

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 PROHIBITED PROVERB

Larry R. Ping II

The book of Proverbs is simply over-flowing with wisdom. It is filled with what are referred to as "truths" or "maxims." That is, it is a book full of "short statements expressing a general truth or rule of conduct." It is a worthy book deserving of our attention and examination.

Having said all of this, most do not realize there are other "proverbs" located through God's Word. Places such as Dte. 28:37, I Sam. 10:12, I Sam. 24:13, I Kings 9:7, Psa. 69:11, Lk. 4:23 and Jn. 16:25, if read, will show this to be true.

The Bible even includes a prohibited proverb. Ezekiel writes, "What mean ye, that ye use this proverb concerning the land of Israel, saying, The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge? As I live, saith the Lord GOD, ye shall not have occasion any more to use this proverb in Israel" (Eze. 18:2-3). Consider these brief lessons from this prohibited proverb.

1) Not All "Wise" Sayings Are Wise. Only something can be true and wise if it has been verified (Acts 17:11). Just because someone says something does not automatically make it true. Apparently, these folks in Ezekiel's day had used this proverb so often, it was eventually accepted as true. Have you heard it said, "Misery loves company?" Probably so, but it is not true (Lk. 16:27-28). Have you heard, "Sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me?" Doubtless so, but it is not true (Prov. 18:8; Prov.26:22). Even Timothy and Titus were warned about words like these, referred to as "fables" (I Tim.1:4; I Tim. 4:7; II Tim. 4:4; Tit. 1:14). Always verify that which is said is true (I Thess. 5:21).

2) Individuals Are Responsible For Their Own Misdeeds. This was the root problem of this prohibited proverb. It suggested the fathers took the action ("eaten sour grapes"), but the children

were the ones to suffer the consequence ("teeth are set on edge"). The Bible is very clear on this subject. Paul penned, "But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons" (Col. 3:25). To the Corinthians the apostle said, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10). Notice the emphasis upon the individual's actions. Even Ezekiel addressed this when writing, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him" (Eze. 18:20).

Let us be sure to consistently examine the proverbs in the Bible which are allowable, and keep from those which bring harm!

THE WISE MAN IN PROVERBS

Larry R. Ping II

The book of Proverbs is keynoted by the word “Wisdom.” It not only involves itself in the build-up of knowledge, but in the application of it as well. Contemplate these “wise ones” in Proverbs, and determine if you are among them!

1) “**A Wise Man Will Hear, And Will Increase Learning**” (Prov. 1:5). Jesus called us to be hearers (Matt. 11:15). It is hearing that starts the engine on the road to salvation from sins (Rom. 10:17). Have you listened yet?

2) “**Go To The Ant, Thou Sluggard; Consider Her Ways, And Be Wise**” (Prov. 6:6). The ants are championed for their diligent work. They work hard while they can so they have what they need when they cannot work (Prov. 6:6-11). We need to be diligent workers as well. We prepare for our winter (eternity) in our summer (our lifetime). Have you prepared?

3) “**Rebuke A Wise Man, And He Will Love Thee**” (Prov. 9:8). Even those

full of wisdom need correcting from time to time. The Hebrew writer, in quoting the Old Testament wrote, “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth” (Heb. 12:6). Do you accept correction well?

4) “**The Wise In Heart Will Receive Commandments: But A Prating Fool Shall Fall**” (Prov. 10:8). We live in an age in which the words commandments and obedience have become somewhat dirty! Yet, Jesus said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (Jn. 14:15). As well, the New Testament iterates Jesus has become “the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him” (Heb. 5:9). It sounds as if the Lord expects obedience to His commandments. What are you doing with His Word?

5) “**He That Refraineth His Lips Is Wise**” (Prov. 10:19). Our tongues are a very powerful part of our body (Jam. 3). We should learn as we mature there are times when it is better to say nothing at all. We should adopt the attitude of David who said, “I will take

heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue: I will keep my mouth with a bridle, while the wicked is before me” (Psa. 39:1). Are you refraining and controlling your lips?

6) “**He That Winneth Souls Is Wise**” (Prov. 11:30). We should say as we often sing, “I Want To Be A Soul Winner For Jesus Every Day!” Ezekiel noted, “the soul that sinneth, it shall die” (Eze. 18:4). We should have a love all souls which are lost (Rom. 13:8), and teach them the Gospel message. Who is the last individual you have taught the Truth?

7) “**He That Walketh With Wise Men Shall Be Wise: But A Companion Of Fools Shall Be Destroyed**” (Prov. 13:20). Oh, how carefully we must keep guard of those with whom we keep company. They will surely wear on us and bring about spiritual destruction. Paul cautioned, “Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners” (I Cor. 15:33). Are you keeping careful vigil over your company?

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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