

# Pearls in Proverbs Lesson #4

Jim Hoffman

#### Your comments on Chapters 10 -12

#### What say you?

 Throughout the next 12 chapters two ways are contrasted; and no matter the label given, in the end it is the Lord's way or our own way.

 Prov 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. NKJV

— And who, do you suppose, knows more about how life works .... The Lord or us?

- Prov 10:2 Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death.
  - People search the world over and spend their lives looking for treasures that are ultimately of no value.
  - Let us never forget that we hold the keys to greatest store of treasure ever known to man.
  - Righteousness delivers from death and therein is our problem; we don't have any of our own.

- Proverbs 10:3 The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.
- Math 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
- The promise is not that the righteous will never go hungry for food, but that they will never want for righteousness; The Lord has a never ending supply.

- Prov 10:7 The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.
  - There are lasting effects to the way we live.
  - The godly leave a legacy of good memories and good examples.
  - The wicked leave a legacy of hurt and a regret to those who had to endure them.

- Prov 10:9 The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.
  - Do your business with integrity and you will not walk around up tight about being found out.
  - Those who practice deceit are always found out,
     eventually. Numbers 32:23 'your sin will find you out'
  - Nothing to hide = nothing to fear.

- The power of our words;
  - Prov 10: 11 The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.
- Since faith comes by hearing it is imperative that our mouths speak of the righteousness of Christ and in so doing bring life to those who hear us.
- The wicked, on the other hand, spend their words on things that do not last and distract men from the truth. Sometimes it's philosophy and sometimes it's heresy.
- See Galatians 1:6-7

- Prov 10:15 The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor.
  - The rich feel protected from things like cold, heat, lack of food, clothing, etc .... All the material things.
  - The poor, on the other hand, are prey for the elements of nature, and materials.

 Life works best when the rich are poor in spirit and the poor are rich in faith.

- Prov 10: 24 What the wicked dreads will overtake him; what the righteous desire will be granted.
  - The wicked man dreads justice and it will certainly overtake him. (payday someday)
  - The righteous desire the things of God and they will certainly be theirs. (Psalm 37:4)
- The beauty of the scriptures is that in the end all is made right. We need not fret over the seeming injustice of the prospering wicked.

- Prov 11:2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
   but with humility comes wisdom.
  - What could we possibly have to be proud of that was not given to us? (I Cor 4:7)
  - Humility brings wisdom because it allows us to see and accept our rightful place under God.
  - The (2) prayers in Luke 18:11-13

- Prov 11:3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
  - This verse has Joseph and his brothers written all over it.
  - Even today, what is your opinion of Joseph's brothers?
  - Joseph's integrity was his constant guide even when it appeared that he suffered for it.

- Prov 11:14 For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.
  - If we love our country we need to be the voice of righteousness. (the song 'God Bless America' reads stand beside her and guide her)
  - Many advisors are better than few. Do not be afraid to hear differing opinions if you have the understanding to sort out the issues.
  - See also Prov 15:22

- Prov 11:18 The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.
  - It does not promise an immediate reward, but a sure one.
  - Ps 126:5-6 Those who sow in tears Shall reap in joy. 6 He who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him. NKJV

- Prov 11:21 Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free.
  - Do we really believe that the wicked will be punished and the righteous will go free?
  - Do we believe it enough to warn the lost?
  - Do we believe it enough to expend ourselves in worship?
  - All require an eternal perspective.

- Prov 11:24 One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.
  - Picture a farmer sowing his seeds.
  - Gaining by losing?
  - Luke 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you." NKJV

- Prov 11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.
  - Remarkably, this is the only biblical reference to 'soul winner'.
  - It is connected with wisdom because by definition, wisdom is looking at life from God's point of view. God thought redeeming men was important enough to send his own son; what will we send?
  - See also James 4:18

- Prov 12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.
  - If you think you are above criticism; you are not worthy of it. Do not waste your breath on such folks.
  - The very idea that we would think ourselves above constructive criticism reveals only the pride that is in us.
  - We need to remember that God is at work in us to conform us to the image of His son. We should expect to be changing all of the time.

 Prov 12:10 A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

Kindness to all is an attractive mark for the believer.

The believer is to have respect for all life.

Whereas, the wicked man thinks only of himself.

 Prov 12:14- From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.

- Words are powerful tools in building relationships, business and personal.
- You can fake it for awhile, but eventually what is in your heart spills over your lips. (Luke 6:45)

- Prov 12:18 Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.
  - Sticks, stones, and words all hurt.
  - Just as words can be powerful tools in building relationships, so too they can be used to rebuild and mend. (humility required)
  - See James 3:10
  - We have the power to bless and build up, or to curse and tear down with our words.

 Prov 12:22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.

 God hates lying because we always lie to cheat, defraud, defame, or cover up a wrong.

 God delights in the truth because He is the Truth and because it is the truth that sets us free.

#### Contention

- The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.
- A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.
- They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.
- If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.
- Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

#### Contentment

- The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.
- The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.
- As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place.
- Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.
- The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give.
   There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough:

#### Questions / Comments