this challenge. What choice will you make?

It seems as though the wicked take delight in telling lies: (Psalms 58:3) *"The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."* From their infancy they are wicked; from their youth and into adulthood they sin by going astray. As soon as they are able to speak they tell lies very early in life. You will find them walking in the broad way that leads to destruction: (Matthew 7:13) *"Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:"* We may wonder where they learned to lie; the answer is they have learned to lie from Satan who is the father of all liars: (John 8:44-45) *"Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. <sup>45</sup>And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not."*

As Isaiah said long ago few there be that plead for the truth: (Isaiah 59:4) *"None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity."* It seems to me that there are fewer and fewer people today pleading for the truth than there was sixty years ago when I was younger. Brethren, we need to plead for the truth and insist that the truth exist in the Lord's church today.

## The Wicked Are Seldom Found Praying

God speaks to us through His written word and we are granted the privilege of speaking to Him in prayer. About the only time you will find the wicked praying is when they or a loved one is deathly ill. As we read in the book of Job the wicked see no benefit or profit in praying: (Job 21:15) *“What is the Almighty, that we should serve him? and what profit should we have, if we pray unto him?”* We should consider prayer to be a service to God; but those we read of in Job are the natural man [not the spiritual man] who is biased entirely by profit and gain. He thinks there is nothing to be gained by religious exercises. They think it is useless to worship God: (Malachi 3:14) *“Ye have said, It is vain to serve God: and what profit is it that we have kept his ordinance, and that we have walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts?”* Although we may never realize great profit from worshipping God in this lifetime our reward shall be great: (Matthew 5:12) *“Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.”* What a shame it is that so many will not receive this reward simply because they will not pray! Jesus said if we ask we shall receive: (Matthew 7:7) *“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:”* Unlike the wicked men good men ask in prayer; believing they shall receive.

## The Wicked Show No Mercy

When you are down and out don't you feel better if someone shows you mercy? Don't expect to receive any mercy from those who are wicked: (Psalms 109:16) *“Because that he remembered not to show mercy, but persecuted the poor and needy man, that he might even slay the broken in heart.”* This type of person can be compared to Judas: (John 12:6) *“This he said, not that he cared for the poor; but because he was a thief, and had the bag, and bare what was put therein.”* Judas had no affection for the poor; you could even say that he was unconcerned about the poor. He never thought about giving them anything to eat nor did he consider giving them a coat to keep warm in. He did nothing to solicit their support, their refreshment or their comfort in life. John tells us why Judas was like this; he said Judas was a thief and he carried the bag. The wicked are only concerned with putting more into their purses and keeping their purses shut up to the poor. What if God showed us the same mercy we show others? God is known for His mercy: (Genesis 39:21) *“But the LORD was with*

*Joseph, and showed him mercy, and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison.”* God is known to show mercy to multitudes of people: (Exodus 20:6) *“And showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.”* Solomon knew that God had shown mercy to his father David: (1 Kings 3:6) *“And Solomon said, Thou hast showed unto thy servant David my father great mercy, according as he walked before thee in truth, and in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with thee; and thou hast kept for him this great kindness, that thou hast given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.”* He was aware that God had shown to his father David “GREAT MERCY”! You don’t have to be a great person to receive God’s mercy; even a slave can receive God’s mercy: (Ezra 9:9) *“For we were bondmen; yet our God hath not forsaken us in our bondage, but hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia, to give us a reviving, to set up the house of our God, and to repair the desolations thereof, and to give us a wall in Judah and in Jerusalem.”*

Jesus was also known for his mercy: (Matthew 15:22) *“And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil.”* (Matthew 20:30) *“And, behold, two blind men sitting by the way side, when they heard that Jesus passed by, cried out, saying, Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou Son of David.”* The mercy of Jesus was even talked about among the people: (Luke 1:58) *“And her neighbours and her cousins heard how the Lord had showed great mercy upon her; and they rejoiced with her.”* Jesus once gave the command to go and show mercy: (Luke 10:37) *“And he said, He that showed mercy on him. Then said Jesus unto him, Go, and do thou likewise.”*

As sinners you and I must approach the throne of grace that we may receive mercy: (Hebrews 4:16) *“Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.”*

I ask this question; “If we show no mercy to others can we expect to receive mercy on the Day of Judgment”? Look at the words James wrote: (James 2:13) *“For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.”* I promise you this; when that great Day of Judgment comes I will not ask for justice; I will be pleading to God for mercy. I will be just like the publican: (Luke 18:13) *“And the publican, stand-*

*ing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner.” Remember the words of Jesus: (Matthew 5:7) “Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.”*

## **Conclusion**

I will close by mentioning a few more characteristics of the wicked that I have not mentioned:

Ezekiel describes the wicked by saying they are “stiffhearted”: (Ezekiel 2:4-5) *“For they are impudent children and stiffhearted. I do send thee unto them; and thou shalt say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD. <sup>5</sup>And they, whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear, (for they are a rebellious house,) yet shall know that there hath been a prophet among them.”* Their hearts were like stones [i.e. inflexible, they could not be touched by the word of God]. Stephen said the people of his time were stiff necked: (Acts 7:51) *“Ye stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye.”* The people Ezekiel wrote of were not only stiffnecked they were also stiffhearted. As Paul wrote they had not and would not submit themselves to the righteousness of God: (Romans 10:3) *“For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. This is a perfect description of the stiffhearted.*

The wicked are “uncircumcised in heart”: (Jeremiah 9:26) *“Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all that are in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for all these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart.”* The children of Israel circumcised the flesh as a token of a covenant with God; but a more important circumcision was that of the heart. As the Bible worded it they did not have the circumcision “made without hands”. They may have had the fleshly circumcision but their hearts were not circumcised [or dedicated to God]. Without the circumcision of the heart they lacked love to God, they did not fear or serve Him; therefore, the foreskin taken from the flesh availed them nothing. To state it in plain words they were impenitent and disobedient.

Isaiah said the wicked are unjust: (Isaiah 26:10) *“Let favour be showed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD.”* Favor does often fall upon the wicked; does not God’s rain fall upon the just and the unjust alike? This is according to God’s providential care. Even though the wicked receive God’s providential blessings they still won’t learn righteousness, nor will they repent of their sinful ways. In the land of Judea where the laws and statutes of the Lord prevailed and God was worshipped and there was a vast number of good men who set good examples; there was also wicked men who continued to go on their sinful ways and live in an unjust manner. The gospel is being preached over most if not all of the world today; yet we continue to have many wicked people living in an unjust and unrighteous manner.

Of the many descriptions Paul gives to the sinful wicked he includes the word “unmerciful”: (Romans 1:31) *“Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful:”* Being “unmerciful” they have no pity or compassion for those who are in distress. How could they expect to receive from God if they are unwilling to show mercy to their fellow man? The only way to explain the unmercifulness” of some is to understand that it is because of their deep rooted wickedness. The “unmerciful” will never be found showing benevolence to those who are in need; they are too concerned with fulfilling their own wicked desires.

The wicked can certainly be classified as “ungodly”: (Proverbs 16:27) *“An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.”* In the eyes of God such are seen as worthless unprofitable men. Not being obedient to the law of God they busy themselves digging for sin to commit. When he finds a sin whether it is new or not makes no difference it is a treasure to him. Because they have an evil heart sin to them is always a treasure. They spend most of their time digging for a sin that they can engage in. Perhaps the sin that he is digging for has been buried by others; but when he digs deep enough he will finally find a sin to commit. Often times the sin that he digs for will bring evil to himself: (Psalms 7:15) *“He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made.”* If someone keeps himself busy digging for a sin to commit there is no other way to describe such a one but to say he or she is “ungodly”.

Referring to Paul's description of the wicked again we find that he calls them "unholy" among other things: (2 Timothy 3:2) *"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,"* We should not emphasize upon the fact that "unholy" is the last description that Paul gives in this verse as one is just as bad as the other. However, I do believe that "unholy" describes everything else that Paul wrote about these men [women should also be included]. The "unholy" are without fear of God, they have no regard for Him and in the life of the "unholy" person you find that they are living an unholy life and their conversations will also be "unholy". Daniel describes the "unholy" very well: (Daniel 11:37) *"Neither shall he regard the God of his fathers, nor the desire of women, nor regard any god: for he shall magnify himself above all."* An "unholy" person is one who has no inward principles of truth and holiness. Being destitute of holiness they live unholy lives. We have all known and seen those who are profane and profane the name of the Lord by cursing and swearing. I like to think of those who take the name of God and Jesus in vain as being ignorant; not know how to express themselves in a decent and respectable language.

Needless to say the wicked are "unprofitable" to the Lord and his church: (Romans 3:12) *"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one."* It is highly unlikely that the wicked are ever found doing good. "This metaphor is taken from stinking flesh, which is tainted and corrupted, and so it is good for nothing, hence here rendered "unprofitable"; if men are being corrupted by sin, they are of no use, service, and advantage to God, to men, or to themselves; but, on the contrary, nauseous to God, and to all that are good, and hurtful to themselves and others" [Gill]. A question that we will surely want to ask is; "What is going to happen to them"? Allow Jesus to answer: (Matthew 25:30) *"And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth."*

You may even encounter a wicked person who is "unruly": (Titus 1:10) *"For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision:"* We have all seen children who are "unruly" but it is far more disturbing to be in the company of an "unruly" adult. I once worked with a man who was "unruly" and could get along with nobody. I never had much trouble with him because when he started mouthing off I would just walk away and ignore him. The next morning he acted as though nothing happened. Paul identifies

those who were “unruly” as “they of the circumcision” or in other words he is making reference to the Jews. It is my opinion that Paul is referring to some who were in the church who would not be subjected to the law of God or the gospel of Christ. They would not submit to those who had the rule over them [i.e. the elders]. Neither would they listen to the admonitions of the church. The really sad thing about this is that Paul wrote “there are MANY unruly. Christians today ought to hold fast the faithful word and sound doctrine and attempt to convince those who oppose the truth of their error. Many sound churches have been split because of the “unruly”.

The wicked are the most “unthankful” people in the world; it seems as though they don’t know that God is even kind to the unthankful”: (Luke 6:35) *“But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.”* At a very early age my Mother taught me to say “thank you” when someone gave me something or did a kind deed for me; this is one lesson I have not forgotten. How often do you thank God for the blessings He has granted you? Last November God blessed me by granting my prayer to be accepted and granted and I thank Him every day. I am not trying to place myself on a pedestal; I am only trying to describe the kind of thankfulness we should have. The kindest deed that God has ever given to everyone is the giving of His Son so that we might have forgiveness of our sins. Do you remember to thank God for this everyday? God’s love, mercy and grace are some things that we should thank God for every day. Don’t forget to be thankful; you don’t want to be found “unthankful” on the Day of Judgment.

In his description of the wicked Paul also names the “unthankful”: (2 Timothy 3:2) *“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,”* Paul indicates that they are “unthankful” to God for what they have enjoyed. They take full credit to themselves for all of their good fortune; they think it is because of their wisdom and craftiness that good things come their way. Many seem to think that good works will merit them a place in heaven; not realizing that it is the grace of God that will give them heaven’s abode.

I have given a good description of the wicked in this booklet and what the consequences of being wicked are from God's Holy Bible; now I would like to sum up this writing by stating that the wicked are "foolish and unwise people": (Deuteronomy 32:6) *"Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?"* Moses wrote that the Jews of his time were "foolish people" and this is also a description of the Jews that Jesus often encountered: (Matthew 23:17) *"Ye fools and blind: for whether is greater, the gold, or the temple that sanctifieth the gold?"* Jesus made this statement because they were ignorant of the scriptures and the prophecies that were contained about him in the scriptures. Today anyone who does not accept Jesus as their spiritual Redeemer and source of salvation is "foolish and unwise". These may seem to be very harsh words; but they are true.

It should be considered that God is our Father; that He created us and He has established us. We should also remember that if it were not for God's love and grace we would be without any hope of salvation. If we don't remember this we have become "foolish and unwise" resulting in becoming wicked people! Surely you do not want to become like the people I have described; do you?

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