

MARKS OF GODLY BELIEVERS
PART 3-GUARD AGAINST EVIL MEN AND SEDUCERS
2 TIMOTHY 3:13

Introduction

We're looking at the MARKS OF GODLY BELIEVERS here in verses 10-13. We took a couple of weeks to look at verse 10 as we dealt with the first mark—A GODLY PERSON FOLLOWS GODLY EXAMPLES!

Last week we saw that second mark in verses 11 and 12:
A GODLY PERSON ENDURES PERSECUTION!

Tonight we look at the final point we see here in verse 13:
A GODLY PERSON GUARDS AGAINST EVIL MEN AND SEDUCERS

I. LET'S LOOK AT THE TERM "EVIL MEN."

The term "evil men" here refers to those who are "hurtful"; "those who actively oppose righteousness and morality!"

That word that is translated "evil" is found 76 times in Scripture. (*evil 51; wicked 10; wicked one 6; evil things 2; other translations 7*)

i.e. When combined with the word "men", it refers to those who intentionally live immoral and ungodly lives! That is, they set out to be *wicked and evil and hurtful!*

These are those Paul referred to in various of his letters to the Churches:

- A. THESE ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT BEEN WASHED, SANCTIFIED, OR JUSTIFIED BY CHRIST! (*1 CORINTHIANS 6:9-11*)
- B. THESE WOULD BE THOSE WHO MANIFEST THE WORKS OF THE FLESH IN THEIR LIVES! (*GALATIANS 5:19-21*)
- C. THESE WOULD BE THOSE WHO ARE AT THE BOTTOM OF THE DOWNWARD SPIRAL OF SIN IN THEIR LIVES! (*ROMANS 1:28-32*)

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Now I want us to just plant right here and examine this!

Here we have the terrible results of men and women who accept a lie instead of the truth of God! **God releases them to their sin so that sin might take its natural course!**

These folks have the idea in their head if not the words on their lips of "*I don't believe that*" when it comes to the Word of God calling sin what it is!

When men and women willingly abandon the truth of God and follow their own reasoning, they fall into the very depths of immorality and perversity!

In *verse 24*, God gives them up to *uncleanness!*

In *verse 26*, God gives them up unto *vile affections!*

Then we see the third and last stage of divine abandonment in Romans 1:28-32! God gave them over to a *reprobate mind—a mind that is condemned and rejected and worthless!*

Understand that the rejection of God we see here is both **deliberate (on purpose) and determined (nobody and nothing is going to change their minds)!**

Verses 29 to 32 here show **the moral condition of these whom God has given over to a reprobate mind!**

This last state of man's fall in the downward spiral of sin is that he is no longer able to distinguish between right and wrong! (Sadly, many are already there in our own country!)

That which led to both *verse 24* and *verse 26* happening opens the very flood gates to *verse 28* and **awful list of sins which follow!** These are the sins which make headlines in news broadcasts! Let's look at them in detail:

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"Being filled with" — "filled to the brim with"

"All unrighteousness" — "active wickedness of every sort"

"Fornication" — includes any and all forms of immorality!
Including adultery, premarital sexual relations, homosexuality,
bestiality, pedophilia and anything else that is against God's
holy Word!

*"Wickedness" — signifies all kinds of evil and depravity!
Think in the terms of what caused the LORD to destroy all of
mankind with the flood in Noah's day! *Unholy

*Genesis 6:5-6—"5 And GOD saw that **the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.** 6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart."*

*Genesis 6:11—"The earth also was **corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.**"*

*"Covetousness" — the sinful desire to have more, greediness,
including the use of fraud and extortion if needed to obtain
more. *Covetous

*"Maliciousness" — an inward viciousness of disposition;
Badness. *Fierce

*"Envy" — ill will, jealousy, spite; discontent with the sight of
another's superiority or advantage. *Covetous

"Murder"— including both murder and even the thought of
murder. *Fierce

"Debate" — quarreling, wrangling, strife.

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*"Deceit" — to decoy, trick or bait. A deliberate attempt to
mislead. *False accusers

*"Malignity" — an evil or malicious disposition; bad
character or nature; mischievousness. *Fierce

"Whisperers" — those who slander. It means to secretly
convey information, whether true or false, that is detrimental to
the character or welfare of another. *False accusers

"Backbiters" — literally means evil speakers. To be talkative
against.

"Haters of God" — means to feel and show hatred to God and
those that follow Him. *Despisers of those that are good.

*"Despiteful" — means an insulter. It implies that an injury
is done to another. To treat badly. *False Accusers

*"Proud" — means haughty or arrogant and signifies "to show
oneself above others."

*"Boasters" — a braggart.

"Inventors of evil things" — Inventors of evils.

*"Disobedient to parents" — Means not to be persuaded by
parents (unpersuadable). This denotes moral and social
revolution.

"Without understanding" — A lack of discernment. It is the
same as being senseless or foolish. A person who is unable to
be reasoned with!

*"Covenant breakers" — Making agreements and then
breaking those agreements. *Truce-breakers

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"Without natural affection"—means no love for loved ones.
Hard hearted towards loved ones.

"Implacable"— truthless or untrue to one's promise.
****Trucebreakers***

"Unmerciful"—without mercy. Absolutely no spirit of
forgiveness whatsoever! ****Fierce***

Verse 32

Men have a revelation from God and they flagrantly defy it by
defying the judgment of God against such gross sins, in not
only continuing to practice them, but in actually applauding and
approving those who do the same thing.

They have become calloused or insensitive to sin which shows
them to be in the depths of depravity.

The Gospel of Christ provides the only way to escape this life
of sin!

Wicked passions lead to wicked acts and from this to wicked
characters!

May God help us to continue to be His faithful remnant in this
time in which we are being bullied to change to accept the
wickedness of those around us!

So, What do we do?

Trust God!

Serve God!

Abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good!

Preach and share the Gospel of Christ!

Get ready for Jesus to come soon!

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II. **LET'S LOOK AT THE TERM "*SEDUCERS.*"**
"Seducers" refers to imposters and deceivers or tricksters!

**These may even call themselves Christians but in reality they come
into the assembly for their own selfish purposes!**

As a Pastor, I have to be on guard for these folks and you should be as
well!

These may be religious, professing belief in God, and talking in terms
that may sound like they know God, but they will deny the power of
godliness.

They not only will deceive others, but they even deceive themselves.
***Jeremiah 17:9—"The heart is deceitful above all things, and
desperately wicked: who can know it?"***

***James 1:22 – "But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only,
deceiving your own selves.***

These have fooled themselves into thinking that they are acceptable to
God, and others may even think they are acceptable to God.

But, in the final analysis, both they and their friends are deceived
because they are not acceptable to God.

***1 John 3:23—"And this is his commandment, That we should believe on
the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us
commandment."***

The only way to be acceptable to God is by loving God through
believing on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and then loving others.

Believing is more than just a mental assent to some facts about Christ.
It involves repentance! A change in direction! ***(Titus 2:11-15)***

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But note the point that though men may become more and more religious, but they will do so as seducers or as imposters—as men who use religion for their own selfish purposes and for a livelihood and profession.

Mark 13:22—"For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if it were possible, even the elect."

Acts 20:30—"Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them."

Romans 16:17-18—"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

2 Corinthians 11:13-15—"For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works."

Ephesians 4:14—"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive"

1 Timothy 4:1—"Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils."

1 John 2:26—"These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you."

2 John 7—"For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist."

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Conclusion

The point is that Paul is making here is that both evil men and seducers will grow worse and worse!

And we are seeing it aren't we!

So, a godly person follows a godly example.

A godly person endures persecution.

A godly person must guard against evil men and seducers.