

DISCERNMENT IN A DAY OF DECEPTION

SOUR GRAPES AND THE JUSTICE OF GOD

Ezekiel 18:1-20 Jeff Schreve

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, handling accurately the word of truth. 2 Timothy 2:15

Discernment is the ability to understand and apply God's Word for the purpose of separating right from wrong.

Then the word of the LORD came to me saying, "What do you mean by using this proverb concerning the land of Israel saying, 'The fathers eat the sour grapes, But the children's teeth are set on edge'? "As I live," declares the Lord GOD, "you are surely not going to use this proverb in Israel anymore. Behold, all souls are Mine; the soul of the father as well as the soul of the son is Mine. The soul who sins will die." Ezekiel 18:1-4

What is the underlying evil in the devil's sour grapes proverb?

1. This proverb teaches the lie that you are not at fault.

- A. The devil wants you to blame others for your life.
- B. The Lord wants you to take responsibility for your life.

2. This proverb teaches the lie that God is not fair.

- A. The devil wants you to think that God is unjust.
"Yet you say, 'The way of the LORD is not right.'"
Ezekiel 18:25

"Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?" Genesis 18:25

Then the LORD passed by in front of him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in lovingkindness and truth; who keeps lovingkindness for thousands, who forgives iniquity, transgression and sin; yet He will by no means leave the guilty unpunished, visiting the iniquity of fathers on the children and on the grandchildren to the third and fourth generations." Exodus 34:6-7

- B. The Lord wants you to see that justice comes to the sinner.

"Yet you say, 'Why should the son not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity?' When the son has practiced justice and righteousness, and has observed all My statutes and done them, he shall surely live. The person who sins will die. The son will not bear the punishment for the father's iniquity, nor will the father bear the punishment for the son's iniquity; the righteousness of the righteous will be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked will be upon himself." Ezekiel 18:19-20

"In those days they will not say again, 'The fathers have eaten sour grapes, And the children's teeth are set on edge.' Everyone will die for his own iniquity; each man who eats sour grapes, his teeth will be set on edge. Jeremiah 31:29-30

*"Fathers shall not be put to death for their sons, nor shall sons be put to death for their fathers; everyone shall be put to death for his own sin."
Deuteronomy 24:16*

3. This proverb teaches the lie that your response is futile.

A. The devil wants you to think it doesn't matter.

B. The Lord wants you to know that your response is critical.

"But the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' Are My ways not right, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not right? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct," declares the Lord GOD. "Repent and turn away from all your transgressions, so that iniquity may not become a stumbling block to you. Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed, and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live." Ezekiel 18:29-32

Are you believing the lie or the truth?