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

Proverbs 29.

(2015)

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But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

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Proverbs 29.

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 29

Proverbs 29:1 ----- ¹He who is often reproved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing.

A person who is so prideful that they constantly resists the good advice and correction of others and instead continue in their wrong-doing will not only come to ruin at some stage, but it will be such ruin that they will be beyond helping. One of the Bibles descriptions of a fool is a person who will not listen to good counsel and good advice.

Proverbs 29:2 ----- ²When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked rule, the people groan.

When a king who loves justice, behaves to a moral code and does good those who do good multiply and the population is happy, but when a king who does what is wrong rules the people are mournful and suffer.

Proverbs 29:3 ----- ³He who loves wisdom makes his father glad, but a companion of prostitutes (harlots in KJV) squanders his wealth.

During the Old Testament era it seems that even though a prostitute woman lives a lifestyle outside of God's moral laws she was accepted at some level as concubines were, but if a prostitute enticed married men into her bed she was seen as an evil woman and spoken of in the harshest of expressions (i.e., whorish, harlot and forbidden woman). This of course would be because by her sensual enticements she is destroying a marriage and a family.

In all the following verses of Proverbs: -

(Prov. 2:16-18) (Prov. 5:3-20) (Prov. 6:24-32) (Prov. 7:5-19) (Prov. 23:27-28).

A prostitute is spoken of as an evil woman when she has sex with a married man or she is a married woman herself having sex with other men. It should be mentioned here that a married man who has sex with another woman and a single man who has sex with a married woman is equally as guilty as the woman and both are an offence before God.

NOTE: for those who have fallen into adulteries 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).

Since this proverb is teaching that men who regularly visits prostitutes are spending a lot of money on something that gives them no financial reward and are therefore squandering their wealth the word prostitute and harlot refers to woman who offers sexual favours for money. Sons who have good sense and the ability to make sensible decisions and good judgments invest their money wisely making their parents happy. In contrast to this sons who lack wisdom waste their money to gratify the lusts of their flesh by spending it on woman who sells their body to men for sexual favours.

Proverbs 29:4 ----- ⁴By justice a king builds up the land, but he who exacts gifts tears it down.

A king who loves honest justice and fairness for all and cares about the way they are treated and upholds the law will have a successful kingdom, but a king who demands and obtains something by force, especially by imposing excessive taxes upon them and forces those in his kingdom to endure things that are unjust and unfair to all people is by his own actions destroying his kingdom.

Proverbs 29:5 ----- ⁵A man who flatters his neighbour spreads a net for his feet.

The word flatters come from the Hebrew word (*chalaq*) and means to be smooth, the English Dictionary says it carries the idea of complimenting somebody too much, often without sincerity and especially in order to gain favour or an advantage. A net is usually used for catching animals or fish, so figuratively it would carry the idea of setting a trap or snare around a person. The proverb is saying that flattery traps and snares a person as a net snares animals and fish. Following are two simple examples: -

1. A man who desires to have loose sex with women will tell them all sorts of romantic things to appeal to their vanity and heart's desire and continue to flatter them until they give into his lying and deceitful charm.
2. An ambitious woman seeking a promotion may flatter her superior to puff up his ego and pride to win his favour in the hope of getting the promotion.

In this way the man and the woman are spreading a net of flattery around their victims for the purpose of winning their favour to get what they want from their innocent targets.

Proverbs 29:6 ----- ⁶An evil man is ensnared in his transgression, but a righteous man sings and rejoices.

Those that are profoundly immoral and have a malicious heart are lured or enticed into bad situations from which it is difficult or almost impossible to escape, but a person who does what is right is always happy, simply because they have nothing to be afraid off.

Proverbs 29:7 ----- ⁷A righteous man knows the rights of the poor; a wicked man does not understand such knowledge.

The godly and those who have a good heart know that the poor still deserves justice and what is fair, but a selfish person without compassion does not see the poor as being worthy of justice. A wicked person measures another's worth by their riches, wealth and success in life; whereas a good person measures everybody's worth simply by the fact they are human, and how they are treating others (i.e., with decency and respect or cruelly and unfairly).

Proverbs 29:8 ----- ⁸Scoffers (scornful in KJV) set a city aflame, but the wise turn away wrath.

The word scoffer refers to a person who is arrogant, haughty and prideful, they 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, and will treat people they look down to 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 is encompassed in the words pride, arrogance and haughty (Proverbs 21:14).

Those who mock and express a powerful feeling of dislike towards a king, a ruler of a nation, a government or people they consider worthless, inferior and undeserving of respect cause an enormous amount of strife and anger within the nation, but those who have good sense do not confront anger, but rather turn away from it.

Proverbs 29:9 ----- ⁹If a wise man has an argument with a fool, the fool only rages and laughs, and there is no quiet.

When a person with wisdom confronts the foolish they respond by laughter or rage, because they do not have the self-control needed or wisdom required to quietly reason something out logically.

Proverbs 29:10 ----- ¹⁰Bloodthirsty men hate one who is blameless and seek the life of the upright.

Those that are full of internal violence, dislike the godly and those who do right so intensely that it evokes feelings of anger, hostility and animosity so that they will beat them without cause and even seek to kill them. Many experience this kind of hostility when they speak about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 29:11 ----- ¹¹A fool gives full vent to his spirit, but a wise man quietly holds it back.

A person who lacks good sense (a fool) has not learnt to control their anger and because of this they verbally attack or physically use violence to vent their rage. In contrast to this a wise person may desire to do the same, but they know it will only lead to ruin and destruction and so control their temper and keep their strong feelings of frustration, annoyance and displeasure to themselves.

Proverbs 29:12 ----- ¹²If a ruler listens to falsehood, all his officials will be wicked.

When a king or ruler listens to those who are full of deceit, lies and dishonesty, those who surround the king or the ruler will also be wicked and capable of afflicting great harm upon the kingdom.

Proverbs 29:13 ----- ¹³The poor man and the oppressor (deceitful in KJV) meet together; the LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

The LORD gives light to the eyes of both could embrace the following: -

- The light of natural life or the light of the eyes that see the sun which shines upon the oppressor, the deceitful and the poor.
- The eyes of the mind with the light of natural reason and grace which God give to all (though differently).

God gives mortal life to the oppressor and the poor man alike, both survive on the same breath of life which God breathed into Adam. It is this same breath of life that flows from God that keeps us all alive. If God withdrew this breath of life from our world all mankind and all living creatures would be without life. The proverb is teaching that the king, the oppressor, the noble and the poor are all kept alive by the same breath of life and therefore all should treat everyone equally. It can also carry the idea that should the oppressor and the poor man, humbly seek God both would be saved by the same light (i.e., the word of God and Spirit of God and the grace of God). If the heart attitude is right before God, He will not deny any who come to Him.

Proverbs 29:14 ----- ¹⁴If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.

A king who shows no partiality or favouritism to a person (especially the rich and powerful), but judges fairly between the wealthy and the poor will establish his kingdom and God will count him worthy.

Proverbs 29:15 ----- ¹⁵The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Rod: comes from the Hebrew word (*shebet*) in this context it refers to a stick for punishing and correcting.

Discipline: comes from the Hebrew word (*muwcar*) it means to chastise, punish, reproof, restrain, warn, instruct correct, reform and teach it carries the idea of instructing and correcting so as to warn and prevent a person from harm in the future.

Those who refuse to discipline their children are destroying them. This is because without loving discipline a child is robbed from learning self-control and the right way to go. Permitting a child to indulge in whatever they wish to do and as they please will allow sinful habits to gather strength which will bring sorrow and misery to them and their parents later in life. Without discipline children will grow into a teenager that will fall into all sorts of trouble because they have not learned self-control, or to rule over their own emotions.

If a parent cares about their child's wellbeing and their future they will take the time to discipline in love (not anger) and make the effort to correct and train their child in the right way and what, is good, proper and acceptable behaviour.

The rod: is not about cruelly beating a child, even God is against that. It is about making the child aware that what they are doing is wrong. It only takes a gentle smack on the backside for a child to get the message and learn that whatever behaviour they were doing will bring them harm in the future. Obviously a gentle smack is not the only form of discipline that is effective.

Many people have great success with other types of discipline. It is the principal that is important, not the method or what is used to carry it out. Today it is almost certain if a child was given the choice of a smack given in love (in contrast to anger) or have their iPad, computer or mobile phone taken off them for two days they would choose the smack.

To deny a child of some form of effective discipline is to ruin their lives, that is why this proverb says, "The rod and reproof give wisdom." Love will always do what is best for another person, even if it is something we may not find easy to do. No parent likes to discipline their children, but they know that it is going to protect their child in the future and without correction the child is not going to learn self-control or what good and acceptable behaviour is.

Proverbs 29:16 ----- 16 When the wicked increase, transgression increases, but the righteous will look upon their downfall.

When those who act wickedly increase amongst the population, ungodliness, morality, corruption and acts of crime and violations of the law will multiply accordingly. But those who love justice and do good will look on their downfall when they are brought to justice in this world and on the Day of Judgment the righteous will stand and see the utter downfall of all the wicked.

Proverbs 29:17 ----- 17 Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

Every child who is disciplined in love (not anger) and with the intention for guiding them in the right ways to go will be a delight to their parents as they grow older. For further information concerning discipline see the notes following verse fifteen.

Proverbs 29:18 ----- 18 Where there is no prophetic vision the people cast off restraint, but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Where there is no prophetic vision that correctly predicts or foreshadows something that will eventually happen the people stop holding back from moral corruptness and wrongdoing, but even during these times those who keep the law will be happy and rewarded. The prophetic vision all Christians have today is the glorious return of the Lord Jesus Christ in glory as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:11-16) to rule and reign from God's Holy City Jerusalem (on Mount Zion God's Holy Mountain) to destroy the antichrist and his kingdom and establish God's Kingdom on earth during his glorious millennial reign.

The dead in Christ (Old and New Testament) and the faithful, who are alive, will be gathered together in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6) to rule and reign as kings and priests with the Lord over those nations who are left outside the Holy City of God. Christ the King united with his people will not only bring peace to the Middle East, but establish God's Kingdom of steadfast love, faithfulness, righteousness, joy and peace throughout the world and the glory of God will cover the earth.

Jesus will do justice to the poor and oppressed, he will be a faithful and compassionate King forever. He will not allow anyone to strike terror in the earth or use lies and deception to enlarge their own wealth and power. The land will abundantly produce and even the deserts will flourish. The animals will not feed on each other and even the lamb will be able to lie down with the wolf and everyone will eat of their own hands because all that they plant will produce. All nations the LORD has made will come and worship before the Lord Jesus Christ. They will glorify God's Name, proclaiming the LORD is great and does wondrous things and that He alone is God.

The book of Revelation states: -

- Jesus Christ, the faithful witness who loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood has made us kings and priests unto God and his Father is coming in glory and every eye shall see him, and they also who pierced him and all kindreds of the earth (Revelation 1:5-7).

In Revelation chapter five we are told that: -

- Christ was slain, and by his blood he redeemed a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation and made them a kingdom and priests to God and they shall reign on the earth (Revelation 5:9-10).

The great prophet Isaiah wrote: -

- They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:9).

At the end of this glorious Kingdom age God descends to earth on a Great White Throne the sea, death and hades (the grave) give up the dead. They stand before God and are judged according to what is written in certain heavenly books according to what they have done.

Death and those counted unworthy are cast into the Lake of Fire a symbol of eternal destruction (i.e., total extinction) (also called the, Second Death) (Rev. 20:11-15). Christ hands the Kingdom over to his heavenly Father and God is ALL in ALL and ETERNITY begins in all its fullness and majestic royal glory.

For further information see titles: -

- Kingdom of God (ON WEBSITE MENU).
- The Second Resurrection or Great White Throne Judgment.

In, Resurrection (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Proverbs 29:19 ----- ¹⁹By mere words a servant is not disciplined, for though he understands, he will not respond.

The principal taught in this proverb is not limited to servants only, but can be applied to all people who do not heed words of discipline. When words are not enough to correct, there must be some form of unpleasant discipline and penalty suffered when there is a deliberate offence or a wrongful action and the guilty do not heed words of discipline.

Proverbs 29:20 ----- ²⁰Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

A fool has more hope than someone that is hasty to speak. This is because a person who is quick to speak does not take the time to hear, ponder and perceive what the other person is actually saying, their only interest is to express their ideas and their opinions and impose them upon others, whereas those who lack good sense (a fool) will at least listen.

Proverbs 29:21 ----- ²¹Whoever pampers his servant from childhood will in the end find him his heir.

The King James Bible says: -

- He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.

A child servant who has been treated with kindness, decency and respect by their master will grow up to love their master as their own father and will not only become like a son to the master, but will also share in the family inheritance.

Proverbs 29:22 ----- ²²A man of wrath stirs up strife, and one given to anger causes much transgression.

A person with an uncontrollable temper stirs up bitter and sometimes violent conflict, struggle and rivalry and their uncontrolled anger causes all sorts of trouble, destruction and wrongdoing.

Proverbs 29:23 ----- ²³One's pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly (humble in KJV) in spirit will obtain honor.

To be humble is to be modest, unassuming respectful in attitude and behaviour it is about treating all people as equal and being willing to submit to right judgment, opinion and the wishes of another person when it is appropriate to do so. Humbleness is not about being weak and timid, but about showing respect to others and treating all people as we would like them to treat us.

In contrast to this is a prideful, haughty and arrogant person who believes they are superior to others and who refuse to mix with those they consider their social inferiors. Those who act in this manner will be humbled in this world, in old age and at the judgment seat of God. In contrast to this those who are humble, modest and unassuming in attitude and behaviour and who show respect toward others will obtain honour in this world and when they stand before God at judgment.

NOTE: there are two aspects to pride, healthy pride and destructive pride. Not all pride is evil pride the following shows the difference between healthy pride and destructive pride.

Healthy pride embraces the following: -

- That happy satisfied feeling experienced when having or achieved something special that other people admire.
- Taking great pride in one's work is healthy and productive pride.
- That personal sense of satisfaction and pleasure that comes from something accomplished or a quality possessed.
- Having a proper sense of one's own value and the correct level of respect for the importance and value of one's personal character, life, efforts and achievements as opposed to having no confidence and no sense of worth.
- That personal feeling of satisfaction because of an achievement or possession that one is especially pleased to have accomplished and is fully satisfied with (i.e. their grandchildren were their pride and joy or the gold medal I won at the Olympics is my pride and joy etc.).

Unhealthy pride embraces the following: -

- Having a feeling of superiority and a haughty attitude. This type of pride is shown by somebody who believes (often unjustifiably) that he or she is better than others. A person who has this kind of pride will often not mix with those they consider their social inferiors. This pride is arrogant it exalts oneself above others and even God, and will treat those it looks down to and believes are inferior to them with disdain and at its peak with cruelty and destruction. It causes quarrels, strife, arguments, fights and even wars.
- Having the biggest ego of all, a person at this level of pride sees themselves at the top of humanity and views themselves as always being right. They believe they are equal to God or even a god themselves and are so egotistical that they think the whole world revolves around them.

Proverbs 29:24 ----- ²⁴The partner of a thief hates his own life; he hears the curse, but discloses nothing.

Those who join in with a thief are aware of the penalty for stealing, but choose to ignore it. They are setting themselves up for sorrow, trouble and disaster this is why Solomon this proverb says, "they hate their own life." They are not protecting themselves from harm, but setting themselves up for trouble, because they will eventually be caught and suffer the consequences.

Proverbs 29:25 ----- ²⁵The fear of man lays a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is safe.

When the presence of a person is so fearful it intimidates a man or woman standing in front of them and causes them to feel anxiety apprehension and fear. This fear becomes a snare in the following sense, when people are fearful they tend to do or say whatever they need to do or say to please the person they are frightened of, even if it means telling lies and doing the wrong thing. Trusting that God is in control of our life and that He is the only one we have to please will overcome the fear of others and what they can do to us.

Proverbs 29:26 ----- ²⁶Many seek the face of a ruler, but it is from the LORD that a man gets justice.

The King James Bible says: -

- Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.

Multitudes of men and women seek the approval and preferential favour of a king, a famous person or someone important, but eventually everyone will be judged by the LORD.

This proverb is teaching that it is not the favour of kings, the famous or those who are considered important that we should be seeking, but the favour of God.

Proverbs 29:27 ----- 27 An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, but one whose way is straight is an abomination to the wicked.

People who do wrong are an offence to those who do right. In contrast to this people who do right are an offence to those who do wrong.

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.