

PROVERBS: LESSON 8

THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

(Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION:

We continue our study of contrasting the RIGHTEOUS and the WICKED by observing further their respective characters, and focusing on their expectations before God.

I. INCREASE TENDS TO LIFE FOR THE RIGHTEOUS AND SIN FOR THE WICKED (10:16)

II. THE EXPECTATIONS OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

- A. The evil the wicked fears comes, while the righteous are granted the good they desired (10:24, 11:23).
- B. The righteous have sure reward, while the wicked earn wages they did not expect (11:18, 28, 13:21, 15:6).
- C. At death, the expectation of the wicked perish (10:28, 11:7).
- D. Blessings are bestowed upon the righteous while shameful misery silences the wicked (10:6, 21, 28:1).
- E. Don't envy the wicked (13:9, 24:19-20).
- F. The righteous are satisfied - the wicked are never satisfied (10:3, 13:25).

III. THE SPEECH OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED

- A. The tongue of the righteous is valuable, while the heart of the wicked is of little worth (10:20, 31).
- B. The righteous speak truth, while the wicked speak lies (10:32).
- C. The righteous consider before speaking, while the wicked inconsiderately pour forth evil (15:28).

IV. A NATION OF PEOPLE ARE EXALTED BY RIGHTEOUSNESS AND ARE RUINED BY WICKEDNESS (11:10-11, 14:34, 16:12-13, 17:23, 18:5, 25:5).

V. THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE WICKED WHEN GOD'S JUDGMENT COMES

- A. While righteousness delivers, the treasures and riches obtained by wrong doing cannot help the wicked escape Divine Judgment (10:2, 11:4).

B. The wicked suffer the trouble in the place of the righteous (11:8, 12:21, 21:7, 18).

C. If the righteous will be chastised, how much more deservedly will the wicked be punished (11:31).

D. The wicked have their day of reckoning in the plan of God (16:4).

VI. THE PERMANENCE OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE IMPERMANENCE OF THE WICKED (10:25,27,30; 12:3,7; 14:11; 18:10; 21:12; 24:15-16).

VII. FOND MEMORIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE NAME OF THE RIGHTEOUS, WHILE THE NAME OF THE WICKED ROTS WITH THE DEAD BODY (10:7).

QUESTIONS:

1. What else does the increase of the wicked tend toward besides sin?
2. Why is it that expectation perishes at death for the wicked and not for the righteous (11:7)?
3. What lies behind the lips of the righteous that allows them to feed many?
4. Why should we not fret because of evil doers?
5. Why should we not be envious at the wicked?
6. What is one thing the wicked never experience?
7. What do the righteous know when they speak that which is "acceptable" (10:32)?

8. "Righteousness _____ a nation, But _____ is a reproach to any people."
9. What sad fact causes the ways of justice to be perverted?

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10. What will treasures from wrong doing not buy the wicked in the day of Judgment?
11. Give some Bible examples of the principle found in 11:8 and 21:18.
12. What is one thing the righteous see when they consider the wicked?
13. What do the righteous run to and find strength?
14. When you consider how you will be remembered, why should you be among the righteous?