

] Words of the Wise and Their Dark Sayings [

Proverbs 1:5 – 33

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~ Our Spiritual Safari is matriculating into the Academy of Wisdom at God's University as we examine, consider and perceive the words of righteousness, equity and truth in our proverbial textbook. If you have been with me on safari for any length of time, you certainly recognize I do not pull punches; and I make no attempt to curry favor with any group or individual for the purpose of supporting this ministry – or for any reason, for that matter. My avowed purpose in writing these reports is to give out the unadulterated Word of God in a sincere, educated, proper, correct and complete manner – and I let the chips fall where they may, as it were.

Even so, I understand that I have made statements that have hurt certain groups and individuals; but that has never been, and never will be, my intention. When I write these reports, I do not target anyone with a hidden agenda. Unfortunately, an honest exposition of Scriptures steps on everyone's toes at some point in time – including my own – and some, more than others. This is a sharp two-edged sword, friends; and, if it cuts you, it cuts me equally — and as deeply. So, I hope I can rightly utilize the wisdom we have before us in these lessons through Proverbs; because, frankly, we're in for some extremely harsh teaching – such as has not been seen before on safari!

Our last report was an intense vocabulary exercise to familiarize us with the terminology defining our study of Proverbs. It is critical to understand specifically what certain keywords mean. The liberal today has the same vocabulary as the fundamentalist; the difference is: the liberal uses words in a pretentious and pious way by changing their meaning. If you have not read our last two reports, I suggest you go back and do so now. Also, in our last report, we learned a wise man will hear and increase learning; but what that means is that a wise man will hear the Spirit of God when He speaks. The only way to hear the Holy Spirit is to pray for wisdom, judgment and discernment, and then actually study the Bible. That necessarily means reading what the man of God, who loves the Word of God, loves the Lord Jesus Christ, who is Spirit-led and Spirit-filled, and who has genuine

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intentions in speaking of the things of Christ Jesus, has written from his heart. See, God directs His Holy Spirit to teach the Word of God through the man of God; that has always been His method – and always will be. I understand most people honestly think they can figure out Holy Writ with no man to teach them — but they can't....

6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

~ It is the glory of God to conceal a matter; but it is the honor of kings to search out those things. That's Proverbs chapter twenty-five verse two. God has given the Gospel of the death, burial and resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ to be declared from the housetops; but the deeply profound truths of wisdom are not scattered across the surface of the earth. Diamonds, rubies, gold, emeralds — and all precious metals — are all hidden away, deep in the earth, to be located and mined only by great effort. And so it is with Biblical truth.

The Word of God deserves every ounce of study one can possibly muster for the Lord. We search the Scriptures, and study to show ourselves approved of God. Jesus said, *"ye search the Scriptures for in them you think you have eternal life."* Now, Jesus never said that we *aren't* to search Scripture; but most people read the Bible without any realization of the magnitude of treasures contained herein. The real treasure is Jesus Christ Himself, friends. That is so important to understand that I just want to write it over and over again ten thousand times. But we have to move on. If you haven't found Jesus in the Bible, you simply haven't been mining properly, correctly or completely; and you definitely haven't dug deep enough. The *NUMBER ONE* tragedy of this hour and the *NUMBER ONE* problem in the church today is a total and complete ignorance of the Word of God – in both the pulpit and in the pew, too.

We need a serious, systematic study of Scriptures today. The idea that we can read through the Bible once or twice and qualify as Bible masters is foolishness. At the Edison home museum in Fort Meyers, Florida, there is a display of literally hundreds of test tubes. Edison was taking every substance known to mankind and mixing, blending and otherwise

combining them in an effort to produce synthetic rubber. Interestingly, one of the main places he found synthetic rubber was from dandelion extract! Now, a dandelion is the LAST place I would have bothered looking for synthetic rubber compounds; but that was the way tests were conducted. Edison's contributions are a major advance to the well-being of humanity. When I think of the thousands of hours, endless days and nights he spent searching and researching compounds, I cannot help but think about how scant attention is given to the Word of God today. The Bible is a place where we can make some of the most dramatic findings and helpful contributions to mankind; if a whole-hearted effort were devoted to doing so. There isn't much genuine worship happening today, friends; don't kid yourself. This world is interested in the American, liberal Jesus; but they would crucify the Jesus of the Bible afresh right now if they could. The workman in Scriptures need not be ashamed for rightly dividing the Word of Truth. So, that's God's direct safari challenge to you....

7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

~ Verse seven is the key verse to the Book of Proverbs. It is the key to a healthy relationship with God. This is an extremely interesting proverbial contrast. When you see the self-proclaimed "Christian" who denies the inerrancy and inspiration of Scriptures, you can know very definitely you are dealing with a fool who doesn't believe the Bible is the Word of God. They can never learn anything about God under any circumstances with that error. Experience never teaches a fool; not even the most basic truths. To say the Lord speaks to us in many ways is to deny the teaching of the Bible, my beloved – make a note of that – tape it to your nose if you have to.

The love of God is not revealed in nature, either. Nature is harsh, unbending, and only the fittest survive; the groans and moans of the earth and its creatures sound out in dreadfully low-key sorrowful tunes. Nature cries out in pain and agony as herds are thinned, and only the fittest survive; like the wind whistling through the trees, or the waves crashing on the beach — foaming out shame — doleful. Further, the direct will of God for our life will never be revealed in a dream or vision; you can forget that

non-sense. The first statement in the Book of Hebrews chapter one verse one tells us that God doesn't speak to us in dreams and visions today – read it for yourself. Let's get serious about learning the Bible now, okay? Proverbs is a book that, if we make the effort to learn, is going to get us out of the position of being *stupid*, friends; *stupid* and Biblically illiterate – which, of course, are synonymous....

8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

~ The foundation of a home relationship was fully illustrated in chapter six of Ephesians, when Paul began by saying, “.... *children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right.*” Well, “*in the Lord*” makes all the difference in the world; and doing so is to adorn your children with jewels and royal clothing. Now, I realize some parents have instructed their children correctly from the Word of God, but those kids have still gone off in rebellion. Well, they'll return – sooner or later – one way or another. Trust God at His Word. If you were raised in a home where your father and mother feared the Lord, you will do well to thank God for them, friends. On the other hand, God have mercy on the parents who did not properly chasten their children in the truth of the Lord Jesus Christ — or failed to demonstrate the holiness they professed; because parents *WILL* be held responsible for their children; and nothing turns people away from God faster than a hypocrite....

10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

~ When a child starts out in life, and moves out of the home, the first people they're going to meet will be sinners who loves their sins. Let's keep this real: most of the human race have not come to Christ, and never will. We said we would find a proverb for every character of the Bible and here we see Joseph, Jacob's son. Potiphar's wife attempted to entice Joseph, but he did not consent. The immediate result was a testing trial — and it was not easy for Joseph — but the overall result was a Godly and prosperous life. Well, the unsaved sinner has a plan and program to get something for nothing; and this is where the cults all begin. Cults *ALWAYS* indoctrinate the inductee to *"have one purse."* The leaders of cults *ALWAYS* live off of other's labor, which causes them to suffer, so that they themselves will prosper.

That's the way a cult sustains itself – every time. Moreover, saying, *".... let's all live out of the same purse"* is the philosophy of our political hour; and socialism, communism, and liberalism are fruit which grow on a poisonous tree. Naturally, those who are all for *"having one purse"* never want to do anything; they want *you* and me to share with them that which we worked for. They make no contribution of any worthwhile substance; and they summarily condemn those who disagree with them. This is a totally false philosophy of life, but very popular among unfortunate young people; and it is prevalent in this society because it appeals to the poor masses — something for nothing — and men are using any and all methods of lying, cheating, and stealing to meet that objective. If you subscribe to any of this, and your conscience doesn't bother you, then, my friend, you're not saved; because that would simply be impossible....

15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

~ There is an alluring attraction that young people easily fall into with certain groups of ungodly people; because it generally brings prosperity, fame and wealth — at least for some period of time — as ill-gotten gains do. It's extremely easy to cooperate in a business that isn't honest; particularly if you need employment. Doing the right thing, while working for what we have, is the most difficult route in life. Remember, what we're looking at is the first pieces of advice given to a young man as he leaves the home-life structure. This is the correct type of "separation" from the world; according to the Word of God. God is crystal clear when He says, "come ye out from among them and be separate." Of course, Paul was speaking of idolatry when he said that; but we can make direct application right here, too.

Well, we're still going to be eating, shopping, going to school, working with, and socially rubbing elbows with the ungodly world throughout this life — but we're not to do the things they do. If we do those things, we will be caught in our own net — every single time — sooner or later. These are axioms of truth that God just doesn't deviate from. God condemns covetousness from the beginning. Remember, Paul said that covetousness is idolatry — and that is certainly the great sin of this hour. You and I live in a hyper-materialistic age. Until the homes and universities of this world make a departure from crass materialism, the downward spiral in ethics will continue; and it will ultimately crash and burn on the ground of reality. That day is fast approaching; thank God there are a few men and women who are beginning to attempt to correct that and pull out of the tailspin — I just hope it isn't too little too late....

20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,

22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love your stupidity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

~ Our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition with a warning against spiritual suicide in verse thirty-two, and against turning away from the Lord

Jesus Christ. Rejecting the truth of the Word of God is exactly that, my beloved. *“The prosperity of fools shall destroy them”* is quite an interesting expression. This entire world now fits that classification; but *PARTICULARLY* the United States of America. We’re an affluent people who live in a fool’s paradise by measuring the next man by his bank account, the home he lives in, and what type of car he drives. To deny we are enjoying the prosperity of fools is to reveal yourself stupid — idiotic.

All seem to trust in their own goodness today, their own heart’s desire and self-righteousness. Most believers are going to stand before the Lord someday, full of shame and ridicule, as they realize they have only done what was right in their own eyes. Don’t think for a moment God isn’t going to hesitate to pronounce judgment on those things we refused to deal with in our own lives. We won’t be condemned, but our works are going in the fire; and only the spiritual gold, spiritual silver, and precious spiritual jewels — as defined by the Word of God — will be coming back out of the fire. It’s time to really begin to understand exactly where we stand in our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Only the Word of God can answer our questions and clarify our position in Christ Jesus. The word *“fool”* occurs more than sixty times in this Book of Proverbs; and it is always used in contrast to wisdom. The *“fool”* is referred to as *“evil”* and *“dishonest”* – and several other synonyms that we will examine as we progress through this section of Scripture. *“Fool”* and *“foolish”* characterize a life one is living without God; and the way of a fool is always right in his own eyes. But he that listens to Godly council is wise. A fool is not going to listen to the Word of God being taught in sound doctrine. They are mentally and physically incapable of receiving correct judgment and instruction. This is, without question, an accurate picture of the governmental leadership in this nation; and of the entire world. Corruption, greed, theft, adultery and murder are rampant in every field of commerce and every branch of government. Frankly, it all started in the entertainment business that literally threw the Bible in the trash can; and that has spilled over into every facet of life. Of course, Hollywood thinks rejecting wisdom gives them *“freedom”* – but what they do not realize is that it is the Christian ethic that gave America freedom in the first place. Make a note.

The “*freedom*” that comes with sin always entangles and re-enslaves those who enjoy said freedom. That’s why they are called the “*trappings*” of life. “*Fool*” denotes an empty person devoid of empathy and honesty. Those are the wind-bags of the world who are always loud-mouthed, and typically atheistic, individuals of whom is said, “.... *excellent speech becometh not a fool; much less do lying lips a prince.*” Well, our princes should not be liars. If one is literate in the Word of God, and instructed in wisdom, they’ll soon realize we have a whole bunch of wind-bags running around on television, the movies, schools, the court system, and in the highest levels of government – and in the church, too, by the way – all posing as princes. A fool is utterly full of words, but they have nothing whatsoever to say; although they spend countless hours saying it.

Moreover, the fool is always self-confident and piously proud. He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool; but he who walketh wisely shall be delivered. We need a few more good leaders in the church and in every segment of society who do not trust their own thinking. We need men who will trust God today. America has not had leadership that honestly trusts God in many, many decades. Today, there is not a single politician on Capital Hill who trusts the Lord; although they incessantly mouth-off about “God” — and some even manage to iterate a Christian cliché now and then. God calls them *FOOLS*!

Make no mistake: we’re in a bad way in this world as I type this report and you read it. He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool; and that is certainly true in the realm of salvation today, too! This is where *SO* many “*Christians*” go horribly wrong in their lives. They trust their own understanding. God’s plan of salvation does not depend upon man. Man did not originate it. Man did not and cannot work it out until he has it — and man cannot present it to man, either. Salvation is of the Lord – period. That’s what Jonah said; and that’s one tremendous lesson he learned while being digested by a fish. God has mercy on whom He will have mercy, and compassion on whom He will have compassion. There is none other Name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved. He that trusteth in his own heart – is a fool. It’s past time that we all do some serious thinking about these things – don’t you think? ~

