

The Problem with Wickedness

Text: Proverbs 28:1-13

Introduction

In this chapter, the Proverbs of Solomon continue to expose the wicked. The world attempts to persuade its population that sin is something to be enjoyed and embraced. The world paints the consequences of wickedness as being success, popularity, fame, and fortune.

While it is true that sin does have its pleasures, the Bible tells us that those pleasures are temporary and fleeting (cf. Heb. 11:25). It is also true that the Bible is full of warnings about the eternal consequences of living a wicked life.

In this chapter, the Proverbs continue to contrast the wise and the wicked. Both lives have consequences, and we will examine the outcomes of both lives.

ILLUSTRATION: Two great men of the Bible declared the outcome of their lives. Paul, at the end of his life, stated, *“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing”* (II Tim. 4:6-8). On the other hand, Solomon, at the end of his life, declared *“all is vanity”* (Ecc. 12:8). Someone has once said, “If you want to die like Paul, then you cannot live like Solomon.”

The choice is ours...Which life do we want? The outcome of our lives is determined by whether we live the life of the wicked or the wise. Notice that the end of the righteous life is...

I. _____ vs. Cowardice (v.1).

The life of wickedness does not make a “man” out of a boy. The world advertises manhood as being someone who lives his or her own life and is the “captain of his own fate.” However, the Scriptures reveal the true outcome of the life of sin.

A. The _____ of the wicked (v.1a).

1. Living among sin produces _____.
2. Living in sin produces _____ (cf. Lev. 26:17, 36).

B. The _____ of the righteous (v.1b).

1. Living right produces _____.
2. Living right produces _____ (cf. Heb. 4:16).

II. _____ vs. Compromise (vv. 2-8; 14-28)

The wise and righteous person will have convictions that are non-negotiable.

A. Conviction about _____ (v.2; i.e., right & wrong).

1. Wickedness _____ a nation (v.2a; cf. 14:34)
 2. Righteousness _____ a nation (v.2b).
- B. Conviction about _____ (v.3). —*Two Truths...*
1. One's _____ status does not breed compassion.
 2. One's _____ of compassion will destroy all he touches.
- C. Conviction about _____ (v.4).
1. Lawbreakers like _____.
 2. Law keepers _____ against lawbreakers.
- D. Conviction about _____ (v.7; cf. Psa. 119:63).
1. Obedient children are _____ children (v.7a).
 2. Rebel children _____ their parents (v.7b).
- E. Conviction about _____ (v.8).
1. Dishonest gain may _____ your net worth.
 2. Dishonest gain may be _____ lost and ruin your life.

III. Compassion vs. _____ (vv. 9-13).

- A. The righteous receives _____ prayer (v.9).
1. A critical spirit turns a _____ ear to God's Word.
 2. _____ to listen to God's Word is disgusting. ("*abomination*" means "to find disgusting")

LIFE PRINCIPLE #98: _____.

- B. The righteous receives _____ of sins (vv. 10-13).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #99: _____.

1. A turned ear (v.9) produces a _____ life (vv. 10-11)
2. A _____ sin produces a sorrowful life (vv. 12-13).