

Psalm 101:4

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person.

Analysis

The Hebrew 'froward' (iqqesh) denotes perversion or moral crookedness. David's resolve to distance himself from wickedness reflects the biblical principle of separation from evil (2 Cor 6:17). This verse establishes a standard for godly leadership: the ruler's personal holiness must precede his public administration. The Reformed emphasis on total depravity reminds us that such purity is only possible through God's sanctifying grace, pointing ultimately to Christ who perfectly embodied this standard.

Historical Context

Written by David as a royal psalm of commitment, likely composed upon his coronation or during a covenant renewal ceremony. Ancient Near Eastern kings often made public vows of righteous rule before their subjects.

Related Passages

Revelation 20:12 — Judgment according to deeds

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. What 'foward' influences or relationships do you need to distance yourself from in obedience to God?
2. How does Christ's perfect righteousness enable believers to pursue holiness in their own spheres of influence?

Interlinear Text

לְבָבְךָ שְׁלֹשׁ עַד יְלֹא יָרַד מִתְּפָנָיךְ עָמָלֵךְ אֶלְעָמָד אֶלְעָמָד
heart A foward shall depart H4480 a wicked H3808 from me I will not know
H3824 H6141 H5493 H7451 H3045

Additional Cross-References

Proverbs 11:20 (Parallel theme): They that are of a foward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

Psalms 119:115 (Evil): Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.

Proverbs 9:6 (Parallel theme): Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Proverbs 22:24 (Parallel theme): Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

Proverbs 8:13 (Evil): The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the foward mouth, do I hate.

Matthew 7:23 (Parallel theme): And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

2 Timothy 2:19 (Parallel theme): Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

