

"BUT ONE SINNER DESTROYETH MUCH GOOD"

Eccl. 9:18

INTRODUCTION:

1. Solomon was talking in Eccl. 9:18 about how much good ONE SINNER CAN DESTROY.
2. A sinner is one who transgresses God's Law -- I John 3:4
3. We all need to see what sin can do to our lives, and how our sins can affect the lives of others for BAD.
4. We all need to see the exceeding sinfulness of sin -- Rom. 7: 13

I. LET US ILLUSTRATE AND CONFIRM THIS TRUTH WITH A NUMBER OF EXAMPLES:

1. THE DEVIL -- John 8:44

- (1) The Devil is old in experience, well-skilled in battle, and deep-rooted in malice against God and His people.
- (2) He is our ADVERSARY -- I Pet. 5:8
- (3) He uses "Wiles" and "Devices" -- Eph. 6:11; II Cor. 2:11
- (4) He TEMPTS us to sin -- I Cor. 7:5; I Cor. 10:13; James 1: 13 - 15
- (5) The "much good" the Devil destroys:
 1. He destroyed the Paradise of the Garden of Eden for Adam and Eve -- Gen. 3:6; Rom. 5:12; Gen. 3: 22 - 24
 2. He destroys HOMES with adultery -- I Cor. 7:5
 3. He destroys CHURCHES with false doctrine -- Gal. 5:9; Matt. 15:9

2. ADAM AND EVE

- (1) They were put in the garden of Eden and were told NOT to eat of the tree of the KNOWLEDGE of good and evil -- if they did they would surely die -- Gen. 2:17
- (2) Eve was deceived of the Devil and did eat the fruit of the tree -- Adam listened to Eve and he did eat -- Gen. 3:17
- (3) Paul said, "*By one man sin entered into the world*" -- Rom. 5:12
- (4) Since sin was introduced into the world, ALL MEN have sinned -- Rom. 5:12; 3:23
- (5) Adam's sin brought PHYSICAL DEATH into the world, to all men -- Gen. 3:19; Heb. 9:27; I Cor. 15:22

3. ACHAN'S TRANSGRESSION CAUSED ISRAEL'S DEFEAT IN THE BATTLE AGAINST AI -- Josh. 7: 11 - 13

- (1) Achan took of the accursed thing in Jericho -- Josh. 6: 17 - 19
- (2) Achan took "*a goodly Babylonian garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight*" -- Josh. 7:21
- (3) Because of his sin 36 men died -- Josh. 7:5
- (4) This is a good lesson for the church today -- Elders and members must work to keep the church pure -- I Cor. 5:7
- (5) One sinner does much HARM to the church.

4. THE SIN OF JEROBOAM -- II Kings 17: 21 - 23

- (1) His sin was religious in character -- he instituted a NEW religion for Israel.
- (2) This religion originated in Jeroboam's heart -- I Kings 12:26
- (3) It was for his own selfish ends -- I Kings 12: 27 - 29
- (4) It appealed to comfort, convenience, and self-indulgence of the people -- I Kings 12:28 -- "*It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem*"
- (5) It had the appearance of being RIGHT -- There was the ALTAR, PRIEST, and FEAST- "*like unto the feast that is in Judah*" -- I Kings 12: 31 - 33
- (6) "*And this thing became a sin*" --I Kings 12:30
- (7) His sin destroyed the ten tribes -- II Kings 17: 22 -23

II. PRESENT DAY EXAMPLES OF ONE SINNER DESTROYING MUCH GOOD:

1. A PREACHER who preaches FALSE DOCTRINE destroys much good and many souls -- II Pet. 2:2

- (1) His tongue is filled with eloquence, his brilliancy glows, his personality draws the people to him, his outward piety seems so real to many -- Matt. 7:15; Luke 6:26
- (2) His misguided teaching leads many into error -- Tit. 1: 10 - 11

2. ELDERS who hold to FALSE DOCTRINE destroy much good-- Acts 20:30

- (1) Institutionalism
- (2) False teaching on marriage, divorce and remarriage.

3. The GOOD MORAL MAN in the community destroys much good.

- (1) He does good deeds, and he treats his family and his neighbors well.
 - (2) He has wealth, knowledge, and influence.
 - (3) He leads many to HELL -- he destroys much good.
 - (4) He is a SINNER in need of God's grace, and does not realize it.
4. The INDIFFERENT MEMBER of the church destroys much good.
- (1) He lives the life of a HYPOCRITE.
 - (2) He shuts up the Kingdom of Christ against men -- Matt. 23:13; Luke 11:52
 - 1. Members who use "lip service" only -- Matt. 23:3
 - 2. Members who are indifferent to human needs -- Matt. 23:4; Eph. 4: 32
 - 3. Members who are not giving as the word of God teaches -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2
 - 4. Members who live inconsistent lives -- Matt. 23: 23 - 24
 - 5. Members who are making a false profession -- they are lost and going to hell if they don't change, and won't realize their true condition -- II Cor. 13: 5
 - 6. The INDIFFERENT MEMBER destroys much good.
5. The IMMORAL WOMAN destroys much good:
- (1) *"For she hath cast down many wounded; yea, many strong men have been slain by her" --Prov. 7:26*
 - (2) Prov. 6: 32 -- *"But whoso commiteth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding"*
6. PARENTS who fail to teach and train their children destroy much good.
- (1) Parent's duty -- Eph. 6: 4; Prov. 22: 6
 - (2) When parent's don't teach their children and live before them, they are destroying the souls of their children.

CONCLUSION

- 1. I believe you can see that if one sinner destroys much good, then one Christian can be the means of destroying much evil -- Matt. 5: 13 - 16
- 2. Are you here and not a Christian?
- 3. Won't you become one now?