

Proverbs 11:23

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

Analysis

The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath. What the righteous desire is exclusively good - their wants are rightly ordered. What the wicked expect (qatsooh - hope, expectation) is actually wrath - though they expect good, judgment awaits. This verse contrasts righteous desires rightly anticipating blessing with wicked expectations falsely anticipating good while heading toward wrath.

Historical Context

Reflects biblical theology where the righteous rightly hope for blessing while the wicked wrongly expect to escape judgment. Ultimate outcomes will confirm righteous hope and expose wicked delusion.

Related Passages

Romans 1:17 — The righteous shall live by faith

James 2:17 — Faith and works

Study Questions

1. Do your desires reflect righteous or wicked expectations about the future?

2. How does the gospel purify desires so they're 'only good' rather than mixed or evil?

Interlinear Text

תִּאֲוֶה	צִדִּיקִים	אֶךְ	טוֹב	תִּקְוָה	רָשָׁעִים
The desire	of the righteous	H389	is only good	but the expectation	of the wicked
H8378	H6662		H2896	H8615	H7563

עֲבָרָה:
is wrath
H5678

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 37:4 (Parallel theme): Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

Matthew 5:6 (Righteousness): Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Isaiah 26:9 (Righteousness): With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

Psalms 10:17 (Parallel theme): LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

Proverbs 10:28 (Righteousness): The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

Jeremiah 17:16 (Parallel theme): As for me, I have not hastened from being a pastor to follow thee: neither have I desired the woeful day; thou knowest: that which came out of my lips was right before thee.