



Pearls in Proverbs

Lesson #6

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Proverbs 16:3

Commit your works to the LORD,
And your thoughts will be established.

- The Hebrew word translated 'commit' literally means 'to roll'.
 - Roll, or bring, all of your works to the Lord.
 - Seek His approval through His word.
 - Ask Him to bless your efforts.
 - Remember to see all that you do as a part of the big picture.

Proverbs 16:4

The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

- Rev 4:11
- There are no loose ends in God's world; everything will be put to some use matched to its appropriate fate.
- The application to us is that we too were each fearfully and wonderfully made in His image with a purpose in mind. (The Purpose Driven Life is re-make of an old story)
- The question of the ages is 'will we embrace His purpose for us or will we fight Him?'

Proverbs 16:7

When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

- The best way to peace in the horizontal is to have peace in the vertical.
 - Math 6:33 'Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.
 - You will never be in a better position to be close with other people than when you are close to God.

Proverbs 16:8

It is better to be poor and godly than rich and dishonest. (NLT)

- The philosophy of our culture:
 - Better to have things than faith.
 - If you don't get caught, it must be legal.
 - Our culture places little value on honesty.
- The truth tells us:
 - Better to have faith than things.
 - What we do in this life echoes in eternity.

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

- Cain thought he had a better way.
- Achan thought he knew better.
- Pharisees of Jesus' day thought that they were on track.
- Every cult known to man thinks they have a better path to God.
- Common error; all are rooted in the works of man as opposed to the work of God on our behalf.

Proverbs 16:32

He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
And he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

- James 1:19-20
- Both parts of the proverb point out that self control is a powerful force in the life of the one who possesses it.
- Clear, deliberate, unagitated thinking serves us better than brute strength. This is certainly key to the martial arts.

Proverbs 17:1

Better is a dry morsel with quietness,
Than a house full of feasting with strife.

- Two kinds of feasts:
 - One is the kind where you have some simple food and great fellowship with others of like faith.
 - The other is the kind where the food must impress and the drink must be plenty in order for the attendees to claim a good time.
 - One is driven by the eternal and the other by the temporal.

Proverbs 17:3

The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,

But the LORD tests the hearts.

- The fact the Lord tests our hearts makes Him our judge, but equally true is His role as the refiner.
 - His tests are never without a purpose.
 - God does not test us to fail us, He tests us to make us better.
 - Not all dross is inherently bad; Ezek 22:18

Proverbs 17:4

An evildoer gives heed to false lips;

A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue. .

- When people speak ill of another, gossip, or backbite; our response either helps or hurts the situation.
 - Ever try to damage someone with your words and had cold water thrown on your intentions simply because the hearer would not hear you?
 - Simply not cooperating with such talk is a powerful weapon against it.
 - Proverbs 26:20

Proverbs 17:9

He who covers a transgression seeks love,
But he who repeats a matter separates friends

- Peacemaker or troublemaker?
 - While there are some sins that should not be covered, there are many that should be. (see James 5:20 principle)
 - In most cases, God does not appoint us to be the ‘fault announcer’.
 - On the other hand, if you want to stir up trouble and be a tool of the enemy then, by all means, lend him your mouth. (a junior high mentality is evil in the church)

Proverbs 17:15

He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just,
Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.

- When we justify the wicked or condemn the just our actions are loathed by the Lord.
- Both are exactly counter to His intentions and both will be corrected in time to come.
- However, is not Calvary a picture of the very acts described?

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times,

And a brother is born for adversity.

- If you want to know who your real friends are, take a headcount when times are tough.
- Ever hear the term ‘fair weather friends’?
- Family is supposed to be there for you no matter what and is part of God’s designed support plan.

Proverbs 17:20

He who has a deceitful heart finds no good,
And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.

- There are some who assume that if they do not usually do good, then others do not either.
- These are the same that see a hidden selfish motive behind every act of kindness.
- The clinical term for this is I SEE MY FAULT IN YOU!

Proverbs 17:28

Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace;

When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

- This works no matter where it is tried. Peter used to speak of things he did not understand just because he felt he had to say something. (Math 9:5-6)
- People usually give us the benefit of the doubt that we know what we are doing unless we tell them otherwise.
- Better to be suspected as a fool than to open your mouth and remove all doubt.

Proverbs 18:1

A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire;

He rages against all wise judgment.

- There is a great temptation for Christians to want to withdraw from the world because of sin.
- However, such a move is really selfish one.
- Sure it would be easier for us to live apart from the world, but it would not be good for the world.
- There is a fine line between being separated and being isolated. (John 17:15-18)

Proverbs 18:9

He who is slothful in his work

Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

- It is a sin to destroy resources that God supplies to you or others. That is a waste.
- The person who fiddles around when he should be working is put into the same category because he is wasting the resources of time, talent, and energy.
- We have finite amounts of time, talent, and energy and we ought not to waste these gifts from God. Some might call this a sin of omission. (James 4:17)

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower;

The righteous run to it and are safe.

- The world thinks that the unseen is the unreal, but it is the natural man who needs a vivid imagination to feel safe.
- His 'name' (all that He is) gives us strong reasons to feel secure. (omniscience, omnipresence, omnipotence)
- The righteous understand that the Lord is not 'an' option for security, but 'the' option.

Proverbs 18:11

The rich man's wealth is his strong city,
And like a high wall in his own esteem.

- On the other hand, those who trust in their riches see their money as their security.
- Sadly, all that we can see and touch supports this Money can buy a measure of temporal security, and a greater measure of healthcare, etc ...
- They believe that their money is keeping them safe and secure, but all of this avoids the most serious threat to their well being that they face; sin.

Proverbs 18:13

He who answers a matter before he hears it,

It is folly and shame to him.

- The sin of a fast mouth ... Or maybe it's the sin of not listening.
- How would you like to be judged by someone who has not heard all of the facts?
- When we jump to conclusions we show our pride and arrogance. How dare we think we know things before we are told?
- Let us not avoid making judgments, but avoid making uninformed judgments.

Proverbs 18:14

The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness,

But who can bear a broken spirit?

- A positive and faithful attitude is a powerful weapon when fighting sickness.
- For the believer, it is even more effective because we have solid reasons to be positive and optimistic. (Even if the worst happens, we get promoted.)
- Broken spirits were not intended to be endured, they are intended to draw us to our burden bearer.

Proverbs 18:17

The first one to plead his cause seems right,
Until his neighbor comes and examines him.

- There are always (2) sides to every story.
- This is why we do not entertain gossip.
- Believing a one sided account is likely to make you look stupid.
- This is why our courts allow for both sides of a story to be presented.

Proverbs 18:21

Death and life are in the power of the tongue,

And those who love it will eat its fruit.

- Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God. (Rom 10:17) This, of course, is the ultimate argument for this truth.
- As a practical matter, what others say about us can have a huge impact on our lives.
- Let us weigh our words because they are very powerful and can have lasting consequences.

Drunkenness

- **20:1** Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.
- **23:20** Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:
- **23:29** Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?
- **23:30** They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.
- **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.
- **23:32** At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.
- **23:33** Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.
- **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
- **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

Ethics

- **11:1**A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.
- **16:11**A just weight and balance are the LORD's: all the weights of the bag are his work.
- **20:14**It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.**20:23**Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.
- **21:6**The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.
- **22:28**Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.
- **23:10**Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:
- **23:11**For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

Questions / Comments