**“In the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world.” Phil. 2:15**

1. **This is Gods World! He Controls all Men and Nations**
   1. Ps. 24:1 The earth *is* the Lord’s, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

Ps. 50:21 These *things* you have done, and I kept silent; You thought that I was altogether like you; *But* I will rebuke you, and set *them* in order before your eyes.

Job 41:11 Who has preceded Me, that I should pay *him?* Everything under heaven is Mine.

* 1. Pr. 21:1 The king’s heart *is* in the hand of the Lord, l*ike* the rivers of water;  
     He turns it wherever He wishes.

Pr. 20:24 A man’s steps *are* of the Lord; How then can a man understand his own way?

Jer. 10:23 O Lord, I know the way of man *is* not in himself; *It is* not in man who walks to direct his own steps.

* 1. Acts. 17:24-26 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings,

Dan. 2:20-21 “Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His. And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding.

Job 12:23 He makes nations great, and destroys them; He enlarges nations, and guides them.

1. **God Chastens Nations!** (and uses them to chasten one another)

Is. 41:24

Is. 10:5-12

Is. 12:17-22

Jer. 12:7-10

**God’s disfavor described**

Deut. 28:15-45

Lev. 26:36

Is. 12:13-17

1. **As God’s people often live amidst a crooked and perverse generation, they must:**
2. 2 Cor. 6:14-18

Eph. 5:17 Therefore do not be unwise, but understand what the will of the Lord *is.*

Rom. 13:14 But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to *fulfill its* lusts.

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

1 Tim. 5:22 Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people’s sins; keep yourself pure.

1. Matt. 28:19 Go [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matt.+28%3A19+&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-24215a)]therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,

1 Cor. 5:9 I wrote to you in my epistle not to [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1+Cor.+5%3A9+&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-28464a)]keep company with sexually immoral people.

Gal. 6:10 Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Pr. 3:27-28 Do not withhold good from [[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Pr.+3%3A27-28+&version=NKJV#fen-NKJV-16483a)]those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do *so.* Do not say to your neighbor, “Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give *it,*” When you have it with you.

Matt. 22:39 And *the* second *is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’

Matt. 5:44 But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

1. **All Sins Are Not Equal**