

## Elder Bobby Willis



### **Avoid Sin - Don't Envy**

Sinners are just that; those that sin. Nothing more, nothing less! Yes, some sins have more consequences than others, but sin is still sin and requires the same Savior and the same price to be paid. Jesus did that when He hung upon the cross of Calvary. He paid the price for your sins, both so-called small sins and those with larger sin consequences. By the way, for God's Children, those consequences are paid here, not in the hereafter. We are chastened for our sins and are blessed beyond measure to know that Christ died for our sins to bring them into a sea of forgetfulness which we could not do for ourselves.

Now, notice the words of Solomon in Proverbs 23:17, **“Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.”** Envy is a vile thing and is to be avoided for it is a sin. The word “sinners” is used here to indicate those which are going against the teachings of God by acts of the flesh and not of the spirit. It means simply that they are not worth the envy. We are all sinners and we know that Christ died for sinners. However, just because we are Children of God does not mean we do not sin. Our flesh still sins though our *“born again spirit”* does not.

Do not think for a moment that those of which Solomon is speaking to are sinless. That fits all of us. However, the lesson here is to not envy those who have great riches or those who are engaged in worldly pleasures. They are not doing the will of God and are sinning in their actions. We are to avoid those same actions and not add to the sins which we already commit.

Eliphaz, in the book of Job, said this about envy - **“For wrath killeth the foolish man, and envy slayeth the silly one”** (Job 5:2). It would indeed be silly for a child of God who should know better, to thus sin for foolish envy. Rather let us **“Abstain from all appearance of evil”** (I Thessalonians 5:22) of which envy is high on the list. ***“Think About It!***