

PART 5 HANDOUT PROVERBS 3:27-35. "Treat Others Correctly with the Love of Christ".

Worry is Simply Previewing a Future Without God In It. Worry is the Opposite of Faith...When We Find Ourselves Worrying...We Need to Seek God's Wisdom.

"The Value of the Book of Proverbs is its Application of Wisdom to All Sorts and Conditions of People, and to the Ordinary Affairs of Life." **READ PROVERBS 3:27-35**

Together VS 27 and 28 give us Great Understanding to what God is Saying. VS 27 uses the wording "*from those to whom it is due*", it might seem to be referring to the settlement of some sort of obligation in the form of a debt...However, VS 28 indicates that the wording is speaking instead about a need on the part of a person's neighbor!

- The term "Neighbor" does Not Imply any Degree of Closeness or Familiarity between the individuals...But Refers to Anyone...Including a Stranger.
- As Jesus made clear in response to the question, "Who is My Neighbor?" In the Parable of the Good Samaritan in Luke 10:25-37, *Our Neighbor is Everyone who needs or requires our help...Even someone who We might Consider an Enemy.*

These verses Tell Us That: **If we have it in our power to help our neighbor immediately it is Our Responsibility!** We are to provide that assistance at once, rather than deliberately delaying it or putting it off on some pretext or unsubstantial reason. Personal Inconvenience is No Excuse for a Christian!

- **God Makes Clear there is a Direct Connection Between What We Believe and...What We Do.** We can talk about doctrine, theology, and what we believe, *But if Our Theology and Beliefs Don't have a Direct Impact upon How We Live and Relate to Others then ALL of Our Talk is Empty!!*

How many times have we been approached by someone who needs help and we've said, I can't help you today, but call me next week and I will see what I can do. In Reality we just didn't want to be bothered.

- When We have the Ability to Help...We Need to Allow the Lord to Use Us to Benefit the Person in Need. We Shouldn't Delay, Because of Laziness or Apathy.

Jesus told a story about a judge who had the opportunity to help, but he just kept the putting the lady off until she finally wore him down. **READ Luke 18: 2-5** *We can't be like that judge when we know that God has heard our cries for help and He has answered us time and time again with the help we've needed.*

James, the brother of Jesus, told the Church that Sin is Not just the bad things we do, but Sin is Also Refusing the Opportunities that God Brings Our Way to Help Another Person. **READ James 2: 15-16**

- Pr.11:25 *A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.* That's a beautiful promise! If we are generous with other's then the Lord will refresh Us.
- ***We should Wear the Joy of Generosity and Possess a Spirit of Gratitude as We Help Others Because the Lord has Been so Generous with Us.***

The 2nd section of our Text we See how we are to respond to a Trusting Neighbor. **READ Prov 3:29-30**

- These verses makes it clear that we are Not to take Advantage of our Neighbors...And We are Not to Plot Them Harm. Plotting Harm is the opposite of doing good! It Means to Manipulate, Use, Hurt, Harm, or Burden Our Neighbors. To do Good is to do that which Works for Their Advantage.
- For the Christian it Means that **You Don't** Sell Someone Products that they Don't Really Need. **You Don't** Sell Inferior Products that You Know Won't Last. When a Storm Hit's or Natural Disaster Strikes that **You Don't** Jack Up the Prices to Take Advantage of Those Who are Hurting. **We Don't** Take Advantage of A Generous Neighbor who Will Let Us Use his Tools, But then **We Don't** Return Them, or We Return them Broken. **It Means** that if I Borrow My Neighbor's Truck that I Return it Full of Gas Even if it was Half Empty When I Borrowed It. **Simply Your Walk Supports Your Talk!**

VS 30 gives us a Bit of Wisdom Concerning How We should Treat Our Neighbors. We're Not to Accuse an Innocent Man. Simply, We should Never Slander Anyone, Never Speak Negatively Against someone else, for any reason. If we have an issue with another person then we should go to that person and speak with them, but we are never to speak negatively about someone else.

In the last section we are offered wisdom as to how to deal with a violent neighbor. **READ VS 31-32**

We are to Learn from Observing the Ways of the Violent Neighbor. **Don't belittle other's.** Never throw your weight around when you have the opportunity. Never buddy up to a violent neighbor so that you can feel like you are somebody. Make notes and do just the opposite. **Instead of belittling others, bless them.** Instead of throwing your weight around to get your way, work for the benefit of others. If you are going to buddy up to somebody, then **buddy up with the person that nobody else wants to spend time with.** Make others feel like somebody and then you can really be someone special.

- Not only are we told that God detests the ways of the perverse neighbor, but we're also told that God takes into His confidence those who walk with Him, those whose ways are upright.

Treat Others like God has Treated Us. In the world the bottom line is all about making money, **but in God's Economy the Highest Calling is to Love One Another, to Be a Blessing.** For those who make this the aim of their life, then God will draw them into His inner circle. What an incredible blessing!

READ VS 33-35: We all know people who are Not Seeking God at All and Yet it Seems that Things are Going Well for Them. Instead of Peace, Security, and Joy the House of the Wicked is Filled with Chaos, Insecurity, and Unrest. ***Don't measure God's Blessings and curses by what one Has or Doesn't have. Measure them by who a person is, by how at rest they are in their situation.***

God teaches, shows us, and reminds us to be a blessing, to serve those around us, to defend the helpless, orphans, and widows. To Love one another and Seek the Best for Those Around You.

Give...When you have the opportunity to give. **Help...**When you are called upon to help and you have it in your power to help. **Serve...**Even when it is inconvenient. Always love one another.

Do Not Withhold Good from Those to Whom it is Due: Solomon gives Practical Examples of the what Wisdom Teaches. First Principle: *We should do good when it is in the power of our hand to do so.*

Do Not say to Your Neighbor Come Back Tomorrow When The Good We Can Do Can Be Done Today.

Do not devise Evil against your neighbor: God's wisdom teaches us to treat others well.

- Wisdom Makes Clear that our own security and safety are directly connected to the good of our neighbor, Therefore, we should Not strive with our Neighbor when there is No Cause.

READ VS 31-35 Do Not Envy a Lawless Person, God's Curse is Upon them. The Wise Person who follows the dictates of wisdom, as mentioned above, shall inherit glory; because being one of the heavenly family, a child of God, he has thereby heaven for his inheritance

- Therefore...We do Not Envy Those Who do Not Live for Christ! *Rather...We Imitate Jesus Christ and Our Desire is to Become More Like Christ and to Experience His Blessings.*
- Knowing We Are Sojourners, Passing Through, Focused on Our Home in ETERNITY

What God is Making Clear in Proverbs Chapter 3 is that there is a Direct Connection Between What We Believe and...What We Do.

If Our Doctrine, Theology and Beliefs Do Not have a Direct Impact Upon How We Live and Relate to Others then ALL of Our Talk is Empty!! If We do Not Trust God in the Midst of Each and Every Trial We Face then what We say will Have No Meaning to Those to Whom We are Speaking. If We are Not Willing to Accept God's Rebuke from a Brother or Sister in the Lord...They Will Not See Christ in Us!

"LIFE" POINT: IT IS MY ACTIONS, NOT MY WORDS THAT PLEASE THE LORD!