

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

STUDIES IN PROVERBS (PART 2)

(Proverbs 1:5, 7; 4:5; 8:13-14)

INTRODUCTION:

A. Definition of a Biblical Proverb

1. A Proverb is a short verse, wise statement or statement of truth or moral lesson.
2. A Proverb is a bit of practical advice that expresses a general truth for Godly living.
3. The word Proverb is derived from a Hebrew word which means “to rule or govern; and these sayings, reminders, and admonitions provide profound advice for governing our lives.” – (Life Application Study Bible)

B. According to Cecil G. Hawkins, “The Book of Proverbs shows us that there is a Proverb for every situation or problem of mankind – If we but look for them.”

- Christians are to search the Book of Proverbs – including other Scripture – for Wisdom is dealing with every situation or problems of life.
- “For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding” (Prov 2:6).

C. On October 21, 1871, Charles Spurgeon preached a sermon titled. “The Talking Book” using Proverbs 6:22 as a text: “When thou awakes, it shall talk with thee” Spurgeon stated. “The Word is living. How else could it be said: It shall talk with thee”? A dead book cannot talk, nor can a dumb book speak. It is clearly a Living Book, then, and a Speaking Book: “The Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. Never book spoke like this book; It’s voice, like the voice of God, is powerful and full of majesty.”

- “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Tim 3:16).
- “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb 4:12).

In this lesson, we well study three subjects in Proverbs: (1) Creditor; (2) Diligence, and (3) Discernment.

WORLD’S WAY – WISDOM’S WAY

- **World’s Way** – Friend with the world, ungodly, unspiritual, sinful, living to please self.
 - “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world (1 John 2:16).

- **Wisdom’s Way** – Living Godly, living to please God, love others – including enemies, obeying God, not conforming to the world (Rom 12:2), concerned about others.
 - **“But ye have not so learned Christ; if so be that ye have heard him, and have been taught by him, as the truth is in Jesus: that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind; and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness”** (Eph 4:20-24).
 - **“Put off ... the old man”** (v. 22) – The decision to stop serving lusts and to stop serving sin. Rid yourself of the sinful nature that has kept us separated from God and Holy Living.
 - **“Put on the new man”** (v. 24) – The nature, behaviors and attitudes that reflect the very character and way of life of God. It is the traits of godliness and righteousness we need to put on firmly.

I. CREDITOR

- **World’s Way** – Fraudulent Creditor: “He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it” (Prov 11:15a).
 - A. **“Surety”** – means guarantor, make a bargain, security
 - B. **“Smart”** – means to suffer, displeased, done wickedly
 1. Putting up security for someone – such as cosigning a loan or guaranteeing some other obligation – This can be risky and poses serious problems.
 2. A cosigned debt will appear on the co-signer’s credit report and can influence their credit scores as if the debt is their own. Failure to pay or late payments could affect the co-signer’s credit rating, credit score and ability to secure credit in the future.
- **Wisdom’s Way** – Avoid Pledges: “He that hateth suretiships sure” (Prov 11:15b)
 - A. **“Suretiship”** – means pledge, pledges of collateral, guarantor
 - B. **Sure** – means to trust, confident, secure
 1. To avoid future suffering, pain and a strained relationship. It is wise to avoid co-signing loans for others. Co-signing for a loan is not a good idea. However, should you decide to co-sign a loan for someone, be sure you know them well and that you can count on them to fulfil their obligation.
 2. **The co-signer must be sure he can fulfill the obligation if the other party defaults on their obligation. The co-signer is ultimately responsible for the debt that he co-signed for.**
 - “A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend” (Prov 17:18).
 - ²⁶Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts. ²⁷If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?” (Prov 22:26-27).

3. **Christians are to pay all just debts, even those you have co-signed for:**
- “The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth” (Ps 37:21).
 - “⁴ When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. ⁵ Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay” (Eccl 5:4-5).

II. DILIGENCE

- **World’s Way – Laziness:** “He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand” (Prov 10:4a).
 - A. **“Slack Hand”** refers to the lazy, careless person who works carelessly, sloppily, and deceitfully which leads to poverty.
 - B. **The “Slack Hand” person is a Slacker and Procrastinator.** He lacks energy and work ethics. His goal is to do enough just to get by – A lazy person.
 1. The slacker has conceited excuses for his laziness (Prov 26:16).
 2. The slacker loves sleep (Prov 20:13) when he should be at work. He is foolish as he values extra sleep – “Deep Sleep” (Prov 19:15).
 3. The slacker resents adversity or difficulty (Prov 20:4). He is always looking for a reason to take the day off so he will not have to work.
 4. The slacker resents authority and being told what to do by others (Prov 19:10; 27:18; 30:22).
 - **SLACK HAND**
Lazy hand. Sloth is the mother of poverty. Or the words may be rendered the hand of deceit. Without diligence honesty can scarcely be expected. Next unto virtue let children be trained up to industry, for both poverty and fraud are commonly the effect of sloth. - (B. E. Nicholls, M.A.)
- **Wisdom’s Way – Hard Work:** “The hand of the diligent maketh rich” (Prov 10:4b).
“Diligent” – means hard work, care, helpfulness, attentive
 - A. **The Diligent person is a hard worker which is the exact opposite of the slacker.**
 - B. **The Hard Worker possesses a strong work ethic** – very punctual, careful in executing his responsibilities, honest in his dealings with others, labor wholeheartedly and is willing to help and train others.
 - C. **The Hard Worker will be rewarded** (“maketh rich”) for their productive work (Matt 6:33; 2 Thess 3:10-12).

D. The Hard Worker is not a “Gadfly” (Not Someone who is annoying or criticizing other people).

E. Christians should be the most diligent workers in any agency or on any job.

Christians should be the Biblical example in the workplace. Christians should never consider or use the excuses of the Slacker, as they are contrary to sound doctrine (Eph 6:5-8; Titus 2:9-10).

• **World’s Way:**

Laziness: “He that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame” (Prov 10:5b).

• **Wisdom’s Way:**

Hard Work: “He that gathered in summer is a wise son” (Prov 10:5a).

• **World’s Way:**

Spend time daydreaming about desires: “The soul of the sluggard desireth and hath nothing” (Prov 13:4a)

• **Wisdom’s Way:**

The diligent work toward achieving dreams: “The soul of the diligent shall be made fat” (Prov 13:4b).

○ **DILIGENT**

Our life is dependent on our industry. It is good for man that he should have to labour. Were God to do all, We should truly leave Him to do it, not caring to co-operate with the Divine Husbandman in the culture of the field of life. By the "diligent" we are to understand the nimble-handed — those who are active and agile, who will lose nothing for want of rising early and peering about in the darkness if they may but catch a glimpse even of an outline of things. The persons referred to in the text are those who take account of microscopic matters — they are particular about the smallest coins, about moments and minutes, about so-called secondary engagements and plans. The true business man lives in the midst of his business. We are not far from the sanctuary of God when we are listening to such proverbs as these. - (J. Parker, D.D.)

III. DISCERNMENT

• **World’s Way – Lack of Judgement:** “He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbor” (Prov 11:12a)

A. The foolish lack judgment and belittle their neighbors

1. They tear down the people around them because they lack wisdom and understanding.

2. **They lack good judgment. Therefore, they despise their neighbors. They backbite or insult their neighbors.**

a. Backbiting is talking maliciously about someone who is not present.

b. Insult is to speak or treat a person with abuse, indignity, rudeness or contempt.

B. They seek to destroy their neighbor with their tongue – Gossiping and Talebearing.

- **Wisdom’s Way – Use of Discernment:** “A man of understanding holdeth his peace” (Prov 11:12b).

A. The wise have knowledge and refrain from slander

1. They do not speak evil, belittle, and tear down their neighbors
2. They realize that their words reveals what is in their heart (Luke 6:45).
3. They realize that “A fool’s voice is known by multitude of words” (Eccl 5:3).
4. As listed in the Corinth Church Covenant, Believers are “to guard each other’s reputation, not needlessly exposing the infirmities of others.”
5. We are to love our neighbors as ourselves (Matt 22:37-40).
6. **Keep these two Parables of Jesus in mind when tempted to speak evil of others:**
 - a. The Mote and the Beam (Matt 7:1-5).
 - b. The Pharisee and the Publican (Luke 18:10-14).

B. Bible Verses about Evil Communication (Exod 23:1; Ps 34:13; Prov 11:9, 13; 15:4; 16:28; 17:9; 18:8; 18:21).

POINTS TO PONDER:

- A. The Bible is “The Talking Book”, the Bible is a Living Book. There is no book better than the Bible because it is The Word of God.**
- B. Give serious contemplation for the person and the situation before co-signing a loan – will you be able to fulfill the obligation if the other person defaults?**
- C. Be a Hard Worker in the workplace. You represent Christ by your words and actions in the workplace.**
- D. Beware of the Power of your Tongue!** – “Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (Prov 18:21).

MEMORY VERSE:

“If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him” (James 1:5).

CONCLUSION:

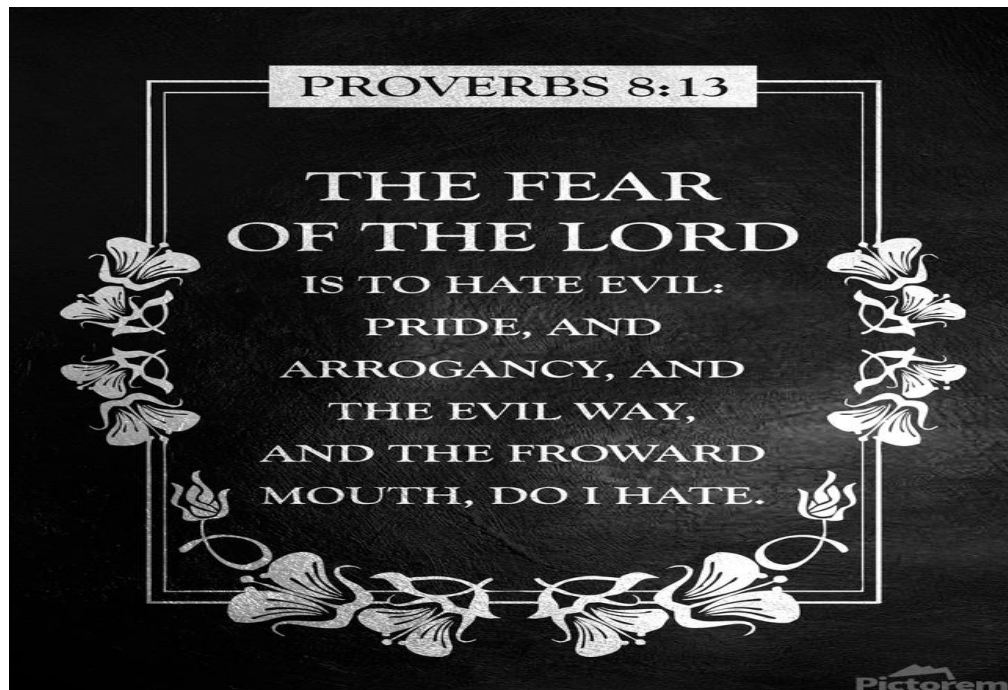
A. FORGIVENESS

An attorney, after meditating on several Scriptures, decided to cancel the debts of all his clients that had owed him money for more than 6 months. He drafted a letter explaining his decision and its Biblical basis and sent 17 debt canceling letters via certified mail. One by one, the letters were returned by the Postal Service, unsigned and undelivered. Perhaps a couple people had moved away though not likely (Ministry 127).

B. Trust in Jesus and Him Alone for your Salvation. He will cancel your sin debt in full – all of your sins: Past, Present and Future.

C. ABC's of Salvation

- **A – Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



From the Teaching Ministry of:
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Corinth Christian Fellowship
August 7, 2024

“... the word of our God shall stand for ever.” (Isa 40:8).