

THE BOOK OF PROVERBS: INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK

Before beginning your study of the various topics which are covered in the book of Proverbs, consider the following facts about the book:

A. Introduction to Common Proverbs:

1. There are many common proverbs, such as "A stitch in time saves nine." Give another common proverb that you have heard:

2. What is a proverb? Look up this word in a dictionary and write its meaning:

3. What kind of person would be able to make up proverbs? (*THINK!*)

B. The Writers of the Book of Proverbs:

1. Who wrote most of the book of Proverbs? Proverbs 1:1, 10:1

2. How did he get the wisdom required to be able to write such a book?

1 Kings 3:5-13, 4:29-31

3. How many proverbs did Solomon make up? 1 Kings 4:32a

4. What are some of the subjects written about in Solomon's songs and proverbs? 1 Kings 4:33

5. Who came to hear Solomon's wise teachings? 1 Kings 4:34

6. What else did Solomon do besides *write* proverbs? Ecclesiastes 12-9b, 10

7. By whom were some of Solomon's proverbs arranged and preserved? Proverbs 25:1

8. What are the names of two others who wrote small parts of the book of Proverbs?

Proverbs 30:1, 31:1

9. From commentaries, Bible dictionaries, etc., discover all you can about the latter of these:

C. The Contents of the Book of Proverbs:

1. The book of Proverbs is classified as *Didactic Poetry*, poetry which is intended to teach. It has been called "Laws from Heaven for Life on Earth."

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2. Notice the following contrasts between Psalms and Proverbs:
 - a. Psalms is very devotional; Proverbs is very practical.
 - b. Psalms stresses man's relationship to God; Proverbs stresses man's relationship to his fellow man.
 - c. Psalms is called "The Hymnbook of the Bible;" Proverbs is called the "Emily Post Book of the Bible".
 - d. Psalms lays the foundation; Proverbs builds on it. Only as a man is rightly related to God, can he be rightly related to his fellow man.

D. The Value of Studying Proverbs: Proverbs 1:2-5

1. What are three general benefits of studying Proverbs? Proverbs 1:2, 3

2. What specific benefits may the following receive from studying Proverbs?
 - a. The simple: Proverbs 1:4a _____
 - b. The young man: Proverbs 1:4b _____
 - c. The wise man: Proverbs 1:5a _____
 - d. The man of understanding: Proverbs 1:5b _____
3. Is there anyone who would *not* benefit from studying Proverbs? (*THINK!*)

4. In the study of the book of Proverbs, what must one seek to understand, in addition to the proverb itself? Proverbs 1:6a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Although Solomon was wise enough to write out these proverbs, did he really get the greatest possible benefit from them? Why?

2. If I would get the greatest possible benefit from my studies in Proverbs, what must I do besides learning what each Proverb says? (See *John 13:17*)

Since many of the proverbs are complete in themselves, and since many of them have no relationship to the verses which come before and after them, someone has called them "Unstrung Pearls." Mr. Martin A. Hopkins, long-time missionary to China, made a special study of the Proverbs, and rearranged them topically, according to their relation to the various phases of man's life. (This study, called : "The God-Centered Life," available from Bible in the Schools Press, 5618½ N. Main St., Columbia, SC 29203, at \$1.75 per copy, is highly recommended for your private study.) In order to get the most from our studies in Proverbs in the time allowed, we will follow his topics rather than the chapter divisions in our Bibles. The first of these topics is:

GOD IN THE INDIVIDUAL LIFE OF MAN--PUTTING GOD FIRST

Mr. Hopkins lists ten qualities a person will have if he puts God first in his life. We rearrange these qualities for ease and continuity in classroom discussion:

A. Reverential Fear of God:

1. Why is it important to have a fear of God? Proverbs 1:7a, 9:10a, 15:33a

2. What does a fear of the Lord cause a person to do? Proverbs 8:13a, 16:6b, 3:7b

3. What are some of the things which are promised to one who has a fear of the Lord? Proverbs 14:26a, 10:27a, 19:23a, 19:23b, 19:23c, 22:4 (3 items)

B. Practice of God's Presence:

1. What parts of man does God know about? Proverbs 5:21, 16:2b, 15:11b

C. Whole-Hearted Trust in God:

1. What things are promised to those who trust in the Lord? Proverbs 16:20b, 29:25, 3:5, 6

2. What else might one put his trust in? Proverbs 3:5b, 28:26a

D. Submission to God's Sovereign Will:

1. What happens many times to the plans we make? Proverbs 16:9, 19:21

E. Agreement with God's Loves and Hates:

1. What are some of the things God loves? Proverbs 15:9b: Him that follows after _____, 11:20b: Such as are _____ in their way; 12:22b _____.
2. What are some of the things God hates? Proverbs 8:13b, 6:16-19

F. Obedience to God's Word:

1. At what times can God's Word help a person? Proverbs 6:22

2. What happens to one who does not keep God's Word? Proverbs 13:13

G. Confession of Sin to God--Keeping Right with God:

1. What does one do if he does *not* confess his sin? Proverbs 28:13
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H. Acceptance of God's Chastisements (or Punishments):

1. What does God's chastening prove? Proverbs 3:11, 12
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I. Effectual Prayer to God:

1. What will God do about the prayer of the righteous? Proverbs 15:29b, 15:8b, 10:24b
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J. Offering of One's Substance to God:

1. What will God do for the one who gives to Him? Proverbs 19:17, 10:22, 3:9, 10
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QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. How many of these ten qualities do I have? Is God really *first* in my life?
 2. What would God have me to do about any of these qualities I do not have?
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GOD IN THE FAMILY LIFE OF MAN--MAKING THE HOME

Every person is interested in building a happy home of his own. Proverbs has a great deal to say about the requirements for establishing a happy home. Read the following to see what these requirements are:

A. Various Types of Woman in the Home:

1. What kind of woman could establish a good home?
 - a. Proverbs 12:4a _____
 - b. Proverbs 11:16a _____
 - c. Proverbs 14:1a _____
2. What kind of woman might be very attractive and yet not be a good homemaker?
 - a. Proverbs 31:30a _____
 - b. Proverbs 11:22 _____
3. What kind of woman would definitely be a hindrance in establishing a home?
 - a. Proverbs 27:15 _____
 - b. Proverbs 21:19b _____
 - c. Proverbs 21:9 _____
 - d. Proverbs 14:1b _____
 - e. Proverbs 12:4b _____

B. Description of the Good Homemaker: Read carefully Proverbs 31:10-31, and then answer the following:

1. How does the good homemaker spend her days? Proverbs 31:13b, 27b

2. What are her hours of work? Proverbs 31:15a, 18b

3. In one word each, name five of her main tasks: Proverbs 31:13, 19, 22; 14, 15; 16; 24; 16b.

4. What does she have that makes such work possible? Proverbs 31:17, 25a

5. How does she feel about the future? Why? Proverbs 31:21

6. How does she treat the following?
 - a. Her husband: Proverbs 31:12 _____
 - b. Her household: Proverbs 31:27a, 15 _____
 - c. Those less fortunate than she is: Proverbs 31:20 _____
7. What do the following think of her as a result?

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- a. Her husband: Proverbs 31:11a, 28b _____
 - b. Her children: Proverbs 31:28a _____
 - c. The community: Proverbs 31:31, 23 _____
8. What is the one great secret of her success as a homemaker? Proverbs 31:30b

C. The Husband's Part in Making a Happy Home:

1. What must a young man realize before he will want to establish his own home? Proverbs 18:22

2. How should a young man go about finding a wife? Proverbs 19:14

3. What is the young man's responsibility toward the woman he chooses as his wife? Proverbs 5:15-20

4. What will help him to carry out this responsibility? Proverbs 5:21

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I right now the kind of person who would make a good wife or husband?

2. Am I putting God first in my plans for establishing a home? (See Matthew 6:33)

GOD IN THE FAMILY LIFE OF MAN

MAINTAINING THE HOME

Once the home is happily begun, each member of the family has a responsibility to see that it continues in that way. Read the following to see what some of these responsibilities are:

A. The Responsibility of the Children to the Parents:

1. What is the chief responsibility of children to their parents? Proverbs 1:8

2. What are some of the things promised to those who fulfill this responsibility?

a. Proverbs 3:1, 2, 4:10, 20-22 _____

b. Proverbs 3:4 _____

c. Proverbs 4:12a _____

d. Proverbs 4:12b _____

B. The Responsibility of the Parents to the Children:

1. What is the chief responsibility of parents to their children? Proverbs 22:6

2. Why is this necessary? Proverbs 22:15a

3. Why do some parents fail to carry out this responsibility? Proverbs 19:18, 23:13

4. What are some of the values of parental discipline?

a. Proverbs 20:30 _____

b. Proverbs 22:15 _____

c. Proverbs 29:15a _____

d. Proverbs 23:14 _____

5. What does it prove if children are:

a. chastened? Proverbs 13:24b _____

b. not chastened? Proverbs 13:24a _____

C. The Responsibility of the Parents Toward Their Household:

1. What will the wise parents do for their family? Proverbs 24:3, 4, 27b

2. What may happen if the parents do not provide a suitable dwelling for their family?
(*THINK!*)

D. The Responsibility of All Toward Each Other:

1. How should the members of the family treat each other and any animals they may have?
Proverbs 11:17, 12:10

2. What different members may be found in various households? Proverbs 17:6, 16:1,
20:29

3. How do you think old people in the family should be treated? Proverbs 16:31, 20:29,
17:6

4. Many times, the various members of the family are told to be *diligent* in their work.
Look up this word in a dictionary and write its meaning:

5. What are some of the things one will have if he is diligent?

a. Proverbs 27:23, 26 _____

b. Proverbs 27:27 _____

c. Proverbs 21:5a _____

d. Proverbs 12:24a _____

6. What is the opposite of diligence? Proverbs 12:24b, 27a

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I right now fulfilling *my* responsibility in maintaining my home?

2. Am I really putting God first in *my* home life at the present time?

GOD LEFT OUT OF THE FAMILY LIFE--WRECKING THE HOME

All too often a home which begins happily does not continue so. The book of Proverbs mentions four things which may rob the home of its happiness, and even break up the home itself. Read the following to learn about these four things:

A. Disobedient Children:

1. What are some of the things children may do to rob the home of happiness?
 - a. Proverbs 15:5, 20 _____
 - b. Proverbs 30:17a, 20:20a, 28:24a _____
 - c. Proverbs 19:26a _____
 - d. Proverbs 28:7b _____
 - e. Proverbs 29:3b _____
2. What will be the result to the parents of such children?
 - a. Proverbs 10:1b _____
 - b. Proverbs 17:21 _____
 - c. Proverbs 17:25 _____
 - d. Proverbs 19:13a _____
 - e. Proverbs 19:26 _____
 - f. Proverbs 29:3b _____
3. What will be the result to such children themselves? Proverbs 30:17, 20:20

B. Slothfulness:

1. Look up the meaning of the word "*slothful*" in a dictionary.

2. What is the name given to a person who is slothful? Proverbs 6:6, 10:26, 26:16

3. What are some of the characteristics of the slothful person?
 - a. Proverbs 6:10, 24:33, 19:15a, 10:5b, 26:14 _____
 - b. Proverbs 19:24, 26:15 _____
 - c. Proverbs 10:4, 21:25 _____
 - d. Proverbs 12:27a _____
 - e. Proverbs 20:4a _____
4. What are some of the results of being slothful?
 - a. Proverbs 10:4, 20:13, 24:34, 6:11 _____
 - b. Proverbs 20:4, 13:4a, 19:15b _____
 - c. Proverbs 10:5b _____
 - d. Proverbs 12:24b _____
5. From what could the slothful person take a lesson? Proverbs 6:6

C. Strong Drink:

1. What kind of person will fall into this evil habit? Proverbs 20:1

2. What are some of the results of this sin?

a. Proverbs 23:21, 21:17 _____

b. Proverbs 23:29, 30 _____

c. Proverbs 23:31-33 _____

D. Lust and Sensuality:

1. What kind of person will fall into sin?

a. Proverbs 7:7, 9:16, 6:32a _____

b. Proverbs 9:13, 7:11 _____

2. What are some of the results of this sin?

a. Proverbs 6:26a _____

b. Proverbs 5:11 _____

c. Proverbs 6:32b, 33, 7:26, 27 _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I guilty of anything which could rob my home of happiness or break it up?

2. If so, what can I do about it? (See Proverbs 28:13)

GOD IN THE INTELLECTUAL LIFE OF MAN--WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE

There are many passages in Proverbs on wisdom and knowledge. Study these to find out what God has to say about the intellectual life of man:

A. Wisdom's Call: Read Proverbs 1:20-23, 8:1-21

1. As what is wisdom pictured in these passages? (*THINK!*)

2. To what three groups does she especially call? Proverbs 1:22 (See also 8:4, 5, 9:4)

3. What does she ask them to do? Proverbs 1:23a

4. What does she promise to do for them if they will do this? Proverbs 1:23b

5. What four kinds of things does wisdom speak? Proverbs 8:6-8

6. Her instruction is better than what four things? Proverbs 8:10, 11
(See also 8:19, 16:16)

7. What are some of the things that are accomplished by wisdom? Proverbs 8:15, 16

B. Wisdom's Challenge: Read Proverbs 4:5-7, 2:1-11

1. What does wisdom challenge people to do? Proverbs 8:17, 21

2. Why is it important to seek after wisdom? Proverbs 4:5-7

3. What are two great results of seeking after wisdom?
 - a. Proverbs 2:1-5 _____
 - b. Proverbs 2:9 _____
4. From Whom does all wisdom come? Proverbs 2:6

C. Wisdom's Rewards:

1. To whom is wisdom's reward promised? Proverbs 24:13, 14, 8:17

2. What are some of the things promised to such people?
 - a. Proverbs 3:13, 18 _____
 - b. Proverbs 3:16 _____
 - c. Proverbs 3:17 _____
 - d. Proverbs 3:21, 22 _____

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- e. Proverbs 3:23 _____
- f. Proverbs 3:24 _____
- g. Proverbs 4:8, 9 _____
- h. Proverbs 19:8b _____

D. Wisdom' Warnings: Read Proverbs 1:24-32

- 1. To what people does Wisdom give a warning? Proverbs 1:24, 25, 29, 30

- 2. What does she say will happen to them? Proverbs 1:26, 27

- 3. What will Wisdom do when they call on her after this? Proverbs 1:26, 28

- 4. What will be the end of such people? Proverbs 1:31, 32

E. Wisdom's Testimony: Read Proverbs 8:22-36

- 1. Notice the unusual things that Wisdom says of herself in Proverbs 8:22-31.
- 2. Could these things be said of any human being? (*THINK!*)
- 3. Who else besides Wisdom could have spoken the invitation of Proverbs 8:32-36?

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT?

- 1. Who is the Wisdom described in Proverbs? (See John 1:1-3, 14)

- 2. Have I sought the One who is True Wisdom? Have I found Him, and am I enjoying His rewards? Proverbs 8:34

GOD IN THE SOCIAL LIFE OF MAN--TREATMENT OF OTHERS

There are many groups of people with whom a person comes in contact each day. Study the following to see how one should treat people in each of these groups:

A. Treatment of Friends:

1. What is a good rule to remember in forming friendships? Proverbs 18:24a

2. What kind of people should one choose for his friends? Proverbs 2:11, 20, 20:6, 13:20a

3. What kind of people should one avoid as his friends? Proverbs 13:20, 22:24, 25, 19:22

4. What are some of the things that good friends will do for one another? Proverbs 27:9, 17, 19, 20:5, 27:5, 6

5. What are two great characteristics of a true friend? Proverbs 17:17, 18:24b, & 27:10

6. What are two kinds of false friends? Proverbs 14:20, 19:4, 6, 7, 25:19

B. Treatment of Enemies:

1. What are two wrong ways to treat one's enemies? Proverbs 20:22, 24:29, 24:17, 18, 17:5b

2. What is the correct way to treat one's enemies? Proverbs 25:21, 22

3. What does God want to do to all of one's enemies? Proverbs 16:7

C. Treatment of Neighbors:

1. How should one treat his neighbors? Proverbs 3:27, 29, 25:9, 10

2. How do people sometimes mistreat their neighbors? Proverbs 14:21a, 11:12a, 11:9a, 29:5, 26:18, 19, 25:18, 16:29

3. What is a good rule to remember concerning one's neighbors? Proverbs 25:17

D. Treatment of the Poor:

1. How should one treat the poor? Proverbs 14:21b, 19:17a, 29:7a, 22:9

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2. What is one really doing when he helps the poor? Proverbs 19:17

3. What are some of the results for helping the poor? Proverbs 14:21b, 22:9a, 28:27a, 19:17b

4. How do people sometimes treat the poor? Proverbs 17:5a, 14:31a, 28:3, 22:16a, 22:22, 23, 21:13a, 28:27b

5. What is one really doing when he mistreats the poor? Proverbs 14:31a, 17:5a, 22:2

6. What will happen to such people? Proverbs 28:27b, 21:13, 22:16, 22:22, 23

E. Things to Avoid in the Treatment of Others:

1. What are two things to avoid in one's relationships with others? Proverbs 20:3a, 17:14, 3:30, 22:10, 15:18

2. What kind of people cause these things? Proverbs 20:3b, 16:27, 28, 26:20, 21, 17:19, 29:22, 28:25, 22:10

3. What are two other things one should avoid? Proverbs 10:12, 15:17, 11:13, 20:19, 18:8, 26:22, 19:9

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Who is our example in how to treat others? Matthew 5:43-48; 1 Peter 2:21-23

2. How may I receive power to treat others rightly? John 1:12; Matthew 5:45a

GOD IN THE INNER LIFE OF MAN—

THE HEART AND ITS ISSUES

The book of Proverbs has much to say about the heart of man, and the things which come out of it. Read the following to discover some of these things:

A. The Heart As the Center of Man's Life:

1. What is God's basic command to man concerning his heart? Proverbs 4:23

2. What does the Lord do to the heart of man? Proverbs 17:3b

3. What does the Lord use in doing this? Proverbs 20:27

B. The Issues of the Heart in Thoughts and Actions:

1. What do a man's thoughts reveal about him? Proverbs 23:7a

2. What is found within the righteous man? Proverbs 12:5, 14:33

3. What does this cause him to do? Proverbs 10:8

4. What is found in the heart of the wicked man? Proverbs 12:20, 6:14a

5. What does this cause him to do? Proverbs 6:14b, 18

C. The Issues of the Heart in Words:

1. What determines what a man says? Proverbs 16:23, 15:7

2. Who will be able to speak as he should? Proverbs 16:23, 21, 22:11, 15:2, 10:31, 32

3. What will be the results of wise words? Proverbs 15:4a, 10:11a, 12:18b, 14:3b, 12:14, 10:21a

4. To what are such words compared? Proverbs 25:11, 20:15b, 16:24a

5. Who will not speak as he should? Proverbs 15:7b, 14b, 24:1, 2, 10:11b, 32b

6. What will be the results to such people? Proverbs 10:13b, 31b, 13:3b

7. Is it possible to speak too many words? Proverbs 10:19, 17:28

8. What four rules should one follow in giving answers? Proverbs 18:13, 15:28a, 1, 23b

9. What kind of words does God especially speak against? Proverbs 29:5, 28:25, 26:28, 20:17, 10:18

10. From what kind of words should one refrain? Proverbs 27:2, 25:27

D. The Issues of the Heart in Attitude and Feelings:

1. What can a man's heart help him to do? Proverbs 16:32, 15:18, 14:29, 19:11, 17:27

2. What does a man's heart sometimes cause him to believe? Proverbs 14:12, 12:15, 16:2

3. What is the cure for this? Proverbs 3:5, 6 (see also 28:26)

4. What qualities does God want man to cultivate in his heart? Proverbs 18:12b, 16:19, 3:34b, 22:4

5. What will the opposite of this cause? Proverbs 16:8, 18:12, 29:23, 11:2, 21:4, 24

E. The Effect of the Heart on Health and Happiness:

1. What will be the effect of a merry (or glad and cheerful) heart? Proverbs 15:13, 15, 17:22

2. What will be the effect of a sorrowful, heavy, heart, and a broken spirit? Proverbs 15:13b, 12:25a, 17:22b

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there anything I think, do, say believe, or feel which does not begin in my heart? Review Proverbs 4:23. (See Proverbs 23:7a)

2. Are my heart and all that comes from it pleasing to God? Why, or why not?

GOD IN THE ETHICAL LIFE OF MAN – RIGHTEOUSNESS AND WICKEDNESS: WISDOM AND FOLLY

The dictionary defines “ethics” as the science of ideal human character. As you do this page, check to see how you measure up to God’s standard of the ideal.

A. The Path of the Righteous:

1. To what is the path of the righteous (or just) compared? Proverbs 4:18, 15:19, 16:17

2. What will one’s righteousness (or uprightness or integrity) do for him? Proverbs 11:3a, 5a, 6a, 13:6a

3. What are some of the characteristics of the righteous? Proverbs 10:9a, 11:23, 21:15, 28:1, 12:12b, 21:8b, 24:16a

4. What things are promised to the righteous? Proverbs 11:18b, 13:21b, 28:10b, 2:21, 13:25, 10:3a, 12:28, 21a, 21:21, 3:32, 12:2a 10:6a, 3:33b, 13:9, 10:28, 14:22, 14:32, 20:7b

B. The Way of the Wicked:

1. To what is the way of the wicked compared? Proverbs 4:19

2. How do the wicked feel toward the righteous? Proverbs 29:27b, 10a

3. What are some of the characteristics of the wicked? Proverbs 4:19b, 17:4, 28:1, 12:12a, 28:14b, 21:29a, 21:7b

4. What will the evil deeds of the wicked do for them? Proverbs 13:6b, 11:3b, 21:7a

5. What will happen to the wicked? Proverbs 11:23b, 21:15b, 13:5b, 11:19b, 12:7a, 14:11, 2:22, 24:16b, 28:18b, 11:5b, 6, 7, 10:28b, 13:25b, 28:17, 5:23, 13:9b, 24:20, 12:2b, 10:3b, 3:33a

6. What two things concerning the wicked should one avoid?
 - a. Proverbs 24:1, 2, 19, 20, 23:17, 18, 3:31, 32 _____
 - b. Proverbs 1:10-19, 2:11-15, 4:14-17, 29:24, 22:5 _____

C. The Wise and the Foolish:

1. What are the outstanding characteristics of a fool? Proverbs 19:3, 1:7, 22, 24:7, 17:16, 23:9, 17:12, 29:9

2. Will it help a fool to punish him? Proverbs 27:22, 26:11, 3, 10:13, 19:29

3. How do fools feel about sin and wickedness? Proverbs 10:23, 13:19, 14:9, 27:3

4. What comes forth from the mouth of a fool? Proverbs 14:7, 15:2, 18:6, 7, 26:7, 9, 19:1

5. What will happen if one tries to use a fool for work? Proverbs 26:10, 6, 25:13

6. How does the wise man differ from the fool? Proverbs 10:14, 17:24, 11:29, 12:16, 23, 29:11

7. List the consequences of wisdom: Proverbs 3:35a, 14:24a, 16:22a, 14:18b

8. List the consequences of folly: Proverbs 3:35b, 26:1, 8, 19:29, 26:3, 10:13

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do I qualify according to God's standards as a righteous and wise person?

2. Where may I obtain God's righteousness and wisdom? (See 1 Corinthians 1:30)

GOD IN THE BUSINESS LIFE OF MAN--AS THE INVISIBLE SENIOR PARTNER

Since God is interested in every part of man's life, He has rules for man's business life as well as for other parts. Study the following to learn these rules:

A. The Primary Aim of One's Business:

1. What should be one's primary aim in carrying on his business? Proverbs 22:1, 10:7

2. What too often *is* the aim of business people? Proverbs 23:4, 5

3. What will be the result of the first aim? Proverbs 13:11b, 28:20a, 13:22a

4. What will be the result of the second? Proverbs 28:20b, 22b, 20:21, 13:11, 10:2a, 15:27a

B. The Proper Way to Work at One's Business:

1. How should one go about his business, whatever it may be? Proverbs 22:29, 12:24, 10:4b

2. What will be the result of this? Proverbs 12:14b, 27b, 21:5

C. Things to Avoid in One's Business:

1. What is sometimes used by some people in their businesses? Proverbs 11:1a

2. What does God think of this? Proverbs 11:1b, 20:10, 20:23, 16:11

3. What do some people sometimes do to get a better bargain? Proverbs 20:14

4. What does God call such tricks? Proverbs 12:22

5. What do people sometimes use to get their way in business? Proverbs 17:23, 8, 18:16, 19:6, 21:14, 25:14

6. If a gift is used "to pervert the ways of judgment" (Proverbs 17:23), what would we today call it? (*THINK!*)

7. How should one feel towards such gifts? Proverbs 15:27

8. What else does God warn against? Proverbs 17:18, 11:15, 6:1-5, 22:26, 27, 20:16, 27:13

9. What would be a particular temptation to those who own property or those who are in real estate business? Proverbs 22:28, 23:10, 11

10. What very common practice does God speak clearly against? Proverbs 14:5, 25, 12:17, 24:28, 25:18, 19:28

11. What will happen to people who do not heed God's warnings in this regard? Proverbs 19:5, 9, 21:28, 6

D. The "Golden Rule" of Business:

1. What are two good rules to remember in all our business dealings? Proverbs 15:16, 16:8

2. What is the greatest riches one could ever gain? Proverbs 10:22

E. How to Use the Profits of Business:

1. What are the two extremes as to the amount of money one may have? Proverbs 30:8, 9

2. What do the rich sometimes do? Proverbs 11:28a, 18:11

3. What is much better than riches? Proverbs 28:11, 6, 11:4

4. What do some people do with their money? Proverbs 11:24b

5. What does God want people to do with their money? Proverbs 11:24a, 21:26b, 11:25, 22:9

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is God the senior partner in all *my* business dealings?

2. Am I willing to follow God's rules for business, even if it means I may not get as much money as I might otherwise have? Proverbs 10:22, 22:1

GOD IN THE NATIONAL LIFE OF MAN--KINGS AND RULERS

God is vitally interested in the national life of man. Study the following to see what advice He gives concerning this area of man's life:

A. The Personal Life of Rulers:

1. What four things should rulers avoid in their personal lives? Proverbs 17:7, 28:16b, 31:1-3, 4, 5

2. What could the last of these cause a ruler to do? Proverbs 31:4, 5

B. The Public Life of Rulers:

1. What should a king try to avoid completely in his rule of the people? Proverbs 20:8, 16:12a

2. What will establish the rule of a king? Proverbs 16:12, 25:4-5, 29:4a, 14, 31:8, 9, 20:28

3. What will a wise king do? Proverbs 20:26

4. What is one of the chief needs of all rulers? Proverbs 11:14, 15:22, 24:5, 6, 20:18, 29:8, 28:2, 21:22

5. Without this, what will a king's people do? Proverbs 29:18, 11:14a

C. The Two Kinds of Rulers:

1. What are the two kinds of people who may rule a nation? Proverbs 29:2

2. What will righteous leaders bring to their nation?

- a. Proverbs 29:2a, 11:10a _____

- b. Proverbs 14:34a, 11:11a _____

- c. Proverbs 28:12a _____

- d. Proverbs 24:25 _____

- e. Proverbs 28:2 _____

3. What will wicked leaders bring to their nation?

- a. Proverbs 29:2b, 28:28, 12 _____

- b. Proverbs 29:19 _____

- c. Proverbs 14:34b _____

- d. Proverbs 28:15, 16 _____

- e. Proverbs 11:11 _____

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4. What are some of the things wicked leaders will do?
- a. Proverbs 29:12 _____
 - b. Proverbs 17:15, 26, 18:5b _____
 - c. Proverbs 18:5a, 24:23, 28:21 _____
5. How will people feel about such a leader? Proverbs 24:24

D. Proper Behavior Before Rulers:

1. What two rules should one remember when he appears before rulers?
Proverbs 25:6, 7, 23:1-3

2. What kind of people will please a ruler? Proverbs 25:15, 16:13a, 14:35a
13:17, 25:13

3. What should one try to avoid? Proverbs 20:2, 14:35b, 19:12, 16:14, 15

E. The Ruler of All Rulers:

1. Who controls all rulers? Proverbs 21:1, 24:21a, 8:15-16

2. How can a leader rule his people as he should? Proverbs 28:5, 29:26

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Do I behave toward my city, county, state and national leaders as I should?

2. How can I help my people to have better leaders? (1Timothy 2:1, 2)

GOD IN THE SPIRITUAL LIFE OF MAN--THE SOUL-WINNER

Although very few verses in Proverbs actually mention winning souls, there are many which can be applied to this phase of man's life. Notice these in this study.

A. The Soul-Winner as God's Ambassador:

1. Whose messages does an ambassador carry? (*THINK!*)

2. How does God's ambassador know what to say? Proverbs 1:23

3. Whose words does he speak? Proverbs 1:23c

4. What will happen to a wicked messenger or ambassador? Proverbs 13:17a

5. What kind of ambassadors does God want? Proverbs 13:17b

6. What will this kind of messenger do to his Master? Proverbs 25:13

B. The Soul-Winner's Solemn Obligation:

1. What people will become soul-winners? Proverbs 11:30

2. What is the condition of the people to whom God's ambassador is sent? Proverbs 24:11

3. What should God's ambassador do to such people? Proverbs 24:11

4. What do some messengers say when faced with this responsibility? Proverbs 24:12a

5. Who knows whether this is really true? Proverbs 24:12b

6. What determines the rewards that God's soul-winners will receive? Proverbs 24:12c

C. The Soul-Winner As a Faithful Witness:

1. What will the faithful or true witness be able to do? Proverbs 14:25a

2. What will a deceitful witness do? Proverbs 14:25b, 5

D. The Soul-Winner As a Bearer of Good Tidings:

1. To what could the person to whom God's soul-winner is sent be compared? Proverbs 25:25a

2. To what could the good tidings which he brings be compared? Proverbs 25:25b

3. What effect do these good tidings have on those who hear them? Proverbs 15:30

E. The Soul-Winner's Faithful Warnings:

1. Against what specific things does the soul-winner warn others?
 - a. Proverbs 29:25a _____
 - b. Proverbs 10:17b _____
 - c. Proverbs 14:12, 16:25 _____
 - d. Proverbs 27:1 _____
2. What does the soul-winner ask these people to do?
 - a. Proverbs 10:17a _____
 - b. Proverbs 29:25b _____
 - c. Proverbs 15:24 _____
3. What does he warn will happen to them if they do not do this?
 - a. Proverbs 13:15b _____
 - b. Proverbs 29:1 _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Am I faithful in listening to God's Spirit, and witnessing every time He tells me to do so? (See Acts 1:8; Jeremiah 23:28)

2. What will be my reward when I stand before Him that weighs the heart? (See 1 Corinthians 3:13-15)

GOD IN THE LITTLE THINGS OF LIFE--WHERE MEN THINK HE IS NOT CONCERNED

In the book of Proverbs, a great many small things are mentioned, showing God's interest in even the small parts of man's life. Notice these things below:

A. Miscellaneous Warnings:

1. Against what four things does God warn through the writers of Proverbs?
 - a. Proverbs 27:7, 25:16 _____
 - b. Proverbs 18:1 _____
 - c. Proverbs 27:4 _____
 - d. Proverbs 20:25 _____(See Judges 11:30-40 for an example of one who needed this warning.)

B. Six Series of Four: Proverbs 30:11-31

1. What four generations (or kinds of people) displease God?
Proverbs 30:11-14
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
2. What small creature is often thought of as being insatiable (not capable of being satisfied)? Proverbs 30:15a

3. What four things are described as insatiable in Proverbs 30:15, 16?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
4. What four things were so wonderful that the writer of Proverbs 30:18, 19 could not understand them?
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
5. What four things are unbearable, disquieting the earth? Proverbs 30:21-23
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

6. List four things which are little, but wise; tell also what shows their wisdom: Proverbs 30:24-28
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____
7. What four things are pleasing to watch as they travel? Proverbs 30:29-31
- a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
 - d. _____

C. A Final Warning:

1. To what does God compare a man who wanders out of his place? Proverbs 27:8
- _____
2. What would you say is man's rightful place in relationship to God?
2 Peter 3:9b
- _____
3. What will happen to a man who wanders out of this place? Proverbs 21:16
- _____

QUESTIONS FOR ME TO THINK ABOUT:

1. Is there *any* part of my life about which God is not concerned? 1 Peter 5:7
- _____
2. Does God have His rightful place in *every* area of my life? Proverbs 3:5, 6
- _____