

A Good Man

*A good man shall obtain favor of Jehovah;
But a man of wicked devices will he
condemn.
- Proverbs 12:2 -*

The Lord is looking for a “good man” to serve him. Are you that “good man”? What standard will we use to know who a “good man” is, or to find a “good man”? Will we use the standard of money, education, power, appearance, etc.? These things are not a right standard.

Yes, a “good man” is hard to find (Micah 7:2; Jeremiah 5:1), but God is looking for that good man (Ezekiel 22:30). The proper standard for a “good man” is right character, duty and devotion to God (Psalm 37:23; 112:5; Proverbs 12:2; 13:22; Luke 6:45).

Ahimaaz (2 Samuel 18:27) was a good man because he was faithful and true. Joseph of Arimathaea (Luke 23:50) was a good man because he was a courageous disciple. Jesus (John 7:12) was a good man because he sacrificed for others. Barnabas (Acts 11:24) was a good man because he was filled with the Holy Spirit and faith.

God is looking for a “good man” in society (1 Peter 2:17), in the home (Ephesians 6:1-4), in marriage (Ephesians 5:25,28,33), in the workplace (Ephesians 6:5-9), and in the Lord’s church (1 Timothy 3:1-13; 4:16). Now, go out and be that “good man”! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- A person’s real worth is not determined by his bank account.
- A small deed is worth more than a big intention.
- Why is it that other peoples’ sins are more glaring than our own?
- Some people work hard to make a good living, but not a good life.
- Clothe yourself with humility.

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THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

September 13, 2020



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

A Hardened Society

Rioting in the streets. Burning down buildings. Looting stores. Defacing public property. Attacking the police. Harassing innocent citizens in their cars or homes. Refusing to prosecute criminals. Releasing criminals from jail back onto the streets. Public drug use. Defecating in the street. Drug needles and paraphernalia all over the sidewalk.

Yes, this is really going on in some of the cities across this (once?) great nation. I am not making this up. It is happening right now as you read this article. And, you can add to this a high rate of abortion and murder. Did you know that over 50 children ages 12 and under have been brutally murdered already this year?

There is no question that we live among many people who are really hardened in their sin. They sin and they don't care. They don't even call it sin or wrong-doing. They do what they want and dare you to question them. They don't care what you think. They don't care what the law says. They don't care what the Bible says. They tear down this country (flag burning is now back in vogue after 50 years) and they tear down Christianity.

So, what is the evidence that we

live in a hardened society? Well, consider a few things in addition to what I have already mentioned. You know that we are living in a hardened society when:

Sin becomes a joke.

The value of life is not appreciated.

The sanctity of marriage is not upheld.

Evildoers are not punished by local, state, or federal authorities.

God and his word (the Bible) are not feared and respected.

But, what we are seeing today is not new. There have always been individuals who have been hardened in their sin and some of those individuals claimed to be God's children. There were those in the Jewish world of Bible times who were hardened (Jeremiah 3:3; 6:15-16; 8:12; Matthew 13:15; John 12:40; Acts 28:27). Many in the Gentile world of Bible times were hardened (Ephesians 4:18-19). There were even Christians who were in danger of being hardened (Hebrews 3:8,12,13,15; 4:7). There were apostates, of course, who were hardened (1 Timothy 4:2).

What causes a person, a group, or a society to become hardened in their sin?

Consider a few things here. When there is preaching in the churches that does not warn or condemn sin, people will become hardened (Jeremiah 6:14). When there is a strong desire for what we want, people will become hardened (Mark 10:5). When people allow sinful behavior or false philosophies to slowly corrupt the good, people will become hardened (1 Corinthians 15:33).

Spiritual lethargy (Ephesians 5:3-13), being deceived into thinking wrong is right (2 Timothy 3:13), and homes that do not follow God and his word (Ephesians 6:4), will also cause people to become hardened in their sin.

The result of all this hardening is a people who will not be saved from their sin. Salvation through Jesus Christ will be missed when people become hardened in their sin. (Romans 11:7,25). And, what follows is a people who are destined for a divine judgment that is certain (Romans 2:5). People can certainly harden themselves, but they won't be able to overcome God in the judgment day.

It's time for more humility and less hardening! - *Chris Reeves*