

] Pictures of Silver [

Proverbs 25:1 – 25

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1 These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.

~ The Wisdom of Solomon has provided our Spiritual Safari unprecedented insight into the very heart of God's justice, grace and mercy, as we study the book of Proverbs. The Septuagint translates verse one as the "friends" of Hezekiah. Apparently, they sorted through all of the following proverbs and decided these are the ones that would be included and repeated. The Lord Jesus tells us to search the Scriptures. Paul urges us to study to show ourselves approved unto God. Part of a proper Bible study involves recognizing there are certain things God has not revealed to any of us. There are certain things we are not capable of understanding. Some things are inscrutable and beyond the comprehensive capability of mankind. God's thoughts are not our thoughts, and His ways are not our ways, my beloved. We need to study the Word of God sincerely and systematically. So many people seem to believe they are capable of sitting in judgment on that which God does; but they don't understand that whatever God does is right and just and holy! Whatever God does is the proper thing to do....

2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.

3 The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.

4 Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

5 Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

6 Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men:

7 For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.

8 Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame.

9 Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another:

10 Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.

14 Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.

15 By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

16 Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.

17 Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.

18 A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.

20 As he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that singeth songs to an heavy heart.

21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

22 For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee.

23 The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

~ We have considered many of these proverbs previously; and the best thing we can do is to read them over again — after praying for wisdom, judgment and discernment. These are truly words fitly spoken; because these words fit so succinctly into the picture of our daily living. I think most of us should pray a whole lot more about what we should say to whom at what time about which subject. We sure don't want to say the wrong thing at the right time — or anytime — to anyone. There are also times when a person should be reproved, rebuked and further instructed, too. I hear people say, "... well, I don't want to start an argument with so and so because then I'll never be able to win them." Well, there are some people that you aren't going to win anyways. When we withhold exhortation and rebuke, we are withholding the Word of God.

We need a few more faithful messengers, friends. A faithful messenger is a cool drink of water on a hot summer afternoon. We all want a faithful spouse and faithful children and friends, of course. Employers want faithful

employees, and a pastor wants a faithful staff and congregation. In turn, the people want a faithful pastor; or, at least, they should. Well, we need a few more faithful messengers handling the Word of God. The Lord Jesus Christ has come forth from the Father. Christ has come into the world and returned again unto the Father. In that brief period of time, God was contracted to a span. That's when He wrought our salvation. That's the good news that has come to our Spiritual Safari today from the far country....

25 As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country ~

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