

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### STUDIES IN PROVERBS

#### LESSON 10: WICKED

#### SCRIPTURE READING:

**“<sup>14</sup> Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. <sup>15</sup> Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away. <sup>16</sup> For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall. <sup>17</sup> For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence. <sup>18</sup> But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. <sup>19</sup> The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble (Prov 4:14-19).**

#### INTRODUCTION:

**A. According to the KJV Dictionary, Wicked is defined as evil in principle or practice.**  
Deviating from the divine law; addicted to vice; sinful; immoral.

**B. Wicked means evil in nature or action and is a departure from the divine law.**  
It can also mean sinful, immoral or corrupt.

**C. Wicked is that which is highly offensive.**  
An evil influence. Extremely bad or unpleasant in degree or quality. Ungodly acts. Unrighteous acts.

**D. Satan’s Trick**

The devil and his cohorts were devising plans to get people to reject the Gospel. “Let’s go to them and say there is no God,” proposed one. Silence prevailed. Every devil knew that most people believe in a supreme being. “Let’s tell them there is no hell, no future punishment for the wicked,” offered another. That was turned down, because men obviously have consciences which tell them that sin must be punished. The concave was going to end in failure when there came a voice from the rear: “Tell them there is a God, there is a hell and that the Bible is the Word of God. But tell them there is plenty of time to decide the question. Let them ‘neglect’ the Gospel, until it is too late.” All hell erupted with ghoulish glee, for they knew that if a person procrastinates on Christ, they usually never accept Him (Ministry 127).

#### WORLD’S WAY – WISDOM’S WAY

**World’s Way** – Wrong reaction to God, life and others

**Wisdom’s Way** – Biblical (correct) response to God, life and others

#### WORLD’S WAY – “WICKED”

**A. The Wicked are Excited about Doing Evil (Prov 2:14)**

1. The Wicked enjoy the wrong they do. Their pleasure is to be wicked and sinful. The Wicked rejoice in their sins and the sins of others.

- “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” (Rom 1:32).

2. The Wicked has a “**seared conscience**” – A conscience that is desensitized to right and wrong, making it difficult to distinguish between right and wrong – they no longer feel any guilt or shame over their actions.

- “Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron” (1 Tim 4:32).

**B. The Wicked are Lawless (Prov 3:33)**

The Wicked take pleasure in breaking God’s Law, acting without regard for the Law, rebelling against God and rejecting God.

- "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4).

**C. The Wicked are Crooked and Perverse in their Speech (Prov 8:7)**

The mouth of The Wicked speaks lies and hatred which is abomination (disgusting, detestable) – which is not of God.

**D. The Speech of The Wicked Conceals Aggressive Violence (Prov 10:6)**

- The Wicked use their words to hide their true intentions to do evil – deceit, hypocrisy, and falsehoods.
- **“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness” (Matt 23:27).**

This verse reveals that Jesus condemned the “Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites” for their outward appearance of righteousness while being inwardly corrupt.

**E. Wickedness is Destructive (Prov 11:9; 12:6)**

The Wicked use words or language to tear down or destroy relationships. They seek to undermine the faith, love, and cooperation of others with doubts and denials.

**F. The Wicked are Dishonest (Prov 12:13)**

- The Wicked trap others by their deceitful and self-serving actions. They also twist the facts to support the claim they are making.
- Examples of sinful and dishonest speech include: Lying (Eph 4:25), Boasting or Bragging (Prov 27:2), Speaking evil against another person (Eph 4:31), Profanity, Corrupt and Distasteful Language (Eph 5:4), Backbiting and Whispering (2 Cor 12:20), and Gossip (Lev 19:16).

**G. The Wicked Speak Lies (Prov 12:17)**

A False Witness tells lies which is a violation of the Ninth Commandment – “Thou shalt not bear false witness” (Exod 20:16; Deut 5:20).

#### **H. The Wicked Experience Trouble (Prov 12:21)**

The Wicked experience much trouble for their evil deeds and evil plots against the righteous. God protects those who walk according to His Holy Word.

- “No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord” (Isa 54:17).

#### **I. The Wicked Listen to Lies, Slander and Evil Schemes (Prov 17:4)**

The Wicked believe lies and listening to gossip. They take pleasure in the wickedness of evil speaking such as lying, gossiping, slandering, making false accusations, mocking and spreading rumors.

#### **J. The Wicked Strive on Arrogance, Pride and Hypocrisy (Prov 21:4)**

The Wicked look down on others – He elevates himself above others. He thinks too much of himself. He is prideful – His heart has been expanded by an inflated ego.

- “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another” (Rom 12:10).
- “<sup>3</sup> Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. <sup>4</sup> Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. <sup>5</sup> Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil 2:3-5).

#### **K. The Wicked Craves Evilness (Prov 21:10)**

The Wicked are always plotting evilness against someone. Their evilness is deliberate and ruthless. They enjoy evilness and the harm it causes others.

#### **L. The Wicked sees Nothing Wrong with Sin (Prov 30:20)**

The Wicked rationalize and excuse their sin – “I have done no wickedness” – with words such as: “Everybody is doing it,” “I am Human,” and “Nobody will Know.”

- “<sup>17</sup> For nothing is secret, that shall not be made manifest; neither any thing hid, that shall not be known and come abroad” (Luke 8:17).
- “For there is nothing covered, that shall not be revealed; neither hid, that shall not be known” (Luke 12:2).

### **THE RESULTS AND CONSEQUENCES OF WICKEDNESS**

#### **1. The Lord Curses the Wicked (Prov 3:33)**

Those who rebel against God and His Word will be cursed by God – experience God’s judgment and disfavor. This curse may also affect future generations of The Wicked.

#### **2. The Wicked are Unable to Rest Until They Have Hurt Someone (Prov 4:16-17)**

The Wicked have an unsatisfying appetite to do evil. They find happiness in harming others and cannot rest until this wicked and sinful appetite is accomplished. They enjoy harming others.

**3. The Way of The Wicked is Insecure and Dangerous, Like Darkness in Which People Stumble (Prov 4:19)**

○ **“The Way of The Wicked is as Darkness.”**

The Wicked are in the darkness of sin, error, ignorance and unbelief about God. The works of darkness of The Wicked leads to eternal darkness, ruin, misery, and discomfort to The Wicked.

○ The Wicked shall **“Stumble”** – be in danger, as they do not know God and His Word.

**4. God Hates the Deeds of the Wicked (Prov 6:16-19; 11:1)**

God hates the sin (evil deeds) of The Wicked – they are abominations (disgusting, immoral) to Him.

**5. The Wicked will not be Satisfied with Ill-Gotten Treasures (Prov 10:2)**

The Wicked brings unhappiness on themselves by choosing wrongful living. Wealth that is obtained illegally does not last and has a way of bringing misery and unhappiness to The Wicked.

**6. The Name of the Wicked Leaves a Bad Memory (Prov 10:7)**

○ The Wicked will be forgotten in eternity and their names will rot (decay, corruption) in the world by living on in disgrace or else totally forgotten.

○ The name of The Wicked evokes a stench, not a sweet smelling fragrance. Parents still name their sons Paul – but not Judas.

**7. Wickedness Shortens One’s Life (Prov 10:27)**

○ “The Wicked often die at younger ages because of their sinful habits.

○ The lives of The Wicked are cut short by gang slayings, reprisal killings, and addiction to drugs and alcohol.

**8. Wickedness Leads to their own Downfall (Prov 11:5)**

The Wicked shall fall due to their own wickedness. The evil deeds of The Wicked results in their downfall of guilt, fear, uneasiness, arrest, incarceration, injury, disease and loss of job.

**9. The Words and Deeds of The Wicked can Destroy a City (Prov 11:10-11)**

Wicked people destroy their communities with their negative, destructive, lying and slanderous speech. The Wicked destroy communities with defiled reputations and ungodly behavior.

**10. The Wicked will Come to a Sorry, Sad Ending (Prov 12:2)**

○ God condemns as guilty, The Wicked who schemes and plots to do wickedness, who devises evil plans.

- The phrase – “**Wicked Devises**” – is indicative of intentional and premeditated wrongdoing, highlighting the seriousness of sin according to God.

**11. Wickedness brings Shame and Disgrace on Others and Themselves (Prov 13:5)**

- The shame and disgrace of The Wicked is caused by their lack of truthfulness, dishonesty and deception. They are loathsome (“**stink**”) and disgusting to God.
- The Wicked are accustomed to lying. The lies of The Wicked bring shame and disgrace upon the victims and targets of their lives.

**12. Wickedness will not go Unpunished (Prov 21:7, 18)**

- The Wicked will face retribution for willfully dealing with others by shoddy work and deceit.
- The Violence, Wickedness, and Injustice of The Wicked will never escape unpunished.
- “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness” (Rom 1:18).
- “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal 6:7).

**WISDOM’S WAY – RIGHTEOUS**

The correct way (Wisdom’s Way) to address Wickedness is through Righteousness – just, according to the divine law; purity of heart; the active and passive obedience to Christ; the cause for our justification (KJV Dictionary).

1. The righteous are secure during calamity (Prov 10:25).
2. Righteous speech can be beneficial to others and pleasing unto God (Prov 10:31).
3. Righteousness contributes to longevity (Prov 11:4; cf. 10:27).
4. Righteous living results in a life with fewer problems (Prov 11:5).
5. Righteousness delivers from evil desires (Prov 11:6).
6. Righteousness preserves hope (Prov 11:7).
7. Righteous living rescues from trouble (Prov 11:8).
8. Righteousness helps to escape the power of malicious words (Prov 11:9).
9. Righteousness produces joy (Prov 11:10).
10. Righteousness exalts a city with blessings (Prov 11:11).

### **Key Verses with Concise Explanation from Proverbs:**

**Prov 13:5** – “A righteous man hateth lying; but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.”

- The Wisdom Way is to pattern after God which is to hate falsehood. Lying leads to mistrust and injustice. It disgraces The Wicked.

**Prov 10:16** – “The labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.”

- The rewards of the righteous leads to meaningful life. The income of the wicked result in trouble.

**Prov 29:7** – “The righteous considereth the cause of the poor. But the wicked regardeth not to know it.”

- The wisdom way is justice for all, whereas, The Wicked do not care whether the poor get treated fairly or not.

### **Summary of the Wisdom Way: The Righteous Person**

The **World's Way** is to be Wicked. The **Wisdom Way** is Righteousness. Wickedness is not of God, whereas Righteousness is of God. To be Wicked is to be lawless, destructive, strive on arrogance, and see nothing wrong with sin. Righteousness benefits others, produces joy, rescues from trouble and is pleasing unto God. We are to love all people whether they be wicked or righteous. We are to follow the “Golden Rule” in all dealings with relationships. “Blessings are upon the head of the just” (Prov 10:6). “A good man obtaineth favour of the Lord (Prov 12:2).

### **Practical Application (including results and consequences):**

1. Do not associate with Wicked people.
2. Sin is attractive. However, it is deadly. Do not play with sin.
3. Be concerned about others (Prov 12:10; 29:7).
4. It is always right to do what is right (James 4:17).
5. Be cautious about who you take on as a friend (Prov 12:26).
6. Do not give in to temptations.
7. We should value honesty in others and ourselves.
8. Righteousness is pleasing to God.
9. Always give good advice.
10. Do not envy evil men (Prov 24:1).
11. “For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Eccles 12:14).

### **MEMORY VERSES:**

“<sup>14</sup>Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. <sup>15</sup>Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away” (Prov 4:14-15).

## **CONCLUSION:**

**A. True Wisdom is in living – Near Jesus every day;  
True Wisdom is in walking – Where He shall lead the way – Anonymous**

**B. Tell the truth, A lie will never do;  
The Bible says that God is Truth - He wants the truth from you – Branon**

### **C. The Briefcase**

Last winter, a lowly-paid waiter in a major city found a briefcase containing cash and negotiables in a parking lot—and no owner in sight. No one saw the waiter find it and put it in his car in the wee hours of the morning. But for the waiter, there was never any question of what to do. He took the briefcase home, opened it, and searched for the owner's identity. The next day he made a few phone calls, located the distressed owner, and returned the briefcase—along with the \$25,000 cash it contained!

The surprising thing about this episode was the ridicule the waiter experienced at the hands of his friends and peers. For the next week or so he was called a variety of names and laughed at, all because he possessed a quality the Bible holds in high regard: integrity. – (Today in the Word, July, 1989, p. 18).

### **D. ABC's of Salvation**

- **A – Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).