

] The Simple Pass On [

Proverbs 21:22 – 22:27

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~ The wisdom that is imparted to us in the Word of God, when taught by the Holy Spirit through His Personally-ordained man of God, is superior to any thinking, reasoning, philosophy or theory mankind knows anything about. Well, as we begin this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God in our Spiritual Safari, let's make sure we understand one thing clearly: there is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against Holy Writ. The truths we have in Proverbs are so utterly remarkable I also feel compelled to recall a verse Paul wrote, but may have escaped our remembrance, when he said, in second Corinthians chapter thirteen verse eight, "*.... for we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth.*" I must admit, it can be discouraging to me in this so-called safari that so few people are interested. And even fewer seem to agree with my interpretation of Scripture. But I am simply allowing the Spirit of God to pass along to you — through me — wit and wisdom gathered from great men of God in ages gone by. Receiving it is entirely up to you.

I have no need to defend the Word of God. God defends me, and Himself, friends. Those who incessantly argue about religion can do nothing against the truth. Our Spiritual Safari doesn't claim to possess absolute truth — but — I absolutely know the One Who is Absolute Truth! I recognize many people think I am accentuating the negative. So, allow me to say I *ALWAYS* attempt to approach Scripture from a positive perspective. The problem is that so many people are so utterly ignorant of the Bible, that they cannot grasp reality. See, I proclaim the Word of God. I'm not going to argue asinine arguments about Calvinism, the late dating of the books of the Bible, authorship, whether the Bible is the Word of God, contradictions in Scripture — or any of that stuff. No, when you disagree with me, you argue with yourself — and you have a right to be wrong — but understand you are wrong. If you honestly love the Lord Jesus, and you have been born again, then you will be interested in sound doctrine. If, on the other hand, you are all hung up with some sin in your life, then I can *PROMISE* you we

will not fare well together. Amos asks, “....*how can two walk together unless they be agreed?*.”

Alright, man is quite capable of constructing a seemingly impregnable fortress in his life; one in which he feels very safe — and trusts that outside forces couldn’t possibly overcome it. Man holds that false security as history has clearly taught there will come along another man who will figure out the way in. Belshazzar sat in a drunken state inside Babylon — surrounded by a moat and a three hundred foot high wall, with another inner wall surrounding the palace — and he laughed at Daniel’s advice while presuming he was perfectly safe. Belshazzar never dreamed those walls could be penetrated; and, on top of that, there were countless men standing guard. Well, Cyrus, the enemy, had engineers in his army. They dammed the Euphrates River, diverted its flow — and exposed areas underneath the wall that was previously submerged. Then, they just walked right in.

Napoleon Bonaparte said, “.... *God is always on the side with the biggest battalion.*” Napoleon turned out to be exactly wrong; because, at Waterloo, he would have won the battle if that were true. As brilliant as Napoleon was, and with his ability to move an artillery with great speed and efficiency — he just wasn’t, obviously, quite smart enough. Unfortunately, the army became bogged down in the mud as he marched towards Warsaw. The cavalry stumbled over each other and fell down as they became, literally, stuck in the mud. See, many men look around and see their great wealth combined with brute force and a false intelligence — and they erroneously conclude it to be reliable protection. God says, “*trust in yourself, and die....*”

XXI

22 A wise man scalesh the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

24 Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

~ God returns to the topic of the tongue and how our words bless or curse others, kill or heal — save or condemn. If you want to have friends, you'll have to show yourself friendly, friends. He who has a thousand friends has not a single friend to spare; but he who has one enemy will meet that person everywhere. All of that can be managed by controlling our tongue. God has more to say about the tongue and pride than anything else in Scripture. In chapter six, we learned all of the things God hates — and numbers one and two are a proud look and a lying tongue. Our uncontrolled tongue that gossips, lies and reveals our deep-seated inner pride is the single-most self-adversarial weapon we have; it is as dangerous to ourselves as it is to others. How important that is to understand....

25 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

26 He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

28 A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

29 A wicked man hardeneth his face: but as for the upright, he directeth his way.

~ This little cluster of Proverbs is particularly applicable in this modern day in which we live. There are a whole bunch of people trying to get something for nothing in this world. They go their own way, and attempt to repudiate the Word of God. We see it in myriad business models in modern society; which are just fraudulent scams designed to do nothing but steal from anyone and everyone. The people who engage in those dealings are always as covetous as anyone can possibly be. Their greed ensures that too much

will never be enough for them. Ultimately, they are killed spiritually, if not physically; and, frankly, many of them are extremely religious. They can be found in their dead condition right inside the church on Sunday. They put up a convincing front and lustily sing the hymns. They might even be a prayer leader, missionary, or a preacher. It's all a sin for them in their lives.

Well, whatever a lawless man offers — which isn't much — is an abomination to the Lord. These are false witnesses, and they will always appear, friends. Remember, there were several false witnesses at the trial of Jesus. Pilate asked Jesus, “.... *hearest Thou not how many things these witnesses witness against Thee?*” – but Jesus didn't even answer Pilate. Jesus didn't have to answer; because Pilate knew it was all a sham. But Pilate was too much of a politician to do the right thing. That trial stands on the pages of history as the single-most ignominious of all. Today, we still have false witnesses running rampant. They shall perish, too. That's what God says in Proverbs. On the other hand, a man who loves the Lord is always thinking about how he can tell the truth, give, and contribute as much as he possibly can to the welfare of others; as opposed to receiving anything. When we deal that way with the Lord, He will bless us....

30 There is *no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.*

31 The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

~ King David said, “.... *though a host encamp against me yet will I not fear.*” David knew, without a shadow of a doubt, that God would deliver him. King Asa cried out, “.... *Lord, it is nothing with Thee to help me. Whether with many or with those who have no power, help us, oh, Lord, our God, for we rest in Thee; and in Thy Name we go against this multitude! Oh, Lord, Thou art our God, let not man prevail against Thee.*” It's a wonderful thing to learn to totally and completely trust the Lord God Almighty, friends. Certainly, it is prudent to be prepared; and Jesus said, “*a strong man armed keepeth his house,*” but, ultimately, safety is *only* from Jehovah! When our obedience to faith is in the Lord Jesus Christ, then we can rest fully in Him....

XXII

1 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.

3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.

5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

8 He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

9 He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

10 Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

11 He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.

12 The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

14 The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.

15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

16 He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

17 Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

18 For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

19 That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee.

20 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

21 That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

~ An honorable name is the most precious possession we have in this world, friends. Remember, David had a group of mighty men, and they were outstanding in character. They each made a name for themselves, too. Concerning Benaiah, for example, we're told that "... *Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, the son of a valiant man, of Kabzeel, who had done many acts, he slew two lion like men of Moab: he went down also and slew a lion in the midst of a pit in time of snow: And he slew an Egyptian, a goodly man: and*

the Egyptian had a spear in his hand; but he went down to him with a staff, and plucked the spear out of the Egyptian's hand, and slew him with his own spear. These things did Benaiah the son of Jehoiada, and had the name among three mighty men. He was more honourable than the thirty, but he attained not to the first three. And David set him over his guard” — second Samuel chapter twenty-three verses twenty through twenty-three. Most people won’t even go to church when it’s snowing; but Benaiah jumped into a pit and slew a lion in the snow. Well, even with all of those valiant and heroic attributes, he didn’t even make the top three in the list of David’s most competent men! That’s certainly something to consider.

How are you known in the group of people you associate with on a day-to-day basis? Are you spoken of as a true child of God? Are you perceived as holier than thou? Are you a Bible thumping, hypocritical make-believer walking with one foot in the world and condemning others for doing the same? If you were arrested for being a Christian, would there be enough evidence to support your conviction; or could you win an acquittal? Well, it makes all the difference in the world; because, before the Lord, all men are seen on the same plane by God as members of the human family. As sinners.

We all have a depraved old nature that is one hundred percent alienated from God. Honestly, we do well to watch each other in our obsessively surveillant world; because none of us can be trusted. We’re sinners — and the only way to make a good name for ourselves is to be found in Christ Jesus. But not everyone in this world is a child of God; there are two families: children of God — and children of the devil. Only those who have placed their faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ, and obey Him, will have a good name. Only those with a blood-tipped ear can hear me.

We need to make preparations for our future; and that means an eternal future. When a man steps out of this life and into the next, without having made a good name for himself, then the Lord calls that man a fool. So many people are making plans and setting goals of this world; from homes to families to children — and that’s all fine and well — but — you could be dead before the sun goes down today. If that were to happen, would you enter

eternity unprepared? Have you raised your children in the way God wants them to go? Do you believe that strong discipline is important to your children, according to Scripture? I hope this report has caused some to carefully consider the way you are living. This section of Scripture speaks of many things that are extremely important....

23 For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

25 Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

26 Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.

27 If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee? ~

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