

# Pearls From Proverbs – Lesson 10

## The Wicked Person

By Beverly McKey

### I. INTRODUCTION

- A. Warnings from God are as essential for our consideration as are the promises of reward.
1. Polite society today would have us concentrate and center our thoughts only on what they consider "positive" in nature.
  2. That is, we are strongly discouraged from ever criticizing or speaking in a "judgmental" tone.
    - a. Of course, their idea of "judgmental" is when we call anything sin.
    - b. Every religious concept is to be honored as being right, and whatever anyone wishes to discard is to be allowed without any consequences.
  3. The sacredness of tolerance has replaced the love of truth in God's word.
    - a. Being "politically correct" in our language has become the dominate ideal being pursued.
    - b. Tolerance has reached the exaggerated point of limiting freedom in the only nation that was founded upon the principles of religious freedom and freedom of speech.
  4. However, this idea is totally foreign to the Word of God.
    - a. In **Ezekiel 3:17** God gave Ezekiel this instruction:  
*"Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore hear a word from My mouth, and give them warning from Me."*
    - b. God demanded that His prophet warn God's people of their sin, and he placed guilt on Ezekiel if he failed to do so.  
**Ezekiel 3:18-19** – *"<sup>18</sup> When I say to the wicked, 'You shall surely die,' and you give him no warning, nor speak to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life, that same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood I will require at your hand. <sup>19</sup> Yet, if you warn the wicked, and he does not turn from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but you have delivered your soul."*
    - c. When my sister died at the age of 48, she left two sons, age 22 and 26.
      - 1) They were not Christians so I approached them about their spiritual life:
      - 2) I said to them: *"If you had cancer and I knew of a cure that you could easily get, but I didn't tell you about it because I thought you might be offended or because I thought it was none of my business – how would that show you that I loved you?"*

- 3) I gave them each a Bible and said, *"This is the cure for your eternal soul. I give it to you because I love you and I can't bear to see you face the future without it knowing God."*
- 4) I offered to help them find the truth in it and they hugged me and thanked me.
- 5) Unfortunately, they never took any action to find that truth.
- 6) My older nephew was killed ten years later in a car crash in which he was the passenger.
- 7) My younger nephew has since spent two years in the Texas prison system for being convicted of drunk driving for the third time. (According to Texas' "3 Strikes, You're Out" law.)
- 8) At this time he is living in east Texas and I continue to pray that he will turn to God before it is too late for him as well.
- 9) At the same time, there are souls around me every day who are who are lost in sin. If I don't warn them will I be held guilty of that – like Ezekiel?

B. While we have a responsibility to warn the lost, the majority today ridicules those who give warning to others according to the Word of God.

1. Jeremiah reveals the reason why the majority will not desire to hear: **Jeremiah 6:10** – *"To whom shall I speak and give warning, that they may hear? Indeed their ear is uncircumcised, and they cannot give heed. Behold, the word of the LORD is a reproach to them; they have no delight in it."*
2. The masses do not have a delight in the Word of God today!
3. Even in the New Testament, we are taught that people need to be warned:  
**Colossians 1:27-28** – *"...God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. <sup>28</sup> Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus."*
4. Paul said that all people must be warned.

C. God has warned us in the book of Proverbs by showing us the consequences the wicked person will face.

1. God loved mankind so much that He sent His own Son to die for us.  
**John 3:16** – *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."*
2. He also loved us enough to warn us of the danger of rejecting His Word.
  - a. **Romans 1:18** – *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against **all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness.**"*

- b. **Romans 2:8-9** – “...*but to those who are self-seeking and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness—indignation and wrath,<sup>9</sup> tribulation and anguish, on every soul of man who does evil, of the Jew first and also of the Greek.*”
- 3. The wicked man in Proverbs is depicted as one who rebels against God for his own selfish motives.
  - a. His end is self-inflicted because of his refusal to adhere to God’s Word.
  - b. The wicked person also destroys other people in his selfishness.
  - c. He will be held accountable for his actions in the Day of Judgment.
  - d. In warning us of the tactics and terminal end of the wicked person, God provides for us the material we need to avoid being like the wicked person.
- 4. While we are not under the authority of the Old Testament law today, we still learn by the examples of the Old Testament.
  - a. **Hebrews chapter 8:1-6** clearly explains that the Old Covenant (The Law of Moses) had a high priest, but now there is a New Covenant with Jesus Christ as the High Priest.
  - b. **Hebrews 8:7-12** tells us IF the Old Covenant had been perfect, there would have been no need for a second covenant.
    - 1) Its purpose was to draw the Jews back to God and to reconcile the Gentiles to God.
    - 2) He promised to be merciful regarding their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds He would remember no more.”
  - c. **Hebrews 8:13** – “*In that He says, “a new covenant”, He has made the first (The Law of Moses) obsolete. Whatever is obsolete and growing old is ready to vanish away.*”
  - d. **Romans 15:4** – “*For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.*”
  - e. **1 Corinthians 10:11** – “*Now all these things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.*”

## II. THE WICKED PERSON AND HIS SPEECH

- A. Solomon also had some wise thoughts about our speech.
  - 1. **Proverbs 8:8** – “*All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; nothing crooked or perverse is in them.*”
  - 2. **Proverbs 10:19** – “*In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*”
- B. The wicked person uses profanity.
  - 1. The acceptance of profane speech in our society has exploded in the past 60 years.
    - a. When I was a child in the 1950’s, profanity was not used in polite

society.

- 1) It would never have been tolerated in the school room by the students or the teachers.
  - 2) Even men who used such language did not do it when women or children were present.
  - 3) Profanity was forbidden on radio, TV or the movies.
  - 4) It was an offensive habit of crude individuals.
2. Now, profane speech invades every corner of society.
- a. Students in public schools are no longer punished for using profane language, even in speech that disrespects their teachers.
  - b. You have only to walk in any mall to hear groups of teenagers strolling together using some of the most foul words.
  - c. Parents daily use such language with their children instead of teaching them to avoid such vulgar language.
  - d. TV, music and movies are so full of this kind of language that it leaves few opportunities that are suitable for family entertainment.
  - e. Instead of foul language being offensive to the majority, it is now accepted as normal conversation.
  - f. Most people do not care that their language is offensive and they refuse to be governed by such strict, old fashioned rules of etiquette.
3. Christians are also warned in the New Testament to avoid such language since it ruins the good example we are trying to present to everyone.
- a. **Colossians 3:8** – *“But now you yourselves are to put off all these: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy language out of your mouth.”*
  - b. **Ephesians 5:4** – In this passage Paul is encouraging the Christians in Ephesus to”
    - 1) **Vs. 1** – “be imitators of God”
    - 2) **Vs. 2** – “walk in love, as Christ also loved us”
    - 3) **Vs. 4** – avoid “*filthiness, foolish talking and coarse jesting*” Paul said that such speech was “not fitting for saints”, which all Christians are.
    - 4) We never want the careless use of offensive words to ruin an opportunity to be an influence for God in our lives.
- C. The wicked man and his speech sows discord.
1. **Proverbs 6:12-14** – “<sup>12</sup> *A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth; <sup>13</sup> He winks with his eyes, he shuffles his feet, he points with his fingers; <sup>14</sup> Perversity is in his heart, he devises evil continually, he sows discord.”*
    - a. Solomon paints for us a despicable view of the wicked man in these three verses.

- b. Notice he is called a “worthless” person.
  - 1) The worthless person is unprofitable before God because of the damage that he does to himself and others.
  - 2) He has a perverse mouth, meaning “stubborn and vicious”.
  - 3) His words are designed to tear down instead of building up.
- c. The result of his speech is that discord is sown among the brethren which is one of seven things God hates. **Proverbs 6:16-19**
  - 1) God hates those who sow discord because of the damage it does.
  - 2) Discord prevents unity among God’s people, which is what God desires for all of His people.
 

**Ephesians 4:1-6** – *“I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called, <sup>2</sup> with all lowliness and gentleness, with longsuffering, bearing with one another in love, <sup>3</sup> endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. <sup>4</sup> There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called in one hope of your calling; <sup>5</sup> one Lord, one faith, one baptism; <sup>6</sup> one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all.”*
- 2. The spiritually minded person brings peace, which is the opposite of discord.
  - a. Peace, as used here, refers also to the peace between man and God, but there can be no peace between the wicked man and God because the wicked sows discord and not unity or harmony.
  - b. Paul also exhorts his readers to follow peace:
    - 1) **Romans 14:19** – *“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”*
    - 2) **Galatians 5:22-26a** – *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup> gentleness, self-control...”*
    - 3) These two verses are excellent examples of how Paul worked toward developing unity and peace in every congregation by teaching the very same doctrine in every church he planted and encouraged.
 

**I Corinthians 4:17** – *“For this reason I have sent Timothy to you, who is my beloved and faithful son in the Lord, who will remind you of my ways in Christ, as I teach everywhere in every church.”*
- D. The wicked person and his speech harms innocent people in a multitude of ways.
  - 1. **Proverbs 16:27-30** – *“An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends. <sup>29</sup> A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good. <sup>30</sup> He winks his eye to devise perverse things; he purses his lips and brings about evil.”*

- a. These verses truly describe a “wicked” person.
  - b. This person loves causing conflict and actively looks for ways to harm others (*he digs up evil*)
  - c. His lips are like a burning fire that hurt feelings, damage reputations and spread false rumors.
  - d. He has difficulty making and keeping close friends, so he envies those who have close friends.
    - 1) He loves to “sows strife” between others who are close friends by privately whispering (gossiping) to each of them in an effort to disrupt their friendship.
    - 2) If he can’t have close friends, he doesn’t want anyone else to have them either.
  - e. In verse 29 other versions use the phrase “*close their eyes*” instead of “wink his eye”.
    - 1) This gives the impression that he sits with his eyes closed, meditating upon the evil.
    - 2) His aim is to entice his neighbor to join him in his evil activities
  - f. In verse 30, many commentaries understood the phrase “*He purses his lips and brings about evil.*” to mean that the “pursing of his lips” is a signal to his evil friends to execute the evil scheme he has devised. Other versions translate it “*biting his lips*” indicating determination to bring his evil plan to fruition.
2. Not only does an evil person devise evil, he is also eager to spread lies devised by other evil people,
 

**Proverbs 17:4** – “*An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.*”

    - a. Many good people have had damage done to their reputation from the lies eagerly spread by evil people.
    - b. Jobs can be lost, friendships can be severed, children can be hurt by lies being told about their parents.
    - c. The internet is a tool of evil people who enjoy harming innocent people.
    - d. Some young teenagers have committed suicide because of the never-ending slander that is spread on Facebook by other teens who love finding vulnerable teens who are not popular or attractive or are different in any way.
  3. An evil person may have deceitful ways that often hide his evil intentions, but eventually he will be seen as evil and should be avoided.
 

**I Corinthians 10:6** – “*But those who are outside, God judges. Therefore put away from yourselves the evil person.*”

### III. THE WICKED MAN AND HIS INFLUENCE

- A. The influence of the wicked is strong and his aim is to lead the righteous astray.

**Proverbs 12:26** – *“The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray.”*

1. There is an old saying: “You can’t play with fire without smelling like smoke.”
2. No matter how much we may think that we can safely associate socially with ungodly people (co-workers, neighbors, even some relatives) we will not be left unchanged.
3. Depending on the frequency with which we associate with worldly people, we begin to be less and less offended with their ungodly behavior.
4. If we find ourselves preferring worldly companions above fellowship with Christians, who encourage us spiritually, we had better stop and take a look at our spiritual commitment.
5. Paul warns us of the same thing in **I Corinthians 15:33** – *“Do not be deceived: “Evil company corrupts good habits.”*

B. The wicked justify the wicked and condemn the good.

1. The wicked are not satisfied to remain in the realm of other wicked people and justify their lifestyle, he also is committed to condemning the just (righteous) to make himself feel better about himself.  
**Proverbs 17:15** – *“He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord.”*
2. The prophet Isaiah, who lived centuries after Solomon was given this message from God to speak to the people of Israel and Judah:
  - a. **Isaiah 5:20** – *“Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!”*
  - b. **Isaiah 5:22-23** – *“Woe to men mighty at drinking wine, woe to men valiant for mixing intoxicating drink, <sup>23</sup> who justify the wicked for a bribe, and take away justice from the righteous man!”*
3. We certainly see that people in the world today are still “calling evil good and good evil.”
  - a. Abortion is revered as “a woman’s choice” rather than murder of an innocent life.
    - 1) In 1965, 24% of black infants and 3.1% of white infants were born to single mothers. (stats by Brookings Institute)
    - 2) By 1990 the rates had risen to 64% for black infants, 18% for whites.
    - 3) In 2013 these were the statistics according to the “National Review”, Roger Clegg.
      - a) The overall percentage of out-of-wedlock births was 40.7%
      - b) 72.2% among blacks – an increase of 8.2% since 1990.
      - c) 66.9% among American Indians and Alaska Natives
      - d) 53.5% among Hispanics

- e) 29.4% among Caucasians
  - f) 17.1% for Asians and Pacific Islanders
  - 4) Christians who speak out against same-sex marriage are called intolerant, which is considered “evil” in today’s society.
    - a) Life styles once called “sin” are now commonly accepted, such as: men and women living together outside of marriage and babies being born out-of-wedlock.
    - b) Where these life styles once brought shame and embarrassment, now they are celebrated.
- B. The wicked are bound to the world and they hate those who do not walk according to the course of this world.
1. Jesus knew that His followers would face this kind of opposition:
 

**John 15:18-19** – “<sup>18</sup> *If the world hates you, you know that it hated Me before it hated you.* <sup>19</sup> *If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet because you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world, therefore the world hates you.*”

    - a. The lives of the righteous bring judgment upon their evil deeds, so they try to silence them by attempting to make them look foolish in the eyes of the world.
    - b. Because the wicked far outnumber the righteous, their voices affect the laws instituted by government, both locally and nationally.
    - c. The righteous must become more vocal in defense of a godly way of life if we don’t want to descend into Sodom and Gommorah in the twenty-first century.
  2. The wicked take no interest in the poor; he is interested in his own pleasure.
 

**Proverbs 29:7** – “*The righteous considers the cause of the poor, but the wicked does not understand such knowledge.*”

    - a. Mercy is not a trait of the wicked person.
    - b. He cannot empathize with those who suffer poverty or illness or the death of loved ones – he only cares about himself.
    - c. He may be able to say the right phrases of sympathy at the appropriate time, but his heart does not harbor sincere sympathy for those suffering serious afflictions. He does not seek ways to help.

#### IV. THE WICKED MAN AND HIS SACRIFICE

- A. Solomon writes that the wicked man is not able, in his wicked condition, to sacrifice to God satisfactorily.
  1. **Proverbs 15:8-9** – “*The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.* <sup>9</sup> *The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness.*”
  2. That which is offered to God must be done with clean hands and pure hearts.

- a. Even from the beginning, God has made it an explicit point to show that sacrifice must be made according to God's way.
  - b. Cain is the first recorded man who sinned in his sacrifice. **Genesis 4**
    - 1) His sin was so difficult for him to bear that he killed his brother.
    - 2) John records for us that he killed Abel because of the wicked influence of Satan.
      - a) **I John 3:11-12** – *“<sup>11</sup> For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, <sup>12</sup> not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were evil and his brother's righteous”*
      - b) Notice that Cain's "works" were described as evil.
        - i Part of his works would definitely include his sacrifice, which was not offered according to faith.
        - ii Satan had influenced Cain so much that he lost control when he realized that his brother's sacrifice had been acceptable, while his own was rejected.
        - iii Jealousy of his brother, Abel, drove Cain to commit the first murder.
- B. From the beginning, God informed mankind of the importance of sacrifice with pure hearts and clean hands.
- 1. We have examples of individuals whose sacrifices were not offered in faith and the punishment incurred by them.
    - a. In **I Samuel 13**, Saul offered a sacrifice before going into battle.
      - 1) Saul was supposed to wait for Samuel to come to offer the sacrifice, but Samuel was delayed and after seven days, Saul took the responsibility upon himself.
      - 2) Kings were not authorized by God to offer sacrifices; priests were authorized to do so.
      - 3) When Samuel arrived and saw that Saul had offered the burnt offering, he said, *“What have you done?”* **Vs. 11**
      - 4) **Vs. 13** – Samuel pronounced Saul's punishment for improperly offering the sacrifice.
        - a) Samuel reminded Saul that the Lord wanted to be able to establish Saul's kingdom over Israel.
        - b) However, because of this sin, his kingdom would be removed and God would select someone after His own heart.
    - b. The criteria for offering animal sacrifices was that it be "perfect"
      - 1) It was unacceptable to offer the lame, the sick or the old animals. Sacrifices were expected to be the best they had to offer.
      - 2) Offering God anything that was less than perfect or the best was an insult to God and the sacrifice was not accepted.

- c. According to Peter, God will not hear the prayer of the unrighteous:
  - 1) **I Peter 3:12** – *“For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, and His ears are open to their prayers; but the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.”*
  - 2) Just as God turns His ear from the prayers of those who practice wickedness, He refuses to accept their sacrifices.
- C. As Christians, we do not offer animal sacrifices today, we offer spiritual sacrifices.
  - 1. **Romans 12:1** – *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God.”*
    - a. **Hebrews 13:15-16** – *“<sup>15</sup> Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. <sup>16</sup> But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”*
    - b. **I Peter 2:5** – *“...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.”*

## V. THE WICKED MAN AND HIS DESTINY

- A. The wicked man has been highlighted and shown to be a person who is walking out of step with God and with heaven.
  - 1. This being the case, his sentence is sure and certain because of his rejection of and rebellion against God.
    - a. Solomon provided a lengthy description of this wicked man:
 

**Proverbs 6:12-15** – *“<sup>12</sup> A worthless person, a wicked man, walks with a perverse mouth; <sup>13</sup> he winks with his eyes, he shuffles his feet, he points with his fingers; <sup>14</sup> perversity is in his heart, he devises evil continually, he sows discord. <sup>15</sup> Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.”*
    - b. The wicked are listed among the seven things that God hates:
 

**Proverbs 6:18** – *“A heart that devises wicked plans, feet that are swift in running to evil,”*
  - 2. The wicked man’s sentence is self-inflicted.
    - a. **Proverbs 5:22** – *“His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, and he is caught in the cords of his sin.”*
    - b. The sentence of the wicked is not arbitrarily decided by God; the conduct of the wicked actually determines his end.
 

**Proverbs 24:20** – *“For there will be no prospect for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.”*
  - 3. Many today have trouble accepting the reality of heaven and hell because they don’t understand how a loving God could condemn anyone to an eternal punishment.
    - a. They fail to understand that hell was not created for people.

**Matthew 25:41** – “*Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'*”

- b. They also do not understand that the wicked choose their own destiny by choosing to reject God.
- B. Since God has promised punishment for the wicked, when the wicked choose to do what they do, they have no reason to expect anything other than condemnation.
1. There is, however, a false teaching that contradicts this teaching.
    - a. The Calvinistic teachings carried on through the Presbyterian church is that God predetermines who will be saved.
      - 1) No one finds God unless God has sought them first.
      - 2) No one knows God until He enlightens their hearts.
      - 3) No one believes in God until He gives them faith.
      - 4) No one comes to God until they feel themselves moved.
      - 5) No one can be saved unless he is one of the “elect of God”.
    - b. Exactly how they believe that God would condemn people to be lost before their birth is astonishing.
  2. Jesus taught that those who “choose” to do the will of God will enter the kingdom of heaven.
    - a. **Matthew 7:21** – “*Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.*”
    - b. Where there is a positive teaching, there also exists a negative teaching; if one can choose to do good, then one also chooses to do evil, and he shouldn't expect the same destiny as those who choose good.
    - c. Jesus set the example of choosing obedience.
      - 1) **Hebrews 5:8-9** – “<sup>8</sup> *though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.* <sup>9</sup> *And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him.*”
      - 2) Jesus had a choice, and He chose to obey God, the Father, therefore He has the right and privilege of expecting man to obey **if** he expects to receive the reward of eternal life that God promised those who do His will.
      - 3) Peter taught this concept to Cornelius. **Acts 10:34-35** – “<sup>34</sup> *Then Peter opened his mouth and said: "In truth I perceive that God shows no partiality.* <sup>35</sup> *But in every nation whoever fears Him and works righteousness is accepted by Him.*”
        - a) According to this standard, no one can accuse God of favoritism or unfairness.
        - b) People from every nation are accepted **IF** they fear God and

do the works of righteousness.

- c) In simple terms, only those who choose to do evil or wickedness will not be accepted. IT IS THEIR CHOICE!

## VI. CONCLUSION

- A. The wicked man and his speech betray the God of heaven, his Creator.
- B. The wicked man and his sphere are marked by rebellion and rejection of all that is good.
- C. The wicked man and his sacrifice are both an abomination to God.
- D. The wicked man cannot expect the same reward God has promised to those who choose to do the will of God
- E. The wicked man determines his own sentence due to selfish motives which makes his sentence self-inflicted.
- F. We must be diligent in our obedience to God and walk humbly before Him so we will be accepted of Him in the end.
- G. The prophet Micah said it like this:  
**Micah 6:8** – *“He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?”*