

PROVERBS 13 - Wise Sayings of Solomon!

12/28/24 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

The Proverbs of Solomon

- **We want to continue in our study in the book of Proverbs.** Solomon wrote some three thousand proverbs, not all of them are recorded in the bible. But in the first chapter he tells us the purpose of the proverbs, and that is a method by which a person might be instructed, in the way of wisdom (50x), understanding (53x) in the way of righteousness (23x), judgment, equity, to bring knowledge and discretion.
- **As we get into chapter ten, to chapter 22, we actually get into the proverbs of Solomon.** Up to that, he has been talking of the value, and the importance of wisdom, of understanding, of righteousness. Now he gives us the proverbs, in which he is extolling still the importance of righteousness, the importance of diligence, the importance of wisdom.
- **He gives to us these proverbs, generally in the form of contrast.** The first proverb of chapter twelve, he is contrasting the person who loves instruction with the person who hates reproof. There are some people who are open to instruction. They are doing something wrong, and you say, “Hey man you are doing that wrong. You ought to be doing it this way.” “Oh thanks! Yeah, I was worried about that!” They love instruction. There are others who hate reproof. “Leave me alone! I know what I am doing!,” you know, and they hate reproof. So...

Pro 13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, But (22x in contrast) a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

- Now in chapter thirteen, he is contrasting the wise son with a scornful son.

Pro 13:2 A (righteous) man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.

Pro 13:3 He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide (“big mouth”) his lips shall have destruction.

- Solomon has a lot to say about just keeping quiet, “he who guards his mouth,” preserves, keeps, his life: but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction. “Loose lips sink ships!”

Pro 13:4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent (5x in Prov) shall be made rich.

- The lazy man, the sluggard, just lies there wishing he had everything, but he will not go out and work, so he has nothing! *But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich. How diligent am I?*

Pro 13:5 A righteous man hates lying (Do you? Do I?), But a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.

- Lying has become too institutionalized these days! We need to be careful here!

Pro 13:6 Righteousness guards (protects) him whose way is blameless, But wickedness the sinner.

- So, righteousness, wickedness, and they are, they are each one worthy of meditation. I encourage you to meditate on that. (Isa 57:21) “There is no peace,” Says my God, “for the wicked.”

Pro 13:7 There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.

- You cannot tell a book by its cover.
- Paradoxes. Jesus said much the same thing, when He said, “He who seeks to save his life, will lose it. But he who will lose his life for my sake, shall find it.” There are those who hold onto everything they have. They seek riches. They seek to make themselves rich, and yet they are very poor. Yet there are those who are generous, they give, they may not have much for themselves, but oh are they rich! The richness of giving! It is more blessed to give than it is to receive. The riches that you experience by giving! So, “Those that seek to make themselves rich, having nothing: those that make themselves

poor by their generosity, and yet they have great riches.” You cannot out give God. He just will not allow it. He will never be a debtor to you.

Pro 13:8 *The ransom of a man's life is his riches, But the poor does not hear rebuke.*

- ***The ransom of a man's life is his riches:*** A man's life can be measured in many ways. One of those measurements – though by no means the best measurement – is his riches. In a time of crisis, a man's riches may well ransom his life.
- ***The poor does not hear rebuke:*** Most commentators take this in a positive sense, with the idea that the poor will never find himself in the same trouble as the rich man who must ransom his life with his riches. A poor man will never be kidnapped for his riches.

Pro 13:9 *The light of the righteous rejoices* (brings joy to others), *But the lamp of the wicked will be put out.*****

- **So righteous and wicked again.** How much light is coming out of my life?

Pro 13:10 *By pride* (seeing myself above others) *comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom*** (learn by listening to wisdom).**

- ***Pride always brings contention, it brings fighting,*** it brings this competition. It brings a lot of evil. With pride comes contention. You cannot be proud without being contentious. It is one of the marks of pride. *(Isa 14:12-14) "How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground, You who weakened the nations! [13] For you have said in your heart: 'I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; [14] I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.'* ***But with the well-advised is wisdom!*** We need the mirror of His Word!

Pro 13:11 *Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers by labor will increase* (produces character).

- **It would be interesting to poll those who won the lottery in the first year.** Now that is wealth gotten by vanity. It is wealth that you got, you did not work for, you just sort of lucked into it with the spin of the wheel or whatever. *"Wealth gotten by dishonesty shall be diminished."* You appreciate it when you work for it. Something that you work for, you really appreciate.

Pro 13:12 *Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.*

- ***Hope deferred is always a very tragic thing.*** It makes the heart sick. You are hoping that it will come through, and you go down to collect, and they say, “Oh we are sorry, it is not here. It will probably be another couple of weeks.” And it makes your heart sick, hope deferred. *but when the desire comes, oh my!* The delay enhances our joy when it comes! *It is a tree of life!*

Pro 13:13 *He who despises the word* (of God) *will be destroyed*** (stand on this one!), ***But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.*****

- **This may well be a reference to the word of God, because it speaks in contrast,** the commandments, or, actually not in contrast. Well, it is in contrast, *“but he who fears the commandment,”* But if you despise the word of God, you will be destroyed. The word of God is life. That is, fear in the sense of reverencing, obedient obeying, or keeping the commandments of God.

Pro 13:14 *The law of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.*

- ***The law of the wise is a fountain of life:*** God's word (**the law of the wise**) is a continual source of **life** for all who will receive it.
- ***To turn one away from the snares of death:*** This is one way that God's word brings life. Understanding and obeying God's word will keep **one away** from many things that trap and destroy, both spiritual and material. Sin is not bad because God forbids it, but sin is forbidden because sin is bad!

Pro 13:15 *Good understanding gains favor, But the way of the unfaithful* (transgressor) *is hard.*****

- **If you transgress against God's law, it will catch up with you.** *(Num 32:23c) and be sure your sin will find you out.* Now Satan is constantly deceiving people, and saying to people much what he said

to Eve, “God is trying to hold you back from something that is exciting, and something that is delicious, and something that is desirable, something that is pleasant, something that is good. And God is not fair in forbidding you to do those things. Because those things will make you happy. They will bring you pleasure, they will bring you excitement! God is just trying to squelch your good time, and quench you from having a lot of fun!”

- **No! God is trying to keep you from having a lot of sorrow.** For the end result of those transgressions will be bitter. They may be sweet in your mouth, but when you go to digest them, they are gonna upset, upset your stomach. They will be bitter in your stomach. The consequences of transgressing the law of God are hard. You may get by for a while, and some people do. Because they get by with their transgressions, they begin to think that God does not know, or God does not see, or God does not care, or it does not really matter with God. Or worse, some even begin to believe that God approves. But down the road, you will discover that, the way of the transgressor is hard! It is painful! It hurts! Ultimately, it will get you!

Pro 13:16 Every prudent (wise) man acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open his folly.

- **Our actions reveal what we really are** on the inside! Be prudent and do not be a fool!

Pro 13:17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, But a faithful ambassador brings health.

- **The wicked messenger** gets into mischief. No where is it more important than that regarding delivering the word of God! (Eph 6:19-20) and for me, that utterance may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains; that in it I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. Am I a faithful ambassador?

Pro 13:18 Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.

- **Poverty and shame to those who refuses instruction.** If you will not listen, you will end up in poverty and shame. But he who regards a rebuke will be honored.

Pro 13:19 A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, But it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil.

- **The desire that is accomplished is sweet to the soul. Isn't that the truth?** You have a desire, and you finally accomplish it, and it is just sweet to the soul! It is just good, you just enjoy it! The desire that is accomplished is so sweet to the soul, so satisfying, when you complete the project.
- **But it is an abomination for fools to depart from evil.** They are just locked into evil. They will never know what that feels like!

Pro 13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed (broken).

- **If you want to be wise, get around wise men,** walk with wise men, but the companion of the fools, hey, you will be destroyed. Who do we make our influencers? Or peers? He who lies down with dogs, shall rise up with fleas.

Pro 13:21 Evil pursues sinners, But to the righteous, good shall be repaid.

- **Sinners pursue evil, but evil also pursues sinners!**
- **You can be sure your sins will find you out.** Evil pursues sinners. But to the righteous good shall be recompensed, repaid.

Pro 13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance (material, more important – spiritual) to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

- **The blessing on the life of a good man** is great enough that, upon his death, he has enough to give an inheritance not only to his children but to his grandchildren. This also shows the generosity of the good man.
- **Creation for Stored up for the righteous:** The sinner may have wealth, and this may be a discouragement to the righteous. Yet confident in the judgments of God, the righteous know that all things are theirs. God has established all of creation to bless righteousness!

Pro 13:23 Much food is in the fallow (uncultivated) ground of the poor, And for lack of justice there is waste.

- It speaks of people who have many resources yet prevent the poor from succeeding.
- So, a lot of food is in the uncultivated ground of the poor. Yet, so much of it is destroyed, many times for lack of judgment. We send, or did send, a lot of relief to India. A lot of grains, wheat, rice, and so forth. Yet the people starved to death. It was not because there was a lack of food. There had been plenty of food sent! But, with their Hindu beliefs that the rats may be some ancestor, and they would not kill the rats, the rats ate the food, or you know, got into it.

Pro 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

- Solomon's father was a very poor disciplinarian. He rarely corrected his sons, and as a result, some of them went bad, very bad. So, Solomon will have more to say about the importance of not sparing the rod. (*Pro 19:18; 23:13-14*) *Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction. [13] Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. [14] You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell. Foolishness left unattended, becomes a habit! Don't insure long term consequences, with short term permissiveness. Growth and discipline are never outgrown!* Remember God's way is not outmoded in shaping and discipling!

Pro 13:25 The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, But the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.

- Isn't it interesting how that a person it seems is never satisfied with material things? There is always a want, no matter how much you have. There is never any area of satisfaction in wickedness. You never get to the place where you say, "Well, I am satisfied. I have got enough, I will just sit back and enjoy." The more you get, the more you seem to want. Yet, with the righteous, he heaps to the satisfying of his own soul. The life of righteousness is a life of contentment, a life of satisfaction, and peace.

O LITTLE TOWN OF BETHLEHEM- (1868) Phillips Brooks (1835-1893), Nat King Cole

1 O little town of Bethlehem how still we see thee lie. Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, the silent stars go by. Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting Light. The hopes and fears of all the years are met in Thee tonight

2 For Christ is born of Mary and gathered all above. While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wondering love. O morning stars together proclaim the holy birth and praises sing to God our King And peace to men on earth

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