

The Development of a Reprobate Mind

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, July 10th AM

Satan uses seduction and deception to draw us away from God and His will/ways. (1st Jn 2:15-17; 5:19)

2 Cor 4:4 *"The god of this world hath blinded (tuphos: obscured) the minds..."* (Noema: perception)

1 Jn 5:19 *"The whole world lieth in wickedness"* Ponerōs': Hurtful (in influence/effect) diseased

Scripture is clear that he'll become increasingly bold and desperate. (1 Tim. 4; 2 Tim. 3; 4:3,4; Rev. 12:9-12)

2 Tim 3:13 *"evil men (poneros': hurtful, diseased) and seducers (goes': wizards, imposters)*

shall wax worse and worse, (epi: superimpose {Values, beliefs, behavior}) deceiving, and being deceived."

(Planao: Cause to roam out of the way) Thankfully God gives us His Word (2 Tim. 3:14-17)

➤ Which is light for the darkness of deceit Ps. 119:130

➤ And Medicine (for the ponerōs / disease of sin) Pr 4:4; 7:2 *"Keep my commandments and live"*

New Testament Word usually used for "Commandments" is entolē': authoritative prescription!

Last week we discussed a repeated cycle that God warned Israel about that is easily identified throughout their history, as well as our own society. This cycle God warned about involves:

1. Revelation 2. Response 3. Reward 4. Rebellion 5. Reproof (Pr 6:23-24) *"the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction (Tōwkêchâh': correction/reasoning/ warning)*

are the way of life: To keep thee (shamar: protect, hedge) from the evil..." (See also Pr. 1:23; 2 Tim. 3:16)

6. Reconsider 2 Chr. 7:14 *"if my people... shall humble themselves, pray, seek my face, turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear... forgive... and heal their land"* If not then we'll will face...

The Ruin of Reprobation!

1. Definition of Reprobate:

A. English: Unprincipled, Rejected, Disapproved

B. OT Hebrew: Jer 6:30 Maas': rejected, useless

C. NT: Ro 1:28 *"even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind."*
"Reprobate" (Adokimos: disqualified, rejected, worthless) "mind" (nous: understanding, intellect)

2. Explanation (Development of Reprobation)

A. God gave us a "conscience" to guide us. Pr 20:27 *"The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD..."*

Ro 2:15 *"Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience (Synei'dēsis: co-perception:*

From synei'don: to see completely, understand) also bearing witness (symmartyre'ō: to testify, corroborate) and their thoughts (logismos': reasoning, logic) the mean while accusing (katēgore'ō: to charge, act as a plaintiff) or else excusing one another" (apologe'omai: give an account, defend)

1) Our conscience must have a standard by which to judge right and wrong. Ps 119:9-11

2) This standard is God's word. 1 Tim 1:5 *"the end (telos: goal) of the commandment (parangeli'a: charge) is charity out of a pure (katharos: clean) heart, and of a good conscience, (agathos synei'dēsis: beneficial, effective co-perception) and of faith (pistis: conviction) unfeigned:" (anypok'ritos: sincere)*

B. When we sin, our conscience produces conviction.

1) It's like the spiritual "white blood cells" that try to expose and fight the infection of sin.

2) Conviction should lead to honest confession. 1 Jn 1:9 *"If we confess our sins..."*
(homologe'o: say the same thing! {Acknowledge})

3) Honest (humble) confession produces cleansing. 1 Jn 1:9 *"...He is faithful and just to forgive us... and cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (infection!)*

C. If we continue to rebel, we have to deal with the conviction of our conscience. Acts 9:5, Ro.2:15

1) In an attempt to rationalize our sin, We begin to:

a) "Re-think"/redefine God's Standard (Gen. 3:1) *"Yea hath God said?"*

b) Challenge His right to set a standard. (Gen. 3:5) *"ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil"*

(Yada: 6 x it's translated "to declare") Ex 5:2 *"who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice?"*

2) This rationalization clouds/corrupts our conscience (co-perception) and it becomes "defiled".

D. We then either reject, redesign, or replace God. Ro. 1:21-23 *"when they knew God, they glorified him not as God... But became vain in their imaginations, (dialogismos': logic, reasoning) And their foolish heart was darkened" (skotizo: obscured: from skia {shadowed, dimmed}) Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man..." (Titus 1:14-16)*

1) What then becomes the standard by which we determine "good and evil"? **WE DO!**

Judges 17:6 *"In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes."*

2) We basically buy into Satan's first lie and become our own "god". Gen. 3:5

3) The predictable result is a Reprobate (Ineffective, useless) mind! James 3:14-16

"This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work." This "evil" is infectious!

Conclusion: This modern "god" is currently known as "Humanism."

1933 Humanist Manifesto 1 *"The time has come for widespread recognition of the radical changes in religious beliefs throughout the modern world."* The manifesto reveals their 15 "goals" or creeds"

1st: *"Religious humanists regard the universe as self-existing and not created."*

13th: *"Religious humanism maintains that all associations and institutions exist for the fulfillment of human life. The intelligent evaluation, transformation, control, and direction of such associations and institutions with a view to the enhancement of human life is the purpose and program of humanism."*

Certainly religious institutions, their ritualistic forms, ecclesiastical methods, and communal activities must be reconstituted as rapidly as experience allows, in order to function effectively in the modern world."

<https://americanhumanist.org/what-is-humanism/manifesto1/>

Abraham Lincoln observed that *"The philosophy of the classroom in one generation will become the philosophy of the government in the next!"*

18 of the HM1 signers were educators! Charles F. Potter wrote, *"Education is thus a most powerful ally of humanism, and every American school is a school of humanism."*

What can a theistic Sunday school's meeting for an hour once a week and teaching only a fraction of the children do to stem the tide of the five-day program of humanistic teaching?"

Their infiltration in Education set the stage for the Humanist takeover of American Schools (and pulpits) a generation later. (Turning their dream into our current "nightmare"!)

2 Tim. 3:13 *"Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, Deceiving and being deceived"*

1 Tim 4:1-2 *"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;" (Gen. 3:5 and John 8:44,45)*

Speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their conscience seared with a hot iron."

Joseph Goebbels' (Hitler's Minister of Propaganda) wrote: *"A lie told once remains a lie, But a lie told a thousand times becomes the truth! If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie. It thus becomes vitally important for the State to use all of its powers to repress dissent, for the truth is the mortal enemy of the lie, and thus by extension, the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."* (See Rev. 12,13)

America has many "ministers of Propaganda!"

Application: Ps. 11:1-4 *"If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do?"*

1) Recognize: The importance of a clear conscience and the truth of Esther 4:14!

2) Remember: God is aware and involved! Ps 11:4 *"His eyes behold... try the children of men"*

3) Respond to the direction of God / His word. Phil. 2:5-13 *"let this mind be in you..."*

4) Reflect Him and His Truth in our beliefs and behavior. Phil. 2:14-16