

Proverbs chapter 10

As we join Solomon's son in the classroom, it is important to remember that part of the curriculum is on the expected behavior of the godly while on earth and is not necessarily an endorsement of physical methods used to achieve godly ends. Throughout chapter 10, the teacher will use examples of godly behavior paralleled with the converse ways of the world and the unrepentant.

Compiler's note: as in previous chapters, I will be using the NASB for foundational passages, Holman for language consistency or NLT (writers' intent) for the others, whenever clarity of the Word permits or fluidity of language requires.

Proverbs 10:1: *The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a **father** glad, but a **foolish** son is a grief to his mother.*

- **There is a bumper sticker often seen on cars today, boasting of a child's achievement in school; "My child (son or daughter) is an honor student." At social gatherings, it is not uncommon to hear a _____ brag about his son's accomplishments. But, in the case where the son is failing or mediocre, the father remains quiet. You never hear father brag about the prison time his son has served.**
- **On the other hand, when a child is failing or _____, it is the mother who grieves. It has been this compiler's experience that men are by nature, much better anatomically, at covering over or blocking emotions.**

Proverbs 10:2: *Ill-gotten gains do not **profit**, but **righteousness** delivers from **death**.*

- **Too often a man's focus is on the wrong thing. There is a witticism that states, "He who dies with the most toys wins." A story reported, that at the death of J.D. Rockefeller, his secretary who was sitting outside the lawyer's office waiting to be called in for the reading of the will was asked, "How much did he leave"? Of course, the real answer is "All of it." I don't know whether or not Mr. Rockefeller was a Christian,**

but where ever he is now, you can be sure that he regrets not spending more time storing up treasure in heaven, rather than personal _____. Jesus gives us these words of Wisdom in Matthew 6:19-21: ***"Don't store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves. [21] Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be. [NLT]"***

➤ As for _____, we have none of our own. It is the righteousness of Christ imparted to us that delivers us from the second _____.

1st Cor. 1:30: But by His doing you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification, and redemption. [NASB]

Philip. 3:9: and may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith, [NASB]

2nd Cor. 5:21: He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him. [NASB]

Ephes. 4:24: and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. [NASB]

Philip. 1:11: having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God. [NASB]

Proverbs 10:3: The Lord will not allow the righteous to hunger, But He will thrust aside the craving of the wicked.

I can hear the liberal theologian yelling in the background, "This proverb can't be true, there are people starving all over planet earth." However, this proverb can be applied both physically and spiritually.

- **Let's tackle the spiritual first. When we repent and receive the forgiveness offered through the sacrifice of Christ on the Cross for our sin debt, and willingly renounce our old nature, receiving His Holy Spirit in its place, we become _____ filled with the Fruit of His Spirit; we will never _____.**

Compiler's note: As for physical hunger, I can only offer my own opinion. Our nation, founded on righteous principles, has rejected the foundation upon which those principles were laid. In the coming years, I expect to see shortages and hunger. Mrs. Obama is already talking about "food deserts" in our cities. When our government, who in the mind of the natural born person is their substitute provider, there will come a day when it will no longer be able to provide sustenance through welfare. At that point, I fully anticipate anarchism taking hold among the unrighteous. On the other side of the coin, I foresee the true brotherhood of Christ, banding together and caring for one another, with our God providing through that relationship.

Proverbs 10:4: ***Poor** is he who works with a **negligent** hand, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.*

The teacher gives us another proverb with a dual application, both physical and spiritual.

- **The NASB Bible interprets the Hebrew word [^eremiyah, {rem-ee-yaw}] as a _____ hand, others simply as laziness. By contextual application, the word can also be translated as false, idle, slack or slothful.**

Proverbs will speak to laziness 16 more times and additionally, Solomon will address this behavior pattern in the book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 10, vs. 18. *Laziness lets the roof leak, and soon the rafters begin to rot.* [NLT]

- **Sometimes we are made _____ by the actions, or the lack of, by others of greater influence, but in general, we get the idea; physical laziness leads to poverty,**

Keep in mind there is also spiritual laziness. Paul addresses this in Romans 12:11: *Never be lazy in your work, but **serve the Lord enthusiastically**.* ^[NLT] Spiritual laziness is what allows a person to sit or remain in an assembly that denies or strays from the clear and cognitive teaching of the Word of God.

Hebrews 6:11-12: *And we desire that **each one of you show the same diligence** so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, ^[12] **that you may not be sluggish**, but **imitators** of those who through faith and patience inherit the **promises**.*

- **We, in 21st century America, are without excuse. God has given us his Word; we must not be too lazy to validate what is being taught to us. Sadly, many preachers in the pulpits on Sunday mornings uphold the wrong agenda, manipulating the congregation through a misapplication of biblical text; no matter how you want to cut it, sin remains sin and it separates us from fellowship with God. The written Word needs to be the final arbitrator of truth in our lives.**

We are called to be _____ of those in Scripture who demonstrate saving faith. The writer of Hebrews goes on in to illustrate this point using the life of our spiritual predecessor, Abraham. He was a friend of God, a generous man, diligent in the ways of God, and one who inherited the _____ of God.

Proverbs 10:5: *He who gathers in summer is a son who acts **wisely**, but he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts **shamefully**.*

- **Again, we have a contrast between the diligent who acts _____, gathering during harvest time and the one who naps in the haymow. When I lived in farm country, the folks had a saying; "make hay while the sun shines." In the heat of**

the summer, we might be tempted to head to the swimming hole at flat rock or drown a worm along the Laurel Creek, but we knew better. If you wanted to bring in the crop, you spent the morning raking the hay into the wind-rows. It requires the heat of the afternoon sun to dry the new cut hay. The slacker inevitably will lose his crop.

- There is also a spiritual application. We are in God's preparatory school, teaching us to be good citizens of heaven. We must not waste the season acting _____. Our time on earth is short compared to an eternity in heaven; spend time in the Word, learn to be an imitator of our Christ, cram for the finals! 2nd Tim. 2:15: *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth.* [NASB]

Proverbs 10:6: ***Blessings** are on the head of the righteous, but the mouth of the **wicked** conceals violence.*

- Because in America, we live in relative affluence compared with the rest of humanity, our thoughts move toward material wealth when we think of _____ from God, but blessings can mean something as simple as a good night's sleep. As a believer, we have a foundation that we can grab onto, and trust in, regardless of the situations that are surrounding us. In both life and death, we have surety and are secure in the loving arms of our Christ. Conversely, the person with no one to trust but themselves, must constantly be devising schemes to protect what little tangible wealth they have. For those that God defines as _____, their wealth is their god.

Proverbs 10:7: *The memory of the righteous is blessed, but the name of the wicked will rot.*



➤ **Modern day examples of this bring my thoughts to those men who sacrificed their own lives to bring down flight 93, saving countless others from certain death. Today a granite monument is erected in _____ of those brave souls in Shanksville PA., where more than 150,000 visitors a year pay their respect, immortalizing the words of President Bush; “we will never forget.” But who can remember the names of the wicked men who attempted to carry out that heinous deed? The names of the _____ will be destroyed in the Lake of fire.**

Proverbs 10:8: *The wise of heart will receive commands, but a babbling fool will be thrown down.*

➤ **If we are still thinking of Solomon’s son in relationship to ourselves, as God’s children, then the passage becomes obvious and applicable. We, as God’s prodigy need to willingly submit to biblical principles of the Father. The one who continually refuses (sin) will be _____ down. Not cast out, but pinned to the mat, until they cry “uncle.” This is the process of sanctification. God allows trials to come our way, refining us like pure silver; until, with the dross of resistance removed, and He can see His own image reflected.**

Proverbs 10:9: *He who walks in integrity walks securely, but he who perverts his ways will be found out.*

➤ **To earn my way in this world, I sold investment real estate. As most are aware, in 2006 real estate took a dive. If in my business life I am to walk with _____, even though I still like tangible assets, I cannot bring myself to tout the intrinsic value of investment real estate any longer; not as**

a safer asset than gold or silver. This thought process has forced me to switch my focus to residential real estate? I am sure that I could manipulate numbers well enough to make investment real estate look attractive; in the end, my deception will become evident, we cannot put our trust in worldly wealth, if you are baptized by His Spirit, God will pry your fingers apart and allow what you have set your heart wrongly upon, allowing it to fall to the ground. It is the same with a casual Christian walk. They can act and speak like a true believer but if the Holy Spirit is not resident, eventually they will be _____ out. Recall: 1st Corinthians 12:3b "no one can say Jesus is Lord, except by the Holy Spirit."

Proverbs 10:10-11: *He who winks the eye causes trouble, and a babbling fool will be thrown down. ^[11] The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.*

- **Body language is not as fluid as spoken language. These many thousands of years later, a _____ of the eye still speaks of impending deception. God considers one who makes up stories to cover their own guilt, like a _____ fool. When we as Christians speak, it is to be with integrity, our word is to be our bond; the lying tongue _____ the truth.**

Proverbs 10:12: *Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all transgressions.*

- **Recently, I was criticized for expressing my hope of a speedy replacement for our current sitting president and those who support him in his ideology. I didn't denigrate his person, only the damage that I believe his progressive leadership and policies are doing to our nation. While I am not apologetic for my attitude toward a liberal philosophy of governance, I did suffer a heartfelt conviction that this person apparently perceived my political position as one of _____. I prayed for this person, out of love for their**

soul, that my words did not drive them farther from a personal relationship with Jesus.

Proverbs 10:13: *On the lips of the discerning, wisdom is found, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks understanding.*

- **Solomon's God-given wisdom was such that the civilized world rallied to him, to hear; all that is except his son Rehoboam: 1st Kings 11:42-43, tells us that *Solomon ruled in Jerusalem over all Israel for forty years.* ^[43] *When Solomon died, he was buried in the city of his father, David. Then his son Rehoboam became the next king.* ^[NLT]**

With a new king, the people sought some relief from the heavy tax burden that Solomon had placed on them. So . . . *King Rehoboam went to discuss the matter with the older men who had counseled his father, Solomon. "What is your advice?" he asked. "How should I answer these people?"* ^[7] *The older counselors replied, "If you are willing to serve the people today and give them a favorable answer, they will always be your loyal subjects."* ^[8] ***But Rehoboam rejected the advice of the elders and instead asked the opinion of the young men who had grown up with him and who were now his advisers.*** ^{1 Kings 12:6-8 [NLT]}

This became a _____ to the back of Rehoboam, and the dividing point among the twelve tribes of Israel; with Rehoboam retaining control only over the 10 northern tribes. The kingdom was divided.

Proverbs 10:14: *Wise men store up knowledge, but with the mouth of the foolish, ruin is at hand.*

- **A wise man learns from history, storing up _____.**

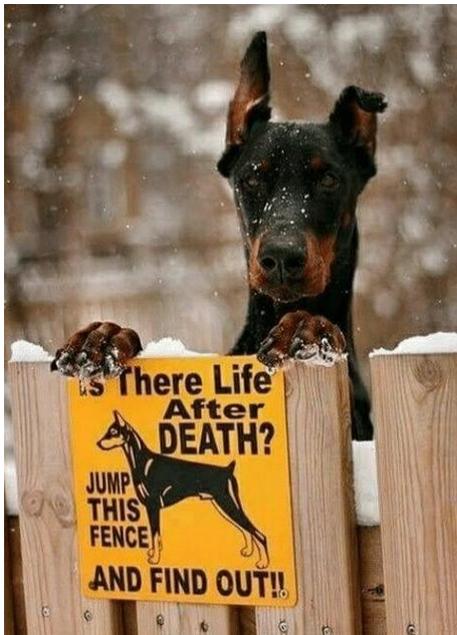
Proverbs 10:15: *The rich man's wealth is his fortress; the ruin of the poor is their poverty.*

- **Learning to count our blessings!** The tendency of a wealthy person is to place their trust in their possessions rather than the provisions of God. The _____ of the poor comes when they expend their energy envying the rich rather than being thankful for the riches in heaven, which God has provided for us through our relationship to Christ Jesus.

Proverbs 10:16: *The wages of the righteous is life, the income of the wicked, punishment.*

- The aforementioned poor, and all who are made _____, who focus their attention on pleasing God and carrying out His will, will reap an eternal wage of _____; while those whose heart is elsewhere, continue in their guilt. Romans 8:6: *If your sinful nature controls your mind, there is death. But if the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace.* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 10:17: *He is on the path of life who heeds instruction, but he who forsakes reproof goes astray.*



- Verse 17 continues along the same vein of thought. The person who is on the narrow _____ that leads to life is contrasted to the person quick to jump the fence onto the broad way, where they can join up with the hordes who are going merrily along the way to certain destruction. The righteous one is the one who _____ the instruction, _____, and guidance of God's indwelling Holy Spirit.

Proverbs 10:18: *He who conceals hatred has lying lips, and he who spreads slander is a fool.*

- There is actually a principle in the Law that condemns duplicity of this nature. _____ will always come back to bite you. It is easily understood by the hearer that the agenda behind the gossip is self-elevation.

Leviticus 19:16-17 reads: *"Do not spread slanderous gossip among your people. Do not try to get ahead at the cost of your neighbor's life, for I am the Lord."* [NLT]

[17] *"Do not nurse hatred in your heart for any of your relatives. Confront your neighbors directly so you will not be held guilty for their crimes."* [NLT]

When we see a person who is unknowingly violating the principles of God, isn't it better to gently confront them, then to build a group of allies and hope the disapproving word gets back to them somehow; doesn't that equate to a concealed form of cowardice? On the other side of the same coin, a true friend will tell their compadre when they have bad breath or are in need of deodorant, rather than let them be embarrassed among others by a telltale odor.

Proverbs 10:19: *When there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who restrains his lips is wise.*

- One of the changes that come with our new nature is self-control. Too often, this writer included, we fail to embrace that fruit with our flesh trained minds. When we loosen our tongue in a fit of rage, sin comes out. We need to yield to the patience, goodness, and self-control that are within our new nature, and _____ from verbalizing an ugly thought.

Proverbs 10:20: *The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver, the heart of the wicked is worth little.*

- I have used this illustration often, but again it seems apropos here. Malachi 3:2-3: *"But who will be able to endure it when he comes? Who will be able to stand and face him*

when he appears? For he will be like a blazing fire that refines metal or like a strong soap that whitens clothes. [3] He will sit and judge like a refiner of silver, watching closely as the dross is burned away. . . . [NLT]

God sits as a refiner of metal, refining His own as a smith refines silver. Were we to ask a smith how he knows when the metal is pure, he will remark, "When the dross is scraped away and He can see his own image it, it is ready."

The tongue of the _____ is to speak as if it were the Savior himself speaking, reflecting the image of Jesus, our refiner.

- We use the phrase "silver-tongued" as if it were a bad thing, its intended meaning in as used this context is smooth and slick, as if in deception. This is something Satan has co-opted. The Words of Jesus should roll off of the lips of the saved as valuable as * _____ silver; not in deception or with a second agenda, but as truth and life-giving.

*Compiler's note: Silver throughout Scripture denotes redemption.

Proverbs 10:21: *The lips of the righteous feed many, but **fools** die for lack of understanding.*

- I struggle to offer a contemporary illustration that is apropos to our culture. Perhaps we can best think of this proverb in terms of Alcohol Anonymous, or one of the chastity and abstinence ministries. How many alcoholics have regained their personhood and are again able to provide for their families? How many un-wed young ladies have by abstinence, unknowingly been saved from a life of poverty brought about by attempting to nurture children without the help of a sustaining father? Those who reject these faith-based initiatives are _____ destined to live and die in their ignorance.

Proverbs 10:22: *It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich, and He adds no sorrow to it.*

- **Healing tools like the faith-based initiatives are provided by our _____; there is no penalty attached and He adds no _____ to it.**

Proverbs 10:23: *Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool; and so is wisdom to a man of understanding.*

- **We have medical terms to identify all types of wicked behavior today, sort of like applying antiseptic to an ugly wound. A person who lies consistently to hide their true nature is medically labeled a pathological liar; a person with at twisted sexual orientation becomes a transvestite, while a child rapist becomes a sexual deviant who suffers from a mental disorder. In truth, all humans comparatively suffer some type of mental disorder when compared to the mind of Christ. Those who choose to continue along a wicked path of their particular abnormal behavior, in some peculiar way, they may begin to enjoy it, as if it were _____. For the true Christian, we have been given the mind of Christ ^[1st Cor. 2:16] and regardless of any previous contradictory leanings; we begin to think consistently in a new way as we are guided by our indwelling Holy Spirit. Paul names a group of commonly acknowledged behavioral traits that are commonly termed wicked, in 1st Corinthian. Here, we must be careful that we are not fooled by self-justification saying "Well I was never like that"; for Scripture is very clear that *All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own.* . . . ^{[Isaiah 53:6 [NLT]]} Or in Ephesians 2:2b-3 we read; ". . . *the spirit who now works in the sons of disobedience,* ³ *among whom also we all once conducted ourselves in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the others.*"^(NKJV)**

1st Cor. 6:9-11: *Don't you know that those who do wrong will have no share in the Kingdom of God? Don't fool*

yourselves. Those who indulge in sexual sin, who are idol worshipers, adulterers, male prostitutes, homosexuals, [10] thieves, greedy people, drunkards, abusers, and swindlers — none of these will have a share in the Kingdom of God. [11] There was a time when some of you were just like that, but now your sins have been washed away, and you have been set apart for God. You have been made right with God because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you. [NLT]

Proverbs 10:24-25: *What the wicked fears will come upon him and the desire of the **righteous** will be **granted**. [25] When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous has an everlasting foundation.*

- **The wicked already know their destiny; although often they will try and find a self-justifying religious answer to absolve themselves of guilt. There is only ***one-way**, and all of us who have turned to Christ, regardless of the heinousness of sins committed, are being renewed into His _____ness_; we all are _____ an everlasting foundation with Him. We have just read what Paul wrote in 1st Corinthians 6. Here let's lay emphasis on verse 11 as being especially applicable to these proverbs. *There was a time when some of you were just like that, but now your sins have been washed away, and you have been set apart for God. You have been made right with God because of what the Lord Jesus Christ and the Spirit of our God have done for you. [NLT]***

***Jesus said to him, "**I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.**" John 14:6 [NASB]**

Proverbs 10:26: *Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the **lazy** one to those who send him.*

- **I look for application here rather than analogy, the meaning is readily apparent; a _____ person is an irritant,**

just as smoke is to the eyes. No father wants a lazy son; neither does our heavenly Father want lazy children. We have been forgiven and now are called to share His gospel with all that He places in our paths. The lazy Christian will fail to prepare, and therefore is ill-equipped to serve as an ambassador of our Lord Jesus Christ, even to the point of failing to pray for that person.

Compiler's note: Here is a part of my daily prayer that I hope you will make a part of yours. Don't forget to insert the names of those that you encounter. *Father, you know every step that I will take today. You know every life that I will touch. Quicken my spirit to recognize the hungry heart - the one that You have been preparing by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Grant me the spirit to represent Jesus well - to explain the aspects of the Christian life that will most meet the need of all that you will put in my path. Give me the boldness to lead them to You. Father grant me the insight to know what You are doing, that I may do what You are doing.*

Proverbs 10:27-29: *The **fear** of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be shortened. ^[28] The hope of the righteous is gladness, but the expectation of the wicked perishes. ^[29] The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the upright, but ruin to the workers of iniquity.*

➤ **This chapter comes to an end with a clique of couplets. Verse 27 states the principle so succinctly; *The _____ of the Lord prolongs life*, both physical and spiritually. Our Designer knows us best, when we adhere to the principles found in His Word, our physical lives here on earth will be extended; and after that, we will spend an eternity with Him. Consider the Bible to be like the instruction manual for a very delicate machine, where minute and intricate adjustments are needed and required.**

Proverbs 10:30: *The **righteous** will never be shaken, but the wicked will not dwell in the land. ^[31] The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom,*

*but the perverted tongue will be cut out. [32] The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable, but the **mouth** of the wicked, what is perverted.*
[NASB]

Compiler's rabbit trail: God has given us governments because of the self-centered wickedness of the natural born human. Satan and his minions' have done their best to infiltrate and pervert these governments, the minions of the Dark Domain's goal is to usurp our God-given rights.

It is evident that our founding fathers understood this when they wrote the God-inspired, words of the Declaration of Independence. For months the Constitutional Convention struggled to come up with language that all could agree upon. Benjamin Franklin, in frustration, called for continual prayer at the beginning of each secession. [Mr. Franklin speaking] "*In this situation of this Assembly, groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the Contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room for the divine protection. Our prayers, Sir, were heard, & they were graciously answered. All of us who were engaged in the struggle must have observed frequent instances of a superintending providence in our favor.*"

The following words spoken by Ben Franklin are immortalized in the chronicles of American history; *I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth- that God Governs in the affairs of men. And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without his aid?*

At the Constitutional Convention: [Ben Franklin] Arrived May 28 and was present through the signing of the Constitution. Repetition is the mother of knowledge so let's repeat; On June 28 when the Convention was in disarray, he suggested that "*henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business.*"

Those prayers resulted in this document stating; *We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. — That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, — That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly, all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. — Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies, and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States.*

The primary function of our form of government is to ensure and protect these **unalienable Rights**

While this republic form of governance appears to be the best that “God ordained”, or that human government can offer, it will not survive any more than a kingdom, communism, fascism or dictatorships will, apart from our dependence on godly principles found in His Word.

Let’s read Proverbs 10:30 once again: *The **righteous** will never be shaken, but the wicked will not dwell in the land.* ^[31] *The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom, but the perverted tongue will be cut out.* ^[32] *The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable, but the **mouth** of the wicked, what is perverted.* ^[NASB]

- There is coming a day in the future of planet earth, where our God will establish a form of governance **that will continue** on earth for 1,000 years. It will be a theocracy, ruled by One who is eternally just; governed by the _____
A government that can be trusted, where words of truth flow unhampered and *the _____ of the wicked*, is silenced.

I trust that these studies are as helpful to you as they were to me compiling them. If you have additional insight, comments, or questions, please address them to me at GregDeans1@gmail.com