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Rather

Evil Is
The Rejection of God

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Prelude

Why should we study the bible? Isn't it enough to go to church once a week and listen to the Pastor?

Most Pastors who belong to one of the modern day churches have to follow what the church leaders tell them. They all have their own "statement of beliefs" to adhere to, and these doctrines vary from church to church in what they see as the truth. So since they cannot all be right, then some must be wrong. What if that refers to the church you are attending, if indeed you attend any church at all? How can you know what God sees as the truth? Well, it is up to the individual to sort the wheat from the chaff. How do we do that? Only by seeking the truth that God has concealed in his book, the bible.

Consider the following passage of scripture in the book of Proverbs.

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

This is what God expects from us. We are to look constantly into the holy scriptures and find the truth that he has concealed there for us to discover. Please notice that God has not concealed them from us to keep it all a secret. No, he wants us to look for the truth. This is further emphasized in

the following verses from the book of Isaiah.

Isa 28:9 To whom will he teach knowledge, and to whom will he explain the message? Those who are weaned from the milk, those taken from the breast?
Isa 28:10 For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.

This backs up what we read in Proverbs 25:2: that we must search out a matter that God has concealed. This is a real treasure hunt. If we can seek the will of God in our lives, we are not rejecting him, but we are embracing him and his way of life. There is a glorious reward for those who are prepared to seek God with their whole hearts. Read the following verse and see what this reward is.

Rom 2:7 To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor and immortality, he will give eternal life.

Therefore, we must spend time in searching the scriptures. Looking for precept upon precept, line upon line, here a little, there a little. Looking for the things God has concealed. We must search for these pearls of wisdom.

Evil Is The Rejection Of God

I have heard it said in the past that evil is the absence of God. But since God is omnipresent, meaning there is nowhere in all of his creation that he is not present, then this simply cannot be the case. Evil is not the absence of God, but evil is the rejection of God. There is a major difference.

Prior to the creation of the world, God lived in Heaven surrounded by millions of angels he had created. They lived in perfect harmony, and sin and evil did not exist. God had a hierarchy in the angelic realm, and this is where Lucifer dwelt in Heaven. He was perfect in wisdom and beauty, and God appointed him as a guardian cherub. This same Lucifer, who now has many other names such as “the king of Tyre”, Satan, and the Devil, would have been amazing in his appearance. Unfortunately for him, and for the rest of creation, this beauty would become his, and our, downfall.

Eze 28:11 Moreover, the word of the LORD came to me:

Eze 28:12 “Son of man, raise a lamentation over the king of Tyre, and say to him, Thus says the Lord GOD: “You were the signet of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty.

Eze 28:13 You were in Eden, the garden of God;

every precious stone was your covering, sardius, topaz, and diamond, beryl, onyx, and jasper, sapphire, emerald, and carbuncle; and crafted in gold were your settings and your engravings. On the day that you were created they were prepared. Eze 28:14 You were an anointed guardian cherub. I placed you; you were on the holy mountain of God; in the midst of the stones of fire you walked. Eze 28:15 You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created, till unrighteousness was found in you.

Eze 28:16 In the abundance of your trade you were filled with violence in your midst, and you sinned; so I cast you as a profane thing from the mountain of God, and I destroyed you, O guardian cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

Eze 28:17 Your heart was proud because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor. I cast you to the ground; I exposed you before kings, to feast their eyes on you.

Eze 28:18 By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries; so I brought fire out from your midst; it consumed you, and I turned you to ashes on the earth in the sight of all who saw you.

This passage of scripture is very descriptive of who Satan was when God created him, who he finally became, and then what his future will be. The first thing we can see is that God created him in perfect beauty, as we see in verse 12-14. Then in verse 17, we are told he became proud and corrupted his wisdom because of his brightness, or because of his beauty.

This is when he rebelled against God and sought ways to dethrone him. He cannot believe God is far superior to him, and that he will never achieve what he has been planning to do. From the day his beauty and wisdom corrupted him, he rebelled against God and became his enemy, and ours.

Too many churches today will try to teach you Satan is an eternal being who will live in a place called hell forever. But please consider what we are told in verse 18 above, when God declares' "and I turned you to ashes on the earth". Satan will become like ashes, and this is the same destiny for anyone who rebels against Almighty God, as Malachi 4:3 clearly tells us.

Mal 4:3 And you shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD of hosts.

So this is the ultimate destiny of Satan and the angels who sided with him against God. Unfortunately, this time is still some way in the future. So in the meantime, we have to contend with the influences Satan has over the entire world, and that includes all of those who follow Jesus Christ. We are not exempt from his attempts to corrupt us, but if we cling to the hope we have in Jesus, we will remain loyal to the end and receive the promises God has made to his true church.

We do not know exactly when Satan rebelled against God? Was it prior to the 7 days of creation when God created the world and all that is in it, or was it after the creation when God placed Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden? We don't have clarity on this, but the timing of his rebellion is not really important. He was present in the Garden of Eden where he tempted Eve to eat from the wrong tree.

Another point I must make before going on is this. God did not create evil. What he made in the middle of the garden was, “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil”, not the evil itself, only the knowledge of it. If Adam and Eve had not eaten from this tree, but ate from the “tree of Life” instead, we would not be in the position we find ourselves in today.

One vital thing for us to understand is that God has given every human free-will. There is no way God will ever force you to do what you do not want to do. If your inclination is to sin, then you have this choice. Satan has always known this, and he used it to entice Eve to eat from the wrong tree. She had a choice, to eat or not to eat. She made the wrong choice. It is exactly the same for every one of us. By using this free-will, we can be heirs with Jesus Christ, or the enemies of God. Only you can decide which way you want to go.

Evil, a concept that has plagued human thought and philosophy from the time of the Garden of Eden, can be profoundly understood through its relationship with the divine. One compelling perspective is that evil fundamentally represents a rejection of God. This view not only aligns with many theological traditions but also provides a framework for comprehending the nature of the moral failings in a religious context.

At the heart of this perspective is the notion that God, as conceived in many religious traditions, embodies the ultimate good. In monotheistic religions such as Christianity and Judaism, God is seen as the source of all that is good, just, and harmonious. Goodness, from this perspective, is not merely a set of moral guidelines but an expression of the

divine nature. Thus, to live in accordance with God's will is to align oneself with the ultimate standard of goodness.

Evil, then, can be understood as a deviation from this divine standard. It represents a fundamental disruption of the order and goodness that God represents. When individuals act in ways that are contrary to God's nature—through malice, injustice, or cruelty—they are, in essence, rejecting the divine will and the moral order that God embodies. This rejection manifests in various forms, from personal moral failings, to Governments failing in their duties to lead their people in the ways of God or what we may call systemic injustices, each reflecting a departure from the divine ideal.

The rejection of God, and thus of divine goodness, can be seen as a form of existential rebellion. It is an assertion of autonomy that dismisses the moral order that God provides. This rebellion is not necessarily conscious or explicit; it can be subtle and insidious, emerging through the choices individuals make and the values they espouse. For example, when people prioritise personal gain over the well-being of others, they are, in a sense, rejecting the principle of selflessness and love that God advocates. This rejection can lead to behaviours and systems that perpetuate suffering and inequality, which are manifestations of evil.

Furthermore, the concept of evil as a rejection of God highlights the relational aspect of morality. It underscores the idea that moral failings are not just abstract wrongs but are deeply connected to one's relationship with Almighty God. By choosing to act contrary to divine will, individuals estrange themselves from the source of all goodness. This estrangement not only impacts their own spiritual and moral state but also affects the broader community, leading to a

ripple effect of moral decay.

In theological terms, this perspective also resonates with the idea of free will. God grants human beings the freedom to choose their actions. This freedom is crucial for genuine moral agency but also means that individuals have the capacity to reject the divine good. The presence of evil in the world, then, is not necessarily a failure of God's goodness but a reflection of the misuse of human freedom. By choosing actions that contradict divine will, individuals exercise their free will in ways that lead to evil outcomes.

Viewing evil as the rejection of God provides a profound understanding of the nature of moral failings. It situates evil within a framework of divine goodness and moral order, suggesting that to reject God is to embrace a path that diverges from the ultimate standard of goodness. This perspective not only clarifies the nature of evil but also emphasises the importance of aligning oneself with the will of God to foster a more just and harmonious existence.

All our problems started when Eve believed Satan rather than God. Satan, "the father of lies," deceived her with the promise that they would not die, and she believed him. The third chapter of Genesis reveals the fall of humankind starting in.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?"
Gen 3:2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden,
Gen 3:3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the

fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’”

Gen 3:4 But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die.

Gen 3:5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

Gen 3:6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Gen 3:7 Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

Some will also teach that God does not allow Satan in His presence, but this is also incorrect. Read the revelation given to us in the book of Job 1:6-7.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

Job 1:7 The LORD said to Satan, “From where have you come?” Satan answered the LORD and said, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.”

Evil was in the world when Satan rebelled against God. When he tempted Eve to eat from the wrong tree, this evil then spread to all humanity. Now we all have the knowledge of good and evil, and it is up to each individual to respond, by either following the lead of Satan and the ways of this world, or follow the teaching of Jesus Christ. This will be our free

will in action.

It is very unfortunate that most of the world's population has gone the way of the world. Most are only involved in the minor evils, but as you read on, you see that even minor sins have a massive impact on your life. Still others enjoy taking part in all the evil they can. No one is perfect. We all indulge in some evil. We notice this from Rom 5:12.

Rom 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

It is very important to notice, there are no levels of sin mentioned here. A sin is a sin, no matter how small you may believe it to be. But they all carry the same death sentence as we see in Rom 6:23.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

But this same verse that pronounces the death sentence is the same verse gives us the answer to how we can avoid this sentence. Through believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord of Lords and King of Kings.

Some modern day churches want us to believe there is a difference between mortal and venial sins. But don't allow yourself to be deceived. God does not differentiate between big and small sins. To him, all sins are the same and carry the same penalty. For the wages of sin are death.

So now let us ask the all important question. "What is sin according to the Bible?"

Please note here that I have said “according to the bible”. I am not interested in what man’s interpretations may be, only in what God has to say on the matter. And if we will search for it, the bible discloses the answer. As we can see from the verses above, we have all sinned, and this leads us all to death. But believing in Jesus Christ as the Lord of Lords and the King of Kings also saves us from death. So exactly what is sin that rewards us with the death penalty? The answer is in.

1Jn 3:4 Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness.

What laws are we talking about here? Clearly, we are referring to the laws commonly known as the ten commandments. A young wealthy man asked Jesus how to get eternal life. Listen to the question and the answer in Mar 19:16-19.

Mat 19:16 Just then a man came up to Jesus and asked, "Teacher, what good thing must I do to get eternal life?"

Mat 19:17 "Why do you ask me about what is good?" Jesus replied. "There is only One who is good. If you want to enter life, keep the commandments."

Mat 19:18 "Which ones?" he inquired. Jesus replied, "You shall not murder, you shall not commit adultery, you shall not steal, you shall not give false testimony,"

Mat 19:19 honor your father and mother,' and 'love your neighbor as yourself.'"

Here Jesus quoted most of the ten commandments,

and the ten commandments are what the Israelites call “the law”. The first four commandments are to do with our relationship with God. The last six are to do with our relationships with our fellow man. If we live according to the commandments, then we will do no harm to our fellow man. We will not steal, commit adultery, covert what he has, we will not lie or commit murder. We will care for and love our parents and our neighbours. This is how God wants us all to live.

If we cannot live this way, we are neglecting our responsibilities and this is following the ways of the world, and is our sinful nature on display, as Jas 4:17 points out for us.

Jas 4:17 If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them.

Refusing to keep God's commandments is rejecting the law, this is the same as rejecting God. This is why I say that “evil is the rejection of God.”

Satan Is Shaping Humanity's Rebellion Against God

The concept of Satan as a malevolent force opposing God is a central theme in many religious traditions, particularly within Christianity. Satan, often identified as the adversary or accuser, is depicted as a powerful entity whose influence has significantly impacted human history and shaped the collective rebellion against divine authority. Understanding the way Satan has influenced the world against God provides insight into the nature of spiritual conflict and the dynamics of moral struggle.

Satan's role in influencing humanity is intricately linked to the notion of spiritual warfare. According to Christian theology, Satan was once a high-ranking angel who rebelled against God and was cast out of Heaven. His rebellion marked the beginning of an ongoing struggle against divine authority. In this context, Satan's primary goal is to undermine God's creation and to lead humans away from divine truth and righteousness.

One of the most notable examples of Satan's influence is found in the story of the Fall of Man in the Garden of Eden. In this narrative, Satan, in the form of a serpent, tempts Eve to disobey God's command by eating the forbidden fruit. This

act of disobedience introduces sin into the human experience and results in the separation between humanity and God. The serpent's temptation exemplifies Satan's strategy of sowing doubt and encouraging rebellion against divine directives. By distorting God's command and appealing to human desires, Satan successfully leads humanity into sin, setting the stage for a world marred by moral and spiritual conflict.

Throughout history, Satan's influence extends beyond individual temptations to broader societal impacts. In many theological perspectives, Satan's goal is to corrupt and deceive on a grand scale. This influence is evident in the proliferation of ideologies and systems that contradict divine principles. For instance, various forms of idolatry, materialism, and moral relativism can be seen as manifestations of Satan's attempt to divert human worship and allegiance away from God. By promoting values and beliefs that prioritize self-interest, power, and pleasure over divine commands, Satan contributes to a cultural and moral environment that opposes the divine will.

Moreover, Satan's influence is not limited to external temptations but also includes internal struggles. Many religious traditions teach that Satan works to exploit human weaknesses and doubts. The psychological and emotional turmoil experienced by individuals can be seen as part of this broader spiritual conflict. For instance, feelings of worthlessness, despair, and guilt may be exacerbated by Satanic forces aiming to distance individuals from God's grace and mercy. This internal strife further undermines the individual's relationship with God and contributes to a broader sense of spiritual disillusionment.

In addition, Satan's influence is often associated with

the perpetuation of evil and suffering in the world. Natural disasters, injustices, and atrocities are sometimes interpreted as manifestations of a world under the sway of malevolent forces. While not all suffering is directly attributed to Satan, the presence of such evil serves as a constant reminder of the ongoing struggle between good and evil. In this view, Satan's role is to perpetuate and amplify suffering, thereby challenging the belief in a benevolent and just God.

In conclusion, the influence of Satan in shaping humanity's rebellion against God is a multifaceted and profound aspect of spiritual understanding. From the temptation in Eden to the broader cultural and moral implications, Satan's impact is evident in the ways human beings are led away from divine truth and righteousness. Understanding this influence highlights the nature of spiritual conflict and underscores the importance of remaining vigilant in the pursuit of divine alignment. By recognizing and resisting these adversarial forces, individuals can strive to maintain their relationship with God and contribute to a world that reflects divine goodness.

Satan has many names that show different sides to his character. None of his names are flattering to him, and they all expose another evil part of his make-up. As much as I hate to mention his name, we need to be aware of him and how he will try to lead us away from our Heavenly Father. One side of his character is that he is a deceiver, as we can see in.

Rev 12:9 And the great dragon was thrown down, that ancient serpent, who is called the devil and Satan, the deceiver of the whole world—he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

As we can see from this verse, Satan deceives the entire world, not just a part of it, but the whole. This includes Christians. We have all experienced deception. Satan told Eve a lie, and she became deceived, as revealed in...

Gen 3:13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

So the first lie and deception recorded in the bible shows how Satan got Eve to eat from the wrong tree in the garden. Eve then admitted to God that Satan had deceived her. He has been doing this throughout the entire world ever since. Satan is very subtle in the way he works and he knows the best way to delude us all. He has enticed many to not believe in God at all, but to believe in the lie of evolution. The word of God tells us we are without excuse for denying God even exists. From creation until now, we have clear evidence of the wonders of God's creation. But humanity refuses to see what God has made and rejects him as their God and creator. This is clear from Romans 1:18-21.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

Rom 1:19 For what can be known about God is plain to them, because God has shown it to them.

Rom 1:20 For his invisible attributes, namely, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly perceived, ever since the creation of the world, in the things that have been made. So they are without excuse.

Rom 1:21 For although they knew God, they did

not honor him as God or give thanks to him, but they became futile in their thinking, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

Over the last 100 years, our knowledge of the world has exploded. We now have the technology to manufacture some amazing things to bring us more comfort in our lives. Our modern communication systems allow us to know what is happening on the other side of the world almost as soon as it happens. Modern medicines help prevent many diseases. We now understand a lot of how our DNA regulates every cell in our bodies. We can now fly to the other side of the world quickly and in comfort. These are just a few of the technologies God has revealed to us so we can enjoy the benefits of his creation. Unfortunately for most of the world, these benefits are not available to them and they continue to live in very poor and unhealthy conditions.

In the book of Daniel, we are told knowledge shall increase in the end times. Therefore, we must consider the possibility that we may be in these last days because of what we have learned and how we have made so many amazing inventions that have, many times, given us more comfort in our lives. Even though we may have these comforts, they are only for a minority of people, the majority still live in third world conditions, and cannot enjoy the improvements many countries experience.

Then there are the inventions for war that make the killing of our enemies much more efficient. They can also eliminate all life from this planet in a matter of days. Listen to what we are told in the book of Daniel, chapter 12:4.

Dan 12:4 But you, Daniel, shut up the words and seal the book, until the time of the end. Many shall

run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase.”

This knowledge has certainly increased, not always for the good, but it has still increased. We are now very close to the end of days. How close, only God knows.

Satan's deception causes us to sin, and this separates us from God. Men suppress the truth willingly. They reject what creation reveals to them about God; they refuse to glorify him and are not thankful for what they have.

So great is Satan's deception, and so forceful that very sincere men are prepared to argue and fight against God, and against his chosen people. Jesus was certainly right when he warned us about these people about two thousand years ago. Listen to what he had to say in Joh 16:1-3.

Joh 16:1 “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.”

Joh 16:2 They will put you out of the synagogues. Indeed, the hour is coming when whoever kills you will think he is offering service to God.

Joh 16:3 And they will do these things because they have not known the Father, nor me.

This prophecy of Jesus is coming so true today. Just look around the world and see all the different religious fanatics who are more than willing to kill women and children in the name of their god. These fanatics revel in, and brag about, how they have slaughtered innocent women and children. Raping them and mutilating them and all in the name of their god. This is about as evil as you can get, and it is all orchestrated by Satan himself. This is how effective the deception of Satan has been, is still today, and will continue to be until our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ returns to this

world, and claims the crown as King of Kings and Lord of Lords that is so rightfully his.

The gulf that separates humanity from God is so great because of the success Satan has had in deceiving the entire world. This has always been his plan to disrupt everything that is good and destroy our relationship with our Creator God. The religious fanatics are just doing the work of Satan, yet they believe they are doing the work of God.

Humanity has rejected the true God from their lives and has followed whatever is in their own hearts. They are not really interested in the truth, they only want to hear what they already believe. Whether it is the truth is not really a concern for them. The apostle Paul warned us in his second letter to Timothy that this is what would happen and it is exactly what we are seeing and hearing today. Listen to what he said in 2Ti 4:3-4.

2Ti 4:3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions,

2Ti 4:4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths.

I have always loved the term “itching ears” used in this verse. It so accurately describes what the vast majority of people want to hear. They are not really concerned with the truth. They just want their preachers to tell them what they already believe, because this is what their “itching ears” want to hear.

One perfect example of this is in the teaching of a “Pre-tribulation rapture”. Another lie perpetrated by Satan to

draw people away from God. The theory lacks any biblical evidence, but some individuals have manipulated passages of scripture to give the illusion of authenticity to the theory.. But a lie is still a lie.

Is it any wonder the world is in such a mess today? We have rejected the truth of God and replaced it with the lies of Satan. Churches are a prime target for Satan, and he is very successful in introducing heresy into the churches.

The Wrath Of God

What do you think God is doing because of Satan's deception of the world? We can find the answer to this question in Rom 1:18.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth.

How does this "wrath of God" manifest itself in the world? Look at the conditions we are currently living with. The natural disasters like earthquakes, volcanoes, fires, floods and tsunamis. Then add to those the general health problems and diseases that affect us all and the enormous cost these events come with. Consider the disruption to the entire world because of the corona virus and the billions of dollars governments have spent on trying to control this disease.

These are only the start of our troubles. Notice the warnings we see in the book of Matthew and chapter 24 and starting in verse 3.

Mat 24:3 As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of

Olives, the disciples came to him privately. "Tell us," they said, "when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?"

Mat 24:4 Jesus answered: "Watch out that no one deceives you.

Mat 24:5 For many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am the Messiah,' and will deceive many.

Mat 24:6 You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come.

Mat 24:7 Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places.

Mat 24:8 All these are the beginning of birth pains.

Verses three to seven tell us of some conditions we are going to experience in the latter days, and then verse 8 reveals the truth to us. These signs are only the start of our troubles. Satan is very active in the world today, but this is really nothing to what he will cause in the not too distant future.

Mean-while we will encounter many more troubles as Satan continues to deceive this entire world.

Lust Of The Flesh

Satan is the one who is constantly trying to deceive us. He wants us to fit into the pattern of this world, something God warns us not to do as we see in.

Rom 12:1 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship.

Rom 12:2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

The way we transform our minds is by the study of God's words in his holy bible. By seeking the truth in all matters. Solomon knew this when he wrote the book of proverbs. Listen to what he has to say in.

Pro 25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal things, but the glory of kings is to search things out.

God has hidden many matters in his holy scriptures and he expects us to search for the answers we may be seeking. If we do this, we will not be conforming to the ways of this world, and this world is currently Satan's world.

Therefore, we are told not to love the world. If we do, then we are loving the things Satan is tempting us with, and this will cause the love from the Father to leave us as we see in.

1Jn 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

1Jn 2:16 For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

1Jn 2:17 And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.

We can see from these verses just three things that God hates,. Three things that, if you indulge in them, will put you on a collision course with God. Lust of the flesh. Lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

As we can plainly see in verse 16, to lust is to follow the ways of the world. This is not the ways of God. Then verse 17 tells us the world and all its lusts will pass away. But those who resist the powers of lust, and do the will of God, will abide, or live forever. Rom 8:12-14 emphasizes this point..

Rom 8:12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Satan is not just sitting around waiting for us to sin.

No, he is out and about looking for ways to distract us from what God wants us to do. He and his demon friends are actively seeking our destruction, as the book of 1 Peter explains for us in chapter 5, verse 8.

1Pe 5:8 Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

Many times, we will feel tempted to try something new. And this is a good thing because we can choose our own paths in this life. But along with free will, we must temper our desires with what God expects from us as Christians.

Christians must know Satan's plans and how he operates if we are to be on guard against him. There are many ways he can distract us from God. Consider all the activities humanity has invented to keep himself amused when he is not working. The many sports that keep us entertained on the weekends. These activities by themselves are not necessarily bad, but when they consume all of our spare time, when we become fanatics for our sports teams, we are sacrificing valuable time where we should study God's words and learning as much as possible about him and what he wants from us.

The Sabbath day is no longer honoured. People have replaced this day of rest with Sunday worship, and they use the true Sabbath for every activity that draws them away from God. Sports of all kinds keep us occupied instead of the study of God's word.

Satan exploits man's free will. He knows God will force none of us to do what is right. We must choose to do these things ourselves. So he puts as many temptations as

possible in front of us, knowing many of us will succumb to these temptations. He has had thousands of years to perfect his craft, and he is a past-master of distraction.

What are the benefits of seeking the will of God? You can find the answer to this in the following passage of scripture. Here, we can see the results of both obedience and disobedience.

Rom 8:12 So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh.

Rom 8:13 For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live.

Rom 8:14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.

Rom 8:15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”

Rom 8:16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

Rom 8:17 and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Obedience leads to eternal life, to being regarded as the sons and daughters of God. To be joint-heirs with Jesus Christ and to be glorified together with him. Surely there is no greater reward than this. Therefore, we must “keep our eyes on the prize”.

One thing we can be sure of is that we will have

troubles in this world. Jesus Christ himself made the following promise to us in.

Joh 16:33 I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.”

The apostle Paul understood this very well. We may think Paul had a peaceful life, but this is far from the truth. Listen to what he had to say about the treatment he received from the Jews in 2Co 11:24.

2Co 11:24 Five times I received at the hands of the Jews the forty lashes less one.

They flogged him 195 times because he was a follower of our Lord. His faith in his future with Jesus was amazing, and he was prepared to go through this torture for the sake of his Lord.

Apart from these troubles, Paul also had his own personal problems, the same as we have today. He knew what was the right thing to do and what was not right. Listen to his confession from Rom 7:15-19.

Rom 7:15 For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate.

Rom 7:16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good.

Rom 7:17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Rom 7:18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do

what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

Rom 7:19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

Paul knew he would have troubles, and in these verses he has related to us how he does the things he really does not want to do, and the things he should do, he neglects. This is the same problem we all have. We must choose between living by the standards of the world, or by God's laws. It will not always be easy, but it will be well worth it in the long run.

In the book of Galatians Chapter 5 and verses 16-26, we have a perfect contrast between walking by the spirit, or fulfilling the lust of the flesh. Listen to the following advice from Paul:

Gal 5:16 But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh.

Gal 5:17 For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.

Gal 5:18 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Gal 5:19 Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality,

Gal 5:20 idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions,

Gal 5:21 envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

Gal 5:22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness,

Gal 5:23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Gal 5:24 And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Gal 5:25 If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit.

Gal 5:26 Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

The temptations to lust after what is wrong in this world are strong. The rewards are tempting, but they are also very temporary. Christians must produce the fruits of the spirit if we are to enter the Kingdom of God. There is no easy road to travel on. Only a straight and narrow path surrounded with Satan's temptations.

The Lust of the Flesh According to the Bible

The Bible offers a nuanced understanding of human desires and temptations, particularly through the concept of the "lust of the flesh." This term, found predominantly in the New Testament, is used to describe a category of sinful desires that are contrary to the will of God. It signifies a range of impulses and cravings that can lead individuals away from spiritual Fulfillment and divine righteousness.

The term "lust of the flesh" is first mentioned in the New Testament in 1 John 2:16, which states, "For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world." This verse categorises lust of the flesh as a significant aspect of worldly temptation that stands in opposition to the spiritual life God desires for humanity.

In biblical terms, the "flesh" often refers to the human nature that is prone to sin and moral weakness. It embodies the physical and emotional aspects of a person that are susceptible to temptation and indulgence. The "lust of the flesh" thus encompasses a range of desires that focus on bodily gratification and self-indulgence. These include, but are not limited to, physical pleasures, sexual immorality, and uncontrolled appetites.

The Apostle Paul provides a detailed description of the lust of the flesh in Galatians 5:19-21, listing behaviours such as sexual immorality, impurity, debauchery, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, and envy. These actions are seen as manifestations of the flesh's desires, which are in direct contrast to the fruit of the Spirit, such as love, joy, peace, and self-control.

The biblical perspective on the lust of the flesh is not merely a condemnation of physical desires but an acknowledgement of how these desires can lead individuals away from God's intended moral order. In the context of early Christian teachings, the lust of the flesh is viewed as a major obstacle to spiritual growth and moral integrity. It represents a misdirection of one's energy and desires away from God and toward self-serving and often destructive behaviours.

For instance, in the story of King David and Bathsheba, as recounted in 2 Samuel 11, David's lust for Bathsheba, a married woman, leads him into a series of sinful actions including adultery and even murder. This narrative illustrates how the lust of the flesh can have catastrophic consequences not only for the individual but also for those around them. David's actions, driven by his unchecked

desires, resulted in severe personal and communal repercussions, demonstrating the destructive power of succumbing to fleshly temptations.

The Bible advises believers to counteract the lust of the flesh by cultivating spiritual discipline and adherence to God's commandments. In Galatians 5:24, Paul encourages, "Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires." This metaphorical crucifixion represents the rejection of sinful desires and the pursuit of a life led by the Spirit.

In conclusion, the "lust of the flesh" as described in the Bible encompasses the various ways in which physical and emotional desires can lead individuals away from God's divine path. It represents the human tendency to prioritise immediate gratification and self-indulgence over spiritual and moral integrity. The Bible calls believers to recognise these temptations, resist them, and cultivate a life that reflects the fruits of the Spirit. Through such vigilance and dedication, individuals can strive to align their lives more closely with divine will and purpose.

Dangers of The Occult

Satan is responsible for the many ways humanity tries to see into the future. Where they hope to gain knowledge that will bring them fame and fortune later in life. Satan uses our desires to find how we can achieve better things in our lives by introducing us to the dark world of the occult.

What exactly is the occult? And why is it regarded as a dangerous activity for Christians to be involved with? There are many forms of the occult, such as the Ouija board, channelling and other means of divination of spirits, fortune telling, crystal ball gazing, tarot cards, astrology, seances, palm reading and numerology. The more dangerous forms are witchcraft, and the most dangerous would have to be Satanism.

Many people do not see the dangers of being involved with these activities. Things like palm reading and astrology seem harmless enough, but they are still a distraction from real Christian spirituality. They may also lead one into more potent forms of the occult.

When people start to deal with evil spiritual powers, they are exposing themselves to powers they simply do not understand.

Children may remain unaware of the dangers while being exposed to various forms of spiritual practices. There are many children's books and games that are fantasy stories, but they still contain instances of witchcraft and sorcery that may influence a young and growing mind. Parents should be very selective when they are choosing the activities they want their children to be involved in.

Christians who are readers of the bible will understand the dangers of the occult. One passage of scripture found in Deu 18:9-12 warns us to avoid these practices.

Deu 18:9 “When you come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not learn to follow the abominable practices of those nations.”

Deu 18:10 There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer

Deu 18:11 or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead,

Deu 18:12 for whoever does these things is an abomination to the LORD. And because of these abominations the LORD your God is driving them out before you.

It is unfortunate that many Christians do not read their bibles at all, and may not be aware of what they are getting themselves into. In the above verses, God clarifies he opposes the practices of the occult. Read verse 12 again and see why God drove nations out of their lands. It was because of these detestable practices. Another warning against being involved with the occult is present in the following verse.

Lev 19:31 “Do not turn to mediums or necromancers; do not seek them out, and so make yourselves unclean by them: I am the LORD your God.”

To be found indulging in the occult is to be defiled in the eyes of God. These practices are a way Satan is trying to get into the minds of people who do not understand his strategies for destroying our relationship with God.

Satan is a powerful and clever adversary. Satan uses many tricks to distract us from our relationship with God, but we can overcome him. We need to recognise what he is up to and what he is capable of. Then we can defeat him. One way to defeat Satan is by taking the advice we find in.

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.

1Jn 4:2 By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God.

1Jn 4:3 and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already.

1Jn 4:4 Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Satan is a spiritual being. Therefore, our struggle with him is spiritual. If we are to win this fight, then we must engage with spiritual powers of our own. We must learn to depend upon our Lord Jesus Christ. Read verse 4 above again

and you see that the one in us (Jesus Christ) is greater than the one in the world (Satan).

We can have the power of Jesus in our battle only if we are prepared to accept him into our lives by studying his precious words recorded for us in the bible. Spend time there and avoid the activities of the world, because Satan still influences this world. Read the following verse to see the results of being friends with the world.

Jas 4:4 You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

If we follow the ways of the world, we will make a very grave decision. A worldly person seeks his own happiness and has little care for those less fortunate than himself. The spirit of the world is the spirit of Satan, something we must avoid at all costs.

By being involved in the occult, people are siding with Satan against God. This is not always apparent because the lesser activities of the occult, like palm reading and fortune telling, may seem harmless, but they are an entry point for the greater powers of Satan.

Therefore, if you claim to be a Christian, please have nothing to do with these occult powers. Do not think they are harmless and that they will not affect your relationship with Almighty God. They will influence your thoughts and even if they only affect you by a tiny amount, they are still dangerous and will lead to much greater harm.

The Dangers of the Occult

The occult—encompassing practices and beliefs that involve supernatural forces, hidden knowledge, and mystical rituals—has intrigued and attracted many throughout history. From ancient pagan rites to modern mystical practices, the occult remains a persistent and controversial element in cultural and spiritual discourse. The occult poses significant dangers that can impact individuals and societies in profound and always harmful ways. This chapter will explore the multifaceted dangers of the occult, focusing on psychological, spiritual, social, and ethical dimensions.

Psychological Risks

One of the primary dangers associated with the occult is its potential to cause psychological harm. Engaging in occult practices involves exploring and manipulating the unconscious mind, which can lead to a range of mental health issues. Practices such as divination, astrology, and ritual magic can foster dependency on supernatural explanations for personal problems, diverting individuals from seeking practical medical or spiritual help. For instance, individuals who rely on occult practices to make important life decisions usually experience increased anxiety and uncertainty when outcomes do not align with their expectations.

Furthermore, the occult can also trigger or exacerbate underlying psychological conditions. Individuals with pre-existing mental health issues may find their symptoms worsened by occult practices that involve intense emotional or spiritual experiences. The pursuit of mystical knowledge can lead to obsessive thinking and paranoia, particularly when individuals interpret ordinary events as signs or messages from supernatural entities. In severe cases, this can contribute to the development of psychosis or other serious mental

health disorders.

Spiritual Dangers

Being involved with the occult has the potential to lead individuals away from God and true spiritual paths, introducing them to practices that may conflict with or undermine established spiritual beliefs. Many occult practices involve invoking spirits, engaging in rituals that seek to manipulate supernatural forces, or pursuing knowledge that is considered forbidden or dangerous by mainstream religions. This can create a profound spiritual disorientation, as individuals may become ensnared in belief systems that are incompatible with their previous faith or ethical frameworks.

For example, practices such as summoning spirits or engaging in divination can involve direct communication with entities that are perceived as malevolent or deceptive. This interaction can result in spiritual disturbances, including feelings of possession or spiritual oppression. Additionally, the focus on personal power and control in occult practices can lead individuals to develop a distorted understanding of spirituality, prioritising self-interest over communal or divine values.

Social and Interpersonal Consequences

The occult's influence can extend beyond the individual to affect social and interpersonal relationships. Individuals deeply involved in occult practices may become isolated from their families, friends, or communities, particularly if their beliefs are viewed as unconventional or threatening. This social estrangement can result in a lack of support and understanding, exacerbating feelings of isolation and alienation.

Moreover, occult practices can sometimes lead to harmful behaviours or social consequences. Rituals and ceremonies may involve acts that are perceived as unethical or illegal, such as animal sacrifice or the exploitation of vulnerable individuals. The secrecy and exclusivity often associated with occult groups can foster environments where manipulative or coercive behaviours are normalised. Individuals may be subjected to psychological or emotional abuse, particularly if they become involved in high-demand or authoritarian occult organisations.

Ethical and Moral Implications

The ethical and moral implications of the occult are significant and multifaceted. Many occult practices are based on principles that diverge sharply from mainstream ethical standards. For example, the pursuit of personal power or control over others can lead to morally questionable behavior, including exploitation and deceit. The emphasis on mystical knowledge and hidden truths may also foster elitism and a sense of superiority among practitioners, leading to a disregard for the well-being of others.

The Impact on Society

The social impact of the occult is also worth considering. While occult practices are often viewed as personal or fringe activities, they can influence broader social trends and cultural norms. For instance, the rise of occult-themed entertainment, such as movies, books, and television shows, can normalise or glamorise occult practices, making them more appealing or accessible to the general public. This cultural influence can lead to an increased acceptance of occult practices and a blurring of the

lines between fiction and reality.

Moreover, the proliferation of online communities and resources related to the occult can facilitate the spread of harmful ideas and practices. The internet provides a platform for individuals to share and promote occult content, potentially reaching vulnerable individuals who may be seeking answers or belonging. This can lead to the recruitment of individuals into harmful or exploitative occult groups, perpetuating the dangers associated with such practices.

Conclusion

The dangers of the occult are multifaceted and encompass psychological, spiritual, social, ethical, and societal dimensions. While the allure of hidden knowledge and supernatural power may be appealing to some, it is crucial to recognise and address the risks associated with occult practices. These dangers include psychological distress, spiritual disorientation, social isolation, ethical concerns, and broader social impacts. By understanding and acknowledging these risks, individuals can make informed decisions and seek alternative pathways to spiritual Fulfillment and personal growth that align with established ethical and moral frameworks.

What Is Our Future

Jesus often spoke about the future, and that we can know what lies ahead for us. He has also stated that we can, and should, look for the signs of the times in which we live. There are several examples of this in the new Testament. Let us look at a few and understand what Jesus means. Let us start in.

Luk 12:54 He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you say at once, ‘A shower is coming.’ And so it happens.

Luk 12:55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens.

Luk 12:56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

Luk 12:57 “And why do you not judge for yourselves what is right?

Jesus is telling the people of his day that even though they can read the signs of the clouds and the south winds, they still do not get what he is plainly telling them. He describes this further in.

Mat 24:32 “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as

soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near.”

Mat 24:33 So also, when you see all these things, you know that he is near, at the very gates.

Jesus uses the sign of the fig tree to illustrate how we can know when his return is close. Just as we know summer is near when the fig tree puts out its leaves, we know he is near when we see all the signs that he has given us in the first 31 verses of Matthew 24 eventuating.

One of these signs in Matthew 24 is the coming of false prophets and false Christs. What are we told in Mat 24:24-25?

Mat 24:24 For false christs and false prophets will arise and perform great signs and wonders, so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect.

Mat 24:25 See, I have told you beforehand.

Jesus has not left us in the dark. All we need to do is to search the scriptures. Jesus frequently reminds us that we have been forewarned. Read the following verses and you should understand that you have been told what will happen in the days ahead.

Mark 13:23 But be on guard; I have told you all things beforehand.

John 14:29 And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.

John 14:29 is a part of Jesus' farewell discourse to His disciples before His crucifixion. In this verse, Jesus is

speaking to His disciples about the things that are going to happen soon. He says, “And now I have told you before it takes place, so that when it does take place you may believe.”

The main point of this verse is to prepare the disciples for the upcoming events—His betrayal, crucifixion, and resurrection. By telling them in advance, Jesus is aiming to strengthen their faith. He wants them to understand that these events are not random or out of control but are part of a divine plan. When they see these things happening as He predicted, they will recognise His divine authority and truthfulness, which will help reinforce their belief in Him.

In essence, this verse emphasises the importance of prophecy and forewarning in reinforcing faith. By knowing in advance what will happen, the disciples will have a basis for their faith and a deeper understanding of the significance of these events.

John 15:10 If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love.

John 15:11 These things I have spoken to you, that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be full.

John 16:1 “I have said all these things to you to keep you from falling away.

John 16:4 But I have said these things to you, that when their hour comes you may remember that I

told them to you. "I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you.

Philippians 3:17 Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us.

Philippians 3:18 For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ.

Philippians 3:19 Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things.

Philippians 3:20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

Philippians 3:21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

One extremely important verse from the book of Philippians above is verse 18. Many will make themselves enemies of the cross of Christ. The reason for this is that they refuse to imitate the behaviour of the apostles, and instead live by the standards of this world. Satan's world.

Conclusion

It is almost discernible that western nations are unravelling quickly. They are falling apart and are lurching wildly out of control. We can see evidence of this daily on our televisions, we can hear about it on our radios and we can also see it on the social media outlets.

There is political unrest and our politicians are more interested in being re-elected than worrying about the welfare of those they are serving.

The attitudes of many people are very selfish, and their only concern is for themselves. This is one aspect of our generation that the apostle Paul saw and has warned us it is coming. Listen to what he has to say in.

2Ti 3:1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty.

2Ti 3:2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy,

2Ti 3:3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good,

2Ti 3:4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,

2Ti 3:5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

2Ti 3:6 For among them are those who creep into households and capture weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions,

2Ti 3:7 always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth.

Most of these traits are becoming more obvious every day. Many of the woke people fit comfortably into these characteristics. They do not care what other people, and especially Christians, believe. They are just determined to make us all conform to the ways of the world, to their ways, to Satan's ways. Do not get me wrong, there are many good young people in this world who do not fit into this category. But they are a minority these days, and what we saw from Paul above is clear in the world today.

Watch the news on television each night, or read some comments on face-book and other social media sites, and you will see much of this type of behaviour. Our world has been spiralling out of control for several decades and is becoming worse by the day.

Few are those who honestly seek the teachings and laws of our God. The modern day mega churches are more places for being entertained rather than places for the true worship of God. The primary concern for the leaders of these churches is the financial gain they hope to harvest from their faithful followers. Music, or entertainment, is their way to draw in the crowds, and the money.

So we have seen Satan's deception at work in this world. Using so many tactics to draw us away from God. Sports, the occult, lusts for pleasure and also the heresies he has injected into the churches. His influence extends into our governments and schools and the church. Evil now permeates every aspect of our lives, and will continue to do so until our Lord returns in all power and glory. We can best describe this evil as "the rejection of God" from almost every aspect of our lives, our governments, our school and especially in our churches.

God has been very patient with this world up to now, but that patience will not last much longer. This present evil age will end when Jesus Christ returns in all power and glory. It does not matter what non believers may think, this will change nothing. God will have the last word.

Therefore, my advice to anyone who may read or listening to this book is to seek God while he may be found. The evil and corruption in this world will increase rapidly until the day of Jesus Christ's return.

So, evil is not the absence of God. But it is the rejection of God.

Thank you for reading this book and may God's richest blessing be upon you.

Why Do the Wicked Renounce God

Human beings have a complex relationship with authority and accountability. From a psychological perspective, rejecting the notion of divine accountability can be seen as a form of rebellion against an external authority that challenges personal autonomy. The wicked, as described in various scriptures, often resist the idea of God's authority as a means of asserting their own independence and control over their actions. This defiance can be an attempt to escape the constraints imposed by moral or religious expectations, allowing them to live without the fear of repercussions.

Psa 10:13 Why does the wicked renounce God and say in his heart, "You will not call to account"?