

**July 7, 2021**

## **National Sins, Part II**

As we continue with Malachi 3:15, he goes on to say, “they that work wickedness are set up.” To set up means to exalt. Not only is wickedness tolerated, but it is exalted. In is given a place of prominence in the nation’s laws, media, and entertainment. Almost every show on present day TV involves a character or participants who are openly immoral. Humanistic thinking permeates society and is often promoted by politicians and judges who write and interpret laws. That which is wholesome, godly, and true is often ridiculed and mocked as being antiquated and irrelevant.

Six times in **Isaiah 5:8-23**, Isaiah says, “Woe unto them...” Woe is an exclamation of misery or sorrow. Read each of the Woes in Isaiah 5 and mark them in your Bible. Identify the type of individual upon whom each woe is declared. The fourth woe says, “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil...” This is the inversion Malachi is referring to in Malachi 3:15. Wickedness is exalted, but goodness and righteousness is disdained. Read **Isaiah 10:1**. To decree is to enact a law. God does not look lightly upon those who legislate sin. What are some national sins that have been deemed legal? If something is legislated as legal, does that make it acceptable for the believer? I once heard of a preacher who was arrested for a crime of immorality. In his defense he stated, “I knew it was sin, but I didn’t know it was illegal.” Which is the higher standard, God’s law or man’s law?

Third, Malachi said, “they that tempt God are even delivered.” The word translated delivered means delivered from judgment. As believers we would expect that God would punish or judge those who live an immoral, ungodly, sinful life. Yet when we look around at the world we live in, it appears the ungodly are getting away with their sin. Read **Psalms 73:1-16**. What was David’s attitude? Have there been times when you have been envious at the prosperity of the wicked? Maybe like James and John, you want to call down fire from God upon them. Now read **Psalms 73:17-22**. What was David’s attitude in these verses? What brought about the change in him?

As believers we must remember that in the end, we are delivered from everlasting punishment, but the wicked, the ungodly, the unsaved, are doomed to an eternal hell. Rather than being discouraged by the continual prosperity of their sin, we need to have compassion upon their eternal soul. According to **II Peter 3:9**, why doesn’t God destroy the wicked right away? If God was not longsuffering with you, where would you be today? The ungodly may be delivered from present judgment, but it is only to give them an opportunity to repent. If they fail to repent, an everlasting judgment awaits them in hell. Keep in mind that if we fail to warn them of their sin, we too shall be called into judgment. Read **Ezekiel 3:17-21** and **Ezekiel 33:1-11**. What was the watchman’s responsibility? In what way are we as believers to be watchmen? What are some of the consequences of our failure as watchmen?