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

Proverbs 19.

(2015)

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But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

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Proverbs 19.

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 19

Proverbs 19:1 ----- ¹Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.

A person who steadfastly adheres to high moral principles honesty and does not compromise their integrity and principles will have a far more peaceful and trouble free life than those who are dishonest deceptive and lack good sense.

Proverbs 19:2 ----- ²Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.

Desire (craving) without knowledge which naturally includes wisdom is not good because people without knowledge and wisdom tend to make impulsive choices and decisions and do things without considering the long term ramifications and consequences.

In contrast to this a person with knowledge and wisdom will carefully consider the long term ramifications and consequences to discover whether such a decision or action will result in a good or bad outcome in the long term.

Proverbs 19:3 ----- ³When a man's folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD.

How true is this statement? This is a common attitude of many who do not know the love and grace of God. Through their own foolishness things go radically wrong and don't work out how they had hoped or end in utter ruin and they blame God. There are even some who deny God's existence and yet when, an unexpected crisis comes into their lives they, with a hostile spirit curse God and blame Him.

Proverbs 19:4 ----- ⁴Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.

Some of the rich are aware of the truth of this statement, but not all, many of the rich and wealthy get a surprise when they lose their riches that they also lose many of their so called friends. I remember listening to the testimony of a famous and rich couple who through tragic circumstance lost everything, they said to the interviewer, "When all our wealth and fame was gone so too were most of our friends, though all the grief and loss we found out who our true friends really were."

Proverbs 19:5 ----- ⁵A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.

Those who tell lies, especially when it brings harm to another person will not escape punishment, in this life because they will not have mental rest or peace since they live with the fear of being found out and on the Day of Judgment because they will be condemned to eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction).

Proverbs 19:6 ----- ⁶Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.

The statement, "many favour a generous man," is not limited to money the principle can be applied to giving time, labour, advice and counselling. People will seek the help of a generous person for whatever need or purpose they are able to fulfil. This is not always a bad thing, but there is a danger that some friends are only friends because of the gifts and for what they can get from the generous person.

The other danger is, when a generous person belongs to an organization, group or church they tend to be called on for many tasks, simply because of their willingness to give, but it can be abused and they find themselves so overloaded with giving to the organization, the group, the church or friends that they are robbed of valuable time with their own family or in some cases eventually burn out.

Proverbs 19:7 ----- ⁷All a poor man's brothers hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He pursues them with words, but does not have them.

The brothers and the friends of a poor man show him no interest and do not visit even though he tries to win them over with good words they have no effect.

Proverbs 19:8 ----- ⁸Whoever gets sense loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will discover good.

Sense (good sense) means having the ability: -

- To appreciate a person's good qualities, skills and talents.
- To perceive and be motivated by moral and ethical principles.
- To make intelligent decisions and sound judgments.
- To understand something intuitively and detect and identify a good or bad change in somebody.
- To rationally arrive at a sensible conclusion or opinion through reason, logic perception and reflection.

- To perceive intuitively if somebody or something is good or bad.

Having good sense is the evidence that a person loves their own soul because it is having good sense that will protect it from harm, physically, financially, sexually, emotionally and spiritually.

Understanding is having the ability:-

- To perceive and explain the meaning or the nature of somebody or something.
- To gain a better understanding of a situation, circumstance or a person.
- To grasp a belief, opinion or the reasoning of another person.
- To perceive and comprehend any given situation or circumstance.
- To recognize somebody else's character, nature or situation and be sympathetic, empathetic, or tolerant.

Good will come to the life of whoever possess and keeps these qualities, because they will not only be favoured by those who know them, but also be greatly valued by any employer, organisation or church etc.

Proverbs 19:9 ----- ⁹A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish.

A person who lies and deceives in a court of law or in a testimony concerning a crime or wrong-doing will be condemned to eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction) especially when their lies and deception has resulted in a wrongful judgment against the innocent and brought them harm. Today we would call this type of person a perjurer. An example of such a person giving a false testimony would be a parent or who lies to protect their guilty son or someone who lies to protect a guilty friend. Justice is one of the great pillars of God's throne so to pervert justice in such a manner is a gross offence before Him and those who lie in such a deceitful manner will themselves face judgment before the great and Almighty Judge and be judged accordingly.

Proverbs 19:10 ----- ¹⁰It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury, much less for a slave to rule over princes.

The King James Bible says: -

- Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

The statement, "It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury," could refer to the following two scenarios: -

1. It is not fitting for a foolish, slothful, lazy and unwise child of a king to be living in a king's palace since they have not done anything to earn such a privilege and do not appreciate what they have and by their foolish behaviour and laziness bring a bad report to the king and his kingdom.
2. It is not fitting for a person who is foolish, lazy and lacks wisdom to dwell amongst the rich and wealthy and in an environment of luxury. One of the reasons for this would be, because such a lifestyle opens doors to far more sinful temptations and indulgences which lead many who to ruin and misery. The one who is foolish, lazy and lacks wisdom in this scenario could refer to children born to the rich, a man or woman who has won a lottery or someone who has received and inheritance.

The statement, "It is not fitting for a slave to rule over princes," could apply to the following two scenarios: -

1. For a slave to be able to rule over princes is more of a condemnation against the princes than it is against the slave. This is because no slave could ever attain to such a position unless there was something radically failing or corrupt amongst the princes.

For a slave to be given authority over them means that whoever has given him that position has seen some goodness and wisdom within him. (Much like the Pharaoh of Egypt saw in Joseph). Based upon this it is very likely the Palmist had in mind a slave who had been emancipated by court favour and raised to a high place of authority, and then ruling over those who were once ruling over him. This scenario is very likely since Eastern monarchies would on certain occasions establish a favoured slave over the princes and nobles of the land.

It is not fitting or delightful to see such a slave ruling over princess, for the following two reasons, firstly, because such a royal position of authority was the princes rightful inheritance, secondly it means that the princes must not only be of weak or corrupt character, but also grossly failed in their exalted position for a slave to be ruling over them.

2. Based upon the following words of Solomon, "The earth trembles when a slave becomes king (Prov. 30:21-22) the expression, "It is not fitting for a slave to rule over princes," would carry the following two ideas, firstly that the insolence and disrespect of a servant, who sees themselves as greater than their superiors is clearly not a fitting or delightful thing to see. Secondly, a slave who rises up in rebellion and conquers the king and his princess and takes the throne and rules the kingdom is clearly not delightful or fitting.

NOTE: throughout history there have been slaves and servants that have gathered together an army and risen up in rebellion against the king and his kingdom and claimed the throne for themselves. In the Middle East today there have been religious fractions and secular groups that have by violence risen up against their governments, overthrown them and set themselves up in their place.

Proverbs 19:11 ----- ¹¹Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.

Men and women with wisdom are not only slow to anger, but also choose to overlook an offence rather than aggressively and verbally retaliate, because they are fully aware of the destruction a temper out of control can do and the hurt and violence anger uncontrolled can cause. Their glory is twofold, firstly they are humble enough to overlook an offence, and secondly, they do not respond to anger in a manner that will increase the anger, they have the wisdom to know how to calm an angry person down and when to back away before it erupts into violence.

Proverbs 19:12 ----- ¹²A king's wrath is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

The anger of a king is an enormously fearful and dangerous thing, because he has great power over mighty armies and authority over all those in his kingdom. Out of wrath he can raise taxes or oppress the people to increase the treasures and riches of his kingdom, he has power to imprison people and even have them beheaded. Clearly the growling of a lion is a perfect description of the anger of a king since both are frightfully, fearful and powerful. In contrast to this a kings favour brings great blessings and rewards since he owns all the treasures and riches of the kingdom and has full authority to do with it as he will. Added to this like a lion he has all the fierce power needed to protect those who are in his care.

Proverbs 19:13 ----- ¹³A foolish son is ruin (calamity in KJV) to his father, and a wife's quarreling (contentions in KJV) is a continual dripping of rain.

An earthly father has great ambitions for their son, they desire only the very best for them, so when a son foolishly follows a path of wickedness and wrong-doing it not only brings great hurt to his father's heart, but also destroys all the future hopes and joys he once had for his son. This same principal also applies to the heart of our heavenly Father He is hurt in the same way as the earthly father is when His children choose to follow the path of wickedness and wrong-doing.

A contentious wife: the word contentious comes from the Hebrew word (*midyan*) and means brawling, quarrelling, discord and strife it carries the idea of one quarrelling as if the discussion is a contest to be won. The expression, "A continual dripping of rain," most likely refers to that type of irritating rain continually leaking drop after drop of water through the cracks in the flat roof of an Eastern house on a

wet day. Such rain is a perpetual annoyance that eventually wears out the patience of those who have to suffer it. Likewise a wife's continual quarrelling and contentions will eventually, quarrel by quarrel not only spoil a man's happiness and wear him away as the drip of a roof eventually rots the timber, but will also over time drive away all the other inhabitants of the household.

Proverbs 19:14 ----- ¹⁴House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Prudent comes from the Hebrew word (*sakal*) and means intelligent, understanding, wise it carries the idea of one who has good morals and ethics and is able to teach and guide wisely.

To provide for their children after death parents may will to them, houses, lands, riches and whatever may prosper and advantage their lives in the future. But as valued and treasured as these all maybe to those who inherit them a wife that is loyal and faithful to her husband, a good mother to her children and manages the affairs of her household wisely is of far more value to the husband who has such a wife than houses, lands and riches. Riches and possessions can gained through diligent work, but to find a wife such as this is a wonderful blessing of the LORD and the husband who has such a wife should give God all praise and honour for her.

Proverbs 19:15 ----- ¹⁵Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

Slothfulness: comes from the Hebrew word (*'atslah*) and means indolent, lazy, lethargic, idle and apathetic while the word idle comes from the Hebrew word (*ʾemiyah*) and means treachery, deceitful, false, idle, slack, slothful. Figuratively it means to delude, betray and deceive. Clearly both words refer to a person who is lazy and refuses to work for no good reason.

- Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. (Proverbs 6:6).
- A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. (Proverbs 10:4).

A slothfulness and lazy person will not be able to provide for themselves because laziness makes a person lethargic, mentally dull, apathetic and tired. It robs those that are lazy of energy, of vitality, of motivation of self-motivation and of the desire to learn anything new and of any interest in doing something new. This is because if something looks as though it may involve effort and work a lazy person will do all they can to avoid it and by doing so will not only become more lethargic and apathetic, but also lazier.

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 Proverbs chapter twenty-one it is written: -

- The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labour.” (Prov. 21:25).

Proverbs 19:16 ----- ¹⁶Whoever keeps the commandment keeps his life; he who despises his ways will die.

If we keep God's word it will keep us from trouble and everything really hurtful, but if we abuse His love, mercy and grace if we think that the free gift of grace means we can live as we please without giving any thought to how our speech and behaviour reflects on the honour of God and the good name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith we are grossly mistaken in our understanding of God's gift of grace.

The reason why Christians aim to keep God's law: Jesus said there is, no commandment greater than the following two commandments: -

1. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. (Mark 12:30).
2. You shall love your neighbour as yourself. (Mark 12:31).

These two commandments are not only the greatest commandments in the entire Bible, but also the greatest commandments under sun, the moon, the stars and all the heavenly hosts. Before God and the Lord Jesus Christ there is no other commandment more important than these two commandments. After loving God with all our heart, mind and strength the thing that delights Him the most is when those who belong to Christ are obeying his command to, love your neighbour as yourself. (Matt. 22:39).

To, love your neighbour as yourself, means do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The spirit underpinning the law is love because each law is designed to protect the innocent from violence, hurt and harm.

James (the brother of Jesus) calls Jesus command, love your neighbour as yourself, the royal law and says if we are keeping this one law we are doing well. ((James 2:8). This is because the thing God hates the most is when we deliberately do harm to another person, physically, verbally, financially sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others.

It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land. Those who know God aim to keep the law because it is the right and loving thing to do, it fulfils the Ten Commandments regarding man and the royal law love your neighbour as yourself (Mark 12:31) (Jas 2:8).

Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote: -

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom). Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and it is the right and loving thing to do.

The faithful in Christ's global Kingdom do not keep the law to get saved. Those who belong to Christ not only understand that righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort or by strictly adhering to ceremonial rites, holy days and keeping religious customs and traditions. But also know that from the love of God dwelling within their heart and displayed on the bloodstained cross of Calvary they are called to live a lifestyle that honours the King and Saviour they worship and follow and called to treat others with decency, respect and honest justice.

Keeping God's law pleases God and brings a good testimony to His name and the name of, Jesus and the Christian faith and is the right and loving thing to do, this is why those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law. A wise and faithful man wrote: though the law is splendid as a guide to understanding God's will, as a means of reunion with God, the God we have sinned against, it is a hopeless failure, nevertheless both law and grace go together, the law without the Gospel is diagnosis without remedy, but the Gospel without law is only the good news of salvation for people who don't believe they need it because they have never heard the bad news of judgment, the law is not the Gospel, but the Gospel is not lawless (Rom. 3:19-20) (Eph. 2:13-22).

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah not only show the law is about doing-good to others and protecting them from harm and hurt, but also clearly show that the spirit under-pinning the Ten Commandments, is love because each law protects another human from harm.

Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing right to those in the church and those outside of it.

This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians, but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). Based on the commandment, love your neighbour as yourself and the law it could be said that a wicked and evil person is one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and deliberately does harm to other humans. For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see: "Matthew 5" in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Those who do all they can to love God with all their heart, mind and strength and love their neighbour as themselves. (Mark 12:30-31) will hear the words of their Master, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matt. 25:21). In contrast to this those who despise God's and His ways will be judged and condemned to the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction) for further information concerning the lake of fire, see the title: Lake of Fire in, Death (ON WEBSITE MENU.).

Proverbs 19:17 ----- ¹⁷Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

Giving to the poor is not only the same as giving to God, but is also storing up treasure in heaven. (i.e., rewards for the resurrected faithful).

Proverbs 19:18 ----- ¹⁸Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.

Discipline your son (and by extension all children) while there is still hope means discipline your children while they are still young enough to discipline.

The expression, "Do not set your heart on putting him them to death," carries the idea that parents who do not discipline their children are setting them on a path of rebellion, misery, sorrow, wrongdoing, and ultimately death. In Proverbs chapter thirteen it is written: -

- Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him. (Proverbs 13:24).

Discipline does not mean every discipline has to be with a rod, rather it is discipline suited to humanities weakness. God used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon as His servant to chastise the people of Israel for their good in the same way parents use all kinds of discipline to correct their children for their own good. The idea is that whatever type of discipline is being used it will cause a certain amount of suffering for the one being disciplined, but it is always to be carried out with all possible tenderness and compassion. It is almost certain that if some children today were given a choice of a smack with a rod given in love (in contrast to anger) or have their I-Pad or mobile phone taken away for a few a few days many would chose the smack given in love (not uncontrolled anger).

The destructive consequences of sin are seen as God's discipline. The harmful and painful repercussions that follow wrongdoing are spoken of as the discipline and reproof of God; these can come in the form of guilt and anxiety or the lack of joy, contentment and peace or outwardly as death, prison or financial ruin etc. They are called disciplines and reproofs of God because their purpose is to bring a person to repentance and motivate them to change their ways and where possible make restitution to those they have harmed.

God has established in the laws of the universe that wrong doing will bring about consequences that can lead to death, prison, financial ruin, rejection, guilt, lack of contentment and the loss of happiness and peace etc., but this does not mean that everyone who is suffering one of these is a wicked person there are always exceptions to the general rule and time and chance have their ways (Eccles. (:11). The LORD has designed the universe this way so that no human whether righteous or wicked can find out their future or know what will happen to them tomorrow.

Proverbs 19:19 ----- ¹⁹A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again.

A person who cannot control their temper and anger will be punished and suffer unpleasant consequence as the result of their lack of self-control, but when they are delivered from the damaging and destructive results of one foolish outburst it is only a matter of time before they will foolishly do the same thing again.

A good example of this is a wife who has a husband who cannot control his temper and when angry lashes out at his wife with hostile verbal abuse or physical violence. Once the anger has dissipated he is grossly remorseful tells her he loves her and how sorry he is and that he will never do it again, foolishly she believes him. Sadly it is only a matter of time before he lashes out at her in the same violent manner. Without any professional counselling it is most unlikely men like this will ever change.

Proverbs 19:20 ----- ²⁰Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.

One of the best ways to make sure the future will be free of trouble is to gain wisdom by listening to advice and accepting correction. I personal have known people who never grow in good knowledge or wisdom because they are more interested in speaking their own opinions than they are listening to others and will certainly not take advice or counsel from anyone.

The Bible calls such people fools, because there is safety in listening to many counsellors and knowledge and wisdom to be learned by listening to others. A wise person listens to many counsellors and teachers and after hearing there opinions, teaching and advice considers them all and then makes up their own mind. This is the way of the wise, because they realise that we can all have tunnel vision and there are times when a thing may seem right to us, but everyone else knows that it is only going to lead to our ruin or end in misery.

Proverbs 19:21 ----- ²¹Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.

This principle is not limited to men and women only, but also applies to kings, rulers of nations, governments, ministers and leaders of churches, organisation and groups. We all make our plans, but none of them no matter how great will hinder the eternal and sovereign plan that God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before time began and set in motion by His spoken word at creation.

Proverbs 19:22 ----- ²²What is desired in a man is steadfast love (kindness in KJV), and a poor man is better than a liar.

The heart of every man and woman desires love, a person may have suffered so many emotional hurts (i.e., a child brought up in an abusive environment, an abused wife, a man or woman rejected in love many times etc.) and because of the hurts feel that they do not need love. This is mostly because the past hurts have built up solid walls around the heart so that no one can hurt them again. For such men and women living within these walls gives them some sense of control and an emotionally and spiritually safe place to be. But this does not mean that their heart would not still welcome love, but that their trust is totally destroyed and rather than be hurt again it is better to live within the walls of protection they have established around their heart.

The expression, "God's steadfast love endures forever," is a common theme throughout the Bible. Some Bibles say, "God's steadfast mercy endures forever," while others say, "God's love endures forever. The word mercy comes from the Hebrew word (*cheched*) and means to show, kind favour, to show merciful kindness, to be kind, to show one-self merciful and to pity which embraces such things as compassion, sympathy, empathy, comfort and forgiveness showing that love and mercy are bound together. The apostle Paul wrote,

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans. 13:10).
- Love is patient and kind. (1 Cor. 13:4).

And John wrote: -

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. . (1 John 4:8).
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

These verses of John shine a brilliant spotlight upon the truth that love is not a part of God's character; God is love wherever love is God is present by His Spirit. This does not mean that wherever love is the people are saved to eternal life, it simply means God by His love is in that love.

It is also interesting to notice that the word mercy embraces all of the following, compassion, pity, kindness, sympathy, grace and forgiveness which means love and mercy cannot be separated, love without mercy is not love and mercy without love is not mercy, which also means that Bibles that state, "God's mercy endures for ever," and Bibles that say, "God's love endures for ever," are both correct in their interpretations. Love

The truth that God at the creation of Adam established in the human heart the desire for steadfast love (i.e., faithful, loyal unfailing and kind love) is why those who discover God's love expressed to them through the Lord Jesus Christ praise and worship him with overwhelming heartfelt joy and thankfulness. The worship of those who understand the message of the bloodstained cross and have the Spirit of the King and Saviour who ascended from it does not flow up from a fantasy of the mind, but from God's steadfast love dwelling in their heart.

A poor man is better than a liar: because a liar will live with the fear of being found out, and will eventually be caught in his lies and no one likes a liar so the end result of lying is a lack of true and faithful friends and trouble and misery. In contrast to this a poor who are honest will have true loyal and faithful friends and a

mind filled with peace since they have nothing to fear. Added to this before God it matters not how famous, rich and wealthy, important or powerful a man or woman maybe if they have used lies deceit and deception to achieve their riches and status in life it all counts for nothing before God. In contrast to this those who are poor, but honest and do not compromise their faith, their integrity and their ethics will be rewarded.

Proverbs 19:23 ----- ²³The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.

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 and leads to life 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 19:24 ----- ²⁴The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.

The King James Bible says: -

- A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

The English Standard Bible says, "The sluggard buries his hand in the dish," while the King James Bible says, "A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom," because of the differences let's look at the two translations separately.

1 **The English Standard Bible translation:** the scene brought before us is that of an Eastern Oriental feast in which there were no knives, forks, or spoons. Every guest had to help themselves, by dipping their hands into very wide dishes set on the table to take out the food for themselves or the host would take it from the dish and pass it to them. The following show that this was a normal custom. When the table had been set for the Passover meal Jesus said to his twelve disciples while they were eating: -

- He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. (Matt. 26:23).
- It is he to whom I will give this morsel of bread when I have dipped it. So when he had dipped the morsel, he gave it to Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot. (John 13:26).

During the early generations it was common practice to eat with the fingers.

2 **The King James Bible translation:** a slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, either to keep it warm in cold weather, or to give it rest, as if he expected that the meat should drop into his mouth being unwilling to fatigue himself with the labour of any action.

It would be foolishness to debate which of these two translations is the correct one since both carry the same idea and both are a sarcastical hyperboles (extreme exaggerations) in that the slothful and lazy person expects that the food should drop into their mouth symbolising that they have given themselves up to sloth and laziness and refuse to do even the most easiest of tasks.

This principal though speaking of natural food and the laziness of a person also applies to spiritual food and spiritual laziness in that those who are spiritually slothful and lazy should not expect to find the hidden treasures that are to be found in the message of the bloodstained cross and the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ or discover the depth, breadth and heights of the love and grace of God and the wonder and glory of His word and the prophecies it contains.

Though they may have the Bible on their bookshelf full of spiritual and life-giving food for the heart and mind, they will not feed themselves with even the smallest portion of it, but instead expect God to pour out His Spirit of wisdom, love and grace into their hearts and minds without them having to lift up His word from the shelf it sits on collecting dust.

For further information concerning a slothful and lazy person, see the notes following the word slothfulness under verse fifteen above.

Proverbs 19:25 ----- 25 Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge.

Scoffer: (scorner in KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (*luwts*) and means to make mouths it carries the idea of ridiculing and showing others disrespect by mocking and scorning (i.e., belittling and degrading). Scorer comes from the Hebrew word (*luwts*) and means to make mouths it carries the same idea as scoffer. A scoffer will have a haughty attitude and believe (often unjustifiably) that he or she is better than others, and will often not mix with those they consider their social inferiors. They are arrogant and exalt themselves above others and even God.

They will treat people they look down upon and believe are inferior to them with disdain and at their worst with cruelty and destruction. They cause quarrels, strife, arguments, fights and even wars. The name of a scoffer (mockers) is encompassed in the words pride, arrogant and haughty (Proverbs 21:14).

Prudent: comes from the Hebrew word (*aruwm*) it carries the idea of being cunning, crafty and subtle or practical sensible wise careful cautious and far-sighted so it can be used in a good or bad sense. In a good sense it would apply to those who are honest; have good integrity and principles; have wisdom and are

careful in making decisions and choices by considering the ramifications and consequences of such a choice in the long term. In a bad sense it would apply to those who also have wisdom, but use their knowledge to cleverly deceive others for their own gain and advantage. (It would be scripturally right and proper to call these types of people serpents).

Strike a scoffer: means strongly and with constant determination discipline them so that they will learn to have wisdom in dealing with practical matters; learn to carefully managing resources so as to provide for the future; learn to use good judgment in considering the likely consequences of their choices and action and learn right behaviour. The expression strike a scoffer does not mean violently beat them until they are bruised and hurt all over. For further information concerning discipline see the notes following verse eighteen above.

Reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge: those who have understanding do not need to be disciplined, because they have the wisdom to accept correction, advice and counsel from others and respond accordingly.

Proverbs 19:26 ----- ²⁶He who does violence to his father (wasteth his father in the KJV) and chases away his mother is a son who brings shame and reproach.

It is supposed here that the father and mother have raised their son in love and not been physically or verbally abusive to him since in such a family environment it might be understandable why a son would become violent in nature. The focus is a rebellious son who has no justifiable reason for such behaviour. This verse carries the following two ideas: -

- 1 The son is physically violent against his father and therefore his mother is afraid of him.
- 2 The son has wasted all his father's good teaching and instruction by living a life of wickedness and wrong doing and therefore his mother is ashamed of him.

Both of these most likely apply since a son who treats his father in such a manner is a grossly shameful son and by his wickedness he is not only an extreme sadness to his parents and his brothers and sisters, but also a gross offence to society and to God and the Lord Jesus Christ and by his lack of respect toward his parents brings a bad report to the whole family.

Proverbs 19:27 ----- ²⁷Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

It is a universal truth that there is safety in listening to good counsel, advice and wisdom from men and women who have a mature spirit and prospered in their marriage, families and life in general. People who refuse to accept correction and advice from such men and women are opening doors for them to go the wrong way and bring ruin and misery into their lives.

This is because all of us can have tunnel vision and because of this what may seem to be right to us is sometimes to all who know us clearly not. This is why when making choices and decisions there is safety in listening to others who we trust, because they do not have any emotional attachment so they are able to see a thing with clearer eyes and present other viewpoints to consider. For further information concerning this verse see the notes following verse eighteen above.

Proverbs 19:28 ----- ²⁸A worthless witness mocks at justice, and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.

A wicked person has no respect for justice and what is fair for others. The only person that is important to them is themselves. They have no consideration for how their lies, deception or actions will harm another person and are totally indifferent to the hurt they bring to others. Since justice is one of the great pillars of God's throne such people will be judged and condemned to the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extension) for further information concerning the lake of fire see the title: -

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

When scoffers and mockers stand before the judgment seat of God there will be no opening of books or time spend determining their eternal fate, condemnation is already sitting and waiting for them to arrive for judgment. For further information concerning scoffers see the notes following verse twenty-five above.

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.
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End.