

] The Dice of the gods Are Loaded [

Proverbs Chapter Sixteen

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~ Most Christian's do not gamble in the sense of betting money in a casino; but many still gamble. Yes, they are betting their *life* against God, and they typically never even realize it. Our Spiritual Safari may seem as if we are becoming bogged down by proverbs; but these short sentences drawn from long experience are repeated again and again by the Spirit of God in the Word of God for a very definite reason: and that reason is because you and I so quickly forget what God has said to us previously in His Word. These proverbial truths have been tested in the crucible of time, proven in the test-tubes of profound suffering, for thousands of years now; and they are so important that God has seemed fit to say them to us several times in myriad ways. When God teaches that way, it means He doesn't want us to miss those things.

That is the method the Holy Spirit uses to reach down and touch minds and hearts, causing us to grow — and revealing deeply powerful utterances of wisdom; making them rich and real through the experience in our lives. God will speak to rich and poor, male and female, black, white and other — and young and old — all they have to is listen. However, I have repeatedly warned you dear readers that these reports are becoming overly-bearing and forcefully strong and, if you choose to read them, you will never be the same again in your thinking — I *PROMISE* you that — so, read the Spiritual Safari commentary at your own risk....

1 The purposes of the heart are of man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

~ Man devises the affairs of his life, but God disposes of or imposes upon everything we say and do. God tells us it is not in man that liveth to direct his steps. We may plan and arrange our goals but, when the time comes to act, God Himself is going to determine the final result. As Christians, our answers must come from Christ. As we have already seen in our safari through Proverbs, there is a way that seems right to a man, but the ends

thereof are death. Every man believes the things he does are clean in his own eyes. Any of us that have dealt with the lost world and spoken to them about salvation – or have attempted to teach or preach the Word of God – have certainly heard the atheist say, “.... *I don’t need to be saved.*” I’ve had that thrown at me as a challenge more times than I can remember. The atheist says he is perfectly willing to stand before God and make a case for his own morality. Many Christians, likewise, think their walk with the Lord is perfect and flawless. Tragically, both are in error.

Only if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, do we have fellowship one with another; and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us continually from all sin. If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and His Word is not in us. That’s first John chapter one, by the way; and it is written in the *present* tense. If we look at our lives in the mirror of the Word of God, and hold it up to the light of Christ, we’ll quickly discover that *NONE* of us quite measure up to God’s standard. We may measure up to the standard of the clubs and organizations we participate in — and they may even give us trophies, awards and plaques — and our neighbors may even say we are great people — and our church might even pat us on the back and tell us what a fine job we are doing. Unfortunately, my friends, if the light of the Word of God shines on us properly, correctly and completely, we’re going to discover we have a real spiritual deficit. A desperate neediness is going to be disclosed. What we are going to see are spots, wrinkles, and blemishes — and that we have all fallen woefully short of the glory of God.

The only possible way to be clean in God’s eyes is to be cleansed by the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and washed daily in the Word of God. John is speaking to *Christians only* when he says, “.... *if we say we have fellowship with the Father but walk in darkness then we lie and the truth is not in us.*” The terms “we” and “us” mean the church. John would never identify with the Gnostics of the day. They are referred to as “them.” There are legions sitting in the front pew every Sunday pointing their fingers at others and saying, “.... *you aren’t saved!*” Of course, they view themselves as perfect and upright; in fact, they act as if they should occupy the throne with Jesus

right now — because they're looking down and judging their fellow Christians. Those people are of the world; and they always feel as if they can do anything and everything themselves, and demand God bless whatever they dream up to do, of course....

2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

~ The law was not given to save us; no, the law was given to show us that we fall short of the standards of God Almighty, and that we are wretched sinners who desperately need a Savior. If you think you are keeping the law, then you don't know what the law is. The law demands perfection that you and I are unable to produce or render to God. All the law can do is take us by the hand and lead us to the cross of the Lord Jesus Christ. So, let's make sure we don't misinterpret the second verse of this chapter of Proverbs; because there is no man quite as blind as the man who is *willfully* blind! God weighs the spirits, my beloved. The scale the Lord uses to weigh our spirit is the Word of God; and we come up short - every time....

3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

~ "Commit" in verse three can also be translated "*transfer*." The idea is that we give over everything in our lives to the Lord and allow Him to take full control. It's like transferring money in a bank account to another bank account. Quite frankly, there came a day in my own life that I got in so much trouble that I had no choice but to commit all my ways unto the Lord. That's when I discovered that by faith in Christ Jesus we have justification, and peace with God. I know there are many reading this who are worrying about tomorrow, next week and next year — how is it all going to work out? Turn everything over to the Lord today, my Christian friends; just tell the Lord you want to rest in Him and follow Him wherever He may go! I cannot tell you how right and wonderful life really becomes when we do that....

4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

~ If you mix verse four of Proverbs chapter sixteen with Romans chapter eight verse twenty-eight, which says, *".... we know that all things work together for good to them that love God and to them who are called according to His plan and purpose...."* then, my friends, you have some medicine that will drug your mind into the most acute and intense trip you have ever been on. God made everything you know anything about for Himself. Good and bad. Have you ever wondered *why* the ocean has a high and low tide of salt water? Of course, I fully understand the lunar gravitational force combined with the rotation of the earth and land filtering - and all of the scientific principles; defining rocks on land which contain calcium carbonate – or limestone, and magnesium sulfate – or Epsom salts, and sodium chloride – or table salt; and the process of weathering which breaks down all of the minerals in those rocks and salts, and how they dissolve in the water as rivers and streams wash the salts from the land into the ocean – yes, I am aware of all of that – but Who made all of those elements to begin the process? And why?

We can talk about evolution all day long, but we're not having a meaningful conversation until we go all the way back and come up with something called life from nothing. Well, here's something you can just write down to simplify your research: God did it all, and He did it for Himself. Paul said, *".... by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."* The chief end of man is to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ and enjoy His presence with blessings forever!

I don't know who you are – nor do I know where you are or when you are or how you are – but I do know God created you for His Own glory and His Own pleasure. That means the lost drunkard lying unconscious in the back alley, it means the lost criminal man sitting in solitary confinement in the prison, it means a little baby born with severe birth defects, it means the old man who can't remember what happened five minutes ago, because his brain is deteriorating with Alzheimer's disease, and it means Satan's man who perverts the Word of God, too – all of it – for *HIS* glory. Some of you are going to need a humongous glass of water to get this pill down – are

you ready to swallow it and get high in a Godly way? Take this drug of truth and you will never come back down again.

I know the analogies and allegories that I make can be offensive – but, guess what? – The Holy Spirit writes these reports to you through me; and God never asked me if you might like it or not. In fact, the Lord never even asked me to consider what He writes to you – He only told me to do it. See, I don't answer to you; I answer directly to my Father in Heaven, friends. My responsibility ends when I publish these reports – and that's where your responsibility to learn something begins; even the things you may not care for very much – and even when they are presented in a way that you disagree with. To put it plainly: I, frankly, do not care. You can avail yourself and learn sound doctrine, or you can pass them by and remain as ignorant as a goat grazing grass on a hillside – makes absolutely no difference to me whatsoever. Take the Word of God as it is — or leave it altogether.

Of course, there are many things I don't understand; and I could compose sensational and articulately complex monographs and dissertations of prose that would result in conjecture and hypothesis; the likes of which would ultimately postulate an unintelligible position – for both of us. I don't do that in this Spiritual Safari. No, we keep it simple – and we keep it real. God says we exist for Him — good and bad — and that we are going to glorify Him, irrespective of whether we are lost or saved — whether we accept Christ, reject Christ, believe the Bible is the Word of God – or not. Anything and everything is accomplishing His plan and purpose for this universe, my beloved. That includes wars, hate, murder, the lying, the sexual perversions — and whatever else you can think of. It's time we fall in step with God – right now. And it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the true and living God. Even God's wrath, which will be executed upon mankind in the Great Tribulation period, is going to praise Him. How? I have no idea; but, I know He is going to show us someday. If that doesn't prompt you to commit your way to the Lord and trust Christ with every fiber of your being, then I don't know what would. See, I told you there were things I didn't know.

The Greeks had a proverb that said, “.... *the dice of the gods are loaded!*” Well, that's exactly what the Lord Jesus Christ is saying to us. God is saying,

"don't gamble with Me – because you have ALREADY lost." His Holy Dice are loaded; God knows what number you are going to pick; and which numbers you will roll. If you pick seven, He will hand you the dice that come up nine. If you choose boxcars, He will hand you snake eyes! Let's stop playing as if God didn't exist. We're simply are not going to work life out our own way; I don't care who you are — or who you think you are. A man is a fool to think he will live without God. Only a complete idiot would say in his heart, *".... there is no God."* ~

5 Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

~ I used to wrestle with understanding verse seven. I searched what many other men had to say, and the consensus seems to be that the saved man will never have an enemy. Well, I reject that interpretation; because, if that were true, God wouldn't have any enemies — and God just happens to have an enemy — and his name is Satan. That, by de facto, means you and I have an enemy who isn't going away; and isn't going to accept being at peace with us, either. Alright, so, when our ways please the Lord then, although our enemy is going to hate us, when the final chip is tallied, those enemies will be forced to admit God is using us and that all things are happening in our lives for the purpose of good. That is so extremely important to comprehend; because I see the most shallow - and just plain wrong - explanations of this verse. Surface Bible teaching harms the cause of Christ, friends.

I'll be honest with you dear readers — because I always am honest with you: the nicest thing that has ever been said about me has come from those who vehemently hate me. They say I have no credibility with them — but I present the undiluted and unadulterated Word of God properly, correctly and completely, so, if they agreed with me, then something would be

radically wrong. Anyone saying I am a false teacher knows very well they are a liar; they know they are insincere – and they know very definitely that my exposition of the Bible is proper, correct and complete. What they don't know is that I have never claimed to be their teacher; because the Spirit of God is the Teacher of all of us. They also know that the reason they utter their lies is because they are envious, jealous and full of rage and hate against the Lord Jesus Christ – no other reason, friends – make a note: I like my enemies just as they are; and I thank them, because they confirm every one of these proverbs....

8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

10 A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment.

11 A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work.

12 It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.

14 The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

15 In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain.

16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

22 Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

23 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

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

26 He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

27 An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.

28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

29 A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good.

30 He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

31 The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

~ So, our Spiritual Safari ends this leg of our expedition through the entire Word of God with a cluster of wonderful and meaningful proverbs. I simply cannot address each and every one of them because, if I did, I would have an entire report for almost every verse; and we would literally get stuck in this book of the Bible for years and years. I know many of you have quoted verse eighteen to me in an attempt to correct me more times than I can possibly count. I recognize I present as a Bible know-it-all; but I don't know it all. In fact, if you knew how little I really know about the Bible, it would shock some of you; and perhaps the rest of you already know that. Well, either way, the Word of God must be taught with authority; and that means the authority of the Spirit of God! I have said over and over again that I am *NOT* your teacher – and I'm not – the Holy Spirit is our Teacher. If the Holy Spirit doesn't teach me to teach you, then neither one of us are going anywhere.

Pride is the first thing God says He hates; and that was back in chapter six of Proverbs. Pride is the one and only thing that caused the archangel known as Lucifer — son of the morning — Satan — to be expelled from Heaven. The devil was the highest creature God ever created in His congregation of created intelligences. Satan occupied the inner cabinet of God's government until sin was found in him – and that sin was *P-R-I-D-E*! God gave Satan free will; and Satan immediately attempted to lift himself above God, saying in his heart, “.... *I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High*” — verse thirteen and fourteen of the fourteenth chapter of Isaiah; and God replied in verse fifteen by saying to the devil, “*thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*” Free will is a dangerous weapon God has placed in our hands, friends.

The animals of the forest and birds of the air follow instinct. The birds of Canada instinctively take off for South America when the weather gets cold. Then, as the heat becomes unbearable, they return to Canada for the summer. Back and forth they go, instinctually. Man doesn't operate that way; he can go up and down, and to and fro, according to his own will – and that leads to pride. Pride was the undoing of Haman in the Book of Esther, too. Absalom rebelling against David comes down to one problem: and you guessed it – it's pride. Saul, Goliath, Ahab and Jezebel, Manasseh, Athaliah, Annas, Caiaphas, Judas Iscariot — and all of the Pharisees and Sadducees — same problem.

Well, even with as harsh as these reports can be, my words are intended to be as pleasant as honeycomb, as sweetness to your soul – and as health to your bones, my friends. There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the ends thereof are death. We've been over all of this before. It's too bad more people don't actually read and study the Bible more often – because I think I would have a *LOT* more genuine friends if they did; in fact, I know I would. You don't have to agree with everything I say in these reports; that's not my goal. My goal is encourage Bible study and help you all the way through Scripture by merely guiding you along, pointing out things that the Spirit of God has revealed to me. I hope you appreciate that; maybe you don't. The realities in this report can either bring comfort or fear. If you haven't surrendered to God and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, these things should bring unrepeatable fear to your heart. Paul said, *"... in accordance with your hardness and impenitent heart you are treasuring up for yourself condemnation in the great Day of Wrath in the righteous judgment of God Almighty."* Turn from your sins of dividing and sowing discord today, and find comfort in the Lord, friends....

33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD ~

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