

CHAPTER 23

Proverbs 23:1 When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:

Wining and dining is a powerful influencing effort. Lobbyists and politicians and whoremongers and salesmen, use it as a tool to break down the inhibitions and resistance of their targets.

Could you resist, if a President's motorcade picked you up, to eat at the most expensive restaurant in the city?

Solomon warned his son, about the dangers and seductive power of luxurious eating and drinking with a wealthy powerful man (Christian reader, think Satan) out to corrupt or harm you (*Proverbs 23:1-8*).

The warm and friendly atmosphere, the flattering words, the luscious drinks and juices, the sumptuous meats, and the delicate pastries are a plate of lies!

Satan's Tactics Are Always The Same Never Changed Since The Garden Of Eden

These dainties distract your mind, from perceiving the intents of your worldly host.

These dainties disarm you, from vigilance, by relaxing your soul.

These dainties obligate you, to return the favor by granting his request.

These dainties addict your senses, to a pampered lifestyle. by exposing you to the finery of life. Could you resist?

The Book Of Proverbs Is A Book Teaching: Wisdom - the power of right judgment, knowing what to do in any situation.

Discernment - the ability to perceive a situation in spite of deceit and distraction.

Discretion - knowing when to say, No!

The warning here is clear, do not let the extraordinary delight of a situation cloud your judgment or blind your soul, from recognizing the temptation and danger at hand.

No matter how delicious the meal may appear, smell, and taste, It is deceitful meat (*Proverbs 23:1-3*)!

Satan Is Alive And Well Son!

"consider diligently what is before thee:" It is vain meat, for prosperity will disappear (*Proverbs 23:4-5*)!

"consider diligently what is before thee:" It is distracting meat, for this ruler's heart, is not really with you, no matter how flattered and pampered, you feel by his words and provision (*Proverbs 23:6-7*)!

"consider diligently what is before thee:" It is poisonous meat, for it will come back up as vomit, when you realize how it was used, to snare your soul and ruin your life (*Proverbs 23:8*)!

Ignore the flattering toasts! Despise the fabulous taste! Diligently consider the hidden agenda of the meal!

The lesson is broader than appears (*Psalms 119:96*).

Of course, the specific danger of a fine dinner, and a wealthy host is the primary object. But Solomon warned against any kind of seduction, that hides the giver's motives or goals.

Evil communications corrupt good manners, no matter how attractively they are disguised (*1 Corinthians 15:33*)!

Diligently consider the food, or any other fancy trappings, to perceive the risk at hand.

Only fools dive in and enjoy the entertainments, without considering the poison in the cup!

Dinah violated this lesson, when she foolishly went to visit the pagan girls of Canaan: she was no match for Prince Shechem (*Genesis 34:1-3*).

Countless young and innocent girls have lost their purity or virginity by the manipulative draw of a young man (*Proverbs 30:19*).

The Warning Is Clear!

Diligently Look Past Appearances To The Intent And Goal!

It is the duty of fathers, to always protect, their daughters from such situations and temptations.

Since Proverbs addresses young men, particularly Solomon's son, the warnings are about the strange woman, a whore or adulteress.

In his graphic parable of seduction, Solomon described the trappings a conniving seductress used, to tempt her vulnerable victim to his death (*Proverbs 7:6-23*).

What is the secret to resisting such women? Do not look at them or think about them (*Proverbs 6:25; Job 31:1; Matthew 5:28*).

You apply this Proverb by considering beyond the beauty and flattery, to the hidden death and hell (*Proverbs 2:18; 5:5; 7:27; 9:18*)!

Bless God for true heroes! Daniel was not impressed at all by the king's wine and meats, when he was put on the fast track in Babylon (*Daniel 1:1-16*)!

Daniel had purposed in his heart, that he would not defile himself with the seductive diet!

Daniel diligently considered, what was before Him and saw the danger of disobeying His God.

And Joseph also, defied the advances of Potiphar's wife, when young and alone down in Egypt (*Genesis 39:1-18*).

But the lesson is not over yet! False churches also set a table! They wine and dine foolish souls with stained glass, professional organists, beautiful buildings, elaborate rituals, entertaining sermons, suave and debonair ministers, youth programs, rock music, and activities for the kids.

Heresy tastes best with good words and fair speeches. But hid in the meal is the poison of false doctrine and practice (*Romans 16:17-18; 2Corinthians 11:13-15*).

Consider diligently what is before thee! Prove it safe first (*Acts 17:11; 1Thessaloians 5:21*).

Proverbs 23:2 And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.

Strong Temptations Require Severe Resistance!

The context is a ruler enticing a man with a fancy meal (*Proverbs 23:1, 3*).

Such meals are not always blessings. The fine food and the quantity of it can lead a man to indulge to drunkenness or gluttony, loose his lips or inhibitions before the ruler, or compromise his convictions to the ruler's requests.

If fine dining is tempting, you must protect yourself and rule your lusts, by the most severe measures.

If in a situation of much good food, you remember your weakness for such things, you must cut off your appetite.

Here in this Proverb, is a figure of speech, emphasizing the need for severe resistance to temptation. You should go cautiously through the meal, as if a knife were at your throat. You should restrain your eating, as if under a self-imposed penalty of death!

It is the same as Paul's language of mortifying, or putting to death, the flesh and its lusts (*Colossians 3:5*).

When considering food temptations, remember Daniel. He was a captive in a foreign land, and placed in a fast track program to be a counselor to King Nebuchadnezzar (*Daniel 1:1-7*).

But Daniel, considered the menu, carefully and chose to reject it to honor his God (*Daniel 1:8-16*).

And you know the results! Daniel was promoted over his peers (*Daniel 1:17-21*)!

Are Such Tempting Situations With Food Only Found In The Bible?

Do businessmen ply customers today with fine meals?

Do politicians ply constituents?

Do lobbyists ply politicians?

Do lawyers explore witnesses?

Do salesmen entice buyers?

Do church members soften pastors?

Are women ever seduced after a wonderful dinner out? What is meant by the popular expression, "wine and dine"? The danger still exists! Reader, Beware!

The Lord Jesus, taught a similar lesson of self-denial, about a man's temptation at seeing an attractive woman.

If a man is tempted to lust after a woman, or women in general, in a given situation, he should get away from that temptation. How severe should his efforts be? He should pluck out his right eye or cut off his right hand, to not fall to the temptation (*Matthew 5:27-30; 18:7-9*)!

Of course, as with our Proverb, this also is a figure of speech for severe resistance to temptation. It does not mean you should literally pluck out eyes, cut off hands, or slice our throats!

Godliness teaches you to avoid any thing that leads to temptation (*Romans 13:14*).

Paul was committed to keeping his body's appetites under his rule (*1Corinthians 9:27*).

David would not allow any evil thing before his eyes (*Psalms 101:3*).

David sought to avoid the dainties of the wicked (*Psalms 141:4*).

A good man will not even have foolish friends (*Proverbs 9:6; 14:7; 22:24-25; 1Corinthians 15:33*).

This Is Temperance, the godly life of self-denial (*Galatians 5:23; Titus 2:11-14*).

Do You Know Your Appetites?

Do You Know The Sins That Easily Beset You?

Your duty is clear. You must put a knife to those appetites and deny them by cutting off any occasions

for them, even if the loss of those things is as costly or painful as losing an eye or hand. Jesus called it bearing a cross daily, and it was necessary to be His disciple (**Luke 9:23**).

There is a feast coming, when God's children, will sit with the Ruler of the universe. It is called The Marriage Supper Of The Lamb.

They will not have to put a knife to their throats at this incredible feast.

There will be no temptations to ever sin again! Their lustful flesh will be gone forever, and the Host of the meal will be purity and truth personified (**Revelation 19:7-9**).

Proverbs 23:3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.

Be Very Careful Of The Good Life!

The Holy Spirit warns to restrain your appetite and desire, for the lifestyle of the upper class, for it is deceitfully dangerous.

Lifestyles of the rich and famous? No! Lifestyles of the dead and damned! Do not be deceived by them!

In the time past of our lives, before we were converted, should be enough information of their lifestyle. We now reject lasciviousness, lusts, drunkenness, revellings, and banquetings. And though the worldly think our strictness strange, we know judgment is coming (**1Peter 4:3-5**).

Context is generally minor in Proverbs, but here we have some. Our context is lunch with a ruler (**Proverbs 23:1**).

Wisdom warns you to consider carefully what is really going on (**Proverbs 23:1**).

Fine living can deceive you, especially **If** you are a man with a desire toward it (**Proverbs 23:2-3**).

Don't be fooled into wanting this lifestyle, for it is vanity and soon flies away (**Proverbs 23:4-5**).

Fine dining and flattering words do not prove a man's heart, so watch out (**Proverbs 23:6-8**)!

The lust of the flesh is a powerful and common temptation (**1John 2:16**).

It caused our first mother to take the forbidden fruit, when she saw that it was good for food (**Genesis 3:6**).

Fine dining is dangerous for wise men. **If** you love to eat, put a knife to your throat (**Proverbs 23:2**).

You must be very disciplined (**Matthew 18:8-9**).

Fine dining can lead to surfeiting, gluttony, so our Lord warned against it (**Luke 21:34**).

As saints of this time frame, we must be awake and alert, not infatuated and dulled by high and excessive living (**Romans 13:11-14; 1Thessalonians 5:6-8**).

We Eat To Live We Do Not Live To Eat We Rule Our Appetites They Should not Rule Us.

Fine dining is seductive for wise men. The pleasure and atmosphere of such food and lifestyle is enticing. It easily leads to a fixation on income, pleasure, and fine things; when our priority must be the love of God over pleasure (**2Timothy 3:4**).

"Godliness with contentment is great gain," but there is little contentment at a ruler's table (**1Timothy 6:6-10**).

Fine dining is deceitful for wise men. Fine food in a luxurious atmosphere lead men to relax their guard and could be ensnared.

Many sins are planned over lunch. Fine food breaks down resistance. Women have been taught, the fastest way to a man's heart, is through his stomach. Men seduce women through fine dining.

Much business is done over lunch, as salesmen have unlimited expense accounts to seduce clients. Watch out!

We must keep our body under subjection, to win the race we have entered (**1Corinthians 9:24-27**).

Our Lord did not have a place for His head. You don't need a five-star anything!

We cannot and should not make provision for our flesh. We are at a great enough risk without encouraging it any further.

Proverbs 23:4 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

The goal, to be a successful Christian businessman is a delusion from hell. It is trusting your wisdom, rather than God's wisdom. Make your goal instead to be a successful Christian!

If God blesses the business part of your life, good. **If** God does not, you will still be successful. True success is godliness with contentment, regardless of gain (**1Timothy 6:6**).

Why labor to be rich? Solomon condemned such a goal due to the temporary nature of wealth, money flies away (**Proverbs 23:5**).

Adversity reduces riches; Thieves steal riches; Mouths devour riches; Governments tax riches; Decay consumes riches; and Fools squander riches.

Ecclesiastes details how riches disappear from their owner. Chasing wealth is vanity and vexation of spirit!

But there are more reasons, that seeking to be rich is foolish. You brought nothing into this world, and you will take nothing out; why heap up assets, for probate court to distribute (**1Timothy 6:7-8**)?

Riches do not satisfy, the more you have, the more you will want (**Ecclesiastes 5:10**).

Riches also steal your peace, for you must worry about keeping them (**Ecclesiastes 5:12**).

"Cease from thine own wisdom"! Your wisdom says you can defeat the problems with wealth.

Your wisdom says you, were not born with the temptations of other men.

Your wisdom says, you will live for a long time.

Your wisdom says you, can keep riches safely without worrying.

Your wisdom says, money will make you happy.

But the worst, aspect is yet to come, seeking wealth destroys the soul!

Financial Success And Wealth As A Goal Is Very Dangerous And Deceitful!

Paul warned, "*But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition*" (**1Timothy 6:9**).

Read these sober Words again! Tremble before this grave advice. What is the true cause of the fall? Desiring to be rich!

He added, "*For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*" (**1Timothy 6:10**).

Seeking wealth destroys faith. Set your goal to be a successful Christian! Forget the business part! Money is not the problem, the love of money is the problem! If wealth is your goal, your heart will follow (**Matthew 6:19-21**).

Covetousness will consume you. You will cool toward God and heavenly things. You will sacrifice godliness for economic gain. Your priorities will be distorted. You will leave Christ, like the rich young ruler.

Your wisdom lies to you! You cannot serve God and wealth (**Matthew 6:24**).

A double-minded man is totally unstable (**James 1:8**). Riches will not make you happy (**Luke 12:15**).

Make Christ your one and only goal (**Colossians 3:1-4**).

Be content with Him and whatever you have (**Hebrews 13:5-6**).

Proverbs 23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Having condemned the folly of seeking to be rich, the Holy Spirit gives comprehensive reasons not to pursue this foolish goal. (**Proverbs 23:4**)

Consider, young and old, and be wise. Why will a man spend his life trying to capture something, that is only an illusion?

There are certain laws of economics and God's judgments that will surely take all riches quickly away.

Pause for a moment. **If** we apply the literal interpretation of some, what do we have? Our nation's money, is growing feathers and flying fast and powerfully away!

If we consider wisely, we see man's foolish lust for "financial wealth." We are warned about our eyes toward women and wine, and now we are warned about the sinful lust for wealth. (**Proverbs 6:25; 23:31**)

Most riches are never acquired. They are seen, desired, pursued, expected, and even counted. But as quickly as they appeared, they disappear. The only "sure thing" in this life, is our lesson, riches are an elusive and fatal lie!

Working hard your whole life to be rich is a waste of a life, as the rich fool learned, when He heard the voice of the One who owned his soul, not of fabled Father Time, but rather of the great and dreadful God, Who said, "*Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*" (**Luke 12:16-21**).

Fear Him, reader, who can cast both body and soul into hell. Yea, I say unto you, Fear Him (**Luke 12:4-5**).

You cannot take riches with you, and many things will take them from you, as we shall learn. You arrived

naked and helpless, and you will leave the same way. (*Job 1:21; 1Timothy 6:7*)

The Judge of all the earth, is waiting and pondering.

The Judge of all the earth, is not moved by any amount of success or wealth you have. Only godliness with contentment is great gain, with a great promise (*1Timothy 6:6; 4:8*)!

The Very Idea Of Living To Get Rich Is So Ridiculous That God Calls It A Lie!

God tells us that low class men are obviously worthless.

God also says that high class, successful men are a lie. **If** we put them both on the scales, they are lighter than nothing (*Psalms 62:9*)!

Other than death leaving us absolutely naked and destitute, how else do riches fly away like an eagle and disappear?

In America, the tax man cometh! The more you make, our socialistic, progressive income tax takes a higher percentage. Is it foolish to punish the successful? Of course! But that does not alter the fact. Caesar wants a larger portion of your total income.

In America, a second tax man cometh! Only a few see this man, though they hear about him. Inflation, the increase of our nation's money supply by the Federal Reserve, quietly and efficiently takes another large bite from your estate to fund our deficit spending.

The propensity to consume is the economic law that spending increases as fast as income (*Ecclesiastes 5:11*).

You want to show and enjoy your wealth, so you take on the costly habits of the rich (*Proverbs 21:17, 20; 6:9-11; Luke 15:12-16*).

Though the rich cry about the high cost of living, it is rather the cost of high living.

When you make more, you spend more; so you are left with what you had before! But you do get to count it coming and going! What vanity!

Riches bring pride, that deceives men, into foolish business decisions and investments, that will take back more of their increase (*Proverbs 10:15; 18:11; 26:12; 28:11, 19*).

A little success is dangerous, for it breeds overconfidence, which will lead to a painful fall (*Proverbs 16:18; 18:12*).

If there is anything left after taxes, inflation, high living, and vain ideas, the rich man commits his money

to the investment bankers, hoping to earn back what he has lost.

But the investment bankers, expose his declining funds to the vagaries of various cruel markets and churn and burn his assets until they have confiscated them by transaction fees!

You cannot forget, about those sons and nephews who will take your inheritance, legally or illegally, while you are living or not, and squander it by folly at least as rapidly as you acquired it by wisdom (*Ecclesiastes 2:18-21*)!

Life Is Looking Good; Right Rich Man?

Competing with, those greedy relatives are sycophant leeches, who call themselves friends, but they will be gone one day before the cash runs out (*Proverbs 14:20; 19:4-7*)! See the comments about the horseleach and his two daughters in *Proverbs 30:15*.

We can't forget our Lord's warning, that any treasure on earth, and this applies literally or figuratively to all investments, will be consumed by thieves, moths, and rust (*Matthew 6:19*).

It is not the riches that are sin, reader; it is the foolish desire for them.

God condemns the love of money, not money (*1Timothy 6:9-10, 17-19*).

If riches increase by the blessing of God, don't set your heart on them. Use them wisely (*Psalms 62:10; Ephesians 4:28*).

The wise man Agur, tells us to pray against both poverty and riches (*Proverbs 30:7-9*).

Both are dangerous. There have been godly rich men like Job, Abraham, David, and not many more. For the Savior taught that a camel can squeeze through the eye of a needle easier than a rich man can enter the kingdom of God (*Matthew 19:23-26*).

Set your eyes upon the riches of Christ (*Colossians 2:1-3*), the riches of the fullness of God (*Ephesians 3:16-19*), the riches of His grace (*Ephesians 2:7*), the riches of His Word (*Psalms 19:10*), and the riches of your eternal inheritance (*Ephesians 1:18*).

Make the exchange that Moses made, and may the Lord honor your faith as highly, choose the riches of Christ over the riches of Egypt (*Hebrews 11:24-26*).

These spiritual riches will never fly away, and they will bring great peace and pleasure now, rather than vanity and vexation of spirit!

Proverbs 23:6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

Food can be dangerous. For the moment, forget nutrition, your diet, gluttony, or your budget. Food can be seductive in the hands of the wrong person. A person may use food to take advantage of you by breaking down your inhibitions and reservations.

It is wise to know a host's motives, **If** a questionable person invites you to a meal (*Proverbs 23:6-8*).

The context helps. Solomon first warned about the lifestyle of the rich. **If** a ruler invites a man to a meal who enjoys good food, he had better put a knife to his throat, because the enticement of luxurious dining will be great. (*Proverbs 23:1-3*).

He then warned about the vanity of riches, indicating that the temptation of an extravagant lifestyle is the lesson (*Proverbs 23:4-5*).

Then Solomon has shifted his warning away from the fine food or wealth itself, to the motives and intentions of the person offering the meal. (*Proverbs 23:6-8*)

Both luxurious lifestyles and deceitful hospitality are to be avoided, and the present Proverb deals with the latter danger.

You should reject invitations for dinner by an evil person, who has wicked ambitions other than your pleasure and prosperity motivating his offer.

What Is An Evil Eye? Most commentators, make it a stingy person, by comparing a few verses (*Proverbs 22:9; 28:22; Isaiah 32:5; Matthew 20:15*).

They suppose the danger is an insincere meal due to the host's miserliness. This is a weak lesson indeed.

By comparing a few more verses, the evil eye becomes wicked thoughts. Thus, expanding the lesson to the use of food by seducers to get a victim to act against their conscience (*Deuteronomy 15:9; 28:54, 56; Matthew 6:23*).

Sexual seduction often includes food. Solomon's description of an adulteress, enticing a young man included an offer, of fine dining on choice cuts from her peace offerings (*Proverbs 7:14; Leviticus 7:11-16*).

**Whoremongers Speak
"Wining And Dining" Women.**

Many girls and women, have been led down the primrose path to a sinful bed, through a restaurant. (Some mothers even tell daughters that the fastest way to a man's heart is through his stomach!)

The danger is two-fold: ¹The warm ambiance, coupled with wine and food, is very relaxing and sensual, causing mild euphoria and a compromise of inhibitions. Physical contact initiated at this point can hardly be resisted. ²Victims feel obligated to allow the pursuers' advances after the money, time, and effort spent on the evening.

By these two factors, it is very difficult for most people to withstand the host's solicitations.

Lobbyists, politicians, lawyers, and salesmen can be as manipulative with food as any whore or whoremonger.

They also know how to "wine and dine" a client, legislator, or customer into acquiescence.

Many deals have been closed, without full disclosure or agreement, through the corrupting effect of fine food and flattering conversation.

Wise men identify a man's motives and determine **If** a meal can be justified or not. **If** there is much at stake and the inviting party has evil or questionable ethics or ambitions, the invitation should be declined.

If the hospitality is dangerous. You should ignore the address, the participants, the menu, or any other attractive feature of the event. Evil communications corrupt good manners, and a fine meal can accelerate the corruption.

There are friends and fare you can securely enjoy with total peace and pleasure. A meal with a brother in Christ is precious, no matter what is served (*Proverbs 15:17; 17:1; Psalm 133:1*).

Lady Wisdom has spread a table, **If** you will humble yourself from your foolishness (*Proverbs 9:1-5*).

The Gospel of Jesus Christ calls you to a daily feast that is free (*Isaiah 55:1-5*).

And soon the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will bring perpetual pleasure and profit (*Revelation 19:9*)!

Proverbs 23:7-8 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee. The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

**True Hospitality
A Social Virtue Of Value.**

True hospitality gives a glow to the social atmosphere, but like all good things it has its counterfeit.

There is lot of unauthentic hospitality. Much passes for true hospitality which in substance is as foreign as brass

is to gold. These verses indicate that this spurious hospitality is sleazy *"Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye."*

The *"evil eye"* here means covetousness; it is a symbol of: the hard up, the stingy, and the grudging.

It is strange that these lean-natured miserly souls should make feasts at all, yet they do.

Perhaps they do it, not for the happiness of their guests, or the gratification of their own natures, but for ulterior reasons lying in the region of the hearts of the self absorbed.

Perhaps vanity is the acting motive. To have around their table, guests that will flatter and fawn, playing to their vain selfish pleasures.

Many stingy souls make feasts for men of popularity and fame in order to gratify their own vanity. Simon the Pharisee entertained Jesus of Nazareth probably for this reason; he had no sympathy with Him, but the star of this Galilean was rising, and he wished to participate in the renewal.

Sometimes greed is the acting motive. The greedy make feasts for clients and customers.

The greedy often do agreements beneficial for business at their dinner table.

The greedy make feasts for matrimonial ends: they invite to their table, those whose conjugal connections with their own sons or daughters to marry into wealth.

How many feasts, are made both in the entrepreneurial and religious world, in order to gain funds for companies and societies, in which managers and owners have a vital interest: men often make feasts to fill their own pockets at the public expense.

The verses indicate that this spurious hospitality is hypocritical. **Proverbs 23:7** *For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee, but his heart is not with thee....*

The eye belies the lips; as a host he says one thing and looks another. His words are generous, while every mouthful swallowed by the guest gives him a twinge of regret for the cost of the meal.

He thinks more of his purse than of the pleasure of his guests. The kind, sweet words which he uses at the banquet, are followed by groans and curses in his heart when you retire. The selfish host is a hypocrite at his table; his words belie his heart.

The verses indicate that this spurious hospitality is abhorrent. **Proverbs 23:8** *The morsel which thou hast eaten thou shalt vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.*

If you have insight enough, at the time to discern spirits, you will feel an inner disgust for the host.

The discrepancy between the words and heart of the host will disgust you. Or **If** at the time the discrepancy is not discovered and felt, it will show itself on some future occasion: He will remind you of it by some later observation.

He will tell you that that dinner, obligated you to him, which you should have recognized. He made that dinner not for your sake but for the sake of himself, and unless he reaps the anticipated profits from you, he will show his displeasure with you.

This will make you sick. *"The morsel thou hast eaten thou shalt vomit up."* That dinner will always be disgusting to you, notwithstanding all the *"sweet words"* that were spoken on the occasion.

All those words of flattery for his fine dishes, his magnificent style and princely abundance, all such words will be lost words.

Avoid then such feasts. *"Neither desire thou his dainty meats."* (**Proverbs 23:6**). Keep away from his table.

Paul says: **1 Corinthians 5:11** *But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.*

The covetous man is here classed with the fornicator, the drunkard, the idolater, the extortioner, the railer.

A Genuine Hospitality Manifest Itself Wherever It Truly Is!

There is an emission from the heart in genuine hospitality which cannot be described, but is immediately felt, and puts the stranger at once at ease.

Proverbs 23:9 *Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.*

Truth Is A Privilege Not A Right!

Fools do not deserve truth. Wise men avoid fools, for they are dangerous influences (**Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 14:7; 19:27**).

Wise men do not waste the truth on fools, for they will despise its wisdom.

Truth and wisdom are precious gifts; to neglect or reject them brings just judgment. Fools should be left to rot in their folly!

Are such Words too harsh? Our Lord did not think so! When the disciples told Jesus He had offended the Pharisees, He said, *"Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch"* (**Matthew 15:13-14**).

Reader, are you wise? Do you know the danger of speaking to a fool? You cannot win with words, for he will not listen or change (**Proverbs 27:22**).

If you engage in debate, you become a fool yourself (**Proverbs 26:4**).

A fool's foolish and unlearned questions only bring strife (**2 Timothy 2:23**).

If you give a fool truth, he will despise it and trample it under his feet (**Matthew 7:6**).

And a fool will pervert your words against you (**Proverbs 9:7-8; Mathew 7:6**).

Be wise! Stay away from fools! Don't waste the truth on them! Choose wise men for friends (**Psalms 119:63**)

What is a fool? Every man has some foolishness, but a fool is overcome by it. He has his own ideas; he is confident of them; he is past learning.

A fool would rather speak than listen; and he does what he wants regardless of instruction and warning.

A fool does not show the noble spirit of the Bereans in receptively hearing truth and searching the Scriptures to confirm it. Let him fall in his ditch! Save your breath! (**Acts 17:11; Titus 3:10-11**)

When you perceive a fool, one who does not want to hear, learn, and change, go from him (**Proverbs 14:7**).

Say enough to condemn his folly, but do not expose precious truth or yourself to his idiotic and malicious debating (**Proverbs 26:4; 26:5**).

To stoop to his level is to confirm his arrogance, risk your own soul, and demean the truth.

For peace and safety, in your life and family, heed the rules of wisdom.

1. Forsake the foolish and live (**Proverbs 9:6; 19:27**).
2. Cast out the scorner, and enjoy the peaceful respite (**Proverbs 22:10**)!
3. Prune away the fools, and your life will blossom. They are evil nuisances that devour the spirit of wise men and denigrate truth and wisdom.
4. Protect the vitality of your soul and family by avoiding fools and their evil communications (**1 Corinthians 15:33**).

How different the Lord Jesus was from men today!

Men today sugarcoat truth for fools and scorners in their carnal programs of church. But Jesus said, *"Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you"* (**Matthew 7:6**).

Of course, this text is hardly heard any more, for it condemns their whole emphasis and philosophy.

Jesus told His apostles to reject listeners who did not give heed to the Gospel. He did not suggest altering content, methods, or programs, to entice them, as modern false prophets do to fill coliseums with the unregenerate.

Jesus said, Shake off the dust of your feet against those people, and I will judge them in the last day (**Matthew 10:14-15**)!

Instead of making it easy to follow the truth, He made the high cost of discipleship very clear (**Luke 14:25-33**).

When the apostle Paul tired of the foolish Jews at Antioch, he said, *"It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles"* (**Acts 13:46**).

Contrary to the ignorant opinion of many, our Lord Jesus used parables to keep those whose hardened hearts in this generation from hearing and understanding the truth (**Matthew 13:10-17**)!

Parables are not simple earthly stories with heavenly meanings to help common people understand truth; they are dark and difficult sayings to hide the truth from any who have rejected truth, to their own hurt.

Can you handle this truth, reader? Read it! Believe it!

Paul preached in synagogues and at prayer meetings (**Acts 16:13; 17:1-2**).

And in jails, the jailor that Paul and Silas spoke to was outside the bars, while they were inside the bars with many other prisoners (**Acts 16:23-24**)!

Now that is a jail ministry! When Paul was a prisoner in Rome, he preached to all who came to him (**Acts 28:30-31**).

Truth Is Available In Many Places.

The natural creation speaks of God's eternal power and Godhead. Men are without excuse. But when they reject the truth He offers, He darkens their minds and ultimately, God turns them over to perverse thinking

and actions, like sodomy and other abominations (*Romans 1:18-32*).

If they do not receive the love of the truth, He ultimately, allows them strong delusion, to believe a lie and be damned (*2Thessalonians 2:10-12*). Read it! Believe it!

Most churches have rejected the plain truth of Scripture, and God has justly removed their understanding and given them over, to the sentimental smog of their own imaginations.

Truth today is every man's opinion rather than the Word of God (*2Timothy 4:1-4*).

God Himself has deceived even the so called prophets, and there is a famine for the Word of God (*Ezekiel 14:1-11; Amos 8:11-12*).

Proverbs 23:10 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

The Lord protects property rights. He especially protects the poor and helpless.

It is tempting to alter assumed business practices for financial advantage, but God condemns such acts.

It is tempting to take financial advantage of those who cannot defend themselves, but God condemns that as well. God will come to the aid and defense of those victims, and you will wish you had stayed away (*Proverbs 23:11; 22:22-23*).

It was customary in Bible times to use a pile of stones, post, or other marker to establish property boundaries. These landmarks would remain unmoved from one generation to the next, as property continued as part of family estates.

God gave wonderful laws to Israel under Moses, and one of them was the protection of property rights by condemning the moving of these landmarks (*Proverbs 22:28; Deuteronomy 19:14; 27:17; Job 24:2; Hosea 5:10*).

The fatherless are those who had lost their fathers to war or early death. They lacked a strong male defender for property protection or business transactions.

Entering into their fields by any means of encroachment or theft was a heinous offence.

The principle would obviously apply to other acts of property theft as well, such as misdirection of water, grazing of their fields, stopping of their wells, breeding of your herds, and so forth.

Like widows, God took special care of the fatherless, foreigner, and poor (*Jeremiah 22:3; Zechariah 7:10*).

God promised vengeance on those who trouble these two categories of the weak and helpless (*Job 31:21-23; Psalm 94:6; Ecclesiastes 5:8; Malachi 3:5*).

It is wisdom and a demonstration of true religion to go out of your way to help both. Never ask more than market price or pay less than market price to any of these parties. (*James 1:27*)

The rule for property boundaries applies to all economic transactions and business practices.

You have no right to alter any established way of doing things, unless all parties are fully agreed, and there is no damage at all to others.

God demands impeccable honesty and integrity in all property transactions. There is no room for compromise or confusion.

Do you go out of your way financially to honor the poor? You will never lose in such decisions, for God will repay well (*Proverbs 19:17*).

There is a spiritual application as well. Men today alter God's worship to make it acceptable to the world. They call it casual, contemporary, purpose driven, or seeker sensitive.

They are removing old landmarks. But the Lord calls you to seek the old paths (*Jeremiah 6:16; 2Thessalonians 2:15*).

The Lord calls you to earnestly contend for the old faith (*Jude 1:3*).

Turning from sound doctrine to entertainment and fables is a mark of perilous times (*2Timothy 3:1 - 4:4*).

Proverbs 23:11 For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

Do not pick on fatherless, those smaller or weaker than you, for they have a mighty redeemer. God will hold you personally responsible for any evil done to them!

God protects orphans, widows, and anyone unable to protect himself.

If you take advantage of such persons, the LORD will personally defend them and seek you out (*Deuteronomy 27:19; Psalm 12:5*).

The immediate context is removing old landmarks and entering the fields of fatherless children, stealing real estate, by moving property boundaries, or aggressively using fields without their permission (*Proverbs 23:10*).

They do not have an earthly father to defend them, but they have a heavenly Father, who is Almighty. He will defend and avenge them!

In Bible times, a redeemer could purchase your freedom or deliver you from oppressors. Both property and persons could be redeemed by purchase (*Leviticus 25:31, 48*).

The LORD redeemed Israel from Egypt and Babylon by force (*Exodus 6:6; Deuteronomy 7:8; Jeremiah 50:33-34*).

Eliphaz and David described God redeeming them from trouble (*Job 5:20; Psalm 25:22*).

The LORD of hosts, Captain of heaven's armies, is the Redeemer of orphans and widows. He is a mighty Redeemer.

Pharaoh's Egypt was ravaged and ruined before the LORD was done with them. They should have been kinder in their treatment of Israel. For the LORD of hosts came to fight for Israel! He will always fight for the oppressed!

**Pleading The Cause Of Another
Is Fighting For Them
Verbally, Financially, Or Violently.**

David prayed, "*Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me*" (*Psalm 35:1*).

David went on from there, to describe the punishment he hoped God would heap on his enemies (*Psalm 35:2-6*). God will defend the oppressed!

This rule is a serious matter. Solomon also wrote, "*Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them*" (*Proverbs 22:22-23*).

The Holy Spirit wrote, "*Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry; And my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless*" (*Exodus 22:22-24*).

Love orphans and widows: Go out of your way to help them whenever possible. This is the demonstration of pure religion of the Lord (*James 1:27*).

The consequences of neglecting them or taking advantage of them are dire. **If** you see them being oppressed, the God is watching (*Ecclesiastes 5:8*).

God is the Father of the fatherless, and the Judge of widows (*Psalm 68:5*).

Let all abortionists, their legislators and protectors, take heed! Judgment is coming, soon!

Proverbs 23:12 Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

This is no mundane Proverb get your heart and ears into it! The desire for instruction and the willingness to hear correction are marks of nobility and virtue (*Proverbs 12:1; 13:18; Acts 17:11*).

Very few men apply themselves to learn knowledge and wisdom.

Most men are more interested in entertainment and games. Study the Word of God, sounds far too much like work.

There are great differences among men. Some are winners; some are losers. Some are wise; some are foolish. Some men make choices that either cost them wisdom or gain them wisdom.

A noble and virtuous man, will sacrifice other things in life, in order to pursue wisdom, but a fool would rather hear himself talk (*Proverbs 18:1-2; 15:14; 17:24; Ecclesiastes 10:12-15*).

The man who seeks wisdom, will have a happy and successful life. For he rightly, understands the world, therefore, he makes profitable decisions, and avoids pain and troubles.

But the fool or scorners, arrogant in his own ignorance, goes on and is punished, do to his confused thinking and horrible decision-making (*Proverbs 17:16; 11:29; 13:15; 14:16; 15:10; 22:3, 5*).

There are 1,440 minutes in every day. How many minutes do you seek wisdom? How many minutes do you pursue instruction?

The average American watches television 3-4 hours, or about 240 minutes, every day; and there is not a single minute on the TV teaching wisdom. No wonder the nation is bankrupt financially and morally.

Every minute of television costs you a minute for wisdom. Folly is the certain outcome for fans of Hollywood or spectator sports.

What is folly? Webster's 1828 Dictionary:

1. Weakness of intellect; imbecility of mind. want of understanding.
2. A weak or absurd act not highly criminal; an act which is inconsistent with the dictates of reason, or with the ordinary rules of prudence. Hence we speak of the follies of youth.

3. An absurd act which is highly sinful; any conduct contrary to the laws of God or man; sin; scandalous crimes; that which violates moral precepts and dishonors the offender.

4. Criminal weakness; depravity of mind.

Television is not the only culprit in a pleasure-mad generation (**2Timothy 3:1-4**).

What about movies, school, magazines, books, music, sports, hobbies, lawn care, concerts, video games, Internet surfing, and idle chatter among many more?

When a person chooses one of these activities, he forfeits some of his 1,440 minutes and the advice given by Solomon in this Proverb.

Only a few great men and women will apply themselves, to the pursuit of wisdom, and reap the wonderful results (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

Can you focus on the righteous goal and put forth the effort to learn true wisdom each day? Do you read your Bible daily? Do you attend a Bible-preaching church faithfully?

Solomon described a man, committed to pursuing wisdom. He applies himself, in various ways, to the project, and he achieves his objective (**Proverbs 2:1-9; 18:1**).

But the fool's mind wanders all day and night to the ends of the earth, though wisdom is right before him (**Proverbs 17:24; 9:1-6; 14:6; 18:2**).

So David and Solomon emphasized the necessity of applying yourself to wisdom (**Proverbs 5:1-2; 7:1-4; 8:32-36; 15:31-32; 22:17-21; 23:19, 23; Psalm 90:12**).

Proverbs 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Corporal punishment for children is a mandate from God's Word. It is not an option, suggestion, or theory.

Corporal punishments purpose is simple, save children from a dysfunctional life and a premature unnecessary death.

Any person debating or opposing this mandate is an accomplice in child murder, for he is rejecting the best means of saving children's lives! So, *Let God be true, but every man a liar!*

The correction described here is corporal punishment of children, for it is the use of a rod on children. Our grandparents understood it well, for spanking was obvious to their sober minds.

The rod had much to do with the former greatness of America and the tranquility of its society.

The instruction from God and Solomon is not to withhold this form of correction from children.

Correction must be administered to save their lives, and it should be done early and properly (**Proverbs 13:24; 19:18**).

Correction is the mark of true love (**Proverbs 3:12; 13:24**).

Parents with a great desire of good for their children's futures will want to drive the foolishness out of their hearts (**Proverbs 22:15; 29:15, 17**).

Parents rejecting the rod hate their children and cause them harm.

Any sentimental drivel is irrelevant, for their actions prove disregard for their children's future. Sober obedience to Divine authority saves lives. Grounding them or withholding an allowance will not train them.

How can children die? A thousand ways! Suicide is self-murder by un-ruled emotion!

Undisciplined children disobey speed limits, drug laws, gun laws, and police authority. They flaunt anger, envy, and pride, which can cause fatal conflicts.

Undisciplined children violate marital and other sacred trusts, which can bring murder or public execution. Remember, Solomon wrote under a government practicing capital punishment!

But there are other ways to die. Some jobs are dead end, because an untrained child never learned to obey authority and get along with others.

Some marriages are dead, because the child's inherent selfishness destroyed their spouse. Other relationships can die as well (**Luke 15:24**).

A soul can practically die from pain and trouble caused by his foolishness.

Corporal punishment consistently and lovingly administered will prevent these different ways people die. Turning a person back to truth saves a soul from death and hides a multitude of sins (**James 5:19-20**).

God has spoken; on this issue and is not debatable (**Psalms 119:128**).

Our society today has also given clear evidence that this godly advice has not been heeded!

Proverbs 23:14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

God wants to help you save your children.

The LORD has addressed child training, and He plainly ordained corporal punishment to save children from trouble and premature death.

The use of the rod, to inflict minor bodily pain will deliver a child from the greater pain of a dysfunctional life and the judgment of God later.

You can read all the psychology textbooks you want, there is not a ray of light in them (*Isaiah 8:20*).

What will you do for your children? God has spoken on the issue and it is settled (*Psalms 119:128*).

The mantra of this effeminate, permissive, and dysfunctional society is: "Kids, you can't spank 'em." How did they come up with this ridiculous jingle?

By allowing pubescent girls to hallucinate together in a Social Studies class about their ideas to make the world a better place!

God has given, the divine final and authoritative answer on this subject, and 6,000 years of world history have confirmed it.

The most orderly homes and societies are the disciplined ones, and the disciplined ones used corporal punishment to achieve it.

Every parent must choose. Will you submit to God's Word as the final authority, or will you worship at the altar of modern education and psychology?

Without faith in God and His Word, a man is unreasonable, incapable of right thinking, and is vulnerable to ridiculous tripe like Benjamin Spock's *Baby and Child Care* or A.S. Neill's *Summerhill: A Radical Approach to Childrearing*. Both of which are absurd in content and bankrupt in results.

Is this assessment of modern man too harsh? Not hardly (*Romans 1:21-32; 1Timothy 6:3-5, 20-21*)!

There is no question, to Bible believers, what spawned the hippies and rebellion of the 1960's and the resulting explosion in crime, recreational drugs, children born out of wedlock, and decline in test scores. It was the first generation raised on Spock's anti-God fantasy, which was first published in 1946 and became the nation's bestseller.

What did Mr. Spock think later, after observing the results, and seeing his own son commit suicide? The doctor confessed that his book, formed from Freud's insane delusions and Darwin's debased humanity, was based on unproven theories that had failed.

Is pain constructive? Did you monitor your driving speed better after your last traffic ticket? Think how carefully you would drive, if you received a ticket for every violation!

Think how accurately would you keep your books, if the IRS informed you of an audit? Pain is constructive! Think about it, even the fear of pain is constructive! The issue is so simple it precludes discussion.

But the world rushes on, screaming against corporal punishment, while screaming for the murder of unborn children and the perpetual incarceration of their numerous failures. That is what a liberal education gets you (*1Corinthians 1:19-20; 3:19-20*)!

To think you are wiser than God and 6,000 years of world history, and you adopt a modern fantasy for child training. Pure folly!

God has spoken very clearly. You cannot improve upon the simple wisdom of Proverbs, no matter what approach you choose in your arrogance. Neither greater severity nor greater permissiveness will work.

Children are inherently foolish; the rod will drive it out of them; they can be saved from self-destruction; and they can grow up to be productive adults, making parents very happy, if it is applied early and properly (*Proverbs 3:11-12; 13:24; 19:18; 22:6,15; 23:13-14; 29:15,17*).

Withholding corporal punishment is child abuse (*Proverbs 13:24*)!

Children must learn to submit, to the loving authority of parents in their formative years, or they will be belligerent, proud, and selfish adults. And children will have trouble submitting to the other relationships and authorities of life.

The self-discipline necessary for adult success, depends on parental discipline as a child.

It is cruel to avoid a little pain, to parent and child now, that will certainly cause great pain to both in the future.

What is the rod in this Proverb? "A straight, slender shoot or wand, growing upon or cut from a tree, bush, etc." (OED.)

It is exactly what every parent and teacher knew as the hickory switch a few generations ago (*Proverbs 10:13*).

It was as indispensable as a whip for a horse and a bridle for an ass (*Proverbs 26:3*).

It is not a club, because the purpose is not harm, but affectionate correction. Its use would leave thin stripes of color on the backside, as effective to the child as a

speeding ticket or an IRS audit to the parent (*Proverbs 17:10; 19:29; 20:30*).

What is the salvation from hell in this Proverb? Hell is also used metaphorically for trouble, destruction, or death (*Psalms 16:10; 18:5; 86:13; 116:3; Isaiah 5:14; 28:15; Jonah 2:2*).

Here is a dysfunctional and troubled life leading to a premature death, either by accident, crime, revenge, or capital punishment. A salvation indeed!

The future of your family, your church, and the nation depend on the wise use of God's infallible Word. Those who rejoice and obey it, will be blessed. Those who defy and reject it, will bear the consequences, as any honest person can see already.

The consequences of rebelling against God's Word and sending spoiled children into the world are coming home to roost in America. Save your children today!

Thank you, Lord of heaven and earth, for your inspired and infallible instruction for proper training of children!

Proverbs 23:15 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

A Father's joy, Solomon appeals to his son several times in this chapter. *Verse 15 – My son... Verse 19 – Hear thou, my son... Verse 26 – My son, give me thine heart!*

This is a pretty common desire, fathers desire to see their sons do well, to be wise, to make good decisions, to walk with God.

The previous verses (*Proverbs 23:13-14*) the author addressed the parents and spoke of the value of disciplining a son. It won't kill him. (*Verse 13a*). It might even save his life. (*Verse 13b-14*)

Verse 15 speaks to the fact that, a father's, heartfelt joy (in an earthly sense), is tied to his son's lifestyle. *My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.*

The father makes a simple statement to his son: **If** your heart is wise, then my heart will rejoice. In other words, in an earthly sense, the joy of a father is linked to his son.

This is a positive theme Solomon mentions two more times in Proverbs.

Proverbs 27:11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.

Proverbs 23:24-25 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

25 Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

These Proverbs are entirely positive, speaking of the fact, that a wise son brings joy to his father and mother. Of course, this implies that the reverse is true also: son, **If** you have a foolish heart, my heart will be grieved.

There other Proverbs, which speak of the joy a wise son brings to his father, also includes the other side of the coin, the grief that a foolish son brings to his parents.

Proverbs 10:1 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 15:20 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

Proverbs 29:3 Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance."

Solomon seems to emphasize the positive side, since it is mentioned in all six of these passages, while the negative side is mentioned only three times.

Note that these are issues of the heart. Heart refers to our innermost being. It involves our mind, emotions, and will. It is the whole inner man, the whole inner person. It is the inner life of a person.

Thus, Solomon is saying that a wise son brings joy to the whole inner life of a father.

It is a joy of mind. Thoughts of his son should bring joy to a father. Good thoughts of a man's son affect his attitude. Thoughts of a son, naturally impact a parent's mind.

Thoughts of a wise child, cause a parent's mind to be continually drawn to the source of joy, one's inner thought life.

It is a joy of Parent's heart, that affects the inner emotions. Though we are not to live by our feelings, yet feelings are a part of life, the way God made us.

We Are Made In God's Image God Feels So We Feel!

There are many influences that affect our feelings and emotions, but one very strong influence is our children.

It affects the father's will too. **If** your son is wise and makes good decisions, that will affect in a good way the choices you make concerning him.

If your son is wise, then you will give him more liberties that he might grow and mature.

If your son is wise you can trust him in carrying out chores and responsibilities.

Of course there is great application here to the spiritual life.

3John 1:3-4 *For I rejoiced greatly, when the brethren came and testified of the truth that is in thee, even as thou walkest in the truth.*

4 *I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.*

This is certainly true of those you have showed, the way, to the Lord, or those you have taught, in the Lord, or your own flesh and blood sons and daughters!

It is a real joy to see children demonstrating wisdom by walking in the truth. In fact, there is no greater joy.

There is nothing like this kind of joy! It brings much greater joy than to see your son be at the top of his class at Harvard.

It brings much greater joy than to see your son become a millionaire or a billionaire.

It brings greater joy than to see your son become president of the United States.

The joy of the Lord is a much deeper joy, unlike any other. It is deeper and richer than any joy we receive from worldly circumstances.

Of course when our son walks in the truth, that earthly joy can actually be an expression of the joy of the Lord.

Proverbs 23:16 *Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.*

Fathers are very happy, when sons are noble and wise, which is shown by sober and right speech, indicating a pure and righteous heart.

Solomon exhorted his son to wisdom by telling him how much he would be pleased by his virtuous life (**Proverbs 23:15-16**).

Sons must realize how important it is to their fathers for them to be prudent and virtuous in their lives. By honoring their fathers, such sons will also secure God's blessings (**Ephesians 6:1-3**).

The opening Word of this Proverb, "Yea," connects it to the previous Words. This term of agreement and explanation ties two verses together.

Solomon had written, inspired by the Holy Spirit "My son, **if** thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine" (**Proverbs 23:15**).

Solomon told his son how much it would mean to him for his son to be wise in heart and right in speech (**Proverbs 23:15-16**).

What were Solomon's reins? What are any father's reins?

Most today think of reins, as the leather straps or thongs attached to the bridle or bit on both sides of a horse's head and used by the rider or driver, to control or direct the horse.

Did Solomon mean these reins? **If** he did, how would they rejoice? Only **If** his son had a wise heart and right speech?

Thankfully, there is another definition for reins, which fits our proverb perfectly.

"Reins" once meant the kidneys, and they became a metaphorical word indicating a man's inward desires and affections, very similar to the use of "heart."

When combined together, heart and reins, they form a powerful metaphor for all the inward parts of a man.

Compare this Proverb with the one before it. Solomon first said his heart would rejoice, which we understand clearly as the seat of his affections (**Proverbs 23:15**).

Solomon then said his reins would rejoice, which we must understand in the same way, as a Word describing inward thoughts and feelings (**Proverbs 23:16**).

A wise son brings inward pleasure to heart and reins of a father!

Scripture uses "reins" only for kidneys and the inward affections and desires; it does not use the term for the leather straps used to guide a horse (**Job 16:13; 19:27; Psalms 7:9; 16:7; 26:2; 73:21; 139:13; Isaiah 11:5; Jeremiah 11:20; 12:2; 17:10; 20:12; Lamentations 3:13; Revelation 2:23**).

What can a son do to cause his father's reins, his soul, his heart, his desires, and his affections, to rejoice? He can "speak right things".

Foolishness is bound in the hearts of young men, and it often comes out through their lips. When a son speaks carefully, prudently, and wisely, a father is warmed on the inside, for he knows his son is ruling his heart and tongue.

Speech Is A Great Indicator Of Character.

Fools give themselves away quickly by their ungoverned and idiotic speech (**Proverbs 15:2, 28; 18:6-7; Ecclesiastes 10:12-14**).

Wise sons are gracious in speech (**Proverbs 22:11; Ecclesiastes 10:12; Colossians 4:6**).

Wise sons rule their tongues, which indicates great temperance and prudence (*James 3:2-12*).

Wise sons speak the truth in love (*Ephesians 4:15*).

How does a father know if he has a great son? He listens for wise and righteous speech, kind and helpful words, and faithful and true testimony.

He listens for prudent answers, and he wants to kiss his son when he hears them (*Proverbs 24:26; 25:11*).

A father knows that good speech reveals a good heart (*Matthew 12:35*).

If A Father That Perceives The Future As Good His Son Will To!

Sons cause fathers joy or grief. A wise son is a great blessing and rejoices his father, but a foolish son is a calamity and causes him much pain (*Proverbs 10:1; 15:20; 17:21, 25; 19:23; 23:24-25; 29:3*).

God Ordained Fathers!

God rewards or punishes sons, depending on the joy or sorrow they cause their fathers (*Ephesians 6:1-3*).

Foolish sons grieve their fathers and earn God's judgment. Wise sons thrill their fathers and earn God's blessing.

Jesus of Nazareth was the perfect son. He was subject to Joseph and His mother, and He grew in wisdom and pleased both God and men (*Luke 2:51-52*).

Jesus always spoke right things, as both friends and enemies marveled at His control of His tongue (*Matthew 22:22; 27:14; John 7:15,46*).

He always pleased His Father in heaven, Who rewarded Him with the throne of the universe (*John 8:29; Philippians 2:5-11; Hebrews 1:8-9*).

Proverbs 23:17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

The World Exalts And Promotes Sinners.

Movie stars, athletes, performing artists, business tycoons, royalty, politicians, and other rich and famous sinners are pushed at you every day.

Solomon, with wise parental love, warned his son against envying worldly sinners (*Proverbs 24:1, 19*).

He knew the fear of God instead, should be his only ambition (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

Every generation of every nation, has had heroes and stars. Only recently can the images and words, of these popular sinners, be thrown at you 24/7.

If this warning was important in Solomon's day, it is more important today. These sinners are all headed for destruction. Every true saint must fully believe this and live like it (*Proverbs 23:18; Psalm 37:1-3*).

There are 10,000 sinners to envy, and for every saint to emulate. Every age, both male and female, and all temperaments, finds certain sinners to be temptations.

They that walk in the flesh, covet and imagine how wonderful life could be, **If** they had the abilities, looks, success, spouse, or circumstances of their idol. They might, be a product of Hollywood.

The fear of the Lord is far better. Every lost wicked sinner, no matter how rich or famous, will die and go to hell (*Psalm 49:6-20*).

Fearing the Lord, is man's whole duty (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

Fearing the Lord and having God's blessing and favor, even obscurity and poverty, are better than the dysfunctional, hopeless lives and eternal suffering of the wicked dead (*Proverbs 15:16; Psalm 37:16*).

Moses did not envy Pharaoh or his rising peers. Moses chose the reproach of Jesus Christ to be of much greater value, for he saw his and their eternal future (*Hebrews 11:24-26*).

Asaph described in wonderful terms, the wisdom of looking past the glitter, to the grave (*Psalm 73:1-28*).

Demas, loved this present world, Paul loved a future world (*2Timothy 4:7-8, 10*).

The Morgue Teaches The Future Of Glamour Girls!

Yesterday's Goddesses Feed Today's Worms!

Better yet, visit a cancer ward of the unsaved. Before they rot in the grave, they take on, a ghastly and ghostly look! And then comes the reality of hell!

Young girls envying models is one thing; adult women envying models is twice as vain!

The virtuous woman, shunning this world's enticements to seek Christ, will live in pleasant splendor forever (*Proverbs 23:18; 1Timothy 2:15*).

Why read magazines glamorizing them? Why see them on television?

The world shows, enticing features of its idols: you don't often see them drunk, divorced, depressed, dying, or dead. So, why daydream about them?

A Deceitful Heart Dwells On Seducing Traits.

Your deceitful heart lies to you about their present troubles and future judgment, and you believe it!

Far better it would be to envy the righteous and covet their character and reputations!

Your constant thought must be to fear the Lord: which is to hate evil and keep His commandments (*Proverbs 8:13; 14:2; Psalm 112:1; 128:1*).

Fearing the Lord, is not a mindset for devotions, for times of trouble, for prayer, for Sunday worship, or the Lord's Supper, it is the lifestyle perspective, and worldview that saints follow every minute all day long.

Envy for sinners cannot have even a second, to get a toehold in your heart or soul!

Proverbs 23:18 For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

Here is the remedy against envying sinners, and there is the reward for fearing the Lord (*Proverbs 23:17*).

The prosperity of sinners will surely end, for God will judge them now and in the Day of Judgment.

The hope of believers is also sure, for God will reward them in this life and in the Day of Judgment (*Psalm 37:28-38*).

Even the best of men can be discouraged when seeing the wicked prospering in rebellion against God.

David's famed song leader and conductor, Asaph, was ready to quit on God, when he considered the pleasure and prosperity of the wicked, in contrast to his own grief and temptation, and resisting sin (*Psalm 73:1-15*).

But when Asaph went to the house of God to worship, he was reminded there that the LORD would soon terribly judge the wicked (*Psalm 73:16-20*).

God said He would, surely cast them down to desolation and destruction, and He would utterly consume them with terrors. Then Asaph repented, for his foolish thinking, knowing he would have eternal glory (*Psalm 73:21-24*).

Surely there is an end. The wicked will not escape the judgment of God. He sees all their sins, and He will punish them severely.

The only good the wicked taste, is the illusion of prosperity and success in this life (*Psalm 17:14; 49:6-20*).

The righteous will not mourn or suffer forever. The righteous will have an end to their afflictions, which are nothing, in comparison to the glory that shall be revealed in them (*Romans 8:17-25; 2Corinthians 4:16-18*).

The righteous are predestinated to be like the Son of God and live in His glory, and they will not miss their appointment! Their expectation shall not be cut off.

There is nothing that can separate the righteous from the glorious, blessing and reward of their heavenly Father (*Romans 8:29-39; 1Peter 1:3-5*).

Therefore, the righteous know their labors in the Lord are not in vain. They know they shall be rewarded, with eternal life and the praise of their Lord and Savior (*Matthew 25:23; 1Corinthians 15:58*).

There was a large difference, between the rich man and Lazarus before death, but there was a greater difference after death!

The rich man, fared sumptuously every day while he was alive; but he forgot the great need for his soul.

Lazarus, the poor beggar, had the company of a righteous soul, and licking dogs. But then there was an eternal dramatic reversal!

The rich man woke up tormented in hell and consumed with terrors. He begged for mercy from God and Lazarus, but Abraham explained the permanent change in destiny.

Abraham said, "*Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivest thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented*" (*Luke 16:25*).

Proverbs 23:19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

Here is the cry of a wise and loving father to his son.

Here is the cry of a wise and loving God to His children.

There are three steps to success and prosperity that please natural fathers and the Father in heaven.

¹You must hear the instruction of truth and knowledge.

²You must choose that wisdom as your own. ³You must direct your affections and choices accordingly.

If you never had, such an earthly father, you do have a heavenly one!

You Must Hear Truth And Wisdom.

You arrived, in life foolish, helpless, ignorant, irresponsible, and rebellious. You needed an incredible amount, of instruction, to learn the simplest facts and perform the most elementary functions.

Your potential, in life was and is totally dependent, on the amount of instruction available to you and your desire to have it and apply it.

You should also know, that most men, remain very ignorant of basic knowledge and understanding. They had or have no teachers.

If you are reading this Proverb, and commentary, then God has given you, teachers before this moment.

Your future is in the balance every time proper instruction is given. What will you do with the instruction? Will you skim these words in a few seconds and forget them? Or will you consider them?

The Proverb requests that you hear what is said. God has not left you without teachers. God has sent preachers to teach you wisdom, just as He promised (*Psalm 68:11, 18; Ecclesiastes 12:9-11; Jeremiah 3:15; Ephesians 4:8-15; Romans 10:13-17*).

But the real question reader is, will you hear them? Will you read with attention and respect for the instruction? It is not in your nature to do so. Taking proper heed, take effort.

You believe you are smarter than your teachers. You esteem your opinions above those of others. You do not like to be corrected.

Sons! Listen to your father and The Father! Solomon warned in other places, that men foolishly presume they are right and reject the instruction, of their teachers to their own ruin (*Proverbs 16:2, 25; 21:2; 26:12*).

There are many voices to distract you. CNN, MTV, NBC, BBC, NEA, and others want to be heard, vain and profane babblings.

The Internet confirms the information explosion of the information generation, but there is no truth (*2Timothy 3:6-7*).

Compromising and worldly Christians, have heaped up teachers, to scratch the lusts of your itching ears (*2Timothy 4:3-4*).

But there is only one source for pure truth and wisdom, the inspired Words of God (*2Timothy 3:14-17; 4:1-2*)!

Son you must accept instruction! Knowledge must enter your mind and soul! When knowledge does this, you have received instruction. What was spoken and then

adopted, a now is your own (*Proverbs 2:10; 24:14; Acts 17:11*).

Unfortunately, most love to talk about their foolish thoughts, rather than hear the Words of wisdom (*Proverbs 18:1-2*).

Compromising Christians, would rather teach than be taught. They have a burden in their lips, when it should be in their ears! Though they have two ears, their one mouth dominates!

In addition, when you have adopted wise counsel and instruction as your own: you have committed yourself to the knowledge you were given through your ears, you will become wise.

You will have, a mind, soul, and spirit that will understand and know, the truth of the universe, and your role in it, and what you ought to do in most situations.

You have acquired prudence and understanding, but you have not yet reached your objective.

You must direct your heart, your affections, emotions, and preferences, to the things of truth and wisdom.

God has defined the way you should live in His Word (*Psalm 119:128*).

God has described the extreme importance of heaven and things above (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 2Corinthians 4:18*).

God instructs us, that wisdom in your mind, directs your heart to love God, heaven, and the way He has chosen for you (*Colossians 3:2; Psalm 119:36,112; Romans 12:1-2; 1John 2:15; Jude 1:21*).

This is the truth, and true wisdom. And it all begins with real hearing! What will you do to enhance your hearing?

Find yourself a teacher (the man of God in a Bible Preaching Church) who will give you the certain Words of truth, by which you can acquire wisdom (*Proverbs 22:17-21; 1Peter 2:1-3*).

Hear him! Accept and adopt as your own the wisdom he gives you from God's Word!

Then direct your affections and preferences away from foolishness and this world and toward godliness and heaven.

You will please, your Father and avoid, all the things ready to ruin you outside of His way (*Proverbs 23:15-18, 20-35*).

Proverbs 23:20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

America is a land of plenty. There is an abundance of everything. But this is not, always a blessing, for it can also be a temptation.

Young men, filled with the folly and vanity of youth, abuse things designed for their profit.

Young men, have drinking contests and bad habits, that promote drunkenness; and they have eating contests and habits that promote gluttony. Solomon warned his son against drunkenness and gluttony (**Proverbs 23:19**).

Drunkenness and gluttony, will destroy a man and bring him to poverty (**Proverbs 23:21**).

Here is wise advice to young men. The party animals, exalted by this wicked nation, see drunkenness and gluttony as harmless sport.

The party animals think these rites of passage. But they are a sure symptom of the moral depravity of a sick society.

What is a winebibber? A person who is a drunkard! The parallelism shows a drunkard under consideration (**Proverbs 23:21**).

Young men should reject any companions who drink, and godly parents must help them do so.

Jesus was falsely accused of being a winebibber (**Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34**).

The accusers didn't realize He would never drink fermented grape juice. They criticized John the Baptist as well (**Mark 14:25; Luke 1:15; John 2:1-11**).

What is a riotous eater of flesh? A person who eats too much meat; a glutton! The context indicates clearly by its parallelism that a glutton is under consideration (**Proverbs 23:21**).

Young men should reject any companions who eat to gluttony, and godly parents will help them reject such fools.

Jesus was falsely accused of being a glutton (**Matthew 11:19; Luke 7:34**).

Jesus ate ordinary food that John the Baptist did not eat (**Matthew 3:4**).

College fraternities are notorious for eating and drinking parties, called drunkenness, revellings, rioting, surfeiting, and banquetings in the Word of God (**Luke 21:34; Romans 13:13; 1Peter 4:3**).

America is drowning in the deep end of the moral cesspool, when her institutions of higher learning promote these vices, contrary to Scripture and reason.

God is holy; life is sober. Food and grape juice is for strength and for relaxation (**Psalms 104:14-15; Ecclesiastes 10:16-17**).

Food is not for gorging; fruit of the grape is not for chugging. Drinking and eating contests are the marks of fools.

Godly young men avoid and reject such asinine activities, no matter what ridicule they have to endure, for they know God is coming in judgment for just such sins (**1Peter 4:4-5**).

Drunkards, similar to sodomites, will not be in heaven (**1Corinthians 6:9-11**)!

Proverbs 23:21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

Drinking alcohol or overeating will make you poor. Young men are especially vulnerable to these temptations, as most any American college fraternity will prove.

Solomon, the wise father, warned his son against these two evils and their destructive effects, on a man's career and finances.

America, the land of plenty and then some, is a prime breeding ground for both of these corrupting issues. Let every young man beware!

Consider the context. The inspired father asked his son to hear, be wise, and choose what is right (**Proverbs 23:19**).

Solomon, the wise father, warned him against drunkards and gluttonous eaters (**Proverbs 23:20**).

Solomon, the wise father, also exhorted his son to honor both parents (**Proverbs 23:22**).

Solomon, the wise father, warned his son, to put a priority on wisdom (**Proverbs 23:23**).

Solomon, the wise father, exhorted his son to consider the great joy, a wise life could give his parents (**Proverbs 23:24-25**).

So great is the danger of these foolish, youthful lusts, Solomon forbid, even associating with such sinners (**Proverbs 23:20**).

Young men think drunkenness is cool, because they are childish, foolish, and ignorant (**Proverbs 22:15**).

Young men actually boast about getting sick and puking on themselves!

Young men revel in how long their hangovers last!

But God considers it sinful and stupid. Drunkenness is a sin against God (**1Cor 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Ephesians 5:18**).

Drunkenness is stupid for the painful consequences such drinking brings (**Proverbs 23:29-35; 31:4-5**).

Young men also think, gorging themselves is cool, because they are childish, foolish, and ignorant (**Proverbs 22:15**).

Young men actually boast about eating enough to vomit!

Young men revel, in how much they can consume beyond what they need.

But God considers it sinful and stupid. Excessive eating and carousing is a sin against heaven (**Luke 21:34; Romans 13:13; 1Peter 4:3**).

Excessive eating and carousing, is stupid for its painful consequences can and will be disastrous (**Proverbs 23:1-8; 25:16; 28:7; Luke 15:13**).

Drunkenness and gluttony can ruin you economically. Remember the prodigal! They create drowsiness through hangovers, digestive difficulties, diverted blood flow, and excess weight.

The combination will reduce a man to wearing rags. *"He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich"* (**Proverbs 21:17**).

To be a success, a young man needs his full wits and strength, there is no room for drowsiness!

Solomon did not see that today's young men would be more foolish than his generation, but his Proverb condemns them anyway.

How could he know they would smoke marijuana, snort cocaine, take amphetamines, and inject heroin!

The number of such fools languishing in poverty and prison through violating this simple Proverb is numerous!

The lesson is simple, God has condemned any abuse of His creation, and He demands our full minds and energies in all our pursuits (**Proverbs 4:23; 10:4; 18:9; Ecclesiastes 9:10; Romans 12:11**).

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758), the renowned Puritan theologian and pastor, the third president of Princeton, and a spiritual man, wrote 70 resolutions at age 20 to guide his life. They are valuable reading. Consider his thoughts on food and drink. "Resolution 20. Resolved,

to maintain the strictest temperance, in eating and drinking."

"Resolution 40. Resolved, to inquire every night, before I go to bed, whether I have acted in the best way I possibly could, with respect to eating and drinking." He knew the danger of these lusts.

Television and movies today, popularizing and promoting the fraternity lifestyle, teach young men that drunkenness and gluttony are acceptable, intelligent, normal, and not detrimental to a successful and prosperous life.

But God has spoken on the issue. Drunkenness and gluttony are sins and will destroy any young man. Let every reader take heed to reject these sins himself and to save others from them as well.

Not only are these foolish and destructive sins to be avoided, but those persons who engage in them, are to be avoided as well (**Proverbs 23:20**).

Peer pressure, is nearly an irresistible force against young people, and the only sure protection is to avoid all such sinners with careful and diligent efforts (**Proverbs 4:14-17; 1Corinthians 15:33**).

Peer pressuring drinking buddies, no matter how friendly, will ruin your life; and gorging with gluttons will lead to poverty and trouble.

Drunkenness and gluttony will also steal your soul.

Drunkenness and gluttony show a profane heart that has neither life now, nor the hope of life in the world to come.

Drunkenness and gluttony create spiritual drowsiness, that causes men to forget and neglect their souls.

O cruel appetites! What does the Apostle of the Gentiles say, *"Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness ... But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof"* (**Romans 13:13-14**).

The LORD, creator of heaven and earth, has offered seven glorious promises to men that reject this life style: (**2Corinthians 6:14-18** *Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*

15 *And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*

16 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, ¹I will dwell in them, and ²walk in them; and ³I will be their God, and ⁴they shall be my people.*

17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and ⁵I will receive you,*

18 ⁶And will be a Father unto you, and ⁷ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

These promises are obtained by cleansing yourself from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God (*2Corinthians 7:1*).

The greatest success and wealth in the universe has no room for drowsiness. The utmost of mind, soul, heart, and strength should be applied to this offer!

Proverbs 23:22 Harken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

Parents may become familiar, senile, or weak; but these facts do not alter your duty to obey and honor them.

God ordained your parent's authority, and He will punish all rebels. God will generously reward those who honor parents (*Ephesians 6:2-3*).

God planned for children to arrive in life helpless and grow to successful maturity under the affectionate guidance and rule of parents. This wise arrangement depends on children honoring their parents.

God created the offices of father and mother, but He also chose the very persons who are your father and mother!

God brought you into existence, God did not ask you or your parents.

God planned and executed a blind date for the three of you based on God's perfect knowledge of all circumstances and possible outcomes of the arrangement.

Humble yourself before your God-chosen parents! Obey them! Honor them! Love them!

The law of God and the rule of nature are to reverence fathers and mothers (*Exodus 20:12; Leviticus 19:3; Malachi 1:6; Ephesians 6:1-3; Hebrews 12:9*).

The LORD commanded death for offenders, even for speaking lightly or showing facial disrespect (*Deuteronomy 27:16; Proverbs 30:17*).

The basis for proper growth and maturity to face life, the orderliness of society, and the peace of homes depend on honor to fathers and mothers.

It is a perilous time, when this basic standard of home relationships, is compromised (*Isaiah 3:5; 2Timothy 3:1-2*).

Daily life with a father for 20-30 years exposes you to his faults and weaknesses, which can lead to familiarity.

But God has a warning for you, I chose that man who brought you into existence, and I expect you to listen to him and obey him as you would Me! Do not let familiarity dull his honor, because I chose him as a god for your life.

If you despise him, you despise Me! And I will not accept such scornful rebellion!

The thing you should be most content about is your father. God chose him. God chose his ability, education, wealth, intelligence, looks, personality, opportunities, successes, and failures for His own glory and your perfection.

God knew and knows, that no other father, would have worked as well for you!

The eternal counsel of heaven connected you two, and any discontentment or disrespect from you is treason against the design of a benevolent and sovereign God.

Harken To Your Father! Listen To Him Obey His Advice!

He knows more about life than you can grasp, even if it were explained to you! He knows you better than you know yourself!

He cares about you and your future more than you do. Your short-term view of things is foolish and vain.

His affection for you, his desire for your success, his sense of responsibility, and his experience and knowledge, come together to form his advice.

Save yourself a great deal of pain in life and judgment from God, harken unto thy father!

Isaac submitted to his father tying him on an altar as a sacrifice (*Genesis 22:9*)!

Jacob obeyed his father to travel far away and pick a wife from cousins (*Genesis 28:1-5*).

Joseph honored his father and sought his blessing on his children (*Genesis 48:8-14*).

Moses, ruler in Israel, revered his father-in-law, a Midianite (*Exodus 18:7-12*).

The Rechabites carefully obeyed a distant grandfather, though he had lived 300 years earlier (*Jeremiah 35:6-10*)!

With age your father will lose his strength and wisdom, but he is still the one God chose to beget you. His declining abilities are no grounds for you to disrespect him.

Your father, might not have the power, any longer to enforce his rule, but by this time you should be more

conscious of his authority and right over you, than ever before. You respect him in old age out of principle and thankfulness, rather than out of childish fear or habit or necessity.

Blind and hardened fools disobey their fathers, and the sin is compared to the perverse depravity of sodomy (*Romans 1:30*).

Such a child is a terrible calamity to parents (*Proverbs 17:25; 19:26*).

The perilous times of the last days have arrived, when even Christians allow children to disobey and dishonor their parents (*2Timothy 3:1-2*).

Their permissive approach to life and religion, choosing fables instead of doctrine, will destroy them (*2Timothy 4:3-4*).

Your mother was introduced to you in the prime of her life. She was attractive, energetic, and intelligent. It was bearing and bringing you up that dulled those traits!

Her body gave you every nutrient for growth for nine months before you were born, and for nine months or more after you were born!

A lifeline tied you to her before you were born, and you cried for her after being born, as if you still needed and wanted that lifeline!

She loved you and did more for you than ten wives could or would. She patiently adored, pampered, praised, and doted on you in ways a wife will not.

She was a tireless servant in providing food, clothing, bedding, and countless other comforts for your existence, though you never gave her even a "thank you" for years!

She suffered through your infatuation with girlfriends, who combined and squared would never do as much for you. She was the weaker sex in her prime, in God's opinion (*1Peter 3:7*).

As she gets older, taking care of you and then worrying about you, she will lose more strength and wit. She will fear things she once mocked. She will forget names, places, and how to do simple tasks. She spent herself caring for you, and now there is little left.

What will you do? Ignore her in her weakened condition, or give her glory and honor and care?

If you hurt her in any way in her old age, the God will take retribution now and in the world to come (*Proverbs 20:20*)!

If you do not fully take care of her in old age, then you have denied the religion of Jesus Christ and are worse than a pagan infidel, no matter what church you attend, or what Bible version you read (*1Timothy 5:4, 8*)!

Ruth obeyed and tenderly served her mother-in-law Naomi in her old age (*Ruth 2:17-23*).

Solomon, with regal authority and glory like no other, honored his mother with a seat at his right hand, and promised to not reject her request (*1Kings 2:19-20*)!

Jesus Christ, though greatly stressed with the torments of crucifixion and the reconciliation of His people, gave assignment for the tender care of His mother (*John 19:26-27*).

Reader, **If** you are a child, you have just read your duty. Let it be your great pleasure, to attentively heed your father's advice, whether in his presence or on the other side of his grave.

What should you do this very day to honor your aging mother? See to it quickly! **If** your parents are far away, you can call, email, mail, or visit. **If** they are inaccessible, what about your in-laws? **If** you have honored your parents, what about any grandparents?

If you are a parent, and your children show you little or none of this honor or care, humble yourself before the God of heaven and confess your sinful indulgence, careless inconsistency, reversal of roles, overbearing criticism, or permissive environment that cost you the esteemed position of beloved parents (*Proverbs 22:6; 31:28*).

The merciful God of heaven is able to recover lost years, **If** men truly repent in humility (*Joel 2:12-27*).

Proverbs 23:23 Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

You should buy four things today, and no store carries them. They are:

1. Truth,
2. Wisdom
3. Instruction
4. Understanding

Do you want them? What will you pay for them?

There is only one way to buy something, pay for it. So buying the truth requires paying a price for it.

**All Buying Requires Ranking Desires
No Man Can Afford Everything.**

You spend your limited resources by the priorities you set. And here Solomon tells you to put truth, wisdom, instruction, and understanding at the top of the list (*Proverbs 4:5, 7; 16:16*).

And once you buy it, don't sell it to anyone, keep it. Because others will offer to buy it from you.

How? By offering you their pleasure or distraction in exchange for truth. And Solomon tells you not to give these four back to anyone for any amount (*Proverbs 3:18; 4:13*).

What is the cost? **Truth** will cost you friends, for most prefer lies, superstition, and tradition (*Proverbs 13:20*).

Wisdom will cost you ease, for only fools believe and do anything they wish.

Instruction will cost you pride, for you must accept correction by another.

Understanding will cost you peace, for you will know the world's insanity (*Ecclesiastes 1:18*).

Are there other costs? Yes, pleasure steals time for learning, so give up some of it. Riches steal time, for you must work extra in your vain effort to get them. Give up the foolish notion of being rich (*Proverbs 3:13-14; 8:10, 19; 16:16*).

These four things come by dedication and diligent labor, so you will have to pay the price of effort. (*Proverbs 2:1-9; 18:1*)

If we can divide these Words by their slight shades of meaning, we might be able to see the following differences.

Truth: right, honest, and real knowledge about any subject.

Wisdom: prudent ability to discern and to know what is right.

Instruction: directions and teaching from others wiser than you.

Understanding: comprehending the value and use of truth and wisdom.

Proverbs was inspired to sell these four things, and one of the prices for buying them, is to read the book of Proverbs daily.

A chapter of Proverbs a day, fits the calendar and will teach you much. So read and apply it daily (action of buying), and don't stop the habit (action of not selling).

Our Lord Jesus bought wisdom and has now cornered the market (*Luke 2:52; Colossians 2:3*)!

Reader, follow the Lord's holy example, and He will bless you supernaturally in the doing so.

Proverbs 23:24-25 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him.

Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

Because the theme in *vv. 24-25* we have seen many times already in the book of Proverbs. In this section of chapter 23, we have a father giving advice to his son, and pleading with his son to listen to what he says.

The advice includes warnings against over-eating, greed, associating with winebibbers, being lazy, child-rearing, and now avoiding contact with prostitutes, sexual immorality, and the Holy Spirit ends the chapter with a lengthy section on the dangers of alcohol (*Proverbs 23:29-35*).

Wise Children Make Joyful Parents. This is a theme we have seen repeated often in the book of Proverbs. (*Proverbs 23:24-25*)

In verse 24, Solomon speaks of two things that cause a father to rejoice:

1. **If** his children are righteous
2. **If** his children are wise

This results in a father: "Greatly rejoicing" - "Having joy." These two thoughts are synonyms added for emphasis. The character and lifestyle of the children affects the joy of the father.

The character of the child (righteous and wise) could have two different applications, earthly and spiritual.

In the earthly realm, parents can instill in their children many of the qualities emphasized in the Bible and in Proverbs in particular.

This would include: a strong work ethic, being diligent, doing one's best, saving and not wasting money, good use of one's time, the importance of learning, the importance of obeying the law of the land, careful use of one's tongue, being a good citizen, being a good neighbor, honesty, integrity, and etc.

Even an unsaved son can be wise, at least in the ways of the world. And in that realm too, wisdom exceeds folly. *Ecclesiastes 2:13-14 Then I saw that wisdom excelleth folly, as far as light excelleth darkness. 14 The wise man's eyes are in his head; but the fool walketh in darkness: and I myself perceived also that one event happeneth to them all.*

An unsaved son can also be "righteous" before the law. Blameless before the Law as Saul was before his conversion.

In the spiritual realm, the principles we have seen in Proverbs (though most were given to be applied in the earthly sense), have a life changing application in them.

If a child applies these principles of wisdom and righteousness to entering into a relationship with God

by faith, then he has elevated these principles to a whole new level. And he has elevated the joy of a godly father to a whole new level.

A father whose son listens and obeys and demonstrates wisdom in earthly things and applies it to his relationship to God will have even greater joy! (**2John 4**)

In verse 25, Solomon adds the mother and her feelings. Only the father is mentioned in the previous verse. Now Solomon states that the father and the mother shall be glad and rejoice in a wise and righteous son.

Everything said in the previous passage is now applied to the mother as well.

Proverbs 10:1 *The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.* Both parents feel it when their child becomes wise or if he or she becomes a fool. It is a shared joy or grief between the two parents.

Proverbs 23:26 *My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.*

**Great Fathers Stand Up!
Show Your Sons Your Confidence And Boldness!**

Great Fathers, ask for their sons hearts, on the basis of having their perfection your highest goal.

Great Fathers, ask their sons to follow their example and instruction, on the promise that they will live and teach the pure wisdom of God.

We are in a generation without men (**Isaiah 3:1-15**)! They are AWOL from their great duty and privilege, the training of God-fearing men for the next generation.

Most fathers are too preoccupied with their own lives, they are too selfish to care, they are too lazy to train, they are too weak to lead, they are too corrupt to follow, they are too fearful to confront.

**One Weak Generation
Of Men Begets Another.**

But men who fear the Lord and have a holy fire burning in their hearts, here is your opportunity. Lay claim to the sons God gave you; ask for their hearts, and give them a clear and holy path to follow by your example and teaching.

God chose to perpetuate His truth and wisdom by great fathers (**Deuteronomy 6:1-2,6-7,20-25; Psalm 78:1-8; Joel 1:1-3; Ephesians 6:4**).

Only fathers walking perfectly before God and regularly applying His wisdom have a right to say these Words.

All hearts and eyes ultimately belong to God with Whom we have to do (**Hebrews 4:12-14**).

Solomon addressed his son like this twenty-two times. Once a mother addressed her son (**Proverbs 31:2**).

Solomon boldly claimed his son's respect for his good doctrine, just as his father David had (**Proverbs 4:1-4; 5:1; Psalm 34:11**)! See the comments on **Proverbs 4:11**.

The heart holds our affections and motives, where we make life's decisions. See the comments on **Proverbs 4:23**.

The heart, is the place of thoughts and plans, and it is far more important than merely controlling external conduct.

A Wise Father Wants His Children's Hearts.

The children's hearts are won by: cutting off evil influence, replacing it with holy influence, promising ultimate happiness, proving sincere affection, admitting obvious faults, praying for them, living consistently, exalting their Creator, and having God's answers for all of life's difficulties.

Fathers! The world, also wants your sons' hearts. The world offers riches, honor, pleasure, ease, and popularity.

The world incessantly cries for them, especially in this age of electronic media. It uses alluring temptation confronts them everywhere they go. Satan says, *"If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine"* (**Luke 4:7**).

The world, assures *they* hear this every day, repeatedly.

Yet most sons have not heard their father's strong appeal for their hearts. **If** they heard, one appeal at all, it was often weak and tainted by the foolish and unhappy life of their father.

Fathers! Do your children know, understand, and believe you love them, more than anyone else ever will? Do they know that you teach them the way of life, to depart from the paths of death?

You can and must convince them of this by consistent word and deed. The eyes are synecdoche for the whole person, for it is by the eyes we see and follow a leader. See the comments on **Proverbs 4:25**.

Our sons live in our homes. They see all we do; they see all we should do; they see all we don't do.

Godly fathers must provide a holy and consistent illustration of the truth they give by way of instruction.

**Every Man Can Be Great
By The Power Of God
And The Wisdom Of Scripture.**

Fathers! Do you know the practical wisdom of the context (*Proverbs 23:15-35*)?

Fathers! Have you warned your son plainly about envying this world and forgetting coming judgment of God (*Proverbs 17-18*)?

Fathers! Have you warned your sons plainly about gluttony and drunkenness (*Proverbs 20-21, 29-35*)?

Fathers! Have you warned your son, plainly about the strange woman and her wiles (*Proverbs 27-28*)?

Fathers! Have you begged your son to consider the wise instruction of his mother and father (*Proverbs 15-16, 19, 22-25*)?

Godly men, do not need Promise Keepers or Million Man Marches. They need Holy Spirit conviction and trembling humility before the Word of God.

Godly men know, their local church and pastor are sufficient to make them perfect (*2Timothy 3:16-17*).

Godly men don't need an ecumenical cesspool of heresy to be great.

Godly men know, they need to repent, and do the simple duties that are clearly outlined and repeated in Scripture.

Godly men know, they need to start today!

Godly men know, they don't need pretenders like James Dobson, and Jesse Jackson as their children's role models.

Godly men know, they need a God-fearing man that can do the job of being a great father by the wisdom of Scripture.

Neither Abraham nor Joshua needed stadiums filled with compromisers to get motivated for their jobs. They feared the Lord enough to do it with just His command and the promise of family prosperity (*Proverbs 29:17; Genesis 18:19; Joshua 24:15*).

Our Savior, Jesus Christ, the Everlasting Father, asks for our pure hearts (*Isaiah 9:6; Hebrews 10:22*).

Only He, can see every thought and intent within our hearts (*Hebrews 4:12*).

Jesus Christ, teaches us to exhort one another, His brethren to make sure none of our hearts are lost (*Hebrews 3:12-13*).

***Proverbs 23:27 For a whore is a deep ditch;
and a strange woman is a narrow pit.***

The greatest threat to men, especially young men, is whores and adulteresses.

An attractive, bold, and immoral woman is their most dangerous enemy. Solomon asked his son for his heart and his eyes, so he might warn him to avoid the fatal snare of these sexual destroyers (*Proverbs 23:26*).

With the cold and calculating heart of a beast of prey, adulteresses use any means, of enticement to capture and destroy noble men (*Proverbs 5:6; 6:26; 23:28*).

Hunters once trapped wild animals by covering pits with thin branches and grass: the animals would fall through the deceptive covers and be captured (*1Chronicals 11:22*).

The hole or pit was deep to keep them from leaping out, and/or it was narrow, to prohibit running or movement.

The depth was too great to escape upward, and/or the width too narrow for moving or speed. They were designed to prevent escape! Capture or death was certain!

The metaphors are powerful! Sexual sins will capture or kill you. There is rarely any escape from adulteresses temptation.

There is rarely any escape from this obsession.

There is rarely escape from her manipulations.

There is rarely any escape; once a man gives in to a woman, he is trapped by his lusts.

Men are seldom ever recovered. Her extortive demands, and/or the revenge of an angry father, husband, your wife, or magistrate (*Proverbs 22:14*).

A whore is a woman: willing to have sex outside marriage. And an unmarried woman who is promiscuous.

A strange woman, is any woman you have not married, and any married woman willing to commit adultery against her husband.

God, who invented and designed sex, limited its pleasures to marriage (*Hebrews 13:4*).

Solomon had read about Joseph's trouble with Potiphar's wife and Samson's ruin by Delilah, and he

had clearly seen the great pain of his father for adultery with Bathsheba.

Only Joseph survived, and he spent years in prison due to the revenge of his spurned seductress. Samson was utterly ruined, and David suffered severely for the rest of his life.

Young man, avoid company or communication with loose women. Reject their advances. Understand they are liars. The very short pleasure they offer is nothing in comparison to the long suffering here and hereafter.

Adulteresses are a deep ditch and narrow pit. You should marry a woman that fears the Lord and enjoy her and children by her (*Proverbs 5:15-19; 1Corinthians 7:1-5*).

Proverbs 23:28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

Whores and adulteresses are dangerous for two chief reasons:

1. They hide their desires and schemes to seduce and entrap men, so that even the precious life is at risk (*Proverbs 6:26; Genesis 39:7-12*).
2. Their uninhibited eagerness for illicit intimacy is an overpowering temptation (*Proverbs 7:9-18; Genesis 38:14-19*).

Solomon, a wise father, warned his son by this Proverb to stay away from whores and strange women (*Proverbs 23:26-28*).

Solomon compared them to falling into a deep ditch or narrow pit. He had told his son that whores and adulteresses were very destructive (*Proverbs 23:27*).

A method used in those days to capture or kill difficult prey. As men covered deep ditches or narrow pits, to have unsuspecting beasts fall into them and be unable to escape, so whorish women and wicked wives, would capture and destroy the foolish men who crawled into their beds.

The first danger is that evil women hide their desires and schemes from open view (*Proverbs 5:6*).

The prince discovers too late: that the deep respect, the eager service, the listening ear, the adoring eyes, the flattering praise, and impeccable appearance, were merely means to seduce and entrap the next king.

Solomon knew this creature so well that he said she was more bitter than death. He sought here to save his son from her wiles. (*Ecclesiastes 7:26*)

The most dangerous women are not filthy sluts walking ghetto streets, skimpily dressed women at nightclubs, or drunken coeds on spring break. They hardly hide or wait at all.

Most know their desires and plans. Most know the results of sinning with them. Most know to avoid the places where they gather.

The most dangerous women are those that appear noble and virtuous in ordinary situations, but are hiding secret desires and plans to seduce. Only a few perceive their intentions; only a few can resist their wiles.

Whores and strange women lurk everywhere, especially today. The whore from *Proverbs 23:27* could be an unmarried woman that engages in casual sex, or fornication.

The strange woman is often a wife that cheats on her husband, committing adultery. Solomon called her a strange woman, because she is an alien, foreigner, or outsider to any man but her own husband.

These are two kinds of women, in the world of which men must beware.

Wicked women know they can attract men easily. They use the power of their looks, they use the power of their words, they use the power of their eyes, they use the power of their kisses for evil (*Proverbs 5:3; 6:25; 7:13*).

Samson could not be taken by any other means, no matter how many or how well armed were the Philistines approaching him. But one lying woman quickly reduced him to putty, and his strength and life were gone. He could not resist her. She was too much for him.

Solomon warned his son that such women had destroyed many strong men, Samson being a horrible example (*Proverbs 7:26*).

Evil women make it easy for men to fall, to the lusts of their eyes and flesh. Men could not commit fornication or adultery, **If** women would not.

Easy women create opportunity, for the powerful male sex drive to lead men into sexual sins, which requires both parties. **If** women were faithful to their greater inhibitions, men would be hindered and helped from sinning. But because they are not, sexual sins increase.

The guilt however, is equal; both are to be punished; but Solomon warned his son. Female inhibitions are important. They must be cultivated and protected. Without them, women increase sexual sins in the world. (*Titus 2:3-5*)

An inhibition, is an internal restraint of conscience or instinct that hinders or limits a person's thoughts, words, or actions.

Female inhibitions are those internal restraints that keep women from uncovering themselves, being alone with other men, allowing intimate words or contact, etc.

This generation brainwashes girls to remove their inhibitions and to be sexually bold and promiscuous.

This is done by television, sensual teen rock stars, coed swimming in next to nothing, sensual music, coed colleges, peer pressure, movies exalting fornication, dancing, popularity of immoral actresses, artists, and athletes, amoral education, lack of dress codes, coed middle and high schools, the end of formal courting or chaperoned dating, private communication via text messages, cell phones, emails, and chatrooms, etc.

Female Inhibitions Are Important. Pornography is a sin for men, but it can only occur with a sin by women. **If** women had not boldly stripped themselves in front of cameras, there would be no erotic nudity or sexual acts to enflame the lusts of the eyes and flesh of men, who may range from the accidental viewer to the curious to the addicted.

Pornographic models may rely on drugs to do what they do in front of the camera, or they have had their inhibitions completely destroyed by the means suggested above.

Every father must keep his daughter's inhibitions strong and sensuality in reserve for her husband. She must be fully covered at home and in public, so she has a strong resistance to exposing herself.

Conversation should not excite ungodly sexual curiosity. She should always be chaperoned with the opposite sex, so that evil familiarity or wicked situations do not arise.

This list could be extended. It is the duty of every father (and mother) to promote and protect his daughter's precious inhibitions for her sake and society's safety.

Every husband must keep his wife's inhibitions strong and sensuality reserved for himself. How? By requiring appropriate versions of the rules for daughters above.

The Greatest Role A Wife Has Is A Loving Wife!

Guard her inputs as well, lest worldly ideas of casual sex tempt her mind or flesh. She should reject situations where she would be alone with another man.

Do not take her anywhere, even as husband and wife, which would promote a carnal spirit. Watching lascivious movies together is sin for both!

Libertarians speak of victimless crimes, and they include prostitution. They would legalize this sin. But God's Word is final in all matters.

God has ruled, in this matter; *"Do not prostitute thy daughter, to cause her to be a whore; lest the land fall to whoredom, and the land become full of wickedness" (Leviticus 19:29).*

Prostitution is a sin, even if every act of such is consensual by two adults! God said so!

Prostitution destroys the moral character of a nation. Read it! Even one prostitute can lead to widespread wickedness by many men.

Wife, loss of inhibitions or discontentment with your husband is a first step to adultery.

If you fantasize about more exciting lovemaking, your sinful heart will seek it out (*James 1:14-15*).

Worldly inputs must be removed, so the thought of adultery is repulsive to you.

There is no more room, for carnal romance novels in your life, than there is for pornographic magazines in his. Both create discontentment and enflame forbidden lusts.

Young man, you should avoid worldly girls and never be alone with any girl. **If** you think such rules are too binding, you have not wisely considered, the consequences of sexual sin,

Minor restraint now is far better than likely death and hell later (*Proverbs 7:27*).

Solomon well described the anguish of the man taken down by a whore or strange woman (*Proverbs 5:7-14*).

Son, make no provision to fulfill your flesh's lusts (*Romans 13:14; 2Timothy 2:22*).

The Way To Avoid This Enemy Is To Avoid!

Stay far away from any place or person that even looks or acts like a whore or adulteress (*Proverbs 4:14-15; 5:8; 7:8*).

Reject any inputs, that feed the lusts of the eyes or flesh, such as carnal music, movies, magazines, or friends.

Read the Bible and pray every day. Keep company with godly young men like Joseph!

David slew Goliath, but he could not resist Bathsheba, and Bathsheba did not resist him. The consequences were terrible, immediate and long-term. (*2Samuel 11:1-5*)

Judah was a self-righteous zealot, but he could not resist the offer of sexual intimacy from his disguised daughter-in-law (*Genesis 37:26-27; 38:14-19, 38:24*).

These two men were guilty of adultery, but the willing or conniving women created the opportunity.

But, Joseph withstood Mrs. Potiphar and all her attempts to seduce and pressure him into her bed (*Genesis 39:7-12*).

What a prince of a man! What a mighty man! Joseph was greater in strength than both Samson and David in a test harder than fighting Philistines!

They lieth in wait as for prey, and they increase the religious and spiritual transgressors among men (*2Peter 2:1-3*).

Proverbs 23:29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

What a destructive enemy! Look at the effects! Count the troubles! Measure the pain! One thing did all this to a person! And he brought it on himself by his own choice!

If a criminal did this damage, he would be locked away.

If it were a companion, he would be avoided in the future. But the pain was chosen! And it is often repeated!

Our Proverb describes a drunk. As the context says, wine is the culprit (*Proverbs 23:30-31*)!

And by virtue of relation, strong drink or any alcoholic beverages are included (*Proverbs 20:1; 31:4-6*).

But the problem is fermented wine: see the comments on *Proverbs 20:1*.

It is a warning that those who start with a drink can end drunk, so much so, that they are as out of sorts with their bodies as those lying down on the mast of a ship (*Proverbs 23: 23:30, 34-35*).

Good wine, non-fermented, such as Jesus created at Cana on the spot *John 2:10*.

Good wind, is a wonderful creation of God, who designed it to make man's heart glad (*Psalms 104:14-15*).

A good wine's purpose is at least as noble as bread, which makes his heart strong, and oil, which makes his face to shine.

Fermentation is a corrupting process decay and false effects intended, relaxation and cheer have always been used as justified by winebibbing men (*Proverbs 31:6-7; Ecclesiastes 10:19*).

Our Lord stayed completely away from this corrupting effect His entire life!

But as man has done since Eden, he abuses God's creation and receives the just reward (*Ecclesiastes 7:29*).

From a lust for pleasure, and gladness, man drinks the forbidden fermented wine with no real pleasure and receives the damage and trouble in our Proverb.

The trouble and sin from fermented wine comes from drinking it. Wine un-fermented, is not the problem; drinking fermented wine and getting drunk thereby, is the problem. (*Ephesians 5:18*)

The Jews called our Lord a winebibber for drinking wine (*Matthew 11:19*).

We know our Lord never chose to put corrupting wine into His holy body (*John 8:29*).

Let us follow His holy example (*1Corinthians 11:1*).

Proverbs 23:30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

Drunkenness is sin. Tarrying long at the wine, or drinking to excess, is the sin.

Solomon gave his son a sober warning against drunkenness (*Proverbs 23:29-35*).

Solomon had just identified by its numerous physical symptoms. Fermented wine causes the problems of this context; it cannot be just the abuse of wine that is condemned. (*Proverbs 23:29*)

If fermented wine is ok with God, then why would fermenting i.e. leavening bread be wrong?

If the fermentation process is a corrupting/decaying process, would our Lord put this in His body?

Would our Lord then be the perfect Lamb of God?

Would the Father be well pleased with Him?

If moderate drinking is acceptable then why not moderate marijuana, moderate cocaine, etc.

God created good wine. In this form, it was certainly the best wine, having all the health-giving, joy-inspiring character it was created to exhibit in the beginning.

It was the same wine which Christ will provide in “*that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s Kingdom*” (**Matthew 26:29**), and will certainly not be possible to induce drunkenness.

We need to be very careful when we believe that God sanctions drinking intoxicating (the decaying process of grapes) wine.

However, **If** you doubt good wine's ability to cheer the heart of man, you need to read the Bible (**Judges 9:13; Zechariah 10:7; Ecclesiastes 10:19**).

Man, in his perpetual abuse of God's creation and revelation, drinks fermented wine to drunkenness.

Some observations and considerations:

1. Before man sinned, there was no decay in the world. The fruit of the vine (grapes and grape juice) would not ever decay from fermentation process. Thus, it would be impossible for man to get drunk on it. To say that God sanctions it is to say God sanctions sin also.
2. The decaying process, in this world, came as a result of man’s sin; not God’s creation.
3. Is the heart deceitful? Can any man know it? **Jeremiah 17:9**. To associate the above Scriptures of this Proverb commentary, with the blessing of God is a great stretch.
4. Is the desire to drink fermented wine of the flesh or of the Spirit? **Romans 8:13; 1Corinthians 6:13**. Does it glorify God? **1Corinthians 6:20**.
5. Would Jesus create a fermented wine at Cana of Galilee and glorify the Father by doing so?
6. Would Jesus take decaying/corrupting wine into His own body?
7. The Lord Jesus Christ said in **John 8:46** “*which of you convinceth me of sin.*”
8. Drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God (**Galatians 5:19-21; 1Corinthians 6:10**). What if you are only 1% drunk. Are you considered a drunkard by one sip, one glass, two glasses?
9. It is foolish to even consider the Son of God would drink fermented wine logically! Men strain a gnats to justify their sin!

I am reminded of a little story I heard as a young boy that has always shed light on this issue for me. There was a little boy who was learning about math in school. His father drank beer. This little boy observing his father drinking beer asked him a question: “dad” he said, “how many beers does it take to get you drunk?” The dad responded, “I guess about ten.” His son said, “then is just drinking one beer mean you are one-tenth drunk?”

Drunkenness is sin. Drinking fermented wine is the only way to get drunk, and is sin (**Ephesians 5:18**).

Some have been drunkards before conversion, but Christians should no longer do such things (**1Peter 4:3-4**).

Drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God (**Galatians 5:19-21; 1Corinthians 6:10**).

And Christian brothers that get drunk, are to be excluded (**1Corinthians 5:11**)?

Young men, because foolishness is bound in their hearts, are very vulnerable, to drinking fermented beverages (**Proverbs 22:15; Ecclesiastes 11:10**).

A simple tour through a college town, even without visiting a frat house, reveals a large number of bars and other watering holes. Filled with the invincibility of youth and egging each other on, they chug themselves to folly and sin.

The context is clearly drunkenness (**Proverbs 23:29, 33-35**). Drunkenness occurs by tarrying long at the wine, or staying and drinking too much (**Isaiah 5:11**). But rest assured, one sip of a fermented, intoxicating drink, God considers sin!

The second clause is to be understood in light of the first clause, going to seek mixed wine is beyond wise judgment (**Proverbs 9:2**).

Wine is a mocker, for drunkenness can cause a person to do foolish and shameful things (**Proverbs 20:1**).

Remember Noah and Lot (**Genesis 9:18-27; 19:30-38**)!

Only fools ignore warnings about wine drinking; wise men know it is dangerous and cannot be controlled.

Wise men will not even associate with drunkards (**Proverbs 23:20; 28:7**).

Proverbs 23:31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

Wine is very good. Fermented intoxicating wine is very bad. (**Genesis 1:31**)

This is a description of the decaying process that we are commanded to not even look at, let alone drink it.

At Cana of Galilee (**John 2:1-11**); “*good wine*” had been miraculously created by the Creator, Jesus Christ and was brand new, with no time to ferment and become old, intoxicating wine.

The Greek word *onios* was used for the juice of grapes in general, the same word for both unfermented and fermented wine, with the context determining which.

The decay process, utilizing leaven (always in Scripture representing corruption) to convert good fresh wine into old intoxicating wine, could not have acted in this case.

Jesus Christ Himself had created the wine in its originally intended form, before sin and decay entered the world.

In this form, it was certainly the best wine, having all the health-giving, joy-inspiring character it was created to exhibit in the beginning.

It is the same wine which Christ will provide, at the marriage supper of the Lamb, and will certainly not induce drunkenness to any degree. *“But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”* (*Matthew 26:29*)

But unguarded or excessive affection for intoxicating wine is highly and wisely condemned.

Drunkards shall not inherit the kingdom of God. Not a 1% drunk or a 99% drunk will make it into heaven! (*Galatians 5:19-21; 1Corinthians 6:10*)

Any thoughts, toward drunkenness, is sin (*Proverbs 24:9; Ephesians 5:18*).

Only fools drink without sober regard for the danger and results of drunkenness (*Proverbs 20:1; 23:29-30*).

Intoxicating wine in Solomon's day had several attractive features, red color, depth, reflection, and shades of color in a good cup, and bubbles moving to the surface.

These same features make wine visually attractive today, especially in a beautiful wine glass with appropriate sunshine, room lighting, or candlelight to enhance it.

As Solomon admits, a strange woman may be beautiful, he also admits, wine has an appeal that we must soberly guard against. (*Proverbs 6:25*)

Our Proverb is in the middle of a passage where Solomon condemned drunkenness (*Proverbs 23:29-35*).

He condemned those who *“tarry long at the wine”* (*Proverbs 23:30*).

And those who have the symptoms of severe drunkenness (*Proverbs 23:29, 34-35*).

If a man's religion is based on the Word of God, he knows God condemns drunkenness of any degree.

Neither God nor the Bible recognizes alcoholism, there really is no such condition. Such persons are properly called drunkards in Scripture.

Drunkenness begins with the first drink and continues past reason until your senses no longer rightly recognize good and evil.

Your imagination and speech are degraded to folly and sin, the opposite goal of this book of wisdom. (*Proverbs 23:33*)

Because drunkenness is deceiving, it is only others who can perceive your drunkenness.

Reader, take heed! For wine can make a wise man a fool, quickly! We are to be moderate and temperate in all things, but some things to never even entertain (*Ephesians 5:18; Philipians 4:5; 1Corinthians 9:24-27*).

Proverbs 23:32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

What bites like a serpent and stings like an adder? Intoxicating fermented wine (*Proverbs 23:30*)!

Drunkenness bites and stings those who drink fermented wine. The consequences of drunkenness are painful and eternal.

This short Proverb is in the middle of Solomon's warning against drunkenness (*Proverbs 23:29-35*).

God created good wine to calm and cheer man (*Proverbs 31:4-7; Psalm 104:14-15*).

At Cana of Galilee (*John 2:1-11*); *“good wine”* had been miraculously created by the Lord Jesus Christ, and was brand new, with no time to ferment and become old, intoxicating wine.

In this form, it was certainly the best wine, having all the health-giving, joy-inspiring character it was created to exhibit in the beginning.

The wine served in heaven will be the same wine which Christ will provide in, and will certainly **Not** induce drunkenness. *“But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”* (*Matthew 26:29*)

For those who love truth, it is very important to know that Solomon did not condemn the drinking good or new wine (*Proverbs 3:10; 9:2, 5; 31:4-7; Ecclesiastes 9:7; 10:19; Song of Solomon 1:2,4; 4:10; 5:1; 7:9; 8:2*).

In agreement with Solomon, Old Testament saints and the Lord Jesus Christ drank good wine (*Genesis 14:18; Deuteronomy 14:26; 2Samuel 6:19; Matthew 11:19; John 2:1-11*). See also *Proverbs 23:30*.

Solomon, confirming the rest of the Bible, condemned drunkenness, which is drinking the fermented intoxicating wine, and losing self-control (*Proverbs 20:1; 23:21; Galatians 5:21; Ephesians 5:18; 1Corinthians 6:10*).

The context of the Proverb is clearly the abuse of fermented wine causing drunkenness (*Proverbs 23:29-35*).

The bite and sting are results of drunkenness, "At the last," as the Proverb declares.

Intoxicating fermented wine appears very pleasant in the glass, and it can bring pain and trouble (*Proverbs 23:29-35; 23:31*).

It is as dangerous as the bite of a poisonous snake or the sting of a venomous viper, which is the simile of the Proverb. You should not play with either.

Consider the bite and sting of drunkenness. You will ruin your reputation with unplanned folly, like Noah and Lot (*Proverbs 20:1; 23:33; 31:4-5; Genesis 9:20-22; 19:30-38; Ecclesiastes 10:1*).

You will be reduced to poverty, like the prodigal (*Proverbs 21:17; 23:21; Luke 15:13-14*).

You will have immediate sickness and eventual liver damage and death (*Proverbs 23:29, 34-35; Isaiah 19:14*).

This Proverb applies to the abuse of any mood-altering chemical.

Christians are told to reject the mood alterations of drunkenness and instead, to choose the filling of the Holy Spirit (*Ephesians 5:18-19*).

There is no bite or sting in the Holy Ghost: there is joy and peace in believing; there is singing from a melody in your heart (*Romans 14:17; 15:13*).

Proverbs 23:33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

Here are two horrible sins: ¹a man lusting after women other than his wife and ²saying perverse things he ordinarily would not say.

Drinking of the Intoxicating fermented wine has removed his moral inhibitions, and he now commits sins he earlier knew were wrong before God and men.

The context is fermented intoxicating wine (*Proverbs 23:20-21, 29-30, 34-35*).

Good wine makes the heart glad (*Proverbs 31:6-7; Psalm 104:15; Ecclesiastes 10:19*).

Fermented wine causes drunkenness, which God condemns (*Ephesians 5:18; Romans 13:13*). See the comments on *Proverbs 20:1; 23:29*.

Wine can be fermented juice of the grape. Ethyl alcohol, from fermentation, is a central nervous system depressant.

Even small amounts relax the conscious functions of the brain and create a fleshly feeling of well-being and cheer. Why do you think Jesus Christ rejected the fermented vinegar on the cross? Jesus Christ would never accept anything intoxicating agent into His sinless body.

Large amounts reduce memory, motor coordination, and unconscious bodily functions.

A moderate amount of fermented wine, causes emotional and muscular tension to change mood and social function.

Even small amounts of fermented wine creates a euphoric loss of judgment and inhibitions ruling moral conduct.

Here is the Holy Spirit's strong warning to Solomon's son, do not let wine steal your judgment and blind your conscience toward sexual lust and ungodly speech. Don't even look at it! *Proverbs 23:31*.

Alcohol Leads To A Loss Of Moral Judgment And Sin!

Drunken men will look at other women lustfully; and they will say things they should not, because their conscious ability to rule these bodily passions is reduced.

Bars and nightclubs are places where strangers meet for planned sexual indulgence, that they would not otherwise be easy to commit.

By intentionally drowning their moral inhibitions, drunkards engage in sin they would not do under other circumstances.

Drunkenness is often the only way to break down a woman's natural inhibitions to such wicked behavior. These places cannot be justified for any reason whatsoever. (*Habakkuk 2:15*)

The sexual drive is one of the strongest bodily desires; and sexual pleasure is one of God's greatest blessings.

So God put inhibitions against such promiscuous wickedness in the consciences of men, and especially women.

These are great blessings from heaven. But wine will mock a person by temporarily destroying these sexual protections (*Proverbs 20:1*).

Wine also affects speech (*Psalms 78:65*).

A person will relax and talk more easily and freely. The tongue is a very dangerous bodily part anyway (*Proverbs 18:21; James 3:2-12*).

But to give away the rule of our tongue by drinking intoxicating fermented wine is horrible folly. We will say things foolish and hurtful, that we can never recover from. Let every reader beware of this danger.

The lesson is clear. Wise men refuse intoxicating fermented wine, to avoid temptation in this sinful area. God's saints do not allow situations, that even create an opportunity for sin (*Romans 13:14*).

Since intoxicating fermented drink leads to this sin, the use of wine is clearly eliminated. The solution is total abstinence from intoxicating fermented wine.

Temperance Is Self-Discipline.

If the LORD prohibits drinking fermented wine, to avoid looking at other women and saying filthy things, what must He think of television that brings strange women and wicked speech right into our homes?

What does He think of reading material that does the same thing? What does He think of athletic events where the women are mostly unclad?

Every reader should be able to answer these questions easily.

***Proverbs 23:34* Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.**

What is it like to be very drunk? Solomon compared it to lying down in a ship in a storm! Rather than being on deck, where his eyes could assist his balance, this man lies in the hold of the tossing ship, feeling as if he will soon be turned inside out! His head swims; his stomach retches!

Better than that, drunkenness is like lying on the top of a ship's mast, where the ship's rolling motions are compounded greatly, by the length of the mast!

The context of this Proverb is Solomon's warning to his son about the terrible effects of intoxicating fermented wine (*Proverbs 23:29-35*).

He described a list of the physical consequences (*Proverbs 23:29*).

He described the enticing attraction of alcoholic beverages (*Proverbs 23:30-31*).

He described the painful results being similar to a snake bite (*Proverbs 23:32*).

He described the attendant breakdown of moral inhibitions (*Proverbs 23:33*).

He described and the addicting nature of drunkenness (*Proverbs 23:35*).

Drunkenness is a sin! Drunkenness is also stupid!

Drunks lose self-control, their balance, drunks lose the food in their stomachs, and drunks lose their reputations!

Drunkards voluntarily choose to pursue nausea in the belly and confusion of the mind; drunkards are great fools!

Why in the world would a person drink anything that he knows will make him very sick and cause him much misery? Ignorance! A foolish heart! Peer pressure! Bad habits! Addiction!

What Is The Cure? Do not get infatuated with it (*Proverbs 23:30-31*).

Recognize and admit that wine and strong drink are deceiving sins (*Proverbs 20:1*).

The sin of drunkenness occurs when a person drinks intoxicated fermented wine, mixed wine, or any strong drinks, which is condemned (*Ephesians 5:18*).

Wisdom is the power of right judgment, knowing what to do in any situation to please God and good men.

Wise men never use intoxicating fermented wine or strong drink, especially if they are in a position of authority (*Proverbs 31:4-5; Ecclesiastes 10:16-17; 1 Timothy 3:8; Titus 2:3*).

Wise men want full control of their faculties, and they will not give it away for the momentary foolishness of drinking. They recognize intoxicating wine's danger and hate drunkenness.

No matter what the world says, drunkenness is a sin (*Luke 21:34; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21*)!

Drunkenness is stupid, as the Proverb declares metaphorically. Those who desire to be wise in the sight of God will never drink intoxicating wine.

Wise men will rule their spirits and circumstances to keep from drinking.

Such prudence will save them from the foolish sin of drunkenness, and it will save them from the gut-wrenching and mind-confusing symptoms of drunkenness.

Only fools will drink without regard for this sin.

Proverbs 23:35 They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

The drunkard is insane! He drinks until he is senseless and cannot feel the pain he causes himself and others.

The drunkard must sleep for hours or days to get rid of his miserable hangover. But as soon as he is awake, he goes straight for the bottle again!

These are the foolish and wicked actions of the drunkard in his insanity, rather than his literal words.

The Holy Spirit has already taught us: "*Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise*" (**Proverbs 20:1**). See the comments on **Proverbs 20:1**.

Our Proverb illustrates the mocking and raging consequences of drunkenness, the man is violently hurt by strong drink and foolishly mocked by wine; but he continues to drink!

The Holy Spirit has also listed the troubles of the drunkard, "*Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?*" (**Proverbs 23:29**). See the comments on **Proverbs 23:29**.

In spite of such constant and miserable consequences, the drunkard returns again to much wine (**Proverbs 23:30**)! Give me another one!

The dog eats his own vomit, for his nature demands it (**Proverbs 26:11**).

The sow returns to her wallowing in the mud, for her nature demands it as well (**2Peter 2:22**).

But the drunkard has no such instinct for self-destruction other than the deceitfulness of sin and the addicting properties of alcohol. "*Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise!*" Stay away!

Our Proverb describes the bodily troubles often experienced by drunkards.

Drunkards engage in brawls for no reason at all; they provoke fights they would otherwise avoid.

Drunkards fall down steps and off chairs; they have auto accidents.

But drunkards feel little, for they are senseless to physical, mental, and spiritual perception.

Drunkards are lost in their drunkenness!

And though the consequences of drunkenness are horrible, the drunkard continues to drink himself drunk.

The drunkard can no longer deliver himself, though he has a lie in his right hand.

The drunkard builds a horrible habit, gives place to the devil, and becomes a slave to alcohol.

Is the drunkard more stupid than other sinners? Hardly!

All sins have short pleasure, great and long lasting pain, and eternal judgment. Why do men love and continue in any sin? Is there hope for the drunkard? Certainly!

All sinners may have great hope in the Lord Jesus Christ. Paul wrote, "*O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord*" (**Romans 7:24-25**).