Proverbs 24:1-2 & 17-18

**Don’t envy evil people or desire their company. For their hearts plot violence, and their words always stir up trouble. Don’t rejoice when your enemies fall; don’t be happy when they stumble. For the Lord will be displeased with you and will turn his anger away from them.**

Envy, want and the love of all things of this world is something that a lot of us have struggled with at one point or another in our walks with Christ. Some of us may still struggle with it. This Christian life was never meant to be easy. An overly easy walk with Christ is a walk that does not bear much fruit. Our lives are meant to glorify God in all His Holiness, and with doing that you will not be liked by most.

This journey through Proverbs has shown me and hopefully some of you something. God showed Solomon through the wisdom He gave him and through experiences a giant contrast between the world and the followers of Yahweh. It is a contrast in various aspects of life especially those that would be pleasing to God. This proverb, especially the one from 17 and 18 seems to contradict parts of the bible. It just seems that way on the surface. We read how Solomon's father David prayed for bad things to happen to David’s enemies, but it is just that way on the surface. First David’s were prayers and prayers contain emotions that show us all of humanity bad and good. David wanted God to deal with his enemies but did not rejoice in their bad fortune. He just wanted intervention. Second David was a man after God’s own heart. He ultimately wanted his enemies shame and misfortune to turn them to the Lord’s face.

What can we glean from this deeper understanding? We can glean the fact that although we want God to seek His justice, we understand that in that justice we want it to ultimately lead those who are not believers to become believers. We must always want what God wants, that no one should perish but all come to repentance. It is the ultimate goal of the Christian to spend eternity with everyone who we interact with. I realize that this will not happen, but it is our goal to ensure that the Gospel of Peace be preached to all.

In closing remember this week not seek pleasure in your enemies pain and suffering, instead seek a way to present the Gospel to them. And as always keep in your Words and keep all of us here at New Life in your prayers as we continue to spread the Gospel to all peoples and all nations. Classes May Take Their Place