

## *"Enter Not Into The Path Of The Wicked"*

by Tom Wacaster

There is not much in this world that is so baffling as random and senseless violence. We recently learned of a gang of youth on the West coast who broke into a high priced home, not to steal, but to vandalize. The house was "trashed" (as per the news report). Walls were kicked in, furniture destroyed, fixtures and appliances ripped from the wall and cabinets. Indeed, these things cause the sensible and sane to marvel at the extent men will go when under the control and power of Satan. The Proverb writer has given us some insight into the "mind set" of such wicked individuals that we would be wise to note. "For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall" (Pro. 4:16). Adam Clarke had these interesting comments relative to this verse: "The night is their time for spoil and depredation. And they must gain some booty, before they go to rest. I grant also that there may be some of so malevolent a disposition, that they cannot be easy unless they can injure others, and are put to excessive pain when they perceive any man in prosperity, or receiving a kindness" (page 712, Commentary on Proverbs). One can scarcely imagine such depths of depravity, but inspiration tells us that men CAN arrive at such a state, and experience teaches us that an ever increasing number ARE DOING SO!

There are two or three truths which we must not miss here. First, one can become just as zealous for evil as he can for good. To be sure, it is a progressive thing, but it is possible nonetheless. One does not become wicked and vile overnight, nor is he born that way. Sin is progressive for the simple reason that it does not satisfy the deep needs of the soul. Second, one can become so steeped in sin that wickedness is his very nourishment. Verse 17 tells us that such individuals "eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence." Depravity has reached such a point in their lives that they feed on those things that are wicked. Third, the best way to avoid such a state of depravity is to avoid the path that leads thereto. "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men" (verse 14). Avoid the path, and you avoid where the path leads! We are told to "enter not," "avoid it," "pass not by it," "turn from it," and "pass away." Many a hardened criminal has lamented his past life with the ever familiar words, "If someone had just warned me." Well friend, someone IS warning, shouting from heaven itself, "Enter not into the path of the wicked..." Men are just not listening!