

Deliverance From The Wicked

One of the major themes of the Bible is that the wicked are dangerous and pose a serious threat, both to others and to society as a whole. The Bible doesn't teach that the wicked need to be tolerated and allowed to flourish, and that the best thing to do is to learn to live with them. Instead God is clear that the wicked are a dangerous poison, and tolerating them is a mistake.

In order for a society to flourish, the wicked must be removed:

Psalm 144:11-15: “Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood: That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace: That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets: That our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the Lord.”

As this psalm points out, there are tremendous benefits from removing those who are violent, lawless, and dangerous from society. First, they're a terrible threat to children. The children of a nation are going to be much better off if there is no one around to torment or kill them. Children need to be protected from things that can harm them.

Second, the wicked are a danger to a nation's prosperity. If

thieves are allowed to freely steal then the nation will become poor. If robbers steal a nation's crops or livestock then it will have no food and people will die.

There was a time when it was obvious that criminals are dangerous and people need to be protected from them. However, over time many people have arisen who hate the idea of judgment and justice. Once wicked people rise to power, they put an end to punishing wickedness. Thieves aren't going to support punishing stealing. Murderers aren't going to support punishing murder. Once a society stops punishing certain crimes, they become much more common – and people suffer as a result. Societies ought to punish things like stealing and murder and assault and rape. When they fail to do so it causes great harm.

There's nothing merciful about refusing to punish those who are violent and who do evil against the innocent. In fact, that is a tremendous act of cruelty. Not only does it allow the guilty to go unpunished, but it puts innocent people in danger. People need to be protected from evildoers, not turned over to them as sheep for slaughter.

One of the reasons the Mosaic Law gives for putting the death penalty in place is removing murderers from society:

Deuteronomy 17:7: “The hands of the witnesses shall be first upon him to put him to death, and afterward the hands of all the people. So thou shalt put the evil away from among you.”

Deuteronomy 19:19: “Then shall ye do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother: so shalt thou put the evil away from among you.”

Deuteronomy 21:21: “And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.”

When murderers are put to death they're no longer able to put anyone in danger. That evil person has been put away from society and will no longer cause any harm to anyone. That's what these verses are saying.

The purpose of this paper isn't to consider arguments for the death penalty, which is a much larger topic. The point I'm trying to make is that throughout the Bible there's a recurring theme is that people need to be protected from evil, and the way to do that is by removing the wicked people who are committing the violent acts.

It's an act of great wisdom for rulers to remove violent and dangerous from the nation. That's one of their duties:

Proverbs 20:26: “A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them.”

Proverbs 25:5: “Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.”

God has given the government the responsibility of protecting the innocent from the wicked and ensuring that justice is done. The church doesn't have the right to hunt down and punish evildoers. However, God *has* commanded the church to remove the wicked from their midst – not by killing or imprisoning them, but by removing them from the congregation:

1 Corinthians 5:13: “But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”

2 Timothy 3:5: “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

1 Timothy 6:3-5: “If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.”

Many churches have rejected the Bible's teaching that their services are only for those who aren't living a life of unrepentant sin. Since churches don't restrict attendance to the righteous, they've become weak and corrupt. That policy has led many pastors to change the Bible's message to appeal to the unholy people who are in their congregations. It's also caused pastors to weaken their stance on sin to gather even more unsaved people. That's not what God has told us to do, but many churches have chosen to pursue money over holiness.

The day is coming when all of the wicked will be removed from the world. One day God will judge this world, and the wicked who are in it:

Proverbs 2:21-22: “For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it. But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.”

Matthew 13:49-50: “So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the wicked from among the just, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

It's a terrible thing for societies to love the wicked and

hate the righteous. That road leads to Hell.