

Proverbs 10, Aug 26, 2024 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Overview:

Proverbs 10 starts a new literary section where the previous 9 chapters had more topical poetry focusing on a few subjects, now we get into what the rest of the book is. Namely, random aphorisms or single sentence sayings that stand alone. Again, remember that Proverbs are not promises but general guidance about how God has ordered the world. They are not to be taken without exception but understood as how the odds work in God's economy of life.

Commentary:

Let us look at five (5) themes in this chapter with one particular standout:

I. The Fear of the LORD (V27). See also v2b, 16a, 17a.

This is the seventh time, by my count, in the book that TFOTL is mentioned. It has been said that this is the theme of the entire book with 1:7 being the primary verse. V27 in particular, contrasts the outcome of people's lives based on how they conducted themselves. Those who fear God live long and those who don't and are consequently characterized as wicked, die early. Whether this is the natural consequence of good and poor decision making or some outside divine intervention is not revealed. Perhaps the case is some of both.

We all know of notable exceptions to this phenomenon. Again, these are proverbs not promises. I've often wondered about the exceptions like Greg Bahnsen who was 47 when he died. Did God take them early because of some besetting sin or to keep them from some besetting sin? Perhaps Dr. Bahnsen accomplished what God had set him to do, and like Enoch, having walked with God, he was no more, for God took him. We don't know, nor can we know.

What we can say is that some people because of indulgence in gross and heinous sin, die early. Whether that be from STDs or liver failure, or murder by a rival sinner, the result is the same. I think of all the rock stars who've become members of the 27 club, Janis

Joplin, Jimi Hendrix, Jim Morrison, Kurt Cobain, Amy Winehouse. Think of the gangster rap icons Easy E, Notorious BIG, or 2Pac, all who's life was snuffed out relatively early.

II. Work Ethic v4-5 & 26

What later became known as the "Protestant work ethic" sometimes called the "Puritan work ethic" or "Calvinistic work ethic". All three describe the same phenomenon of diligence, discipline and frugality. Here in v4, the outcomes are straightforward: rich and poor are attributed simply to hard work and laziness. This principle assumes that the person lives in a society that is generally righteous and rewards good behavior and punishes laziness. Our current situation that tends to enslave through rewarding slackards is an abomination. Verse 5 ascribes insight to the diligent and shame to the lazy.

Furthermore, v26 details the frustration that others have with lazy people. They are an irritant likened to teeth set on edge and smoke in the eyes. They are insufferable to those who try and work with them or those who manage them. My daughters both had jobs this summer and both complained incessantly about the other employees who were lazy. Again, in our society, we have allowed for and even rewarded laziness.

III. Mouth, Lips, Tongue -16 times (v6, 8b, 10b, 11 a&b, 13a, 14b, 19-21a, 31-32)

The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked covers up violence. -v11

V19 "Where there are many words, transgression is unavoidable, but he who holds back his lips has insight."

Shut up. Stop talking so much. Be circumspect in your speech. Don't be the kind of person who is constantly wanting to and waiting only to talk. Be reflective and respectful.

V20 the tongue of the righteous is as choice silver...

V21 the lips of the righteous feed many...

Discernment is evident in the mouth of the wise v32. Fools run their mouths constantly without any speed bumps. They say whatever comes into their heads. Not only is there no filter, but there are also no stop signs. They do not know what is acceptable. Their words gush from their heads like water from a fire hydrant.

See also James 3:1-12; Hebrews 13:17

Application:

Wise men store up knowledge -Prov 10:14a

Love covers all transgressions -Prov 10:12b

(T)he righteous has an everlasting foundation. -Prov 10:25

The righteous will never be shaken. -Prov 10:30

What the wicked dreads will come upon him, but the desire of the righteous will be granted -Prov 10:24

Closing Prayer:

Father, make us men who store up knowledge, men who love fiercely and are indeed righteous. Let us take care to watch what we say. Make us men of rightly ordered affections. Make us love what is good and hate evil. Draw us near. Push us deeper. Make us wise. Use us to love our wives and children and build families for the eternal kingdom. This is our desire. May you grant it for Your glory, In Jesus' name, Amen.