

Part 2 – The Unfruitful Works of Darkness

While we only covered the first verse in part 1, we learned a lot. First off, we learned that the title of this Psalm should have been rendered that it's a Psalm *relating to the Lord's* (YHVH's) *servant*, which is prophetic of Jesus Christ; and that David wrote it. And, as we've learned before, much of David's life (except for his sins) were 'types' (or examples) of what the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would go through – from His sufferings to His victory over His enemies. Secondly, we learned that there really are wicked people on earth. And David realized this during his persecutions. His experiences running from Saul, and the Israelite army, caused him to come to the conclusion, in his own heart and mind, that those who continued to seek after his life (for *years*) were not merely 'mean people' – they were *truly wicked*. Why? Because they were rebelling against God Almighty (they were transgressors). As such, they were totally devoid of knowledge of Him (His Word) and they didn't even acknowledge Him as their creator. They didn't care at all about sinning because they didn't fear God – obviously because they didn't acknowledge that He is real and that He always punishes sins that are not repented of. Thus, what David's life teaches us is that wickedness does *not* pay but being righteous *does*. And those who are righteous are those who admit their sins, humbly repent for them, accept Jesus Christ's atoning blood and work to put off their sinful ways and change their heart and mind to conform to God's Word. And we learned more about the wicked by going to Romans 3, where Paul quoted from this first verse in Psalms 36 (and a lot of other Scriptures as well) to explain what wicked people really are like. However, David is about to tell us more about them as well...

Psalms 36

2 For he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful.

So, David begins to explain how he came to the conclusion (in his own heart and mind) that the men persecuting him were truly wicked (habitual sinners; totally godless) and not just 'occasional sinners' who 'fell short' at times (as we all do). The words '**he flattereth**' are one Hebrew word (a prime root) that means ***to be smooth*** (figuratively); by implication (as smooth stones were used for lots) ***to apportion*** or ***separate***: - deal, distribute, divide, flatter, give, (have, im-) part (-ner), take away a portion, receive, separateself, (be) smooth (-er) (#2505). So, flattering is essentially speaking 'smooth' words - *words people like to hear*. Prov 29:5 warns us about people who speak 'smooth' words when it says that *a man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet*. We should understand, however, that there's a big difference between someone who gives us a simple compliment (such as saying your shirt is nice or thanking you for doing something for them) and those who go 'overboard' with compliments. Some people really do give sincere compliments at times and this is not something to be concerned about; so long as you don't let it 'go to your head' and puff up your pride. But those who 'cross the line' of a mere compliment into giving you *excessive* praise are those who are flattering you; and *that's* what we should be on guard for, because they are giving you flattery from *ulterior motives* of ***self***-interest. And again, *that's* what we must be on guard for; because they indeed are 'spreading a net' for our 'feet', even for *our soul*. After all, Satan's own downfall is his pride [learn more in: **Pride, The Number One Sin** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/308>] and thus, he knows pride works well

on people to get them to rebel against God. Prov 20:19 also warns that *he that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips*. Thus, people will also flatter you to get you to feel more comfortable with them; so you'll give them *information* they want, only to use it against you. So, that's something else to be on guard for.

And finally, we should be careful not to flatter people ourselves. Truly, it's far better to speak truth than to use flattery to 'get what we want' from people. Our job on earth, after all, is not to fulfill our lusts, nor is it even to 'make friends'. 1 Peter 4:2 says, once we turn our heart back to God (through faith in Jesus Christ) *we should no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God*. So, our job (as Christians) is to serve Jesus Christ. Not to get things for ourselves, including power and glory. In Matt 5:13 Jesus told us: *Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men*. Thus, Jesus is telling us that we should be 'salty' otherwise we are useless. And this simply means we should 'sprinkle' our conversations with the *truth*, not with 'smooth' words that make people feel better for a time but don't actually help them in the long run. As Prov 28:23 says that *he that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue*. Though it may be tempting to flatter people to get what you want, being honest and truthful with them is far more effective; not only to get them to help you (at work or wherever) but also in seed planting. However, that doesn't mean we should be grumpy, or hard to get along with; but we also shouldn't be 'syrupy sweet' and toss out compliments like they are candy. Paul advises us to *walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time* and to always *let your speech be with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man* (Col 4:5-6). So, we should learn to use the wisdom God gives us through His Word in daily conversions and as that the Holy Spirit give you discernment and discretion to learn who to 'sprinkle' conversations with truth... just be careful not to dump the whole 'salt shaker' on them!

So, discernment is truly the key here. We've got to learn to discern when people are sincerely giving us a compliment (and make sure not to let it 'go to our head') between times when people are just flattering us to get something they want, which could even be aimed at getting you to sin. And we must also discern the intents and motivations of our own heart and mind (Heb 4:12) so we don't use flattery either. This is tempting to do, truly, especially in the work place. And while being 'nice' to people (to a degree) is wise when you need them to do something for you, overdoing the flattery (especially with flirting) won't help in the long run. So, it's something to pray to the Father about and ask the Holy Spirit to help you learn not to cross the line of simply learning to get along with people so you can work with them (at home or at work) with flattering them to 'get what you want'. But David's point, here in vs 2, is that we must be very on guard when people use flattery because it's most often not done with good intent. Often people will flatter right before they finally 'get to the point' of what they are truly wanting. So, while we shouldn't be paranoid about this, we need to keep it in mind and stay on guard for as Peter warns us in 1 Peter 5:8: *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour*. And, as the book of Job attests to, if Satan can't get to us, he'll try to get to people close to us – family, friends, co-workers and such. So stay

‘vigilant’ and keep your affections (thoughts, desires and interests) *on things above, not on things on the earth* (Col 3:2) for a good ‘soldier’ (servant) of Jesus Christ doesn’t ‘engageth’ (involve his heart and mind or actions) with *the affairs of this life* because our goal in life is not to please others (or ourself) but to *please him who hath chosen us to be a soldier* (servant of Jesus Christ) (2 Tim 2:3-4).

So, we know that ‘**flatterth**’ means **to use smooth words** (#2505) but what does this verse 2 really mean when it says (referring to wicked people) *he flattereth himself in his own eyes, until his iniquity be found to be hateful*? The word ‘**himself**’ is a primitive particle that **denotes motion towards**, but occasionally used of a *quiescent position*, i.e. **near**, **with** or **among**; often in general, **to** (#413). And the words ‘**his own eyes**’ are one Hebrew word that mean ‘**an eye**’ or, by analogy, *a fountain* (as the eye of the landscape) (#5869). And the words ‘**his iniquity**’ are one Hebrew word that means **perversity**, i.e. (moral) **evil** (#5771). Further, the words ‘**be found**’ are a prime root that mean **to come forth to**, i.e. **appear** or **exist**; transitively, **to attain**, i.e. **find** or **acquire**; figuratively, **to occur**, **meet** or **be present** (#4672). Lastly, the word ‘**hateful**’ means to **hate personally** (#8130).

So, while wicked people are also arrogant and boast about themselves, David’s not speaking about them flattering themselves; but rather, he’s make the point that they use flattery *as a tool* to fulfill their evil plans against those they truly hate. They use flattery as a tool to ‘attain’ or ‘acquire’ what they need to fulfill their evil desires. This is very often done through gossip and coalition building and is done at work places, in politics and sadly even in families and in the Church. And again, this is exactly what Satan did to our Heavenly Father in the first earth age; and it worked so well he was actually able to get 1/3 of God’s children to rebel against Him (Ezek 28, Rev 12). And what we should also be aware of (on guard for) is that he’ll do so again, as Scriptures such as Rev 13, 2 Thess 2, Dan 11 (etc.) warn us. [Learn more in: **How Can Satan Deceive the Whole World** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/380>]. Dan 11:21 even tells us that Satan won’t actually be given control of the whole world when he (and his fallen angels) are kicked out of heaven, to earth. Instead, he’ll come in promising peace and ‘obtain the kingdom by flatteries’. In short, this means that even Satan himself (the best deceiver in the universe) will have to ‘campaign’ for half of his ‘given time’ on earth to get the world to ‘anoint’ him as king so he can then set up his wicked ‘beast’ government. But, his ‘campaign’ won’t be without critics. Rev 12:13-17 tells us that the first half of the ‘great tribulation’ (when Satan is cast to earth with his fallen angels) the ‘woman’ (God’s elect, His faithful servants) will be persecuted by the ‘dragon’ (who is Satan) and that’s simply because God’s faithful servants will continue to teach the Gospel of Jesus Christ [**When Do We Quit?** - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/495>] and thus, they’ll also be warning people *not* to fall for Satan’s deception. However, because Satan’s power during the first half of the tribulation is not yet worldwide, he won’t have the ability to shut them up. But what he will do is try and convert them by pouring out a ‘flood of lies’ (Rev 12:15). But, that won’t work on those who are sealed (Rev 7); which is why, when Satan does get full control, he’ll unleash a **full scale spiritual** war against them.

So, while the two witnesses don't come until the *last* half of the 'great tribulation', the Lord (YHVH) has servants here on earth who will be warning the world that this 'man' who claims that he is the "Messiah" and has come to 'save the world'... is really nothing but *a fake* – the Devil himself. That's why, when Satan gets full control, he will pour out a full-fledged *spiritual* war with those who spiritually fighting against him. As Rev 12:17 says: *the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ*. But thankfully, that is the point in time (the second half of the tribulation) where the 'two witnesses' of Rev 11 show up. And they'll really 'step up' the spiritual war against Satan, his fallen angels and the wicked 'beast' system. Rev 11:6 tells us they'll *have power to shut heaven, that it rain not in the days of their prophecy: and have power over waters to turn them to blood, and to smite the earth with all plagues, as often as they will*. Their testimony will annoy (and anger) Satan, and the rest of the inhabitants of the world, so much that when they are finally killed (when their testimony is finished) the people of the earth will send gifts to each other out of joy (Rev 12:10). But, their joy will be short lived. Rev 11:11-13 tells us that after the two witnesses are killed, three and a half days later the Lord, Jesus Christ will literally raise them from the dead and take them up to a haven in a cloud *while their enemies are watching them*.

Notably, this is the *only* thing that's even *somewhat* close to a 'Rapture' in the Bible. And it's *only* these two witness who are raised from the dead and taken to heaven. Further, this event happens literally moments before Jesus Christ returns to earth, to take full control of the earth and rule on earth *forever more*. So, the two witnesses rising from the dead is right before the Millenium starts. So, there is no Rapture coming, as many people are foolishly anticipating [<https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/457>]. No, our 'good' Shepherded, Jesus Christ, specifically asked the Lord (YHVH) **not** to take us out of the world, but to keep us in the world and to protect us from evil (John 17:15). After all, He wants us here on earth so we can fight against Satan's lies. It's not a physical war; *it's a spiritual war*; which is why Paul tells us to put on the spiritual armor so we can be ready to fight spiritually (Eph 6). And part of learning to 'fight the good fight' *spiritually* is learning to beware of those who flatter; because most of the time, they have very sinister motives for doing so. As Moses warned in Deut 4:23: *Take heed unto yourselves, lest ye forget the covenant of the LORD your God, which he made with you, and make you a graven image, or the likeness of any thing, which the LORD thy God hath forbidden thee*. And Jesus Himself warned: *Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many* (Matt 24:4-5). And a few verses later He further cautioned us...

*23 Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; **believe it not**.*

*24 For there **shall** arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.*

25 Behold, I have told you before.

*26 Wherefore if they shall say unto you, Behold, he is in the desert; **go not forth**: behold, he is in the secret chambers; **believe it not**.*

27 For as the lightning cometh out of the east, and shineth even unto the west; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Matt 24:23-27

When the true Jesus Christ returns, the whole world will know it (as Paul also explains in 1 Cor 15). So, we *have* to be spiritually prepared for what's coming, *which is a great deception*. And learning to guard against flattery is one of the ways we prepare. To learn more about preparing for the coming 'great tribulation', check out the studies below...

Are you Mentally and Spiritually Prepared? - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/404>

Oil Needed; Be Sure You're Ready - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/286>

The Two Witnesses and Many other Witnesses - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/373>

When Do the Two Witnesses Appear - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/338>

When Does Satan Appear - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/339>

Physical, Mental, and Spiritual Consequences - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/374>

How Can Satan Deceive the Whole World - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/380>

The Tribulation for Your Soul, not Your Flesh Body - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/403>

Are you Mentally and Spiritually Prepared? - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/404>

The Tribulation of the End Times, Part 1 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/424>

The Tribulation of the End Times, Part 2 - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/425>

#5 Appearance - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/440>

#6 The Hour - <https://t.me/BestStudyBible/169>

#7 Silence and Two - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/444>

#8 The Battle - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/446>

Point A To Point B - <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/489>

Psalms 36

3 The words of his mouth are iniquity and deceit: he hath left off to be wise, and to do good.

David now explains verse 2 a bit more. The flatteries (smooth words) they pour out to deceive others (to get them to join in their rebelling against the Lord (YHVH) and/or to get use them for their won evil purposes) are words of iniquity and deceit. And this word '**iniquity**' is different than in the last verse 2 (#5771). Here it means *to pant* (hence, *to exert oneself, usually in vain; to come to naught*); strictly **nothingness**; also **trouble, vanity, wickedness**; specifically *an idol* (#205). And the word 'deceit' means, *in the sense of deceiving, fraud* (#4820). It comes from a word that means *to hurl*; specifically, *to shoot*; figuratively, *to delude or betray* (as if *causing to fall*) (#7411). So, indeed, their 'flattery' (smooth words) are full of lies and fraud, insomuch that they are targeted to get people to spiritually fall for Satan's deception; meaning, to fall away from the Most High God, YHVH (as Paul warns us about in 2 Thess 2). As such, these kinds of people (who are truly wicked) have '**left off**' (meaning *to be lacking*, #2308) to be '**wise**' which means to be (make or act) **circumspect** (cautious, guarded and weary) and hence, **intelligent** (#7917). They simply don't know how to do '**good**', which means *to be* (causative) **make well**, literally (*sound, beautiful*) or figuratively (*happy, successful, right*) (#3190).

Without the truth, we are indeed foolish and *stupid*. And *that's* what causes us to fall for Satan's lies. That's why it's so important we study God's Word sincerely, and with understanding. For, as Ps 19:7 tells us: *The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple*. Ps 119:130 also says: *The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple*. And Prov 14:15 also says: *The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going*. Proverbs further warns that *the simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge* (Prov 14:18) and that *a prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished* (Prov 22:3). The word 'simple' in all of these Scriptures means to be *silly* (i.e. *seducible*) (#6612). And it comes from a word that means *to open*, i.e. be (causatively, *make*) *roomy*; usually figuratively (in a mental or moral sense) *to be* (causatively, *make*) *simple* or (in a sinister way) *delude* (#6601). So, without the Word of God (and Holy Spirit) in our heart (carnal mind, desires, emotions, intentions, motivations) and mind (thought process) then we are indeed susceptible to fall for Satan's lies, and follow in his rebellion against God. Paul also warns us against being this way...

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all men. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil.

20 And the God of peace shall bruise Satan under your feet shortly. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you. Amen.

Rom 16:17-20

Notice how Paul explains the same thing that this Ps 36:2 does: he says that by 'good words' and 'fair speeches' those who don't serve Jesus Christ, deceive the hearts (carnal mind) of those who are 'simple', which, in this verse means *innocent* or *unsuspecting* (#172). So, we should be wise to do good and innocent of doing evil (#185). But, that doesn't mean we are to be ignorant of the evil devices that the wicked use against us (2 Cor 2:11). And flattery (smooth words), good words, fair speeches are definitely a large part of the evil devices that Satan (and those who serve him) use against us. As Isa 32:6-7 explains it: *For the vile person [Dan 11:21] will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the LORD, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. The instruments also of the churl are evil: he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right*. So, just because someone says things that 'sound good' (as politicians and Pastors both do) we should not believe them immediately. As Prov 14:15 says: *the simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going*. But Jesus warned us how to tell the wicked (who tell lies) apart from the righteous (those who speak truth) ...

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.

16 **Ye shall know them by their fruits.** Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?

17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

18 A good tree **cannot** bring forth evil fruit, **neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.**

19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

20 Wherefore **by their fruits ye shall know them.**

Matt 7:15-20

This is how we can discern, despite what people say, who truly is a follower of Jesus Christ and who is just 'full of hot air'. Learn to judge their 'fruits', which means *their works*. As Mal 3:18 warns, we must learn to *discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not...* or else we'll be deceived by Satan himself. That again is why we must consistently, diligently and sincerely study God's Word, each and every day; for it is where we get the spiritual nourishment from; not only to learn to do what's right, but also learn how to refrain from doing what's wrong, *and* learn to avoid partaking in evil (Heb 5:12-14, 2 Cor 6:14-18). Because *truly evil people never claim they are evil*. As Paul warned...

2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

4 For if he that cometh **preacheth another Jesus**, whom we have not preached, or **if ye receive another spirit**, which ye have not received, or **another gospel**, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

2 Cor 11:2-4

After Paul set up the Church in Corinth, false apostles came to them and tried to subvert their faith in Jesus Christ. That's why Paul warned them that they must not listen to these so called 'preachers' but continue in the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ, which Paul delivered to them. To be corrupted from the 'simplicity' that is in Christ means to be corrupted from sincerely believing that faith in Jesus Christ is the only way our sins are atoned. The word 'simplicity' here means *sincerity* (without dissimulation or self-seeking, #572). So, we cannot pretend to be Christians nor conform to the ways of the world (Rom 12:2). And, as Jesus warned in Matt 10:33, whoever denies Him, will be denied *by Him*. Thus, we also must not believe in 'traditions of man' that 'make void' God's Word (Mth 15, Mk 7). And Paul goes on, in 2 Cor 11, to warn them what these so called 'preachers' were really like; and it's the same kind of people David is speaking about here in Psalms 36:3...

13 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, **transforming** themselves into the apostles of Christ.

14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is **transformed** into an angel of light.

*15 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.*
2 Cor 11:13-15

The words ‘transformed’ and ‘transforming’, in these verses, are all the same Hebrew word that means *to transfigure* or *disguise* (#3345). So again, wicked people (and Satan himself) disguise themselves as ‘apostles of Christ’, as ‘ministers of righteousness’. That’s why Satan himself will come to earth claiming to be the ‘angel of Light’, which means the ‘messenger of Light’, i.e. the ‘Messiah’ or the ‘Christ’. [Learn **How Satan Can Deceive the Whole World** in this special study: <https://t.me/BibleStudyDownload/380>].

Psalms 36

4 He deviseth mischief upon his bed; he setteth himself in a way that is not good; he abhorreth not evil.

David continues to explain what truly wicked people are like. Sadly, there are many of them nowadays so we must understand this and be prepared to deal with them. As Paul warns in 1 Tim 4:1-2: *the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.* As such, David now says that the wicked will even ‘deviseth mischief’ upon his bed. The word ‘**deviseth**’ means *to plait* or *interpenetrate*, i.e. (literally) *to weave* or (gen.) *to fabricate*; figuratively, *to plot or contrive* (usually in a malicious sense); hence (from the mental effort) *to think, regard, value, compute* (#2803). And the word ‘mischief’ means *to pant* (hence, *to exert oneself, usually in vain; to come to naught*); strictly *nothingness*; also trouble. *vanity, wickedness*; specifically *an idol* (#205). So, wicked people think hard about how they can better ‘work iniquity’ (do more evil) even when they are lying on their bed at night, trying to go to bed. They lay awake at night simply because their wicked mind wants to keep thinking about ways to hurt (and deceive) others *more effectively*. This is in stark contrast to righteous men who lay in bed thinking about God’s Word (Ps 16:7, 63:6, 119:148).

But, what does David mean when he says the wicked *setteth himself in a way that is not good*? The words ‘**setteth himself**’ here means *to place* (anything so as to stay); reflexively, *to station, offer, continue*. The *Companion Bible* says this means that the wicked ‘taketh his stand’ in a way that is not good. In other words, instead of standing up for what is right, the wicked ‘stands for’ evil, which is (naturally) why they do not ‘abhorreth’ evil. The word ‘**abhorreth**’ here means they don’t *spurn* evil or try to *make it disappear* (#3988). As a verb, to ‘spurn’ means to reject with disdain or contempt (scorn), to tread sharply or heavily upon (trample) or to reject something disdainfully. As a noun, ‘spurn’ means a disdainful rejection or contemptuous treatment. And that’s exactly what the righteous do to evil. As David advised back in Ps 34:14, we who fear, love and serve the Almighty God (YHVH) must *depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.* Amos 5:14-15 also tells us to *seek good, and not evil, that ye may live: and so the LORD, the God of hosts, shall be with you, as ye have spoken. Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be*

gracious unto the remnant of Joseph. But the wicked are the exact opposite. The love evil and hate that which is good. As Amos 5:10 says, *they hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.* And Ps 37:14 also says, *the wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation.* Thankfully, verse 15 also promises that *their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken.* So, the wicked don't 'spurn' evil, *they embrace it* while spurning what's good and right; which is why they *hate* God's Word (the truth, John 3:19-21). This is why Jesus said, in Matt 6:24, that *no man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.* And He also said...

*18 He that believeth on him [Jesus Christ] is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, **because he hath not believed** in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*

*19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.***

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved.

21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

John 3:18-21

In other words, Jesus Christ didn't need to verbally condemn these men at His First Advent (although He certainly will at His Second Advent, Rev 2:16, 19;21, 2 Thess 2:8, Deut 9:3, Jer 23:29, etc.). And He didn't need to because their own wicked works truly 'speak for themselves'. As we've learned many times in our studies in the Psalms, in our heavenly Father's Word, we're repeatedly assured that, short of sincere repentance, the wicked of this earth will be convicted and die by their own sword - which is to say, by the weapons of their own devising, which includes the lies, deception and pronouncements *coming out of their mouths* which they've used to help tear down Christianity (and the western Christian nations) and largely place themselves in charge of our heavenly Father's kingdom on this earth (Mt. 11:12). That's why, in John 12:48, Jesus said: *He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: **the word that I have spoken** (John 1), **the same shall judge him in the last day.*** In other words, Jesus Christ is not a 'respector of persons' (Deut 1:17, Acts 10:34, Rom 2:11, 1 Pt 1:17, John 12:46-48, Col 3:24-25). Jesus Christ's judgments *are unbiased*; He does not judge people based on His own personal feelings, nor can He be bribed or coerced in any way. He always judges according to God's righteous Laws (the Word of God). That's why, a few chapters back, David wrote...

25 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful; with an upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright;

26 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward.

27 For thou wilt save the afflicted people; but wilt bring down high looks.

Ps 18:25-27

So, those who love evil, and hate righteousness, will be punished *according to their own wicked works*, while those who love righteousness (Jesus Christ), and hate evil (Satan), will also be judged *according to their righteous works* (which are done *because* they sincerely believe in God's Word and the Savior, He sent us, which is Jesus Christ). As Paul tells us in 2 Cor 5:9-10, we who believe in Jesus Christ labor to do what's right (sincerely obey God's Word and the Holy Spirit) so that, whether we're in the flesh body or back in heaven with the Lord, *we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad*. And that's why we know that **our laboring to do what's right, and faithfully serving Jesus Christ is not in vain** (1 Cor 15:58). Again, wickedness *does not* 'pay' in the end (Isa 48:22), but doing what's right (which mean obeying God's Word the best we can) *does* 'pay' very well...

20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

21 What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death.

22 But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life.

*23 For **the wages of sin is death**; but the gift of God **is eternal life** through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Rom 6:20-23

We'll pick this up in part 3...

AMEN.