

An ungodly man diggeth up evil, in his lips there is a burning fire. Certain words need clarification. What is meant by 'ungodly', 'diggeth', 'evil' and the phrase 'burning fire'? Before tackling this let us consider the element of lips. These are linked to voice/tongue and their associated dangers. See James 3. Ungodly denotes 'without God' or godly guidelines by which they live. In fact they live their lives dominated by the mind of the flesh. Diggeth refers to the process of pursuing a matter with great effort unearthing and examining what is found and dwelling upon the things found. Perhaps becoming obsessed with the findings. Such a process can be good if the items are edifying. However, in the example given in the verse. the implication is likely to be untoward or bad.

Fire is a synonym of war or conflict. Burning implies an ongoing state of being. Evil is that which is not good or Godly, it also is not a life motivated by faith. Proverbs is a book which provides advice/help and markers to enable human beings to model themselves according to God's characteristics and traits (see Proverbs 1 v 8 and chapters 2 and 3). Its advice sets out the process and recommendations to seek after WISDOM, that of God not men. It also warns of people who occupy themselves with practises which turn men and women into the paths of sin.

This latter ensample is one which reveals the nature of sinners, those who persist and revel in the works of the flesh. Harlots are those who seduce others into sinful ways. The reference to a woman in this way also refers to false religion and its practises. We are further reminded how women can influence the actions of men. Sinners and harlots are contrasted with the Godly who respect God and model themselves on His ways, tempered with true understanding. The bible shows that ALL have sinned and come short of the glory of God. In fact many of those who are found Faithful (Hebrews 11) have also sinned. Additionally the accounts of the Judges, the Kings, the Priests/Levites are all a set of such contrasts; godly beings, also sinners.

Romans chapters 7 and 8 indicates the difference between the truly faithful and Godly. Romans 8 illustrates the battle or war is that in the mind or thoughts: it's that of a MINDSET. This is confirmed by the words of 2 Corinthians 10 and verse 4 in particular. As such the war is an ongoing situation which is lost if we give up and succumb and depart from the narrow or singular way set by Jesus who only resisted the prompting of sin and established the way, or path, of Righteousness. Let us be exhorted and enlightened remembering in our battle

to ASK. *Ask and it shall be given unto you, Seek and ye shall find, Knock and it shall be opened unto you.* Also let us don, or put on, the armour of God spoken of in Ephesians Chapters 5 and 6.

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