

] If You Beat Him with the Rod [

Proverbs 22:28 – 23:35

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XXII

28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

~ Our Spiritual Safari passed by another landmark in our last report; but we didn't stop to consider said landmark correctly in verse twenty-eight. Well, when God gave Israel the Promised Land, He gave each particular tribe a specific section of the land. Subsequently, each family in the tribe of Israel was given a particular parcel of land within their geographical allocation. To establish those properties, they were commanded to place individual boundary markers on their lands. For Israel, it was, generally, a boulder or some similar environmental feature. Well, Moses had commanded Israel, "... *thou shalt not remove thy neighbour's landmark, which they of old time have set in thine inheritance, which thou shalt inherit in the land that the LORD thy God giveth thee to possess it.*" Inevitably, there would come along someone who wanted to move the landmarks so they could, you know, gather a little more for themselves — by deceit and theft.

You and I, in this materialistic age in which we live, are seeing the landmarks of our Christian faith being moved — and even removed. The liberal theologian comes along and asserts such heresy as, "... *Paul was a false apostle; and John didn't write Revelation.*" That's really nothing new; but it has become more prevalent. The modern theologian believes they are so smart that they can simply espouse Paul wasn't relevant, and it somehow becomes true. Of course, doing so automatically eliminates any notion of the deity of Christ. See, modern religious man thinks he has learned so much, and advanced so far, and he proclaims he doesn't need a doctrine of plenary inspiration — and so on — but the error he is teaching, God has deemed foolishness.

The distinguishing fundamental doctrines have been almost completely washed away by a high-tide of unmanageable erosion; and I use that particular metaphor, so I don't accuse anyone, you see. Everyone seems to feel they are getting the latest Gospel and Prophecy update uploaded directly to them from God Almighty; unfortunately, their operating system is obsolete. They think they are up-to-date with the latest God-tech, but they're irrelevant. The landmarks are so manipulated that no one really knows where anyone else's rightful property lines begin and end anymore. Fortunately, there is a record of *ALL* of the original marker stones. You're reading it.

Instead of going forward at this point, mankind is going to have to go backward and re-establish the ancient landmarks that God Himself originally plotted and ordained. Our world is somehow going to have to get back our moral values, spiritual truths — and land on a Biblical basis. That thinking and rationalization is almost completely dissolved today, friends. All we have to do is look around to realize this world is in big, *big*, trouble. Every particular angle of any particular solution to a problem is processed or projected variably, according to one's differing interpretation of the Bible. You may want to think about that. Naturally, the suggested end-results are perpetuated by either a sociological or psychological solution. Frankly, the only response to suggesting a Biblical solution now is to be awarded a label of not-credible, quaint, obsolete — they'll roll their eyes at you, friends. Following sound doctrine is not up for consideration in this society any longer. They've established a perverted religious theory — truth be damned. Well, only by reestablishing our ancient landmarks will we ever figure out where we are.

Verse twenty-nine tells us God plans to reward and commend us on varying levels in eternity according to our work for Him. If we love Christ, we are going to want to do His work. To hear Him say, *"well done thou good and faithful servant"* will mean good things to come for you – and me! Have you been diligent in your work? The amount of work and the number of people you have spoken to about Jesus won't be important. Results won't matter. What will be important is how faithful you have been to God in what He has called you to do in His direct will. Have you ever figured out

His direct will for your life? How did you obtain that directive? Candidly, how you handle His calling might make the difference of whether or not you are chosen; because many are called – few are chosen. If we knew exactly how few, it would scare the living daylights out of us. Your calling may be as complicated as a ministry to atheists, or it may be as overly-simplistic as raising a child properly. Both of those will be rewarded correctly for a proper faith in the Lord Jesus Christ according to Holy Writ....

XXIII

1 When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:

2 And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.

3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.

~ Alright, our Spiritual Safari senior class is preparing to graduate after just seven additional reports from the book of Proverbs. God begins His commencement address with pure manners. If you get around meat that you aren't accustomed to eating, it's best to not make a pig of yourself. In fact, if you're eating as much as the unsaved man, you might as well slash your own throat. We are to be temperate with *all* things, in moderation, self-control, *having boundaries*. We have a world population of abjectly overweight people; and their compulsory eating is not hunger. No, their appetite is almost always a psychological malady. Some people come under tension and anxiety and begin to eat mass quantities of food. There are other reasons. It's a huge burden for them – and God calls it sin....

4 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

~ America has an eagle on the dollar; and that eagle takes-off easier than it lands. Once it takes flight – it's gone, too! Now, there's neither anything wrong with working nor being rich materially; but, when those things

become our primary goal in life, and if they become the first and foremost object of our heart, then it becomes covetousness. That's when mammon becomes your God. If the Lord has bestowed legitimate wealth and riches on you for your hard work, then the only question that remains for the child of God is: what do you do with the money? Is that money ear-marked for what it can do for you? — or for what it can do for God? See, covetousness means loving money, and that's idolatry. I don't see many people falling down and worshiping a totem-pole anymore, but I see a whole lot of people bowing down to images of dead presidents printed on a special paper....

6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.

8 The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

~ Going out to dinner is wonderful with loved ones we trust; but going out to dinner with strangers is a curiously precarious proposition. Certain questions are asked and, typically, there is an ulterior motive, which is to use something we say against us. It's easy to become comfortable with certain other people very quickly; but we need to be extremely careful about that. Those who like to entertain angels unaware had better make sure which side's angel you are entertaining. See, it matters, because what we say can so easily be misconstrued. If you start kidding around with the wrong people, then what you have said can become quite twisted very quickly. Solomon is giving us this warning in Proverbs through the power of the Holy Spirit. None of this has ever changed....

9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

10 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

~ Do you feel as if you have lost your faith? Well, when your children notice that, then you're going to have even more problems, my friends. Passing a defeated attitude along to our children is going to result in disaster in their lives. America has hit the bottom very hard in its downhill slide. We had a Godly history and ancestry, but we have absolute godless perverts running this country today and, indeed, the world. My generation just didn't have the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ passed along to them quite that way. We're literally in the middle of two full generations as I type and as you read who have utterly rejected Christ Jesus. Now, I don't care who you are or who you think you are, there is no denying that we Christians live in desperately terrible times. May God have mercy on our souls....

11 For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

12 Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

15 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

16 Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

18 For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

25 Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.

28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition by going over many different principles; all of which we have been over many, many times previously. Instructing our children in the way of the Lord is critical. I think if we could talk to Absalom, he would tell you that his father, King David, had a whole lot more sense than he had. Absalom would tell you now that rebelling against David was a ridiculous thing to do. David's army and his men were warhorses, friends. The only reason they left Jerusalem when Absalom rebelled is because they didn't want to destroy the city in a civil war. That's the only reason David left. Then, David drew Absalom out into the wilderness for a purpose; and because David knew the way to fight in the wilderness. Absalom went out after David in pride; and became disoriented and confused – and entangled in the tree by his hair – and along came Joab and killed him. Absalom should have stayed in Jerusalem, and I think David would have allowed Absalom to reign, frankly. After all, David wanted Absalom to succeed him on the throne anyways – not Solomon. Solomon was not David's first choice for the throne.

God isn't talking to an unsaved man in this section of Scripture, dear readers, whoever you are. God wants us to yield ourselves to His will and desire for His plan and purpose in our lives. We've covered wine and women in these safari reports – but there's been no song. At the last of the way of sorrow, grief and regret - it biteth; make no mistake. Only the Lord Jesus Christ has bore our sorrow, grief and regret for our sins on the cross. You either have that — or you don't. Only when we accept cleansing in the shed Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ can we be saved. If we ever have any joy in this life, it is going to be in Him ~

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