

“Insights Into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 16:16-19

October 25, 2023

Titles of individual proverbs are adapted from *The Wisdom of Proverbs* by Bob Beasley

1. Desire Wisdom More Than Wealth – 16

We need God’s perspective on wisdom and wealth:

- Wisdom is eternal, while wealth is temporal and fleeting
- Wealth without wisdom brings greed, theft, hatred and all kinds of evil – 1 Timothy 6:10

“gold” – Solomon had more gold and more wisdom than any other person alive at that time.

“silver” – Jesus’ parable of the great treasure – Matthew 13:44

Psalm 119:14-16

2. Walk the Highway of Righteousness – 17

“upright” – a righteous person, a believer – Genesis 15:6

“turns aside” – this highway makes a turn to avoid something that will hinder the person traveling on it

“evil” – sin (realize that it is an abomination against God and it will do you harm)

Flee from it – Positive example: Joseph

Negative example: David

“guards his way” – we are to “strive for growth in holiness” – Hebrews 12:14

We are on “the highway of righteousness” but we have 3 enemies that will put obstacles in the road:

- The Devil – he tries to deceive us (Revelation 12:9). He brings trials into our life (Rev. 2:10)
- The World – seeks to squeeze us into its mold – Romans 12:2
- The Flesh – What we were in our sinfulness apart from the saving work of God. It continually wages war against our sanctification – Galatians 5:16-17; 1 Peter 2:11. “Our flesh is always searching out opportunities to gratify itself according to the sinful desires each of us has....Realize that your temptation antenna is constantly scanning your environment looking for those areas of sin” Jerry Bridges, *The Discipline of Grace*

What are we to do to “guard our way”?

- Renew our mind with Scripture – Romans 12:2; Psalm 119:11; Matthew 4:4
- Put off the old self and put on the new self – Ephesians 4:20-24
- Avoid temptation – Matthew 5:29-30; Romans 13:14
- Pray that the Lord will keep your from sin – Matthew 6:13; 26:41

“preserves his life” – physical life but more importantly spiritual health – 3 John 2

Recommended resource: *The Discipline of Grace* by Jerry Bridges (the whole book but especially chapter 12: “The Discipline of Watching”)

Blog: challies.com 10/25/23 “Flashback: The Discipline of Watching”

3. Walk in the Spirit of Humility – 18-19

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“pride” – v. 5 has called pride an “abomination to the Lord”

The proud person is pictured in Proverbs as being among the worst company – 6:16-19

Some are proud of their good looks, others of their talents, some of their position at work, good grades, etc. But they are forgetting what God says in 1 Corinthians 4:7

“destruction” – the proud don’t think they have to “guard his way” (v. 17). Their pride makes them think they are invincible.

The Hebrew word is descriptive of the shattering of a bone

A proud person’s life and dreams will be shattered by the results of their pride:

Illustrations:

- King Amaziah – 2 Chronicles 25
- King Uzziah – 2 Chronicles 26
- Haman – Esther 6:6-14
- Nebuchadnezzar – Daniel 4:29-33
- Peter – Matthew 26:33-35, 69-71

19

“lowly spirit” – person with a humble attitude and humble lifestyle

Matthew 5:3

“divide the spoil” – picture of someone who has come into wealth in one way or another.

Solomon may be speaking of coming into wealth in an unethical way

“proud” – their prosperity is only temporary

Sometimes after we’ve been a Christian for a while, we become apathetic to poverty of spirit and concentrate on ourselves and how to please ourselves rather than recognizing our dependance on the Lord for everything. We need John 15:5