

] All Evil in the Midst of the Congregation [

Proverbs 4:10 – 5:14

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is considering a book specifically addressed to the young man starting out in life. In this case, written by Solomon to Rehoboam. The warning he is given concerns the natural enemies he will encounter while growing up: the evil man, and the stranger woman; and this has a deeply profound spiritual message for everyone. Proverbs is equally as applicable to young women, middle-aged men, middle-aged women, married couples, and senior citizens of both sexes. Proverbs gives us a Scriptural perspective most of us aren't used to: God's viewpoint. That said, let me predict most people are *NOT* going to care for this report – *AT ALL*. So, let's us ask our Heavenly Father to make rich and real His Word to many hearts and lives before we go on; may the Holy Spirit speak to us as we ask His blessing upon our sincere, continuing Bible study; in Jesus Name we pray....

IV

10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

~ These are the types of things Bathsheba would have said to Solomon. These are the things that should have top priority in the life of any believer. The Christian today should be interested in learning every bit they can from the Word of God. If that interest is not the number one priority in the life of the "*believer*," then there is something radically wrong in that person's walk with the Lord Jesus Christ; and that something is: there is no walk. Oh, yes, friends; you bet your life. This isn't Bible worship I'm talking about, though. No, see, the Word became flesh and dwelt among us; that's John chapter one verse fourteen, by the way – and that means we're talking about the Lord Jesus Christ here in Proverbs....

11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

16 For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

~ God's children learn a definite lesson right here. Verse seventeen speaks of communion with the devil. I see many people in religious circles who will post some awful news story, and shake their head and say something like, "... I don't see how anyone could do a thing like that." Well, according to the Lord, the evil man can't live with themselves unless they do those things. They stay up all night thinking about their next evil offensive. You and I do not fully understand how desperately dark, dire and deeply debauched the human heart is. The unbelievably easy propensity of the natural man to sink to the utter depths of sin, depravity and hypocrisy is literally unlimited; there is absolutely no bottom to evil or wicked things — **NOTHING** — that the human heart cannot and will not conceive of....

18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

~ Fortunately for our contemporary society, there are still some lovely and wonderful saints of God who are part of the True and Living church in this world today. There is, actually, a small handful of Bible believing and Bible teaching churches that continue to function in our communities; and they are comprised of some of the most delightful and pleasant people that one could ever hope to be around. Of course, the atheist constantly speaks of how the world would be a better place if Christians weren't in it; but, yet,

they also seem to be totally up-to-date with all the bad things going on in the world. Naturally, they attempt to identify those bad things with religion in some way; and, for the most part, they're correct - because they are talking about Islam, Roman Catholicism, and the perverted apostate-filled churches of Balaam worship that have become prominent in contemporary religion. However, the atheist is totally unable to recognize or understand that the Holy Spirit restraining evil in this world is only working through the lives of genuine Christians who love the Lord Jesus Christ and obey His commands. The sheer blindness to the light and blocked way of truth by an atheist is, frankly, disturbing....

19 The way of the lawless is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

~ So, two ways are available for a young person starting out in life to choose from: one is the broad way of the lawless man; and I don't think there is anything quite as misunderstood as the words of Jesus, when He spoke of the broad way and the narrow way. Many Christians still talk about the broad and narrow way occasionally. The well-lit, wide, broad, liberal, new age way that holds seemingly never-ending carnivals of vanity, where a criminal, drunkard, and the lawless man can do whatever he pleases, as he over-indulges in the things of the flesh twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, becomes narrower and darker until they don't even know what is causing them to stumble and, ultimately, they fall; as it strangles the life out of its victims and destroys them.

In contrast, the narrow way – and it certainly is *very* narrow to enter in – speaks of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Peter said, “.... *there is none other Name under Heaven by which we must be saved.*” The Lord Jesus said, “*no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.*” Now, it couldn't be any narrower than that; but the way of Christ *opens up* after we enter in, and spreads out wider than Heaven itself. Christ is the light on the narrow path of righteousness that shines more and more unto the perfect day. Jesus said, “*I am the door, and if any man enter in unto Me he shall find pasture and life everlasting.*” There is no third way, friends. This represents a fork in the road of which the paths never cross again. The broad way of lawlessness

and hypocrisy is the way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof is death....

20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

~ The discovery of the human anatomical circulatory system revolutionized the medical profession. So, it's interesting that the heart is the one thing we are to keep above all other things. Remember Jesus said, *".... out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness and blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man...."* The condition of the "heart" — physically and spiritually — is the seat of a total and complete personality.

If you want to know exactly how important the heart is, consult your concordance on the eight hundred ninety-five references to the heart in the Bible. The things we see and hear become extremely important; because whatever those things are that enter in through the sensory gate of learning, flow directly down into our hearts. It is critical that we recognize that, in and of ourselves, we cannot be trusted with what's right. Only Christ can furnish the dynamic for Scriptural ethics. The bucket of the mouth is ALWAYS going to bring up what is in the well of the heart. Our tongue is a fraternity pin; and it will give us away every time. The mouth reveals our level of academia, articulate ability, nation of origin — and everything else about us....

24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

V

1 My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:

2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:

4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.

7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

9 Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

10 Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;

11 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,

12 And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

13 And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

~ Chapter five turns our attention once again to the stranger woman. I hope you will read this entire chapter carefully after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment. The counsel given is to live a pure life for the sake of the home. This is, frankly, the type of sex education we need taught today; because this is how God gives it. It's a whole lot better than what we have in our modern day schools, psychological publications — and even in many Christian circles. The most severe problems in contemporary homes began *WAY* back with a sex life that began far too young.

We live in a pandemic-stricken world. Diseases mutate, morph, and become resistant to treatment at epidemic proportions. Syphilis causes paresis, which is a result of muscular weakness caused by nerve damage; partial paralysis and inflammation of the brain in the later stages of syphilis lead to progressive dementia and paralysis. It also highly escalates the likelihood of developing acquired immune deficiency syndrome. Frankly, homosexual perverts are blubbering idiots; because, even if they do not contract this physical malady, they *ALWAYS* – *ALWAYS* contract the equivalent spiritual disease. We saw this truth illustrated two reports ago in chapter two and, if you haven't read that report, I suggest you go back and do so now. I *KNOW* these are not popular statements – but – they just happen to be true. And someone needs to say these things.

This generation has gone absolutely mad on the subject of sex. The dam of morality has broken, and the raging waters of immorality and perversion have flooded cities, towns and countryside's throughout the world, literally. The problem of sexual subversion besets civilization on every level; from the grade school to the university to the social clubs to the workplace to the marketplace to the home. Frankly, preaching about this today is the equivalent of locking the stables after the horses have run away. This passage in Proverbs spells out succinctly exactly what is wrong – according to God's viewpoint.

We need to get the message to our young people, because it's too late once the physical life, the home life and the marriage have disintegrated. I know most people assume we will lose credibility with young people by telling them these truths; but, see, unfortunately, we're going to lose them if we *don't* tell them. This idea that we can apply a band-aid to our spiritual cancer and develop another pill to tranquilize our problems, and somehow put them back together again, is abject foolishness. One cannot sow wild oats and expect to reap roses in a marriage; and, incidentally, we're going to get God's viewpoint on marriage in our next report.

Men and women do not get by with sexual sins, friends. A sex act is more than physical because it joins the two together forever in one body; and those who call themselves "Christians" while continuing in sexual immorality are only kidding themselves. Sexual sins are different from all others because they take the place of the sanctity whereby believers are to be joined to Christ. The Word of God makes it abundantly clear that sexual sins alone are enough to keep one from entering the Kingdom of God; because such habits grab the reins and take control of one's life to the point where they assume the place of God and become their own gods. Every time, too, by the way. You can just write that down.

Interestingly, those who engage in sexual sins *ALWAYS* deny that the Bible teaches against it, too; thereby dismissing the Word of God wholesale. The homosexual pervert, in particular, invariably make the claim that they have a right to do whatever they want to do. Darkness masters their life. In chapter one of Romans God says *THREE* times He "*gave them up*" – speaking directly to homosexual and lesbian perverts. Those engaging in sexual sins invariably hate instruction and despise reproof. They are just not going to listen to anyone teaching sound doctrine, because, as Paul says in Romans, God gives them up. That's an explicit warning, friends. I suggest you heed it. This world today is reaping exactly what it has sown in connection with all of this. The gross immorality of this present evil world can be clearly traced back to a lack of instruction in the Word of God. Do I sound "*old fashioned*" now? Well, that's exactly what I am....

14 I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly ~

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