

CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

STUDIES IN PROVERBS (PART 3)

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

INTRODUCTION:

A. “The greatest mark of character is The Fear of the Lord.” – Pastor Adrian Rogers

B. According to Dr. J. Vernon McGee, “In the Book of Proverbs we read the wisdom of Solomon. A Proverb is a saying that conveys a specific truth in a pointed and pithy way. Proverbs are short sentences drawn from long experience. A Proverb is a truth that is couched in a form that is easy to remember, a philosophy based on experience and a rule for conduct.”

C. The Key Verse of Proverbs

- “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction” (Prov 1:7).

- **The Fear of the Lord:**
 - (1) Is the beginning of knowledge (Prov 1:7)
 - (2) Causes one to hate evil (Prov 8:13)
 - (3) Prolongs life (Prov 10:27)
 - (4) Provides strong confidence and is a fountain of life (Prov 14:26-27)
 - (5) Prompts one to depart from evil (Prov 16:6)
 - (6) Leads to a satisfying life and spares one from much evil (Prov 19:23)
 - (7) It is the way to riches, honor and life (Prov 22:4)

In this lesson, we will study three subjects in Proverbs: (1) Evil, (2) Faithfulness and, (3) Fear.

WORLD’S WAY – WISDOM’S WAY

- **World’s Way** – Friendship with the world, ungodly, unspiritual, sinful, living to please self, opposing God and His Word.
- **Wisdom’s Way** – Living Godly, living to please God, love God and others – including enemies, obeying God, not conforming to the world (Rom 12:2), concerned about others.

I. EVIL

- **World’s Way – is to seek evil:** “He that seeketh mischief, it should come unto him (Prov 11:27b)
“Mischief” means evil, misery, distress, sorrow, harm. Those who seek to do evil and harm to others – to create trouble for them – will reap what they sow: “It shall come unto Him.”
 - “Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him” (Prov 26:27).
 - “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal 6:7).

- **Wisdom's Way** – is to seek good: “He that diligently seeketh good procureth favor” (Prov 11:27a).

“**Good**” means goodness, good thing, happiness, prosperity, what is good.

The person with pure and unselfish motives will win the respect of others. This person will be well-liked by others and will do all that he can to help them. This person is unselfish and concerned about others.

As Believers, always practice loving others (Rom 13:8-10; 1 Cor 13:4-8; Phil 2:3)

- “**It is always right to do what is right.**” – Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

II. FAITHFULNESS

- **World's Way** – **Unfaithfulness**: “A talebearer revealeth secret” (Prov 11:13a)
“**A Talebearer**” takes pleasure in spreading scandal and evil gossip, informing on others and are slanderous. They cannot be trusted with confidential information. They commit character assassination. These individuals are senseless, dangerous, destructive and their activities are not pleasing in the sight of God.

- **Wisdom's Way** – **Faithfulness**: “A faithful spirit concealeth the matter” (Prov 11:13b).
“**Faithful**” means trustworthy, reliable, guardians, trusted
“**Concealeth**” means closed, to cover, keep, forgive
The person “of a faithful spirit” has a sincere and faithful mind and will govern his tongue. He can be trusty with confidential information (such as counseling sessions).

- **TALE-BEARERS UNLOADING REFUSE**

"It was told me in the strictest confidence, but you won't tell I" "No," was the quiet reply; "I prefer not to hear it. What right have you to tell what you virtually promised not to communicate; I am sure I have no right, and I have no desire to know what does not belong to me to know." There are people who use their friends as dumping-grounds, and unload on them any choice bits of scandal they may chance to pick up, as though they were conferring a favour. As long as human nature is what it is, there will be plenty of such unloading to be done; but what noble mind wishes to be put to such ignoble uses, and to have made in any part of his spiritual domain a scavenger heap? The perfect character, like the perfectly kept house, has no dark and dusty corners. It is kept sweet and pure in every part. There is no place where a foul garment or a malodorous rag may be tucked away and hidden. Fire and water and the broom and duster in a modern house keep all things clean. There is no more reason why there should be nesting-places of evil in the soul than why there should be dust upon our furniture. The pure sunlight of God let into dark places cleanses and keeps them clean. The person who in confidence would taint another is not a friend, but an enemy (Christian Age).

- “Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour; I am the Lord” (Lev 19:16).

- “He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips” (Prov 20:19).
- “Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another” (Prov 25:9).

III. FEAR

- **World’s Way – Fear of Calamity:** “As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more” (Prov 10:25a).
 “**Whirlwind**” refers to life’s devastating disasters, the storms of life, the problems that we all experience by living on earth – the troubles of this life. This person will be swept away – will not stand the test of life.
- **Wisdom’s Way – Confidence in Calamity:** “The righteous is an everlasting foundation” (Prov 10:25b).
 “**The Righteous**” has an everlasting foundation in which he will endure the tests, trials and disasters of this life. The righteous builds his life on a strong foundation.
 - The life of an Unbeliever is built on **Sand**, whereas, the life of a Believer is built on a **Rock**.
 - Review the Parable of The Wise and Foolish Builders or The Parable of the Two Foundations.
 - “²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: ²⁵ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. ²⁶ And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: ²⁷ And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Matt 7:24-27).
 - **My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**
 My hope is built on nothing less
 Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
 I dare not trust the sweetest frame

 But wholly lean on Jesus' name
 On Christ the solid rock I stand
 All other ground is sinking sand
 All other ground is sinking sand

POINTS TO PONDER:

A. Love all people without conditions.

B. Always seek to do good towards others.

C. Be kind, compassionate, and forgiving toward others.

- “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you” (Eph 4:32).

D. Do not be a Talebearer. Also, do not listen to talebearers.

- Maintain confidentiality unless a person speaks of harming himself and/or others.
- “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man” (Col 4:6).

E. Always trust in the Lord – during the trials and disasters of this earthly life.

- “And the Lord, he it is that doth go before thee; he will be with thee, he will not fail thee, neither forsake thee: fear not, neither be dismayed” (Deut 31:8).

MEMORY VERSE:

“For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister” (Heb 6:10).

CONCLUSION:

A. “Christ died for Sin. Believers die to Sin. Unbelievers die in Sin.” – (Unknown)

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.

- “Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by him in the midst of you, as ye yourselves also know” (Acts 2:22).
- “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved’ (Rom 10:13).

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)

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