THE WICKED AND WISDOM

**DATE: 4/24/2016 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 10: 24, 25, 27-30, 7**

**INTRODUCTION**

So far in **Proverbs 10** we have looked at the Topics of –

Wealth, Words, Work and now the Topic of the Wicked

The Bible has a lot to say about the Wicked

We often associate someone who is wicked as someone who is utterly depraved

When most of us think of “wickedness”, we tend to think of certain specific evil deeds

**For Example**: Dr. Kermit Gosnell, who was in the news not to long ago for having murdered numerous babies who were accidentally born during botched abortions. It was reported that just before he killed one baby, he joked to his (assassins) assistants that the child was *“big enough to walk to the bus.”* Thankfully, he was convicted of murder. What he did was absolute wickedness, make no mistake about it!

But that kind of picture of wickedness also misses the point somewhat

Because in many of our minds it serves to excuse us from any kind of responsibility for wickedness

Surely none of us have been involved in that kind of evil, right?

But in fact, if the truth be known,

…each of us does indeed manifest wickedness every day

In a very general way the word “wicked” simply means godless

And we have all done godless things,

How? By simply not regarding what God thinks about something

I want us to turn to **Proverbs 10**, where it speaks of the Wicked

And see a several descriptions of the outcomes of a Wicked Lifestyle

Some of them are what we might expect

But others may be more surprising than some of us may like to admit,

At least a dozen or more times a word is used in this chapter that refers to wickedness

For example the word***“iniquity”*** in **v. 29** is related to wickedness

Some of these references to wickedness have already been examined under previous headings

Here we look at the subject of wickedness from the texts that are not related to other themes in this chapter

Let’s look together for a few minutes at …

**“The Wicked and Wisdom”**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

First, let’s look at …

**I. THE “CONSTERNATION” OF THE WICKED - v. 24**

**Consternation -** *a feeling of alarm, confusion, or dismay, often caused by something unexpected, shocked dismay*

The Wicked have a far different view of life than do the Righteous

They live in Dread of that which may come upon them

**Dread -** *to feel extremely frightened or worried about something that may happen in the future*

But in contrast, look at the Desires of the Righteous

***“Desire”*** - *a longing; a feeling for something, usually for one’s benefit*

The Desire of the Righteous is not Dread but Delight

**A. The Fear that is Encountered – v. 24a**

***“The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him:”***

What exactly is Fear?

Feelings of anxiety, frightening thoughts, worry, apprehension, anticipation of danger, concern about threats

This is not the fear of God, but the fear that comes from not having a fear of God

Every kind of fear is found in those who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ

**Job 3:25 *– “For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of …”***

**Psalms 55:5** ***– “Fearfulness and trembling are come upon me, and horror hath overwhelmed me”***

**Proverbs 28:1 –*“The wicked flee when no man pursueth:”***

They’re afraid of their Shadow

The Shadow of Death

The Wicked’s greatest fear is Death

The Wicked live in fear of what might happen to them

One of their greatest fears is the uncertainty of life

**Hebrews 2:14, 15 *– “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;” “And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”***

The Righteous are delivered from the Fear of Death

But the Wicked cringe at the thought of it

**Revelation 21:8 *– “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death”***

**The Fear that is Encountered**

**B. The Fulfillment that is Experienced – v. 24b**

The Righteous are not without healthy Fear

**Psalms 56:3 *– “What time I am afraid, I will trust in Thee”***

**Psalms 56:11 *- “In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me”***

***“but the desire of the righteous shall be granted”***

The idea here is that while the wicked are afraid of what might happen to them

The Righteous man is trusting in what God can do

**Mark 11:24 – *“Therefore I say unto you, What things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them”***

**Romans 10:1 - *“Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved”***

**I Corinthians 14:1 – *“Follow after charity, and desire spiritual gifts, but rather that ye may prophesy”***

**Philippines 1:23 – *“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:”***

**Colossians 1:9 – *“For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding”***

**Hebrews 6:11 – *“And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end”***

**Hebrews 11:16 – *“But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for He hath prepared for them a city”***

**I Peter 2:2 – *“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the Word, that ye may grow thereby”***

**THE “CONSTERNATION” OF THE WICKED**

**II. THE “CONDEMNATION” OF THE WICKED – v. 25, 29**

The Bible pronounces both the end of the Wicked and, the Righteous alike

**A. The Loss that is Predicted - v. 25**

**1. *“As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more”***

Whirlwinds come and are gone, so are the Wicked

Sinful living leads to instability and brevity

They are here for a short time and then wake up in hell

**Psalm 55:23 –** ***“But thou, O God, shalt bring them down into the pit of destruction: bloody and deceitful men shall not live out half their days; but I will trust in Thee”***

**2. *“but the righteous is an everlasting foundation”***

In contrast, those truly righteous are solid, stable, and everlasting

They wake up in heaven, because they are clothed with the righteousness of Christ

Jesus is our Cornerstone, our Rock, our Foundation

Righteous living lends itself to stability and eternal reward

**B. The Results that will be Profound - v. 29**

The things of God provide strength and encouragement for the upright to continue in

Those living for the world (The Wicked) could care less

**James 4:4 –** ***“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God”***

Moreover, the Wicked will sooner or later face destruction

If not in this life, certainly in the next

**1. The Defense that is Found – v. 29a**

***“The way of the LORD is strength to the upright”***

What is the Way of the Lord?

A *“****Way”*** is a Manner or Method, a Means of doing something

God’s Ways should be our Ways, we need to adopt them

God’s Ways are Faith, Verity (certainty), Truth, Prudence (These are only few)

**II Corinthians 12:9 –** ***“And He said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for My strength is made perfect in (your) weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me”***

**2. The Destruction that is Foreseen - v. 29b**

***“but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity”***

Again we see the Condemnation of the Wicked

No wonder he is Fearful, whether he’s conscious of it or not

Destruction is coming to those who continue to live an ungodly life style

Whether they self-destruct or are destroyed by others who are self-destructing

Their demise is not going to be pretty

Destroyed – means *to ruin, bring to naught, nothing*

**THE “CONSTERNATION” OF THE WICKED**

**THE “CONDEMNATION” OF THE WICKED**

**III. THE “CESSATION” OF THE WICKED – v. 28**

***“The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish”***

Righteousness provides a delightful expectation of the future

In contrast, Living Sinfully takes away hope and some kind of expectation for the future

Everyone as some form of Expectation

Those who live righteously can look forward to happiness

Implied is that those who live an ungodly life cannot

Furthermore, the hope of the wicked will not be fulfilled

Truly, ungodly, sinful living pays a terrible dividend

There might be fun or pleasure for a short time, but the long-term consequences are awful

***“shall perish”*** means that it will come to an end

**A. Their Calendar – vs. 27, 25**

**v. 27 - *“but the years of the wicked shall be shortened”***

**v. 25 - *“so is the wicked no more”***

**Job 22:15, 16 – *“Hast thou marked the old way which wicked men have trodden?” “Which were cut down out of time, whose foundation was overflown with a flood:”***

**B. Their Country – v. 30**

***“the wicked shall not inhabit the earth”***

**Psalm 37:10 *– “For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be”***

**Psalm 12:3 –*“The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things:”***

**Psalm 34:16 –*“The face of the LORD is against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth”***

**Psalm 37:9 –*“For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth”***

**THE “CONSTERNATION” OF THE WICKED**

**THE “CONDEMNATION” OF THE WICKED**

**THE “CESSATION” OF THE WICKED**

**IV. THE “COMMEMORATION” OF THE WICKED – v. 7**

After someone is gone, you usually have a Memorial

You Commemorate them, remember them, you honor their life

The Bible says – (let’s start with the last part of the verse first)

**A.** ***“the name of the wicked shall rot”***

There is nothing honorable about rotting things

Something that is rotten is putrid, disgusting, foul, ruined

All the presidents of our nation have had a great concern about their legacy

As a result, they have gone to great effort to attempt to assure themselves a good name in history

However all their effort is vain if they have not lived a righteous / godly life

Wickedness ruins your reputation as well as your character

If you want a good legacy, live a godly life

If you live a wicked life, your reputation is doomed to ruin / rot

People may *say* nice things about you, but all the time knowing exactly what you where

**B. *“But the memory of the just is blessed”***

***“The Just” –*** are those who live lawfully

His life is regulated by God’s standard of behavior

A Just Man lives by Faith and obedience in the Word of God

The word ***“blessed”*** carries the idea of happiness

The things remembered about those who live for the Lord encourage people

There is joy in the thought of who they were, and what they did

We are thankful as we look back on the lives of godly parents

As we think of those whose walked with God and showed us the way

Every time someone remembers a God Fearing person

They will think of what a blessing they were

**CONCLUSION**