

Proverbs 26-28

Good evening and thank you for joining us! Would you please turn in your bibles to Proverbs 26?

Tonight, as we've been doing all along, we're gonna study 3 chapters, 26-28. Which means Lord willing, next week we will finish proverbs!

As we've mentioned before, our greatest need is not more knowledge, but more wisdom. Knowledge is always expanding, but wisdom cannot be improved upon. Real wisdom stands the test of time. It doesn't become obsolete or out-dated.

Hey God's wisdom is relevant and needed by every new generation.

So lets pray for wisdom as we study God's wisdom!

Chapter 26 begins with several verses about foolish people.

**1 As snow in summer and rain in harvest,
So honor is not fitting for a fool.** These things are out of place, it's bad timing. Honoring a fool is also out of place, and can lead to disaster.

**2 Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow,
So a curse without cause shall not alight.** An occultist – a voodoo practitioner - can curse a Christian until they're blue in the face and the curse won't stick. It's powerless.

Haiti story?

3 A whip for the horse,
A bridle for the donkey,
And a rod for the fool's back. What fools will not learn from the words of wisdom, they must learn through the infliction of pain.

4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest you also be like him. When a fool pours out their foolishness, often the best course is not to even answer them, because contending with a fool can make a person just like the fool.

But other times...

5 Answer a fool according to his folly,
Lest he be wise in his own eyes. Other times the right thing to do is to answer a fool. Sometimes a wise answer to a fool will expose their folly and prevent them from becoming wise in his own eyes.

When the Pharisees came to Jesus in the Temple, and tried to trick Him with hypothetical questions, Jesus answered them with Scripture.

We see examples of both v 4-5 with Jesus. Not speaking when He was before Herod. And He spoke when He was before Pilate.

6 He who sends a message by the hand of a fool
Cuts off his own feet and drinks violence. Choose a fool to represent you and you'll regret it, cuz he'll undermine your own message.

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7 Like the legs of the lame that hang limp
Is a proverb in the mouth of fools. Nobody will listen to a wise word
spoken from the lips of a fool.

8 Like one who binds a stone in a sling
Is he who gives honor to a fool. The stone can't be used when it's
bound in a sling, so it becomes worthless. Honoring a fool also
provides no value.

9 Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard
Is a proverb in the mouth of fools. The fool's attempt to proclaim
wisdom brings pain

10 The great God who formed everything
Gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.[fn] God
will make sure they get what is due

11 As a dog returns to his own vomit,
So a fool repeats his folly. 2 Peter 2 uses this verse to illustrate
the repulsive nature of a sinner returning to their sin.

12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him. Solomon thought of a
man in even worse danger than a fool. The proud man, the one
wise in his own eyes.

Now we go from the fool to the lazy.

13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road!"

A fierce lion is in the streets!" He makes up excuses to not to go to work.

14 As a door turns on its hinges,
So does the lazy man on his bed. He hears the alarm and just rolls over.

15 The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl;
It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth. He's so lazy he sits in front of a full bowl, but bringing his hand to his mouth to eat is too much work.

16 The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes
Than seven men who can answer sensibly. He's so proud he thinks he knows more than seven men.

17 He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own
Is like one who takes a dog by the ears. **SHOW PIC**. Prolly not the best idea! You'll get bit. Remember Jehosphat died by stinking his nose where it didn't belong. **CLOSE PIC**

18-19

18 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death,
19 Is the man who deceives his neighbor,
And says, "I was only joking!" Renaming a hurtful statement "a joke" doesn't reverse the damage that it does.

20-21

20 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out;
And where there is no talebearer, strife ceases. Fire won't burn without fuel, and strife won't continue when the talebearer stops

their work. James described how words can set a destructive fire in James 3

**21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire,
So is a contentious man to kindle strife.** Strife doesn't just happen on it's own. No, strife has a maker, and it starts by the gossip. They start trouble that can burn down a family, a business, hey even a church.

**22 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles,
And they go down into the inmost body.** We saw this back in chapter 18. The gossip brought by the talebearer is almost impossible to resist. But here's the problem. When we receive the words of a talebearer, they normally have an effect on us.

Think about it-we often change the way we think and feel about people because of those words.

**23 Fervent lips with a wicked heart
Are like earthenware covered with silver dross.** Smooth talk from an evil heart is like paper plates painted silver. It's a cover up.
24-25

**24 He who hates, disguises it with his lips,
And lays up deceit within himself;
25 When he speaks kindly, do not believe him,
For there are seven abominations in his heart;** This secret hater can't be trusted. Even if he speaks kindly, his words don't reflect where his loyalty truly is.

26 Though his hatred is covered by deceit,
His wickedness will be revealed before the assembly. Of course the revealing of his wickedness may not happen on this side of eternity, but eventually all will be brought to the light.

27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it,
And he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him. God has a way of getting people to reap what they sow.

28 A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it,
And a flattering mouth works ruin. The liar performs his destruction without any concern for how their actions affect others.

Chapter 27

1 Do not boast about tomorrow,
For you do not know what a day may bring forth. This is echoed in James 4:13 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; 14 whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. 15 Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that."

In 1962 Billy Graham woke up in a Seattle hotel room with a strange burden on his heart to pray for Marilyn Monroe and her salvation. The next day he had an aide call her agent and asked to arrange a meeting. Billy Graham was told it would be at least 2

two weeks. But two weeks later the world was shocked by the news of Marilyn's suicide.

Jesus said in **Matt 6:34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble.**

We need to treasure each and every day!
2-5

2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth;
A stranger, and not your own lips.

3 A stone is heavy and sand is weighty,
But a fool's wrath is heavier than both of them.

4 Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent,
But who is able to stand before jealousy?

5 Open rebuke is better
Than **love carefully concealed**. The honest love of an open rebuke can be much better than the carefully concealed love.

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend,
But the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. True friends tell you the truth, even when it hurts. They're willing to risk your feelings in order to spare you a serious mistake.

7 A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb,

But to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. Here's a profound spiritual lesson. Fill up on the joy and peace, and goodness of God and it's easier to say "no" to the sweets of this world. It's the empty person who's most vulnerable to sinful temptation.

**8 Like a bird that wanders from its nest
Is a man who wanders from his place.** When we wander away from our job, our church, or our calling we get into trouble.
9-10

**9 Ointment and perfume delight the heart,
And the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.**

**10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend,
Nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity;
Better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.** Even in the SM age physical proximity is vital in friendships. On-line relationships don't provide the physical presence of others that we need.

**11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad,
That I may answer him who reproaches me.** Unfortunately, sometimes when a child rejects wisdom it makes the parents look bad.

**12 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself;
The simple pass on and are punished.** There's practicality here right-be wise, use common sense.

13 Take the garment of him who is surety for a stranger,
And hold it in pledge when he is surety for a seductress. One of
several warnings to not cosign, and if you do cosign, protect
yourself.

14 He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the
morning,
It will be counted a curse to him. Use common sense right?

15 A continual dripping on a very rainy day
And a contentious woman are alike; Here's another contentious
woman passage. This is the fifth and counting. Bitter,
argumentative women hurt the family.

16 Whoever restrains her restrains the wind,
And grasps oil with his right hand. It's easier to corral a hurricane
– or hold olive oil in your hand – than it is to contain a woman who
is contentious

17 As iron sharpens iron,
So a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. This world
wears us down. We become dull and blunt spiritually.

But when fellow believers get together, and interact, and rub
shoulders with each other, we sharpen each other's conviction.
We encourage and challenge each other.

18 Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit;

So he who waits on his master will be honored. Patience and loyalty toward an employer can pay off. Get antsy and jump ship and you'll never be honored.

19 As in water face reflects face,
So a man's heart reveals the man. Like a reflection in the lake - the contents of the heart reflect the true person.

Matthew 12:34 "Brood of vipers! How can you, being evil, speak good things? For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."

20 Hell[fn] and Destruction[fn] are never full;
So the eyes of man are never satisfied. Our longing to look upon things we desire will never be satisfied; it must be controlled and brought under God's dominion.

21 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,
And a man is valued by what others say of him. Our self-estimations are usually unreliable.

22 Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain,
Yet his foolishness will not depart from him. One of the sad marks of the fool is that they will not learn.

23-24

23 Be diligent to know the state of your flocks,
And attend to your herds;

24 For riches are not forever,

Nor does a crown endure to all generations. We should work hard to know the state of whatever God has given us management over.

See the reality is if you don't know the condition of something, you can't effectively manage or lead it.

25-27

**25 When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself,
And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,**

**26 The lambs will provide your clothing,
And the goats the price of a field;**

**27 You shall have enough goats' milk for your food,
For the food of your household,**

And the nourishment of your maidservants. This abundance only occurs if you are concerned and follow-up on the state of your flocks.

Chapter 28

**1 The wicked flee when no one pursues,
But the righteous are bold as a lion.** The wicked person is always looking over their shoulder. They're dominated by a guilty conscience.

But when a person knows their sin is forgiven, the person who stands in the righteousness of Jesus is "bold as a lion."

SHOW PIC William Wilberforce was a champion of anti-slavery laws in the British Parliament.

Historians say he was small and frail in appearance. Once an observer described Wilberforce as, “a shrimp who, as he was speaking, grew into a whale.” **CLOSE PIC**

When you are on God’s side, the HS will make us grow “bold as a lion.”

**2 Because of the transgression of a land, many are its princes;
But by a man of understanding and knowledge
Right will be prolonged.** Generally speaking, sin breeds an unstable government. It takes righteous men to hold the reigns of power for extended periods to stabilize it.

**3 A poor man who oppresses the poor
Is like a driving rain which leaves no food.** This destructive rain leaves the people hungry and without hope. So is the effect of a poor man who oppresses the poor.

4-5

**4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked,
But such as keep the law contend with them.**

**5 Evil men do not understand justice,
But those who seek the LORD understand all.** The godly understand justice. The Godly seek the Lord, fear the Lord, and have His wisdom.

6-8

6 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity

Than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

7 Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son,
But a companion of gluttons shames his father.

8 One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion
Gathers it for him who will pity the poor. "Usury" is "interest." Here God is warning the company's that charge exorbitant interest rates. If you grow wealthy on the backs of poor men, God may just take away your wealth and give it back to the poor.

9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law,
Even his prayer is an abomination. God only promises to answer the prayers of those who walk in His righteousness. **1 Peter 3:12**
For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous,
And His ears are open to their prayers;
But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil.

10-11

10 Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way,
He himself will fall into his own pit;
But the blameless will inherit good.

11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes,
But the poor who has understanding searches him out. The poor man with wisdom stands above the rich man with a fool's pride.

12-13

12 When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory;
But when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.

13 He who covers his sins will not prosper,
But whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy. The
only one way to be free from the guilt of sin is confession. 1 John
1:9, If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our
sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

You either conceal or confess.

14 Happy is the man who is always reverent,
But he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity. Now matter
Stay teachable and reachable.

15 Like a roaring lion and a charging bear
Is a wicked ruler over poor people. They are ruthless, and
intimidating.

16-20

16 A ruler who lacks understanding is a great oppressor,
But he who hates covetousness will prolong his days.

17 A man burdened with bloodshed will flee into a pit;
Let no one help him.

18 Whoever walks blamelessly will be saved,
But he who is perverse in his ways will suddenly fall.

19 He who tills his land will have plenty of bread,
But he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!

20 A faithful man will abound with blessings,
But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished. God may make a man rich, but our goal should be faithfulness – not riches. Remember **Matthew 6:33, “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”**

21 To show partiality is not good,
Because for a piece of bread a man will transgress. It doesn't take much for some people to sell out.

22 A man with an evil eye hastens after riches,
And does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

23 He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward
Than he who flatters with the tongue. We've seen this principle repeatedly-it's better to be honest.

24-26

24 Whoever robs his father or his mother,
And says, “It is no transgression,”
The same is companion to a destroyer.

25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife,
But he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.

26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool,
But whoever walks wisely will be delivered. Instead of operating on the basis of how we feel, we should focus on obtaining God's wisdom as the basis of our decisions.

27 He who gives to the poor will not lack,
But he who hides his eyes will have many curses. To hide the eyes means to refuse to see poverty. God will not bless the one who ignores the troubles of the poor and needy.

28 When the wicked arise, men hide themselves;
But when they perish, the righteous increase. When the wicked and their influence pass, the righteous increase, along with their influence. This is a blessing for a community or a nation.

We need to pray for righteous people