

## ] A False Balance [

*Proverbs 11:1 – 25*

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~ When the school bell rang in our last report from our Spiritual Safari, we left the classroom of Biblical life philosophy and entered the lecture hall for a disquisition in business and economics. There is a very definite and noticeable change in Proverbs after chapter ten. Wisdom is our Teacher – and, for the believer, that means that the Lord Jesus Christ Himself is teaching us now. We are in our senior year, and wisdom and righteousness are made synonymous; and the fool and the wicked are identical twins. Wisdom and the fool are at total opposite ends of the spectrum of understanding; and righteousness and the wicked cannot cohabitate under any circumstances. Christ has been made unto us righteousness through the redemptive work He wrought on the cross. Christ is going to touch every area of a person's life as we move forward from here in this book of the Bible. Great guiding principles of life are going to be set in stone.

In this report, the Spirit of God is, of course, teaching by proverbs. As we have already learned in our first report, most proverbs are constructed of *parallelism*; meaning that an idea is repeated in several different ways of contrast. Three kinds of parallelism have previously been pointed out: One is called "*Synonymous Parallelism*." The second form of parallelism is called "*Antithetic*" or "*Contrast*" Parallelism. The third type of parallelism is known as "*Synthetic Parallelism*." The proverbs recorded in Scripture are short sentences drawn from *LONG* experiences. That's how Hebrew poetry is written, and we have all of those types of parallelism in this section of Scripture. If you haven't read our first introductory report from Proverbs, I suggest you go back and do so now. In fact, I suggest you read all of the preceding safari reports from Proverbs to get caught up....

***1 A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.***

~ Good business isn't really all that complicated. The Godly businessman is an honest man of simple integrity. It's rare but wonderful to actually find men like that in the marketplace of the world – and they are out there.

Unfortunately, commerce in contemporary society is won by who can defraud and create the best scam. Lying and deception are the things this world is most proud of today; and pride is the all-besetting sin. We have seen in Proverbs how God hates pride; and we saw in the Book of Job that pride was Job's biggest problem. The Word of God tells us very clearly that if a man wants to walk in truth and sincerity, then the Lord can be depended on for guidance and direction. There is a whole lot said about this in Scripture; and these first several verses bring us "*contrast*" proverbs.

Honesty and integrity are almost wholly absent from modern teaching; both in the secular realm and in seminary or Bible college. Now that the world has utterly departed from a social customs background of legal morals and standards of decency, mankind has completely lost his way. Morality is scorned and laughed at — and that has led to a voodoo mentality. Computers and technology make the false promise of inventing a system that will improve all of our lives; but, in reality, scientific advancements have only poisoned the minds and hearts of a whole bunch of people. Nobody is ever told that it is wrong to be dishonest anymore. No one says it is wrong to steal, or that a thief should be punished. No one is saying that pornography spreads a spiritual disease in the hearts and minds and cripples and kills natural affection and true love. The only talk we hear about the criminal is that we should be more lenient on them and let them all out of prison.

Our young people simply have no concept of the difference between right and wrong. Discipline and instructive correction of children have gone out of style. Truth is a commodity we have totally depleted in the world. Our ultra-liberal institutions aim their weapons of bias directly at Christianity, and the truth has been distorted to the point where it is simply not recognizable. Even the church has succeeded in turning the saving knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ around to mean the very opposite of what it really means. Humanism and evolution teaching that man is really just an animal has but one goal: to disprove the Bible is the Word of God. There is no other reason for the theory of evolution, friends. Man doesn't care one wit where he came from; because it doesn't even make a difference regarding where we are today. But man does hate the Word of

God with a passion. Either way, man doesn't learn from his history – that's a fact.

This has led to a modern age of skepticism where man erroneously believes history teaches us nothing; and the immense past was only a weary rehearsal of mistakes that the future is destined to make on a larger scale. Well, that only leads to myriad doubts that assail our reasoning. The conclusion they arrive at is that Christian knowledge is incomplete, inaccurate, and clouded by ambivalent evidence and biased religious historians. The atheistic majority will always assert Christians are distorted by prejudice and religious partisanship. So, it naturally follows that the natural man is not going to learn anything either way. Man just wants an excuse to live and act like an animal, friends. Let's keep it real. Proverbs teaches nothing pessimistic of the kind; but it does teach that man exalts himself — and all of that is the result of an overwhelming and misdirected sense of pride....

***2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.***

***3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.***

***4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.***

~ The biggest problem our Spiritual Safari has is finances. I'm just being honest with you dear readers, because I am always honest with you. The only way I can really tell the will of God in my life right now, and determine which way I should go, is by going the way the Lord opens up. When a door is closed to me — it's closed, bolted and sealed shut. When I don't have the money to live indoors or eat, then that's just too bad — for me. Interestingly, the Lord has always opened a door for me in this connection; and there have been *many* times I honestly thought "*I'm finished.*" God has made a way for me when there was, literally, no possible way — again and again this has happened. In fact, it has happened so many times that there is no mathematical possibility that certain events and timing were chance or coincidence. If you mean business with God when it comes to living for

Him – and if you are honest and upright in your dealings with others – then He will open the doors for you in the right timing, according to His plan and purpose for your life. I should add that His timing and plan will not be your timing or plan. Make a note.

Most readers know the parable of the rich man and the beggar named Lazarus; and that both of them died. The riches of the rich man didn't avail him anything in the day of wrath; but the righteousness of Lazarus caused the angels to carry him away; and they took him straight into Paradise and into the presence of the Lord. If you trust your material wealth or your own abilities in this world, then you have your priorities upside-down and backwards. There is nothing wrong with God-given wealth; but it is critical to recognize it has limitations; and specific directives for use. Money will buy almost anything in this world, but it won't buy *ANYTHING* in the next. If God has seemed fit to bestow riches upon you, it is only so you can use it to glorify Him by helping others. Material wealth is *IN NO WAY* a "blessing" – unless you use it as a blessing to help others. Some of you might want to make a note about that....

***5 The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the lawless shall fall by his own lawlessness.***

***6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.***

***7 When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.***

***8 The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.***

~ There is a proverb for every Bible character, every person you know in this life, and there is one for *YOU*, too. Verse seven and eight remind me of Haman from the Book of Esther. The first part of verse eight also reminds me of Daniel. The word "hypocrite" is derived from two Greek words; one which means "to answer" and the other means "to reply again." This word

was used for actors in Greek plays; one actor gives a cue to the other and, when that cue is given, the other knows it is his time to play his part.

*“Hypocrite”* succinctly defines play-acting, as it were. In the religious realm, a hypocrite has but one thought in mind: cover up his own life of sin and phoniness. That is most successfully accomplished through *“projection.”* This is the one who acts so trite and says he feels sorry for someone else; when they really don’t care for or about that other person in any way, shape or form. We have some of the most phony, fake, fraudulent, counterfeit and cosmetic self-declared *“Christians”* in religious circles that it is positively frightening. Those people are simply acting a part; and their part is the part where Satan transforms himself into an angel of light. That’s second Corinthians chapter eleven verse fourteen, by the way....

***9 An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.***

~ Potiphar’s wife and the way she maligned Joseph comes to my mind here in this proverb. She brought false charges to cover up her own sin. She is the one who tried to seduce Joseph, you will recall. When Joseph refused to commit adultery with her, she accused him of rape. Naturally, no one was going to believe a slave against the wife of an Egyptian official. It was futile for Joseph to even answer the charges, because he had no chance of prevailing. Unfortunately, this works itself out sometimes in some churches. The hypocrite will lie and literally say anything to protect themselves. If you know a person who is nice to someone’s face, but criticizes them behind their back, you will do well to stay as far away from that person as you can possibly get; because they are dangerous, my friends. Those people are covering something up in their lives, and when they need to use you for their deception, they won’t even hesitate slightly to ruin you with gossip and slander. When you find that happening to you, just remain quiet; the Lord will take care of it – you may be absolutely sure....

***10 When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.***

***11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.***

***12 He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.***

~ David and Saul come to my mind in many of these proverbs, but particularly these three. Naturally, David's life would have had a tremendous effect on Solomon. Remember, when David fled Jerusalem as Absalom rebelled against him, Shimei, who was of the family of Saul, followed along cursing David. Joab wanted to go over and run a spear through Shimei's heart to shut his mouth. Well, David told Joab, "... no, Shimei is speaking from his heart, and this is God's judgment on me." Well, David just kept quiet, and the Lord took care of Shimei. These are spectacular principles of life for all of us. I wish more people would make a sincere and educated study of the Book of Proverbs. Not only would it bring more people to Christ, but it would give us all a whole bunch of common sense. Our world today seems to be over-loaded with high I.Q.'s – but we're very short on common sense....

***13 A gossip revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.***

***14 Where no management is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety.***

~ Daniel was a great advisor to both Nebuchadnezzar and Cyrus. Both of those kings and their people were helped, and benefited greatly from Daniel's advice. Nathan gave good advice to David; and David repented of his sins as a result – and the children of Israel benefited at that time. By contrast, Rehoboam, Solomon's own son, wouldn't listen to the advice of the older and wiser men regarding that tax issue; and, as a result, the kingdom was divided into the north and the south - and the people suffered tremendously! If Rehoboam had heeded the wisdom of the elders, that division of the kingdom never would have happened! We all need to learn to recognize and accept good advice – even when it hurts....

***15 He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.***

***16 A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.***

***17 The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.***

***18 The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.***

***19 As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.***

***20 They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.***

***21 Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.***

***22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.***

***23 The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.***

~ So, we end this leg of our expedition with a contrast between sin and righteousness. Lawlessness, deceit and hypocrisy are all going to be judged, my friends. There is not going to be any escape from answering for those things. Only when we have the righteousness of Christ will we not come into condemnation in the Day of Judgment. Furthermore, the only way to have peace and joy in this life is to be rightly related to the Lord Jesus Christ. These last two verses are paradoxes; and what they mean is that we are to sow the seed of the Word of God. If we sow sparingly, we will reap sparingly. Alright, I think that's about as far as I can take you in this report; because these truths are so rich that it's easy to overeat and get sick....

***24 There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.***

***25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself ~***

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