

THE GREAT REBELLION

October 19, 2020

JAMES 4:17 NKJV - (17) Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

NOTE: The above scripture is to be looked at as a principal.

Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft". Does God really look so strongly on the sin of rebellion as to compare it to witchcraft, and if so (as this verse implies) then why? To answer that we need to first look at the word "**Rebellion**". There are times when we are tricked by the enemy and we make an honest mistake, yes we sinned but God knows we didn't mean to and our hearts intent was to follow Him but we were deceived. Once we realize our mistake we must repent and turn away from that sin less we fall into rebellion. You see there are times when we all disobey God. The differentiating factor here is whether that disobedience was intentional or unintentional.

If God has made Himself clear to you and you willingly choose to disobey, then you are in rebellion. Likewise, if you did not know at the time the wrong was done but He has since given you opportunity to know the truth through correction, confirmation, and conviction, yet in your pride, you have chosen not to submit and repent, but rather cling to that wrong, then you are in rebellion. Think of a parent correcting a child, if they have done wrong you are going to be more lenient and understanding in correcting them for accidental mistakes then if they are willfully disobeying your direct commandments to them, or if they refuse to submit to your correction. When they do this you say "they are being rebellious children" and it usually provokes the parent to anger and a more harsh course of correction.

Ok, so we understand why God hates rebellion but why would He compare it to witchcraft? The word used here in the original Hebrew was "qecem" and can mean either witchcraft or divination. Either would apply because what God is really trying to say here is that, at its root, rebellion is nothing more then willfully choosing to be led of an other spirit. It's choosing the do the will and the work of the enemy in direct opposition to that of God's. This point is ever further clarified as it goes on to say that stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. What is stubbornness, but refusing correction and repentance, what is iniquity, but sin and wickedness, and what is idolatry, but choosing to give your service, obedience, and allegiance to an other god? Is it starting to make since now? Looking at it from a spiritual point of view, which is God's point of view, we can begin to see the severity of the sin of rebellion the way God sees it.

The last sentence in this passage addresses the consequences of rebellion and stubbornness against God's word and instructions. I find this statement to be so heartbreaking, as we see God withdraw Himself. There are dire consequences to rejecting the Word of The Lord. God can only use those whom He can trust to hear His voice, but simply hearing is not enough. We must listen and we must obey, humbling ourselves before Him in true repentance when we have messed up and ever seeking and receiving not only His instructions but also His corrections.

Stubbornness will cause you to lose more than you ever could've hoped to gain. God does not tolerate rebellion, which simplified, is willful disobedience to the voice of God, therefore causing you to willfully follow another voice that is not of God.

SCRIPTURE READING: PSALM 107:17-18

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK: Don't burn down a bridge that you will need to cross yourself.

"A JOURNEY OF THE HEART"