

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture texts: **1Corinthians 10:12; Obadiah 4-9.**
(1Cor 10:12) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
- B. One of Webster's dictionary definitions of pride is; "delight in one's own or another's achievements, associations, etc."
- C. Some pride is good. We call that "self-image." It is a being proud of being a Xian. We can have pride in what Jesus has accomplished for us and being able to wear His name.
- D. But most forms of pride are bad and sinful. They must be overcome. This lesson focuses on several kinds of sinful pride harbored by the Edomites as spoken of in the book of Obadiah.
- E. As a nation the Edomites put their trust in:
 - 1. Their own defenses and military might.
 - 2. Their own allies.
 - 3. Their own riches.
 - 4. Their own wisdom....instead of giving God the glory and trusting in Him.

I. THE PROBLEM OF PRIDE IN ONE'S OWN DEFENSES AND MILITARY MIGHT.

- A. Scripture text: **Obadiah v4, v9.**
"Though you build high like the eagle, Though you set your nest among the stars, From there I will bring you down," declares the LORD. **9** "Then your mighty men will be dismayed, O Teman, In order that everyone may be cut off from the mountain of Esau by slaughter."
- B. This is being said to a nation of people who thought they could overcome because of their own strength. If the mighty men will be brought down, what of the weak and the young?
Answer: they don't stand a chance.
- C. The Edomites had built high in the rocks and lived in caves accessible by ladders and ropes. The entrance into the city was also small, guarded by high rock walls.
- D. We also build fortresses in our life that we *think* will not come down. It is proper to build for the future in investments of many kinds, but to put our trust in them will result in tragedy.
- E. Insurance, investments, etc., are all fine as long as one never loses sight of the fact that only God can truly protect.

II. THE PROBLEM OF PRIDE FOUND IN TRUSTING IN ALLIES.

- A. Scripture text: **Obadiah v7.**
"All the men allied with you Will send you forth to the border, And the men at peace with you Will deceive you and overpower you. They who eat your bread Will set an ambush for you. (There is no understanding in him.)"
- B. We are plainly told in the NT that we are not to build partnerships, confederacies, and business agreements with those of the world where we would be at a distinct disadvantage (be not *unequally yoked*).
- C. The aims and goals of a Xian are to be different than those of the world and one must be careful as to how to contract himself (2Cor. 6:14-16a).
Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness? Or what harmony has Christ with Belial, or what has a believer in common with an unbeliever? Or what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For we are the temple of the living God; just as God said, "I WILL DWELL IN THEM AND WALK AMONG THEM; AND I WILL BE THEIR GOD, AND THEY SHALL BE MY PEOPLE."

III. THE PROBLEM OF PRIDE IN ONE'S TRUST IN RICHES.

- A. Scripture text: **Obadiah v5, v6.**
"If thieves came to you, If robbers by night-- O how you will be ruined! -- Would they not steal only until they

had enough? If grape gatherers came to you, Would they not leave some gleanings? “O how Esau will be ransacked, And his hidden treasures searched out!

- B. When you talk about money, one treads on shaky ground. People are more sensitive about money issues than they are anything else. And more so today, in the culture and society we live in. We are a very materialistic nation.
- C. The Edomites would be ransacked of all their wealth. Even the grape gatherers would leave some grapes, and thieves would not take everything when they steal. But God was going to completely wipe them out (1Tim. 6:9,7-8,6).
(1Tim 6:9) But godliness actually is a means of great gain, when accompanied by contentment.
(1Tim 6:7) For we have brought nothing into the world, so we cannot take anything out of it either.
(1Tim 6:8) And if we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.
(1Tim 6:6) But those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a snare and many foolish and harmful desires which plunge men into ruin and destruction.
- D. Some people need to be completely wiped out in order to see their dependence on God. Think of the prodigal son and the rich young ruler (Lk. 9:23).
And He was saying to them all, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

IV. THE PROBLEM OF PRIDE FOUND IN ONE’S OWN WISDOM.

- A. Scripture text: **Obadiah v8**.
“Will I not on that day,” declares the LORD, “Destroy wise men from Edom And understanding from the mountain of Esau?”
- B. One thing that life itself should teach each man is that we do not-have all of the answers,
- C. Those who count themselves wise should consider the wisdom of God and be humble (1Cor. 1:21-25).
For since in the wisdom of God the world through its wisdom did not come to know God, God was well-pleased through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block, and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.
- D. No one really likes a “know-it-all” or a “pseudo-intellectual.” And in our present day, with so much information about us, it is easy to become convinced that mankind, in his own wisdom has the answers (1Cor. 1:26-31).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. God’s attitude about those who have pride in themselves (Jas. 4:6-7; 1Pet. 5:5-6).
(Jas. 4:6-7) But He gives a greater grace. Therefore it says, “GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.” Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
(1Pet 5:5-6) You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE.
- B. Trust in God is essential to living the Xian life and inheriting eternal life.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.