

Psalms 10:3

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth.

Analysis

This verse exposes the root of wickedness: sinful desire replacing God as the ultimate good. The wicked 'blesses the greedy' (literally 'blesses the one who cuts off'), perverting blessing into cursing by celebrating covetousness. This anticipates Paul's description of those whose 'god is their belly' (Philippians 3:19). Reformed theology sees this as the natural outworking of total depravity.

Historical Context

Reflects economic injustice in ancient Israel where some accumulated wealth through exploitation, contradicting the Mosaic law's provisions for the poor.

Related Passages

John 15:13 — Greatest form of love

1 Corinthians 13:4 — Characteristics of love

Study Questions

1. What cultural narratives celebrate greed as virtue rather than vice?
2. How can you identify and resist covetous desires in your own heart?

Interlinear Text

כִּי	הֵלֵל	כִּשְׁע	עַל	תַּאֲוֹת	נַפְשׁוֹ	וּבְצֵעַ
H3588	boasteth	For the wicked	H5921	desire	of his heart's	the covetous
	H1984	H7563		H8378	H5315	H1214
וְיִבְרַךְ	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח	וְיִשְׂמַח
and blesseth	abhorreth	whom the LORD				
H1288	H5006	H3068				

Additional Cross-References

Psalms 94:4 (Parallel theme): How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?

Luke 12:19 (Parallel theme): And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

Isaiah 37:23 (Parallel theme): Whom hast thou reproached and blasphemed? and against whom hast thou exalted thy voice, and lifted up thine eyes on high? even against the Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 49:6 (Parallel theme): They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches;

Psalms 5:6 (References Lord): Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.

Job 31:24 (Parallel theme): If I have made gold my hope, or have said to the fine gold, Thou art my confidence;

Exodus 15:9 (Parallel theme): The enemy said, I will pursue, I will overtake, I will divide the spoil; my lust shall be satisfied upon them; I will draw my sword, my hand shall destroy them.

Deuteronomy 29:19 (Blessing): And it come to pass, when he heareth the words of this curse, that he bless himself in his heart, saying, I shall have peace, though I walk in the imagination of mine heart, to add drunkenness to thirst:

