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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Proverbs 24.

(2015)

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But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Proverbs 24.

Topics.

- This chapter is full of a variety of various Proverbs.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: Proverbs is a collection of Israelite wisdom literature, that has multiple authors, but most of it is attributed to King Solomon. Chapter one to nine gives readers a framework for understanding the rest of the book. The central concern of the book of Proverbs is practical wisdom for living. We are told that the beginning and essence of wisdom is the fear of the LORD (Prov. 1:7) (Prov. 9:10). It contrasts the benefits of seeking wisdom and the pitfalls of living a foolish life. While the wicked stumble in deep darkness (Prov. 4:19), the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day ((Prov. 4:18). Individual proverbs date from between the tenth and sixth centuries B.C.

Kings and angels: the title king is often used throughout the book of Proverbs, it comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) which can refer to the following four things: -

1. A royal king ascending to the throne of royalty and reigning from it.
2. A male sovereign (i.e., a man or boy who rules as a monarch over an independent state.
3. The chief, or the principal leader or ruler of a group (secular or religious).
4. A messenger or ambassador, especially of God, (i.e. an angel, a king, a prophet, a priest or a teacher).
5. The best, the strongest and the wisest of all.

It is interesting to notice in the first verse of proverbs (Prov. 1:1) the word king comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) and the first mention of an angel in the Bible also comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) (Gen. 16:7). This means when the title king is used in the book of Proverbs it carries the idea of a wise king that does good unless the context implies otherwise. For further information concerning angels see the title: "Angels," (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Proverbs 24

The Proverbs of Solomon continued: -

Proverbs 24:1-2 ----- ¹Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them, ²for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble.

This verse carries the following two ideas: -

1. Do not associate with those who are dishonest, deceptive, and violent and who do wrong, because all these things will lead to ruin in this life and in the next condemnation to the lake of fire, a symbol of eternal death (total destruction and utter extinction).
2. Do not envy or desire the success, possessions and riches of others it is a sin before God, and will rob those who do covet what others have from their own joy, happiness and contentment.

Proverbs 24:3-4 ----- ³By wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; ⁴by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

A house in this context embraces a family and a community of people (Christian or secular) and a kingdom, especially the Kingdom of Christ. Such a house is built and established by: -

- Wisdom and the ability to make sensible decisions.
- Sympathetic, empathetic and tolerant recognition of other people's character and situation.

The rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches: means when a house is built with wisdom, sensible choices and understanding it will be filled with love, compassion, empathy, understanding and forgiveness

Proverbs 24:5-6 ----- ⁵A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, ⁶for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counsellors there is victory.

Strength in this context refers to the power needed to carry out demanding tasks, and the necessary qualities and emotional toughness required to deal with stressful and painful situations.

In abundance of counsellors there is victory: this is a common saying throughout the book of Proverbs, because it not only contains wisdom that protects from making bad choices and decisions, but also will result in the best choice for any given situation and circumstance. One of the definitions of a fool in the Scriptures is a person who will not listen to the counsel and advice of others, such prideful people will come to ruin whereas those who are humble enough to listen will prosper and have victory.

Proverbs 24:7 ----- ⁷Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the gate he does not open his mouth.

This carries the following two ideas: -

1. A person who lacks good sense (i.e., a fool) does not even learn wisdom from their own accumulated personal experiences of life.
2. When a fool is in a room full of wise people they are so prideful they do not take to opportunity to ask questions listen and learn, but remain silent.

Proverbs 24:8-9 ----- ⁸Whoever plans to do evil will be called a schemer (called mischievous in KJV). ⁹The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind.

The word schemer comes from the Hebrew word (*m^ezimmah*) and means to plan, usually in a bad sense it carries the idea of imagining to plot and plan (especially with an evil purpose in mind). It embraces kings, rulers of nations, leaders of groups who devise deceptive and evil plans and ministers of the Gospel who twist and distort the scriptures for their own gain. Those who devise plots and plans, especially secret or cunning ones intended to deceive others and cause harm and those who mock, degrade and demean men or women are an abomination before God.

Proverbs 24:10 ----- ¹⁰If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

Faint comes from the Hebrew word (*raphah*) and means slacken and feeble it carries the idea of being dizzy because of a brief loss of consciousness, caused by a reduction in the flow of blood to the brain or to be feeble in enthusiasm and conviction. In the context of this verse faint can embrace in the following two ideas: -

1. If a person faints when faced with adversity their mental fortitude, resilience, determination, endurance and strength is weak.
2. If a person gives up when faced with adversity; their conviction is weak.

Proverbs 24:11 ----- ¹¹Rescue those who are being taken away to death; hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter.

Do all you can to help those in the world who do what is good and right, but don't yet know the love and grace of God and do all you can to avoid those who are wicked, corrupt, dishonest, and deceitful and have no interest in seeking God and doing what is good and right.

Proverbs 24:12 ----- ¹²If you say, "Behold, we did not know this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who keeps watch over your soul know it, and will he not repay man according to his work?

This verse carries the following two ideas: -

1. A person may be honestly ignorant that what they were doing was wrong, but God will know it and judge them accordingly.
2. A person may be fully aware that what they were doing was wrong, but they deny it and keep it secret from others, but God will know it and judge them accordingly.

We may deceive ourselves or deceives others, but no one can deceive God because His eyes perceive the true motive of the heart. The statement, "God will repay man according to his work?" Means according to the motive of his heart and judge accordingly. Following are two examples that shine some light on this principal: -

1. A man steals medical drugs for his own gain to sell on the streets another man steals medical drugs for to save the life of a family member, because he could not afford them. Both are obviously wrong, but one attracts a certain amount of understanding and sympathy whereas the other only brings condemnation.
2. A minister has a congregation of thousands and global outreach churches and sells his books worldwide, is his zeal and passion motivated by the worldly riches, the fame and the importance it gives him or from a deep love for God. In some cases on God will know, because only God sees the true motive of the heart.

NOTE: should someone with a right heart attitude seeking God be sitting in a congregation of a preacher whose motivation is worldly riches and fame, God by His Spirit will still touch their heart and save them, providing he is preaching the true Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is because God's Spirit and His word is not limited by our shortcoming and our flaws, if the Gospel is being spoken to a heart that is open God will touch them by His love and His grace and save them.

Proverbs 24:13-14 ---- ¹³My son, eat honey for it is good and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste.

¹⁴Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

Pure honey tastes sweet and is good for the body (especially in these ancient days) likewise wisdom is good for the heart and the mind. Those who have wisdom will have a prosperous future in this life and their hope for eternal life will be fulfilled. Scripture states: God possessed wisdom at the beginning of His work, the first of His acts (Prov. 8:22-31) God has always existed, and wisdom existed before creation, God used wisdom to create everything that He created.

Nothing that is made is made without wisdom, everything that exists including the human mind; the thoughts; the subconscious and the conscious mind all exist by wisdom. The prideful stand like proud peacocks, with all their knowledge, but put that knowledge before the knowledge of God and suddenly it looks enormously pathetic, how pitiful is are the prideful especially when they exalt their intellect above God. Wisdom loves those who love her (Prov. 8:17) and says, "Whoever seeks me is going to find me," this shines a spotlight on the truth that it takes study and reading as well as humbleness to listen to others to gain wisdom it is not going to drop out of heaven. If a person seeks after wisdom it will give them mental and spiritual strength, insight and the ability to counsel. Wisdom not only speaks the

truth, noble things, righteousness and what is good and right (Prov. 8:5-9), but also establishes good kings, rulers' princes and nobles, with the ability to do right and govern justly, who the people they rule over will favour (Prov. 8:14-17). Wisdom is more valuable than silver and gold (Prov. 8:10-11), because with wisdom comes enduring righteousness; honour before God and man (Prov. 8:18-21). If it were possible to build a house on earth with the fruits of wisdom it would by far surpass the most glorious palace built with cedars of Lebanon and the finest of gold and choice silver.

This is because it is guaranteed wisdom will not only lead a person to God, to eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory and keep them from all sorts of troubles, crime and wrongdoing, but also fill their mind and heart with contentment, peace and God's love. In contrast to this all the riches in the world cannot guarantee any of these things and certainly cannot buy eternal life. Like perfect love wisdom has no sin or any wrong-doing within it, her fruit is justice, fairness, impartiality, even-handedness, honesty and integrity, wisdom is no respecter of people it treats everyone with fairness and honest justice regardless of whether they are kings or paupers, rich or poor, lowly or noble wisdom.

Added to this whoever finds wisdom finds life and obtains favour from God (Prov. 8:32-36) not simply by knowing wisdom's ways, but by also doing them. Those who keep wisdom's ways by doing what is right and good before God and keeping His laws and showing kindness and compassion to others will have favour from the LORD in this world and will be counted worthy of eternal life in the world to come, but all who choose to deliberately do harm to others and refuse to do what is good, right and decent bring upon themselves God's judgment and condemnation to the lake of fire (a symbol of eternal death) (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction). It could be said that they by their lack of wisdom and corrupt works are digging their own graves.

For further information concerning the lake of fire, see the title: -

- Lake of Fire in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Proverbs 24:15-16 --- ¹⁵Lie not in wait as a wicked man against the dwelling of the righteous; do no violence to his home; ¹⁶for the righteous falls seven times and rises again, but the wicked stumble in times of calamity.

Those who lie in wait to do harm to a person that does what is good and right or to their family will fall, because no matter how much their victim has been hurt they and their families will forever rise up to seek justice and will also continue doing good. In contrast to this those who have inflicted harm upon them will continue in their wickedness and if not brought to justice they will ultimately be condemned to the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction).

Proverbs 24:17-18 --- ¹⁷Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles, ¹⁸lest the LORD see it and be displeased, and turn away his anger from him.

When a person rejoices over someone who has been offensive, rude or unfriendly to them or who they dislike or consider an enemy because they are suffering some type of harm and hurt God is not pleased. Even God Himself takes no delight in bringing judgment on the wicked and the corrupt. Justice demands that He does, but it is not something He rejoices in doing. There is a big difference in rejoicing when justice has been administered to rejoicing over someone, because harm and hurt has come upon them. Justice is one of the great pillars of God's throne so it is right and proper to feel joy when a criminal is brought to justice, whereas it is wrong to rejoice over their suffering.

Proverbs 24:19-20 --- ¹⁹Fret not yourself because of evildoers, and be not envious of the wicked, ²⁰for the evil man has no future; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

Those who love God and love what is right and good feel great grief when they see evildoers, the wicked, the deceitful and dishonest prosper, while those who are honest and do what is right and good suffer. Truly we do not live in a world of justice at this present time, but a fallen world in which sin runs rampant.

These verses should bring great comfort to those who love God and love doing what is right and good, God through this Proverb is saying, "Don't fret yourself about it," rather comfort yourself that their end will be the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction).

Proverbs 24:21-22 --- ²¹My son, fear the LORD and the king, and do not join with those who do otherwise, ²²for disaster from them will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin that will come from them both?

Fear of the LORD and of the king is a healthy thing because it stops a person who has such fear from joining in with those who rebel against the king or against God because they know that both the king and God have the power to destroy whoever rebels against them. The reason a person is told to fear the LORD is because all humans have sinned and will one-day be judged by God. This fear should motivate all of us to seek God and his eternal salvation and forgiveness. This is why the Bible says the fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom it motivates a person to seek God and His forgiveness.

The apostle John in his letter wrote: -

- If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10).

The fear of the LORD has the following two aspects: -

- 1 An eternal aspect: wisdom teaches that mankind is separated from God because of sin and without God a person has no hope of eternal life and will be judged accordingly. The fear of the LORD in this context is wisdom because it motivates a person to seek God and eternal life.
- 2 An aspect for the present moment: the fear of the LORD in the present moment motivates mankind to obey God's Ten Commandments which are all designed to protect the innocent from harm, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally and spiritually (summed up they mean do-good and not harm). The fear of the LORD in this context is also wisdom because if everyone feared the LORD humanity would live in harmony with each other. Sadly there is very little fear of the LORD in the world today and so we see rampant rebellion, violence, crime and wars in most countries.

The fear of God and Christians: those in Christ look to the bloodstained cross of Calvary and understand and experience Christ's great love and God's grace in their hearts and minds and no longer act from fear, but from love in the same way that a man in love with a woman does not do things to please her from fear, but from the love dwelling in his heart. Likewise it is with the faithful who belong to the Lords global family.

- The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate. (Prov. 8:13).

The fear of the LORD is hatred toward evil: it is having a hatred of everything that harms another human physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, or spiritually and having a strong dislike of anything that destroys the planet and of whoever treats animals cruelly. God loves humans He gave his only Son to die for them.

The fear of the LORD is about protecting and preventing harm to other humans. It is about knowing we are all going to stand before Him one day and give an account of our actions. The fear of this judgment should motivate a person to do the right thing and treat others with respect.

Proverbs 24:23 ----- ²³These also are sayings of the wise. Partiality in judging is not good. ²⁴Whoever says to the wicked, "You are in the right," will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations, ²⁵but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

The word partiality carries the idea of having a biased attitude and showing unfair favour toward a person over another because of a fondness for them. Whoever pardons a person who has done wrong for the following four reasons: -

1. They have a fondness for the person.
2. They belong to their church or their group.
3. They are of the same culture.
4. They are a friend or family member.

Will be loathed by the family of the victim and the community and if it is a king or ruler of a nation who has shown such corrupt bias loathed by the global population. In contrast to this those who give an honest testimony against the criminal regardless of whether they are a family member or a friend will not only be respected, but also bring great joy to all who have been affected by the criminals crime

Proverbs 24:26 ----- ²⁶Whoever gives an honest answer kisses the lips.

The King James Bible says: -

- Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.

This verse carries the following idea, when a person is seeking an answer to a question that seriously affects their life and they are in some difficulty and confusion over what to do and someone brings them the right answer to the question, the situation or the circumstance the person receiving the answer is so happy and grateful that they would even kiss them on the lips.

It is an expression that shines a brilliant light upon how deeply grateful those who have received the solution and answer to their question and problem are. This is a brotherly or family type of kiss not a romantic kiss, it is a kiss of overwhelming joy and excitement one gives to a best friend when they meet at an airport or train station after being separated for long periods of time. It is a kiss that expresses honest thankfulness of heart.

Proverbs 24:27 ----- ²⁷Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.

At the time this proverb was written this would literally mean prepare your land, farm, crops, livestock so that they are producing an income before building a house. It carries the idea of establishing an income before building a home. Today we would say, get a job, build your business or company so that you have an ongoing income before building a house.

Proverbs 24:28 ----- ²⁸Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your lips.

Honesty, truth and justice are pillars of God's throne so to lie, deceive and give a false witness against an innocent neighbour (neighbour embraces all people) is a gross abomination before God. An example of this scenario would be a person who has hatred toward another who is being accused of a crime, so the one with the hatred takes to opportunity to inflict harm upon them, by giving a false and deceptive testimony against them. Even the secular world considers this a gross offence this is why our world has established serious penalties for perjury (i.e., lying in a court of law).

Proverbs 24:29 ----- ²⁹Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."

This verse is about revenge not about seeking justice, it is about taking the law into your own hands and deliberately calculating revenge. To take such a path is only going to bring more hurt and harm into the life of the one seeking the revenge. Wisdom would say, seek justice, deal with it lawfully, so that you will not bring even

more turmoil into your life. This is why Paul says, "Beloved, never avenge yourselves, but leave it to the wrath of God, for it is written, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay, says the Lord." (Romans 12:19).

Proverbs 24:30 ----- ³⁰I passed by the field of a sluggard (slothful in KJV), by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, ³¹and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. ³²Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. ³³A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, ³⁴and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

This a farm that has been totally left to go to ruin, the crops have died, the grass is overgrown, weeds are abundant, fences are broken, all because of laziness. In the book of Proverbs it is written, slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger. (Proverbs 19:15). The apostle Paul in his letter to the Thessalonians wrote, we command you, brothers, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you keep away from any brother who is walking in idleness (2 Thess. 3:6) for we give you this command: "If anyone is not willing to work, let him not eat." (2 Thess. 3:10). These words of Paul clearly show that God does not expect brothers and sisters in Christ to burden their own families by giving financial aid or food to a brother who is lazy and for no good reason is unwilling to work.

Upon saying that it should be mentioned that this command does not apply to a person who is out of work, but is willing to work, nor does this principal apply to a person who for whatever reason is going through a period of overwhelming sorrow, deep depression or some other crisis in their life and because of these does not want to work.

Those in Christ suffering in any of these ways, is in desperate need of encouragement, comfort and compassion. This is because laziness is about attitude and choosing not to work when one is fully able to work and not about being unable to work. Though it is true that those who help the poor are storing up treasure in heaven God does not expect anyone to help a person who is unwilling to help themselves for the following three reasons: -

1. The monies most brothers and sisters can afford to give is very limited so it is better that their giving goes to those who desire to work, but for whatever reason cannot and are therefore poor and struggling through no fault of their own rather than to those who are choosing to be lazy and unwilling to work when they are fully able.
2. Those who are lazy and chose not to work for no-good reason will forever be a drain on the budget of others and the church.
3. When those who do desire to work, but for some reason are unable to work do overcome their troubles they in turn will work and give to others who lack.

In the book of Proverbs it is written: -

- Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. (Prov. 6:6).
 - A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. (Prov. 10:4).
 - The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labour." (Prov. 21:25).
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Wisdom embraces the following nine aspects: -

1. Having a clear thoughtful, rational, discerning, discriminating, sharp, and discreet mind.
2. Being cautious in character as opposed to being impulsive.
3. Being sensible and practical with the skills and talents that a person has.

4. Making choices that considers others and that will be fair and just.
5. Studying, reading and learning to acquire mental knowledge that helps in making right decisions for the present moment and for the future.
6. Being able to see the future danger of a decision, choice or action.
7. Having the ability to make good choices and decisions in the present moment that will end in the best result and a good outcome in the future.
8. Being able to perceive the end result or ramifications (good or bad) of the underlying message a speaker is teaching.
9. Wisdom will protect a person from making decisions and choices in the present moment that will lead to hurt or calamity in the future for themselves and for others.

End.