

Wisdom From Solomon

No. 77

Introduction.

- I. On one occasion God told Solomon to ask what he desired. Instead of asking for riches or fame or power, he asked for an understanding heart. God was pleased with his request and He gave Solomon great wisdom so that he was the wisest man of his age.
- II. Solomon recorded much of his wisdom in the book of Proverbs. This book is packed with pithy sayings that are desperately needed in this age.
- III. Let us study some of these great proverbs.
 - I. **Fear Of Jehovah** - The first proverb is **Proverbs 1:7**.
 - A. The word “beginning” in this verse means “the chief part.” “Fear of Jehovah” is the “chief” or “principle” part of knowledge. No one can be called wise, regardless of his knowledge, until he learns to “fear” the awesome God of heaven and keep His commandments.
 - B. The word “fear” has the idea of “reverence” or “lofty respect” for Jehovah. It is best defined by scripture itself.

PSA 9:20 Put them in fear, O Lord; Let the nations know that they are but men. (this is another way of saying God is the Creator, the Potter and we are the mere clay).

God describes the one who fears Him like this:

PSA 15:4 In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honors those who fear the Lord; He swears to his own hurt, and does not change;

PSA 19:9 The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; The judgments of the Lord are true; they are righteous altogether.

PSA 22:23 You who fear the Lord, praise Him; All you descendants of Jacob, glorify Him, And stand in awe of Him, all you descendants of Israel.

PSA 33:8 Let all the earth fear the Lord; Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.

PSA 86:11 Teach me Thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth; Unite my heart to fear Thy name.

PSA 115:11 You who fear the Lord, trust in the Lord; He is their help and their shield.

PSA 118:4 Oh let those who fear the Lord say, "His lovingkindness is everlasting."

PRO 3:7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

PRO 8:13 "The fear of the Lord is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way, And the perverted mouth, I hate.

1. It is clear from these scriptures that the one who fear Jehovah is one who lives in awe of God. He is one who worships, trusts, obeys, serves God. He is one who hates evil and turns away from it.
2. Let us follow the admonition of Solomon as we journey through life. (Eccles. 12:13).

II. **Chastens** - A second proverb is found in **Proverbs 3:11, 12**.

A. Before we comment on this proverb, let us turn and read a portion from Hebrews 12.

HEB 12:5 and you have forgotten the exhortation which is addressed to you as sons, "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, Nor faint when you are reprov'd by Him; 6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives. " 7 It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we had earthly fathers to discipline us, and we respected them; shall we not much rather be subject to the Father of spirits, and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness. 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

1. The inspired writer assures us that God does not chasten us because He hates us or has pleasure in our discomfort, but He chastens us because of His love.
2. **There is a story told of a man who joined the army while he was quite young.** He was gone from home for many years. When he returned he was so greatly changed that his mother didn't recognize him. But, when he was a little boy, his wrist had been accidentally wounded with a knife. To comfort him his mother said, "Never mind, son, when you become a man, mother will always know you by the scar on your wrist." But now as a grown man, his mother didn't recognize him. Then the soldier rolled up his sleeve, pointed to the scar, and said, "Mother, don't you recognize that?" Immediately she threw her arms around him. The scar proved that he was her son.

B. And we, too, can know that we are children of God because He corrects and disciplines us.

1. Out of His great love, God must sometimes discipline us. He does this so that we may rid ourselves of the ways of this world and draw closer to Him.
2. We can say with David. (Psa. 119:67, 71).

III. **Fools Make A Mock At Sin** - A third proverb, I call your attention to, is found in **Proverbs 14:9 - "Fools make a mock at sin."**

A. We often hear people say when they do wrong,

1. "Oh, boys will be boys. He is just sowing his wild oats."
2. "Everyone is doing it" or "There's no harm in it."

3. "It is not as bad as a lot of other things." Thus men keep on making a mocking of sin.

B. **Victor Hugo** tells how a man was caught **in quicksand**. One moment he was walking along in safety, then the sand began to cling to his feet, then he bogged down to the knees and then to the waist. He struggled desperately, but the more he struggled the deeper he went. He prayed and screamed and cursed, but soon the cruel sands swallowed him up.

1. This is a picture of sin. We make light of it; we think that there is no harm in it; then it swallows us up and takes us down to the devil's hell.

2. **Sin mocks man by broken promises.**

a. Sin promised **Eve** if she would eat the forbidden fruit she would be like God. But when she ate the fruit she found nothing but bitterness, unhappiness and pain.

b. Sin promises a **girl** that nothing will happen if she goes out today with a fast fellow. It's ok if she does a little "petting." But soon she finds herself shamed and disgraced and her life marred.

c. Sin promises a **young man** that he can take a drink and then leave the liquor alone. But the drink takes hold of him; he loses all that he has and lands in a drunkard's grave.

d. Sin promises that **men can live unto themselves** and leave God out, but they reap unhappiness and eventually land in hell.

2. Yes, only a fool makes a mock at sin. Only a fool underestimates the seriousness of sin. (Gal. 6:7).

IV. **A Way That Seemeth Right** - A fourth proverb, I call your attention to, is located in **Proverbs 14:12**.

A. This proverb teaches us that man is not to follow his own reasoning. Human reasoning will lead to death. Man must follow the way of God.

B. When I read this proverb I always think of the **story of Nadab and Abihu** recorded in Leviticus 10. These men had been instructed by God to take fire from the altar of burnt offering and place it on the altar of incense. These men decided, however, to follow their own reasoning and they brought fire from another place and placed it on the altar of incense. Because of this they were consumed by the fire.

1. This example should serve as a warning to us not follow our own reasoning.

2. Our reasoning may seem good, but it will always lead to death. (Jere. 10:23; Isa. 55:8, 9).

V. **A Soft Answer** - A fifth proverb, I call your attention to, is located in **Proverbs 15:1**.

A. **One time a young man asked his preacher**, "Do you think it wrong of men to learn the art of self-defense?" The preacher said, "Certainly not. I learned it in youth myself, and I have found it of great value during my lifetime." The young man said, "Did you learn the old English system or Sullivan's system?" "Neither, I learned Solomon's system." The young man said, "Solomon's system?" The minister said, "Yes, you will find it laid down in the first verse of the 15th chapter of Proverbs, 'A soft answer turneth away wrath'."

B. **Solomon's system** is the best system of self-defense. Most often a harsh word worsens the situation, but a soft answer brings two hostile parties back into a harmonious relationship.

VI. **Answer A Fool According To His Folly** - A sixth proverb, I call you attention to, is found in **Proverbs 26:5**.

- A. **Gary Moore**, who was on television for a number of years, had a unique way of answering some of the ugly letters he received. He would take their letters and send them back with this note: “I think you would like to know that some idiot is sending us letters over your signature!” Boy, if that won’t stop them nothing will!
- B. **Once two motorists met on a bridge** too narrow for two cars to pass. One driver shouted, “I never back up for an idiot.” “That’s all right, said the other as he shifted his car in reverse, “I always do.”

VII. **Returning Good For Evil** - Another proverb I call your attention to is found in **Proverbs 25:21, 22**.

- A. God’s people are not to return evil for evil; for this is carnal. They are to return good for evil. Jesus said by returning good for evil we show ourselves to be sons of God. (Matt. 5:43-45).
- B. **Some time back a young man , who had a great cause of complaint against another**, told an old man he was going to be avenged. The good old man did all that he could to talk him out of it, but seeing that it was impossible, he said to him. “At least, my young friend, let us pray together before you execute your design.” Then he began to pray this way,

“It is no longer necessary, O God, that Thou shouldst defend this young man, and declare Thyself his protector, since he has taken upon himself the right of seeking his own revenge.”

The young man was touched and shamed, and falling to his knees, asked pardon of the great God he had wronged.

1. **This wise old man taught the young man and us a great lesson.** When we decide to revenge ourselves, we disobey God and concede that we have cut loose from the Lord and stand alone.
2. Remember it is our place to do good. It is God’s place to retaliate. (Rom. 12:19, 20).

Conclusion.

I. Finally, let us consider **Proverbs 27:1**.

- A. Solomon warns we must not boast of tomorrow. Boasting of tomorrow has been the fatal mistake of countless people.
- B. Tomorrow often does not come.

II. **I once read about a carrion bird on a ice floe** The mass of ice was drifting down the Niagara River towards the falls. The bird was feeding on the carcass of a dead animal, as the floe came near and nearer the falls. I suppose, if birds think, he thought at the last moment he would flop his mighty wings and fly away. When the ice floe came to the edge of the falls, he began to flop those wings with the intention of flying away, but it was too late. His feet were frozen to the ice and over he went.

- A. So, many of us, I am persuaded, are going to change at the eleventh hour, but we fool around and die at five minutes to eleven! Delay is dangerous! It has cost many people their souls.

B. The Bible emphasis is not on tomorrow; it's on today. (Prov. 27:1; Jn. 9:4; Heb. 3:15; 2 Cor. 6:2).

C. If you are not a Christian become one this very night. Don't delay. Come as we stand and sing.

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