

You are wicked

Jeremiah 17:9 - The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Those are hard words.

Who of us really wants to hear such harsh words and who wants to be called 'wicked'?

If we are honest to ourselves we have to admit that something rises up in most of us when we hear such words. We feel deeply offended by the accusation of such words. We instantly run for cover and hide. We assure ourselves that we are not that bad after all.

Yes we have our faults, we have all done wrong in our life but we are certainly not wicked. 'Wicked' is a very strong word and to call someone 'wicked' equates to a very serious accusation.

We are not wicked despite all our imperfections. But by assuring us of this we ignore something very important.

This is precisely what God thinks of us!

The Bible explains informs us that none of us are righteous in the eyes of the Lord. But it does not end there. It takes us much further than that.

Scripture calls us wicked! It exposes us as wicked and not just as someone who has occasionally sinned in this life.

Something happens when we are told that we are wicked. Our heart immediately rises up in self-defense. Our initial thought is always that "I am not that bad".

You may think that you are a Christian, you may call yourself one but if that is your initial response to those harsh words from the Bible than you have never seen yourself the way that God sees you.

You are still clothed in the old dirty cloth of your own righteousness.

You have never truly repented for you have never discovered who you really are in the eyes of the Lord.

That objection which has arisen within you at the mention of those words is nothing else than the spirit of pride and of self-righteousness. This spirit itself is wicked in the eyes of the Lord!

You have never seen your real guilt, you have never seen yourself the way God looks upon you through His holy eyes.

Without seeing your true guilt you will never see your no real need for a savior.

It is only when you can nod your head in complete and in total agreement when you hear those words that you have really found your peace in the Lord.

A person who sees his wickedness, who knows that he is a sinner will have come to the place where he truly understands his need for salvation.

Only a truly wicked person who has been saved by the blood of Christ will understand what the cross really means.

To such a person the cross will have become intensely personal!

He will hang on to it no matter the cost. He will treasure it greatly for on that cross the power of his own wickedness has been defeated!

Such a person will always nod his or her head in total agreement when those words are read out from the Bible.

Instead of shying back in self-defense his spirit will yell out in total agreement "that's me!"

This person will understand what Jesus has done for him.

A person who still feels offended when he hears those words may well be very religious but he does not understand God's wonderful work of salvation.

He cannot understand it for he is not yet included in it himself.

He cannot be included for he is not a wicked man that needs God's salvation!

He is still dressed up in his own salvation which are his own 'good works' of his own righteousness by which he expect to open the gates of heaven one day.

But those gates will never open. Only Jesus has the keys to those doors.

And that wonderful place we call heaven has been reserved for the most 'wicked' of us.

True repentance exposes our wicked hearts. It always brings light into our darkness.

When we repent we see ourselves the way that God sees us.

His Holy Spirit will expose the hidden things which have been locked up in our hearts.

But once we have been washed and cleansed on the inside we will no longer take any offence at those harsh words.

If we hear those words we will not feel the slightest offence rising up within us.

For God's holy light will have exposed us on the inside and we will have seen ourselves for who we really are. We will have seen that we are 'wicked' on the inside. But this exposure of God's spirit is never for the sake of our condemnation but always for the sake of our salvation.

If we hear or read those words 'you are wicked' we will be able to silently whisper 'Amen' and give thanks to the Lord for the precious blood of his son. When God exposes to us what is on our 'inside' He always does it for the sake of our salvation.

One time an adulterous woman was brought to Jesus. Adultery was considered a terrible thing in the culture of that day. It was such a serious offence that it was rewarded with death.

The woman was to be stoned. She was about to receive her just reward for her serious offence.

Stoning was (and still is) a terrible and also a very painful death. The shock of what was about to happen to her must have been written all over her face.

But as she stood in front of Jesus her accusers left her.

John 8:10-11 Straightening up, Jesus said to her, "Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?" 11She said, "No one, Lord." And Jesus said, "I do not condemn you, either. Go. From now on sin no more.

Whenever we find harsh words in the Bible, it is always so that we come to a place of repentance, that we come to a place where we wake up to ourselves and can experience God grace, God's mercy, God's forgiveness and love.

Mark 2:17

On hearing this, Jesus said to them, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners."