

XVII. Concerning the Righteous & the Wicked

- ❖ ***We believe there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and sanctified by the Spirit of our God, are truly righteous in his esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in his sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.***

All Together Separate

- ❖ The Scriptures make a very general distinction between the righteous and the wicked, the darkness and the light, the good and the evil, the sheep and the goats, the right and the left, and the children of God and the children of Satan. This is a fundamental doctrine which stands in contradistinction with the world's postmodern view of relative absolutism. To see this illustrated we turn to the Word:
 1. Matt 25:31-33
 2. Luke 3:16-17
- ❖ There is no greater contrast than "black and white." This idea is manifested in scripture with "night and day." The Bible makes the starkest contrast possible with this ideology. Note some of the New Testament references of this distinction:
 1. Eph 5:6-9
 2. John 3:19-22
 3. I Pet 2:9
 4. I John 1:5-7

Who is "Righteous" and who is "Wicked"

- ❖ The terms "righteous and wicked" are adjectives that express the VISIBLE fruit of the INVISIBLE Seed. In other words, whatever is planted on the inside grows

on the outside. We describe this difference with “righteous” and “wicked.” We note:

1. Matt 7:16-20

- ❖ In short, the saved (those who believe and trust in God by Faith) are those the Bible considers “righteous.” The unsaved (those who do not believe and trust in God by faith) are those the Bible considers “wicked.” For more reference, see our articles of faith on: “Concerning the Fall of Man, Concerning Justification, Concerning the Way of Salvation, and Concerning Repentance and Faith.”

The Tree Lies Where it Falls

- ❖ Not only is this a classification in this life, but follows us to the next. In our next article, we will discuss the fundamental Christian doctrine that the righteous, upon death proceed to Heaven. Whereas, the wicked will proceed to Hell. To illustrate this, we observe:

1. Ecc 3:17/ 11:3

2. Prov 14:32

3. Luke 16:22-26

4. Rev 21:7-8

- ❖ Lastly, it should be noted that we are all born wicked:

1. Ps 58:3

However, we become righteous by receiving the light of the gospel; that is Jesus Christ and his glory!

1. Gal 2:20