

LESSONS FROM SOLOMON'S PROVERBS

BIBLE TEXT : Proverbs 27:1-27; 28:1-28; 29:1-27.

LESSON 280 Senior Course

MEMORY VERSE: "An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked" (Proverbs 29:27).

BIBLE TEXT in King James Version

Proverbs 27:1-27 ¹ Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.

² Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

³ A stone *is* heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath *is* heavier than them both.

⁴ Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy?

⁵ Open rebuke *is* better than secret love.

⁶ Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

⁷ The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

⁸ As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so *is* a man that wandereth from his place.

⁹ Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

¹⁰ Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: *for* better *is* a neighbour *that is* near than a brother far off.

¹¹ My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.

¹² A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, *and* hideth himself; *but* the simple pass on, *and* are punished.

¹³ Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

¹⁴ He that blesseth his friend with

BIBLE REFERENCES:

I Maxims from the Wisdom of God

1. The uncertainty of life necessitates our following a wise course at all times, Proverbs 27:1; 28:22; 29:1;

Proverbs 25:6-7 ⁶ Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great *men*:

⁷ For better *it is* that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.

Proverbs 25:27 ²⁷ *It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.*

Psalms 39:5 ⁵ Behold, thou hast made my days *as* an handbreadth; and mine age *is* as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state *is* altogether vanity. Selah.

James 4:13-15 ¹³ Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

¹⁴ Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

¹⁵ For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

- 1 **Peter 1:24** ²⁴ For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:

2. Self-praise and flattery both lead to disaster, Proverbs 27:2, 5, 6, 14, 21; 28:23; 29:4, 5, 23;

Job 32:21 ²¹ Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man.

Psalms 12:3 ³ The LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, *and* the tongue that speaketh proud things:

- 1 **Thessalonians 2:1-6** ¹ For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain:

² But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention.

³ For our exhortation *was* not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile:

⁴ But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.

⁵ For neither at any time used we flattering words, as ye know, nor a cloke of covetousness; God *is* witness:

⁶ Nor of men sought we glory, neither of you, nor *yet* of others, when we might have been burdensome, as the apostles of Christ.

Isaiah 47:10-11 ¹⁰ For thou hast trusted in thy wickedness: thou hast said, None seeth me. Thy wisdom and thy knowledge, it hath perverted thee; and thou hast said in thine heart, I *am*, and none else beside me.

¹¹ Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, *which* thou shalt not know.

Ezekiel 31:10-14 ¹⁰ Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thou hast lifted up thyself in height, and he hath shot up his top among the thick boughs, and his heart is lifted up in his height;

a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

¹⁵ A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

¹⁶ Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, *which* bewrayeth *itself*.

¹⁷ Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

¹⁸ Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

¹⁹ As in water face *answereth* to face, so the heart of man to man.

²⁰ Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

²¹ As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so *is* a man to his praise.

²² Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, *yet* will not his foolishness depart from him.

²³ Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, *and* look well to thy herds.

²⁴ For riches *are* not for ever: and doth the crown *endure* to every generation?

²⁵ The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

²⁶ The lambs *are* for thy clothing, and the goats *are* the price of the field.

²⁷ And *thou shalt have* goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and *for* the maintenance for thy maidens.

Proverbs 28:1-28 ¹ The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

² For the transgression of a land many *are* the princes thereof: but

¹¹ I have therefore delivered him into the hand of the mighty one of the heathen; he shall surely deal with him: I have driven him out for his wickedness.

¹² And strangers, the terrible of the nations, have cut him off, and have left him: upon the mountains and in all the valleys his branches are fallen, and his boughs are broken by all the rivers of the land; and all the people of the earth are gone down from his shadow, and have left him.

¹³ Upon his ruin shall all the fowls of the heaven remain, and all the beasts of the field shall be upon his branches:

¹⁴ To the end that none of all the trees by the waters exalt themselves for their height, neither shoot up their top among the thick boughs, neither their trees stand up in their height, all that drink water: for they are all delivered unto death, to the nether parts of the earth, in the midst of the children of men, with them that go down to the pit.

Obadiah 1:4 ⁴ Though thou exalt *thyself* as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

Matthew 23:12 ¹² And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.

3. Anger, wrath, and envy are grievous sins, Proverbs 27:3, 4; 29:21, 22;

Proverbs 14:17 ¹⁷ He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Proverbs 16:32 ³² He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Proverbs 23:17 ¹⁷ Let not thine heart envy sinners: but *be thou* in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Ecclesiastes 7:9 ⁹ Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry: for anger resteth in the bosom of fools.

James 1:19 ¹⁹ Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

James 3:16 ¹⁶ For where envying and strife *is*, there *is* confusion and every evil work.

Psalms 37:1 ¹ Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.

Psalms 37:8 ⁸ Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

Matthew 5:22 ²² But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

Romans 13:13 ¹³ Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

1 Corinthians 13:4 ⁴ Charity suffereth long, *and is kind*; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up,

Galatians 5:26 ²⁶ Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.

James 3:14 ¹⁴ But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

James 3:15 ¹⁵ This wisdom descendeth not from above, but *is earthly, sensual, devilish*.

4. The value of true friendship is shown, Proverbs 27:9, 10, 15-17; 29:9;

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 ⁹ Two *are* better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour.

¹⁰ For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him *that is alone* when he falleth; for *he hath* not another to help him up.

1 Samuel 18:1 ¹ And it came to pass, when he had made an end of speaking unto Saul, that the soul of Jonathan was knit with the soul of David, and Jonathan loved him as his own soul.

by a man of understanding *and* knowledge the state *thereof* shall be prolonged.

³ A poor man that oppresseth the poor *is like* a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.

⁴ They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.

⁵ Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all *things*.

⁶ Better *is* the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than *he that is* perverse *in his* ways, though he *be* rich.

⁷ Whoso keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous *men* shameth his father.

⁸ He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

⁹ He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

¹⁰ Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good *things* in possession.

¹¹ The rich man *is* wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

¹² When righteous *men* do rejoice, *there is* great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

¹³ He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

¹⁴ Happy *is* the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

¹⁵ As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; *so is* a wicked ruler over the poor people.

¹⁶ The prince that wanteth understanding *is* also a great oppressor: *but* he that hateth

Philippians 2:25 ²⁵ Yet I supposed it necessary to send to you Epaphroditus, my brother, and companion in labour, and fellowsoldier, but your messenger, and he that ministered to my wants.

2 Timothy 1:16 ¹⁶ The Lord give mercy unto the house of Onesiphorus; for he oft refreshed me, and was not ashamed of my chain:

2 Timothy 1:17 ¹⁷ But, when he was in Rome, he sought me out very diligently, and found *me*.

5. Spiritual hunger always brings spiritual blessing; the lack of it is always followed by spiritual dearth, Proverbs 27:7, 8, 19, 20; 28:18; 29:18;

Matthew 5:6 ⁶ Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

Amos 8:11-12 ¹¹ Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD:

¹² And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find *it*.

Isaiah 55:1-3 ¹ Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

² Wherefore do ye spend money for *that which is* not bread? and your labour for *that which* satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat *ye that which is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.

³ Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, *even* the sure mercies of David.

John 4:14 ¹⁴ But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life.

John 6:35 ³⁵ And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.

John 7:37 ³⁷ In the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.

6. The pursuit and reception of God's wisdom is life's highest possible aim or ambition, Proverbs 27:11-13, 22; 29:3, 11, 20;

Proverbs 2:1-9 ¹ My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

² So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;

³ Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding;

⁴ If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;

⁵ Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

⁶ For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

⁷ He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: *he is* a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

⁸ He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.

⁹ Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; *yea*, every good path.

Proverbs 4:7 ⁷ Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Job 28:28 ²⁸ And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom; and to depart from evil *is* understanding.

Matthew 7:24 ²⁴ Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings

covetousness shall prolong *his* days.

¹⁷ A man that doeth violence to the blood of *any* person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.

¹⁸ Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but *he that is* perverse *in his* ways shall fall at once.

¹⁹ He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain *persons* shall have poverty enough.

²⁰ A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

²¹ To have respect of persons *is* not good: for for a piece of bread *that* man will transgress.

²² He that hasteth to be rich *hath* an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

²³ He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.

²⁴ Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, *It is* no transgression; the same *is* the companion of a destroyer.

²⁵ He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

²⁶ He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

²⁷ He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

²⁸ When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.

Proverbs 29:1-27 ¹ He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth *his* neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

² When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but

of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:

2 Chronicles 1:10-12 ¹⁰ Give me now wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people: for who can judge this thy people, *that is so* great?

¹¹ And God said to Solomon, Because this was in thine heart, and thou hast not asked riches, wealth, or honour, nor the life of thine enemies, neither yet hast asked long life; but hast asked wisdom and knowledge for thyself, that thou mayest judge my people, over whom I have made thee king:

¹² Wisdom and knowledge *is* granted unto thee; and I will give thee riches, and wealth, and honour, such as none of the kings have had that *have been* before thee, neither shall there any after thee have the like.

James 1:5 ⁵ If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

7. Faithful service to God and man brings its reward, Proverbs 27:18, 23-27; 28:19, 20;

Ephesians 6:5-8 ⁵ Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ;

⁶ Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart;

⁷ With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

⁸ Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he be* bond or free.

Matthew 10:42 ⁴² And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold *water* only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.

Matthew 24:31-46 ³¹ And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other.

³² Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer *is* nigh:

³³ So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, *even* at the doors.

³⁴ Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

³⁵ Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.

³⁶ But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

³⁷ But as the days of Noe *were*, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

³⁸ For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark,

³⁹ And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

⁴⁰ Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴¹ Two *women* shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

⁴² Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come.

⁴³ But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

⁴⁴ Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of man cometh.

⁴⁵ Who then is a faithful and wise servant, whom his lord hath made ruler over his household, to give them meat in

when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

³ Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth *his* substance.

⁴ The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

⁵ A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

⁶ In the transgression of an evil man *there is* a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

⁷ The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: *but* the wicked regardeth not to know *it*.

⁸ Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise *men* turn away wrath.

⁹ *If* a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, *there is* no rest.

¹⁰ The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

¹¹ A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

¹² If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants *are* wicked.

¹³ The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.

¹⁴ The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

¹⁵ The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

¹⁶ When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

¹⁷ Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

¹⁸ Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

¹⁹ A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he

due season?

⁴⁶ Blessed *is* that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.

Psalm 126:5-6 ⁵ They that sow in tears shall reap in joy.

⁶ He that goeth forth and weepeth, bearing precious seed, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves *with him*.

John 4:36 ³⁶ And he that reapeth receiveth wages, and gathereth fruit unto life eternal: that both he that soweth and he that reapeth may rejoice together.

8. The actions, attitude, and eternal hopes of the pious and of the wicked are contrasted, Proverbs 28:1-18, 25, 26; 29:6-8, 24, 25;

Proverbs 14:32 ³² The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.

Job 27:8 ⁸ For what *is* the hope of the hypocrite, though he hath gained, when God taketh away his soul?

Psalm 10:1-18 ¹ Why standest thou afar off, O LORD? *why* hidest thou *thyself* in times of trouble?

² The wicked in *his* pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined.

³ For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, *whom* the LORD abhorreth.

⁴ The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek *after God*: God *is* not in all his thoughts.

⁵ His ways are always grievous; thy judgments *are* far above out of his sight: *as for* all his enemies, he puffeth at them.

⁶ He hath said in his heart, I shall not be moved: for *I* shall *never be* in adversity.

⁷ His mouth is full of cursing and deceit and fraud: under his tongue *is* mischief and vanity.

⁸ He sitteth in the lurking places of the villages: in the secret places doth he murder the innocent: his eyes are privily set against the poor.

⁹ He lieth in wait secretly as a lion in his den: he lieth in wait to catch the poor: he doth catch the poor, when he draweth him into his net.

¹⁰ He croucheth, *and* humbleth himself, that the poor may fall by his strong ones.

¹¹ He hath said in his heart, God hath forgotten: he hideth his face; he will never see *it*.

¹² Arise, O LORD; O God, lift up thine hand: forget not the humble.

¹³ Wherefore doth the wicked contemn God? he hath said in his heart, Thou wilt not require *it*.

¹⁴ Thou hast seen *it*; for thou beholdest mischief and spite, to requite *it* with thy hand: the poor committeth himself unto thee; thou art the helper of the fatherless.

¹⁵ Break thou the arm of the wicked and the evil *man*: seek out his wickedness *till* thou find none.

¹⁶ The LORD *is* King for ever and ever: the heathen are perished out of his land.

¹⁷ LORD, thou hast heard the desire of the humble: thou wilt prepare their heart, thou wilt cause thine ear to hear:

¹⁸ To judge the fatherless and the oppressed, that the man of the earth may no more oppress.

Psalm 33:18 ¹⁸ Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy;

Psalm 71:5 ⁵ For thou *art* my hope, O Lord GOD: *thou art* my trust from my youth.

Psalm 146:5 ⁵ Happy *is* he that *hath* the God of Jacob for his help, whose hope *is* in the LORD his God:

Acts 24:15 ¹⁵ And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.

Jeremiah 17:5-8 ⁵ Thus saith the LORD; Cursed *be* the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.

⁶ For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall

understand he will not answer.

²⁰ Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

²¹ He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become *his* son at the length.

²² An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

²³ A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

²⁴ Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth *it* not.

²⁵ The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

²⁶ Many seek the ruler's favour; but *every* man's judgment *cometh* from the LORD.

²⁷ An unjust man *is* an abomination to the just: and *he that is* upright in the way *is* abomination to the wicked.

not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, *in* a salt land and not inhabited.

⁷ Blessed *is* the man that trusteth in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is.

⁸ For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and *that* spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit.

1 John 3:1-3 ¹ Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

² Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

³ And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

9. Respect of persons is a sin against God and man, Proverbs 28:21; 29:12-14, 26, 27;

Leviticus 19:15 ¹⁵ Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: *but* in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.

Deuteronomy 1:17 ¹⁷ Ye shall not respect persons in judgment; *but* ye shall hear the small as well as the great; ye shall not be afraid of the face of man; for the judgment *is* God's: and the cause that is too hard for you, bring *it* unto me, and I will hear it.

Job 13:10 ¹⁰ He will surely reprove you, if ye do secretly accept persons.

James 2:1-9 ¹ My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, *the Lord* of glory, with respect of persons.

² For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment;

³ And ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool:

⁴ Are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts?

⁵ Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?

⁶ But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?

⁷ Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?

⁸ If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:

⁹ But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

Ephesians 6:9 ⁹ And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

10. Chastisement of children is a parental duty, and respect for his parents the duty of each child, Proverbs 28:24; 29:15, 17, 21;

Proverbs 13:24 ²⁴ He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Proverbs 19:18 ¹⁸ Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Proverbs 22:6 ⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 22:15 ¹⁵ Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13 ¹³ Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Exodus 20:12 ¹² Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Ephesians 6:1-4 ¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

² Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

³ That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Colossians 3:20 ²⁰ Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

Hebrews 12:5-11 ⁵ And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:

⁶ For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

⁷ If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

⁸ But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

⁹ Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

¹⁰ For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he for *our* profit, that *we* might be partakers of his holiness.

¹¹ Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

11. Mercy is one of the fruits of righteousness, Proverbs 28:27, 28; 29:2, 7, 10;

Proverbs 3:3 ³ Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Micah 6:8 ⁸ He hath shewed thee, O man, what *is* good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?

Matthew 5:7 ⁷ Blessed *are* the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

James 2:13 ¹³ For he shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

12. Unwise contention brings leanness of soul and accomplishes no good for God's cause, Proverbs 29:9, 11, 20, 22;

Proverbs 17:14 ¹⁴ The beginning of strife *is as* when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

Proverbs 20:3 ³ *It is* an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.

Philippians 2:3 ³ Let **nothing** *be done* through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.

2 Timothy 2:14 ¹⁴ Of these things put *them* in remembrance, charging *them* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *but* to the subverting of the hearers.

2 Timothy 2:23-24 ²³ But foolish and unlearned questions avoid, knowing that they do gender strifes.

²⁴ And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all *men*, apt to teach, patient,

Titus 3:9 ⁹ But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.

James 3:16 ¹⁶ For where envying and strife *is*, there *is*

confusion and every evil work.

1 Corinthians 1:11 ¹¹ For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them *which are of the house of Chloe*, that there are contentions among you.

1 Corinthians 3:3 ³ For ye are yet carnal: for whereas *there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions*, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?

13. Righteousness will eventually triumph in spite of all that opposes it, Proverbs 29:16, 27;

Isaiah 3:10 ¹⁰ Say ye to the righteous, that *it shall be well with him*: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings.

Psalms 34:15 ¹⁵ The eyes of the LORD *are upon the righteous*, and his ears *are open unto their cry*.

Psalms 37:3-9 ³ Trust in the LORD, and do good; *so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed*.

⁴ Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.

⁵ Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring *it to pass*.

⁶ And he shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.

⁷ Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.

⁸ Cease from anger, and forsake wrath: fret not thyself in any wise to do evil.

⁹ For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Psalms 37:25 ²⁵ I have been young, and *now am old*; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.

Psalms 37:35-37 ³⁵ I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree.

³⁶ Yet he passed away, and, lo, he *was not*: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found.

³⁷ Mark the perfect *man*, and behold the upright: for the end of *that man is peace*.

NOTES:

Lessons from the Proverbs

Sermons can be preached on any of the verses of our lesson text. As can be seen from the outline, a wide variety of topics is taken up in these three chapters. Most of the proverbs are sufficiently clear in themselves, making further comment really unnecessary, especially if, through the use of a reference Bible, they are studied in their proper relationship to the whole of Scripture. The purpose of the outlines and notes of this Bible Study Course is to bring the student in touch with the teachings of the whole Bible on the matters taken up in the specific lesson, so he can rightly divide the Word of Truth and receive the full instruction that God has for him. For these notes we have selected a few of the topics, which we have not frequently dwelt upon in other lessons.

Tomorrow and Its uncertainties

"Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation," are the words of God. This same principle applies to our walk during our entire lifetime. Besides the writings in other parts of the Bible on this subject, the Book of Proverbs has preserved for us, in several places, choice bits of advice on this subject. In this particular lesson from the Proverbs we read: "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

In matters relative to our eternal salvation it is utter and sheer folly to put off until tomorrow the reception of those

things we are able to seek for and receive today. That God is no respecter of persons, we shall see from a study of this lesson, and neither is He a respecter of place or of time. He is ready to hear the sincere prayer of the penitent, and He is able to hear that prayer no matter where it is prayed. God is eager to answer such a prayer also; and the faith that prompts the prayer, small though it may appear to be, will cause God to give more faith that the blessings of salvation may be received by the spiritually hungry soul.

It is folly to put off till tomorrow anything pertaining to our salvation, because we do not know that life will be ours on the morrow. A minute of time can change the whole eternal destiny of any one of us. Some one moment of our life will see each one of us ushered into eternity. We have no assurance that that particular moment is going to be in a distant time. It may be the very next moment that we have to live. If we put off to the future the prayer that will bring the forgiveness of God, we are claiming title to a future moment that may never be given to us. We may never live to see that future moment which we have chosen for the prayer of repentance, and thus be lost forever.

The same rule applies to all the actions of our lives. We cannot boast ourselves of tomorrow. Tomorrow is not ours to claim until it is given to us by God Himself. This present moment is all that is ours; and when we live it to the honour and glory of God, doing with our hearts what our hands find to do, we shall be fulfilling God's complete will for us. This does not mean that we are not to have a goal in life toward which we may strive. This does not mean that we cannot look ahead at what seems to be the will of God for us. It means that whatever we do, whatever we think, and whatever we plan – all is subject to God's will as it is revealed to us and as He gives us the time, grace, and strength to carry it out. To fail to take Him into account in our planning is distinctly to violate His will, for He has instructed us that when we make our plans we "ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (James 4:15).

Self-Praise and Flattery

A bard of a former generation wrote: "There is not one wise man among twenty will praise himself." Two others have written similarly: "Flatterers are the worst kind of enemies" and "Self-love is the greatest of flatterers." But the Word of God uses even stronger and more condemning language for these sins, for nothing is more opposite to the spirit of the true Gospel than these vices. Nothing is so damning to the souls of men as they. Both are produced and sustained by the sin of pride, about which we have studied in a former lesson of this book.

The Word of God states that "the LORD shall cut off all flattering lips, and the tongue that speaketh proud things" (Psalm 12:3). Concerning the praiser of oneself, the Bible has this to say: "Thou hast said in thine heart, I am, and none else beside me. Therefore shall evil come upon thee; thou shalt not know from whence it riseth: and mischief shall fall upon thee; thou shalt not be able to put it off: and desolation shall come upon thee suddenly, which thou shalt not know" (Isaiah 47:10, 11). We have no need to go to any other source of wisdom than the Word of God to see the dire and absolute consequences of continuance in these two sins.

Anger and Envy

"An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression." Everyone has personal experience in the consequences of anger and wrath – from his own life and conduct prior to his conversion if he is a Christian, and from the lives and conduct of some with whom he associates daily. Grievous crimes are committed because of the influence of these carnal tendencies. Lives are taken, property is destroyed or stolen, human suffering is increased, homes are broken, and innocent children are thrust on an unsympathetic world, because of anger and wrath.

But the Book of God speaks again. There we read, "Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?" Here it is plain that as bad as anger and wrath are in the sight of God, envy is even worse. All these sins are condemned by God, and the individual who harbours such vices in his heart has not felt the regenerating power of God's salvation from sin, or is backslid. He is a sinner. He is outside the fold of God's protection and grace. He is a child of the devil.

It is contended by some that it is necessary for a Christian to receive the fullness of sanctification – the second, definite work of grace that follows justification by faith and precedes the baptism of the Holy Ghost and fire – in order for anger to be removed from his life. But the Word of God shows us plainly that a Christian is delivered from these sins when he is justified. It states: "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; . . . wrath, strife, . . . envyings, . . . and such like: of the which I tell you . . . that they which do such things **shall not inherit the kingdom of God**" (Galatians 5:19-21)

Contention

Another wise man of our times, following the teachings of the Bible, wrote, "Religious contention is the devil's harvest." The Holy Spirit tells us that "only by pride cometh contention" (Proverbs 13:10). God has told us also to "leave off contention" (Proverbs 17:14) and that "it is an honour for a man to cease from strife" (Proverbs 20:3).

Some feel that contention and strife are justified when the issue is religious in character. Many of these same people teach that falsehood is also justified – in short, that sin ceases to be sin – when it concerns their religious work. But God who has said in His Word that all liars shall be cast into the lake of fire has also said: "Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves" (Philippians 2:3). He has also instructed us to "shun profane and vain babblings for they will increase unto more ungodliness." He has also said that we are to avoid foolish and unlearned questions, "knowing that they do gender strifes," for "the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (II Timothy 2:16, 23-25). We are also told to "avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain" (Titus 3:9).

Spiritual Hunger and the Triumph of Righteousness

There is a place in the heart of man that never can be satisfied by any temporal thing, or by the worship of anything but the true and living God. Some try to quench this thirst and satisfy this hunger in their own way, but the Bible tells us that "the eyes of man are never satisfied." How comforting are the words of Scripture, for there we find: "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Satisfaction is to be found, but it is not to be found in the things of the world. True satisfaction comes only to those who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Therefore, we can say that true happiness is known only to the righteous. "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper" (Psalm 1:3).

The wicked has been seen spreading himself like a green bay tree, but he has passed away. He was sought but could not be found. On the contrary, the righteous, or perfect man, has peace in this life and in the life that is to come. One of the verses of our lesson states that "when the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall." The righteous shall "eat the fruit of their doings" (Isaiah 3:10) and "shall flourish like the palm tree" (Psalm 92:12). The righteous shall "shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matthew 13:43). It is the righteous who will make up the armies, which will follow the glorified King of kings and Lord of lords when He comes in His glory to set up His Kingdom upon this earth and rule for a thousand years (Revelation 19:14).

What a glorious hope and anticipation! The wicked may seem to prosper, but eternal punishment is sure. The persecutors may rage and oppress, but their work will be cut short and they will be cast into eternity without hope, unless they repent of their evil ways. But "they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Daniel 12:3). "Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (I Corinthians 15:57).

QUESTIONS

1. What is a proverb?
2. What is said concerning the uncertainty of life and our attitude toward it in this lesson text, as well as in other parts of the Bible?
3. Quote some verses that show the evil of self-praise and flattery.
4. What is the basic sin behind self-praise and flattery?
5. What other sins are committed because of anger?
6. What other sins are committed because of envy?
7. Why is the pursuit of God's wisdom the highest motive that we can have in life?
8. Is the chastisement of children a parental duty? What attitude should all children take toward their parents?
9. Why is contention unwise? and why does it bring leanness of soul and accomplish but little for God?
10. Quote some verses that show the eventual triumph of righteousness.