

Elder Bobby Willis



Proverbs 24:17, **“Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:...”**

There have been many times over the years when I have either witnessed, or been a part of, saying things that I should not have concerning those who may have been considered an enemy. We sometimes think of an enemy as an illness, or a bad habit. However, Solomon is speaking of those who would seek his life or to harm him. We may find ourselves an enemy of those who do not agree with our way of thinking.

The point of this lesson is two fold. One, it is wrong to jump up and down with joy when our enemy suffers. We find this taught by David, both in the death of King Saul (II Samuel 1:17) and also in the death of his son, Absalom (II Samuel 18:33). In both cases, they met their death and yet he would not celebrate, but rather lamented even though they had sought his life.

The second thing to consider is found in the next verse, verse 18, **“Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.”** We should never allow our actions to displease the Lord. He is able to fight our battles for us and to stand with us though our enemies be all around us. Case in point is when He stood in the fiery furnace with the three Hebrew children and delivered them whole.

Notice the last half of verse 18 where Solomon indicates the wrath of the Lord on your enemy would be turned away if our attitude was ungodly. We are to reflect the holiness of the Lord in all our actions, even when we think it is time to rejoice when our enemy stumbles. Our God is able to take care of us in all situations, we just need to take our burdens to Him and leave them. **“Think About It!”**

