

] The Rottenness of the Bones [

Proverbs Chapter Fourteen

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is not advancing quickly through this section of Scripture; because we're considering distilled truths of Christ Himself now. This, my friends, is strong medicine. In our last report, we learned definitively that these proverbs are necessarily measured with an eternal yardstick. The carnal-religious-psychology program doesn't fit here. Some of the proverbs we are considering do not seem to fit our modern lives at all; but the reason for that is *NOT* a problem with the Bible. No, the problem is because we have *ALL* gotten so far away from the proper, correct and complete teaching of the Word of God that we really do not know what the truth is, friends. I recognize our safari is not popular – but we teach the truth. No one will indict us on false doctrine.

These words of proverbial wisdom are all boiled down into small sentences that succinctly fit individual Bible characters, individuals in our present lives – and they fit *Y-O-U* and *M-E*, too! Naturally, we all want to take the proverbs with the word “*wise*” in it, and make that our proverb – and we take the proverbs with the word “*fool*,” and apply them to other people; but, I am afraid that's where we all make our first mistake. I don't think we're fools – but I know most of us fail to recognize exactly how wretched and miserable we all really are. I know most are absolutely refusing to learn in a sincere, systematic, educated, Spirit-filled and Spirit-led manner. You might want to get that straightened out with the Lord today.

Solomon is drawing a heavy contrast in these middle chapters of Proverbs; sharp distinctions between the wise man and a fool. As we move along, those terms are going to widen out exponentially; and we'll be given new definitions for them. The fool is known as a scorner because of his attitude towards the Word of God. The antagonistic mind simply cannot be brought to comprehend the things of God. Those people may learn some Bible facts and the history of Israel; but they will *NEVER* receive spiritual discernment whereby the message of the Word of God changes their life. When you encounter that foolish person, and they always display a proud lack of

knowledge, you'll do well to stay very far away from them. The only way those people survive is by violence; meaning they are hostile to God as they blindly pass on to judgment....

1 Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

~ We're not talking about a physical building; we're talking about our spiritual house that we are all building on the Foundation of the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember, Paul said, *".... if any man build upon this Foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire"* — first Corinthians chapter three, beginning at verse twelve. Well, our works are going in the fire, friends – and only the gold, silver and precious stones will come out. The wood, hay and stubble of our fleshly works will be lost forever.

I highly suggest you all pray for wisdom in this connection right now – it just happens to be very important. Abraham's wife, Sarah, comes to my mind in verse one, as we were told that, *".... Sarah built up the house of Israel."* I also think of Moses' mother, Jochebed. Though Jochebed was a slave in a foreign land, she floated Moses down the river *by faith* and, ultimately, became his nursemaid and taught him about God. By perpetuating the knowledge of the True and Living God of Israel — which only came down verbally in that day, by the way — she built her house. Jochebed had no physical house of her own, of course.

I can think of several foolish women who brought their houses down with their own hands, too. In second Chronicles chapter twenty-two we read, *".... forty and two years old was Ahaziah when he began to reign, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. His mother's name also was Athaliah the daughter of Omri. He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab: for his mother was his counsellor to do wickedly. Wherefore he did evil in the sight of the LORD like the house of Ahab: for they were his counselors after the*

death of his father to his destruction....” Well, the house of Ahab was utterly corrupt, and was destroyed from the beginning by momma Jezebel. See, these proverbs are things that work out in our lives. They have been working out in life since God made the Heavens and the earth. You can take these demonstrations into the laboratory of eternal life, place them into the test tube of the Word of God, pour the acid of our present reality over them, and your results will come out exactly the same — every single time. The only condition is that you actually learn what you are doing before you start handling doctrine, or it may blow up in your face....

2 He that walketh in his uprightness feareth Jehovah: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.

~ Our walk with God - and *ESPECIALLY* our tongue - are going to reveal our relationship with the Lord, friends. John, in his first epistle, said, “.... *he that saith he abideth in Him ought himself also so to walk, even as He walked.*” If we call ourselves “*Christians*,” our earthly walk is going to have to be in obedience to the Father and, thereby, emulate the way the Lord Jesus Christ walked when He was here on earth. Jesus prayed, “*not My will, but Thine be done.*” Samuel laid this matter right on the table before King Saul, when Samuel said, “.... *behold, to obey is better than sacrifice and to hearken better than the fat of rams.*” If you have no reality of obedience to the commandments of the Lord Jesus Christ in your Spiritual walk and speech, then your religion is phony, fraudulent and false, friends. If we love Christ, we will obey Him; and, if we do not love Him, we won’t obey Him – it simply cannot be otherwise....

3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.

~ See, the fool always gives himself away with his mouth. I see so many – *SO* many – people in religious circles who say they are believers – but their conduct and their mouth say otherwise. That’s the hallmark of a fool and a hypocrite. If you listen to someone long enough, you’ll know if they really love Christ – or not. This is a good picture of Goliath, too. He did a whole lot of talking – but he didn’t live to regret it! Remember, the Bible has more to say about the tongue than it does about drunkenness, murder and adultery

combined! Let's watch what we say and how we say it, shall we? This is very important to understand....

4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.

~ Verse four is truly remarkable. It contains profound spiritual connotations. The ox is used as an example in myriad ways in Scripture. The ox was a beast of sacrifice; and it speaks of Christ in sacrifice. An ox had a yoke put upon him to work; and Jesus said that He had a yoke, too. Paul said, *".... for it is written in the Law of Moses, Thou shalt not muzzle the mouth of the ox that treadeth out the corn. Doth God take care for oxen? Or saith he it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written: that he that ploweth should plow in hope; and that he that thresheth in hope should be partaker of his hope"* — first Corinthians chapter nine.

Naturally, an ox is a strong animal. It was the farm tractor of ancient Israel, and it was the family vehicle of that day; they used it to plow the field and ride to town. Well, an ox is a particularly dirty animal; and their crib has to be cleaned every day. It's not a nice job. If you didn't want to have the most unpleasant chore of cleaning the crib, the answer was simple: get rid of the oxen. Of course, that meant no means to farm productively. Today, many church leaders attempt to solve the problems of division, cliques and groups by simply getting rid of certain people. Most of the time — likely all of the time — those who are considered undesirable are the oxen of the church. It's much easier to get rid of them than it is to clean their cribs; because the truth can make a real mess in a church.

Generally, speaking, if you insist on the Word of God being taught and preached properly, correctly and completely — and you insist on things being done in a right and honest manner — the cliques and self-righteous self-interest groups aren't going to care much for you, my friends. It will be easier for them for you not to be there, so they don't have to think about you. They are going to bitterly oppose you — trust me on this. Instead of cleaning up with Scripture, they get rid of the oxen working for the cause of Christ. That's always tragic for any church; but it is much more common than you might think it is. If you are a church *"leader,"* you'll do well to

learn to recognize who the true oxen are. They are vital to productivity in your church – and feed them well; and take good care of them – you definitely don't want to get rid of the oxen. Verse four is a tremendous proverb....

5 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

~ The Lord Jesus Christ is our faithful and true witness; but there is another kind of witness. There is a false witness; and, my friends, there are more false witnesses in the church than there are faithful witnesses through whom Christ speaks – *MANY* more than you might suspect. We're told to be a witness for Christ today, and there are books, courses, and seminars on how to witness be a disciple, and all of that stuff. Well, let me say this kindly: those things may be wonderful, and if the Lord leads you to go ring every doorbell in the neighborhood on His behalf, then you go right ahead – but – when you tell someone Jesus saves, keeps, and satisfies - and that Jesus will make a way when there seems to be no way, and that Jesus will never leave us nor forsake us – you had better make sure you know those things are true in your own life through *experience* or, I hate to tell you this, but you're a false witness – and no one believes you. This gets a little bit personal, doesn't it? ~

6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.

8 The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.

9 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.

~ An atheist will always tell you they do not believe sin exists. They say man only makes mistakes, and mankind can clean himself up by acting better. Well, if that were true then, apparently, man doesn't want to clean themselves up. Either way, it is an outright fool who thinks that rape, lying,

stealing, pedophilia, torture and killing anyone who doesn't believe what they believe isn't sinful. Frankly, I don't think the atheist really believes his hypocrisy; I only suspect that they cannot see their stupidity. Ahab and Jezebel were the perfect Biblical examples of verse nine, by the way. God tells us to turn away from people like that; and to have no fellowship with their works of darkness. See, this idea that we are to somehow tolerate and love everything and everyone in hopes that they will someday come to Christ just doesn't happen to be Biblical, my friends; in fact, that notion, in and of itself, is abject foolishness. Elijah didn't waste five minutes with Ahab and Jezebel....

10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

~ Every heart has a secret joy – and a secret sorrow, too! There are certain things no one can share with us; nor can we share with others in this life. Sometimes, trying to share our feelings will cause *BIG* trouble. When you tell people how you have turned to the Lord in your suffering, and how God made Himself real to you at that time – they are, typically, not going to care much for your testimony. Frankly, that will immediately turn almost everyone off. On the other hand, there are certain things that bring me great joy; which none of you dear readers would understand. Actually, even some of my closest friends can't see why certain things bring me joy; and they don't want to participate in those joys, either. This is one reason I am so amused and, candidly, astonished at some of the things people say on social media. They put their most intimate secrets out there in detail for utter strangers to see; and then they wonder why people get involved in their business. That is truly a phenomenon of this age of technology....

11 The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.

12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

13 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.

14 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

~ I don't think most people understand exactly what a "backslider" really is. The backslider is the child of God who has gotten out of the will of God. In times gone by, the calf was taken to market by making them walk up a ramp and loading them into a cart. Well, that little old cow would get about halfway up the ramp and they would see that they didn't like where they were going. So, they just put all four legs out straight and stiff, and they would slide back down the ramp. It usually took a lot of beatings to get them to move forward! That's a very vivid picture of a whole lot of Christians today. They don't want to go God's way. They want to go to Heaven, but they insist on going there via their own way and by their own method. Interestingly, the word "backslider" is strictly an Old Testament word – it isn't used in the New Testament. Don't be that person, friends....

15 The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

~ Many of these proverbs probably do not need so much commentary; but I can't resist with some of them. The reason cults and isms thrive today is because the old nature seems so right to the unsaved man. A man's own philosophy of life is very appealing to the flesh – but the ends thereof are death. It's fun to believe that we are all nice, sweet people, who only need to brush our teeth and get the right hair cut in order to make it in this world. Man also likes to follow certain religious rules and regulations to assist in his salvation. The simple man, incredulously, believes every single word that comes along, as long as it isn't truth from the Word of God; and particularly if certain individuals say those things. They accept the most absurd and nonsensical statements of sheer idiocy without even thinking twice about them. Interestingly, the world views the Christian as someone who is gullible and naïve — and one who has a very low intelligence quotient. Unbelievers believe we believe anything and everything, when they actually have that backwards. An atheist recently told me that it was *me* who believed everything I hear. I replied to him, "... you can know

that's not true, because I don't believe a word you say." It was a rather pointless conversation.

Well, the child of God is not quite so simple. A prudent and wise man is going to test everything he hears by the Word of God. The apostles constantly questioned the Lord Jesus. *"Doubting"* Thomas had questions that I would never have even *thought* to ask. Simon Peter was the same way, as he asked, *".... why cannot I follow Thee?"* Peter said he was willing to lay his life down for Jesus. Philip, who was so quiet, said, *".... show us the Father and we'll believe."* Judas, *not* Iscariot, was equally as inquisitive and he asked, *".... how is it that you are showing these things to us but not to the world?"* No, the wise child of God isn't gullible. The *"gullible"* Christian is the one who is totally and completely ignorant of the Word of God, friends. Make a note.

Faith is not a leap in the dark and faith is not *"believing what you know isn't so."* Faith is not betting your life on a maybe, either. No, faith is the substance of things hoped for — and a *"substance"* is something we can touch, taste, see, handle and smell. Jesus said He is the light — so, faith is a leap into the light. If you do not believe something as the result of a solid foundation of truth, then don't believe it, my beloved. Even the things I say in these reports are not important; what is important is what the Word of God says. I am not the Oracle of Delphi. I never speak ex cathedra in my writing. Most of you believe that I believe I am a know it all — but I'm not. You can test everything I say with Scripture to determine whether I'm right or wrong. The point is: don't be taken in by all the sweet sounding stupidity going on today — in the church, and out, too, by the way....

16 A wise man feareth the Lord, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth against God, and is confident.

17 He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

18 The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

19 The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

20 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.

21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

22 Do they not hear them that devise evil. but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.

23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

24 The crown of the wise is their spiritual riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.

25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.

26 In the fear of Jehovah is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.

27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

28 In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.

29 He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.

32 The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

33 Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.

34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

~ Our Spiritual Safari closes this classroom lesson in our expedition through the entire Word of God with a verse that we would do well to make the motto of the United Nations – verse thirty-four. The Academy of Wisdom here at God’s University requires no tuition; but it does require your full and faithful attention. The world is not going to be made right by a bunch of lying and murdering cowards; and man is going to lie and murder until Christ reigns on this earth. This world is someday going to find out that righteousness certainly does exalt a nation. Today, man doesn’t believe that truth; even though history bears out its empirical and irrefutable testimony. The pathway of our history is littered with the wrecks, debris and ruins of what were, at one time, formidable and powerful nations. Sin is a reproach to any people; you can write that down, friends....

35 The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame ~

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