

# Bible Lessons



**"Beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord,  
we are CHANGED . . . ." II Cor. 3:18**

***ADULTS -- YOUNG PEOPLE***

**Vol. 26, No. 2  
April, May, June  
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# Bible Lessons for Adults and Young People

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**Volume 26**

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**Publishing the Bible truths in the interest of  
Jesus Christ and His Church  
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## **THEME FOR SECOND QUARTER, 1994**

Our studies for this quarter will be from the book of Proverbs. Our first lesson will be on the Triumph of Christ's Resurrection in accord with it falling on Easter Sunday. For the remainder of the twelve lessons we will seek to cover the first 9 chapters of the Proverbs. Our special burden and theme in this series of lessons is the importance of the true wisdom, the fear of God. We will seek to cover the points that Solomon sought so earnestly to set forth in the book of Proverbs: man's dire need for wisdom and the fear of God, wisdom's call and appeal to man, man's need to apply himself to seek for wisdom, the profit and benefits of wisdom, the warnings against the evil allurements of the sinful world, and above all the safety and happiness of all who will faithfully seek to obey the voice of wisdom. It is our earnest prayer that these studies will help to make the message of the book of Proverbs more real and important in the eyes of all, especially our youth. In this world of shattered dreams and disappointments, caused by the forces of evil invading unsuspecting hearts and lives, may we set forth these wholesome warnings and instructions in a prayerful effort to save precious souls from the snares and traps that Satan has set for them in this world.

—Brother Leslie C. Busbee



**APRIL 3, 1994**

### **THE TRIUMPH OF CHRIST'S RESURRECTION**

**Acts 13:29** When they had fulfilled all that was written of him, they took him down from the tree, and laid him in a sepulchre.

**30** But God raised him from the dead:

**32** And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that the promise which was made unto the fathers,

**33** God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again; as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.

**34** And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead,

now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.

35 Wherefore he saith also in another psalm, Thou shalt not suffer thine Holy One to see corruption.

36 For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

37 But he, whom God raised again, saw no corruption.

I Corinthians 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the firstfruits of them that slept.

21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 Sowhen this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...Jesus Christ our Lord... was made of the seed of David according to the flesh; And declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead. Romans 1:3-4.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour,

overcame and conquered sin, death, and the grave for us when He rose from the dead by the power of His Father. By obeying and following Jesus we can live free and triumphant over sin in this present life and we will share in the glory of His eternal resurrection in the world to come.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 29), "*Tree*": The material from which the cross was made. "*Sepulchre*": The grave or the tomb where Christ's body was buried. (V. 34), "*Corruption*": The rotting and decay of a dead body. "*Sure mercies of David*": The holy blessings of faithful David. (V. 20), "*Firstfruit*": The beginning and first to offer the sacrifice; the offering of Jesus in death and being resurrected that makes possible our resurrection. (V. 23), "*order*": arrangement and position in series or succession. (V. 52), "*Twinkling of an eye*": An instant. "*Trumpet*": The loud summons to awaken those unconscious in slumber; used here to describe the power of the call of God to awaken the dead. (V. 53), "*Incorruption*": Undecaying in essence and continuance; unending existence. "*Immortality*": Deathlessness; the state of existence that will never be discontinued or interrupted by death; everlasting life and being. (V. 54), "*Swallowed up*": Devoured; destroyed; to be totally and completely put down, never to be heard from nor seen again. (V. 55), "*Victory*": Conquest; triumph; complete overthrow.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Today we are especially remembering the glorious resurrection of our Saviour from death and the grave. It is altogether fitting and proper that we should have a special day of remembrance for this. And yet every first day of the week can be a memorial of Christ's resurrection as we attend worship services with His children at a designated and consecrated place. We are drawing the scriptures for our lesson today from the apostle Paul's message to the people in the synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia and from his epistle to the Church in Corinth. Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul was able to express and write very clearly and reverently on this subject. It is very inspiring and interesting to note the scriptures that he refers

to. In speaking of Christ being raised, he quotes from Psalms 2:7, "I will declare the decree: the Lord hath said unto me, Thou art my Son; this day have I begotten thee." The whole second Psalm is a powerful and vivid prophecy of the triumph of Christ in His everlasting kingdom. Another prophecy he used concerning the resurrection of Christ is taken from Isaiah 55:3, "Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David." It was to David that God made a promise of a resurrection, a resurrection that was fulfilled in Christ and is eternally pledged to be the inheritance of all who follow the Saviour. Paul followed this up with a quotation from Psalms 16:10, (a Psalm that Peter also quoted in his message on the day of Pentecost concerning the resurrection of Christ, Acts 2:25-28), "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption." Jesus' soul was not left to remain in paradise and the realm of departed spirits, and His body was not allowed to remain in the grave and decay. He was brought back to life, praise the Lord, to live forevermore. And, knowing that there were some in the Corinthian church who denied the truth of the resurrection, Paul gave his wise and loving counsel, explaining and describing so beautifully the manner of the resurrection of God's children which will take place at the last day. He quotes from the prophecy in Isaiah 25:8 which says, "He will swallow up death in victory." He also quotes the Septuagint Greek rendering of Hosea 13:14 which says, "I will deliver them out of the power of Hades, and will redeem them from death: where is thy penalty, O death? O Hades, where is thy sting?" He tells us what the sting of death is and what the strength of that sting is, but declares that God has given us the victory over the whole thing through Jesus!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How did God fulfill the promise made unto the fathers?
2. Why is the resurrection so important to us?
3. How was Jesus raised from the dead?

4. How can we know that we will share in His glorious resurrection?
5. Who will be raised up in the resurrection with Christ?
6. Would we have had a chance to be in the resurrection if Christ had not died and risen again?
7. Is it going to be a hard problem for God to resurrect everybody?
8. Will a worldly and sinful person who has lived for the flesh and its lusts have a share in the resurrection of Christ?
9. How is sin the sting of death?
10. To whom will God give the final victory?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

The rulers and those who had condemned Christ to death had no confidence that their victim would rise again. They were certain that they had eliminated their enemy forever. Even His disciples did not believe that Christ would come back from the grave to be in their presence again. The idea of a resurrection from the dead was not feasible to them. They had hoped that by some supernatural power Jesus would free Himself from the clutches of those who were bent on His destruction. But when they saw Him expire on that cross, the last beam of hope faded from their minds. Even Christ's own prophecy foretelling of His resurrection had no bearing upon their minds. It was just beyond the scope of their vision. The women who came to the tomb on the first day of the week fully expected to find His body yet there. The same unbelief that enshrouded those people in that day is still upon people today. The scope of carnal minded people today do not grasp the certainty of the resurrection of the dead. It is not spoken of in the daily dialogue of the news and future insights of people. No certainty of a resurrection is expressed at the death of dignitaries and people known and recognized by the masses. In a general sense the hosts of mankind do not gauge their mortal days with a resurrection in view. But thank God for the living hope that those who know the Lord Jesus have! We are persuaded of our share in the resurrection of our Lord. We are not afraid to live in jeopardy of our lives. We are not afraid to

trust in God unto death. We do not cling to this life as if there is nothing else. We live in constant assurance of the blessed hope of rising to meet the Lord in the air when He comes. We know that Christ is risen from the dead, and that persuasion gives us courage and power to live victoriously every day over the powers of darkness and evil in this cold dark world around us. Because He lives; we live also. And we know that beyond the valley of the shadow of death that we must all pass through shines the hope of the resurrection. As Christ rose from the tomb in immortality, so we shall arise from our graves. If we are yet living when that great day comes, we will be changed in an instant and be clothed with immortal life and everlasting joy. Praise the Lord and glory be to Him for this blessed hope!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

In our lesson the apostle Paul termed the general resurrection as a mystery. Christ was the firstfruits of the resurrection and we know what a mystery it was. Man is still puzzling over it.

Several years ago there was much interest in what was called the Shroud of Turin. This is a death shroud that has been kept in the Vatican at Rome for many years, and purported to be the shroud that was wrapped around Christ at his death. The shroud was wrapped length wise around the body, and through some unknown method, a perfect imprint of a man was impregnated into the cloth. The figure in the cloth shows a man with more than 220 scourge marks, puncture wounds in the scalp, and evidence of a severe beating about the face. The man in the shroud had carried a heavy object, and had cuts and bruises on both knees, particularly the left knee. His bones were not broken and he was stabbed in the side. All of modern technology has been brought to bear upon the cloth in order to determine how the imprint was put into the cloth, and thereby determine its authenticity. It was determined that the image was not created with paint, dye or powder, or by direct contact, but by the combination of heat and light which dehydrated and thus discolored the ends of the fibers in the cloth. One scientist simply termed it a great



release of power. In this context, it is interesting to ponder the words of Paul when he said, "That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death." Phil. 3:10.

Christ's resurrection is not just a mystery, but an historical fact. The general resurrection of the saints is not only a mystery, but by faith it can be a fact dwelling in all the hearts of those who love God.

—Wayne Murphey



**APRIL 10, 1994**

### **MAN'S DIRE NEED FOR WISDOM, THE FEAR OF GOD**

Proverbs 1:1 The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;

2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;

3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.

10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.

11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:

12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:

13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:

14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:

15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.

17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.

19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

**MEMORY VERSE:** In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. Proverbs 14:26.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The number one, most important thing in life for a person to have, is the proper reverence, love, worship, and submissive attitude toward God Almighty, our Creator and heavenly Father. This fear of God is the true wisdom that we need, and it will help preserve us from the evil influences and ungodly attractions that surround us in the world.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 4), "*Subtility*": Cunning knowledge of how to live and conduct one's self to true profit and gain. "*Simple*": One who is foolish and easily seduced. We are all simple in our own knowledge and abilities. But God wants to teach and instruct us of His knowledge so that the evil influences of the world will not ensnare us. "*Discretion*": Wise planning and forethought. (V. 6), "*Proverb*": The root word in the Hebrew for this term means "to rule or have superiority in understanding." This is what the proverbs of Solomon are for. In observing and following their wise counsel we will prevail in life and reign with Christ. "*Dark sayings*": Puzzles or riddles; sayings that have hidden meanings, not easily discerned by the shallow and earthly minded. (V. 11), "*Lurk privily*": To hide, to lie in wait in darkness, watching for advantage to deceive and plunder. (V. 13), "*Precious substance*": Worldly and ill-gotten wealth. "*Spoil*":

Booty, that which is obtained by deceit and trickery and unholy means.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

In our lesson today we have clearly set forth the purpose of the wonderful book of Proverbs. It is to inform and make wise the heart of man with regard to preparing him to meet and overcome all the evil influences that will be met in this wicked world. He points us to wisdom which is clearly defined as the fear of God. To fear God is to respect and honour Him as God, recognizing His existence, power, authority, righteousness, and His love and concern for us mortals. The real fear of God in the heart will cause one to seek Him earnestly. It seems the very evident purpose and burden of Solomon in writing this book is to make a direct appeal to the young person who is about to go out and face life. Much instruction and forewarning is needed as we go forth in this world. There are dangers out there. There are pitfalls of destruction and damnation. One must be prepared and equipped with right understanding and keen insights to the right and good. Too many people are over confident of themselves. "I can make it alright" is the feeling many have. Oh, what a mistake so many make in refusing to take the warning and wise counsel of God in His Word! We have the explicit warning of the appeal and invitation that will be given to everyone from the wicked and evil generation that lies in wait out in the world. Much care and prayerful steps must be taken in the fear and love of our Maker if we are to succeed in life and escape the dangers and the snares that are lurking out there. Oh, we only have to look around us and see the wrecked lives and lost souls who are drowning in destruction and perdition because they heeded not the warning of wisdom and the fear of God! Oh, may we make this appeal to one and all! Take heed to the fear of God that is calling out for you! Happiness and success will be yours if you will heed the Word of God, but sorrow and disappointment and eternal ruin is your sure doom if you refuse and turn away from it.

—Leslie C. Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. What are some of the dangers that lurk out in the world?
2. Is it possible for a person to go through life and escape these dangers?
3. Where can one find counsel and guidance to escape these pitfalls?
4. What is the purpose in God's counsel being in proverbs and dark sayings?
5. Will the Word of God and its warnings do us any good if we fail to take heed to them?
6. Can you think of anyone who is a good example of a person who benefits from taking heed to wisdom and the fear of God?
7. Can you think of anyone who is an example of folly and the consequences of not taking heed to wisdom?
8. Is it a prevalent and popular thing in the world to be serious and responsive to the warnings of wisdom?
9. Is there a danger in being too self-confident?
10. How long lasting are the benefits of the fear of God?

## **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

You may not be aware of it at the present moment, but you are about to enter into one of the most serious and important series of studies that you have or ever can have brought to you in your life's journey. To know wisdom and proper understanding is so vitally important to success and blessings, but so few ever seem to realize the value thereof. While you are studying and taking part in this series of lessons, let your mind be very attentive and thoughtful. Look around you carefully, that is, survey the lives of people you know. Behold those who are really sincerely following the will of God in their lives. Yes, you may see sorrows and tribulations of various kinds. But look deeper and see if you can see real joy and special marks of worthy mention. There are books written about such people. We have them on record. Their godly lives are beautiful and fruitful. They left this world with a testimony of God's goodness to grace their memory. Then look at those who have

rejected the fear of God and have taken their own carnal selfish way. What a difference there is! Look at those who reject the holy and modest way of the saints in preference to the lusts and desires of the world. I can think of many of my age bracket who have not followed the Lord. Their lives, though some have worldly riches, are empty and void. Strewn along their pathway I see frustration, defeat, ungodly habits, divorce, double marriage, unfaithfulness, folly and disgrace. I see disease and decay of nature and the flesh. I see tragedy and sorrow without end. So often I say to myself, "Oh, how glad I am that I have chosen the way of the Lord and the fear of God! I am so glad that I was saved when I was young!" It was not easy to give up the world and my own desires and to take up my cross and go the strait and narrow way. But it is worth it! Many pitfalls I have avoided and many blessings received by staying with the holiness of the true saints of God. Someday, and it may not be very far off, the end of the journey of life will come. There will be a reward for the faithful and true. May we each one purpose to listen and take heed to the voice of wisdom that is calling so earnestly to us in life!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels." Prov. 1:5. The Christian's life is made up of seeking, searching, learning and applying. We must never be content with our spiritual life, but ever seeking to know better the will of God. We are exhorted to, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed." II Timothy 2:15. The apostle Paul was accused of being mad with much study. Those who have made the most of living for God have studied the Word of God and His dealings with others, and applied their hearts unto wisdom. With this in mind, we begin our study of Proverbs.

The point should be stressed that just reading Proverbs and studying them will not make us wise. It is one thing to know something and another to do it. It has been said that, "There is no fool so great as a knowing fool." Many times we can bear with someone through the realization of his ignorance,

but it is provoking indeed to bear with someone who knowingly acts foolish. This is what incensed God so much concerning the Israelites. In Isaiah, the first chapter, God told them that they had gone away backwards. When you walk away from something backwards, you see and know what you are leaving. The children of Israel forsook God knowing what He required and what He could do for them. We see many today who have been raised to know that it is wisdom to give their hearts to God, yet they are caught in the net that Satan has spread for them. God is just as displeased with these as He was with the children of Israel.

—Wayne Murphey



**APRIL 17, 1994**

### **THE CALL OF WISDOM, THE FEAR OF GOD**

Proverbs 1:20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,

22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:

30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Proverbs 10:21 The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.

Proverbs 11:2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Proverbs 17:24 Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.

Luke 11:49 Therefore also said the wisdom of God, I will send them prophets and apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute.

**MEMORY VERSE:** In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding. Proverbs 10:13.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The fear of God is making her appeal to people today. Wherever men are found wisdom is crying and making her call, seeking to turn them from the ways of folly and ignorance to the path of life. To heed her voice and turn at her reproof will bring salvation for the soul, but to set at nought her counsel will bring death and destruction.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 20), "*Wisdom crieth without*": The fear of God is sounding out her message to the souls of men abroad. There is no speech nor language where her voice is not heard. Her sound goes out to all lands and her words to the end of the world. Wherever man is found there are undeniable evidences of God and His graciousness and power. (V. 21), "*Chief place of concourse*": The loudest and most prominent hum and hub of human strife and activity. Wherever men gather and carry on commerce, war, or labor, the fear of God is speaking and sounding her warning. (V. 22), "*Simple ones*": Let us define this term again.

It refers to the one who is foolish and easily seduced. We are all this way as we come to years. The fear of God as the true wisdom pleads with us to beware of the dangers that are lurking out there, and to give ear to her counsel. *"Love simplicity"*: Have affection or like for their vulnerable and treacherous state. There is an inclination in man to shy away from counsel and responsibility, to shrug off the fear of the threat of danger. *"Scorner"*: One who treats with extreme contempt, derision and ridicule; opposite of taking a matter seriously. *"Delight in scorning"*: There are many scornors today who refuse to assume the proper attitude of carefulness and sincerity before God. They love their ease and the quiet (and yet false) security of scorning and making light of the seriousness of life. Wisdom is calling people away from such attitudes. (V. 27), *"Anguish"*: Strait, close and narrow places of adversity. (V. 32), *"Turning away of the simple"*: Instead of turning at the reproof of God there is the inclination and drawing to turn away from the truth. *"Prosperity of fools"*: The false security and ease of refusing to apply one's self to responsibility and the duty of obeying God. It appears easier to draw back from the challenge and hide in the pleasing of one's self. (V. 24); *"Wisdom is before him that hath understanding"*: The duties of wisdom are kept by a wise man always before his face in awareness and keen conviction. He knows what needs to be done and is not fearful of earnest and wholehearted endeavor to pursue a course of righteousness. *"The eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth"*: A fool shies away from the the responsibility God has put right before his face, and is reaching out after needless and unnecessary activities afar.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In our previous lesson we have been exhorted to seek for wisdom and understanding that we be not simple and easily seduced by the evil forces of this wicked world we live in. We are warned of the drawing appeal of ungodly influences that lurk everywhere, ready to take a person into their company and share with them the commodities of vanity. Today we take up the call of wisdom that is sounding out to one and all. Just



as the influences of the world are seeking to allure our hearts and minds, so the great influence of the fear of God is seeking to draw men and women, boys and girls into her worthy association. Let us keep in mind that the woman that is pictured here standing in the plaza of human activity is the fear of God, the true wisdom. It is the divine pressure upon the human mind to attract the soul to things higher, nobler and eternal. Wisdom is calling for you today. In your bosom and deep within your consciousness she sounds her warning. You have the power of choice. You can turn her off if you will. You can refuse to listen to her instruction. Or you can lean toward her and incline your heart to hear what she has to say. If you will incline your ear toward her and listen you will hear wonderful things. But if you shut her out, you will be getting on dangerous ground. Let us give heed to the voice of wisdom that is calling for all of us today. —Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What is wisdom likened unto in our lesson today?
2. Is there much chance of a person turning from his way as long as he is happy with what he is?
3. Why would the simple love their simplicity and the scorers delight in scorning rather than to give heed to the fear of God?
4. Why is it hard for people to be willing to take reproof?
5. Which is easier: to turn at the reproof of wisdom or remain as one is? Which is easier in the long run?
6. What is the warning of what will happen if we refuse to give heed to wisdom?
7. What kind of fruit is that which comes from taking our own way?
8. Can the voice of wisdom be heard anywhere?
9. Why is the way of the Lord rejected by so many?
10. What will hearkening unto wisdom keep us safe from?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Recently at the funeral of a young person who had tragically died in the bloom of youth I was present to show love

and sympathy for the sorrowing loved ones. A great host of young people were in attendance and the chapel was filled to capacity. The minister in charge brought a powerful message on the subject of "The fear of God." My soul trembled as the Word went forth with such power and persuasion. I was praying about it later and the Lord spoke to my heart like this: "If all of those young people would take heed to that message it would revolutionize their lives completely." But I was sadly aware that most of those there that day went out that door with very little heed taken. The Lord had been bearing down upon my heart the very subject of the fear of God that the minister had brought out so clearly. But we tremble to view the indifferent and heedless attitude that the majority of people have today. Wisdom is still calling, sounding out her alarm and warning. Everywhere one can see manifestations of the power of God. How can anyone look on nature and its wonders and beauty and really believe that they are the work of chance and not that of a wonderful and almighty God? But we live in a blind and heedless world. The things of the flesh and the desires of the carnal mind are followed after much more than that of the fear of God. Satan has robbed our society little by little of godly fear. It does not have to be that way, but mankind is choosing it to be that way. Oh, how we need to give heed to the voice of wisdom that is calling today! How we need to take our stand for truth and right and go right against the tide of this world! How much happier our nation would be if the fear of God was before every citizen! It can be that way with us each one individually. Regardless of what course others may be taking, we can still choose the fear of God for ourselves. May the Lord encourage and help each one to hear the voice of wisdom and choose for himself the holy, deep riches of happiness and joy that it will bring. —Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Today, wisdom is traded for self-gratification. As we see the masses move towards eternity enjoying the pleasures of sin, we wonder if they realize what they are doing. Many do know that the wages of sin is death, and they hear wisdom

crying to them. Yet they choose to play the part of the fool and satisfy the desires of the moment.

Aesop, who was considered a very wise person, once wrote a parable about a chicken in a barnyard. One bright spring day the chicken was scratching up the straw that littered the barnyard, in search of food. To his great surprise, his industrious claws turned up a jewel that by some chance had been lost.

"Ho," said he, as his bright eyes examined the jewel, "I can see you are a very valuable thing, though how you got here I have not the least idea. I can see too, that there are those who must prize you, but as for me, give one a kernel of corn rather than all the bright jewels in the world."

This story is the synopsis of many lives. People come face to face with salvation. Wisdom tells them that they need it, that it is valuable, yet we find they put much more emphasis on that which will satisfy the flesh.

How horrible it will be when people desperately need God and He laughs at their calamity. One man wrote, "The wise man does three things: he abandons the world before it abandons him; prepares his sepulchre before entering it; and does all with the design of pleasing God before entering into His presence."

—Wayne Murphey



**APRIL 24, 1994**

### **OUR NEED TO APPLY OUR HEARTS UNTO WISDOM**

Proverbs 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;

3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;

4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.

6 For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.

10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:

12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;

13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;

16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;

17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.

20 That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.

21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.

22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

Psalm 90:12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

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

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** To escape the snares of wicked men and women that lie in wait along life's journey, we must apply our hearts to seek for the wisdom from above. We must seek the wisdom, knowledge and understanding that comes from God's revelation to our souls with all of our hearts, for it is the greatest treasure that we can own.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 2), "*Incline thine ear*": To diligently hearken or attend. "*Apply thine heart*": To stretch or extend your desires toward God's

Word with an eagerness to receive its message. (V. 3), *"If thou criest after knowledge"*: For the word "criest" the Hebrew has a word that means to call out or to accost. The word "accost" means to approach or draw near, to speak first with desire, to make up to, and acquaint one's self with. These are words that express the deep purpose and sincere desire that must be in the heart in order to find the true wisdom of God. These are attended with three other activities of pursuit, namely, "lift up thy voice," "seek," and "search." The wisdom of the fear of God that we need is a hidden wisdom, hidden by God, and only revealed to those who seek for it with all the heart. (V. 7), *"He layeth up sound wisdom"*: God hides, hoards and reserves special wisdom for those who love righteousness and who diligently seek Him. *Buckler*: A shield or protector. (V. 8), *"Keepeth the paths of judgment"*: God guards, protects and maintains His paths and all who go thereon. (V. 12), *"Froward things"*: Things perverse and crooked, opposite of that which is good and acceptable with God.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

After showing the appeal of wisdom and the fear of God, we now see the responsibility of each individual seeking and applying himself to know and find the knowledge of God for his own soul's benefit. True wisdom can only be found by diligent application of one's heart and desires. How sad that so many poor, deluded people through the ages have applied their time and efforts in seeking for everything else. God is very choosy about who He reveals His ways to. Many are called, but few are chosen. But if we will seek for the holy ways of God fervently, diligently, and carefully with wholehearted eagerness and earnestness; we will come to understand the fear of the Lord as it is, and we will find the knowledge of God. And when we find this wonderful treasure, it will be so sweet and enjoyable, as it preserves and shields us from the dangers that are all along our mortal path. From the evil man and his hurtful ways, and from the evil woman and her flattering designs to ensnare and defile, this wisdom will safeguard us. These evil agents of Satan throng the earth we live on. They rejoice to do evil and delight in their abominations. Their ways are crooked, declin-

ing down to death and hell. Very few, if any, (verse 19 of this chapter says "none") that follow after and decide to go their way ever return again to take hold of the path of life. That is why it is such a serious thing to deal with. God wants us to walk in the way of good men, in the paths of the righteous. For only the upright and the perfect shall dwell in God's house and favor and remain in it. All the wicked shall be consumed off of the earth, and the transgressors shall perish forever. Oh, may the truth in this lesson ravish every heart with desire to seek after the fear of God above everything else in life!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. What are the "ifs" in our lesson today?
2. Why does God require people to diligently seek Him?
3. Why is wise counsel and godly training so vital for a child?
4. What are some of the things out in the world that we need to be fortified against?
5. Are people being beguiled by these influences today?
6. By what means can we safeguard ourselves?
7. Is it possible for a young person to go forth in life and escape all the dangers that they encounter?
8. Is it necessary or beneficial to experience the blight of sinful habits and ways of life before turning to the fear of God?
9. How old must a person be before he takes heed to the voice of wisdom?
10. What will be the profit of seeking after and finding wisdom?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

If Christopher Columbus had been more interested in finding the true knowledge of God than seeking for a closer route to the riches of the Orient he would not have died a disappointed and bitter man. If Henry Hudson had applied himself to seek God's holiness and humility in his life rather than seeking for a northern route to the Pacific, he would not have perished with his son adrift on the frigid waters of the

north. Instead of seeking for the wisdom of God so many have sought for pleasure, money, inventions, and the fame of the world. They spend the few years of their time of probation reaching out after the fleshly things of life, and then have to go off and leave them for someone else to squabble after. It has been proven over and over again that true happiness is only found in people who put God first. The fear of the Lord is truly the basis of wisdom and success. There are so many disappointed and empty lives, maybe not empty of worldly things, but empty of real peace and soul blessings. It is so sad to behold the worldly throng who lives solely for the flesh, comes to the end of life, and goes out into eternity with no hope. Wisdom is still calling. We do not have to be like these sad and disappointed people. We can seek the Lord with all of our hearts and apply ourselves to wisdom. Reckoning that our time on earth is short, we would do well to really get down to business with God and make it our sole aim and purpose to please and glorify Him. There is no need of us being in the company of the condemned when we can share the inheritance of the righteous forever!

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Wisdom does not reveal itself so much by precept as by our words and actions in everyday life. To further explain this, a person can apply himself to secular etiquette, read all the books on what good manners are and in many situations act properly. However, because his wisdom is learned, in time he will find himself in a situation that he has not read about. In our lesson we learn that a person can seek after and find the knowledge of God. Such a one will automatically practice good behavior for he will be looking for every opportunity to do to his brother as he would have his brother do unto him. He will be more equipped for every situation, for the wisdom of God is in his heart. This is why Solomon was able to say, "Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path."

In the legal realm, righteousness, judgment and equity would be known as justice. Many efforts are made through our legal system to bring about justice for all, and many a treatise

has been written on how law should be administered. Hours of study are spent by students of the law who delve into the structure of the judicial system. Much of this complicated search for justice could be eliminated if everyone would obtain the wisdom God offers. Those with wisdom from above are very sensitive to the needs of others. People receive fair treatment at their hands. Crimes are committed by those who are insensitive to the needs, desires and passions of others. In wisdom we practice the words of the song, "Others, Lord, yes others, let this my motto be."

"Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee." How many times people have gotten themselves into trouble by indiscretion and unwise speech. God's wisdom will help one know when to keep silent.

Suffice it to say, though one may be lacking in secular education, God's wisdom equips us for every phase of life.

—Wayne Murphey



**MAY 1, 1994**

### **WONDERFUL BENEFITS FOUND IN POSSESSING WISDOM**

Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

6 In all thyways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

9 Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:



10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

11 My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction:

12 For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

18 She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her.

James 3:17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

**MEMORY VERSE:** How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver! Proverbs 16:16.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The benefits obtained from possessing the fear of God far outweigh the fleeting treasures of this time-world. Length of days, long life, favour and success with God and man, guidance, health, increase, plenty, happiness and peace are among the many blessings enjoyed by the God-fearing.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 2), "*Length of days*": The Hebrew says "long days" which refers to our days being filled with good and happy activities and beneficial service. (V. 7), "*Be not wise in thine own eyes*": Do not think yourself wise, but be constantly seeking for better

understanding and knowledge of the will of God. (V. 8), *"Health to thy navel"*: The navel here in the Hebrew means the umbilical cord, the cord whereby the unborn child receives nourishment and means of life and growth from the mother. As the only means of life and health for the unborn child is through this channel, even so the life and health of our spirits is through wisdom and the fear of God. *"Marrow to thy bones"*: The marrow is the life and health of the bones. The blood brings nourishment and moisture to the inner part of the bones, sustaining life and health. So wisdom and the fear of God brings spiritual life and health to the soul. (V. 11), *"Neither be weary of his correction"*: Do not be displeased and seek to be separate from the disciplinary dealings of God almighty in His efforts to correct and better you. (V. 13), *"Happy is the man"*: The Hebrew says, "How happy!" (V. 14), *"Merchandise"*: Profit or gain. (James 3:17), *"First pure"*: Purity and cleanness is the most important aspect of godliness. *"Without partiality"*: Treating everyone with the same love and respect.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

In our lesson today we will consider some of the benefits of having the fear of God in our hearts. There are several specific things mentioned that will attend our lives as we live in the fear of God. Long days, many years (eternal and unending in number), peace, favor with God and man, health for the soul especially (and for the body, also), and all our needs to be supplied are among the blessings promised to us for seeking first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. The writer in Hebrews 12:5-6 quotes from verses 11 and 12 in our lesson, saying, "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." The writer is using the Septuagint translation here. The thought of chastening and discipline is a very important clue to success with God. This is why it is so important for children to be properly disciplined and chastened in their early days of life. Being brought into subjection to one's parents will help in being

subject to God. To despise and turn away from instruction and correction is to take the broad way that leads downward to destruction. But to submit and yield to the disciplinary measures that God uses is to walk the way to eternal life.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Is length of days and long life a thing to be desired of us?
2. What does it mean to bind mercy and truth about our neck and write them upon the table of our heart?
3. How will it help in finding favor with man as well as God?
4. Are we prone to lean to our own understanding?
5. Why should we not be wise in our own eyes?
6. Will evil depart from us, or will we have to depart from evil?
7. Will we be tempted to turn away from the correction of the Lord?
8. What is some of the merchandise of wisdom and understanding that will be gain and profit to us?
9. What kind of riches will wisdom be sure to bring to us?
10. How will wisdom's tree of life compare to the tree of life in the garden of Eden?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Oh, how much happier and blessed are those who choose the fear of the Lord and will press close to Him! It is better to be in the lowliest place in the house of God than to dwell in the tents of wickedness. When we choose the fear of the Lord and seek to please Him with our lives He rewards us with good things. We will have many happy times to remember and cherish in our hearts. Living the life of a Christian in its faith and simplicity will help to bring health to our bodies as well as our souls. It will help us in our relations with our fellow man, also. We will know how to deal with people in such a way that they will feel the good will and love in our hearts for them. And as we give to the Lord and honour Him with our means, we will find His great reward coming back to us over and over. Even

when the Lord begins to chasten and discipline us to correct our weaknesses and faults, we will experience great blessings of joy and reward for being obedient and submissive to Him. Think of the gold and silver and rubies that the world craves and seeks after. We who are holding to wisdom are finding gems of value far beyond the fleeting worth of these earthly vanities. To be beautiful inwardly and in God's sight is so much more important. To be wealthy in spiritual life and victory is much better than all the gold in the world. Jesus said in Revelation 3:18, "...Buy of me gold tried in the fire." Oh, this is the gold that will endure forever, the gold that we gain by standing fast for Him in our tests and trials of life. That is the real gold. And then think of the tree of life. The tree of life in the garden of Eden can be ours in the spirit as we press close to the Lord in godly fear. Let us lay hold on this wisdom, and retain her in our hearts always. We will surely rejoice at the end of the way by our steadfastness with wisdom, the fear of God.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

As we start out in life it is important to ascertain early what real happiness is. Too many think that the road to happiness depends on prestige and high position. It is considered to be a road that by-passes all self-denial and chastenings of God.

There is a point well made in the story about the dog who was so wild and mischievous that his master despaired of taming him. The last straw was when he bit someone who was being playful with him. His master was taking him out to the woods to dispose of him when a neighbor suggested: "The way to tame that beast is to fasten a chain around his neck and attach a heavy wooden clog to the end of it. That will stop him from biting and worrying others."

The master decided to try it. The next day the dog, viewing his clog as a badge of distinction, went about the market place, shaking and rattling the hobble to attract everyone's attention. An old dog approached him and said, "If I were in your place, I would make less noise and not call people's attention to my disgrace. Wearing a hobble is anything but a mark of distinction."

There are many today who are acting just as ridiculously as that dog. People will do anything to gain notoriety among others and at the same time refuse to recognize the chastening of the Lord. There is much wisdom in the verses: "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil." "My son despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction." Happiness is found in living a quiet, peaceful life in all humility before God.

—Wayne Murphey



**MAY 8, 1994**

### **MORE BENEFITS OF WISDOM WITH SOME NOTES OF CAUTION**

Proverbs 3:19 The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

23 Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble.

24 When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet.

25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

26 For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it.

28 Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

29 Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

30 Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

32 For the froward is abomination to the Lord: but his secret is with the righteous.

33 The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

34 Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

Proverbs 15:16 Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

6 But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

7 For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. James 3:13.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The fear of God in our hearts will cause us to live very careful lives before God and in our relations with our fellow man.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 20), "*By His knowledge the depths are broken up*": The depths refer to the great ocean and its tributaries and seas. The term "broken up" refers to control that God has with the ocean and its mighty currents. He broke open the fountains of the deep in Noah's time and caused the great flood. He rebuked the waters and put them back into their boundaries again. He controls the rivers and fountains and streams. He causes vapors to ascend to the heavens and then releases them again in rain and snow. All this is done and carried out by the wise and knowledgeable hand of our God. This same source of wisdom and knowledge can be our supply for our lives. He can make us to know how to live rightly, joyfully and beneficially. (V. 22).

***"Grace to thy neck":*** The neck is a very vital part of our body. All the veins and arteries that bring the blood to and from the brain flow through the neck. There is the throat and the windpipe, channels for the air to flow to the lungs, and the food to the digestive system. There is the upper backbone and vertebra through which runs the spinal cord that connects the brain with all parts of the body. Grace, blessings and favor will be to this important part of our body if we will keep our whole being on the altar for God's holy purpose. The neck also has a spiritual meaning. It can be the will and the force of determination. If we will fear God we will have a healthy purpose and willingness to always do what is good and best. (V. 25), ***"Sudden fear, the desolation of the wicked":*** By keeping ourselves in the love of God we do not have to be afraid when the sudden calamities are meted out to man because of his wickedness. God will make a way for us, and in that last great day when the last judgment shall fall, we shall escape and stand in safety before the throne of His glory. ***"When it cometh":*** The Hebrew renders this phrase thus: "For it is coming." (V. 26), ***"Keep thy foot from being taken":*** When we walk in the fear of God with carefulness and diligence to do the right, we will avoid the traps and snares that the foolish and disobedient are constantly stumbling into. (V. 27), ***"Them to whom it is due":*** The Hebrew word here means a master, husband, or owner. It refers to anyone in authority that we owe good respect and gratitude to. (V. 29), ***"He dwelleth securely by thee":*** We are all members one of another. He who dwells near you is a part of your life. You cannot harm or mistreat him without affecting and injuring yourself. (V. 32), ***"His secret is with the righteous":*** The Hebrew word for "secret" means close communion or intimacy. The proud and scornful soul God keeps away from, but with the one who fears and reverences Him God can and will be very personal and close to. (V. 34), ***"He scorneth the scorners":*** The Hebrew word means to make a mouth at or scoff. To have God do that is a terrible curse. The Septuagint translation renders this verse thus: "The Lord resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble", as is quoted in James 4:6 and I Peter 5:5.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

We continue in our lesson concerning the benefits of wisdom and the fear of God, but we have a few cautionary measures included. One of the main features of the blessings promised to the God-fearing is that of security and safety. The statement of God's wisdom founding the earth and establishing the heavens gives evidence to the truth that the maintenance and protection of the earth and its inhabitants are under His control, also. Therefore He exhorts us to hold fast to the precepts of the fear of God. It is for our own safety and welfare that we should do so. The ruin of the wicked and the calamities that befall men on account of the wrath of God will involve His children who live among them. But God will make a way for those who fear Him and obey His Word. For this cause we are cautioned to be very careful how we deal with our fellow man, keeping benevolent and helpful, and giving honour and respect where it is due. While the curse of the Lord is upon the house of the ungodly, His blessings are upon the habitation of the righteous. While He resists the proud, He gives grace to the humble. The wise and God-fearing He will deliver and cause to inherit glory, but everlasting shame and contempt await the foolish who reject the fear of the Lord.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Can our lives be just as orderly and in control as the earth and the heavens above?
2. What must we do to have it this way?
3. Can anyone really harm us if we are following faithfully that which is good?
4. What kind of foot-stumbling is he speaking of here?
5. Who are some of the people that respect and honour are due to?
6. Can we do wrong or harm to our neighbor without affecting ourselves?
7. Why is the royal law, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" so important?
8. Why is the Lord God not close and intimate with the unrighteous?



9. How does the Lord treat the proud and the scornful?
10. What kind of glory will the wise inherit?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

The benefits of wisdom and fearing God are unfolding more and more. Since by His wisdom the Lord created the heavens and the earth, and since by His understanding and knowledge it is all kept in such a decorous order, we who live upon this globe have need of the essential qualities of that same wisdom to govern our lives with. We are inviting disaster and failure when we fail to apply the principles of godly wisdom and Christian love to our ways. The desolation and ruin of the wicked are part of the tale of the history of mankind. Over and over the truth of God's Word is verified in the woeful tale of the ruin of fools who take their own way and disregard the fear of God. And the testimony of the righteous concerning God's providence and blessings add to the surety of the divine testimony of these lessons in Proverbs. Serving God faithfully calls for serving our fellow man and relating to him in a righteous way. We are not here alone and no man lives to himself or dies to himself. Each one of us are having an influence that goes out and touches other lives. We are contributing something to earth's condition, whether good or bad. The Creator has made it possible that we can live a happy and successful life while we are here in this world. If we will but avail ourselves of His provision of grace and knowledge we can enjoy our stay here and be a blessing to all we meet. Or we can refuse His proffered grace and go our own selfish way like so many are doing. But we are fooling no one. The curse will fall right back upon our heads and hit us where it will hurt the most. The merciful God is so good to help people, but there comes a place where His mercy cannot wipe away the stains of foolish ways. Let us take heed to the warning and wise counsel of God.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

If you want to feel the presence of God go alone to behold the beauties of nature. Walk on the carpet under the majestic

trees, lay beside the bubbling brook, admire the simplicity of a sunset or gaze at the faraway stars. In all these you will find the handiwork and wisdom of God manifested. Perhaps the reason our nation is not as religiously inclined as it was when it was founded is due in part to the fact that we do not live as close to nature as before. We are surrounded by manmade objects that keep us occupied much of the time. We no longer have time to enjoy the beauties of nature like our forefathers. This does not mean that we should live a hermit's life, but that we must retain in our minds who the Creator is. Our lesson tells us that if we won't forget these things, it will be life unto our soul.

Man in his wisdom has done some great things, yet he has done nothing to begin to rival what God has done. Man has been able to reach the moon, but God made the moon. Man has discovered microscopic life, but God is the one who designed the pinpoint life. What great wisdom; and to think we can be partakers of the source of that wisdom. Why would anyone want to continue in their own foolish conceit? Our lesson describes the result of wisdom. "The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools."

—Wayne Murphey



**MAY 15, 1994**

**FURTHER ENTREATIES TO SEEK WISDOM  
AND THE WAY OF GODLINESS**

Proverbs 4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.

24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

Proverbs 19:8 He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

**MEMORY VERSE:** By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life. Proverbs 22:4.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Following wisdom and godly fear will guide us into the shining pathway of the just and will steer us clear of the dark and treacherous ways of wicked and sinful men.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 5), "*Get wisdom, get understanding*": Procure, obtain, acquire, purchase for your own. (V. 7), "*Wisdom is the principal thing*": The first and most important thing in your life. (V. 8), "*She shall promote thee*": She will lift you up. Instead of exalting one's self in pride, wisdom should be exalted and given the preemi-

nence. In turn for doing this, wisdom will lift you up. (V. 12), *"Thy steps shall not be straitened"*: They shall not be narrowed. You will have plenty of room to accomplish your labors. Many people bring themselves into straits of difficulty because of their foolish ways. (V. 18), *"Shineth more and more unto the perfect day"*: The Hebrew says, "A bright light going and shining till the day is established." The Septuagint says, "They go on and shine until the day be fully come." God wants our life to be a continual increasing in brilliance and glowing brightness as we live from day to day. (V. 23), *"With all diligence"*: The Hebrew word for "diligence" means a guard like for a man, a post, or a prison. It also is used to mean a deposit; as something to be responsibly kept. The Septuagint says, "With utmost care." It expresses how carefully and watchfully we should guard our affections and attitudes from the ways of the world. *"The issues of life"*: The Hebrew says, "the outgoings of life." Jesus said that what comes from the heart defiles a man. Mark 7:21. How we need to take utmost care of the condition of our affections and desires and be careful what we allow to dwell there! (V. 26), *"Ponder"*: to weigh all angles and consider carefully.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

The loving counsel and entreaty of our lesson today is that of a godly and concerned father admonishing and warning his children. He had been taught by his father and mother to go in the way of wisdom and the fear of God. As I get farther up the journey of life and have had occasion to study people and their problems of life, I see more and more the importance and value of the parental role in a child's life of discipline and teaching the fear of God. So many times a person's woeful condition stems from the lack of the right kind of parental influence. It is the way that God has planned for children to be influenced for the right. Godly parents who set an example of righteousness in the home and hold the standard of God's Word before their children have the greatest chance of influencing them for the Lord. When you see a misguided and shameful life, the chances are great that such a person has missed out on something in his childhood. This is not true in

every case, however, but in most cases something failed in that childhood. And if one could trace things on back farther in history there might turn up problems in the next generation back. The entreaties of our lesson are so valuable for the happiness and welfare of young people. Getting wisdom, steering clear of the evil ways of the world and seeking earnestly the path of the righteous needs to be the aim of all of us. To neglect to do this is to invite failure and disaster.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Can you list the things that we are exhorted to do to wisdom in our lesson?
2. Can we be forced to do these things?
3. What would cause a person to want and purpose to get, love, exalt and embrace wisdom?
4. What will wisdom do for us if we will love, exalt and embrace her?
5. Why should we take fast hold of instruction and not let her go?
6. Does the path of the wicked and the way of evil men have easy access for us to enter?
7. How are we going to avoid it?
8. What should we observe about the path of evil that will help us to be determined to avoid it?
9. What is there about the path of the just that will attract us?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Some of the thoughts in our lesson have been mentioned before, but they are repeated and stressed again because they are so important and worthy of our consideration. As we grow older we are going to be faced with decisions to be made. There are so many attractions and solicitations that will be put before us in the world. We need to be forewarned and counselled, and this is what this lesson is for. We surely hope and trust that every young person who reads this will take heed and ponder it well. It is an undeniable fact that many, many

people have gone astray from the path of the just and have gone into ways that seem right, but have proven to be the ways of death. Oh, that they had been more properly warned, and that they had taken heed to what warning they had been given! Our lesson counsels us to get wisdom, do not forget it, decline not from her words, do not forsake her, love her, exalt her and embrace her. If all of these action words will be put into gear in our lives the blessing will be sure to follow. The qualities of soul and spiritual values that will help us to triumph over sin and be ready for heaven are the riches that will be found if we will be the children of wisdom. —Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We know very little about the kind of home life David had. We generally picture him as a leader and great man of war, but according to our lesson, he took time to sit down with his son, Solomon, and teach him. The great wisdom that Solomon possessed in later years could have resulted from the love for it that was instilled in him by his father's direction. This should give us an insight into the importance of teaching our children. While they are young and moldable we should instruct them how to conduct themselves in wisdom.

The essence of the instruction that David gave Solomon was, "Keep yourself out of trouble and in time to come you will be glad that you did." When God created the animals, He endowed them with an instinct for survival. It is only wisdom for the deer to pause at the edge of the frost, investigate and sniff the air. It is vital for continued existence. When God created man, He developed within him an instinct called conscience. If this conscience is not seared, it is a valuable asset. —Wayne Murphey

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**MAY 22, 1994**

**THE DANGER AND THREAT OF THE STRANGE WOMAN**

Proverbs 5:1 My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:

2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smother than oil:

4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.

7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

9 Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

10 Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;

11 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,

12 And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

13 And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

14 I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.

15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.

17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

19 Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her

breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings.

22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

23 He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

**MEMORY VERSE:** There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. Proverbs 14:12.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** The world and its attractions are like an evil and strange woman who attracts a young man by her beauty and charm but will ensnare him and bring him to ruin and destruction. This can happen to a young man by an attractive woman, or it can happen to any young person who allows the sinful ways of life to have place in the heart.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 4), "*Her end is bitter as wormwood*": Afterwards she is poison and accursed. (V. 6), "*Her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them*": Her ways are unstable, wavering and constantly changing; she works underhanded so that you cannot discern her evil and harm. (V. 9), "*Lest thou give thine honour unto others*": Honour here means your strength, vigor, beauty and blessedness. (V. 14), "*I was almost in all evil*": The Hebrew says, "As a little I was in all evil." It seems to express that by giving in a little to sin it takes over the whole of one's life. (V. 16), "*Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad*": The Hebrew expresses this in a question: "Should your springs be dispersed outside, like rivers of waters in the streets?" The Septuagint says, "Let not waters out of thy fountain be spilt by thee." This agrees more with the setting of the other scriptures, "Drink waters out of thine own cistern," and "Let them be only thine own." The fountain he is talking about here is the bloom and beauty of your manhood and youth; the appetites and



passions, the strength and vigor, with all the mental faculties and abilities you have. These are to be given in consecration to the will of God and not poured out in lustful and wicked pursuits of sin and undisciplined ways of life. How often this has happened to young boys and girls as they come forth in the strength and beauty of youth! Satan has the right agent at the right place and the right time to allure the person unawares into his snare.

### **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Our lesson today introduces the most prominent danger that faces the youth, and that is the allurements of an ungodly woman. The danger is two-fold. First there is the trap that Satan sets for a boy or a girl in a relationship with someone of the opposite sex. This begins working early in life. Little boys and girls are attracted to each other, and Satan is on hand to suggest evil actions and conducts that will lead to grosser sins later on. Then there is the spiritual aspect to this matter. There are influences and attractions in the world that are not immoral but are destructive to the soul by means of false religious spirits and doctrines that are not soundly backed by the Word of God. There are churches and religious systems that are pictured in the scriptures as a mother harlot and her harlot daughters. The world is filled with deception and churches that do not teach the whole truth. The warning must be taken two-fold. We live in a world given over to immorality and unrestrained sexual involvement. We live in a world charged with false doctrines and deceptive religions. But by the fear of God and the wisdom from above we can escape these snares and find the true Church and the true religion. Our lesson today introduces this thought of the danger of the strange and evil woman, but we will hear more about her in the lessons to come.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. How does an evil woman allure and attract?
2. But what is her end like?
3. Why does Satan work to keep young people from pondering the path of life?

4. Is it possible for a person to literally "throw their life away"?

5. Should a person value their strength and youthful abilities and seek to turn them to worthwhile purposes?

6. Is it possible to grow up in a congregation where the truth is preached and godly counsel is given, and yet go to the dogs?

7. Is it wise to bring your appetites and desires into the Lord's control and let Him work out things so that you can enjoy good blessings in a beneficial way?

8. Is God beholding everything you do?

9. What will be the means of the wicked being taken and what will he be bound with?

10. What can one do to insure that this will not be his end?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

There are times and places where danger arises and peoples' lives are in jeopardy. Where highway repair and construction is in progress there are red flags and signs of warning posted for travelers to be careful and slow down. Wherever there is danger there needs to be warning. So it is in this life as we are traveling through time to our eternal abode. There are dangers, many dangers. God's Word that He has committed to us is full of warnings and counsel that will help us to go through life without being hurt or affected by the dangers. By taking heed to the warning and following the plain and simple directions given in the Word of God we can make the journey safely and reach yon distant goal of eternal life. God has so created man as a social creature with desires for love and enjoyment with others. But there is danger in this world that will draw upon that disposition to desire enjoyable relationships. Sin came into the world and made treacherous life's journey. There are temptations and pitfalls that one can fall into that will defile and bring a person to ruin. There are evil men and women who hunt for a precious life to desecrate and bring down. There are ungodly associations and organizations that beckon us to participate and join. There are deceptive spirits and church affiliations that will open wide their doors to us. They look and sound good, but the end

proves to be the ways of death. How we need the Spirit of God to guide and guard us from these evil traps of the devil! It takes humility and the fear of God to guide us through the gins and snares of this world of trouble. Satan wants to take a young person and drag him in the dirt. But he does it with cunning and deception. Through the appetites and desires of the body he allures a person to the evil ways of life. All around us we see people who have fallen prey to the work of the enemy of souls. It is for everyone to pray and seek God with all the heart. Beware and be on your guard. By fear and reverence and submission to God, and by being teachable and receptive to His Word, we can escape the pitfalls of Satan. We have been warned, so may we take heed and seek God earnestly for guidance and safety.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

In this lesson there are specific instructions to the young. The subject of fellowshiping with unsaved companions is relevant for today's youth. Too often young people reared in a pure atmosphere lose their innocence because they allow themselves to flirt with temptation and date someone who is not saved. I am sure that the innocent party does not begin such a relationship with the idea of degrading themselves. In fact, you hear them say, "I believe that I can help that unsaved one." This is a delusion. "You cannot walk down the same path of life with an evil person and come out unscathed!"

There is a simple story that portrays this truth very well. Two pots, one of earthenware and the other of brass, were carried downstream by a river in a flood. The brass pot begged his companion to remain as close by his side as possible, and he would protect him.

"You are very kind," replied the earthen pot, "but that is just what I am afraid of. If you will only keep your distance, I shall be able to float down in safety. But whether I strike you or you strike me, I am sure to be the one who will get the worst of it."

We must realize that sin has absolutely nothing to offer. There will be arguments to the contrary, but they are deceiving. We must love the souls of sinners but never their ways.

The truth of the scripture, "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?" should be impressed upon the minds of our young people. It will save them from being ultimately holden with the cords of sin.

—Wayne Murphey



**MAY 29, 1994**

**DILIGENCE TO KEEP FREE  
FROM THE SNARES OF THE WICKED**

Proverbs 6:1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,

2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.

9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

12 A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

13 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

14 Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

15 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

16 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

**MEMORY VERSE:** The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness. Proverbs 11:6.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** There are snares and troublesome situations that we must be watchful and careful to avoid. If we do get into a difficulty we must take the humble route to deliver ourselves with the help of the Lord. There are wicked and inconsiderate people who are ever willing to take advantage of their fellow man, and we must seek God's mercies to deliver us from such, avoiding any yoke or fellowship with them.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 1), "*Surety for thy friend*": To be security for someone else's payment of debt or obligation, that is, to pledge or promise to meet a financial obligation for a friend if they are unable to do so. "*Stricken thy hand with a stranger*": To strike or shake a hand was the ancient way of sealing an agreement or pledge. Although there are times when this can be done for the sake of someone you love who is in a difficulty, yet it must be approached cautiously, and with earnest prayer. There are many treacherous things that can develop. It is wise to be very, very careful about putting yourself in any obligation where you are bound to make payment to or for others. We live in a society where credit is wide spread and very convenient. But this sort of convenience can so easily be gotten out of control. The warning here is for us to be diligent to watchfulness and care concerning getting into these situations, and if you are caught therein, do your best to clear yourself as soon as possible. (V. 6), "*Sluggard*": One who is not inclined to work and is habitually lazy. (V. 11), "*As one that travelleth*": That is, with slow, but surely approaching steps. (Clarke's Commentary.) (V. 12), "*A naughty person*": The Hebrew says "a worthless man." "*A froward mouth*": A crooked mouth. (V. 16), "*Abomination unto Him*": Disgusting and hated of His soul.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We now consider the danger of becoming surety for someone and also the dangers that lurk in carrying on any kind of business or trafficking with this sin cursed society. The general warning is to be diligent; to beware. Humbling ourselves before others will help to get us on God's side and He will help us. There are many ways that you can make yourself a surety, most of which is probably beneficial and lawful. But such should be approached with much prayer and caution. You can help your brother get utility service when he is unable to pay the deposit required by signing your name that you will pay any bills that your brother will not come across with. Be careful what you allow yourself to get into. Steer clear of debts as much as possible. It is not wrong to make a debt, but it is a treacherous habit. The world is full of evil and dishonesty. Be diligent to do the right. Along with the comparison of the ant, the Septuagint adds a little about the bee: "Or, go to the bee, and learn how diligent she is, and how earnestly she is engaged in her work; whose labours kings and private men use for health, and she is desired and respected by all: though weak in body, she is advanced by honour." It is wise to take note of the seven things that are abomination to the Lord as listed in our lesson. Let us deny these things any part of our life. It seems that the seventh one of sowing discord among the brethren ranks as the worst.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### QUESTIONS:

1. What is the best attitude to take when you get into any kind of problem with your fellow man?
2. Which is easier: staying out of a trap or getting out of a trap?
3. What is the doom of the habitual sluggard?
4. What lesson can be learned from the ant and the bee?
5. Is it possible for us to be lazy and careless in our souls?
6. Is there any threat or danger of wicked men taking advantage of us?
7. Is it wise to weigh your words and steps in dealing with people?
8. Why does God hate these six things so?
9. What heads the list?
10. Why is sowing discord among the brethren such an abomination to God?

## **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

A number of years ago I was at a family gathering where an aged uncle and his wife were present whom many of the family had not seen for many years. While sitting there next to one of the older members of the group who was well acquainted with everyone, he told me about this uncle and his wife. It was a tale that struck horror to my soul, and especially does it now because both are in eternity today. He told me that this uncle had stolen this wife and her two little daughters years ago from her first husband. He stole her away with her children and they were never seen again by her first husband. This was a terrible wrong and heinous sin in God's sight. Her first husband vowed that if ever he found them, he would kill them. They had lived many years together. Now they were old. Not very many years after this they were called out into eternity to give an account of their deeds. Talk about frowardness and devising mischief and sowing discord! What are such people going to do when they stand before the judgment bar of God? Of course, such people do not think about standing at the judgment to give an account of their doings. That is because there is no fear of God before their eyes. The fear of God dictates to us that we are going to all appear at the judgment seat of Christ where we will receive for the things done in our body. The things that the Lord hates and are an abomination to Him are going to come up before Him some day! We are going to have to answer to Him for the way we have acted in this life. Life is too short and eternity is too long to make such a gamble on something as precious as our never-dying souls. Let us fear God and be careful how we live and how we deal with other people. You cannot do wrong and get by.

—Leslie C. Busbee

## **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Everything that is not done for the profit of righteousness is done in vain. Many are what could be termed as "idly busy." On a job, some people appear to be very busy and yet produce little. This is the condition of a sinner. He is always going and doing but he produces nothing of consequence. This is slothfulness. If we know what is right and what we should do, we must not fold our hands and sleep, but arouse ourselves and be a doer.

What are the characteristics of a slothful person? They are very vividly described in the seventeenth through the nineteenth

verses of our lesson. It seems to be the tendency for the one who is slothful to fault others. They are quick to find mischief and lie to cover their ways. In general, they are as the drone bee in the bee hive; nothing but a parasite to society.

If we will be diligent about serving the Lord and helping our fellow man, we will avert the destruction of our own souls. This is wisdom.

—Wayne Murphey



**JUNE 5, 1994**

### **MORE WARNINGS AGAINST THE ALLUREMENT OF THE STRANGE WOMAN**

Proverbs 6:20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

29 So he that goeth in to his neighbor's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

30 Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

31 But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding; he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

33 A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

34 For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.



35 He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

**MEMORY VERSE:** As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion. Proverbs 11:22.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** A constant remembering and holy regard for God's holy law will go with us through life and will safeguard us from the allurements of sin and this wicked world.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 22), "*When thou sleepest, it shall keep thee*": When you lie down, it (the law of God) will watch over you. If we will sincerely seek to follow their instruction and wisdom we will be benefited by their promises of peace and safety. (V. 25), "*Lust not after her beauty*": Delight not in the fairness of her face and outward form. God gave a special beauty to the woman, but this beauty is misused and made as a temptation by the evil spirit of adultery to attract the simple and unaware soul. Satan uses outward beauty to deceive souls into pitfalls of false religion and deception, also. (V. 26), "*A whorish woman*": A harlot; a woman who sells her body for a price for the gratification of lust and wicked relations. "*Brought to a place of bread*": Poverty and shame can be the only outcome of yielding to such ungodly attractions. (V. 30), "*Men do not despise a thief*": Of all the sins that a man can commit, improper and impure relations with a woman is the most devastating and of the worst consequence. It is one of the deepest pits of evil that man can fall a victim to. A thief can obtain mercy, especially if he is willing to pay back what he stole in his desperate time of need. But to commit fornication or adultery with an unlawful partner brings a reproach that cannot be wiped away.

### LESSON BACKGROUND

In our lesson today we are dealing once more with one of our society's greatest sins, and that is, unlawful relations between men and women. The language is explicit and plain and needs very little modification and explanation. The opportunity is always there and many times is made so convenient and of easy access. Only by loving and holding fast to the law of the Lord can we hope to successfully bypass this awful tide of lust and immorality that is presenting itself today. Many precious boys and girls have been slain by this spirit and swept away from all that

is right and good. It is something that catches you in a trap and affords no way to escape. The history of this world is stained with this thing. Oh, be warned, young people! Be on your guard against this terrible evil! Consecrate your life to God and reserve your desires and hopes for Him to fulfill alone. Then you can be spared from the awful consequence of sin and its blight. How terrible that our nation is sunk into this awful pit! You do not have to be caught in it. You can live a pure and a holy life and God will reward you with a sweet companion to share your mortal days in true love and wedded bliss. Give the Lord a chance and stay away from these unholy attractions. Be careful of your affections and do not turn them loose on just anyone. Lock your heart and give God the key. He will direct you in the way that is good. —Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Why should we keep God's law so close to our hearts?
2. What dangers await us in this world?
3. How does an evil woman attract others?
4. Is it possible for a man to take fire in his bosom and not be burned?
5. Why is committing adultery such a terrible sin?
6. What is the popular trend among young people today?
7. Is it having its consequences in our world?
8. Is God going to let this go on forever?
9. How can we escape the judgments of God concerning this thing?
10. What does a person do who gives in and yields to the temptation of adultery?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

Once I was looking at an old family picture with my mother one day. She pointed out a little boy in the picture. She said, "Would you like to know what happened to that little boy when he got grown? He got to running with a married woman. One night her husband came in and caught this young man in bed with his wife and he got his gun and shot and killed them both!" Our lesson says that jealousy is the rage of a man. Oh, there have been many, many like scenes in people's lives down through the years. Unholy desires are a powerful and dominant passion, but they must be brought into control by the love and Spirit of God. Otherwise they

will get out of hand and cause a person great sorrow and trouble. God is grieved and angry with the way our society is doing today. He will not let it go on forever. He is letting man go after his unbridled lusts today, but the time-clock of His wrath is ticking away. People are going to give an account of their wicked and lustful lives. All this adultery and fornication is condemned in God's sight. The New Testament declares that "marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge." Hebrews 13:4. One young man was leaving home and his mother warned him about these things. There was a certain young woman that he had been interested in, and, though she was beautiful outwardly, she was not an example of godliness. This mother warned her son about her, knowing that she was in the area that he was going to. What happened? This young man got with this young woman and they got married. Their marriage lasted only a few years, brought some children into the world, and then they divorced. We could tell you case after case of sorrow and soul-destruction in this awful curse of our age. The writer in Proverbs is giving us warning. Let us take heed and escape the awful snare of the wicked.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion." Proverbs 11:22.

"The comparison of the gold ring in the swine's snout suggests the idea of glaring incongruity. And the like is the incongruity between beauty and impurity in woman.

"The source of our delight in physical beauty is that it expresses moral worth. Philosophers have always found it impossible to define the beautiful as an object. Analysis at last results in this—that in every beautiful object we detect an analogy to some perception in our own minds. It is a visible presentation of spiritual beauty.

"Our displeasure in the association of physical beauty with moral worthlessness arises from the presence of a contradiction. And the mind is made to love harmony. Thus we have a witness in ourselves that God designed beauty and virtue to be indissolubly united. As the sign and the thing signified—the body and the soul. Sin ever puts asunder what God has joined, and all vice is incongruous with the beauty of His world."

—Taken from, *The Pulpit Commentary*

**JUNE 12, 1994**

**A SCENE OF SORROW AND DESTRUCTION**

Proverbs 7:1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:

5 That they may keep thee from the strangewoman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.

6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,

8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.

13 So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,

18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

19 For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey.

20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.

21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.

27 Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

**MEMORY VERSE:** Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him. James 1:12.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Many precious souls have been beguiled by the allurements of sin and the flesh. But, if we will make wisdom and understanding our constant companion and guide, we will be able to escape and overcome this sinful world and make heaven our home some blessed day.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 1), "*Lay up my commandments with thee*": Treasure up the commandments of God close to your heart, and keep them before your mind at all times. (V. 2), "*As the apple of thine eye*": The pupil of the eye. How we guard and cherish the precious gift of sight! Even so we should guard the precious life that God gives us by strict conformity to His precious Word. (V. 4), "*Sister, kinswoman*": Making wisdom your close kin will help to fill up and satisfy your life so that the temptation of the ungodly will not be so strong and irresistible. Finding the joy and beauty of the fellowship of God is very important in overcoming the world. (V. 5), "*Strange woman*": She who is profane and foreign to the will of God. (V. 13), "*Caught him*": Seized or laid hold of him. "*With an impudent face*": The Hebrew says, "She hardened or strengthened her face." Adam Clarke observes: "She strengthened her countenance, assumed the most confident look she could; endeavored to appear friendly and sincere." (V. 18), "*Solace ourselves with loves*": Delight ourselves with caresses. This is explicit language, but it just shows how the appeal of this ungodly woman draws on the cords of the flesh and the natural desires. (V. 19), "*Goodman*": The Hebrew word here means a man or male person, and is also translated "husband" in other places. The Septuagint says, "My husband is not at home, but is gone on a long journey." (V. 20), "*At the day appointed*": The Hebrew says, "At the day of the full moon." (V. 22), "*As a fool to the correction of the stocks*": The Hebrew says, "As one chained to the chastisement of a fool."

## LESSON BACKGROUND

In our previous lessons we have the benefits of wisdom and

the curse of folly set before us. We have seen the allurements of sin and this wicked world and the invitation of righteous and holy wisdom portrayed. But today we are looking on a scene of horror and destruction. It is a scene that has been enacted over and over through the years of time. It is the burden of the Lord, this writer of Proverbs, and the burden of the godly servants of the Lord to warn especially the youth against this terrible pitfall. Exhorting the young person to make wisdom and understanding his or her close kin and companion, the writer tells about what he saw with his own eyes. It shows how weak and vulnerable man can be when it comes to relating to the opposite sex. How easy it is for friendship to develop into an unholy relationship. In our world today when men and women work side by side in the market place, office, or factory there is the convenient set up everyday for unholy associations. Our world, our society is saturated and stained with this thing. Oh, let us all take warning! Keep the fear of God as the apple of your eye. Guard that precious gift of youthful energy and desires, reserving its fountain for the Lord and the one He will arrange for you to have. Avoid and escape the trap that is set for you by profane and evil courses of life! —Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Can we make the Lord's commandments dear and as the apple of the eye if we do not take time and attention for them?
2. What is the table of your heart?
3. Is it possible to have the fear of God as close to us as a kind and loving sister?
4. What will wisdom, as a sister, do for you?
5. What kind of a young man did he see through his window?
6. What was the allurement of this woman that drew him?
7. Instead of yielding, what should this young man have done?
8. Has this happened to anyone that you are acquainted with?
9. Could it happen to you?
10. What should you do to keep it from happening to you?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

There is a natural attraction of a girl to a boy and a boy to a girl. God put that special attraction there. But there is a great

danger of that attraction becoming a cause for temptation to wrong and ungodly affections. This is a trap, a snare that has caught many in its clutches. Unholy desires and affections are the worst enemy to the fear of God. It means so much for a young person to bring into subjection his or her desires to the will of God! If not, there is sure disaster and heartache in store. Lasting love and happiness are not cheap. The bliss of a happy marriage and a home of peace and love is only gained through diligent and strict obedience to the fear of God. Many sorrows are found in people's lives because of someone yielding to unholy attractions. I knew of a couple who were seemingly happily married with a young son who loved his parents so fondly. The man took a trip to California and while there met up with an old girlhood sweetheart. They fell into an unholy relationship that caused him to forsake his wife and son. Great sorrow fell upon that woman and her son. It happens all the time in this wicked world. Many preachers and religious leaders have fallen into this trap. The Word of God is giving us warning. Let us take heed. Oh, young people, the scene of our lesson today need not be repeated in your life, but it can be. If you want to avoid this awful snare, then do as the writer is pressing you to do. Make wisdom your close companion. Be on your guard against the forces that are arrayed against you to draw you away from God. Consecrate and yield to God all your life and self. Make not a move unless you know that God is guiding you. The Lord is faithful and will help you through the temptations and turmoils of youth if you will trust and obey Him. May God bless and guide you.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

There are many good examples in the Bible of people who have withstood the allurements of sin. One of the most outstanding is Joseph. The devil carefully laid a trap for him down in Egypt, at his master's house. What a contrast between the end of his story and the one in our lesson. Rather than going as an ox to slaughter, he walked away with his head held high in victory.

People get into trouble when they listen to the reasoning of sin. At such a time the commandments of God are no longer the apple of their eye. Notice what Joseph said when he was tempted, "How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?" Just think of the trouble this world might have been spared if Eve would have spoken these words to Satan. Imagine the trouble that

people today would be spared if they would reply thus to the temptation of evil. It is only wisdom to do so.

The Christian life requires constant vigilance but it is not a life of fearing failure. God has complete victory for us if we will keep His law as the apple of our eye.

—Wayne Murphey



**JUNE 19, 1994**

### **THE UNIVERSAL APPEAL OF WISDOM TO MAN**

Proverbs 8:1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.

5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.

8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength.

15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

19 My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

22 The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.



29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways.

33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord.

36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death.

**MEMORY VERSE:** ...Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding. Job 28:28.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** Wisdom, the fear of God, is still calling out for us to listen and give heed to her words of truth and righteousness, to teach us the good way to life eternal, and to fill our souls with true riches, that we might be happy, successful and right.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 9), "*Plain to him that understandeth*": Straightforward and clear cut; easy to distinguish. To the one lacking understanding God's laws are not clear because of wrong attitudes and dispositions that cloud the mind. (V. 12), "*Prudence*": Wise craftiness; knowing how to accomplish the best ends with the best methods and most appropriate means. "*Knowledge of witty inventions*": Knowledge of good and sagacious plans and contrivances. A person endowed with divine wisdom will be blessed with understanding how to function successfully in the home, church, community and with himself. (V. 13), "*Arrogancy*": Loftiness in mind and attitude; too high opinion of one's self. (V. 17), "*Seek me early*": To be up early at any task, implying earnestness; searching for with painstaking. (V. 23),

***"Set up from everlasting"***: Planned and organized, molded and framed. Wisdom directed God in all of the creation, and the more we learn about the wonders of the earth and the heavens the more we know it is true. This wisdom that is making her offer to guide us in our lives is the same wisdom that directed the creation of the world. (V. 30), ***"Then I was by him, as one brought up with him"***: The Hebrew says, "And I was at His side, an expert and skilled workman. (V. 31), ***"The habitable part of his earth"***: In the part of the earth that He designed for man to inhabit. There are some parts of the earth that God did not and does not today design for man to dwell in or even to go to. For this reason many foolhardy people have suffered and died, reaching for areas like the north and south poles, the moon, the mountain heights, and other areas that are best for man to avoid. ***"My delights with the sons of men"***: The souls of men were the most important part of God's creation for the work and effect of wisdom. (V. 34), ***"Watching, waiting at my doors"***: Seeking, yearning, intensely desiring the profitable counsel of wisdom. Adam Clarke has a very worthy comment here: "Wisdom is represented as having a school for the instruction of men; and seems to point out some of the most forward of her scholars coming, through their intense desire to learn, even before the gates were opened, and waiting there for admission, that they might hear every word that was uttered, and not lose one accent of the heavenly teaching." This thought impresses me to show a constant outlook and watchful observance as the heart of a child of wisdom, ever ready to grasp a lesson or maxim of knowledge every moment should the door be opened suddenly, in an instant when inspiration and light breaks forth.

## **LESSON BACKGROUND**

Once more the writer pictures the beautiful woman portraying the attraction and call of Wisdom who is sounding out her appeal to us poor and needy mortals in this short life. We had her pictured in Lesson 3 of this series, but the writer enlarges upon it again. After illustrating the woes of those who reject the fear of the Lord and the wonderful blessings of those who receive her as their near and beloved companion, we once

more hear her voice and a more vibrant extension of her call. It is for us to willingly incline our ear to her voice, for she forces no one to go her way. Those who reap the benefits that she is offering do so because they make her their choice. The heedless, stubborn, and proud choose their way. They do not have to be stubborn and heedless. It is just that it takes diligence and purpose of heart that they are not willing to put out. Their minds are blinded by the vanities of the flesh and the carnal minded world. There is no fear of God before their eyes. Wisdom is still calling today. Until the last beam of this time world fades into eternity she will still be sounding her message, making her appeal to the sons of men.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **QUESTIONS:**

1. Is wisdom crying out and making her call today?
2. Who is she calling to?
3. What is wisdom offering?
4. What does she say about her words and teachings?
5. In what way is wisdom better than riches?
6. Just how was wisdom with the Lord in the beginning?
7. In what does wisdom want to rejoice?
8. What does it mean to watch daily at her gates and doors?
9. What will we obtain if we will find wisdom?
10. Who proves by their actions that they love death?

### **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

There is a woman beautiful and in God's sight most fair;  
She seeks the hearts of men to fill with wealth beyond compare.  
She stands wherever man is found and sounds her earnest cry,  
(Though many fail to hear her sound and pass her message by):

"Hear! I will speak of righteous things excelling far beyond  
The fleeting wealth of earthly kings who count this world so fond.  
They're plain to all who understand, and right to all who find  
The knowledge of God's gracious hand with open heart and mind.

"I wisdom dwell with prudence fair; wise planning I search out:  
I help kings reign and princes bear their rule without a doubt.

"The froward mouth and evil way I hate with all its pride;  
My words are right and they will pay great dividends beside.

"Seek after me, delights shall fill your heart before unknown;  
My strength and sound discretion will not let you walk alone.  
"For I love them who will love me, who seek me in their youth,  
I'll help them find the purity that comes by loving truth.

"Oh, let me be your sister now, your friend in conflicts sore,  
I'll keep you from the woman strange who seeks to rob your store;  
"I'll fill your blooming youth with bliss and honor so divine,  
This wicked world you will not miss, enrap't with all of mine!

"The fountain of your youth I will enrich abundantly;  
With joys and happy treasures fill like rivers flowing free.  
"Your barns with plenty will be filled, your presses with new wine,  
More precious far than gold and gems your life shall sweetly shine.

"Instruction hear, and be you wise; oh, turn it not away;  
A blessed home beyond the skies will be all yours some day.  
"For he that sins against my call loves death and wrongs his soul,  
But he who takes me for his all finds Freedom's sweet control.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

Job, in the midst of his tumultuous time, fully concurred with Solomon concerning the value of wisdom. "But where shall wisdom be found? and where is the place of understanding? It cannot be gotten for gold, neither shall silver be weighed for the price thereof. It cannot be valued with the gold of Ophir, with the precious onyx, or the sapphire." Job 28:12,15-16. When everything looked dark, Job was looking for wisdom to know how to behave himself as he should. We can see in his answer to his wife that he still retained wisdom. She said, "...Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die." In his wisdom Job replied. "...Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh." Job 2:9-10. Through wisdom Job kept his integrity with God. The result of this was he was given more than he had before. He proved what Solomon said, "Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed are they that keep my ways."

Those who fail to answer the call of wisdom harm themselves. "But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death." How foolish it is for people to go right on doing the things that bring harm to their souls. In death they will realize the value of wisdom but it will be too late to utilize it.

—Wayne Murphey



**JUNE 26, 1994**

**WISDOM'S CALL CONTRASTED  
WITH FOLLY'S ALLUREMENT**

Proverbs 9:1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.

6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.

8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

12 If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.

13 A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.

14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:

16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.

18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

Proverbs 24:3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

4 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

**MEMORY VERSE:** If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it. Proverbs 9:12.

**CENTRAL THOUGHT:** There are two ways that are set before us in life. Everyone must choose for himself which way he will go. To forsake the foolish and go in the way of understanding will bring life and peace, but to go the way of the wicked is to choose death and an eternal abode in the depths of hell.

**WORD DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS:** (V. 1), "*Wisdom*": Discernment or sound judgment concerning what is true or false, proper or improper; choice of the best ends and the best means to accomplish them. "*Pillars*": A pillar is a column that stands permanently and unchanging, to support and hold up the roof of a building. (V. 2), "*Her beasts, her wine, her table*": These represent the three commodities of godliness and our relationship with God. The beasts represent sacrifice. Jesus Christ is our Passover sacrificed for us. We partake of His flesh and blood by believing and obeying. The wine represents that drink that every Christian must drink into, and that is the wine of the Holy Spirit. And the table means the food for the soul, the Word of God and the doctrines of Christ. (V. 4), "*Him that wanteth understanding*": The Hebrew says, "Him that lacketh heart." It denotes emptiness of purpose and

values, bewildered and confused, frustrated and without aim; shiftless and drifting. The Lord wants to fill such a heart with something worthwhile and satisfying. (V. 6), "*Understanding*": Apprehending and grasping the meaning of a thing. It is interesting to note that the Hebrew word for understanding means to separate or distinguish, while the Greek word for understanding means to put together. It means that understanding enables us to separate and distinguish all parts and details of life for their value and purpose, and to be able to assemble, organize and employ in an orderly and right manner all things for right function and use. (V. 8), "*Scorner*": One who mocks and derides. (V. 10), "*Beginning of wisdom*": The basis or first and most important part of being wise is to fear, honour, and respect the Almighty. "*Knowledge*": True acquaintance with, or clear perception of facts. (V. 13), "*Clamorous*": Loud, noisy, seeking to attract attention. (V. 15), "*Passengers who go right on their ways*": The Hebrew says, "Those passing in the way, those going straight on their paths." The word straight means right, even, good. (V. 17), "*Stolen waters*": Things partaken of that are unlawful and not permitted; that which is against the divine ordinance of God. To the one not fearing God there is actually a peculiar delight and thrill in partaking of something that is esteemed to be forbidden.

## LESSON BACKGROUND

We have in our lesson today a final comparison between the two women that we have studied about in this book of Proverbs. The one is Wisdom, the fear of God. The other is the world and the spirit of disobedience. It is to be noted how much more Wisdom has to offer than the foolish woman has. All the foolish woman has is the sweetness and enjoyment of transgression and sin, and the thrill that comes with doing things and getting by with crossing the line of permission. But Wisdom has those good qualities of life and character that will make for safety and certain hope. They both have a house and a place in the midst of people from which to advertise and make their call. These two spirits are constantly before us. Everyday we must make decisions regarding them. God is allowing us to decide for ourselves which way we will go. Let us be wise and choose the way of the fear and favor of God and avoid that downward way that leads to eternal destruction.

—Leslie C. Busbee

## **QUESTIONS:**

1. Can you think of seven principles that we could label the seven pillars of wisdom with?
2. What kind of wine does Wisdom offer?
3. What kind of food does Wisdom offer?
4. Can a person partake of wisdom without taking a clean stand against the folly of this world?
5. Why will a scorner not take reproof?
6. Will we ever get to the place where we will not need to be wiser than what we are?
7. What are we to do with knowledge that we attain to?
8. Who will we benefit the most by having wisdom? Who will we hurt the most by not having it?
9. What does the foolish woman have to offer?
10. What is the end of the soul who follows Wisdom? What is the end of the soul who seeks not Wisdom?

## **ADULTS' AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S COMMENTS**

We are all building a house in our life time. Whether we are serving God or not, we are building a house. This house is our character, our spiritual self, the man that we really are. This is the house that we will live in forever. It is made up of words, deeds, thoughts, desires, attitudes, feelings, reactions, and dispositions. It involves our relationship with God, others and our ourselves. How we treat God, of course, is the most important, but the other matters are important, too. There is only one true way of really building a house that will be worthwhile and safe. And that is to listen to the voice of Wisdom, the fear of God, and follow her counsels. We must go by the Word of God in everything that we let transpire in our lives. As we seek to know wisdom, we will begin to understand life and its mysteries and challenges. As we learn lessons that the Spirit of God teaches us, we will begin to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus. Our understanding of Him will be like precious treasures that we cherish and enjoy. We keep them in our house of hope and salvation that we are sheltering our precious souls in. Our house stands because it is on a good foundation, the solid Rock, Christ Jesus, of whom the Spirit of the Lord has given us light and understanding. The eyes of our understanding being opened, we know what is the hope of His calling and what is the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the



holy saints of God. (Eph. 1:18.) This is a treasure out of which we bring things new and old and share with others. (Matthew 13:52.) We have fled from the ways of sin and have anchored our souls in the Lord Jesus and His right ways. We are happy and are on our way to eternal glory where joys are more sublime. The wealth and possessions we have in Christ are eternal and will be our unfailing treasures that we can possess forever, even when this world is on fire and passing away forever.

—Leslie C. Busbee

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

In our lesson we notice that a feast is spread and wisdom compels us to be a partaker of this banquet. The call has gone forth, "Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled." Christ, through wisdom, is the One who has prepared this feast. "And as they did eat, Jesus took bread, and blessed and brake it, and gave to them, and said, Take, eat: this is my body. And he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many." Mark 14:22-24. We notice another place where Jesus produced wine to be partaken of. This was in Cana at a marriage feast. The ruler of the feast wanted to know why the best wine was saved until the last. The wine that is served at the table Christ sets always improves with time. Notice in our lesson the phrase, "wine which I have mingled." Sometimes we may partake of some suffering along with salvation, but the way grows brighter as time passes. At the end, heaven will be unmixed bliss. It will be a nectar that the mortal mind cannot comprehend.

There are many who sit at the banquet table that Satan has spread. He offers the very opposite of what Christ serves. Satan serves his best wine first. There are sweet temptations in sin. The young person sips of these and they tingle his soul. He indulges in sin and the wine is not as good as he thought it was. As time goes on and sin ravages his body and soul, he realizes that it is not at all good. However, he is drunk on it and cannot help himself. The end of it is the bitter dregs of hell. It is wisdom to partake of the feast prepared by Christ. "Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."

—Wayne Murphey

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