

Traits of the Wicked

Introduction

1. Some sin in such an open manner that it is easy to see that they are wicked.
2. Others, though, are not as easily identified because of the nature of their sins.
3. The Christian is to be distinct, apart, from those who are wicked. (2 Cor. 6:17-18)
 - a. How can he recognize those who are wicked?
 - b. How can he know if he is, in reality, wicked himself?
4. Scripture gives us much information in reference to the wicked and their traits.
5. This lesson:
 - a. Will consider some of the traits of the wicked as stated in Scripture.
 - b. Will look, mainly, to what the Psalms, Proverbs and the Prophets have to say about the wicked.

I. The Wicked Are Full of Pride (Psalm 10:4)

- A. Pride is a swollen estimate of one's self or one's merits.
- B. Pride hardens the mind and keeps one from seeking God.
- C. God hates pride. (Proverbs 8:13)
- D. Pride brings destruction.
 1. It precedes destruction and a fall. (Proverbs 16:18)
 2. The fall of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was caused by pride. (Daniel 4:29-37)
 3. The one who exalts himself will be humbled. (Matthew 23:12)
- E. Only the humble will seek to know and submit to the will of God. (1 Pet. 5:5-6)

II. The Wicked Are Perverse (Proverbs 2:14)

- A. Perversity is a deviation from what is straight or right.
- B. Perversity is willful and probably obstinate.
- C. The wicked speak that which is perverse. (Proverbs 10:32)
- D. Perversity is an abomination to God. (Proverbs 3:32; Galatians 1:6-9)

III. The Wicked Give Heed to Wicked Lips (Proverbs 17:4)

- A. Since the wicked are not concerned about pleasing God, they listen to wicked lips.
- B. The wicked accept and walk in the ungodly's counsel. (Psalm 1:1-3)
- C. The wicked refuse to receive instruction from the righteous. (Matthew 13:13-15; Hebrews 5:11-12)
- D. The wicked condemn the righteous and justify the wicked while listening only to the wicked. (Proverbs 17:15)

IV. The Wicked Give Counsels of Deceit (Proverbs 12:5; 15:28)

- A. The wicked counsel others to practice evil. (Proverbs 4:14-16, 24-27)
- B. The wicked set at naught the counsel of God much the same as Satan did to Eve. (Genesis 3:2-4)
- C. Although the “lips of the righteous know what is acceptable,” the wicked will not listen. (Proverbs 10:32)

V. The Wicked Forsake the Law (Psalm 119:53)

- A. People are wicked because they transgress the law of God. (1 John 3:4)
- B. The whole world lies in the wicked one because they have forsaken God’s law. (1 John 5:19)
- C. One does not have to forsake every principle contained in God’s law in order to be wicked. (James 2:10; 2 Timothy 4:2-4)
- D. In order to please God, the wicked must forsake his way and accept God’s way. (Isaiah 55:7)

VI. The Wicked Are Like the Troubled Sea (Isaiah 57:20)

- A. Wicked people are troubled and restless. (Isaiah 57:21).
- B. As the troubled waters of the sea cast up mire and dirt, the wicked are constantly doing wrong and encouraging others to do evil.
- C. The wicked are sowing to the flesh and they shall reap corruption. (Gal. 6:7-8)

VII. Their Wages Leads to Sin (Proverbs 10:16)

- A. There is a contrast between the fruit of the righteous and that of the wicked — one leads to life, the other to sin.
- B. Since one is known by his fruits, (Matthew 7:15-20), one who is not producing the “fruit of the Spirit” (Galatians 5:22) is wicked in the sight of God.
- C. Because of their sins, God will tell the wicked to depart forever. (Matthew 7:21; 25:31-46)

Conclusion

1. Do you have one or more of the traits of the wicked?
2. If so:
 - a. What does that make you?
 - b. What are you going to do about it?