

] His Mouth Shall Be Filled With Gravel [

Proverbs Chapter Twenty

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~ Our Spiritual Safari senior class is back in session with this report; and, being seniors, it's time we have a discussion on alcohol and drugs. This may be a raging debate or a non-issue for you; but Scripture has much to say about the subject of alcohol. We'll all do well to fully consider and take these truths under advisement. If nothing else, it helps us understand ourselves and this lost and dying world better. You may disagree with this report, but only those who deny the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God are going to label these safari teachings false doctrine or a personal-agenda eisegesis, as we wholly established in our last report. See, the truth of the Word of God speaks for itself, friends. Our only hope in this world is Christ Jesus now.

No politician, scientist or philosopher is going to solve the myriad problems this world has. The stage is set for the Great Tribulation period to begin on this earth; all that is needed is for the true and living church to be raptured – and I believe the rapture is almost complete as I type this report, and you read it. Sound doctrine is rapidly disappearing from Christian circles, the church, and the world. False teachings are reaching fever pitch. The purpose of my missionary ministry is to take the entire Word of God to the entire world in sound doctrine; and perhaps some attitudes will be changed by the Spirit of God. Maybe some lost soul will turn to Christ as their Savior in the meantime, too – who knows? ~

1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

~ It is important to remember that Solomon is writing to his son Rehoboam. Rehoboam is the only son of Solomon recorded in Scripture; so, it is safe to assume that this message was to him. Naturally, this was also written *FOR* every Christian today; in fact, even an unbeliever could learn truth from this section of Scripture. Anyone who reads the Word of God will either be drawn to Christ, or driven from Him; there's no neutral,

middle ground when it comes to Holy Writ. The Bible will always have a very definite effect upon one's life – lost or saved. So, that brings us to the first warning of the use of alcohol we have had on this safari. I think liquor is best termed as "booze" because the word *booze* contains all of the negative connotations of damage and harm that alcohol has done in the human family throughout the ages.

Booze has wrecked nations, homes, families, businesses, careers and personal lives more than anything else known to man. There's just nothing else that compares to the destructive forces of alcohol in the human body. If you do not agree, then the Word of God says you are not wise; it's right there in verse one of this chapter. Of course, someone is going to say Jesus made wine at the wedding in Canaan; and that's true – but any religious service in Israel would have strictly forbidden leaven. So, candidly, the alcoholic content of the wine in Canaan is discounted to impossibility. The same goes for the wine at the Passover in the Upper Room; that wine could not have been fermented, either; because that would have been the result of leaven. Leaven was forbidden in both bread and drink in connection with religious ceremonies, friends; so, we can stop trying to make a futile argument. Further, leaven is always condemned in the Word of God as symbolic of evil. See, we should know what we're talking about before we deign open our mouths for Jesus.

This modern world is literally a community of drunkards. They're trapped by alcohol. The number of people sick in the hospital, psychiatric wards, those who have been maimed for life, and those who have been sent to the morgue as a direct result of alcohol use, would stagger the mind if the real numbers were disclosed. The statistics are suppressed by special interest lobbyists, of course – but alcohol problems are literally out of control. There is much more that could be said about that, but the point is: rank hypocrisy is so inextricably intertwined with alcohol use that all arguments end in futility. Drunkenness is a menace to society; and has been since the undoing of Noah in his drunken stupor.

As a medicine, alcohol can be used appropriately, to be sure. But, when consumption is accepted as recreational activity, it becomes dangerous. The number of alcoholics continues to increase per capita, and they are one

of the greatest tax burdens we have. Alcohol is unquestionably the main problem in government, and is responsible for such shameful conduct as legislators producing laws that make no sense. These are truths that are concealed from the mainstream public; and I already know I am not very popular – so, there’s no sense writing and disagreeing because, if I thought any of this was wrong, then I wouldn’t have written it. The bottom line for a Christian is this: if you want to use alcohol, that’s between you and the Lord; but I wouldn’t give you a plum nickel for your testimony....

2 The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul.

3 It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.

~ A mature Christian doesn’t instigate or perpetuate contention – or cause strife – or create conflict within the family of God. And I’m sure many wonder how I can make that statement considering the tone of my comments around this forum on which I teach. Well, let me say this: I speak of the things of Christ Jesus – and God is going to have the last word. I’m not trying to get even with anyone; except those who have helped me! I’m not trying to exact revenge on my enemies; in fact, I don’t even talk to those who I consider my enemies – because they are simpletons, not worthy of speaking to any further. I’ve presented Christ to them. They reject Him. I have to move on. I answer not a fool according to their folly – only according to Scripture and, sometimes, not even then.

Philippians 4:5 *Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand ~*

Just a little bit of being agreeable and reasonable goes a long way. Of course, many people become angry easily when Jesus is presented according to the Word of God – but that’s their problem. Those who are yielded to God don’t have a problem with anything I say; those not walking in the Spirit of Christ Jesus will have nothing *BUT* problems with the things I teach. God said, “*vengeance is Mine, I will repay.*” So, on that basis, I am not avenging myself of those who profess to love the Lord, but really hate

Him. When I speak to them, and the reply is insults, they're taking matters into their own hands. That's where one departs from the pathway of faith. Trust me friends, we aren't even capable of handling our matters. God is – and He will handle them; if we trust and obey Him....

4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?

7 The just man walketh in the integrity of his words: and his children are blessed after him.

8 A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.

9 Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

10 Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.

11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

~ Verses six through twelve forms a particularly meaningful cluster of Proverbs. God said, *"I will guide you with My eyes."* Well, you're going to have to be very close to the Lord to have Him guide you with His eyes. In Solomon's court, all he had to do was look up at one of his officials, and they would spring into action. They knew what to do without a word being spoken. Connected to this thought is the question *".... who can say, I have*

made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" Any honest and truthful person knows they aren't clean and pure from sins. We cannot do those things in our own efforts. Only a ridiculous person would even dare approach that thinking. Even a baby that cannot walk or talk yet reveals quite a temper when they get angry; and become red-faced and uncooperative. I know most people like to think their children are free from sin, and are not subject to the total depravity of man, but, I have bad news for you. None are righteous; all have sinned. I discovered this truth from my own kids, they have a sinful nature just like their mother had — from day one.

If you are going to be Heaven bound, you'll necessarily need to be Heaven-born. I realize there is an age of accountability — but until a man is born again, they will never enter the Kingdom of God. That's what Jesus said to a very religious man. You can accept it, deny it, question it — whatever — that's what's real, my friends. Further, even when we are clothed in the righteousness of Christ, we don't lose our old nature down here. Naturally, goodness and integrity have value, and purity has worth before the throne of God; and the child of God is going to walk in a way that commends the Gospel and the grace of God. But the age old question remains: if you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to convict you? I dare say most so-called Christians would be able to command an acquittal. Very few believers honestly live and walk as one who is indwelt by the Holy Spirit. There is no goodness in their life, and no real desire for purity. There has never been a real change of heart. Only God can remove our sins and give those things to us, too, by the way; they are gifts from Him....

13 Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

~ So, lets all get to work for the Lord, so we can be rich with treasures and all spiritual blessings in the Heavenlies. That means we need to work together — not *against* one another. If one man is trying to build a house but the other man is trying to tear it down, or rebuild it in some other way, then nothing is going to be accomplished. So many people are running around Christian circles saying, "*.... I'm looking for the Lord to come.*" Well,

it's wonderful to be looking for our Blessed Hope; but gazing mindlessly into outer space doesn't do anyone any good. No, you're going to have to put your ax to the grindstone and get it sharpened up so you can go out and chop some wood to build a house....

14 It is bad, it is bad, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.

~ A man goes out to purchase an automobile and, as he speaks to the seller, he lists all the things that are wrong with the car: there is a dent in the back; and it needs new tires. So, he negotiates a deal, and drives it home, where he proudly proclaims to all his friends the tremendous bargain he made buying the car. Frankly, I see many people who will knock my teaching without a second thought, but turn right around and not only say the same things I say – but plagiarize my *EXACT* words and phraseology. Now, don't get me wrong, anyone can use these reports or the content in them in any way they see fit; but, make a note: when you do it hypocritically, you aren't reaching anyone with the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Word of God. I just thought some of you might like to know that I know that....

15 There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge and wisdom are a precious jewel.

16 Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

17 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

19 He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

20 Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

21 An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.

22 Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee.

23 Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.

24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

~ Only the Spirit of God can lead us in our way, because we have never passed this way before. That's what God told Moses, and that's how the Lord led Israel through the wilderness. Many people think they are getting away with so many things – but they're not getting away with anything. God is going to see to it the playing field is made level. There's a whole lot of flattery to the face; but gossiping behind the back around this horrible, treacherous, land-fill garbage dump of human thought and emotion that constitutes social media. Frankly, you better keep a close eye on anyone who claims to be your friend; even the deacons in your church.

My friends, if you have a friend or family member that you can boast of then, by all means, do so. However, if you cannot say something good about another – and a lot of people don't have anything good that can be said of them – you'll do well to keep your mouth shut; because God is going to call you to accountability for everything we say and everything we do. That's the main thesis of this entire section of Scripture, in my estimation. This is where Ham made his mistake when Noah became drunk. Ham exposed the drunkenness when he should have kept his mouth shut. There are certain things we aren't to say; even though this particular platform of media phenomenally prompts people to reveal the most embarrassing things about themselves – but that's another story for another time....

25 It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry.

26 A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them.

27 The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

~ My advice is not to make a vow to the Lord until you have thought it over very carefully, and you are absolutely sure about fulfilling it. If you dedicate your life before thinking over what it really means, you are not going to find happiness. Moreover, God doesn't want that type of sentimental and purely emotional decision. We have WAY too much counterfeiting of the Lord's work already. Interestingly, I see the self-proclaimed prophets and evangelists come and go like the high and low tide at the beach. See, man is just a lamp; and his light is only going to burn as long as the oil lasts. The Lord Jesus Christ fills our lamps with oil when we worship Him in Spirit and in truth; and until we are filled by the Spirit of God, my friends, we don't have any light – and we don't have fellowship with the Father, either. Only the Word of God can produce fellowship and project light. Remember, five of the virgins had a lamp with no oil! I hope you have prayed for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and are reading these reports carefully, because we are plumbing profound depths of wisdom, understanding and knowledge in this Spiritual Safari through the book of Proverbs....

28 Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.

29 The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.

30 The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly ~

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