

**THE BOOK  
OF  
PROVERBS**

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# **The Book of Proverbs**

## **BIB331**

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# LESSON ONE

## "What Is Wisdom?"

Proverbs 1:1-31

### 1) SOLOMON'S REQUEST FOR WISDOM

- a) *"And Solomon went up thither to the brasen altar before the Lord, which was at the tabernacle of the congregation, and offered a thousand burnt offerings upon it. In that night did God appear unto Solomon, and said unto him, Ask what I shall give thee."*
- b) *"Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, that is so great?"*
- c) *"And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king: Wisdom and knowledge is granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that have been before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like' (II Chr. 1:6-12).*
- d) *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally..." (Jas. 1:5).*

### 2) THE PRECIOUSNESS OF WISDOM

- a) Prov. 3:13-17 - *"Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding."*
  - i) The only source of true happiness.
  - ii) Comes from God--yet man has to seek for it--it doesn't just fall on him.
    - A. *"For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her."*
      1. Money can't buy wisdom.
      2. Nothing else to compare.
    - B. *"Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour."*
      1. Not to seek after riches and health and long life for their own sake, but rather to seek after wisdom, then all these other things will be added to us.
        - a. May start out seeking wisdom and end up pursuing what she holds.
        - b. May start out seeking the Word of God and end up seeking prosperity, or physical healing, or some other tangible benefit of the Word.
        - c. Seek first the kingdom--these other things added.

## I. THE PERSON OF WISDOM

A. Wisdom is not a thing; but a person.

B. Sometime Proverbs will say, "get wisdom, get understanding"; other times will speak for itself--expressing itself, explaining how it functions, describing what it is looking for, stressing its results, promising what it will do for the one who possesses it.

C. Wisdom as the creator (Prov. 8:22-29) *"The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old. I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. When thee were no depths, I was brought forth; when thee were no fountains abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth: While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. When he prepared the heavens, I was thee: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth: When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep: When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandments: when he appointed the fountains of the earth."*

1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God."

2. *"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth"* (John 1:14).

3. "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

4. Paul says Jesus has been made unto us wisdom (I Cor. 1:30).

## II. WISDOM AS THE WORD

A. Wisdom is not only Jesus Christ, it is also His Word.

B. Jesus abides within, but no guarantee automatically manifest wisdom to handle every situation of life.

1. Study to show yourself approved.

2. As become diligent in the Word, transfer Word from your spirit to your mind.

3. Its the wisdom in your mind that helps you to handle the day-to-day activities of your life.

C. Main word for wisdom in book of Proverbs is "*chokmah*" which means to "pound something in."

1. Word must be pounded into mind by confession, study and meditation day and night.

2. Must seek after wisdom.

## III. TO KNOW WISDOM AND INSTRUCTION; TO PERCEIVE THE WORDS OF UNDERSTANDING

A. Distinction between knowledge, wisdom, and understanding

1. Knowledge

- a. Taking in the Word of God
- b. Accumulation of facts
- 2. Wisdom
  - a. Putting out Word of God
  - b. Correct application of facts
- 3. Understanding refers to the ability to arrange facts.
- B. Word translated "instruction" actually the Hebrew word for discipline.
  - 1. The discipline of putting the Word of God into your heart comes from renewing your mind to the Word of the Lord, from pounding it in day and night, from meditating on it until it permeates and saturates your entire being.
  - 2. Then everything you do will be successful.
- C. To perceive the words of understanding.
  - 1. Wisdom of God does not come through natural intellect.
  - 2. We perceive with our spirit.

#### IV. THE FEAR OF THE LORD IS THE KEY TO WISDOM

- A. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
- B. Giving honor and place to God in reverence
- C. Pr. 8:13 - *"The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way."*

#### V. FRUIT OF FEARING THE LORD

- A. Source of inheritance. Ps. 25:12-14 - *"What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth."*
- B. Life
  - 1. *"The fear of the Lord tendeth to life; and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil."*
  - 2. Pr. 14:27 - *"The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."*
  - 3. Pr. 10:27 - *"The fear of the Lord prolongeth days."*
- C. Salvation
  - 1. Ps. 85:7 - *"His salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in the land."*
  - 2. Ps. 145:19 - *"He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry, and will save them."*
- D. Deliverance - *"Angel of the Lord encamps about those that fear him and delivereth them" (Ps.34:7)*
- E. Healing - *"But unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked: for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts."*

VI. WISDOM IS THE PRINCIPLE THING (PR. 4:1-13)

- A. Exalt her and she shall promote thee
- B. Shall bring to honor
- C. Crown of glory
- D. Year of life shall be many--she is thy life
- E. Shall not stumble

VII. PROVERBS SOURCE FOR WISDOM IN PRACTICAL DETAILS OF DAILY LIFE

- A. Wisdom is crying out
  - 1. The Word of God is crying out...speaking to us every day concerning practical matters
    - a. We don't have to seek other sources--the Bible has proven itself
    - b. Every civilized nation has been built on moral code based on Bible
    - c. Men find success based on Biblical principles
    - d. Can't find secular help for spiritual problems
  - 2. Problems of men are common through the ages
    - a. Strange women, strong drink, bad company
    - b. Pride and self-centeredness
    - c. Quick tempers; rash decisions
    - d. Evil communication
- B. Proverbs are rules or standards to live by

## LESSON TWO

### "Proverbs--God's Rules and Standards"

#### VIII. BOOK OF PROVERBS PRIME REFERENCE SOURCE FOR WISDOM IN PRACTICAL, "NITTY-GRITTY" DETAILS OF DAILY EXISTENCE.

##### C. As Christians, live in two worlds--natural and supernatural.

1. The "righteousness of God" still has to sweep the floor, carry out the garbage and change the oil in the car.
2. The "joint-heir with Christ" still has to fix meals and mow the lawn.
3. We still need to have wisdom in the natural, everyday things of life.

##### D. In study of Proverbs, will be considering different topics rather than verse-by-verse analysis.

1. Tonight, look at Proverbs in general.
2. Following weeks:
  - a. Sluggardness (laziness).
  - b. Finances
  - c. Child-rearing
  - d. Friendship
  - e. Marital fidelity
  - f. Fools
  - g. Wicked
  - h. Health and longevity of life

#### IX. WHAT IS A PROVERB?

##### A. The word "proverb" actually refers to a rule or a standard.

1. In Hebrew, it means "to be like"
2. These are rules and standards of God Himself, passed down to us in order that we can be more like God through the study and application of Word.
3. When gardener wants a tender young tomato plant to grow up strong and straight, he doesn't say to it, "Now plant, I want you to grow up straight. But I'm leaving it up to you. You just grow up any way you feel is right for you."
4. If we want children to grow up tall and straight morally and spiritually, we must provide them some standard that does not change. We dare not leave them to choose their own standard, or allow them to live their lives without one.
5. The Word of God is eternal; if we will take the time and effort to bind our children to the Word of God, if we will train them up in the way they should go, then when they are old, they will not depart from it. That is a promise of God!

##### B. Proverbs are more than just simple sayings.

1. They are the very wisdom of God expressed in everyday language.
  2. To understand the words is not enough; must get past the words of men into the mind of God.
  3. To fully appreciate and benefit from the truths expressed in these proverbs, wisdom will need the presence of the Holy Spirit to reveal to us the contained (and often hidden) in these "wise sayings."
- C. Many of the proverbs of Solomon make sense naturally, it's not difficult to understand them.
1. We grasp their meaning right away and our own experience tells us that they are true.
  2. Others are more difficult to understand and to relate to our modern-day lifestyle.

## X. SIX BASIC TYPES OF PROVERBS

### A. Synonymous Proverb

1. A proverb in which both lines say essentially the same thing, but expressed in a slightly different way.
2. Prov. 11:15 - *The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.*
  - a. A verse on prosperity.
  - b. Saying that those who truly become prosperous are givers, generosity is an attitude of the heart; an attitude in blessing.
3. Prov. 11:29 - *"He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart."*
  - a. Anyone who doesn't know how to manage his own household will eventually lose everything he has. He will end up inheriting the wind, which is nothing but vanity and vexation of spirit.
  - b. Will end up being a servant to the wise.

### B. Antithetical Proverb

1. A thought is presented in the first line, with the negative of that thought expressed in the second line.
2. If you do such and such, you will be blessed; but if you don't, this is what will happen."
3. The negative accentuates the positive.
4. Prov. 14:30 - *"A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones."* (usually find a "but" between two lines).
  - a. Believers ought to have the healthiest flesh of anyone on this earth, because our heart is full of the joy of the Lord.
  - b. The opposite is true: when we get off into strife and discord, we open the door for Satan to come in and put sickness and disease on us.
5. Prov. 17:22 - *"A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken drieth the bones."*



- a. Basically same as above.
- b. Repetition is key to learning--wisdom is "pounded in."

C. Synthetic Proverb (perhaps the rarest of all types in Proverbs).

- common
1. Identifies a proverb in which both lines seem to express a totally different thought (even sometimes direct opposites), yet which have one theme.
  2. Prov. 10:18 - "*He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.*"
    - a. First line: lying or falsehood.
    - b. Second line: Slander or malicious talk.
    - c. One speaker hides true feelings; the other speaker makes no attempt to conceal his.
    - d. Though actions direct opposites, both are condemned because the intent and results are the same--harm and injury. Common theme is wrong use of the tongue.

D. Integral proverb

- with
1. Second line completes the thought of the first line.
  2. Because of flow, effect produced is almost that of one continuous line no interruption.
  3. Prov. 13:14 - "*The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.*"
  4. Second line completes or complements the thought of the first.
  5. Prov. 19:20 - "*Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be in thy latter end.*"
    - a. The second line emphasizes the results obtained by applying the first.
    - b. It is important to hear counsel and receive instruction; because is the best way to insure success in the future.
  6. Prov. 22:6 - "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*"
- wise
- that
- old,

E. Parabolic Proverb

1. The first line illustrates the second.
  2. The second line is the teaching; the first is an analogy.
  3. Prov. 11:22 - "*As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman is without discretion.*"
    - a. Swine was the most degrading or contemptible of creatures. smelly, profane.
    - b. Used to symbolize what was to Solomon the most useless and repugnant thing imaginable--a beautiful woman with no sense!
    - c. If young person dates another based simply on attractiveness,
- which
- Ugly,
- most sense!

more interested in self than in them. Really want something good  
to hang onto your arm.

parable 4. Prov. 26:9 - *"As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a  
in the mouth of fools."*

a. Drunk never seems to feel the pain--until later.

realizes

b. Just as the senses of a drunkard are too dull to register pain, so are  
the senses of a fool too dull to register shame. Neither

that

his sad situation and desperate need. Neither understands  
he is the cause of his own sorry state."

is

5. Prov. 20:26 - *"Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there  
no talebearer, the strife ceaseth."*

#### F. Comparative Parable

1. A parable that compares one thing with another to illustrate a common  
trait or theme.

contentious

2. Prov. 27:15 - *"A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a  
woman are alike."*

a. Steady dripping gets on your nerves.

b. So does the continual nagging of a shrewish wife.

c. Nagging is not the way to change a person; if you want to change  
someone, don't nag them to death--love them to life!

3. In some comparative proverbs the first line expresses something which is  
superior to or more desirable than the second. The key word in this  
type is better.

treasure

4. Prov. 15:16 - *"Better is a little with the fear of the Lord than great  
and trouble therewith."*

a. Great os have prosperity, but if lose peace and happiness in the  
pursuit of wealth, what have you really gained?

b. Better to possess fewer of this world's goods and a healthy  
and fear of the Lord than to have great earthly  
trouble.

reverence

treasure and

5. Prov. 10:22 - *"The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no  
sorrow with it."*

a. When God gives riches, they do not bring sorrow as they so often  
do when amassed by worldly means.

b. Riches earned rightfully will not bring sorrow.

and

6. Prov. 15:17 - *"Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox  
hatred therewith."*

a. It is better to come home from work to a dinner of vegetables and  
a loving wife, than to come home to filet mignon and a house  
full of hatred and animosity.

- house
7. Prov. 17:1 - *"Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an full of sacrifices with strife."*
    - a. Don't be uptight trying to please your husband by cooking like his mother--he didn't marry you for your cooking.
    - b. You just be the best lover in the world and the cooking will take care of itself; have you ever heard anyone say, "I'm divorcing my wife because of her apple pie?"
    - c. It's not food that breaks up homes, it's strife; and the cure for strife is love.
  8. Prov. 21:9 - *"It is better to dwell in a corner of the house top, than with a brawling woman in a wide house."*
    - a. Should quit working on the house, and start building the home.
    - b. No matter how grand or expensive it may be, no house is worth having if it is devoid of love; love transforms a cottage into a castle.

#### XI. A GREATER THAN SOLOMON IS HERE

- A. "And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt...And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five.. And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall; he spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes. And thee came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom" (I Kings 4:29-34)
- B. But a greater than Solomon is here.

## LESSON THREE

### "God's Blueprint for Financial Success"

#### XII. TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED TONIGHT

- C. Borrowing
- D. Co-signing
- E. Lending
- F. Sharing
- G. Investments
- H. God's plan for contentment

#### XIII. THE BIBLE AND FINANCES

- A. Few understand function finances play in our spiritual lives
  1. 1600 verses in Bible deal directly with financial situations
  2. Only love discussed more often in New Testament
  3. 2/3 Christ's parables deal specifically with finances
- B. Live in materialistic society
  1. Christ never said money or material things were problems-- guard heart against greed, covetousness, ego, and pride
  2. Priorities based on desires, not needs
- C. Either poverty syndrome or rich syndrome

#### XIV. ATTITUDE TOWARD THINGS

- A. Seek first the kingdom of God and these things will be added.
- B. Real purpose of things.
  1. To free us to do more for Christ, not less.
  2. When pursuit of things becomes our focus in life, there can be no doubt whom we serve
  3. Great abundance has made us less contented instead of more contented (never satisfied)
- C. Five dangers of things
  1. Adjusting to a life of indulgence as normal
  2. Focusing on worldly success (things become the measure of success)
  3. Dulling God's direction (can miss the will of God by devoting yourself to a certain lifestyle)
  4. Adopting an attitude of superiority (things should not go to our heads)
  5. Indifference toward needs of others

#### XV. BORROWING

- A. Borrowing not prohibited, but discouraged
1. Borrowing always presented in negative
  2. Pr. 22:7 - *"The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender's slave."*
  3. Unnecessary authority created by borrowing
  4. Deut. 28:44-45 - *"He shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him; he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail. Moreover all these curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, curses shall come upon thee, and shall pursue thee, and overtake thee, till thou be destroyed; because thou hearkenedst not unto the voice of the Lord thy god, to keep his commandments and his statutes which he commanded thee..."*
  5. Ps. 37:21 - *"The wicked borrows and does not pay back, but the righteous is gracious and gives."*
- B. Co-signing
1. Pr. 6:1-5 - *"...if thou be surety for thy friend...thou art snared with the words of thy mouth..."*
  2. Pr. 11:15 - *"He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure."*
  3. Pr. 17:18 - *"A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend."*
  4. Pr. 22:26-27 - *"Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts. If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?"*

## XVI. LENDING

- A. Reasons to lend
1. To make a profit
  2. Because they have a need (don't feel to give)
  3. Because they asked you
- B. Lending at interest - Deut. 23:19-20 - *"Thou shalt not lend upon usury to thy brother; usury of money, usury of victuals, usury of any thing that is lent upon usury: Unto a stranger thou mayest lend upon usury; but unto thy brother thou shalt not lend upon usury: that the lord thy God may bless thee in all thou settest thine hand to in the land whither thou goest to possess it."*
- C. Lending vs. giving
- D. Collecting a debt

## XVII. SHARING

- A. Abundance to be shared - II Cor. 8:14 - *"But by an equality, that now at this time your abundance may be a supply for their want, that their abundance also may be a supply for your want: that there may be equality: As it is written, he that had gathered much had nothing over; and he that had gathered little had no lack."*
- B. Qualifications for welfare
1. The poor - being unable to meet even basic needs; poor, not

### lazy, worthy of support

a. Deut. 15:7-11 - *"If there be among you a poor man of one of thy brethren within any of thy gates in thy land which the Lord thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not harden thine heart, nor shut thine hand from thy poor brother: But thou shalt open thine hand wide unto him, and shalt surely lend him sufficient for his need, in that which he wanteth. Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the Lord against thee, and it be sin unto thee. Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when thou givest unto him: because that for this thing the Lord thy God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou putteth thine hand unto. for the poor shall never cease out of the land: therefore I command thee, saying, Thou shalt open thine hand wide unto thy brother, to thy poor, and to thy needy, in thy land."*

b. Pr.19:17 - *"He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the Lord; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."*

### 2. The diligent

a. Pr. 19:15 - *"Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger."*

b. Pr. 20:4 - *"The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing."*

c. II Thes. 3:10 - *"...if any would not work, neither should he eat."*

3. Widows (I Tim. 5:3-10) - *"Honour widows that are widows indeed. But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before the God. Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel. Let not a widow be taken into the number under three-score years old, having been the wife of one man, Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work."*

### 4. Orphans

#### 5. Those with immediate needs

a. Benevolence - Temporary needs result of illness, imprisonment, and unemployment

#### 6. Those with legitimate needs - what is a need?

C. Pr. 28:27 - *"He who gives to the poor will never want, but he who shuts his eyes will have many curses."*

## XVIII. INVESTMENTS

### A. Legitimate reasons for investing

1. To further God's work

2. Family responsibility

### B. Illegitimate reasons for investing

1. Greed - desire to continually have more and demand only the

- best
- 2. Envy
- 3. Pride - desire to be elevated because of material achievements
- C. Investing to serve God better

#### XIX. GOD'S PLAN FOR CONTENTMENT

- A. *"But godliness with contentment is great gain."* (I Ti. 6:6)
- B. Establish reasonable standard of living
- C. Establish habit of giving
  - 1. Pr. 3:9-10 - *"Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."*
  - 2. Prov. 11:15 - *The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."*
  - 3. Lu. 6:38 - *"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."*
  - 4. Mal. 3:10-11 - *"Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts."*
  - 5. II Cor. 9:6-7 - *"But this I say, he which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."*
- D. Establish priorities - *Seek first the kingdom of God...*
- E. Develop thankful attitude
- F. Reject fearful spirit
  - 1. What if? Hoarding - is a sign of fear
- G. Seek God's will
- H. Trust God's promise

## LESSON FOUR

### "Go to the Ant Thou Sluggard"

Pr. 6:6-11

#### XX. BOOK OF PROVERBS PRACTICAL WISDOM APPLIED TO EVERYDAY LIFE TO MAKE US HAPPIER AND MORE SUCCESSFUL

#### XXI. DEFINITIONS

- I. Sluggard - A habitually lazy or idle person
- J. Slothful - State of being disinclined to work or to exert oneself
- K. Diligent - Persevering and careful in work; hardworking, industrious. Done with careful, steady effort. Painstaking, Syn. - busy

#### XXII. LAZINESS NOT A PART OF NATURE OF GOD

- A. True spirituality comes from being full of the Spirit (nature) of God
- B. If want God to prosper us, must do our part
- C. Diligence produces prosperity and abundance, so laziness produces poverty and want

#### XXIII. GO TO THE ANT THOU SLUGGARD: CONSIDER HER WAYS - PROV. 6:6-11

- A. No guide or overseer
  - 1. Self-motivating
  - 2. Don't need someone standing over them and pushing them; can trust them.
- B. Provides meat in summer and gathers food in harvest
  - 1. Plans ahead
  - 2. Works toward future need
- C. How long will thou sleep, O Sluggard?
  - 1. When wilt thou arise out of sleep?
  - 2. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber; a little folding of the hand.
- D. So shall poverty come as one that travelleth
  - 1. Poverty creeps in
  - 2. Little by little get farther behind in payments
- E. Pr. 13:4 - *"The soul of the sluggard desireth and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat."*
- F. Pr. 20:4 - *"The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold."*
  - 1. Look for any kind of excuse
  - 2. Will not go to any extra trouble; not inconvenience

#### XXIV. SIGNS OF LAZINESS

- A. Procrastination (Pr. 24:30-34)



1. Field of slothful
  2. Grown over
  3. Wall broken down
- B. Doesn't want to work - never rise very high in positions of authority
1. Pr. 19:15 - *"Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger."*
  2. II Thes. 3:10 - *"If man doesn't work, then shouldn't eat"*
  3. I Tim. 5:8 - *"Don't provide for family, denied the faith..worse than infidel."*
  4. Pr. 18:9 - *"He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster."*
  5. Pr. 21:25 - *"The desire of the slothful killeth him, for his hands refuse to labor."*
- C. Has no priorities--never plans out his day
1. Path of least resistance
  2. Bounces from one thing to another
- D. Best of intentions--tomorrow...never see project through to completion
- E. Pr. 12:27 - *"Slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting."*
1. Never appreciate what they have
  2. Too lazy to take care of what he has
  3. Never have anything worth owning
    - a. One of these days going to fix this place up, as soon as feel better
    - b. Looking for easy way; looking for handout; something for nothing
- F. Ought to be easier way
1. Get rich quick
  2. Land big job or close big deal next week
- G. One tried and true, proven way to prosperity
1. Way of diligence
  2. Even gold mine has to be worked

#### XXV. THE WAY OF LAZINESS - PR. 15:9

- A. The way of the slothful man is an hedge of thorns
  1. Steps from one prick to another...one crisis to another.
  2. Hates responsibility - shifts blame
- B. Usually had many jobs in lifetime--never their fault
- C. Has difficulty facing reality
- D. Have pride problem
  1. Conceited; real problem is self
  2. Never takes blame
  3. First step to overcoming spirit of laziness is to quit blaming problems on others

## XXVI. EXCUSES FOR LAZINESS - PR. 26:13-15

A. There is a lion in the way (Pr. 22:13)

1. I would have been to work on time but there was a lion at my front door

2. There was a wreck on the freeway

3. Mother had a heart attack

4. Excuses designed to make you feel guilty for even asking about lack of attention to work

B. As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

C. The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

D. The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason (know-it-all; often irrational; doesn't stand to reason; often to justify self).

## XXVII. LAZY PEOPLE ARE LONERS

A. Because of attitude and behavior they don't have close friends

B. Pr. 18:24 - *"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly."*

C. If you don't have friends, start working at it (one reason sluggards don't have friends is because they're too lazy to work at it)

Scriptures:

Judges 18:9 - *"Be not slothful to go and to enter to possess the land."*

Heb. 6:12 - *"That ye be not slothful but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises." (Faith and patience indicates diligence; it takes diligence to wait for the promises.)*

Pr. 12:24 - *"The hand of the diligent shall bear rule--but the slothful shall be under tribute."*

1. The diligent will come out on top

2. The slothful will become the servant

Pr. 21:25 - *"The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour."*

1. Slothful always wanting something great; envious of others

2. Because of laziness, will not see desire fulfilled

Mt. 25:26-27 - *"Thou wicked and slothful servant thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed: Thou oughtest therefore, to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury."*

Rom. 12:11 - *"...not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit."*

## LESSON FIVE

### "Train Up a Child"

Prov. 22:6

#### XXVIII. THE AWESOMENESS OF PARENTING

- D. Recognize your God-given responsibilities.
- E. Parent-child relationship has more potential for fulfillment than any other relationship--and can be the most frustrating.
- F. No substitute for parents who love and care and take parenting seriously.

#### XXIX. REARING CHILDREN LIKE GARDENING

- A. Children are the fruit of our body.
- B. We are the garden of the Lord, and He takes great care in us.
- C. Creating conditions for growth.
  1. Cannot create life, cannot control growth, but can create conditions.
  2. Need to learn more about children--their needs, wants, and growth patterns.
  3. Be sensitive to "insects and diseases" which keep them from blossoming and having a fruitful life.
  4. What greater joy than to see fruit of labor in a happy, whole, effective adult who is the product of your home?

#### XXX. GOALS FOR CHILDREN

- A. Goals of Hebrew fathers for sons.
  1. Prepare him for the law.
  2. Fit him for wedlock.
  3. Teach him a trade.
- B. What should our goals be?
  1. Have a vital faith in God, and to become good citizen.
  2. Have a good marriage.
  3. Develop God-given abilities to fullest and use them for good of others.
- C. Ways to accomplish.
  1. Guidance through discipline.
  2. Communicating values.
  3. Spend time with family.

#### XXXI. HOW DO WE TRAIN UP A CHILD?

- A. Teaching
- B. Discipline
- C. Love

### XXXII. TEACHING (through instruction)

A. Deut. 6:1,2,7 - *"Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest*

1. *Fear the Lord thy God,*
2. *To keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee,*
3. *Thou, and thy son, and thy son's son*
4. *All the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.*

5. V. 7,8,9: *And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates."*

B. Parental instruction should be:

1. From the heart.
2. Diligent and earnest.
3. Persevering and continuous for:
  - a. Formation of habit.
  - b. Training of character.

C. Teach by example.

D. Means of teaching.

1. Child should know what is expected (guidelines, rules, limits).
2. Jobs and chores.
  - a. To teach responsibility.
  - b. To develop good work habits.

E. What to teach.

1. Truthfulness.
2. Faith.
3. Modesty.

F. Parents should monitor TV, movies, reading.

### XXXIII. DISCIPLINE

A. "Deliberate stress introduced into children's lives to stretch their capacities for performance."

1. Restraints.
2. Saying "no."
3. Discipline helps children learn that feelings do not run their lives.
4. Requires demands and teaches responsibility.
5. Obedience not an option.

B. Difference between discipline and punishment.

1. Punishment - Painful consequences which is the result of misdeeds and violations of family standards.
2. Two kinds of punishment.

- a. Corrective - Warn someone going in wrong direction (artificial--is created; ex: spanking).
  - b. Judicial - Natural consequences; paying for misdeeds through God's laws and principles, or man's laws.
- C. The "Rod" - should be way of love; not last resort.
- 1. Prov. 10:13 - *"In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: (can talk to one who has understanding) but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding (who do not understand other way; for rebellious acts of defiance)."*
  - 2. Prov. 13:24 - *"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."*
  - 3. Prov. 22:15 - *"Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."*
  - 4. Prov. 23:13-14 - *Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."*
  - 5. Prov. 29:15 - *"The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."*
- D. Rules for spanking.
- 1. Should be primarily for younger children (pre-puberty).
  - 2. Never be impulsive; should be done by parent in control--not out of fit of anger (which can likely avoid abuse).
  - 3. Reserve spanking for violations such as disobedience, defiance, disrespect, lying, hurting someone else.
  - 4. Should be done consistently.
  - 5. Should fit the person.
  - 6. Fit the misbehavior--don't overpunish.
  - 7. Should be done in private.
  - 8. Should be thorough.
  - 9. Should have beginning and ending--when finished, forgiveness and restoration.
  - 10. Should emanate from heart of love, not vengeance.

#### XXXIV. LOVE

- A. Physical expression should as touching, hugging, expressing love.
- B. Paying attention to child--respect what they have to say.
- C. Companionship
  - 1. Spending time together with children.
    - a. Family night.
    - b. Family vacations.
    - c. Involvement in children's activities.
    - d. Children involved in parent's activities.
  - 2. Having meals together.

XXXV.FAMILY DEVOTIONS

## LESSON SIX

### "A Friend Closer Than a Brother"

Proverbs 18:24

#### XXXVI. TYPES OF FRIENDS

A. *"A man that hath friends (rea) must show himself friendly (neighborly); and there is a friend (ahab) that sticketh closer than a brother."*

1. Friends (rea) - an associate; neighbor
2. Friendly (neighborly)

B. Friend (ahab) - to have affection for

1. Close bond that exists between two people whose hearts and minds are blended together as were those of David and Jonathan; a true friend who will love us as his own soul--will stick closer than a brother.

2. Moses was friend of God
3. Jesus - *"I call you friends..."*
4. Our spouse should be our best friend

C. Close friends are few - large number indicates insecurity--everyone should have a friend that they can confide in; to go to in a time of need.

#### XXXVII. NEIGHBORS

A. Love thy neighbor - Mt. 22:35-40

B. Who is my neighbor?

C. Neighbor does not necessarily have to be your best friend

#### XXXVIII. FRIENDSHIP MUST BE CULTIVATED

A. Formula for getting and keeping good friends

1. One thing to find good wife, another thing to build a happy and harmonious marriage.

2. One thing to find a friend; another thing to keep that friendship strong and healthy.

3. In both cases, it takes work.

- a. Become lax and self-indulgent.
- b. Expect something for nothing; expect other person to do all the giving.

B. Cultivating friendship like cultivating any other crop.

1. Sowing and reaping--giving to receive

- a. To get something out, put something in.
- b. He that would have friends must show himself friendly

2. Cultivating and weeding--guarding against hurt feelings, evil reports, jealousy, envy, mistrust

C. Diligence to develop friendships

1. Improve your personality
2. Be friendly
3. Show more kindness
4. Demonstrate more respect for opinions of others
5. Be less critical and demanding
6. Talk less, and listen more
7. Become interested in someone besides yourself
  - a. Put the other fellow first for a change
  - b. More respect for opinions of others
8. Be trustworthy; worthy of friend's confidence
9. Be a person friend would like to be around

### XXXIX. VALUE OF FRIENDSHIP

#### A. Eccl. 4:9-12

1. Two are better than one
2. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow
3. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat; but how can one be warm alone? (keep each other warm)
4. And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him, and a threefold cord is not quickly broken (two better than one)

#### B. A friend corrects

1. Pr. 27:6 - *"Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the disguises of an enemy are deceitful."*
2. Pr. 27:5 - *"Open rebuke is better than secret love."*
3. Love is honest; truth may hurt--for the moment.
4. Pr. 28:23 - *"He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favor than he that flattereth with the tongue."*

C. A friend counsels - Pr. 27:9 - *"Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart; so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel."*

D. A friend supports - verse 10 - *"Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not neither go into thy brother's house in the day of calamity; for better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off."*

E. A friend sharpens -v. 17 - *"Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend"*

F. A friend reflects - v. 19 - *"As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man."*

### XL. HOW TO KEEP FRIENDS

#### A. Show mercy - Pr. 3:3-4

1. *"So shalt thou find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man."*
2. Having good report of those without

B. Show love - Pr. 17:17 - *"A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity."*



C. Be honest - Pr. 25:9 - *"Debate thy cause with thy neighbor himself; and discover not a secret to another."*

1. Go directly to person
2. Don't gossip about them

D. Be dependable

1. Pr. 25:13 - *"As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters."*

2. Pr. 25:19 - *"Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint."*

E. Be considerate

1. Pr. 25:17 - *"Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee"* (Don't wear your welcome out! Give your friend some space--some time to him or herself; don't overstay your visit; don't make them dread seeing you come; don't force them to hide, and pretend they're not at home!)

2. Pr. 27:14 - *"He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him"* (Don't call before 8:00 A.M. or after 10:00 P.M. when you know they're in bed--unless emergency or of extreme importance).

XLI. A TRUE FRIEND--JESUS

## LESSON SEVEN

### "The Marriage Covenant--Fidelity"

#### XLII. WOMEN IN PROVERBS AND MARITAL FIDELITY

- A. Chapter 6 - Evil woman (adulteress)
- B. Chapter 7 - Strange woman (prostitute)
- C. Chapter 9 - Foolish woman (wickedness)
- D. Chapter 31 - Virtuous woman

#### XLIII. BEWARE WICKED WOMEN (Strange women and Evil Women) - Prov. 6:20-26

*"My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother. Bind them continually upon thy heart, and tie them about thy neck. When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread; and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life."*

- A. "Strange woman" (prostitute) sells her body for money. Prostitute degrades a man.
- B. "Evil woman" (adulteress) gives herself to her lover. Prompted by motive either to satisfy her own lust, or to exploit the one who falls prey to her charms; the adulteress will destroy him.
- C. Just as evil men speak with their body, so these women also have shuffling feet, winking eyes, and seductive fingers.
- D. Wicked woman will use "the flattery of the tongue" to entice her victim.
  - 1. Flattery is perverted praise.
  - 2. Praise desires to put something into a person, to edify him. Flattery seeks to get something out of person, to edify self.

#### XLIV. KEEP SELF FROM EVIL WOMAN

A. Pr. 6:27-35 - "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

B. *"Men do not despise a thief..but if he be found...he shall give all the substance of his house."*

- 1. If man steals loaf of bread, can pay back.
- 2. When commit adultery with another man's wife, thee is no price he can pay that will restore that broken marriage relationship. Marital fidelity has no price tag. Like virginity, once lost it can never be restored by paying a fine.

C. *"But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding; he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul."*

- 1. Not only destroys a holy union, but destroys own soul.

2. A lifetime of guilt and condemnation is a terrible price to pay for a few minutes of adulterous bliss.

D. *"A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away."*

neighbor's 1. When a man commits adultery, he sins against his neighbor, his wife, and himself--against his own body.

2. Lose reputation--never be able to wipe slate clean.

E. *"For jealousy is the rage of a man; therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts."*

1. What will happen when husband finds out about adultery?

2. Seek vengeance upon one who defiled his marriage.

3. What is the price of a broken marriage vow? How much will a man pay a husband for the "use" of his wife? Adultery can never be paid off.

things 4. No such thing as a "cheap affair"--adultery is one of the most costly on this earth!

#### XLV. AVOID THE LIPS OF A STRANGE WOMAN (Pr. 5:1-14)

thou A. *"My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: That mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge."*

1. Strong to be taught children, but if introduced at right age, they will understand.

2. Need to be informed about the world we live in, about the temptations they will face in it.

Word 3. Need to know where to draw the line. Teach your children from the what is right and wrong.

smoother B. *"For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is than oil:"*

1. Teach your sons, especially, to beware the sweet talk of the evil woman. Warn against being lead into temptation by the smooth talking

seductress.

2. May look beautiful on the outside, so attractive to the eye and ear, but she is not what she seems.

C. *"But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword."*

1. Wormwood was a drug used in the ancient world. Produced a terrible hangover and caused brain damage.

2. Consorting with a strange woman will end in destruction of the soul and of the body. Venereal disease (AIDS) and even death are the results

of yielding to her charms.

ponder D. *"Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. Lest thou shouldst the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them."*

1. The evil woman is shift. Never trust her. her ways are moveable.

E. *"Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest*

*thou be thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; And mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed. "*

1. Steer clear; don't be taken in by her beguiling ways. She will seem so appealing at first, so warm and vibrant and exciting. But sweetness will turn to bitterness and her warmth to ice.
2. End up losing reputation; honor; health; and wealth. Everything you have worked for will be gone, all you own will be forfeited to her.

#### XLVI. REJOICE WITH THE WIFE OF THY YOUTH

*thine* A. Pr. 5:15-23- *"Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well."*

1. Exhortation to believing husband to cling to his wife and to her only.
2. Not to seek "refreshment" from any other source.
3. Be satisfied with the wholesomeness of the fresh water of marital love and not to seek after the "sweetness" and thrill of "stolen waters." (Pr. 9:17)

B. *"Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets."*

1. Word "fountains" speaks of the righteous man's sexual strength.
2. Be proud, knowing that your children are the products of a right relationship; not the offspring of a momentary, adulterous escapade with a strange woman.

C. *"Let thy fountain be blessed; and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."*

*thee at* "Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."

1. Rejoice means to cheer up.
2. Sex is God's idea. Designed for pleasure as well as for procreation.
3. The word "ravished" actually means "to be intoxicated or enraptured with."
4. A husband should be enraptured with his wife's love.

#### XLVII. HE WHO FINDS A WIFE FINDS A GOOD THING

## LESSON EIGHT

### “How Do You Deal With a Fool?”

#### XLVIII. CHARACTERISTICS OF A FOOL

- A. Ps. 14:1 - *"The fool hath said in his heart, There is not God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good."*
- B. Pr. 12:15 - *"The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise."*
- C. Pr. 12:16 - *A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame."*
- C. It is as sport to a fool to do mischief - Pr. 10:23
- E. Pr. 10:18 - *"He that uttereth a slander, is a fool."*

#### XLIX. Ec. 10:14 - A fool is full of words

- A. Pr. 10:18 - *"He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth slander is a fool."*
- B. Pr. 10:14 - *"The mouth of the foolish is near destruction."*
- C. Pr. 18:7 - *"A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul."*
- D. Pr. 17:28 - *"Even a fool when he holdeth his peace is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding."*

#### L. HOW TO RESPOND TO FOOLS AND SCORNER

- A. Don't be companion. Pr. 13:20 - *"He that walketh with the wise shall be wise, but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."*
- B. Don't speak wisdom to fool. Pr. 23:9 - *"Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words."*
- C. Don't answer according to his folly. Pr.26:4 - *"Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him."*
- D. Don't trust fool with message. Prov. 26:6- *"He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage."*
- E. Forsake the foolish. Pr 9:6-9 - *"Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."*
- F. Don't reprove or rebuke scorners and wicked.
  1. Pr. 9:7-9 *"He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning."*

2. 15:12 - A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will

he go unto the wise.

G. Don't keep company with foolish man. Pr. 14:6-7 - *"A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth. Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge."*

H. 22:10 - Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

I. 24:9 - The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.