

Proverbs 12, Sep 9, 2024 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Overview:

Today we will look at several topics. Without further ado, let's jump in.

Commentary:

V1a implies the man who is self-**disciplined** knows something. What does he know? Jocko Wilink says that **discipline** equals freedom. We will do well to remember that self-**discipline** is part of the fruit of the Spirit in Gal 5. In other word, part of the evidence of the presence of our salvation and consequently, the indwelling of the Spirit is this characteristic of self-**discipline**.

The goal of **discipline** that comes from outside is to teach the recipient to love self-discipline. This is one of the goals of parenting. We would do well to remember this when raising adults (not kids). We must instill **discipline** in them when they are young, and it will serve them well later in life.

Nevertheless, we ourselves must be characterized by **discipline**. What is **discipline** but saying "no" to certain desires. It is the curbing of our will away from certain behaviors and thoughts and directing our actions to intentional things. Some areas include: thought life (where the head goes, the body follows), diet, exercise, dress, words & speech, habits, work ethic, study,... what else?

V1b gives us the other side of the coin. A man who hates reproof is stupid. Reproof is criticism, correction, blame, accusation. The man who hates this is dull and a dullard. He is stupid and insecure. He is threatened by it instead of being better. He is consumed by his appetites and can't see things any other way. Some people are so foolish that they think they know everything. **They are know it all know nothings**. Their personality of intuition is to their ruin.

V15 is helpful in this regard as well. "An ignorant fool is right in his own eyes." He doesn't know anything but claims to be an expert. "But a wise man is he who listens to counsel." Cf. 11:14. Be open to correction and outside wisdom. Don't be too quick to dismiss the ideas of others. Consider the source. Consider the information. Weigh it out. This too is a discipline that must be developed and practiced.

Additionally, if you can't make your self do things you don't want to do, you will forever be an immature boy. If you can't say no to yourself and curb your will and are constantly led by your heart or the wind, or whatever, you will be poor, unestablished, and childish.

V2 reminds us that righteousness leads to favor with God. This is exciting to me. I so want to have the favor of God. Luke 2:52 says that Jesus grew in stature and in favor with both God and men. Let that be true of us.

Of course, our standing with God is rooted in the finished work of Christ on the cross and His subsequently being raised from the dead. However, He has also ascended and rules from on high and expects His subjects to love and obey Him. Let it be so.

The evil man will be condemned. I also take some sense of respite in this verse knowing that God will judge evil and evil men. Dt 32:35 & Rom 12:17-19 relieve me of having to execute my own justice knowing that God will judge and repay.

V3 & 7 speak to the reoccurring theme of the **permanence** of the righteous "the root of the righteous will not be shaken", "the house of the righteous will stand" and the temporary existence of the wicked. Let this serve both as a motive for upright and disciplined living while a deflector for evil and undisciplined frivolity.

V4 Get a **good wife**. Lead her. The primary characteristic you're looking for is not her looks but her character. Is she teachable. Can you lead her. Then, the duty of the husband is to do just that. LEAD HER. Expose her to the things of God... godly older women, the Word itself, be the leader and teach her to help you as God designed.

V9 Don't be a **self-promoter**. It is better to be humble and have what you have than to be a braggart with nothing.

V11 **Don't chase crazy dreams**. Plow your land. Do your job. Be diligent and mindful. Stop looking for shortcuts. Put your hand to the plow and don't look back. Stop perusing empty things. That doesn't mean that you shouldn't look for good land to plow. Those are called opportunities. However, the idea that you can get their easily without significant investment of effort is foolish boyism.

Vs 6, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18, 19, & 22, 23 again have to do with speaking and the **lips** or **mouth** or **tongue**. Let us highlight v 16 & 22 that deal with impetuosity and speech. These verses have to do with being able to hold one's tongue. That is, to not say certain things and to consider the timing of what is said. The completely unfiltered man is a fool.

When he speaks the first thing that comes into his mouth, he is a moron. His thoughts “are known at once” v16a. There is something to be said here about anger specifically. When a man cannot contain his disdain but spews it all around all the time for everyone to see, he shows himself to be a fool. Those who are constantly irritated about life, particularly traffic, are immature. Yes, there is traffic. There will always be traffic. Yes, the grocery store is crowded on Saturday and inefficient. You know this. People are stupid and they are everywhere. You know this. Why are you frustrated by it? Stop complaining. See the message from yesterday.

A prudent, or wise man conceals disgrace. He keeps some things to himself. Before you spew some crap out your word hole, you should stop and consider some things. “A prudent man conceals knowledge...”v23 Wise men tend to be cagy in some regards. They are not slick salesman. They are carefully considerate of what they say and how it is said. They do not talk about their successes to everyone who will listen. They do not run the highlight reel of their adventures and accomplishments quickly. “the heart of fools proclaim folly.” Unwise men are blowhards always looking for an audience to tell their stories to.

V25 “Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs it down, but a good word makes it glad.”

You want to first be the kind of guy that is in the later part of this verse. **Be an encourager, not a manipulator.** Most people use flattery as a manipulation technique. Don’t flatter. Recognize people according to their value and call out, therefore rewarding, good behavior. Be the rock that people need when they are drifting or worried.

Conclusion:

Be **disciplined.**

Be a man of **life-giving words** focused on God and others.

Let that be your **legacy.**

Closing Prayer:

Father, we commit ourselves to You new and afresh today. We invite Your Spirit to lead and teach us. Find us faithful servants. In Jesus’ name, Amen.