

] The Promotion of Fools [

Proverbs 3:19 – 4:9

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~ We have seen a young man start out in life with instructions from Godly parents so far in our story of Proverbs. “*Children obey your parents...*” — is where our Spiritual Safari recently concluded Ephesians; and it carried right over to this book. See, obedience is what is right. Now, this young man has moved out of the home and into his own life where he is suddenly facing a big, bad world; and the first instruction, above all things, is to seek wisdom. Wherever we see the word “*wisdom*” in the Word of God, we can write over it, “*the Lord Jesus Christ.*” We all know Solomon wrote Proverbs; and Solomon had only one son recorded in the Bible – Rehoboam. So, it’s reasonable to conclude this is directed at Rehoboam.

Well, Rehoboam was not only urged to do these things, he was *challenged* to do them. Unfortunately, Rehoboam didn’t take any of this advice that Solomon gave him in Proverbs – not a single sentence of it – and little wonder; because Solomon was giving advice that he himself did not adhere to. That makes for a very bad home life, friends. That makes a bad witness for the cause of Christ. Solomon and Rehoboam both married women from outside of Israel, thereby forsaking the law of the Lord. Then, Rehoboam would not listen to the wise council of the older men regarding the tax issue; which was the worst mistake he made in life — because it led to the kingdom being divided into north and south. Here are just a few sordid excerpts from the life and times of Rehoboam and what he did:

1 Kings 12: 13 *And king Rehoboam answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; 14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father Solomon made your tax yoke heavy, and I will add to your tax yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions ~*

Kings 14: 21 *And Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned in Judah. Rehoboam was forty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem, the city which the LORD did choose*

out of all the tribes of Israel, to put his name there. And his mother's name was Naamah an Ammonitess. 22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked the Lord to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done. 23 For they also built them high places, and images, and groves, on every high hill, and under every green tree ~

1 Kings 15: 3 *And Rehoboam walked in all the sins of his father, which he had done before him: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as the heart of David his grandfather. 4 Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem: 5 Because David did that which was right in the eyes of the LORD, and turned not aside from any thing that he commanded him all the days of his life, save only in the matter of Uriah the Hittite. 6 And there was war between Rehoboam and Jeroboam all the days of his life ~*

1 Kings 11: 18 *And Rehoboam took him Mahalath the daughter of Jerimoth the son of David to wife, and Abihail the daughter of Eliab the son of Jesse; 19 Which bare him children; Jeush, and Shamariah, and Zaham. 20 And after her he took Maachah the daughter of Absalom; which bare him Abijah, and Attai, and Ziza, and Shelomith. 21 And Rehoboam loved Maachah the daughter of Absalom above all his wives and his concubines: (for he took eighteen wives, and threescore concubines; and begat twenty and eight sons, and threescore daughters) 22 And Rehoboam made Abijah the son of Maachah the chief, to be ruler among his brethren: for he thought to make him king ~*

I'm not even going into the account of Abijah, the son of the daughter of Absalom, and what he was all about; except to say he was another **VERY** bad king in Judah. This is **HORRIBLE** stuff we are reading. See, friends, the point is: if we want to train up our children in the correct and Godly way they should go, and write a book of proverbs for them, then we are going to have to actually live the life we espouse – or the children aren't going that way. To live the life God wants us to live means by the Word of God. Throughout history, there has been a whole lot of writing **ABOUT** the Word of God — but no one is *doing* any of it.

To live by the Word of God isn't easy – it requires studying the Scriptures – and *DOING* the commands of Christ. This requires effort, time and dedication, as you know if you have read this far. Doing the things Jesus desires we do requires discipline and focused intent. Without *ALL* of those things, my friends, you are *never* going to live a so-called “*Christian life*” – because that would be impossible. The Spirit of God is not opening the Word of God to lazy and disobedient minds. It doesn't matter how much they speak of some American liberal Jesus that never existed. Only those who are alert and deeply desire the sincere milk of the Word of God – and who truly want to know the will and walk in the way of God are ever taught anything. The *basics* begin on that basis. I simply cannot stress how critical all of this is to understand....



19 The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

~ This world does not know God by worldly understanding. Our great scientific minds today are, by and large, not Christians. Anyone who refutes *any* piece of the Word of God is not a Christian – impossible. Many scientists make a self-professing claim of being a believer in some hazy concept of something; but they contradict themselves with particular ideology, such as, “*the flood never happened*” or, “*the incident at the Red Sea could never have happened.*” As a result, all subsequent theories and philosophies they espouse become untenable.

If one is wholly preoccupied in their life with tuning into the laws of nature or peering out into the vast depths of the universe, yet claim that this world and life just sort of mysteriously “*happened*” one day; then they cannot believe in God. As in evolution, for example: amoeba and apes are irrelevant until you can tell me where the first living organism originated. You can trace evolution as far back as you want to; however, without the beginning source of life, the theory is incomplete — has no credibility. The universe is just a bit too orderly, neat and tidy to be so random. I don't care who you are or how many doctorate degrees you have — an argument of

random-life origin is not worthy of thoughtful consideration by any reasonable, thinking mind.

Man sends other men to outer space, where they live in a contraption orbiting the earth; so, an assumption is made that man is an intelligent creature — and he is, on some level, to be sure. The problem is: we're so smart, we have discovered space to be completely inhospitable and wholly incapable of sustaining human life; and, yet, we insist on continuing to try to live out there. After polluting this planet, we believe we can do better on another. The billions of dollars we waste on these types of programs when we can't even live correctly on earth without destroying it is simply mind-boggling. Well, God is intelligent, friends; and I am sure God would appreciate it if we showed a little more intelligence by acknowledging Him and His ways as opposed to persisting in our proud, pious, pygmy-self-absorbed "scientific" minds. That brings us back to the Academy of Wisdom in God's University; which is the only place that any of these things we are studying can ever be attained to....

20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

26 For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

28 Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

29 Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

30 Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

31 Envy thou not the violent man, and choose none of his ways.

32 For the froward is abomination to the LORD: but his secret is with the righteous.

33 The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

34 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

~ Well, those are marvelous and practical Proverbs of truth that don't require much explanation. What they do is reveal a man's relationship to God; and they require that we read them and meditate on them. I would note here that many people say they are going to support this Spiritual Safari. They say to me, "... you can count on me." Unfortunately, they never seem to get around to making it happen. Well, most people use all manner of excuses for "withholding good when it is in their power to do it." So many people have the ways and means to help, but tell me, "...go, and come back tomorrow, and I will give," Tomorrow never comes for those people. Now, I use this example only as an illustration — because it is expedient and, frankly, vital, to me; however, part of the point is: when we owe money to another person, and we have the power to pay them, that money is not ours. It's a dual tenet of truth.

Most teachers are paid to teach; most writers paid to write – but not at the Spiritual Safari. There are many people tagging along on this expedition for free – and that means I have to work a secular job to support their Bible education. They are robbing God. If you do not think you will answer for that, then you might want to think again. This safari is a sincere and legitimate missionary ministry – probably more legitimate than that which you currently support. Well, misappropriated giving is tantamount to dishonesty, friends. Candidly, you abuse my confidence. God knows; so, listen, if He is speaking to you. These are the things that God Himself is instructing us in. There are certain people who are an abomination to the Lord because of their greediness and stinginess. Everything they have is already God's, but they hoard His riches to their own hurt. The cause is a root distrust of God. They've never learned to trust Him; so, they don't — because they can't. This gets personal, doesn't it? All I can do is turn those individuals over to Him and let Him deal with them accordingly; and, that's exactly what I do. I pray He will draw them closer to Himself in His Word. There are quite a few fools being promoted today. Alright, enough of that - let's keep moving....

IV

1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.

~ Naturally, David was Solomon's father, and Bathsheba his mother. However, Solomon was not as close to David's heart as most seem to think he was. No, the historical books of the Bible reveal it was Absalom whom David wanted to see succeed him on the throne of Israel. Of course, Absalom died in the rebellion he led against David; which literally crushed David's heart and spirit. Remember, David was almost dead from old age when Bathsheba came to him and reminded him how he had promised to

make Solomon the king. After Absalom's death, it seems David wasn't interested with who succeeded him.

Solomon had been brought up in the women's court; and he was a total sissy. David would have died without making the appointment of a new king; and the sons would have just had to fight it out. After Absalom was killed, I don't know if David really cared what happened in the kingdom on any level anymore. He didn't have very much in common with Solomon, that's for sure; but David certainly gave Solomon advice and instruction – albeit, obviously, not in a way Solomon would accept. These are some tremendous Biblical revelations of truth we discover in this supernatural Book of Proverbs, friends....

4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

~ Today, the problem is not with the Word of God, or the creation account, or the flood, or Jonah in the fish, or Balaam's talking ass; no, the problem is there is no real love for God, friends. You can just write that down. People do not desire the sincere milk of the Word of God, so the Holy Spirit doesn't teach them anything; and that leads to them never growing. As a result, they slip into a vicious cycle of foolishness – usually while becoming uber-religious and pious. Frankly, I feel like a total and complete failure in conveying the seriousness of these Spiritual Safari reports to you.

Let's not forget Solomon said the child should not forsake the law of his mother. Bathsheba was a good mother – I'm sure of that – and even the New Testament makes it clear that what happened was David's sin – not

Bathsheba's sin – and the New Testament doesn't even mention her name in protection of her; but Solomon's wife, who was Rehoboam's mother, was not even an Israelite – she was an Ammonite – and I doubt she gave a - - about the Word of God, according to Solomon. David was a good king, but look at all the tragedies that happened in his family: his son Absalom rebelled, his daughter Tamar was raped by another brother – this is the epitome of what we would term a dysfunctional family today. David was not a good father according to the record. When we do not follow through on the commands of the Lord Jesus Christ, our life *WILL* become a tragic wreck, my beloved; it simply cannot be otherwise. We're going to have to get wisdom; and we're going to have to....

8 Exalt wisdom, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee ~

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