

ISSUE #185





RHEMA

THE VOICE OF THE FIVE MINISTRIES



THE
PROFILE
OF THE
WICKED

August 2 - GUA 2025
YEAR OF RETURN

   
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MAGAZINE

Rhema

ENGLISH

Attack their peers

By: Abraham De la Cruz

Bible verses to study

James 2:13

Exodus 33:11

Proverbs 17:17

Acts 7:26-28

Proverbs 18:24

Acts 7:35

The concept of “the wicked” carries various meanings. It refers to someone who lacks the virtue of piety or faith in God, a person who shows no respect for sacred things, who is irreverent, hostile, cruel, merciless, hard-hearted, and unyielding. In the biblical context, the Hebrew word used is *Rashá* (Strong 7563), which translates as wicked, guilty, or ungodly. It describes a person who has committed evil, continues living in sin, and is determined to persist in their wrongdoing. Different Bible translations define the wicked as an evildoer, oppressor, aggressor, slanderer, and one who harms others.

Because the concept of the wicked holds various nuances, it is essential to examine the specific verses where it appears to fully understand its characteristics and to prevent wicked attitudes from influencing our own lives. One of the most evident behaviors of the wicked is assaulting their fellow man, as seen in Exodus 2:13. The Jumash version describes the wicked as attacking his “neighbor,” which, according to Scripture, refers to one who has shown mercy. This highlights the severity of the act: the wicked strikes against someone who has acted benevolently toward them. Such behavior reveals a lack of understanding and a heart distant from God, as it is written, “judgment without mercy will be shown to anyone who has not been merciful.” The New Living Translation further states that the wicked struck his “friend.” The Hebrew term *Rea* (Strong 7453) is used here, which denotes a close companion, a personal friend, someone trusted with confidences. This is the same word used to describe the relationship between God and Moses, who spoke “face to face.” The wicked’s aggression towards a friend contradicts the biblical ideal of friendship, where a friend loves at all times, and there are friends who are even closer than a brother.

Another wicked action is to entice others to serve foreign gods, as described in Deuteronomy 13:6. In this passage, *Rea* is again translated

as “friend” (NASB). It speaks of a supposed friend who, in secret, invites you to follow other gods. This is reminiscent of the roaring lion in Scripture, representing the devil, who seeks someone to devour. God’s command regarding this situation was clear: you must not listen, nor yield, nor conceal such a proposal. So serious was this transgression that the penalty for anyone attempting to lead another into idolatry was death, even if it was a close relative or dear friend. This teaches that loyalty to God must take precedence over human or family bonds.

Furthermore, it is noteworthy how Scripture describes the actions of the wicked against their neighbor. The NASB translates that they “were fighting,” using the Hebrew term *Natsá* (Strong 5327), which encompasses meanings such as to come out against, to fight, to desolate, to expel, to devastate. This was not merely an argument but an attempt to utterly destroy the other, physically and emotionally. The wicked seeks to uproot, to drive someone out of their rightful place, even from the congregation. Spiritually, this represents a movement of desolation inspired by the spirit of the antichrist, known as “the desolator.” The wicked’s unjust attitudes can lead a child of God to be driven away from the church, stripping them of their divine purpose and leaving them spiritually devastated.

Lastly, the wicked challenges authority. When Moses intervened to stop the quarrel, the wicked man confronted him, asking, “Who made you a ruler and a judge over us?” Although Moses, as a member of Pharaoh’s household, held authority, the wicked scorned his position and weaponized Moses’ past against him by bringing up the murder of the Egyptian. This accusation unsettled Moses, and upon realizing his deed was known, he became fearful and was rendered ineffective, unable to assist the oppressed. This narrative offers a profound lesson for those who hold positions of leadership within the Church: leaders must not act out of human impulse when administering justice, for any misstep can be exploited by the wicked to discredit and hinder God’s work through them. May the grace of the Lord guard us from every wicked attitude and grant us discernment to remain faithful to Him. Amen.

False witness

By: Willy González

Bible verses to study

Proverbs 14:5

Proverbs 6:19

Proverbs 21:28

Proverbs 12:17

Proverbs 19.9

1 Kings 21

Exodus 23:1 (RGT) says: “You shall not bring a false report, nor shall you put in your hand with the wicked, to be a false witness.”

One of the characteristics of the wicked is spreading false rumors and being a false witness. It's interesting to see how, in our time, with the ease of access to the internet and social media, these two practices have multiplied. Statistics indicate that 62% of online information may be false, and 40% of the content shared on social media is false. A large number of people share false content, meaning they spread rumors. Adding to this is the role of artificial intelligence in creating fake news and fabricating false statements using famous figures, painting an alarming picture where it becomes increasingly difficult to discern truth from falsehood. Moreover, a significant portion of the global population neither verifies nor discerns the information they encounter online. We also see widespread defamation against anyone, politicians, movie stars, and even ministers of the Gospel. This practice is growing daily around the world, but we must reflect on how it can affect Christians, so as not to become part of it.

The false witness sows discord

According to Proverbs 6:19, the purpose of a false witness is to create discord and divide brethren through lies. Interestingly, the EasyEnglish Bible (EASY) mentions that this person causes trouble in a family. This shows that such practices can occur within the family circle and have the potential to destroy households. This might stem from envy or emotional imbalance. Therefore, we must be cautious about what we say within our families, especially when asserting things we cannot personally verify about any family member.

The fraudulent witness

Proverbs 12:17 mentions that a false witness is one who deceives or commits fraud. This is significant because a false witness often lies to obtain some benefit. An example is Jacob, who, through deception, managed to receive his father's blessing, taking it from his brother. Lies can be told to gain profit. Today, discrediting others to deceive an audience and making defamatory content go viral for monetary gain has become a common practice.

False witnesses in the Bible

Joseph's brothers: After selling Joseph, his brothers became false witnesses when they informed their father of what had supposedly happened. They manipulated the story to make him believe a wild animal had killed Joseph. Yet, they knew the truth. Their envy led them to take this path, which caused them to live under accusation for years, knowing the reality of the situation. They witnessed how their father's life was never the same again, yet they still refused to tell the truth.

The false witnesses against Naboth: In 1 Kings 21, we find the story of Naboth, who owned a beautiful vineyard that King Ahab desired. When Naboth refused to sell it, the king was distressed. Jezebel, his wife, schemed to acquire the vineyard by hiring false witnesses to accuse Naboth of blaspheming against God and the king. They proclaimed a fast and condemned Naboth to be stoned to death. Jezebel represents a demonic influence that uses false witnesses while disguising lies with religious acts, such as proclaiming a fast to slander godly men. Today, lies are often disguised with a veil of spirituality, aiming to destroy ministries. In this era of defamation, we must be vigilant not to fall into the wicked one's trap. Let's remember that God did not leave Naboth's death unpunished; He brought just retribution for the injustice of stealing his vineyard.

False witnesses against Jesus: Religious leaders also hired false witnesses against Jesus. Initially, they sent spies to find grounds to accuse Him of blasphemy. However, some were touched by His words and found no reason to accuse Him. Later, during His unjust trial, they twisted His words, giving them a different meaning. For example, when Jesus said He would raise the temple in three days, He was referring to His body and resurrection. Yet, they took it literally, presenting it as a physical threat to the temple. This mirrors how today, attacks are launched against the mystical body of Christ – the true Church –. The Church, its members, and its ministers are accused of various things by taking its teachings out of spiritual context. Additionally, there were false witnesses who claimed Jesus' body had been stolen to deny the greatest event in history: He rose again and is alive!

Let us not spread false rumors. Let us not join the false witness. Let us remove any influence of the wicked from within us.

Source of wickedness

By: Piedad de González

Bible verses to study

Proverbs 4:16-17 Romans 1:18
Isaiah 57:20-21 Jude 1:15
Psalm 36:1

1 Samuel 24:13 (ESV) says: “As the proverb of the ancients says, ‘Out of the wicked comes wickedness.’ But my hand shall not be against you.”

One of the key characteristics of the wicked is that wickedness flows from within them; they are a source, a generator from which evil springs forth. Luke 6:45 says that “the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil.” Proverbs 15:28 adds that “the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things,” meaning that wickedness flows from their mouth. Let us remember that out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks. Thus, we can discern whether a person is righteous or wicked by their words.

To understand this trait, let’s look at the context of the verse in 1 Samuel 24. Here, David is being unjustly persecuted by Saul. David has an opportunity to kill Saul, an opportunity even encouraged by his men, but he chooses not to harm him. Instead, David confronts Saul and shows him that he did not repay evil for evil, because only from the heart of a wicked person would such actions arise. From David’s restraint, we learn by contrast what actions characterize someone who is a source of wickedness.

David did not seek revenge. Although Saul was his enemy, pursuing him unjustly and even attempting to kill him multiple times, David refused to take revenge. Revenge is a typical attitude of the wicked. While revenge may offer temporary satisfaction to the soul, it ultimately hardens the heart and creates emotional imbalance. Consider Simeon and Levi, who avenged their sister’s dishonor through deceit and violence. While there was indeed a real victim and a genuine injustice, their revenge filled their hearts with violence, removing God’s counsel from their actions. Their vengeful plot, –deceiving and overpowering their weakened enemies–, kept the memory of vengeance alive in their hearts, making them perpetrators of the very cruelty they condemned.

Esau also harbored vengeance after losing his birthright to his brother Jacob. His hatred grew to the point where he found comfort in

the idea of revenge. These cases may seem to justify vengeance, but Scripture teaches us that vengeance belongs to God. If we cling to a vengeful spirit, bitterness will take root, and we risk becoming impious in heart by allowing such thoughts to dwell within us.

Another thing David refused to do was raise his hand against the Lord’s anointed. This teaches us that a trait of the wicked is to rebel against God’s delegated authority. A clear example is Absalom, David’s son, who raised his hand against his father by leading a rebellion. Absalom stole the hearts of the people, manipulating their emotional wounds, making them feel understood and valued, and in doing so, gathered an army of traitors. His rebellion stemmed from an identity crisis, though he was a prince, he was not destined to be king. We should ask ourselves: do we harbor thoughts that, if we were in authority, we would do a better job? Do we think we are superior to our leaders or mentors? If so, we must root out the “Absalom” within us.

Judas committed the greatest act of betrayal by handing over the Lord Jesus. One of his motives was greed. After the Last Supper, Jesus announced that one of the disciples would betray Him. Each disciple questioned whether they were the traitor, perhaps remembering instances where Judas had voiced criticism. For example, when Mary anointed Jesus with expensive perfume, Judas objected, suggesting it should have been sold to help the poor. The others agreed, thinking it was poor stewardship, though Judas’s true motive was to steal from the funds, as he was in charge of the finances. There were also moments when the disciples argued about who was the greatest among them, debating who would take Jesus’ place. All of these attitudes forced them to self-examine and expose their hearts. The way to avoid becoming a source of wickedness is to recognize and confess these errors, exposing any residue of impiety within us to the light of truth.

God’s opportunity for change

If we detect wickedness within ourselves, there is hope. Isaiah 55:7 (NASB) says, “Let the wicked abandon his way, And the unrighteous person his thoughts.” Ezekiel 33 calls us to return –*Shub*– from our evil ways. If the wicked repair the harm they have caused, they will be forgiven. If we acknowledge and repent of these attitudes, a time of blessing will come upon our lives.

The wicked are arrogant

By: Hilmar Ochoa

Bible verses to study

1 Samuel 2:3

Daniel 5:2

Proverbs 8:13

James 4:16

Ezekiel 16:49

Jude 1:16

Scripture teaches us that the antechamber of rebellion is pride and arrogance (Psalm 19:13 JUB), with pride representing the highest level of arrogance. In other words, pride progresses into haughtiness, and when haughtiness grows, it reaches the level of arrogance, which then becomes full-blown insolence.

Arrogance is a negative trait marked by an exaggerated sense of self-importance, superiority, and lack of humility. It involves despising others and considering oneself above them, often accompanied by a lack of empathy and an inability to accept criticism or admit mistakes. Arrogant people tend to overvalue their own abilities and achievements while undervaluing those of others.

Arrogance is not just an internal feeling; it manifests externally as a behavior and attitude towards others. It is expressed through excessive self-confidence and an inflated belief in one's superiority.

The Bible teaches this is a key feature of the wicked. This verse confirms: "In pride and arrogance the wicked hotly pursue and persecute the afflicted; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised" (Psalm 10:2 AMP).

The direct opposite of arrogance is humility, an attitude that becomes the antidote and cure against arrogance, haughtiness, and pride. As we can see, arrogance is not merely an attitude or emotion; it evolves into actions and behaviors that affect how a person treats others. An arrogant person not only feels superior but also actively despises and belittles others, especially when they hold power or authority, using it to mistreat those beneath them. That is why Psalm 10:2 describes the wicked as pursuing the afflicted. Other translations describe it as "persecuting the poor" (GNT), "chasing the oppressed" (NET), and "hunting down those who are weak" (NIRV).

The purpose of this message is not merely to profile the wicked, though it's important to understand that the wicked is a prototype of the Antichrist. More importantly, identifying these attitudes will help us discern whether there's any

influence of the Antichrist's spirit within our own behavior so that we can eradicate every impious attitude from our lives.

Is there arrogance in our hearts? I believe humility will help us recognize if arrogance is present, even in small proportions, within our lives. All of us, to some degree, struggle with pride. However, the work of the Holy Spirit in us will cleanse us entirely, filling us with the meekness and humility of Christ.

The apostle Paul exhorts us in Philippians 2:3 (NASB): "Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves." This is humanly impossible without God's help because self-love often prevents us from seeing others as more important than ourselves. Paul then urges us to adopt the same mindset that was in Christ Jesus, who humbled Himself, emptied Himself, and served, ultimately walking in perfect obedience.

It seems to be a battle of attitudes – the attitudes of the wicked versus the attitudes of the righteous.

The wicked serve as a prototype of the Antichrist, and the attitudes of the wicked are the same ones the spirit of the Antichrist wants to implant in the hearts of the righteous. Paul warned that in the last days, perilous times would come because people would adopt eighteen attitudes that define the character of the Antichrist. Notably among them are self-love, boasting, and arrogance: "People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy" (2 Timothy 3:2 NET).

In response to the threat of impious attitudes like arrogance, the Lord provides us with various sources of cleansing and weapons of defense. For instance, being filled with the Holy Spirit produces the fruit of love and gentleness, which counteracts selfishness and pride. Likewise, the character of Christ, being formed in us, shapes a calm and humble heart.

There is a prophetic promise for these times, found in Malachi 4:5-6 (ESV): "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the great and awesome day of the Lord comes. And he will turn the hearts." The God's Word Translation (GW) phrases it as: "He will change parents' attitudes toward their children and children's attitudes toward their parents." When this prophecy is cited in Luke 1:17 (NASB), it says Elijah will turn "the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous."

The Lord will remove every wicked attitude, including arrogance.

The wicked pursue the afflicted

By: Ramiro Sagastume

Bible verses to study

Santiago 3:9-10 1 Samuel 17:42-43
Romanos 12:18 1 Samuel 18:10-15
1 Samuel 17:28-29

When the Holy Spirit helps us see with our inner eyes, some of us may realize that we have an impious man active within us, who at times may harass those going through affliction. The secular concept of harassment is expressing, directly or indirectly, regardless of age, offensive or aggressive words intended to humiliate, threaten, or intimidate another person. This includes mocking, insults, inappropriate sexual remarks, and provocations. The Bible says: "In pride the wicked hotly pursue the afflicted; Let them be caught in the plots which they have devised" (Psalm 10:2 NASB1995). The Hebrew word used for "harass" is H1814 *Dâlaq*, which carries meanings such as 'to pursue ardently, to hunt, and even to flatter.' This broadens our understanding of what harassment can involve.

Scripture gives us several examples of people who harassed others, whether physically or emotionally, revealing this as a characteristic of the impious (wicked). In Genesis 31:36 (ESV), Jacob confronted Laban and said: "What is my offense? What is my sin, that you have hotly pursued me?" Laban had been enraged that Jacob left with his daughters without saying goodbye. But Jacob had been a victim of Laban's harassment from the start. Laban had deceived Jacob by giving him Leah instead of Rachel, changed his wages ten times, and even charged Jacob for sheep that were lost: "But your father has deceived me and changed my wages ten times, but God did not allow him to hurt me" (Genesis 31:7 AMPC). Laban pursued Jacob with fury and harassed him until God appeared to Laban in a dream, warning him not to touch Jacob. That's why Jacob said he was being harassed, feeling afflicted as he realized Laban was pursuing him with an impious attitude.

Another example is Shimei, who cursed King David and followed him while hurling insults, essentially harassing him: "When King David came to Bahurim, behold, a man was coming out from there from the family of the house of Saul, and his name was Shimei, the son of Gera; he was coming out, cursing as he came. He also threw stones at David and all the servants of King David; and all the people and all the warriors were on his right and on his left. This is what Shimei said when he cursed: 'Go away, go away, you man of

bloodshed and worthless man!'" (2 Samuel 16:5-7 NASB).

We also see harassment in the story of Ishmael and Isaac, to the point of what could be interpreted as sexual harassment: "Sarah noticed the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham playing with her son Isaac" (Genesis 21:9 NABRE). The Hebrew word for "playing" here is H6711 *Tsachaq*, which can also mean to dishonor. This word is the same used when Abimelech noticed that Abraham and Sarah were husband and wife because of the way they were "playing" together.

Tamar was harassed to the point of facing a death sentence by her father-in-law Judah: "About three months later Judah was told, 'Your daughter-in-law Tamar is guilty of prostitution, and as a result she is now pregnant.' Judah said, 'Bring her out and have her burned to death!'" (Genesis 38:24 NIV). However, when Tamar presented proof that Judah himself was the father, he realized his sin. Yet, the wicked spirit of harassment within him had led him to unjustly condemn her.

The daughters of Zelophehad faced a form of societal harassment in that, as women, they were not to receive any inheritance. They courageously brought their case before Moses: "So Moses brought their case before the Lord. Then the Lord said to Moses, 'The daughters of Zelophehad are right about their statements. You shall certainly give them hereditary property among their father's brothers, and you shall transfer the inheritance of their father to them'" (Numbers 27:5-7 NASB).

In the New Testament, our Lord Jesus Christ endured constant harassment from the religious establishment throughout His ministry, culminating in His crucifixion: "Many of them were saying, 'He has a demon and is insane. Why do you listen to Him?' Others were saying, 'These are not the words of one who is demon-possessed. A demon cannot open the eyes of those who are blind, can it?'" (John 10:20-21 NASB). They called Him crazy, demon-possessed, and constantly sought grounds to accuse Him. This was systemic harassment.

The only one who can help us identify and confront the impious man within us is the Holy Spirit. His fullness will open our inner eyes. If we have been victims of harassment, it is essential to seek out a minister or a spiritually delegated person to help minister healing to our soul, uprooting any bitterness that might have taken root as a result of such experiences. We must remember that in Christ, we are being made into a new creation, and His Word will continually bring deliverance, breaking every chain and curse.

The wicked boast of their desires

By: Ana Julia de Sagastume

Bible verses to study

Psalms 35:12

Isaiah 57:17

Psalms 52:1

Psalms 50:16

Psalms 49:18

We are living in the end times, and as we have been taught through the blessed Word, there are many enemies to overcome, enemies that have infiltrated not only the walls of the churches but also the hearts of believers. As if this were not dangerous enough, wickedness (impiety) has spread to such an extent that it often causes anguish to those whose hearts have been transformed. We could say that, like Lot, our souls are tormented by witnessing the rampant evil in the world. Wickedness is one of the enemies we must conquer because it seems to have no limits, it keeps expanding, leading to lawlessness, even within the church.

The foundational verse for this topic is Psalm 10:3 (NRSVA): "For the wicked boast of the desires of their heart..."

According to the Royal Spanish Academy Dictionary, a person who boasts is someone who speaks of themselves with excessive pride, with vanity and presumption, sometimes even about criminal or shameful acts. These are arrogant people, and the Word says about them: "They pour forth words, they speak arrogantly; all who do wickedness vaunt themselves. They crush Your people, O Lord, and afflict Your heritage. They slay the widow and the stranger and murder the orphans. They have said, 'The Lord does not see, nor does the God of Jacob pay heed'" (Psalm 94:4-7 NASB1995). We see this daily: criminals, unafraid of being caught, attack violently and kill anyone who resists them. They kill in cold blood, have no fear of authorities, and lack both knowledge and fear of God. They flaunt the wickedness of their hearts. Psalm 73 tells us that pride adorns them as a necklace, and violence covers them like a garment. The desires of their hearts are always evil. They mock and speak maliciously of doing violence; they set their mouths against heaven (Psalm 73:6-9).

There are also those who boast in their wealth, putting all their trust in material possessions — often acquired through deceit. They believe that

material things are eternal and take pride in having defrauded others. As Hosea 12:7-8 says: "A merchant, in whose hands are false balances, he loves to oppress. Ephraim has said, 'Ah, but I am rich; I have found wealth for myself; in all my labors they cannot find in me iniquity or sin.'" How many people do we know like this? Those who conduct illicit business and take pride in being so clever that no one can catch them. They take pleasure in doing evil. But we, who know God, must live as Scripture instructs: "Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than he who is crooked though he be rich." (Proverbs 28:6 NASB1995). God does not desire poverty for us, He can enrich us, but provision obtained in integrity brings joy and peace. Our trust must never be placed in material things, but in God, who has granted us those blessings. If we have one house or three, it is because of Him. If we have a good job or a prosperous business, it is thanks to Him. Trusting in material things makes us arrogant and vain; failing to acknowledge His grace and mercy makes us ungrateful.

We must also mention those who boast in what is now called "gay pride." Society has normalized this, dedicating an entire month to parades and celebrations. Romans 1:26-27 (NTE) warns: "So God gave them up to shameful desires. Even the women, you see, swapped natural sexual practice for unnatural; and the men, too, abandoned natural sexual relations with women, and were inflamed with their lust for one another." Even in the midst of their sinful passions, they dare to say we are wrong and criticize us. However, we must remember that since receiving Christ into our hearts, we have been made new creations. If we live by the Spirit and are continually filled with Him, we will crucify the passions and desires that displease our Father.

The Bible says: "Why do you fight and argue with each other? Isn't it because you are full of selfish desires that fight to control your body?" (James 4:1 CEV). Perhaps our passions are not as visible, leading us to believe they are harmless, but we must examine our hearts to see if we harbor impious attitudes that displease God. This magazine is a call for introspection: What is in our heart? Do we need to repent and change our behavior to align with what pleases God? We cannot claim to be free of these attitudes because the Word of God is alive and speaks to us, especially as we live in these final days.

The wicked do not seek God

By: Raymundo Rodríguez

Bible verses to study

2 Corinthians 10:4-5 2 Chronicles 26:5

Lamentations 3:40 Psalms 116:1-2

Ephesians 4:31

Psalm 10:4 (CEV) says: “At the peak of their wrath, the wicked don’t seek God: There’s no God, that’s what they are always thinking.” We have learned that there are three kinds of people: the righteous, the wicked, and the sinner. Perhaps we have generalized by believing that everyone who attends church is righteous. It’s true that anyone who has washed their sins in the blood of Christ has been forgiven; we are justified by faith and have peace with God. But if we are honest, do we not still sin? Does that make us sinners? Are there Christians who still sin? I believe the answer is yes. Regarding the wicked, Psalm 36 says that the wicked person ceases to do good. Let me ask you: have you ever stopped doing good? This is a hard reflection, but what better way to examine our actions and draw closer to God!

Perhaps wickedness has not been as far from our hearts as we thought. Maybe we’ve even grown accustomed to it and justified it with arguments. For example, when we act violently, we are acting wickedly (Psalm 37:35). In the theme of this passage, arrogance and pride cause us to stop seeking God. So, let me ask: have you stopped seeking God? Why? Could it be that you’re unwilling to yield your opinion? Isn’t that arrogance?

“The end of a matter is better than its beginning, and patience is better than pride” (Ecclesiastes 7:8 NIV). Here we see that patience is better than pride. I believe we have all struggled with impatience, whether with a spouse or with a clerk at a store. Isaiah 13:11 tells us that those who lack mercy are marked by pride. Mercy is a fruit, and not having it will lead us to actions of wickedness. This timely reflection calls us to examine ourselves and watch our steps carefully. A major problem with pride is that it distances us from God: “Though the Lord is great, he cares for the humble, but he keeps his distance from the proud” (Psalm 138:6 NLT). We all know that a person can draw closer to God, or drift further away. But we see here that pride gradually drives a person away from Him. Isaiah 1:28 warns that those who abandon God will perish. I hope you don’t think I’m exaggerating, but I want it to be clear in our understanding that pride is dangerous.

“Before destruction the heart of a person is haughty, But humility goes before honor” (Proverbs 18:12 NASB). What we often call arrogance can also manifest as anger or rage. You might say, “But everyone gets angry!” and that’s true, but that doesn’t mean we’re exempt from sin. There is a kind of anger that makes us behave arrogantly. Consider the attitude of Jesus described in 1 Peter 2:22-23, where it says that when He was insulted, He did not return insult for insult; when He suffered, He made no threats. It’s human nature to defend oneself through offense, to not stay silent and to humiliate the one who harms us. This is, sadly, how many people behave, even within marriages. But this is not how Christ behaved. Therefore, when we allow anger to control us and respond evil for evil, we are acting wickedly, which does not please the Lord.

Returning to the opening verse, we see that the consequence of pride and anger is that a person stops seeking God, and this is wickedness. Do you know someone who has stopped seeking God? Or maybe... have you stopped seeking Him? The purpose of these teachings is to help us discover the truth. Could it be that pride has made you think more about yourself than about God? This suggests that you may be drifting away from Him.

We must become aware when we are drifting away from God. Some people say, “I just don’t feel God’s presence like I used to,” and very likely, this is a consequence of their own actions – pride being one of them.

“Nevertheless, good things are found in you, for you have removed the Asherah poles out of the land and have set your heart to seek God” (2 Chronicles 19:3 TLV). This verse is very useful to illustrate that idolatry, or pride, leads us away from seeking God. But how does the wicked man’s thought come to say, “There is no God”? Where does that expression come from? How many times have we thought that because things aren’t going our way, it means God isn’t listening? Do we really know what is best for us? Saying that God does not exist is essentially saying He does not hear: “This is the confidence which we have before Him, that, if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us” (1 John 5:14 NASB).

God does not exist only when you are in a good mood or when things are going well. God exists because He is God, and that truth cannot be reasoned away. I hope that by reading these words, we all realize that we still have much to grow and mature in. We must cast off wickedness and sin from our lives. May God bless you!

The wicked attack the upright in heart

By: Sophia de Rodríguez

Bible verses to study

1 Peter 2:12, 21-23 Psalm 36:1
Psalm 7:10 Proverbs 23:17
Psalm 140:4 Ephesians 4:32

Psalm 11:2 (ESV) says: “For behold, the wicked bend the bow; they have fitted their arrow to the string to shoot in the dark at the upright in heart.”

Scripture also tells us in Psalm 7:10 that God is a shield and Savior to those who are upright in heart. But who are the upright in heart? They are those who fear the Lord, walk in His light, and live in integrity. But why does the wicked attack? What drives their rage against the upright? Have you ever wondered why some people harbor evil intentions or why wickedness exists in the hearts of men? The Bible gives us the answer. The motivations can vary, envy, hatred, malice, but perhaps one of the most common roots is envy. Consider these examples:

“Now Cain said to his brother Abel, ‘Let’s go out to the field.’ While they were in the field, Cain attacked his brother Abel and killed him” (Genesis 4:8 NIV). Abel had offered a pleasing sacrifice to God, while Cain presented what he thought was best, yet God was not pleased with him. Instead of reflecting on his offering, Cain allowed envy to consume him, luring his brother to the field and murdering him.

Another example is found in Daniel 6:4 (NASB): “Then the commissioners and satraps began trying to find a ground of accusation against Daniel regarding government affairs; but they could find no ground of accusation or evidence of corruption, because he was trustworthy, and no negligence or corruption was to be found in him.” Daniel was upright, faithful, and excellent in his service to the king, yet his devotion to God made him a target. His success stirred up envy among his peers, who conspired against him. They didn’t realize that the God of Israel was with him.

We must examine ourselves to see if envy has ever found a place in our hearts. This is crucial because the Bible says envy rots the bones (Proverbs 14:30) and instructs us to rid ourselves of it (1 Peter 2:1). Romans 13:13 also reveals that envy leads to strife and feeds a carnal life. Envy is not always about material things. In Numbers 16, we read of Korah’s rebellion. He challenged Moses’ leadership, as though implying he could

lead better. Korah’s cause might have sounded reasonable, but they overlooked the fact that it was God who had appointed Moses. Envy can also manifest as a struggle for authority, position, or ministry.

How do the wicked attack?

The wicked carefully prepare to do evil. They sharpen their weapons and, as some translations say, “shoot from the shadows”. This indicates a form of ambush, a calculated strategy designed to strike down the upright. Psalm 36:3-4 (NASB) says: “The words of his mouth are wickedness and deceit; he has ceased to be wise and to do good. He plans wickedness on his bed; he sets himself on a path that is not good; he does not reject evil.”

One of the primary arrows of the wicked is deceitful and malicious speech. Their words are bitter and aimed to destroy. This attack is relentless, manifesting as harassment, slander, and persecution. Genesis 49:23 and Psalm 64:2-4 describe how evildoers sharpen their tongues like swords and shoot bitter words like arrows, ambushing the innocent without fear.

As a final reflection, there are two essential things for us: First, avoid the ways of the wicked and refuse to walk in their paths (Proverbs 4:14). And second, know how to respond to their attacks. The wicked must realize their sin, repent, and avoid the consequences: “God is a just judge, and God is angry with the wicked every day. If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready” (Psalm 7:11-12 NKJV).

Though we cannot prevent people from acting wickedly or launching attacks, we can guard our own hearts against impurity and close every door to impiety. God, who is just, will protect and preserve the upright in heart. However, we must also discern the strategies of the wicked, avoid lending an ear to their lies, and stay rooted in the truth of God’s Word.

We must not fear what man can do to us. Instead, we should be alert to the enemy’s schemes and expose them. It is essential to seek God’s face and constantly examine our hearts so that we do not fall into the trap of wickedness. Let us ask the Lord for strength and grace to live uprightly.

“For the Lord gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity” (Proverbs 2:6-7 ESV).

Transgression speaks to the wicked

By: Sergio Licardié

Bible verses to study

Genesis 20:11-13

John 14:27

Genesis 26:9

Ecclesiastes 2:15

Genesis 31:31

Proverbs 1:20-23

One of the depictions of the bride of Christ is found in Song of Solomon 1:8. In this passage, the Beloved tells His beloved that she has little goats in her heart that she must shepherd. This signifies areas within her that are not pleasing to the Lord, areas that need to be surrendered under pastoral care. This teaches us that every believer has aspects of their soul that require recognition and transformation by the Lord. Today, we will study a characteristic that defines the profile of the wicked, so we can conduct a self-examination and identify attitudes we must renounce in order to become the perfected Bride who will marry the Lord.

Psalms 36:1 (ESV) says: "To the choirmaster. Of David, the servant of the Lord. Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes." This verse reveals that the wicked listen to an internal voice, transgression, that whispers thoughts opposed to the fear of God. Jesus illustrated this through a parable: "And He told them a parable, saying, 'The land of a rich man was very productive. And he began thinking to himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no place to store my crops?' And he said, 'This is what I will do: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and I will store all my grain and my goods there. And I will say to myself, 'You have many goods stored up for many years to come; relax, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!'" (Luke 12:16-19). Jesus explained that this man was a fool because his soul would be required of him that very night. He had not been rich toward God; instead, he had stored up perishable treasures. The voice that influenced his actions, the transgression speaking to his soul, only made him value earthly possessions. It did not instill the fear of God but instead fueled his love for money. Rather than leading him to store up treasures in heaven, it drove him to hoard temporary riches.

Though this parable describes an anonymous figure acting as a wicked person — listening to transgression and obeying it —, the Bible also presents other characters who listened to this

internal voice and acted upon its suggestions. Let us examine their stories, placing ourselves before the mirror of the Word, to detect any attitude we need to cast out of our lives.

Saul

"So I said, 'The Philistines are ready to march against us at Gilgal, and I haven't even asked for the Lord's help!' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering myself before you came" (1 Samuel 13:12 NLT). Saul had been given a specific command by the prophet Samuel: he was to wait seven days until Samuel arrived to offer the burnt offerings and then give further instructions. However, Saul thought it was more important to offer the sacrifices himself. He trusted more in fulfilling the ritual than in seeking God's favor. He had more faith in human power (not wanting his army to scatter) than in the Almighty arm of God. It's easy to see Saul's mistake in hindsight, yet how often do we fall into the same trap? How many times do we place our trust in what is visible — in the pressing troubles around us — and try to "help God" instead of waiting on His Word and Spirit? Transgression whispers, "Don't wait, act now, seize the moment or you'll lose the opportunity." But we often forget that God is sovereign over time, and what is meant for us will come in His timing. Acting out of sync with God's will can cause us to fall from the role He has called us to within the Body of Christ, just as it happened to Saul.

Solomon

"I said to myself, 'Behold, I have magnified and increased wisdom more than all who were over Jerusalem before me; and my mind has observed a wealth of wisdom and knowledge.' And I applied my mind to know wisdom and to know insanity and foolishness... I said to myself, 'Come now, I will test you with pleasure. So enjoy yourself'" (Ecclesiastes 1:16-17; 2:1 NASB). Here, transgression speaks to Solomon in a similar way to the rich fool in Luke 12:16-19, but it targets him differently — it stirs his pride and ego. This led him to pursue pleasure, which eventually caused him to abandon boundaries and commit evil before the Lord (1 Kings 11:6-13).

Just like these examples, the Bible reveals many other instances where transgression spoke to people and led them astray. We must ask the Lord to deliver us and give us discernment so that when that voice approaches our lives, we will recognize it and cast it out in the name of Jesus.

The wicked do not fear God

By: Fernando Álvarez

Bible verses to study

Jeremiah 2:19

Isaiah 57:11

Jeremiah 5:24

Ecclesiastes 8:13

Jeremiah 55:19

Luke 8:12

The fear of the Lord encompasses many things, yet at its core, it involves a decision, a choice grounded in the knowledge of His Word and the revelation of His nature. Those who despise knowledge simply choose not to seek it (Proverbs 1:29). Therefore, to choose the fear of the Lord means to know His divinity, His perfect holiness, justice, power, omniscience, fatherhood, and His eternal love and mercy manifested through His only begotten Son (Holman Illustrated Bible Dictionary).

The prophet Jeremiah presents a vivid contrast between two men: one who places his trust in man, and another who trusts in the Lord (Jeremiah 17:5-8). In both cases, God's favor draws near, yet only the second man perceives and receives it. The first man, lacking the fear of the Lord, remains blind to it and falls under a curse, while the second is abundantly blessed. The difference lies in reverence, the fear of the Lord.

The supreme example of fearing God is found in the prayers and supplications of Jesus Christ, which were heard by the Father because of His reverent fear (Hebrews 5:7). This fear is understood as a holy, pious reverence, intertwined with love, a combination that shapes a man's devotion to God and leads him to obedience. The Greek term for this devotion is *Eulabeia* (G2124, Vine's Expository Dictionary). The wicked, however, do not fear the Lord (Psalm 36:1), and it is essential to explore how Scripture outlines the profile of such individuals.

The inhabitants of Gerar exemplify this profile. They had no fear of God (Genesis 20:11). They had stopped up the wells dug by Abraham, hindering Isaac's efforts to reopen them. This symbolizes people who attempt to silence those who preach the Good News, placing obstacles and accusations against ministries of restoration. Such individuals are considered enemies of God's work (Genesis 26:20-22). They are like those who mocked and opposed Nehemiah's efforts to rebuild Jerusalem's walls (Nehemiah 4:4-11).

They are treacherous and violent, like the Amalekites, who aggressively attacked Israel from

the very beginning. These represent people or entities that systematically assault the message of God's Word, whether directly or through media platforms and social networks. Their dishonesty extends to business and commerce, using false balances and deceitful measures to amass wealth for themselves, because they do not fear the Lord (Deuteronomy 25:11-19; Luke 12:16-19).

The King of Assyria is another representation of the godless. He sought to destroy and enslave God's people through confusion and idolatry. This is one of the most dangerous forms of attack because it signifies the internal destruction of churches, discrediting sound doctrine and replacing it with humanism, worldly customs, and fleeting trends. Often, primary ministers are replaced with mere facilitators, and the sheep are left vulnerable, ultimately devoured by the enemy, as happened in Samaria (2 Kings 17:24-25).

The wicked are blasphemers – they slander, insult, and spread lies (Strong's G987 *Blasphemeo*). One of the thieves crucified next to Jesus embodies this, as he continued to mock the Lord even while suffering, earning the rebuke of the other thief, who reminded him of his lack of fear toward God (Luke 23:39-43). Likewise, there are those who revile angelic majesties, who indulge in fleshly desires, despise authority, and are brazen and obstinate (2 Peter 2:10). They are stubborn and rebellious, resistant to repentance, unwilling to change their ways, and persist in evil. This leads to hard-hearted rebellion, making them incapable of fearing the Lord – the very source of all blessings (Jeremiah 5:23-24).

Romans 3:10-18 describes them in detail: There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands, no one who seeks out God. All have turned aside; together they have become corrupt; there is no one who does good, there is not even one. Their throat is an open grave, with their tongues they keep deceiving, the venom of asps is under their lips; their mouth is full of cursing and bitterness; their feet are swift to shed blood, destruction and misery are in their paths, and they have not known the way of peace. There is no fear of God before their eyes. Yet even for them, God's mercy offers a way back. His grace is extended to the wicked, urging them toward repentance: "Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:6-7 ESV).

Conspires against the righteous

By: Hari Chacón

Bible verses to study

Jude 1:10-13

Psalm 37:25

Proverbs 4:18

Job 17:9

Jude 1:24-25

Jeremiah 17:9

The word of God lets us see, in the book of Proverbs, that Christians will have to walk a path: either that of the righteous or that of the wicked. It is a matter of personal decision. However, the decision is not exactly the choice of the path itself, but rather the condition of our hearts and the things we do. At this point, we could be saying that we are not wicked, but it is necessary to recognize that the Word says that only the Lord knows the heart of man. That is why it is necessary to examine ourselves. I recommend, beloved reader, that we scrutinize each of the topics in this blessed magazine, for the profile of the wicked will be revealed in it.

Conspires against the righteous

Psalm 37:12 NLV: "The wicked plot against the godly; they snarl at them in defiance". In the previous verse, when it says "the wicked", it is translated from the Hebrew word H7563 *Rasha*, which means sinful; that is, someone morally and actively evil, someone who is determined to continue sinning.

Now, it is essential that we focus on the meaning of the word conspiracy or plot: to unite against someone with the purpose of harming him, planning to do him evil. Therefore, a Christian who practices this is considered to be walking in the path of the wicked.

Conspiracy against the faith

We can clearly see this situation in the Book of Daniel, chapter 6, where the satraps sought evil against Daniel, because Daniel was a man appreciated by the king. Seeing no cause to overthrow him, they had the king issue an edict contrary to Daniel's faith: anyone who asked for anything from anyone other than the king within thirty days would be put to death.

Daniel, a righteous man, continued praying and asking the Lord, which condemned him to death in the lions' den. This story, recorded in the word of God, may seem exciting but it is far removed from our current situation. However, today we can see that there are people in the congregations who, not satisfied with their spiritual coverage, plot evil, twisting the minds of others against the decisions the pastor determines and making them go against the faith. There are also people who, upon seeing one of their brothers excelling, conspire against him, raising slander with the purpose of discrediting him.

Conspiracy out of greed

In 1 Kings 21: 1-16, we read a terrible story in which the king of Israel, Ahab, covets the vineyard of a man named Naboth, who denies it to him, because it was the inheritance he had received from his parents.

Another character appears in this conspiracy: Jezebel, a wicked woman who arranges the conspiracy against Naboth with the purpose of taking over his vineyard. Something worth highlighting is that the conspiracy included a mask of religiosity: this woman ordered the town elders to proclaim a fast and hired two wicked men, sons of Belial, to sit near Naboth to testify against him, saying that Naboth had blasphemed God and the king. It is important to note that Belial means: unjust, evil, wicked, perverse. The result of the conspiracy was the death of Naboth and the appropriation of the vineyard by King Ahab. Covetousness is wanting what others have or what belongs to another person. The conspiracy of an ungodly person to take away something from someone they covet will be through an attitude of religiosity and false holiness in which there are dark purposes, even raising theological arguments and false testimony against the person they want to harm.

Conspiracy to sin against God

The wicked will seek to make others fall into the same error as him, and to achieve this, he will try to introduce into the heart of his victim doctrines and teachings that lead to sinning against God, as the Word relates when it says: "But I have a few things against you: you have some there who hold the teaching of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the sons of Israel, so that they might eat food sacrificed to idols and practice sexual immorality" (Revelation 2:14 ESV). This situation is tremendously complex, because what the wicked seek is for the Christian to receive the punishment he deserves for sinning against the Lord Jesus Christ. There are people who hide behind erroneous doctrines and ways of thinking; They are complaining backbiters, they flatter to obtain benefit and to make others adopt their teachings, especially, those who are carried away by the winds of doctrine, blaspheming things they do not understand.

Dear reader, God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, through the Holy Spirit, are the only ones Who can protect us from being a target of the wicked conspiracy, but even more so, the filling of the Holy Spirit is what will enable us to detect if we have any of these attitudes, so that we surrender our soul and will before God and thus be clean and free, until we are made in the image of the Son, bearing the fruits of the Spirit, to please the Father. May the Lord grant it to us. Maranatha!

He gnashes his teeth at the righteous

By: Julio and Vivian de Lacan

Bible verses to study

Genesis 19:25

Ezekiel 33:11

Proverbs 21:5

Matthew 24:51

Proverbs 11:18

Psalm 37:12 says: “The wicked plots against the righteous, and gnashes at him with his teeth”. We can see that as children of God, we are called to fight a battle between the wicked and the righteous, between wickedness and righteousness. We can see this battle in the book of Acts, where there was a confrontation between a servant of God named Stephen – who was full of grace and power – and some men from the synagogue of the Freedmen, who could not resist the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke, so they devised a plan against him, bribed people to speak evil of him, set up false witnesses against him and accused him of speaking blasphemies. However, when he was questioned, he took the opportunity to speak, and being filled with the Holy Spirit, he expounded the truth to them, but the truth was not received because of their ungodly nature: “Now when they heard this, they were infuriated, and they began gnashing their teeth at him” (Acts 7:54 NASB), they took out all their anger on Stephen, stoning him until he fell asleep while he was looking at God. Thus, we can see that the wicked will rise up against the righteous to seek to end their lives.

We will see the following from an applied perspective for our lives: how we may be facing a battle between the “righteous and the wicked” in our own souls and what we must do to keep the attitudes of the righteous alive within us. Let’s look at the verses that allow us to identify this struggle: a first example is our way of walking, which will show if we are having a struggle. We can find it in the following verse: “Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the path of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful” (Psalm 1:1). As children of God, we cannot be guided by the advice of the wicked, who will even try to make us fall. If we follow their advice, we are in danger of following their path and turning away from God. Proverbs 15:9 says that God hates the way of the wicked, but He loves those who follow what is right. When we need advice, we should seek people filled with the Holy Spirit so they can guide us in God’s ways: “Where there is no counsel, the people fall; but in the multitude of counselors there is safety”

(Proverbs 11:14) and if for some reason you have been led astray by bad advice that has led you away from God’s ways, remember what Isaiah 55:7 says: “let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon”.

One difference between a righteous man and a wicked man is found in his life of prayer: “The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous” (Proverbs 15:29). Prayer is an indicator of how our life is going. The Lord Jesus had a life of prayer and one of His disciples even asked Him to teach them how to pray (Luke 11:1). The most beautiful thing is that the Lord did not refuse, but began to teach them the things they should say. Prayer points out an approach to God. In the Bible, we see examples of people who strayed from Him, but then made the decision to return to fellowship with Him. An example of this is the prodigal son, when he came to his senses after having sinned, he said the following: “I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants” (Luke 15:18-19). He acknowledged that he had offended God and his father, that’s why he decided to settle his accounts. God invites us to draw closer; one way to do this is through prayer, intimate communion with Him, where He will manifest His mercy in our lives: “Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool” (Isaiah 1:18), let us seek God with all our hearts, so that the wicked may perish within us.

Another example is to see if there is any ungodliness within us, for example, in our wages. The Bible says: “The wage of the righteous leads to life, the gain of the wicked to sin” (Proverbs 10:16). When we talk about wages, we may think of something material, but this verse transcends to something much more valuable: our own lives. When we know that everything we have comes from God, we have the need and the desire in our hearts to give Him what belongs to Him, that is, our tithe and offering, which we sow in the earthly, but reap in the spiritual. The opposite is true of the wicked, who squanders his money on sin: “If anyone does not provide for his own, and especially his own household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever” (1 Timothy 5:8). As children of God, we must give to Him what is His.

Borrows and doesn't pay

By: Louissette Moscoso y Giovanni Sandoval

Bible verses to study

Psalm 37:21 1 Timothy 5:4
Hebrews 4:12 Colossians 3:22-24
1 Thessalonians 5:12 Romans 12:21

The word ungodly comes from the Hebrew H7563 *Rasha*, which translates as: morally evil, condemned, guilty, wicked; according to the Vine Dictionary, it indicates the category of people who, having committed evil, still live in sin and are determined to continue sinning; in other words, the ungodly is that Christian who, knowing godliness, does not live it, but has begun to practice sin.

The Bible teaches us not to owe anyone anything, except to love one another; for whoever loves his neighbor has fulfilled the law (Romans 13:8). But the wicked borrow and know they won't pay; it's not the same as someone who wants to pay but can't. However, it's very important that they try to pay what they owe. The Bible gives us an example: a widow who had to pay her dead husband's debt and had nothing to pay, but the prophet asked her, "What do you have at home?" Because we often have things we could sell to pay our debts, but this is almost never done because we lack the will to pay. "She came and told the man of God and he said, go, sell the oil and pay your debts, and you and your sons can live on the rest" (2 Kings 4:7). In this passage, we see the importance that the man of God places on first paying the debt and then living with what is left, because when someone doesn't pay, the creditor comes to collect the debt and claims it from the children, and failure to pay leads us to the path of the wicked. Another example is the parable of the landowner who gave his vineyard to some tenants to gather its fruit in season (Matthew 21:33-41). When the harvest approached, he sent people to gather the fruits, but the farmers refused to pay and some of his messengers were beaten and others killed. Of these, the Word says, they will be punished without mercy.

We all have a wicked person within us whom we must kill and allow the Spirit of the Lord's lips to kill him (Isaiah 11:4), for it is part of the old man that we must put to death within us, so that the new man may be renewed and strengthened. This is why pastors must teach about this topic and kill the wickedness that exists in the hearts of many Christians who are used to taking out loans and not paying off the debt. The Spirit of His lips is the *Ruakh* of God, the divine breath of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, like the strong wind that blew at Pentecost so that the wicked would die. Only the Holy Spirit in us can do that work. May His word penetrate the division between soul and spirit and discern the thoughts and intentions of the heart to cleanse us.

It's not just about monetary debts; the Bible mentioned other debts we must pay: "Give to

everyone what you owe them: Pay your taxes and government fees to those who collect them, and give respect and honor to those who are in authority" (Romans 13:7).

To whom tax, tax; to whom revenue, revenue

The wicked may be a businessman who refuses to pay taxes, but even if the government does not manage them well, he must still do his duty. That excuse – "because they are not used properly, I do not pay" – is just that: an excuse to evade what is right.

To whom fear, fear

"...And if I am a master, where is My fear? says the LORD of hosts to you..." (Malachi 1:6). Fear must be paid to the Lord; Firstly, but until the fear of the Lord comes, there is the fear of parents.

To whom honor, honor

A son honors his father and a servant his master (Malachi 1:6). Honor must be paid to the Lord first (John 5:23), because He is our Heavenly Father, but also to biological and soul parents: "Honor your father and your mother" (Exodus 20:12). "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" which is the first commandment with promise" (Ephesians 6:1-2 NKJV).

To those in high positions

"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (1 Peter 2:17). Honor those in authority God has placed (Romans 13:1). "Dear brothers and sisters, honor those who are your leaders in the Lord's work. They work hard among you and give you spiritual guidance" (1 Thessalonians 5:12 NLT). The wicked do not fear God and therefore plan to deceive by borrowing, but they know in advance that they will not repay. Their wicked attitude also prevents them from paying their tithes because they do not recognize the Lord's lordship (Malachi 1:6).

What else should we pay?

1. Our vows to the Lord: "Pay your vows to the Most High" (Psalm 50:14). It is better not to make vows than not to pay them.
2. Our tithes: those who do not tithe rob God and remove the blessing from their lives (Malachi 3:8-10).
3. Marital debt: "The husband must fulfill his duty to his wife..." (1 Corinthians 7:3-5). If they do not do so, they open the door to the tempter.

As we have seen, we all have things to pay, perhaps we are not fulfilling some of them, this shows us that we must analyze our lives and be willing for the Lord Jesus Christ to eliminate the wicked who dwells within us.

He is violent

By: Jorge Contreras

Bible verses to study

Psalms 11:5-7

Isaiah 57:1-2

Psalms 140:1-3

Ezekiel 7:10-11

Proverbs 13:2

Job 27:11-23

The apostle Paul writes: "... in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy..." (1 Timothy 4:1-2 NKJV). He also lists the characteristics of the men of the last days, who will be the causers of difficult times (2 Timothy 3:2-5). From these verses, it can be concluded that an undetermined number of people who had already known godliness will abandon it, that is, who will become ungodly, whose characteristics are important to know in order to identify them, and as he says: "...Stay away from people like that" (2 Timothy 3:5 NLT). One of these characteristics is that the wicked are violent, and we must recognize this so as not to be around them, since the Lord will come to execute judgment and to condemn all the wicked for all their wicked deeds (Jude 1:15-16).

It is written: "I have seen a wicked, violent person spreading himself like a luxuriant tree in its native soil" (Psalm 37:35 NASB). The declaration of violence ruling the wicked is clear and direct in this verse, but before unpacking that characteristic, let's note the comparison with a leafy tree, this means that it has become great, since, in that verse, the word that the NASB translates as violent is translated as ruthless(NLT), brutal people (Contemporary EV), tyrant (God's Word), oppressive person (International Standard Version), unjust one (Smith literal translation), to name a few versions. These features are of an individual who loves himself, G5367 *Philautos*, but at the same time lacking natural affection, G794 *Astorgos*, which is translated: without family love, according to the Complete Dictionary of the Study of the Words of the New Testament, when delving a little deeper into the features of the people of the last days. (2 Timothy 3:2-3).

By saying that this luxuriant tree extends on its own soil, it is clear that it is telling us that where his violence is specifically noticed is in his own home, where the victims are those inside. Domestic violence is a common problem today. It can be physical, psychological, sexual and/or economic and can happen in both directions, from man against woman or from woman against man, forgetting the principle of unity in marriage established since Adam when it is decreed that both would be one flesh (Genesis 2:23-24).

In the Bible we can see examples of homes where people suffered at the hands of violent spouses. One example is that of Abigail and Nabal, for while she was prudent and gentle, he was harsh and cruel in his dealings (1 Samuel 25:3). And his violent response to David's messengers put his entire household at risk. This was the foolish Nabal's response to David's messengers: "And Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is David? Who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants these days who are breaking away from their masters" (1 Samuel 25:10). Proverbs 10:6 tells us that violence is hidden in the mouth of the wicked, and Proverbs 10:11 says that the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. A hurtful or disrespectful phrase can be much more violent to the person receiving it than a wound from a weapon. Nabal's attitude cost him his life, and we see in him the example of what will happen to the violent wicked, since in that unworthy man what we read was fulfilled: "The violence of the wicked will sweep them away, because they refuse to do what is just" (Proverbs 21:7 ESV). He had received good things from David and his men (1 Samuel 25:6-7) and was unable to act in the same way, but responded evilly.

We can also see examples in the Bible of violent women against their own family, such as in the case of Athaliah, who, upon seeing that her son King Ahaziah was dead, killed her own descendants in order to take the throne of Judah (2 Kings 11:1). Likewise, we can consider the example of Jezebel, who used lies and false witnesses to do violence to Naboth to achieve his death and give the vineyard to her husband Ahab (1 Kings 21:11-13), because of this, all the men of the descendants of Ahab and Jezebel were eaten by dogs and birds (1 Kings 21:24).

The word violent in Psalm 37:35 is H6184 *Ariyts*, which is translated: to inspire terror, ruthless, tyrant and insolent, describing someone who believes himself superior and expects everyone to move out of the way when he passes. We frequently see this attitude in traffic, where accidents, fights and assaults with weapons can occur when there are differences due to competition or lack of courtesy, at work, they need to be admired and don't mind running over their colleagues in order to receive awards, first places or recognition. It is very important to look within ourselves to diagnose whether we might have any or some of these violent attitudes, in order to cleanse ourselves of them and avoid being destroyed in a moment and totally consumed by sudden terrors (Psalm 73:3, 8).

He is irked by the generosity of the righteous

By: Rodrigo Hernández

Bible verses to study

Isaiah 11:4 Psalm 10:4
Psalm 14:1 Ezekiel 33:11
Psalm 112:9-10 Psalm 55:7

Isaiah 11:4 ESV: “but with righteousness He shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and He shall strike the earth with the rod of His mouth, and with the breath of His lips He shall kill the wicked”.

Ungodly comes from the Hebrew H7563 *Rasha*, according to Strong’s Dictionary: It refers to something morally evil; specifically, an actively evil person. And according to Vine’s Dictionary: it indicates the category of people who, having committed evil, still live in sin and are determined to continue sinning.

The base quote for this topic reads: “He has given freely to the poor, His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted in honor. The wicked will see it and be vexed, he will gnash his teeth and melt away; The desire of the wicked will perish” (Psalm 112:9-10 NASB). This verse reveals that the frustration of the wicked stems from the contrast between their empty life and the full life of the righteous. While the righteous rest in God, the wicked are consumed by their anger, and their desires – for power, revenge, ambition – end in vain.

Do not fear the reaction of the wicked when you do what is right, their anger is a sign that the light of God in you bothers them, trust in the justice of God, He exalts His servants in due time, do not envy the wicked (Psalm 37) because their desires and ways will end badly. Don’t respond with the same attitude. While the wicked gnash their teeth, the righteous maintain their peace and remain faithful. God sees your obedience and honors you in His time, even if the wicked don’t understand.

Features of the wicked

- Rejects God: “Only fools say in their hearts, “There is no God.” They are corrupt, and their actions are evil; not one of them does good!” (Psalm 14:1).
- Delights in sin: “let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him...” (Isaiah 55:7).
- Speaks with malice and pride: “The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous will come through trouble” (Proverbs 12:13).
- Oppresses the righteous and mocks: “The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice” (Proverbs 17:23).
- Constant immorality and sin (Romans 1:18-32).
- Lack of fear of God (Psalm 36:1).
- Hostility toward righteousness (Isaiah 59:7-8).
- Loves wickedness and injustice.

- They forsake the right paths and walk in darkness.
- They call evil good and good evil.

Psalm 112 describes the characteristics of the righteous man:

- Fears the Lord.
- Trusts in God.
- Acts with justice and compassion.
- The Psalm highlights his stability, prosperity, influence, and steadfastness even in the midst of trials (Psalm 112:1-9).

Verse 10 contrasts all this with the wicked and shows their reaction upon seeing the blessing of the righteous. We see in a parallel text: “The wicked plots against the righteous and gnashes at him with his teeth” (Psalm 37:12 AMP), the wicked sees the prosperity of the righteous and cannot bear it. This expression: “he gnashes his teeth,” indicates extreme anger, impotence and extreme anguish. Instead of repenting, he becomes angry, resentful, jealous, or contemptuous of those who are doing well.

The wicked is he who lives apart from God, despising His law, without faith, without fear of divine judgment: “The wicked in his proud countenance does not seek God; God is in none of his thoughts” (Psalm 10:4 NKJV). “Fret not yourself because of evildoers... for they will soon fade like the grass and wither like the green herb” (Psalm 37:1-2).

God’s call to the wicked

God wants the wicked to repent and turn from their evil ways. He has not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance: “Say to them, as I live, declares the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live; turn back, turn back from your evil ways, for why will you die, O house of Israel?” (Ezekiel 33:11). In the end, there is always hope, a new opportunity to repent and turn from our evil ways. God always extends His arm of love and mercy to all, even the wicked: “When we were utterly helpless, Christ came at just the right time and died for us sinners” (Romans 5:6).

Let us examine ourselves: are we walking as the righteous or as the wicked? If there is wickedness in our lives, today is the day to repent and return to the Lord. Let us turn to God, repent, and He will direct our paths: “let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon” (Isaiah 55:7 ESV).

Christ can transform the most wicked into righteous through faith! And the antidote to not acting like a wicked person who is irritated by the prosperity/blessing of the righteous is written in the Letter to the Romans: “Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep” (Romans 12:15 NLT). “Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion” (Romans 12:16 NKJV).

They forsake God's law

By: Pablo and Monica de Orellana

Bible verses to study

Psalm 119: 136 Psalm 119: 158

2 Corinthians 12:21 Ezra 9:14

Psalm 11: 6

Psalm 119: 53 ESV says: "Hot indignation seizes me because of the wicked, who forsake Your law". Here, the psalmist experiences a strong emotion – not only sadness or pity, but a deep outrage (in other translations: horror or chill) – because of the conscious abandonment of God's law by people who opt for rejecting it. In the Hebrew context, the Law (*Torah*) is not simply a set of norms, but the path of life revealed by God to His people. To abandon it is to turn away from the relationship with God, from His will, and from a full life. If we look at it from a family perspective, the law or Torah is given by the mother, which shows the important role she plays at home with her children: "My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother" (Proverbs 1:8 NKJV).

Both the instruction of the father and the teaching of the mother are of utmost importance, so that a child does not become ungodly. Our role is fundamental at home and that is why the enemy has sought to mess and destroy families, especially removing these essential functions. When abandoning them, one deviates from the path of truth and of light.

The word of God exhorts us: "Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. When you walk, they will guide you; When you sleep, they will watch over you; And when you awake, they will talk to you" (Proverbs 6:21-22 NASB). In the following verse, it gives the key to this, to keep the son of evil away: "For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life, to keep you from the evil woman, from the flattering tongue of a seductress" (Proverbs 6:23-24 NKJV).

Who are the wicked?

According to different dictionaries such as Vine and BDB-Thayer, wicked refers to those who live in enmity with God, despising His way and His laws, doing evil: "let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that He may have compassion on him, and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7 ESV). Wickedness, then, is rebellion against the truth and the ways of God.

The reaction of the righteous

The psalmist feels indignation, not from a sense of moral superiority, but from zeal for the holiness

of God. This reaction echoes other passages, such as Romans 9:2, where Paul confesses: "To whom can I give warning? Who will listen when I speak? Their ears are closed, and they cannot hear..." (Jeremiah 6:10). The righteous experience pain for disobedience and the consequences it brings to those who turn away.

If God's law is not heeded, He rejects prayer

To abandon the law is to turn away from the source of life, wisdom and protection. We can see how abandoning the law or refusing to listen it causes prayer to go unheard, since there is no proper fear of God and His established standards (Hosea 4:6). Breaking with the law of the Lord produces not only spiritual consequences, but also consequences that involve God forgetting the descendants of those who forsake Him.

Implications for modern life

In modern times, we see how various sectors of society reject fundamental ethical and spiritual principles. This reality can cause indignation or pain in those who love the word of God. However, the psalmist's indignation does not lead to hatred, but to a commitment to obedience and intercession. We should not reject or condemn the wicked, but rather exhort them to repent and live. "Say to them: 'As I live,' says the Lord GOD, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?'" (Ezekiel 33:11 NKJV). The Lord wants everyone to come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9), to a change of attitude, a change in thinking and living. Such is the immense love and mercy of God.

The call to faithfulness

The Psalm 119:53 challenges us to seek a sensitive heart, one that perceives the gravity of sin without hardening and that responds with zeal, compassion and prayer: "And have mercy on those who doubt; save us from tax, tax; to whom revenue, revenue hers by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh." (Jude 1:22-23 ESV). The desire of the righteous is to see people return to the path of life. The deep sorrow and indignation at wickedness is not a sign of intolerance, but a reflection of love for God and humanity. The psalmist's example invites us to remain faithful and to pray for those who stray, always remembering that God's law is life, truth, and freedom: "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path" (Psalm 119:105). Maranatha!

He insults those who rebuke him

By: Sammy Pérez and Roberto Gutiérrez

Bible verses to study

Genesis 16:4-5

Genesis 50:15

Genesis 34:7

John 8:41

Acts 1:18

In the Christian world, there is a misconception that an ungodly person is the same as a sinner, this is somewhat far from reality because the apostle Peter shows us that there is a difference between the ungodly and the sinner (1 Peter 4:18), this passage shows us that there are three groups: righteous, ungodly, and sinners.

This teaches that a believer can have righteous attitudes, but also ungodly ones, that is, a believer who has fallen away from holiness. A sinner in this context is one who is a slave to sin and who, in many cases, has not recognized the Lord Jesus Christ in his heart. Analyzing this, a believer can be in danger by living in the path of sinners (Psalm 1:1). He can also have righteous attitudes, like Abraham when he believed in the Lord (James 2:23) or like Lot, called the righteous, whose soul was tormented by the attitude of the wicked (2 Peter 2:8). An ungodly believer is one who lives a disorderly life, harming his relationship with God and consequently being deprived of great blessings because of that behavior.

Now, let's analyze: "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insults; whoever rebukes the wicked incurs abuse" (Proverbs 9:7). A characteristic of the wicked is that they insult the one who rebukes them. Rebuke: the act of correcting, admonishing someone, disapproving of what they have said or done. Now we will analyze other versions:

You will get his contempt

A wicked person may have contempt in his heart. The Dictionary defines contempt as: to underestimate the value of something or someone to whom no importance is attached. A wicked person can consider other people and even more spiritual authorities, in low regard, seeing their flaws or weaknesses, downplaying what they might teach or correct. We have an example in Hagar, who, upon seeing that Sarai could not bear children, despised her. The Word says that many despise counsel and rebuke (Proverbs 1:30).

Infamy is acquired

Here, the wicked are called heartless, a person without feelings, who will seek ways to bring infamy upon whoever corrects them. According to Wikipedia, infamy is: "the loss, in society or even legally, of reputation or discredit." In our time, we will say that a believer is wicked when,

through social media he defames a minister of God, telling something he doesn't know for sure, just to gain money or media attention. Infamy also typifies dishonor, as Shechem did to Dinah when he abused her (Genesis 34:7).

He's going to hate you

Hatred is a feeling that can be deeply rooted in the heart of the wicked and comes to the surface at the moment of correction. This hatred may not be generated by the person doing the correction, but by some rough treatment during correction in childhood or adolescence. We note how Joseph's brothers were afraid that he would hate them because of the treatment they gave Joseph during his adolescence. A believer could be severely disciplined in childhood by a parent (Ephesians 6:4), and this marked his or her life to the point that hatred toward an authority figure has been accumulating. If we have ever reacted this way, it is an opportunity to be ministered and have these attitudes eliminated.

Spots are attracted (KJV)

The Bible shows that spots can represent several things, including sin, represented by leprosy (Leviticus 13:42). A wicked person, living a sinful life, may seek to identify the spot in the person who corrects him, what his past sins have been and seek to accuse him, so as not to receive correction. The spots the wicked are used to are doing evil (Jeremiah 13:23), where it describes the leopard's spots and its behavior. To eradicate this, it is necessary to put the wicked to death, so that they will stop doing evil and then seek to do what is good before God (Isaiah 11:4).

Insults are received (NLT)

An insult is an expression or action used with the intention to offend. An example of this type of insult is seen when Jesus is told: "We were not born of fornication", hinting that He was born out of wedlock (John 8:41). In this way, an ungodly person can offend without using bad language, simply by hinting something that is not true and could be offensive. One characteristic of a person who insults is that they always seek to argue or fight over things that are not justified (Proverbs 17:19).

It is appropriate to ask the Lord to put to death in us every ungodly attitude and to remove everything that displeases Him. In the Bible, we see two attitudes: one negative, when Cain took Abel to the field to kill him (Genesis 4:8), and the other positive, when in the Song of Solomon the beloved tells her lover to go to the field to express her love to him (Song of Solomon 7:12). Therefore, the love of God can kill the wickedness within us that dominates our behavior. If we allow the Holy Spirit to fill us with that love, we will have assured victory.

Speaks wickedness

By: Edwin Castañeda and Luis Méndez

Bible verses to study

1 Kings 18:21

Matthew 6:22

2 Kings 17:33

2 Peter 2:14

Isaiah 29:13

Psalms 12:2

Proverbs 10:32 ESV: “The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse”.

Two types of words can come out of the mouth, which can be pleasant or perverse. According to Strong’s Dictionary, the term H7522 *Ratsón* is translated: pleasant, delight, acceptable, benevolence, contentment, joy, grace, and willingness among others; it would be ideal if only those types of words came out of our mouths, since they produce a huge blessing in our brothers and especially those in need who, with a word from us, can be restored by God.

The opposite happens with the mouths of the wicked, which have perverse words, derived from the term H8419 *Tajpuká*, in which there is fraud, deception, falsehoods, pain, since what they seek is to destroy the receiver. “Out of the same mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so. Does a spring send forth fresh water and bitter from the same opening?” (James 3:10-11 NKJV), the above is a clear warning that this is not right and is happening within the church, which is manifest when he says: “my brothers, this should not be so”.

“He is a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways” (James 1:8 ESV), that is, that person has a division in his soul. Other versions define him as a indecisive man (Holman CSB), a soul-split man (LSV), two-souled man (Young’s Literal Translation), diffident man (Mace NT); which lets us see that his soul is between light and darkness, that he shifts between seeking things of God and humanism, since verses before he is described as someone who is losing faith and begins to doubt, that he is lacking in wisdom and if we take the biblical basis that the beginning of wisdom is the fear of God (Proverbs 1:7) we can know that he is ceasing to fear God and that is why he lacks faith and has doubts, this is why at times he can speak with fear of God – this is when he does so with pleasant words – and when he enters his state of lack of faith, wisdom and doubt, he speaks perversely.

It should be noted that perverse language is not necessarily vulgar or profane. It can be used when speaking to some and destroying their self-esteem, their trust in God, spreading false rumors

or slandering the pastor, leaders or brothers, disparaging the church or mission to which they belong, generating pain with false accusations, disrupting peace and joy with contempt. Violence is linked to the mouth of the wicked (Proverbs 10:6). According to Strong’s Dictionary the term H2555 is violence and refers to unjust gain, cruelty, harm, stripping, false, doing iniquity, evil, theft, among others. There are wicked people in the congregations and we should not participate with them. Someone might say, I’m not gossipy, I don’t talk about anyone, I don’t go around spreading rumors, but it’s possible that on your social media you share something that isn’t good and that is an attitude of an ungodly person.

“A corrupt witness makes a mockery of justice; the mouth of the wicked gulps down evil” (Proverbs 19:28). Combining the above with the last part of Proverbs 10:32, we could say that the mouth of the wicked, besides being perverse, spreads iniquity. The word iniquity in Proverbs 19:28 comes from the root H205 *Aven*, which translates as: to toil, to waste, to come to nothing, idol, affliction, calamity, depraved, wicked, unjust, evil, perversity, vanity, violence, among others, let us remember that the doctrine of Balaam leads to iniquity (2 Peter 2:15-16) and whoever falls into iniquity loses his love for the truth (John 8:44). In this we can see the strategy of the enemy of our souls, since he seeks to make the Christian decline from having righteous lips to having the mouth and lips of an ungodly person.

If you are in such a situation, the good news is that the apostle James describes the way to reverse and restore a broken soul: “Come near to God and He will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded” (James 4:8), allowing us to see the opportunity to be cleansed and in the verses before and after, there are a series of actions that can restore your life, in verses 5 and 7, he invites us to be filled with the Spirit of God and submit to Him to remove all carnality and to make the light of God complete. In verses 8 and 10 he exhorts us to draw near to God, to cleanse ourselves, purify our souls and humble ourselves before God.

The apostle Paul writes to Timothy that in the last days times will be difficult and that men will have 18 negative features, one of them is that they will be ungodly and consequently will speak perversities. If you detect any ungodly attitude in your life, you can cleanse yourself and seek help in ministering, in participating in the Lord’s Supper and in exposing yourself to the word of the Lord. You will see that your life will change. If your walk is a righteous walk, we urge you to stand firm and fight for your crown.

Destroys his neighbor

By: Estuardo Herrarte

Bible verses to study

Job 2:9

Mark 7:21

2 Samuel 16:7-8

John 7:16-18

Matthew 12:34-35, 15:19

James 3:6-12

Proverbs 11:9 ESV: "With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered".

Human beings (G444 *Andropos*, according to Strong's Dictionary) cannot tame their tongue, described as an evil that cannot be restrained, full of deadly poison. It is a fire, a world of evil, set among our members, defiling the whole body and setting the wheel of creation ablaze. It is itself set ablaze by hell. However, in Christ we are new creatures and are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord (2 Corinthians 3:18), therefore, we must now take good things from the treasure of our hearts, since the Bible says that out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks and out of the heart come evil thoughts.

An ungodly person can harm his neighbor. An example is the case of Shimei, who insulted David when he was fleeing from his son Absalom, or the case of Job's wife, when she reproached him for maintaining his integrity and incited him to curse God and die. Uttering words that may be true, but they do not edify (1 Samuel 30:21-24). Having a deep knowledge of the Bible, but harming or destroying with one's mouth when addressing one's neighbor with a message of apparent blessing out of the right time, because one does not allow oneself to be guided by the Holy Spirit or submit to the authority for discernment. The standard should be: "Let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but if there is any good word for edification according to the need of the moment, say that, so that it will give grace to those who hear" (Ephesians 4:29 NASB).

The damage that can be caused to a person with one's mouth is such that criminal law punishes slander when a person is falsely accused of committing a crime; insult, when expressions are made that dishonor, discredit, or belittle a person; and defamation, when the slander or insult is made in a manner or by means of dissemination that may provoke hatred or discredit, or that undermines the honor, dignity, or decorum of the offended party in society. Nowadays, such dissemination is made easy with so-called social media, which is why it is important to know the consequences, including legal ones, for a godless person, of not measuring the words that come out of his mouth. A message of hate or discredit can

destroy a person's reputation, which can become irreversible.

The corrupt message from the mouth of the wicked

The word "destroy" in the base verse, which is H7843 *Shakchat*, can be translated as: corrupt, rot, ruin, spoil, destroy, according to Vine's Expository Dictionary; also: harm. Corrupt words are the most destructive, because it is difficult to detect an ungodly person when is pleasant in his speech, but his words subtly corrupt his neighbor, even using supposedly distorted biblical truths. Let's look at some cases of corrupted messages:

1. The serpent: his words to the woman in the garden were "Has God indeed said, you shall not eat of every tree of the garden?" (Genesis 3:1 NKJV). God had not said that (Genesis 2:16-17).
2. Absalom: he stole the hearts of the men of Israel when he said to them: "See, your claims are good and right, but there is no man designated by the king to hear you. Then Absalom would say, Oh that I were judge in the land! Then every man with a dispute or cause might come to me, and I would give him justice" (2 Samuel 15:3-4 ESV).
3. The young men: they advised Rehoboam to answer "My little finger is thicker than my father's waist!" (2 Chronicles 10:10 NLT). This incident led to the division of the tribes of Israel.
4. Judas Iscariot said: "Why was this fragrant oil not sold for three hundred denarii and given to the poor?" (John 12:5 NKJV). His message appeared to be kind to the poor, but it was corrupt.
5. The chief priests and scribes: "So they watched Him and sent spies, who pretended to be sincere, that they might catch Him in something He said, so as to deliver Him up to the authority and jurisdiction of the governor. So they asked Him, teacher, we know that You speak and teach rightly, and show no partiality, but truly teach the way of God. Is it lawful for us to give tribute to Caesar, or not?... He said to them, then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Luke 20:20-23, 25 ESV).

Let us learn from Jesus the righteous, Who with His mouth canceled the words of the wicked because He had sound knowledge that He learned from His heavenly Father. Therefore, at His second public coming, the Lord will slay the wicked with the spirit of His mouth (2 Thessalonians 2:8). Glory to God.

Destroys the city

By: Marlon Santos

Bible verses to study

Proverbs 14:1

Proverbs 11:10

1 Kings 8:32

Psalms 17:13

Psalms 1:6

Habakkuk 3:13

Isaias 11:4 ASV: “but with righteousness shall He judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; and He shall smite the earth with the rod of His mouth; and with the breath of His lips shall He slay the wicked”.

Considering the teaching of the verse in question, regarding the coming state of the wicked, leads us to meditate on the most certain prophetic word, which is also the sword of God (Ephesians 6:17), to prevent attitudes appearing in the profile of the wicked man in our lives, this through the fillings of the Holy Spirit to strip us of behaviors that are contrary to the reverence due to Jehovah, such as wickedness, rebellion, behaviors that consciously oppose submission and knowledge of God.

In the Bible, we see one of these attitudes in the profile of the wicked: by his mouth the city is destroyed, we find this in the following verse: “Upright citizens are good for a city and make it prosper, but the talk of the wicked tears it apart” (Proverbs 11:11 NLT). That city will be called the territory of the wicked, the people against whom the Lord is furious forever. Though every effort be made to recover or rebuild, it will be in vain. (Malachi 1:4).

To expand on the meaning of the word “destroy,” we will analyze what is described in the Strong’s Concordance. This word comes from the Hebrew H2040 *Harash* and is translated: to throw down or in pieces, to break, to destroy, to overturn, as well as to ruin, to lay waste. We see the imminent need for the Lord to be the one to build our house: “Unless the LORD builds a house, the work of the builders is wasted. Unless the LORD protects a city, guarding it with sentries will do no good” (Psalms 127:1 NLT).

Knowing by this word that our body is the temple and dwelling place of the Holy Spirit Who is in us, that we might glorify Him with our body and with our spirit, which are of the Lord (1 Corinthians 6:19), we are the temple of the living God; the Lord dwells among us and walks in our midst (2 Corinthians 6:16). We are the temple of God, and moreover, the Spirit of God dwells within us. There should not be an attitude of wickedness within us trying to destroy the temple of God. If anyone destroys it, God will destroy him (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). So it is not in

our own strength much less apart from God: “I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing” (John 15:5 NASB).

The wicked seek destruction, ruin and upheaval, so the risk to our inner being would be the persistence of this attitude, which could lead to attempts to destroy the foundations: “if the foundations are destroyed, what can the righteous do?” (Psalms 11:3), but God is good, Who is in His holy temple; His eyes see and His eyelids test the children of men, the righteous and the wicked and for the justification of the upright He allows them to see His face (Psalms 11:4-7).

We must discern the true prophetic ministry through the Spirit and sound doctrine, since an anti-ministry or a false ministry destroys the altar to Jehovah: “Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come near to me.” So all the people came near to him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down” (1 Kings 18:30 NKJV), likewise, it is necessary for our altar to be healed and repaired, and for that we must return to the Lord so that we may be healed and our wounds bound up by Him (Hosea 6:1). Let us be careful that we have been genuinely led to repentance, turning away from all evil, since remaining with the features of the profile of the wicked can lead to the exposure of iniquity in the midst of restoration: “when I would heal Israel, the iniquity of Ephraim is revealed, and the evil deeds of Samaria, for they deal falsely; the thief breaks in, and the bandits raid outside” (Hosea 7:1 ESV). However, if there is true repentance and we are healed, we will be called repairers of breaches, restorers of ruined houses, if we avoid among us oppressing others, pointing the finger and speaking iniquity consequently, we will call upon Him and the Lord will answer and cry out to Him and say, “Here I am” (Isaias 58:9-12).

The Lord watches over His word so that it may be fulfilled. He has given us the Jeremiah operation so that He may destroy every trace of wicked men among His people. Likewise, He may heal, restore and build: “See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant” (Jeremiah 1:10 Webster’s Bible Translation). “In the past I deliberately uprooted and tore down this nation. I overthrew it, destroyed it, and brought disaster upon it. But in the future I will just as deliberately plant it and build it up. I, the LORD, have spoken!” (Jeremiah 31:28 NLT).

Gives misleading advice

By: Rosy de Santos

Bible verses to study

Job 15:34-35

Psalms 43:1

Psalms 140:3-4

Psalms 109:2-3

Proverbs 14:8

Jeremiah 9:5-6

The Bible teaches us how our Lord will put to death the wicked (Isaiah 11:4), that is, those actively evil people who walk in their own evil ways. How will this happen? He will do it with the spirit of His lips, that is, with His powerful word: "From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty" (Revelation 19:15).

The attitudes of the wicked can manifest themselves in our own lives, so we must be doers of God's word, not just hearers. We are not like someone who contemplates his own face in a mirror and, observing himself, goes away and quickly forgets what he looked like (James 1:22-24). Forgetfulness manifests itself in not putting into practice the implanted word of God, lacking the virtues of God's divine power, such as godliness, which makes him blind and shortsighted, which leads him to forget the purification from his past sins (2 Peter 1:3-9).

One of the profiles of the wicked can be seen here: "The thoughts of the righteous are right, but the counsels of the wicked are deceitful" (Proverbs 12:5). Deceitful counsel issued by a wicked person involves iniquity, falsehood, fraud, and treachery, according to the Strong's Dictionary definition of the word H4820 *Mirmah*.

Receiving deceptive advice is a danger to our career in Christ; in fact, we should not follow their advice: "Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked, nor stand in the way of sinners, nor sit in the seat of scoffers" (Psalm 1:1). This will keep us from dishonesty and from being misled into believing that which is not true, through the effect of giving a lie the appearance of truth.

In this quote: "You destroy those who speak lies; the Lord abhors the bloodthirsty and deceitful man" (Psalm 5:6 ESV), we see that the Lord abhors the deceiver. Since deceit is one of the characteristics of the wicked, we must be vigilant so as not to perpetuate their behavior. That is why King David prayed to Jehovah: "Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry! Give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit!" (Psalm 17:1 ESV).

The absence of the fear of the Lord leads to regression

The words of the wicked man's mouth are wickedness and deceit, which has led him to cease

doing good and being wise. He plans iniquity on his bed, persists in his evil path, does not abhor evil, and views himself with such favor that he refuses to accept his guilt, for sin inspires him deep within his heart, all this because there is no fear of God before his eyes (Psalm 36:1-4). We need to be filled with the spirit of fear of the Lord: "And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:2 ESV).

Examples of characters in the Bible who gave deceptive advice:

- Amnon, one of King David's sons, fell in love with Tamar, his sister. He was tormented by this, so much so that he became ill because it seemed impossible to do anything to her since she was a virgin. He received advice from his friend Jonadab, who plotted to rape her, deceiving her and her father (2 Samuel 13:3-5). Jonadab, despite being considered by those around him as someone who lived in accordance with divine expectations, was, as the Bible says, a cunning man. According to the Strong Concordance Dictionary, the word H2450 *Chakam* translates to prudent, wise, teacher; meaning that he was a person capable and accredited to give sound advice. This leads us to reflect that we must search our hearts to see if we have any characteristics that fit the profile of the wicked, which in this case is deceptive advice.
- King Rehoboam abandoned the advice of the elders, who represented wisdom, for the advice of the young men. They represented immaturity. The young men advised him to impose heavier burdens on the people than his father had given them. He also told them that King Rehoboam's little finger was thicker than his father's loins. This was an attempt to send the message that he was a greater and more rigorous king, which led to the division of the kingdom of Israel (1 Kings 12:6-15). We must seek God's wisdom and ask for it if we find ourselves lacking it (James 1:5-6), lest we fall into deceptive counsel that produces division.

The sum of God's word is truth (Psalm 119:160), which tells us that where there is no good counsel, people fall into ruin, sink, perish, stumble, and fail, but in the abundance of good counselors there is victory (Proverbs 11:14). Victory is the fruit of good counsel: "Wars are won by sound counsel, and victory is the fruit of counsel" (Proverbs 24:6).

His words are bloody snares

By: Sergio Nitsch

Bible verses to study

1 Corinthians 15:33 Psalm 10:2
Luke 6:45 2 Samuel 16:5-13
Isaiah 57:20 Psalm 36:1

We have been instructed by the wonderful word of God that in the walk of a Christian, the ungodly are people who must be identified, and that there are traits and characteristics to know who is an ungodly person, or more correctly, to identify in light of the word of God, if there are traits in ourselves that could be hidden deep within our inner selves and that could also reveal surprises in the congregations of the churches of which we are part today. Therefore, one of our most important requests should be that the Holy Spirit open our spiritual eyes so that we can discern in ourselves and in our brothers and sisters these traits or characteristics that define an ungodly person. These traits must be kept in mind first when conducting a self-evaluation and when evaluating the people with whom we have some degree of relationship.

Understanding that an ungodly person is a person who, being a believer, decides to live in sin or deliberately sins and lacks genuine repentance, they oppose what is just and right, they are selfish, and they have an evil attitude, either influenced by various factors, and they have been moving away from their first love. It may be that they are congregating for reasons other than loving God above all things or that their love lies in other things such as money, fame, or sensuality; that they are irreverent or disobedient, and they lack love for the one true God. Another aspect would be that they do not adhere to their spiritual covering (we are talking about believers), since the Word tells us: "Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33 ESV). They begin to influence your decisions, and you begin to stray, either through the actions of other people or by your own decision.

The Bible tells us in several verses how to identify a wicked person or identify wicked traits, such as when we read: "The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood..." (Proverbs 12:6 ESV), meaning that they wish to destroy or kill their brothers and sisters, and this can be both material and spiritual. They speak of others to destroy them. However, the verse continues: "...but the mouth of the upright delivers them" as the Bible also says: "The good person out of the good treasure of his heart

produces good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure produces evil, for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks" (Luke 6:45 ESV).

"But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt" (Isaiah 57:20 ESV). It tells us that they are troublemakers, they cause affliction, anguish, they pollute the water (the word) with mire and clay, they are debauched, they do not submit to the word of God, nor do they respect hierarchies. We read: "In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised" (Psalm 10:2 ESV). This tells us that they are arrogant and also harass, especially those who are afflicted in spirit, through the traps they are always plotting to catch their prey (brothers). For example, Shimei, son of Gera, cursed David as he passed by (2 Samuel 16:5-13).

Let's look at another characteristic of the wicked: "Transgression speaks to the wicked deep in his heart; there is no fear of God before his eyes" (Psalm 36:1 ESV). This tells us that, according to the wicked, what they do is right, and they are the only ones who deceive themselves. Instead of discovering and abhorring their iniquity, they constantly plot to do evil in their lives, even in their beds.

"Then these men said, 'We will find no charge against this Daniel unless we find something against him concerning the law of his God...'" (Daniel 6:5-10 ESV). They colluded to have Daniel thrown into the lions' den. The Bible also says that his words (those of the wicked) are wickedness and deceit; he has ceased to be wise and to do good, always wants to take advantage of everyone, lies, and, above all, is self-centered. He becomes insensitive to the suffering of others and does whatever it takes to take advantage of others.

"The wicked man sees it and is angry; he gnashes his teeth and melts away; the desire of the wicked will perish!" (Psalm 112:10 ESV). This tells us that the wicked are envious, and when they see good works that other brothers do and bless, they become angry and curse. Among other characteristics of the wicked are that they do not pay what they owe, neither physically (financial debts) nor in spiritual honor, nor do they take care of their animals (pets), they are ungrateful and advantageous. Is it possible that some trait of this exists in our hearts?

May our heavenly Father, his Son Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit cleanse us from all iniquity and ungodliness, so that we may be ready for his soon coming and rapture. Amen.

His insides are cruel

By: Pablo Arana

Bible verses to study

Ecclesiastes 3:19

Matthew 9:7

Zechariah 7:9-10

Romans 1:31

Ungodliness is presented as one of the main spiritual threats we face in the end times. Therefore, one of the most urgent challenges for the believer is to discern who the ungodly are according to Scripture, not by appearances, but by their fruits. In this context, the Bible gives us a key sign of the profile of the ungodly: their hearts are cruel.

Proverbs 12:10 ESV “Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel”.

This verse, though brief, reveals a profound spiritual distinction: the treatment of animals – and by extension, of every vulnerable being – exposes what lies within the heart. The righteous reflect God’s compassion even in everyday life, while the wicked, even if they appear compassionate, carry within them a root of cruelty. This is not just a matter of external actions, but of an internal disposition, a lack of empathy that stems from an untransformed heart.

To illustrate this truth, Scripture gives us a clear example in Numbers 22: the prophet Balaam. This man, who had a level of spiritual knowledge, was hired to curse Israel. On his way to accomplish this task, his donkey, seeing the angel of the Lord with a drawn sword, turned aside three times to protect its master. But Balaam, spiritually blind, reacted violently and struck his animal, not understanding that he was being saved from death. The scene culminates with God opening the donkey’s mouth, as it complained about its unjust treatment, and finally with God opening Balaam’s eyes so he could see the angel.

This episode reveals several characteristics of the wicked heart. First, the lack of discernment: Balaam doesn’t perceive spiritual things. Second, the impulsive and violent reaction: he strikes an innocent person, unable to see that he is acting with mercy. Third, the blindness produced by ambition, because his motivation is corrupted by the desire for gain. In short, Balaam represents those who, despite speaking of God, have cruel, insensitive, and self-centered hearts. The apostle Peter summarizes it this way: “Forsaking the right way, they have gone astray. They have followed the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved gain from wrongdoing” (2 Peter 2:15).

Cruelty doesn’t always manifest itself in shouting or physical violence; sometimes, it hides in more subtle forms: indifference, selfishness,

abuse of authority, spiritual manipulation, hard-heartedness. In contrast, the righteous, even in the simplest ways, care, protect, and show compassion. It’s no small feat that the same verse in Proverbs uses the example of the treatment of animals. God observes what we do to those who have no voice, to those who are weak, to those who cannot defend themselves. The wicked abuse their power. The righteous use it to serve.

The cruelty of the ungodly stems from their disconnection from the nature of God: “Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love” (1 John 4:8). Where there is no love, there is harshness. Where there is harshness, there is cruelty. Ungodliness is not just a moral deviation; it is a condition of the heart that resists the character of Christ. In Romans 1:31, Paul describes those who reject God as “foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless” This lack of natural affection is manifest at every level: from the family to the community to creation itself.

Therefore, the treatment of animals, of the least of our servants, of those unable to defend themselves, is not a trivial matter: it reflects the soul. Jesus said in Matthew 25 that whatever we do to one of His little ones, we do to Him. The insensitivity of the wicked is not limited to the human or spiritual; it is a pervasive corruption of their interior. Psalm 73:7-8 CEV mentions that: “Their eyes bulge with fat, and their minds are flooded with foolish thoughts. They sneer and say cruel things, and because of their pride, they make violent threats”.

But this should not only lead us to point fingers, but to examine ourselves. How do we react to the small, the weak, the defenseless? How do we treat those under our authority? What is in our hearts when no one is watching? The Lord evaluates not only our actions, but also the heart with which we do them. The righteous are like Christ: meek, compassionate, full of mercy. The wicked, even if they clothe themselves in religiosity, will eventually reveal the cruelty that dwells within them.

We conclude, then, that one of the clearest signs of wickedness is inner cruelty. It’s not an isolated attitude; it’s a condition of the heart. Balaam, even though he prophesied, struck. The wicked, even though he preaches, has no heartfelt compassion. On the other hand, the righteous, like Christ, are moved with compassion.

May the Holy Spirit examine us, break us, and wash our hearts clean.

For in an increasingly hardened world, being found righteous begins with having a compassionate heart. And where there is compassion, there is life. And where there is life, there is fruit. May our hearts not be found cruel, but full of the love that comes from God.

Covet the spoils of the wicked

By: Diego Figueroa

Bible verses to study

Romans 7:7-8

Jeremiah 51:13

2 Corinthians 9:5

Proverbs 24:1

Isaiah 57:17

Isaiah 48:22

After the fall of Jericho, God had commanded that none of the plunder be taken by the people, since valuable things – such as silver and gold – were to be consecrated to the Lord’s treasury, and everything else was to be destroyed (Joshua 6:17-19). However, in the next chapter, Achan made a grave mistake: “Then Achan answered Joshua and said, ‘Surely I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel, and this is what I have done: When I saw among the plunder a beautiful robe from Shinar, 200 shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them; and behold, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath it’” (Joshua 7:20-21 ESV). Achan acted like a wicked man: he coveted the treasure of the wicked, the plunder of the Canaanites who inhabited Jericho. This story presents us with a clear example of an attitude typical of the wicked: coveting – and appropriating – the profane spoils of others.

What does it mean to covet?

To covet means to vehemently desire material things, such as riches, possessions, position, or even people. How often do we notice, in our daily lives, that covetousness seeks to take root in our hearts? For example, we see someone who is genuinely successful, who has earned it honestly and with effort, and sometimes we think they did something wrong to achieve it. Perhaps we may even think of doing something negative to someone to climb a career or business ladder. Or we simply crave more, without having a limit on what truly matters in life. Achan made that mistake: he coveted what God said should not be coveted. If we look more deeply into the cause behind these actions, I believe the clearest and most sincere answer we can find is one: the heart.

A Christian hymn says: “The heart is a large house, shared with the good and the evil, with the holy and the profane, a dwelling place for those you hold dear...”

The Bible identifies six things the Lord hates, and among them, it mentions one that surrounds the heart: “a heart that devises wicked plans...” (Proverbs 6:18 ESV).

Besides Achan, there are other people who coveted the spoils of the wicked, people with deep problems in their hearts. Among them are:

- The builders of Babel, who coveted fame and greatness by attempting to build a city and a tower that would reach the heavens (Genesis 11).
- Those who follow the misguided path of Balaam – a false teacher –, abandoning sound doctrine (2 Peter 2:15).
- Those who tolerate Jezebel’s teachings, allowing the influence of false doctrines among the people (Revelation 2:20).
- Eve in Eden, who coveted the “spoils” offered by the serpent, disobeying God’s instruction (Genesis 3).
- Those who seek the depths of Satan, turning to evil (Revelation 2:24).
- Those who accept bribes, allowing themselves to be corrupted (Ecclesiastes 7:7).
- The lurking, covetous sin (Genesis 4:7).
- The desire of the lazy man who covets, but does not want to work (Proverbs 21:26).

There are more examples in the Bible besides those already mentioned, but now we’re going to focus on one that is crucial to understand: Judas’s greed.

Judas Iscariot was a character who coveted on different occasions: “He said this, not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief, and having charge of the moneybag he used to help himself to what was put into it” (John 12:6). He even dared to complain to our Lord about this: “Why was this ointment not sold for three hundred denarii[a] and given to the poor?” (John 12:5). Judas’ greed was such that, at the end of the internal process of his confused heart, he handed Jesus Christ over to be crucified; he sold his Master; he coveted the plunder of the wicked priests: “Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him” (Matthew 26:14-16). Despite the cowardly action he performed, he wanted to return the silver pieces, but in the end, he did not repent and ended up hanging himself (Matthew 27:3-5).

And this is how greed, when it takes root in the heart, can destroy even those closest to God. All because we fail to understand that longing for what the wicked offer inevitably leads to destruction. It happened to Achan: “And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had. And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor. And Joshua said, “Why did you bring trouble on us? The Lord brings trouble on you today.” And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones” (Joshua 7:24-25).

Offers abominable sacrifices

By: Vilma Cruz, Carol de Acevedo and Sara Veliz

Bible verses to study

1 Corinthians 10:11 Mark 12:41-44
Hebrews 4:15 Numbers 11:4-6
Revelations 1:6 Romans 2:24

Proverbs 15:8 CSB says, “The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the Lord, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.” According to Strong’s Concordance, the word sacrifice is found in the number H2076 *Zebakj*, which translates to: offering, consecration, sacrifice. The word wicked is found in the number H7561 *Rasha*, which translates to: condemned, guilty, wicked, perverse, unjust, among others. This allows us to understand that there are wicked and perverse people who give offerings to the Lord, as we read in the Scriptures: “And this second thing you do. You cover the Lord’s altar with tears, with weeping and groaning because he no longer regards the offering or accepts it with favor from your hand. But you say, “Why does he not?” Because the Lord was witness between you and the wife of your youth, to whom you have been faithless, though she is your companion and your wife by covenant” (Malachi 2:13-14 ESV).

One of the most delicate aspects of this verse is that the Lord is speaking to the priests. It was bad enough that the people strayed from God’s will, but that the priests, being the executors of such a fundamental plan between the Lord and the people, would, with their lives, cause God to reject their offering was even more serious. But as we know, these things happened to them as examples and are written for our instruction. We have the High Priest, Jesus Christ, who, according to the order of Melchizedek, made us kings and priests to God, his Father. So we cannot believe that, because someone offers, or even because we ourselves are giving an offering, God is pleased with it. For, just as it happened, Jesus sat opposite the treasury and watched how the people cast money into the treasury, and many rich people cast large sums. And a poor widow came and cast two mites. Then he called his disciples to him and said, “...Truly, I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them” (Luke 21:1-4).

We need the Holy Spirit to discern and help us find favor before our Father, because perhaps the meanings of wicked do not apply to us since we

have accepted Christ’s sacrifice on our behalf and since He paid for us we are no longer guilty, but the Bible says: “Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your deeds from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; bring justice to the fatherless, plead the widow’s cause” (Isaiah 1:16-17 ESV).

It often happens that the blood of Jesus has already cleansed us and removed evil, but we have not stopped doing evil and as a result we have not been able to learn to do good. We must understand that we cannot play with grace, there are things that we must be defined and radical with, especially if they are bad works that we learned in our past without Christ, we cannot be sighing for the past without God that had us enslaved to darkness, we must be careful not to be children of God with ungodly customs, the Lord deliver us from saying the word through us: ““What to me is the multitude of your sacrifices? says the Lord; I have had enough of burnt offerings of rams and the fat of well-fed beasts... I cannot endure iniquity and solemn assembly. ... even though you make many prayers, I will not listen; your hands are full of blood” (Isaiah 1:11-15), and it results in the name of God being blasphemed because of us.

We read in the Bible: “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent” (Proverbs 21:27 ESV). Our hearts must understand the magnitude of the privilege we have in receiving the opportunity to give to the Lord, therefore, blessed be the Lord, that we are still in the time of grace and our God is so good that He speaks to us in time giving us the opportunity to correct, because the sacrifices of God are the broken spirit, and the Lord does not despise a contrite and humbled heart, therefore we read: ““Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool” (Isaiah 1:18 ESV).

For who are we to offer willingly to the Lord, God Almighty? For all things are His, and from what we have received from His hand we give Him. The Lord makes all things new, and His grace will grant us the second part of our opening verse to be said of us: “The prayer of the upright is His joy” Hosanna!

Receives bribe

By: José Arriola

Bible verses to study

2 Kings 16:8

Proverbs 15:27

2 Chronicles 19:7

Isaiah 1:23

Psalms 15:5

Micah 3:11

Proverbs 17:23 ESV “The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice”.

One of the characteristics of the wicked person’s profile is bribery. According to Strong’s Dictionary, the word “bribe” comes from the Hebrew H7810 *Shakjad*, which translates as: donation, bribe, gift, present, bribe. Merriam-Webster dictionary defines bribery as: money or favor given or promised to influence the judgment or conduct of a person in a position of trust. This allows us to understand that the person offering a bribe wants to illegally buy the will or favor of another, so that they will be favored and thus obtain a particular benefit; both the payer and the acceptor are governed by greed. The Bible teaches us that God does not accept bribes (Deuteronomy 10:17 ESV), even among the behaviors that the Lord told Moses the people should not practice because they would bring curses upon themselves (Deuteronomy 27:25 ESV).

In the Old Testament we see that some men who were called to be judges to minister to the people of Israel were led astray by ambition for dishonest gain and began to accept bribes and this caused them to be disqualified from continuing to exercise their ministerial function before the Lord (1 Samuel 8:1-3).

He who asks for a bribe sees the flock as merchandise

Now in this end time, we see that there are some psalmists and even itinerant ministers who out of greed begin to ask for bribes to visit congregations, setting economic requirements and requesting minimum economic rates, in order to minister to some church or charging for participating in Christian musical concerts, seeing the flock as merchandise (2 Peter 2:3).

Bribery causes instability

In the Book of Psalms, God’s word tells us that he who does not accept a bribe will stand firm (Psalm 15:5). If we view this verse in our teaching as a mirror, we understand that he who practices bribery will lose firmness; that is, he will be unstable and prone to falling. For this reason, the apostle Paul says that if anyone thinks he stands firm, he must be careful of his conduct to avoid slipping and falling (1 Corinthians 10:12). The

apostle James tells us that the double-minded are unstable in all their ways (James 1:8), and to be stabilized what they must do is draw near to the Lord so that their heart may be purified (James 4:8), that is why the Scripture says that the heart is more deceitful than all, but that God knows it perfectly (Jeremiah 17:9-10 NKJV), and He is the only one who can cleanse and purify it through the water of the word (Ephesians 5:26).

Bribery causes spiritual blindness in the wise

Another consequence of bribery is blindness. Even when one has clear vision, bribery brings darkness to one’s eyes (Exodus 23:8). The word “blindness” comes from the Hebrew H5786 *Awar*, which translates as “blindness” to gouge out someone’s eyes. Figuratively, it indicates blinding officials to injustice through bribery. The Lord gave the people commandments indicating that they should not pervert justice by showing partiality or accepting bribes, for this would blind the eyes of the wise (Deuteronomy 16:19). Spiritually, someone who cannot see is someone who cannot discern or show knowledge, and this can lead to slavery (Isaiah 5:13).

Bribery corrupts the heart

According to Ecclesiastes, bribery corrupts the heart (Ecclesiastes 7:7). Today, in the national and international media, we hear news about corruption affecting countries, governments, businesses, and all types of institutions. Corruption is generally related to issues of greed and ambition for money. The word corruption in the original Hebrew is the word “*Abad*,” translated as: to go astray, to be lost, to perish, to corrupt. Therefore, Scripture tells us that “the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil...” (1 Timothy 6:10), and that for this reason many have strayed from the faith.

Corruption causes those who walk the righteous path to stray and be overtaken by destruction. This happened to Balaam, a prophet. But by loving greed, his heart became corrupted, and he went astray, loving the wages of iniquity (2 Peter 2:15 DRA). For this reason, he devolved to the point of becoming a fortune teller, and this resulted in his death (Joshua 13:22). The Bible tells us that Daniel was faithful, and this virtue was what kept him from corruption (Daniel 6:4).

Faithfulness is part of divine nature because the word says that God is faithful all the time (Deuteronomy 7:9) and for us it is a spiritual stature that we must reach with the help of the Holy Spirit in order to be raptured, to participate in the marriage of the Lamb, so that when the Lord returns to earth in his second coming we will be with Him (Revelations 17:14).

Perverts the law

By: Carlos Acevedo

Bible verses to study

Proverbs 17:23

Amos 6:12

Luke 19:44

Ecclesiastes 2:16

Mathew 11:15

Isaiah 57:20 ESV “But the wicked are like the tossing sea; for it cannot be quiet, and its waters toss up mire and dirt”.

The Bible teaches us that the wicked are like the troubled sea. Rough comes from the H1644 *Garash*, which in turn is related to: to distance oneself, to reject, to expel, and to plunder. That is, if for some reason we have rejected and/or turned away from the Lord, there are wicked attitudes in our hearts, and the result is mire, a soft, dense, and viscous – mud or clay composed of earth, water, and decomposing organic matter – and mud – a mixture of water and earth – .

One characteristic that a wicked person can have is to pervert the law: “The wicked accepts a bribe in secret to pervert the ways of justice” (Proverbs 17:23 ESV). Pervert comes from the Hebrew 5186 *Nata*, which is translated: stretch out or scatter; bend; deviation, adhere, separate, lower, decline, collapsed, divert, incline, propose, yield, withdraw, extend, twist, return. This means that if a person is prone to bribery or deviant tendencies toward the management of financial resources, they will pervert the path of justice and therefore their heart from justice. The word “right” comes from the Hebrew 5186 *Mishpat* and is translated: verdict (favorable or unfavorable), sentence or formal decree, the right or privilege of the participant, decision, decree, right, determination, worthy, equity, statute, vindication. This teaches us that through our decisions we can stay or move away from the law.

Below are some examples of how a person can pervert the law:

Discrimination

“You shall not pervert the justice due to your poor in his lawsuit” (Exodus 23:6 ESV). This verse teaches us that we should not have preferences and/or discriminate against a needy person simply because they are in a situation of need. The Bible also teaches us that someone who acts this way is like a judge of evil thoughts (James 2:3-4).

Dishonest gain

“Yet his sons did not walk in his ways but turned aside after gain. They took bribes and perverted justice” (1 Samuel 8:3 ESV). We are in a system of appearances, debt generation, and poor financial education. People tend to get into debt, and sometimes this pressure causes them to pursue dishonest gains. In the Bible, we see how Abram was tempted – without falling – by the king of

Sodom (Genesis 14:22-24); Gehazi fell into the trap of money and became a leper (2 Kings 5:20-27); like Balaam, who loved money (Jude 1:11). We must remember that we cannot serve two masters (Matthew 6:24-34 NIV) and that our God is always our provider.

Acceptance of evil (Complicity)

“Moreover, I saw under the sun that in the place of justice, even there was wickedness, and in the place of righteousness, even there was wickedness” (Ecclesiastes 3:16 ESV). When a person accepts wickedness, they betray themselves: “Woe to those who call evil good!” (Isaiah 5:20-25 ESV). Today, this is increasingly common. We find ourselves in a society that is even legalizing evil. As Christians, we must ask God to keep us from hypocrisy, since this can bring problems to our spiritual lives (Galatians 2:11-14 ESV).

Taking advantage of one’s neighbor

“Woe to him who builds his house by unrighteousness, and his upper rooms by injustice, who makes his neighbor serve him for nothing and does not give him his wages” (Jeremiah 22:13 ESV). We must honor our commitments, both as employers and as workers. In this verse, we find a person who built his house and did not pay his workers. This case is unfortunately common; there are people who borrow and do not pay (Psalm 37:21), others, like Laban, who continually change work rules (Genesis 31:41). However, the Lord commands us to be just and to be an example of justice, both spiritually and in business (Colossians 4:1; Ephesians 6:9 ESV).

Wasting the blessing

“Do horses run on rocks? Does one plow there with oxen? But you have turned justice into poison and the fruit of righteousness into wormwood” (Amos 6:12 ESV). There are people who find everything wrong, who don’t take advantage of the time of His visitation (Luke 19:44; Matthew 11:15). This happened to the people of Israel, who were contaminated by the rabble – a group of negative people who mingled with God’s people – (Numbers 11:4).

As children of God, we should strive to be like Him. Our God is just and calls us righteous: “Tell the righteous that it shall be well with them, for they shall eat the fruit of their deeds” (Isaiah 3:10 ESV). If we abide in Him, it will be well with us!

Our God loves justice, and as His children, we must ask Him to help us remove every root of wickedness so that we never go back: “but my righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him.” But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls” (Hebrews 10:38-39 ESV).

He flees without being pursued

By: Cristian Axpuc

Bible verses to study

Proverbs 28:1

1 Timothy 4:1

Isaiah 33:14

Leviticus 26:36

Genesis 3:10

One of the evils of the end described in the word of God will be that there will be anguish among the nations because of the roaring of the sea and the waves (Luke 21:25), the Common English Bible translates that the cause will be the roaring of the sea and the surging waves, which leads us to ask ourselves what that represents.

God, through the prophet Isaiah, tells us that the wicked are like the stormy or rough sea, which cannot be calmed (Isaiah 57:20). This shows us that wickedness in men, that is, the wicked, is one of the evils of the end and causes anguish, and therefore they cannot be still. This leads us to meditate on one of the attitudes of the wicked: "The wicked flees when no one pursues..." (Proverbs 28:1 ESV). If we analyze the word "flee," we see that the Webster dictionary defines it as: to run away often from danger or evil, to hurry toward a place of security, to pass away swiftly. The Strong's Dictionary gives it the meaning of escape, hide, flee, lose, withdraw. With these definitions, we could say that the wicked cannot be still or peaceful; they withdraw, escape, or hide out of fear, without anyone pursuing them. But why? Considering the possible causes of the word, let's see:

The wicked flee because of sin

"The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites..." (Isaiah 33:14 KJV). Sin causes fear and even terror in those who do not repent of their actions and prefer to hide their sin despite being aware of their fault. They prefer to ignore the sin and flee from the light. These are progressive sins. We see an example in Absalom, who killed his brother Amnon and, instead of repenting or staying to receive the discipline he deserved, he ran away (2 Samuel 13:28-34 NIV). Let us remember that when we speak of an ungodly person we are referring to someone who lacks piety, who has no fear and who does not respect God and acts contrary to His commandments. This example teaches us that everyone who does evil hates the light and does not come to it but flees from it, so that what they are doing will not be revealed (John 3:20 ESV).

The wicked flee for fear of punishment

When we talk about fear, we see that it can be a response to dangerous or threatening situations, both real and imaginary. A person who has stopped obeying God (wicked) and who sins constantly, can become afraid and flee from the presence of God, thinking that God will not forgive him. We see as an example of this Adam and Eve, who were deceived by the serpent. They ate the fruit and their eyes were opened. They realized they were naked. They made themselves aprons, and upon hearing the voice of God walking in the garden, they ran and hid among the trees. When God asked them, "Where are you?" The man answered, "I heard that you were in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked" (Genesis 3:10). We can see that the wicked run or flee in hiding because of the guilt of sin, thinking that God will not have mercy on them, and certainly the Bible says that the wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23 ESV), but we know that God is the Father of mercies (2 Corinthians 1:3 ESV), that mercy triumphs over all judgment (James 2:13 ESV), that if we sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous (1 John 2:1 ESV), that we can approach the throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need (Hebrews 4:16 ESV).

The wicked flee because of a guilty conscience

God created human beings and gave them a conscience to help them conduct themselves rightly, to drive them to reject what is evil and seek what is good. This is why the apostle Paul says in his letter to the Romans that their conscience dictates what is good and what is evil, because when they do evil, they feel remorse; they know they did wrong (Romans 2:15). The wicked, on the other hand, lack the fear of God and do not respect Him, thus becoming like leprosy. As leprosy progresses, it causes them to lose sensitivity. Let us remember that leprosy represents sin. This teaches us that practicing sin sears the conscience (1 Timothy 4:2). The main characteristics are that they turn away and flee from the faith, that is, they apostatize from the faith, pay attention to deceiving spirits, and listen to doctrines of demons (1 Timothy 4:1).

God in his infinite mercy invites us to be pious and for each one of us to please God, since piety is useful for everything, since it has the promise of present life and for the future (1 Timothy 4:8). He teaches us to never flee from Him as the wicked do, but on the contrary, He invites us to draw closer to Him (James 4:8). Maranatha!

Receives flattery

By: Nehemías Ríos

Bible verses to study

Proverbs 28:4 2 Samuel 15:5-6
2 Thessalonians 2:8 Revelations 1:6
1 Peter 4:18 Acts 12:21-23

Proverbs 28:4 ESV “Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but those who keep the law strive against them”.

As a church, we are living in the end times, and in the Word of God we see that one of the names used to describe the antichrist is the wicked one: “And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the Spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming” (2 Thessalonians 2:8). In this dangerous time, it is necessary to be like those of the tribe of Issachar, experts in discerning the times and with the knowledge given by the Holy Spirit to know what to do. It is necessary for every child of God to have knowledge of the profile of the wicked one in order to search their hearts and, if they have any characteristics of this entity, to be able to pray to the Lord Jesus Christ to breathe the Spirit of His mouth upon our lives to put an end to any wicked attitude, since the Bible says: “If the righteous is scarcely saved, what will become of the ungodly and the sinner?” (1 Peter 4:18).

Flattery is another characteristic of the wicked. According to the RAE Dictionary, the synonyms are flattery, praise, flattery, ingratiation, and sycophancy, among others. The word of the Lord tells us: “time and chance happen to them all” (Ecclesiastes 9:11 ESV). Based on this, we can say that flattery comes to everyone and can manifest itself in our hearts or thoughts, flattering ourselves, and that will cause us not to be in the eyes of the Lord (Psalm 5:5). The Bible also tells us: “In his place shall arise a contemptible person to whom royal majesty has not been given. He shall come in without warning and obtain the kingdom by flatteries” (Daniel 11:21 ESV). Here, the Antichrist is spoken of by another name: a despicable man who will take the kingdom with flattery. This word is identified with the numeral H2519 *Chalaqlaqqah*, which, according to Strong’s Dictionary, can be translated as: flattery, slipperiness, fine promises, smoothness, which shows how dangerous flattery is.

Let us analyze some characters who fell for flattery and thus learn from the mirror so that the Lord may free us from impiety.

Absalom

“Now in all Israel there was no one so much to be praised for his handsome appearance as Absalom. From the sole of his foot to the crown of his head

there was no blemish in him” 2 Samuel 14:25 ESV. Absalom was a prince beloved by his father, the king, physically handsome, and flattered by the people. Analyzing his life, we see that those words reached his heart and contaminated it so much that he stopped seeing his father with love and respect, to the point of considering himself better than him and deserving of the throne. He ended up as a rebel, a traitor who raised his hand not only against his father, but also against the Lord’s anointed. He caused many of the people to revolt against the king as well, and he achieved this by telling others what they wanted to hear (2 Samuel 15:5-6).

Doeg

“To the Director: A Davidic instruction about Doeg, the Edomite, when he went to Saul and told him, “David went to the house of Abimelech.” Why do you make evil the foundation of your boasting, mighty one?...” (Psalm 52:1 ISV). Doeg was an Edomite and chief of Saul’s herdsmen, but he had no fear of God, so much so that when the order was given to kill the priest Ahimelech and his household, he was the only one who stood up and carried out King Saul’s command. Flattery in a Christian can kill the priestly function that we are all meant to perform, since Jesus Christ has made us a people of kings and priests for God.

Herod

“And the people were shouting, “The voice of a god, and not of a man!” (Acts 12:22 ESV). In this passage, we see how King Herod took advantage of his strategic position to supply food to his enemies’ territories, thereby achieving a peace treaty. The people rose up and flattered him, saying, “This is the voice of a god, and not of a man.” His end was death, eaten by worms in full view of everyone. Analyzing this passage, we see that it was first for receiving flattery and not giving glory to God.

The name Herod, according to the Hitchcock Dictionary of Biblical Names, means “son of a hero.” This speaks to us of feeling or trusting that achievements or feats can be accomplished through our own strength or ability. It is necessary to always remember and give glory to the only one who deserves it, for everything comes from Him, our Heavenly Father.

“Let sinners be consumed from the earth, and let the wicked be no more! Bless the Lord, O my soul! Praise the Lord!” (Psalm 104:35 ESV). May we always give honor and praise to the Lord, and may the fullness of the Holy Spirit and the fullness of the word of the Lord in our lives put to death all ungodliness, for His words are Spirit and life (John 6:63). Maranatha!

He doesn't think about the poor

By: Otilio Avendaño

Bible verses to study

Mark 4:11-12 2 Corinthians 8:1-2
Psalm 140:12 2 Corinthians 8:9
Leviticus 14:21 Psalm 41:3

Proverbs 29:7 ESV "A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge".

The wicked do not understand wisdom. The previous expression reminds me of the multitudes who followed Jesus; seeing, they did not perceive, and hearing, they did not understand. In the same way, the wicked do not discern, do not understand, do not consider the reason of the poor.

The righteous understand and receive the blessing of the one who considers the poor: "Blessed is the one who considers the poor! In the day of trouble the Lord delivers him; the Lord protects him and keeps him alive; he is called blessed in the land; you do not give him up to the will of his enemies" (Psalm 41:1-2 ESV).

The poor in spirit

The wicked do not understand those who come before the Lord with a contrite and humble heart; helpless, weak, in need of His presence. The poor in spirit is one who considers himself needy before God; he does not believe himself self-sufficient or deserving based on his own merits. He understands that he needs God's grace every day and is grateful for receiving that favor. "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 5:3 ESV).

The materially poor

The materially poor are those who lack sufficient resources to cover their basic needs; this condition can unfortunately lead to social exclusion. The wicked are not generous with the poor, but the righteous give: "He who gives to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for what he has done" (Proverbs 19:17).

"He who is generous will be blessed, For he gives some of his food to the poor" (Proverbs 22:9 AMP). The churches of Macedonia had a God-given grace: joy in the midst of affliction and a wealth of liberality in the midst of deep poverty. They gave of their own free will, according to their means, they begged with supplications for the privilege of sharing in the support of the saints, they gave themselves to the Lord and to the ministers. This generosity comes from a renewed mind, one that understands the grace of the Lord, who, though he was rich, yet for our sakes

he became poor, so that we through his poverty might become rich.

No one is so poor that he doesn't have something to give, and no one has enough that he doesn't need to receive.

Ungodly attitudes toward the poor

1. Oppressing the Poor: Deuteronomy 24:14 refers to labor exploitation; that is, the wicked do not pay what is fair to the poor.
2. Closing the Hand: This is hardening the heart. The Bible teaches us that if a brother or sister does not have enough to cover their needs, we should freely open our hands to give generously according to our means (Deuteronomy 15:7-8).
3. Mocking: "Whoever mocks the poor insults his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished" (Proverbs 17:5). Mocking is to make fun of (GW), insult (CEV), and despise (DRA).
4. Perverting their rights: "Don't undermine the justice that your poor deserve in their lawsuits" (Exodus 23:6 CEB).
5. Stealing from them: "Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate" (Proverbs 22:22 ESV). The Lord defends the cause of the poor.
6. Making a distinction between rich and poor: Favoritism is sinful; it implies partiality. The apostle James exhorts us not to distinguish between brothers, since God chose the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom (James 2).
7. Not showing pity: "Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed" (Proverbs 19:17 ESV).
8. Closing the ear: "Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered" (Proverbs 21:13 ESV).

Let's read the following blessings in Psalm 41:1-3 ESV and Proverbs 19:17 CEV. How beautiful it is to understand that the poor represent an opportunity God gives us to be blessed and receive the reward of those who think of the poor:

- Blessed is he who considers the poor
- In the day of trouble, the Lord delivers him
- The LORD will protect him and keep him alive
- He is called blessed in the land
- You do not give him up to the will of his enemies
- In his illness you restore him to full health
- Caring for the poor is lending to the Lord, and you will be well repaid

**“If God told you,
He will help you.”**

Apostle Dr. Sergio Enríquez

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