

## **Proverbs 28, Jan 20, 2025 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study**

### **Review:**

Prov 27 had 10 commands.

Four (maybe 5) verses about friendship (5? 6; 9-10; 17). One very famous.

Five verses about resources and planning (23-27)

### **Overview:**

Prov 28 has no direct commands. Not much said about our speech (mouth, lips, etc.) like most other chapters.

There is much said about our actions and our hearts. Today is a very practical smash in the mouth kind of text. There is a specific section about the law.

### **Commentary:**

#### **Righteousness**

V1 The wicked flee when no one is pursuing them... why? Because they think someone is after them. There is a psychological security that righteousness brings about. Sin makes you crazy and paranoid. Sin makes you dumb. It robs you of correct perspective and changes how your mind works. It is a life killing cancer robbing you of blessing and reality. It is a vortex of death sucking men down deeper and deeper until it consumes them.

The righteous are as bold or secure as a lion. What does a lion worry about compared to the other animals? Nothing. He is the king. He is not worried about what all the other animals are doing because he is the apex predator. In this case, the righteous possess this type of attitude since they are good with God. God is their protector and shield. They are immune to the attacks of others. They do not worry about tomorrow. There is a boldness and strength that comes from trusting the LORD. There is a confidence in knowing you're right before God. Men don't scare you. You're certainly not afraid when

no one is even coming out for you. The righteous are as secure as a lion because God protects them.

Obey the clear commands of Scripture. If you have obvious sin, confess it, repent, and move on. Stop doing laps around Sinai because of your sin. There should be no besetting sin in our lives. We should be able to progress in righteousness and pursue the LORD with freedom and faith. This is not Wesleyan perfectionism. This is simple righteous living that is consistently growing and walking with God. Sin is quickly repented of and progress is made. You are secure. Get on with growing.

To many guys get stuck with questioning their salvation and staying in this path of constant immobilization. Trust the LORD and get on with it. Repent of not repenting. Get on the horse and move forward. You'll never grow as long as you are questioning your salvation. Trust that God does it, and that does it for you. Get going. Repent of being weak and giving into your doubts. Confess them and put your hand to the plow. There are plenty of fields that need plowing for the King. Get to plowing and stop looking back.

V5 talks about the lack of understanding that the wicked have. Their minds are corrupt and obsessed with their sin. Paul says in Romans 1:21 "Their foolish hearts became darkened." This is called the noetic effect of sin. It corrupts our ability to think and process information correctly. It creates and feeds brain rot.

The opposite is true of those who seek the LORD. He gives understanding and wisdom to His sons. He shows them right perspective and makes them clear minded. Not confused but focused and ready.

## Law

V4 observes the phenomenon that there is an inescapable conflict between those who know and follow God's law and those who don't. There is no getting around it. There will be fighting, so know that and be ready. We do have enemies. Don't be naïve. Fight well. Be prepared. This is to be expected.

V7 observing, or paying attention to God's law gives wisdom. There are those who are ignorant and unconcerned with God's statutes and decrees. They are going their own way and resting on their own wisdom.

Even in the church we see those unsuspecting, overly sentimental and sensitive guys who are constantly evaluating their own spiritual lives instead of just obeying the clear commands of scripture. Much of the time, they don't even know what the Scripture says. They are emotionally driven effeminate weaklings that should be given some Scriptural backbone. The Bible gives men spines. Without it, they just limp along with no confidence or conviction. They have no understanding.

They end up just seeking pleasure (v7b befriending gluttons). In our culture it is video game playing, porn watching, wankers. They just find loser friends that confirm their lifestyle and bring reproach on their families. Their fathers should call out strength and honor from them.

V9 Furthermore, those who openly disobey God's law, God will not listen to his prayer. This is such a simple concept and reaffirms what we've been saying. You must know, love, and follow what God says. Jesus said, "if you love me, obey my commandments." John 14:15. It really is that simple. It is not about a "relationship." It is about walking in the truth of what God has said. Framing the Christian life around a subjective experience is an effeminate construct. It is true that we are His sons and have an inheritance. Trust it and get to building. Stop stopping for emotional support times. Quit being a woman and obey what God has said. That is not legalism it is doing what God says to do and stop doing what He said not to. Simple but hard.

### Money and the Heart

Matthew 6:24\_ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."

v6 & 18 – "double dealing" ... It is better to have integrity than to have riches, especially ill-gotten money (v6). God sees your heart and will reward genuine integrity but those who are always "double dealing", He will punish, and they will fall from their position.

V8 God will turn the tables on those who take advantage of the poor giving it instead to those who care for the needy. God is a God of irony. Take care, and don't buy into the idea that just because someone is doing it, it might as well be you, if the thing is taking advantage and profiting from people's despair and keeping them poor.

v20 & 22 -Don't try to get rich quick. Don't pursue those schemes and don't desire what it promises. V20 highlights faithfulness as an alternative. The implication seems to be a warning against wanting to not have to work. The diligent and faithful man will receive blessings (from God). He who runs to riches will be punished. It is evil (22a) and ignorant of the opposite that will befall him (22b).

v11 "The rich is wise in his own eyes" money often leads to confirmation bias. Because they were right about business, they think they're right about everything. The truth is that there are those who do not possess riches that may indeed be more wise than those who forfeited their souls to attain it.

v26 -Don't trust your heart. Especially if you are justifying something that God says not to do. People say, "I know what God says and I'm not doing that..." And yet they are. Outside perspective and accountability are antidotes to self-deception.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

Direct your heart Prov 23:19

### Conclusion:

Don't trust your heart. Direct your heart.

Obey the clear commands of Scripture (start with the 10 commandments).

Keep moving forward.

### Closing Prayer:

Father, thank You for Your word and the wisdom it provides. Help us to understand and obey it. Make us men of wisdom full of grace and truth. Make us wise and faithful for Your glory. Make us mighty men, pulling in the same direction for the cause of Christ. For Him and His covenant... for a thousand years by the work of the Spirit. In Jesus' name, Amen.