

PROVERBS: LESSON 7

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

(Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION:

In chapters 10-29 much is said about the RIGHTEOUS and the WICKED. In approximately 70 proverbs the righteous and the wicked are described and/or contrasted to present God's wisdom.

In this lesson and lesson 8 we will observe the righteous as upright doing what is right, while the wicked are perverse doing what is wrong in God's eyes.

We must learn the difference, and exalt the righteous for, "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the righteous, Both of them alike are an abomination to Jehovah" (Proverbs 17:15).

I. THE RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED AND THEIR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHERS

- A. The righteous strive to deliver the innocent while the wicked think evil to bring on others (11:9, 12:6,10, 18:3, 21:10).
- B. The wicked with their sacrifices are an abomination to God (15:8, 21:27).
- C. The righteous cannot give way to wicked (25:26).
- D. The righteous hate lying, and do not become loathsome to others as the wicked (13:5).
- E. The wicked ambassador will cause sickness in the one who sent him (13:17).

II. THE RIGHTEOUS AND WICKED AND THEIR INFLUENCE ON OTHERS

- A. The righteous are a source of life while the wicked deceitfully ensnare others causing them to err (10:21, 11:30, 12:5, 12, 26).

III. THE WAY OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

- A. The righteous find life in their way, while the wicked fall in their way (11:5, 12:28, 21:21, 29).
- B. Righteousness guards the way, while wickedness overthrows (13:6)
- C. He that follows after righteousness is beloved of God, while the wicked in their way are abomination unto God (15:9).

QUESTIONS:

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1. Describe the way the wicked person treats his neighbor?
2. Give examples in the Old Law where consideration and kindness for beasts are commanded?
3. What is "the wicked mind" that makes the sacrifice much more an abomination (21:27)?
4. Can the righteous afford to give way to or be moved by the wicked?
5. While the righteous man _____ lying, the wicked man becomes _____.
6. Why should you be careful of picking the one who will represent you?
7. If one gives way to the wicked, what does he or she become?
8. What makes the righteous so winsome?
9. Why should we not follow the guidance of the wicked?
10. What three things will you find if you follow after righteousness and kindness?
11. What foolish characteristic is the wicked manifesting when he "hardeneth his face" (21:29)?
12. What overthrows the sinner?

13. Whom does God love?