



## WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER?

Rita along with many others wonder why do the wicked prosper while the Born Again Christian seems to struggle for everything they get. While the wicked seem to get everything that the world has to offer, look at what they are offering. The world loves its own, and the wicked sell what the world wants.

➤ Periodicals

All you have to do is look at what is being offered on the news stands to see that the huge majority of magazines sell lasciviousness and wickedness. The covers of these magazines show women half dressed with lewd headlines to get you to buy the magazine. These magazines include the teen magazines which I have heard offer insight on how to have sex with either your boy friend or girlfriend. This is what the world wants and this is why the owners of these journals prosper.

➤ Television

The over whelming majority of popular shows all deal with sin and lasciviousness. All of the afternoon soap operas are about adultery and fornication. Prime time evening shows portray adultery as a good thing. This is what the world wants and the wicked executives prosper by offering what the market desires.

➤ Internet

A former ISP owner told me that 98% of all Internet traffic is porn. Even with all of the current services offering blocks and such,

the intelligent kid easily finds ways around the porn blockers. The people and companies that put pornography on the Internet are giving the world what it wants.

➤ Corporate Governance

Look at the corporate leaders who have landed in jail recently. They have used corrupt policies to swindle their shareholders and make themselves rich. At the same time they offer the world what it wants.

These are just a few examples, showing that the world wants wickedness though they may say that they want righteousness. In reality, the world really wants evil and wickedness.

Jeremiah was confronted with the same evils and wickedness that we are faced with today. He also had a hard time with understanding the prosperity of the wicked.

### **Jeremiah 12:1-17**

1 Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

2 Thou hast planted them, yea, they have taken root: they grow, yea, they bring forth fruit: thou art near in their mouth, and far from their reins.

3 But thou, O LORD, knowest me: thou hast seen me, and tried mine heart toward thee: pull them out like sheep for the slaughter, and prepare them for the day of slaughter.

## WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER?

4 How long shall the land mourn, and the herbs of every field wither, for the wickedness of them that dwell therein? the beasts are consumed, and the birds; because they said, He shall not see our last end.

5 If thou hast run with the footmen, and they have wearied thee, then how canst thou contend with horses? and if in the land of peace, wherein thou trustedst, they wearied thee, then how wilt thou do in the swelling of Jordan?

6 For even thy brethren, and the house of thy father, even they have dealt treacherously with thee; yea, they have called a multitude after thee: believe them not, though they speak fair words unto thee.

7 I have forsaken mine house, I have left mine heritage; I have given the dearly beloved of my soul into the hand of her enemies.

8 Mine heritage is unto me as a lion in the forest; it crieth out against me: therefore have I hated it.

9 Mine heritage is unto me as a speckled bird, the birds round about are against her; come ye, assemble all the beasts of the field, come to devour.

10 Many pastors have destroyed my vineyard, they have trodden my portion under foot, they have made my pleasant portion a desolate wilderness.

11 They have made it desolate, and being desolate it mourneth unto me; the whole land is made desolate, because no man layeth it to heart.

12 The spoilers are come upon all high places through the wilderness: for the sword of the LORD shall devour from the one end of the land even to the other end of the land: no flesh shall have peace.

13 They have sown wheat, but shall reap thorns: they have put themselves to pain, but shall not profit: and they shall be ashamed of

your revenues because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

14 Thus saith the LORD against all mine evil neighbours, that touch the inheritance which I have caused my people Israel to inherit; Behold, I will pluck them out of their land, and pluck out the house of Judah from among them.

15 And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.

16 And it shall come to pass, if they will diligently learn the ways of my people, to swear by my name, The LORD liveth; as they taught my people to swear by Baal; then shall they be built in the midst of my people.

17 But if they will not obey, I will utterly pluck up and destroy that nation, saith the LORD.

David also was disparaged with the prosperity of the wicked.

### **Psalms 73:1-28**

1 Truly God is good to Israel, even to such as are of a clean heart.

2 But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped.

3 For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

4 For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm.

5 They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men.

6 Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.

7 Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish.

8 They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily.

9 They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth.

## WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER?

10 Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them.

11 And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High?

12 Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches.

13 Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency.

14 For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning.

15 If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children.

16 When I thought to know this, it was too painful for me;

17 Until I went into the sanctuary of God; then understood I their end.

18 Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

19 How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

20 As a dream when one awaketh; so, O Lord, when thou awakest, thou shalt despise their image.

21 Thus my heart was grieved, and I was pricked in my reins.

22 So foolish was I, and ignorant: I was as a beast before thee.

23 Nevertheless I am continually with thee: thou hast holden me by my right hand.

24 Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory.

25 Whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire beside thee.

26 My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever.

27 For, lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: thou hast destroyed all them that go a whoring from thee.

28 But it is good for me to draw near to God: I

have put my trust in the Lord GOD, that I may declare all thy works.

So even today we see the wicked prosper while the true saint diligently strives against Satan and the world to keep their head above water. The wicked prosper because they are the agents of Satan, and Satan gives them what he has available. Look at the majority of the movie stars who have all the wealth imaginable, but their lives are a total wreck. Has their prosperity made them happy? They are not happy because you cannot be happy without the blessed salvation offered by Jesus Christ the Lord. Only the righteous are truly happy for they do not depend upon the riches of this world which fade away. The righteous have goods that last for all eternity.

While you see the wicked prospering, remember that the righteous of the Lord are truly blessed.

### **James 5:1-8**

1 Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you.

2 Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten.

3 Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.

4 Behold, the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud, crieth: and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of sabaoth.

5 Ye have lived in pleasure on the earth, and been wanton; ye have nourished your hearts, as in a day of slaughter.

# WHY DO THE WICKED PROSPER?

6 Ye have condemned and killed the just; and he doth not resist you.

7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain.

8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

## The Full Gospel Church

3014 E Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19134  
Church Office Phone: (215) 634-3637  
Published by: Rev. LeRoy D. Cressy (215) 535-4037

### Services:

Sunday School . . . . . 11:30 AM  
Sunday Morning Worship . . . . . 12:00 Noon  
Sunday Evening . . . . . 6:30 PM  
Wednesday Evening . . . . . 7:30 PM

### Contact Information:

- E-Mail: [leroy@lrcressy.com](mailto:leroy@lrcressy.com)
- U.S. Mail:  
Rev. LeRoy D. Cressy  
P.O. Box 1731  
Philadelphia, Pa 19105-1731