

# Ezekiel 18:24

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die.

## Analysis

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"But when the righteous turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and doeth according to all the abominations that the wicked man doeth, shall he live? All his righteousness that he hath done shall not be mentioned: in his trespass that he hath trespassed, and in his sin that he hath sinned, in them shall he die." This sobering warning addresses apostasy danger. The phrase "turneth away from righteousness" indicates deliberate departure, not momentary lapse. Final apostasy proves that prior "righteousness" was external conformity, not genuine faith. The Reformed doctrine of perseverance teaches that true believers ultimately persevere; those who utterly apostatize demonstrate they never possessed saving faith.

## Historical Context

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Among the exiles (591 BC), some appeared righteous but lacked genuine transformation. God warns that mere external righteousness without heart change proves insufficient. Israel's history included many who started well but finished poorly. The warning guards against presumptuous assurance based on past performance rather than present faith. The early church recognized this danger:

apostasy reveals false profession (1 John 2:19, Hebrews 6:4-6). True faith perseveres; false faith eventually manifests itself.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**Ephesians 2:8** — Salvation by grace through faith

**Hebrews 11:1** — Definition of faith

**James 2:17** — Faith and works

## Study Questions

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1. How does this warning challenge presumptuous assurance based on past religious performance?
2. What is the relationship between genuine persevering faith and temporary false profession?

## Interlinear Text

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וַיַּבְשֵׁ	וְבַשׁ	בַּאֲ	צְדָקָת	צְדָקָת	צְדָקָת	עַל	עַשְׂתָה	עַל
turneth away	But when the righteous		All his righteousness		and committeth		iniquity	
H7725	H6662		H6666		H6213		H5766	
כִּכְלָ	כִּכְלָ	הַתּוֹעֵב	וְתַ	אֲשֶׁר	עַשְׂתָה	הַרְשָׁ	עַ	
H3605	according to all the abominations	H8441		H834	and committeth	that the wicked		H7563
					H6213			
עַשְׂתָה		כִּל	יְהִ	אֲשֶׁר	עַשְׂתָה		עַשְׂתָה	
and committeth	shall he live	H3605	All his righteousness	H834	and committeth			
H6213	H2425		H6666		H6213			
לְאָ	תִּזְכַּר	רְנָה	בְּמַעַל	וְ	אֲשֶׁר	מַעַל		
H3808	shall not be mentioned	H2142	in his trespass	H4603	H834	that he hath trespassed		H4604
וּבְחַטָּאת	וְבְחַטָּאת	אֲשֶׁר	אֲשֶׁר	וְ	וְ	וְ	וְ	
and in his sin	H834	that he hath sinned	H2398	H0	in them	in them	in them	
H2403					H4191	shall he die		

## Additional Cross-References

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**Ezekiel 33:18** (Righteousness): When the righteous turneth from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, he shall even die thereby.

**Proverbs 21:16** (Parallel theme): The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

**2 John 1:8** (Parallel theme): Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward.

**Galatians 3:4** (Parallel theme): Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain.

**Ezekiel 18:26** (Righteousness): When a righteous man turneth away from his righteousness, and committeth iniquity, and dieth in them; for his iniquity that he hath done shall he die.

**1 John 2:19** (Parallel theme): They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

**1 Samuel 15:11** (Parallel theme): It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

**Revelation 3:11** (Parallel theme): Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

**Revelation 2:10** (Evil): Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

**Psalms 125:5** (Sin): As for such as turn aside unto their crooked ways, the LORD shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity: but peace shall be upon Israel.