**Bible Lesson: The Reprobate Mind**

Reprobate refers to a person who is without principles or morality: a twisted, vile, degenerate individual. Biblically speaking, this is someone who is destined for damnation because they deliberately have chosen to disregard God and His commandments, willfully thinking and acting in an unruly and unrighteous fashion. They neither seek forgiveness nor repent or confess their sins. A reprobate mind is inherently evil, opposing all that is of God, and sometimes possessed by demons.

* PRO 6:16–19 ~ Seven things the Lord hates because they are an abomination to Him: a proud look, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked imaginations, feet that run swiftly into mischief, a false witness speaking lies, and people who sow discord in their community.
* ROM 1:28–32 ~ Since they did not want to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do despicable things, being filled with all manner of unrighteousness: fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness, envy, murder, contentious, deceitful, spiteful, gossipers, backstabbers, hateful, arrogant, boasters, connivers, disobedient, promise breakers, unmerciful, ruthless, without natural affection, and without spiritual understanding. They committed these things knowing God’s judgment is death, but continuing to engage in such behavior and finding pleasure in others doing the same.
* 1 TI 4:1–2 ~ The Spirit expressly states that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils; hypocrites speaking lies, having their conscience seared with a hot iron.
* TIT 1:15–16 ~ To the pure all things are pure; but to the defiled and unbelieving, nothing is pure. Even their minds and consciences are defiled. They profess to know God but their deeds deny Him with abominable, disobedient, and reprobate ways.

  Consider people who defy God, asserting that the Bible is nothing but lies or fairy tales. Some proclaim themselves atheists, knowing full well they will be held accountable by God. They regard themselves as gods, free to say and do anything they please to avoid consequences and accountability; choosing not to listen to their conscience, wherein the Spirit of truth has conferred upon all people the knowledge of right and wrong. Many openly claim to be depraved, ignoring God precisely because they have no intention of amending their decadent ways.

Reprobates hate God and love evil and therefore will receive due compensation and condemnation; but they do not care for they place no value on the soul which they will gladly forfeit to a self-indulgent lifestyle. They do not want any part of God, so God will mercifully let them have their way and spend eternity divorced from Him and those who follow Christ. Reprobates eventually fall to the one unpardonable sin, blasphemy against the Holy Spirit: calling Him a liar and refusing His Word until death separates them from God forever (MAT 12:31–32; MAR 3:9). It is an eternal sin which cannot be forgiven.

* DEU 28:15–16 ~ It will come to pass, if you do not obey the Lord your God and observe His commandments and statutes, that curses will come upon you and overtake you. You will be cursed in the city and in the country.
* PRO 1:24–28 ~ God says, “I called and you refused; I stretched out my hand and you paid no attention; you neglected my counsel and my reproof. Therefore, I will laugh at your calamity and I will mock when your dread comes and fear approaches with desolation. When anguish and distress befall you, only then will you call upon me, but I will not answer. Many will seek but not find me; for they hated knowledge and chose not to fear the Lord. They ignored my counsel and despised my reproof. Thus shall they eat the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. The folly of the simple-minded will slay them and the prosperity of fools will destroy them. But whoever listens to me will dwell safely and be calm from the fear of evil.”
* 2 CO 13:5–8 ~ Examine yourselves, whether you abide in the faith; prove this to yourselves. Do you not know your own selves, how Jesus Christ abides in you, unless you be reprobates? I trust that you know we have proven ourselves. We pray to God that you will refrain from evil, not in order to receive our approval, but that you be honest even if you believe we have failed the test. For we can do nothing against the truth but only for the truth.

It grieves the Holy Spirit when a person falls into sin and continues in that sin without  godly sorrow and repentance. Does is do us any good to seek forgiveness when we refuse to amend our ways? Sincere repentance comes from a contrite heart, without which there can be no forgiveness. Such is a sin unto death; it is to no avail praying for such a person as they will not change (1 JO 5:16–17). God might eliminate them to extinguish the sin and prevent it from spreading (JER 7:16–18; ACT 5:1–10).

* ISA 63:10 ~ They rebelled and grieved the Holy Spirit. Therefore, He turned away from them and became their enemy, fighting against them.
* EPH 4:30–31 ~ Do not grieve the Holy Spirit by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, rage, anger, fighting, evil speak, and every form of malice be put away from you.
* 1 TH 5:19–22 ~ Do not stifle the Holy Spirit. Do not treat prophecies with contempt, but test them all. Hold onto that which is good and reject evil of any kind.
* HEB 10:39 ~ Christians are not among those who draw back into perdition, but of they who believe to the saving of their souls.

The reprobate mind becomes irreversible, insofar as the person has hardened his or her heart against God. They configure their brains to block God’s messages of truth, honor, and justice for these are painful to them. They program themselves not to feel shame or blame associated with wrongdoing, though it takes considerable effort to do so. They assert that God does not exist, while deep down they know this to be untrue.

* EXO 9:12 ~ The Lord hardened Pharaoh’s heart, for he would not listen to the words God gave him through Moses.
* JER 18:12 ~ They said, “There is no hope so we will walk after our own devices, and every one of us will follow the imagination of an evil heart.”
* ROM 2:5 ~ The hard and impenitent heart stores up wrath, until the day of God’s wrath and the revelation of His righteous judgment.
* EPH 4:18 ~ Their understanding has been darkened due to the ignorance of their blind hearts, alienated from the life God gives.

It is unhealthy to ignore guilt; this is a signal from your higher power that your moral compass is out of whack. However, earned guilt is healthy since it reminds us to stop, make amends, and modify our conduct which will resolve the inner turmoil and remove the associated guilt. Unresolved guilt is an unhealthy detriment to one’s mental health, and ultimately the soul. In fact, a person may experience mental, physical and spiritual consequences as a result of sin, guilt, and unforgiveness. Confess and repent of your sin and God will forgive you and remove the guilt, for Christ took the guilt of the world upon Himself and nailed it to the cross (COL 2:14).

* PSA 32:5 ~ I acknowledged my sin to you Lord, and my iniquity I did not hide. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” And you forgave the guilt of my sin. Amen.
* EZR 9:6 ~ I said, “Oh my God, I am ashamed and embarrassed to lift up my face to you, for our iniquities have risen above our heads and our guilt has grown even to the heavens.”
* ISA 55:7 ~ Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts, and let them return to the Lord and He will have mercy on them, for our God pardons abundantly.
* 1 JO 1:9 ~ If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness.
* 2 CO 7:9–10 ~ I (Paul) rejoice, not because I made you feel sorry but because you were sorry unto repentance. For you felt sorry in a godly manner, not from a worldly perspective. Godly sorrow brings repentance leading to salvation, without regrets; but the sorrow of the world leads to death.

Problem is, the reprobates are on a power trip, hungry for power and control over others to placate their narcissistic and hedonistic desires. Everything is about them, whereas others do not matter. Clearly, they are working for Satan, always in pursuit of power, wanting to control others and bring them down into perdition where he knows he is going. Is it possible for a reprobate to repent and be saved? Well, with the Lord anything is possible, but without Him nothing is. Since they are not with or for the Lord it is unlikely they will seek Him until it is too late. As for Satan, he is a “lost and condemned creature” (wrote Martin Luther) because he has made his choice to compete against God. That’s why Satan hates humans so terribly, because they can repent and inherit the kingdom, and ultimately be placed above the angels (1 CO 6:1–3); but Satan and his minions cannot change and cannot be saved. Although angels were given free will, their choice to follow God or to follow Satan is final; thus, all the demons who were cast out of heaven have fallen for good and cannot go hack (MAT 8:28–29; MAT 25:41; JDE 1:6;). Sadly, there are individuals who are likewise destined for destruction, holding a one-way ticket to hell.

* PSA 10:3–4 ~ The wicked brag about their heart’s desires and bless covetous people whom the Lord abhors. Through the pride of covetousness they ignore God, since the thought of God never crosses their minds.
* ISA 14:12–15 ~ How you have fallen from heaven, oh Lucifer, son of the morning! How you have been cast down to the earth to undermine the nations! You said in your heart, “I will ascend to heaven and exalt my throne above the stars of God. I will sit atop the mount over the congregation. I will ascend above the clouds and be like the Most High.” But you will be brought down to hell, to the depths of the pit.
* JAM 3:13–17 ~ Who among you is wise and endowed with knowledge? Let them demonstrate this via good conversation and acts done with the humility of wisdom. But if you foster bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, you must not boast of it or speak lies against the truth. Such knowledge does not descend from above but is earthly, sensual, and devilish. For where there is envy and strife, there is confusion and evil. But heavenly wisdom is above all pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easily grasped; full of mercy and bearing good fruit, without partiality and without hypocrisy.
* 2 PE 2:1–4,9 ~ There were false prophets among God’s people just as there will be false teachers among you. They will cunningly introduce damnable heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who brought them out of bondage, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. Many will follow their pernicious ways, speaking evil about the truth. Through covetousness and insincere words they will exploit others; their judgment approaches quickly for their damnation never sleeps. Remember, God did not spare the angels when they sinned but sent them to hell and placed them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment. The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust until the day of judgment for punishment.

Beware, because those going the way of evil will get perpetually worse. (2 TI 3:13). This is yet another sign of the end times. Do not associate with reprobates lest you become one of them. They probably will not listen anyway. But it is not you who are separating from them, it is they who have separated from you; for they are humanists and do not possess the Spirit (JDE 1:19).

By Andrew Barber (Posted 06/01/22)