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

Proverbs 27.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

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 27.

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 27

Proverbs 27:1 ----- ¹Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

It is foolish for people to overemphasize or make proud statements of what they will accomplish or achieve tomorrow because they cannot know what the day may bring. In the book of Ecclesiastes it is written: -

- God has made everything beautiful in its time. Also, he has put eternity into man's heart, yet so that he cannot find out what God has done from the beginning to the end. (Ecclesiastes. 3:11).
- Man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out. (Eccles. 8:17).

- The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favour to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. ¹²For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them. (Eccles. 9:11-12)

This means that no man can find out the works of God upon the earth. 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 27:2 ----- ²Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

Many feel it is prideful to accept praise of others, but this is not so, if someone has done something or achieved something that others admire is not prideful to accept their praises. This proverb is teaching that whoever wins the approval, admiration and praise of others for their achievements or good qualities they should accept such praise with gratitude and thanksgiving, but they should never exalt or boast of themselves to others.

Proverbs 27:3 ----- ³A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.

It is hard for a person to carry a heavy stone or a bag of sand, but is far more difficult for a person to resist physically or verbally attacking a person who lacks good sense and is provoking and inciting them to anger.

Proverbs 27:4 ----- ⁴Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?

Anger is being extremely annoyed and having a strong feeling of grievance and displeasure while wrath is great and strong anger, but Jealousy surpasses them both in fierceness and fury.

Proverbs 27:5 ----- ⁵Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Love only needs to be hidden when it is wrong therefore hidden love implies a wrongful emotional or sexual relationship (i.e. an adulterous affair). This proverb is teaching that it is better to rebuke a couple than let them carry on in a wrong relationship that is eventually going to end up in a lot of pain and hurt for everyone connected to the couple hiding their love.

Proverbs 27:6 ----- ⁶Faithful are the wounds of a friend; profuse are the kisses of an enemy.

The statement, "faithful are the wounds of a friend," refers to the wounds a true friend inflicts upon their friend. It carries the sense that they are not afraid to tell their friend when something they have set their heart on doing is wrong, even though they know it may destroy the friendship. A true friend cares more about the welfare of their friend, than they care about themselves.

Profuse are the kisses of an enemy: refers to people who find that it is to their advantage to be your friend and therefore will flatter and compliment you constantly if by knowing you is going to work to their advantage and gain.

Proverbs 27:7 ----- ⁷One who is full loathes honey, but to one who is hungry everything bitter is sweet.

Even the best food does not entice a person who has a full stomach, but to those who are hungry even something bitter tastes good. This principle not only applies to food, but everything in life. Those who have an abundance of wealth and possessions need a lot to excite them, while even a \$2.00 mirror will thrill those who have nothing.

Proverbs 27:8 ----- ⁸Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.

A bird that strays from its nest leaves its young to die such is a man who enters into an adulterous affair he like the bird leaves his home and his children to suffer.

Proverbs 27:9 ----- ⁹Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

The word counsel applies to a friend who is knowledgeable wise and gives honest advice and guidance. A man or woman who cares about their friends wellbeing and from the heart gives them honest and caring help on personal problems or support on psychological matters or guides them in a particular course of action is like a most valuable and sweet smelling perfume. The beauty and strength of true friendship does not come clothed in flattering words of charm, but in the depth and sincerity of a friend's honest and wise advice and being brave enough to do and say what is honestly best for their well-being.

The Bible's definition of a friend is not someone who flatters and tells their friend what a wonderful person they are. The Bible's definition of a friend is a person who tells their friend the truth. They are not afraid to tell their friend that what they are saying or doing is wrong even though they know they may hate them for it. The Bible's understanding of a friend is someone whose primary focus is to protect their friend from physical, financial, sexual, verbal, emotional and spiritual harm.

Proverbs 27:10 ----- ¹⁰Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.

In the context of this verse the friend refers to someone who is in regular and close contact with you whereas a brother could be living quiet some distant away. Do not forsake a faithful friend, because when you are in trouble or need help it is better to go to a friend who lives close by than a family member who lives some distance away.

Proverbs 27:11 ----- ¹¹Be wise, my son, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me.

A son who has good sense and does what is good and right and does not associate with the wicked will make his father glad, because he will be able to give a good answer to anyone who criticizes or tries to make him or his family feel ashamed by accusing his son of doing something disgraceful or wrong.

Proverbs 27:12 ----- ¹²The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

Those who have good sense in dealing with practical matters carefully consider the consequence of a choice, decision or an action and use good judgment. They consider the likely ramifications and the possible dangers the decision or behaviour could result in before acting, but those who lack good sense give it no thought and go on to do it regardless and eventually suffer for the error they have made.

Proverbs 27:13 ----- ¹³Take a man's garment when he has put up security for a stranger, and hold it in pledge when he puts up security for an adulteress.

The KJV says: -

- Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

If a stranger makes a promise to pay you for a debt or do something sometime in the future to pay back a debt take something that is of value to them to make sure they do actually do what they have promised. Likewise if a person borrows money to spend on a sexual affair with an adulteress woman take something valuable of his to make sure he will pay it back. Adultery refers to extramarital sex (i.e., voluntary sexual relations between a married person and somebody other than his or her spouse. According to Proverbs an adulteress, a whorish woman, a strange woman, an evil woman, a forbidden woman and a whore or harlot are titles that mostly refer to a married woman having sex with a married or single man other than her husband and sometimes to a single woman having sex with a married man. In all cases the sex involves cheating and betraying a married partner.

(Prov. 2:16-19) (Prov. 5:3-20) (Prov. 6:23-34) (Prov. 7:4-27) (Prov. 23:26-28).

For those who have been enticed into an adulterous affair there is forgiveness in Christ, everyone is a sinner before God. Even the woman at the well who had five husbands the Lord Jesus Christ forgave because of her honesty toward him and no-doubt her broken spirit when she saw such a caring man without sin protecting her from her enemies and able to show her kind compassion and forgiveness (John 8:3-11).

Proverbs 27:14 ----- ¹⁴Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing.

No matter what wonderful things you say to a friend, if it is too early in the morning they will not appreciate it.

Proverbs 27:15-16 ---- ¹⁵A continual dripping on a rainy day and a quarrelsome (contentious woman in KJV) wife are alike; ¹⁶to restrain her is to restrain the wind or to grasp oil in one's right hand.

The word contentious and quarrelsome 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. To restrain such a wife, is like attempting to restrain the wind which of course is something that cannot be done, nor can one hold oil in their hand. Likewise it is an impossible task for a husband to stop his wife from quarrelling if it is in her nature to argue.

Proverbs 27:17 ----- ¹⁷Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

Sharpen comes from the Hebrew word (*chadad*) and means to be or make sharp, figuratively it carries the idea of being made fierce, when two metals are rubbed together they make each metal sharper, likewise when people annoy us one of the following two things can happen: -

1. It can make us worse people if we allow it to arouse our anger and make us fierce toward them (i.e., aggressive and furious) especially if it results in verbal abuse or physical violence.
2. It can make us better people, when we use the frustration and annoyance to learn patience, forgiveness and mercy.

Proverbs 27:18 ----- ¹⁸Whoever tends a fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who guards his master will be honored.

A person who works will eat, and those who protect the business of their employer will be promoted.

Proverbs 27:19 ----- ¹⁹As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man.

The word heart in this verse comes from the Hebrew word (*leb*), in this context it refers to the fountain and seat of the central and inner most part of the thoughts, feelings, passions, desires, appetites, affections, understanding, intelligence, will, emotions, sensibilities, character, purposes and endeavors of the mind and the spirit. The collective and sum total of these attributes combined reflects who a person is.

Proverbs 27:20 ----- ²⁰Sheol (hell in KJV) and Abaddon (destruction in KJV) are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man.

Sheol: comes from the Hebrew word (*sh^eowl*) and means Hades or the world of the dead (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates, the grave or pit.

Abaddon: comes from the Hebrew word (*'abaddoh*) and means a perishing or destruction. The grave is never satisfied, no matter how many bodies it gets it is forever seeking more to feed it. Likewise the eyes are never fulfilled, gratified or content with what they see or have.

Proverbs 27:21 ----- ²¹The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise.

The King James Bible says: -

- As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise.

The fining-pot and furnace were used to purify the raw silver and gold, by separating the impurities from both metals. It could be said that the fining-pot and furnace test the silver and gold in that they expose what in the metals is pure and what is not. Likewise how a person conducts themselves when praised tests and exposes their true character. This proverb embraces the following four ideas: -

1. The character of a person being praised can be determined by the quality of those who are praising and applauding them, if those praising them are men and women who do what is good and right they may be thought to be so themselves. In contrast to this if those praising the person are the wicked and deceitful they may be concluded to be likewise.
2. If a person is rich and wealthy, famous, popular or enormously successful in their work or their ministry and they praise themselves by boasting to others of how great they are they show themselves to be a prideful, ambitious and vainglorious person.
 - Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips. (Proverbs 27:2).
- 3 If praise swells a person up with pride and makes them haughty, conceited, and overbearing it will show them to be still living from the flesh (i.e., self, ego and pride) and spiritually lacking.
- 4 If praise is accepted with humility and honest heartfelt thanks is given to the ones giving such praise and to God and that person continues to be humble and modest it shows that they are not only wise, good and decent, but are also a person who exalts God above themselves.

Proverbs 27:22 ----- ²²Crush a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his folly will not depart from him.

A pestle is a rod-shaped object made from hard material with a rounded end that is used for crushing and grinding grain in stone vessels. It matters not how much pain is inflicted on a person who lacks good sense they still continue on in their foolishness.

Proverbs 27:23-27 ---- ²³Know well the condition of your flocks, and give attention to your herds, ²⁴for riches do not last forever; and does a crown endure to all generations? ²⁵When the grass is gone and the new growth appears and the vegetation of the mountains is gathered, ²⁶the lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field. ²⁷There will be enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household and maintenance for your girls.

Know your products and your business inside out and save, because when tough times come the business may not survive, but what you have put aside during the prosperous days of your work will keep you until you are able to create another income.

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.