

PROVERBS 20 - Wise Saying of Solomon!

2/15/25 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

Pro 20:1 Wine is a mocker, Strong drink is a brawler, And whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

- The subject of drinking wine has been argued, discussed, and debated within the church for years. There are those that say, “Well Jesus at the marriage feast turned the water into wine.” Jesus was accused of being a wine bibber, that Paul told Timothy to take a little wine for his stomach problem. On the other side of the coin is here, verse one.
- You can come under the influence of alcohol, and “Although all things may be lawful for me, I will not come under the power of anything.” I will not do that which can bring me under its power. I definitely believe that you are better off not to drink wine, not to take anything into your body that can influence, can bring you under its influence. Though it may be lawful, and you may argue, you know Paul said to Timothy, “Take wine,” and I do not enter into all those arguments.

Pro 20:2 The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion; Whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life.

- A warning to anyone who rebels against law and order. Man, you are bringing trouble upon yourself, you know, leave the kings alone, do not provoke them. “The fear of a king is like the roaring of a lion.” A lion’s roar creates tremendous fear, he rules the jungles by fear.

Pro 20:3 It is honorable for a man to stop striving, Since any fool can start a quarrel.

- Do not get involved in strife, it is honor for a man to walk away.
- *Since any fool can start a quarrel.* It is so foolish to be meddling in things that you have no business getting involved in. Do not meddle around, creating problems, it is better to just *stop striving*.

Pro 20:4 The lazy man will not plow because of winter; He will beg during harvest and have nothing.

- “Oh, it’s too cold to go out and work today, I’ll wait until a warmer day.” So, he will not plow. Now the farmer has to begin right at the beginning of spring, and some days are pretty cold, and it is not pleasant to be out in. Yet, you have got to get to the ground, get the seed in as soon as possible. But, the lazy man, *therefore, beg during harvest and have nothing*. Harvest comes from hard work!

Pro 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water (deep well), But a man of understanding (wise) will draw it out.

- You come to a wise person, seeking their wisdom and counsel, but it takes really sometimes the drawing out from that person. You draw out what is there. The deep water, counsel in the heart of man. There is something about finding truth for yourself, which you will hold more firmly than being told.

Pro 20:6 Most men (easy to find) will proclaim each his own goodness, But who (hard to find) can find a faithful man?

- Isn’t that the truth? Everyone is ready to brag about how good they are, how smart they are, what they did and all. “*Most men will proclaim each his own goodness.*”
- *But who can find a faithful man?* You know, he is bragging and boasting about it. But is it really true?

Pro 20:7 The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him.

- And his children follow after him. You want to train up your grandchildren, train up your children!
- Walks the walk! Not just talk the talk! You set the pattern; your children are looking at you as a role model. That is a formidable thing that they watch you to learn what husbands should be like. To learn what fathers should be like, to learn what mothers should be like, and wives should be like. They only know the role model that they see in you.

Pro 20:8 A king who sits on the throne of judgment Scatters (winnows, separates wheat from chaff) **all evil with his eyes.**

- A strong king or a wise king who is just, puts fear in the eyes of the wicked. Tough on crime! Tough on criminal behavior. (**Psa 2:9**) *You shall break them with a rod of iron; You shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.*

Pro 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?

- **No one** can say, *"I have made my heart clean."* None of us can clean our own hearts. My heart has been cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ. But I did not do that. That is the work of the Lord in my life. He is the one who has washed me from my sins, He is the One who has made me pure from my sins. It is only Jesus, and the blood of Jesus that can cleanse you from your sins. Because you cannot cleanse your own heart of evil. That takes a work of God's Spirit. (**Eph 1:7-8**) *In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace, [8] which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and prudence. (Php 2:13) for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.* Self-help measures will always fall short and fail.

Pro 20:10 Diverse weights and diverse measures (ripping people off), **They are both alike, an abomination** (20x in Proverbs, most in Bible) **to the LORD.**

- Now we get into a little bit of commerce, and we will have three proverbs that will deal with commerce here. *Diverse weights, and diverse measures.* Now the crooked people had two bags of weights. Everything was done with balances. They sold and bought with balances. They had one bag of weights for when they were selling stuff, and another bag of weights when they were buying stuff.
- Diverse weights and measures are *an abomination to the LORD.* The United States in realizing the necessity of having standardized weight and measures, had a department for many years. The National Bureau of Standard Weights and Measures, and they would go around, and they would have these little weights. They would put them on all the scales in the markets. If your scales were not exact, they could fine you. They would put their seal of accuracy, after they had tested your scales. They would go to service station, and they would pour out a gallon of gasoline on the meter, and they would have a true gallon can, to see that the gallon was a true gallon. It is important for any kind of commerce to have standardized weights and measures.

Pro 20:11 Even a child is known by his deeds, Whether what he does is pure and right.

- You can observe a child, and you can know what the character flaws are, what needs to be dealt with, what needs to be worked with, even in a child. You can begin to see traits very early. It is important to fashion the heart of a child early on! *Whether what he does is pure and right.* You need to start doing according to the observations that you see.

Pro 20:12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye, The LORD has made them both.

- *"He that hath an ear to hear."* He has given us the capacity to hear His truth, to see, and to know His truth. They are both of them, from the Lord. To grow in our relationship with Him!

Pro 20:13 Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; Open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.

- Get up! Wake up! Go out and go to work, you will be satisfied with bread. One gets paid to work, not to sleep!

Pro 20:14 "It is good for nothing," cries the buyer; But when he has gone his way, then he boasts.

- You know in that culture over there, you do not pay the first price. It is usually about fifty percent of the first asking price. But you have to bargain and go through all of these things. You will walk away, you start walking up the street, "Come on back! Come on back!," you know. "Will you give me," and they will, they will throw out some ridiculous price, way low. You say, "Yeah!," then they will say, "Well, well I cannot do it for that."
- So, you learn to deprecate the goods, say, "Yeah, look at that little scratch there, and look at over here, this clasp doesn't work quite right, it's got a little bit of dirt over here!" you know, and you say, "That is not really worth it, it is nothing!" Then, when you walk away you say, "Man! What a deal I got!" Do you enjoy telling others about how good you are at getting good buys? Not pleasing to God!

Pro 20:15 There is gold and a multitude of rubies, But the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

- Such value in the words of knowledge, the lips of knowledge, lips of wisdom, like a precious jewel!

Pro 20:16 Take the garment of one who is surety for a stranger, And hold it as a pledge when it is for a seductress.

- Now, if you are going to help someone, lending to a high-risk person, then you better get a good pledge from them. Take their garment, or get something worthwhile, because they are apt not to repay you.

Pro 20:17 Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, But afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

- You may get by with deceiving for a while. You may think you are clever, and you might enjoy the gains that you have gained by deceit. But in the end, it is going to be like a mouthful of gravel. Ick!

Pro 20:18 Plans are established by counsel; By wise counsel wage war.

- Seek counsel, seek, Jesus said, “You don’t go to war, until you first of all, make sure that you have sufficient troops.” You do not want to lose in a battle, and so you, you take careful consideration. Purposes are established with counsel. Be open to receive, and to seek advice! High risk? Low risk? Run it against the grid of God’s word. Pray about it!

Pro 20:19 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; Therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.

- Two people you want to avoid, those who are talebearers, those who reveal secrets, you want to avoid those people. Then, you want to avoid those that flatter, constantly are flattering you with their lips. Beware how flattery can loosen you up!

Pro 20:20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, His lamp will be put out in deep darkness.

- When a child becomes so rebellious that he begins to curse his parents, who have sought to instruct him, and he turns against them and curses them, they are, they are a lost cause. Their lamp will be put out in obscure darkness. Under the law, this was a capital crime! The importance of respect and order!

Pro 20:21 An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning Will not be blessed at the end.

- The earlier one receives an inheritance, the more likely one will lose it! Easy come! Easy go! That is, quick gains, ill-gotten gains, you may profit in the beginning, but in the end, all will be lost.

Pro 20:22 Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

- I am going to get even with you man!” do not say that, *but wait on the Lord, he will save you.* The Lord said, “Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord.” So do not go around threatening to get even or determining to get even to return evil for evil. But, just committing it to the Lord, let the Lord take care of it. Wait on the Lord, and He will take care of you. He will deliver you.

Pro 20:23 Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, And dishonest scales are not good.

- We had that earlier. This is repeated for emphasis!

Pro 20:24 A man's steps are of the LORD; How then can a man understand his own way?

- God is sovereign over my life. He is in control. He is guiding and directing my life. He is not my co-pilot! Often I do not know what God is doing, I do not know what the purpose of God is, but I just have to trust in the Lord. God has a purpose and a plan in this. He is working out His will, in His way, and so man’s goings are of the Lord. How important it is that you just commit your way to the Lord and know that He will direct your path! But you won’t always understand it, how can you understand your own way?

Pro 20:25 It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, And afterward to reconsider his vows.

- There are many of people who have nothing really to do with things that are holy. They devour those things. Jesus said, “Don’t take that which is holy and cast it to the dogs.”
- *Afterward to reconsider his vows.* You promise to do something, and then you start hedging on it. You start asking questions and trying to hedge on the promise or the vow that you made. That is a trap. Do not make vows to the Lord!

Pro 20:26 A wise king sifts out the wicked, And brings the threshing wheel over them.

- That is, the wheel of justice grinds slow, but exceedingly fine. So, a wise king will bring this wheel of justice over the wicked. A strong encouragement to kings for law order and to us to obey!

Pro 20:27 The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, Searching all the inner depths of his heart.

- That deep, deep, innermost part of your being *is the lamp of the Lord, searching all the inner depths of his heart.* The Spirit of God within, searching out the things that are in your, in the deepest part of your being. Speaking to the fact that our conscience has its origin in God!

Pro 20:28 Mercy and truth preserve the king, And by lovingkindness he upholds his throne.

- Three things are important for a king, mercy, truth, and lovingkindness. They will preserve, and they will uphold his throne.

Pro 20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, And the splendor of old men is their gray head.

- This speaks of the value of experience gained through life! Youth have energy and strength! The gray headed have something greater, that is wisdom through experience, which is to be passed on! (*Psa 71:18*)

Pro 20:30 _ cleanse away evil, As do stripes the inner depths of the heart.

- Corporate punishment or spanking has its place in the training up of a child. As adults we never get away from the chastening of the LORD, who loves us so much! The cleansing away of evil. (*Deu 8:5*) *You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you. (Heb 12:6) FOR WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE CHASTENS, AND SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."*

Pro 20:28 Mercy and truth preserve the king, And by lovingkindness he upholds his throne.

THY LOVING KINDNESS — Mitchell Hugh, Maranatha Singers (2:41)

Thy lovingkindness is better than life Thy lovingkindness is better than life

My lips shall praise thee, thus still I bless thee I will lift up my hands unto thy name

I lift my hands up unto thy name I lift my hands up unto thy name

My lips shall praise thee, thus still I bless thee I will lift up my hands unto thy name

Thy lovingkindness (thy lovingkindness) Is better than life (is better than life)

Thy lovingkindness (thy lovingkindness) Is better than life (is better than life)

My lips shall praise thee (my lips shall praise thee)

Thus still I bless thee (thus still I bless thee) I will lift up my hands unto thy name

I lift my hands up unto thy name I lift my hands up unto thy name

My lips shall praise thee, thus still I bless thee I will lift up my hands unto thy name

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE/MILITARY; ISRAEL:

President Trump; Vice President Vance; Speaker Mike Johnson; Senate Leader John Thune; Supreme Court; Marco Rubio-State; Scott Bessent-Treasury; Pete Hegseth-Defense; Pam Bondi-Attorney General; Doug Burgum-Interior; Brooke Rollins-Agriculture; Howard Lutnick-Commerce; Lori Chavez-DeRemer-Labor; Robert Kennedy, Jr.-Health & Human Services; Scott Turner-HUD; Sean Duffy-Transportation; Chris Wright-Energy; Linda McMahon-Education; Doug Collins-VA; Kristi Noem-Homeland Security; Lee Zeldin-E.P.A.; John Ratcliffe-C.I.A.; Tulsi Gabbard-National Intelligence; Russell Vought-Management and Budget; Kelly Loeffler S.B.A.; Elise Stefanik-U.N; Jamieson Greer-U.S. Trade.