

PROVERBS 24 - Wise Sayings of Solomon!

3/15/25 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

Pro 24:1-2 Do not be envious of evil men, Nor desire to be with them; [2] For their heart devises violence, And their lips talk of troublemaking.

- A man is known by the company he keeps.

Pro 24:3-4 Through wisdom a house is built, And by understanding it is established; [4] By knowledge the rooms are filled With all precious and pleasant riches.

- We may think that a house is built of wood and stone, being well-designed and constructed, But the moral and spiritual values of a home are so important. These values must be built through *wisdom, established through understanding.*
- God's *knowledge* will bring *precious and pleasant riches*, both in the spiritual sense and often in the material sense. God's blessing is on the home that seeks and honors Him and is filled with His wisdom.

Pro 24:5-6 A wise man is strong, Yes, a man of knowledge increases strength; [6] For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, And in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

- Solomon understood that *a wise man is strong*. That strength of wisdom, and how *a man of knowledge increases strength*. On the other hand, folly makes a person weak and vulnerable.
- *By wise counsel you will wage your own war*: The strength of wisdom understands and relies upon the wisdom of others, knowing how to use the *wise counsel* of others and the *safety* of a *multitude of counselors*.

Pro 24:7-9 Wisdom is too lofty for a fool; He does not open his mouth in the gate. [8] He who plots to do evil Will be called a schemer. [9] The devising of foolishness is sin, And the scoffer is an abomination to men.

- The *fool* looks at wisdom, thinking it is above him in the sense of being *too lofty*. They think it is smarter to glory in the lowness of their folly.
- *He does not open his mouth in the gate*: Most often, *a fool* will be denied influence and a presence at the place where the elders gather, making decisions at made in *the gate*. There a fool will not *open his mouth*.
- *He who plots to do evil will be called a schemer*. He will be recognized for the *devising schemer* he is. He will be regarded as *an abomination to men*.

Pro 24:10 If you faint in the day of adversity, Your strength is small.

- In (*Jer 12:5*) *If you have run with the footmen, and they have wearied you, Then how can you contend with horses? And if in the land of peace, In which you trusted, they wearied you, Then how will you do in the floodplain of the Jordan?* If you think it's tough now? What are you going to do when it really gets tough? *If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.*"
- It's tragic when a person learns to rely upon his own wit, and his own strength, because one day, you're going to face a situation where your wits will fail, and your strength won't be sufficient. But if you're trusting in the Lord, and it's in His strength, then you'll never get to the place where you can't handle it. Because it's not your strength, you're looking to the Lord for His strength, and God won't let you down.

Pro 24:11-12 Deliver those who are drawn toward death, And hold back those stumbling to the slaughter. [12] If you say, "Surely we did not know this," Does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?

- Think of the unsaved! (**Jas4:17**) *Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.* Not to help someone when you have the capacity to help them. Here he's saying much the same. *Deliver those who are drawn toward death.*
- *Surely, we did not know this.* God knows the truth; He knows your heart! God knows what's going on inside. God is going to render to every man according to his works.

Pro 24:13-14 *My son, eat honey because it is good, And the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; [14] So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; If you have found it, there is a prospect, And your hope will not be cut off.*

- When you eat honey, and it's sweet, enjoy it, sweet to the taste, it's pleasant, so should knowledge be to you.
- Buy the truth, do not well it!" It is important that we have a love for the truth. As one reads the Bible, and the Holy Spirit bears witness to my heart, the truth, a scripture suddenly just is illuminated in my mind. The Holy Spirit just brings to life, enlightening me in the understanding that's there. To me it is sweet like honey. I love it! As the Lord begins to work in your heart, and reveals the truth to you, it's something that is just so pleasant, savory, something that you can truly enjoy.

Pro 24:15-16 *Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; [16] For a righteous man may fall seven times (often or many) And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity.*

- A warning against the wicked, who would seek to destroy the righteous! This proverb presents its wisdom in the form of a command to the *wicked man*, telling him to not rob or *plunder* the home of a *righteous man*.
- *For a righteous man may fall seven times, and rise again:* The *wicked man* should not rob the righteous is that in the end, the *righteous man* will not be defeated. Even when he *may fall* – even *seven times!* – he shall *rise again*. This should not only give warning to the *wicked* but also assurance to the *righteous*. They can use that confidence to strengthen their resolve to never give up, even though they *may fall seven times*.
- Conversely, *the wicked* will not survive—without God they have no power to rise from misfortune. The point then is that eventually the righteous will triumph and those who oppose them will fall *by calamity*, stumbling over their evil.

Pro 24:17-18 *Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; [18] Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him.*

- This is hard. There is something perverse in all of us isn't there? When our enemy stumbles, or falls, say, "Ah, ha, ha! I knew it, I knew it, All Right!" you know.
- The reason Solomon gives this advice is that if you want the guy to keep getting it, don't rejoice too much in it. The Lord might feel sorry for him and take the heat off!

Pro 24:19-20 *Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the wicked; [20] For there will be no prospect for the evil man; The lamp of the wicked will be put out.*

- He no doubt heard this from his father, David (**Psa 37:1-3**) *Do not fret because of evildoers, Nor be envious of the workers of iniquity. [2] For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, And wither as the green herb. [3] Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness.*

Pro 24:21-22 *My son, fear the LORD and the king; Do not associate with those given to change; [22] For their calamity will rise suddenly, And who knows the ruin those two can bring?*

- Often we can *associate* and meddle with *those* that can get us into trouble. “Do not associate with those given to change.” Those who are vacillating, those who haven’t really a strong position, but are vacillating back and forth.

More Sayings of the Wise

Pro 24:23-25 These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to show partiality in judgment. [24] He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous," Him the people will curse; Nations will abhor him. [25] But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, And a good blessing will come upon them.

- Now when a person of great prominence or great riches has done something that is wrong, you’re not to have respect of the persons if you are there in judgment, and you’re to give judgment on the case. You’re not to respect them because they’re so wealthy, they have so much. You say, “Oh well that’s all right,” to their wicked deeds, you just sort of pass it off, you excuse it, because the people will hate you. They’ll curse you. “The nations will abhor you.” But if you have no respect for that person, but are judging righteously...

Pro 24:26-27 He who gives a right answer kisses the lips. [27] Prepare your outside work, Make it fit for yourself in the field; And afterward build your house.

- The wise always welcome a proper response to difficult questions. Think of the many times when Jesus Christ was presented with difficult questions yet always gave a *right answer*!
- *Prepare your outside work* before a house is built. The field must be made ready, the land all filled and taken care of. Wisdom tells us that work should be done with proper planning and in the proper order.

Pro 24:28-29 Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, For would you deceive with your lips? [29] Do not say, "I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work."

- We should only speak *against* a *neighbor* if there is good and righteous *cause* to do so. Too often we often speak negatively of others to entertain others, and elevate ourselves, which is sin.
- *Deceive with your lips?* When we speak against others *without cause*, we usually exaggerate or alter the truth, making it a deception.
- *Render to the man according to his work.* Wisdom and grace keep us from saying wrong things. We should not return evil for evil (*1Th 5:15*). Just because someone has spoken evil or lies against us does not mean that we should speak evil and lies against them.

Pro 24:30-34 I went by the field of the lazy man, And by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; [31] And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; Its surface was covered with nettles; Its stone wall was broken down. [32] When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: [33] A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; [34] So shall your poverty come like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

- Now he closes off this chapter with the lazy man. Last chapter he closed off on the drinking man, now on the lazy man. The Bible encourages us towards diligence, towards work, against slothfulness, or laziness. Just good wisdom, practical instruction. It’s worth more than rubies. “Buy the truth, sell it not.”
- *Overgrown with thorns* is what the wise man saw when he looked at *the field of the lazy man*. The lazy man did not plant the *thorns*, and he did not deliberately break down the *stone wall*. Yet his laziness made these things happen just as much as if he had deliberately done them. Seeing it, *I considered it well*. The wise man learned from the tragedy of the lazy man.
- *A little sleep, a little slumber*: This is how the lazy man rationalizes his neglect of duty. The problem isn’t the *sleep* of the lazy man; it is his neglect of duty.
- *Your poverty come like a prowler*: This is the destiny of the *lazy man*. Because of sinful neglect, *poverty* will come upon them as unwelcome as *an armed man*.

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MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS - Edward Mote/William Bradbury (2:12)

*1 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.

Refrain:

*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand;
all other ground is sinking sand.*

2 When Darkness veils his lovely face, I rest on his unchanging grace.

In every high and stormy gale, my anchor holds within the veil. (Refrain)

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood supports me in the whelming flood.

When all around my soul gives way, he then is all my hope and stay. (Refrain)

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, O may I then in him be found!

Dressed in his righteousness alone, faultless to stand before the throne! (Refrain)

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ISRAEL:**

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