

"They Did Work Wilily, and went and made as if they had been ambassadors, and took old sacks upon their asses, and wine bottles, old, and rent, and bound up; And old shoes and clouted upon their feet, and old garments upon them; and all the bread of their provision was dry and mouldy. And they went to Joshua unto the camp at Gilgal, and said unto him, and to the men of Israel, 'We be come from a far country: now therefore make ye a league with us.'" Joshua 9:4-6 KJV

Beware the groveling, accommodating wicked. They are never what they seem. *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee."* Israel neglected to inquire of the Lord before striking a deal with strangers. They took them at their word and appearance, later discovering them liars. The world seduces the faithful into breaking covenant with God for their own benefit. Our heart may ache for the addict, but they are there by their own hand. Their only deliverance is Jesus Christ and faithful obedience to His Word. If they refuse to comply, they have no intention of quitting. The best judge of their intention is what they do, not what they say. Until sin is admitted to God, there is no cleansing. *"If we confess our sins, [Jesus] Is Faithful And Just To Forgive us our sins, and to Cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* Many are sorry for their condition, but few are sorry for the sin that brought them there. Compassion gives what is truly needed, pity gives what seems to be needed. Before entering any arrangement; seek advice from many godly sources; parents, pastors and friends. *"In the multitude of counsellors there is safety."* Satan will use pity for another's sinful condition to drag you down and destroy you. I know from personal experience, if an addict wants to quit, they will obey God's rules and if they don't, you'll only waste time and money on them. I "helped" a drunkard "get straight" four different times and he's still a drunkard. It cost heartache and hard earned dollars to finally realize we were just a means to an end. Satan uses pitiful human conditions of man's own making to tug at heartstrings and wallets under the pretense of helplessness when all they really want is a means to continue. Oh, they spin a good yarn and tell a sad story and promise the moon, but with no intention of keeping a single word. Many addicts are not so obvious. They dress nice, have good jobs, talk a good talk, act very moral, and even attend church, but they still have no intention of changing anything but your faith and wallet. How many "charities" have been exposed as fraudulent or you find out they keep most of the money or fund some wicked endeavor? Sinners cannot change until they are willing for God to Change them; *"for It Is God Which Worketh In you; both to Will and to Do of His Good Pleasure! If any man Be In Christ, he is A New Creature; old things are passed away!"*



Wickedness is slyly bent,
With no intention to repent,
They laud your help as heaven sent,
While wickedness is their intent. –CGP

Take a lesson from Israel and seek Godly counsel before entering any agreement or situation with anyone including church members. Heartache and loss can be avoided by seeking God first, even for personal plans.

"Go to now, ye that say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:' Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, 'If the Lord Will, we shall live, and do this, or that.'" James 4:13-15 KJV