

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Larry R. Ping II

The book of Proverbs is key-noted by the word wisdom. This is something Solomon was well-endowed with, as it was specifically requested by Solomon in I Kings 3:5-9. It is noted “*he spake three thousand proverbs*” (I Kings 4:32) and that he “*set in order many proverbs*” (Eccl. 12:9). This article offers some brief thoughts on this grand book.

1) THE PURPOSE OF THE PROVERBS. This is one of the books of the Bible which contains a stated purpose, “*To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity; To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion*” (Prov. 1:2-4). To be full of knowledge, wisdom, discernment, and fairness, one needs only to spend much time in reading and studying this great book of the Bible.

2) THE AUDIENCE OF PROVERBS. While this book contains highly useful information for all of its readers,

it is an excellent resource for those who are younger. Within this book are 23 uses of the phrase “*my son.*” For instance, it is written, “*My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother*” (Prov. 1:8). As well it is said, “*My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine*” (Prov. 23:15). Perhaps as parents, we might suggest the reading of the 15,000+ words in the book of Proverbs rather than all other secular books!

3) THE STYLE OF PROVERBS. This book has its own literary style. Though it is part of the Old Testament, it is filled with what is referred to as axioms, or general truths. For instance, Solomon wrote, “*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*” (Prov. 22:6). Because this is a general truth, one cannot assume parents failed if a child grows up and lives wickedly. Generally speaking, if parents rear their children in a godly way (Eph. 6:4: Col. 3:21), the children, when grown, will be

faithful to the Lord. However, there will be exceptions to this stated “truth” in Proverbs. This occurs dozens of time in this wonderful book of wisdom.

4) THE PRACTICALITY OF PROVERBS. All the Bible is practical, of course. But this is especially true of Proverbs. If one intends to understand morality and ethics, this book helps. It says, “*The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul*” (Prov. 16:17). If one needs to learn about the dangers of lust, this book aids. It utters, “*Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well*” (Prov. 5:15). How about Divine information regarding money? “*He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch*” (Prov. 11:28). What about child-rearing? “*The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame*” (Prov. 29:15). Have you read and studied the book of Proverbs lately? If not, why not give it a fresh, new look! If not, why not?

THE LORD'S SUPPER

Larry R. Ping II

The Bible reads, *“And as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and blessed it, and brake it, and gave it to the disciples, and said, Take, eat; this is my body. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom”* (Matt. 26:26-29). Let us consider some of these brief lessons concerning the Lord's Supper.

1) THE PHRASE “BREAKING OF BREAD” OFTEN HAS REFERENCE TO THE LORD'S SUPPER. The context in which the phrase is found helps determine if it is regarding the Lord's Supper, or not. Acts 2:42 relates, *“And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.”* The context here is spiritual, therefore the phrase *“breaking of bread”* is a reference to the Lord's Supper. In similar fashion, Luke records, *“And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came*

together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight” (Acts 20:7). One should also realize that this phrase *“breaking of bread”* represents both the taking of the bread and the fruit of the vine.

2) THE NEED FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER. Obviously, the partaking of the emblems is not for the benefit of the Lord. It is for the profit of the partaker. Men are forgetful creatures. This is why Jesus instructed to do these things *“in remembrance of me”* (I Cor. 11:24-25). Timothy the evangelist was told, *“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ”* (I Tim. 4:6). Peter, in his second epistle, wrote of reminding three times (II Pet. 1:12,13,15). When partaking of the emblems, we would do well to heed the command of Paul, *“But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup”* (I Cor. 11:28).

3) THE PURPOSE OF THE LORD'S SUPPER. When “Easter” season rolls around, I often see bulletins or posts which say something to the effect of,

“We celebrate the Lord's resurrection every first day of the week during the Lord's Supper.” While we understand without the Lord's resurrection, salvation would not be possible (I Cor. 15:12-19), the Lord's Supper really has nothing to do with His resurrection. Paul penned, *“For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come”* (I Cor. 11:26). When we eat the unleavened bread, we should be focused upon the abuse the Lord's body endured. When we drink the fruit of the vine, our thoughts should be centralized upon the shed blood of the Son of God. This is why the manner in which we partake is so vitally important. Again, the apostle penned, *“Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord”* (I Cor. 11:27) and *“For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body”* (I Cor. 11:29).

May we never forget the Lord and His sacrifice. May we never be so proud we feel we are not in need of reminding.

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm