



Proverbs – Wisdom for Today

Proverbs 20

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Introduction

Proverbs chapter twenty is a very typical chapter in Proverbs with multiple topics, comparisons/contrasts, and some common themes throughout the entire chapter. As with every chapter in this book of Proverbs, this one chapter has much, much more wisdom than we will be able to cover tonight. The verses we will be looking at however, contain enough wisdom that if it is received with a correct heart, can change our lives.

- 1) **Proverbs 20:1**- *Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*
 - a) If you are deceived by the idea that you can “handle” drinking alcohol, you are UNWISE (foolish) and you are sinning- Proverbs 24:9
 - b) Alcohol is associated with creating problems in your life- Proverbs 23:29-35
 - c) We are called to a higher calling as Christians- To live lives that are the BEST for God - Proverbs 31:4
 - d) Drinking alcohol is shown in the Bible to only have negative consequences in decision making- Gen. 9:19-21; 19:29-33; 1 Peter 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8
 - e) Alcohol in the OT is often a picture of the things of the world that the Devil is trying to force us to partake in (Daniel 1:5)
- 2) **Proverbs 20:4**- *The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.*
 - a) Don't be surprised when you are begging and you're questioning why others are seeing fruit in their lives while yours looks like a dead tree bearing no fruit, when you are not plowing at all times, even the cold times; The boring times (Galatians 6:7-9; 2 Cor. 9:6)
- 3) **Proverbs 20:10, 23**- *Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD. Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.*
 - a) Historically- These verses are talking about how people used to shave down weights that they used to measure food for purchase. They would shave them down just a little bit in order to make the food seem to be more than it was on the scale and so they could charge more than what people were actually taking.
 - i) Proverbs 11:1, 16:11; Leviticus 19:35; Deuteronomy 25:13-15
 - b) Devotionally- Are you properly balanced in your life?
 - i) Philippians 4:5- Let your **moderation** be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.
(1) **Moderation**- “Calmness of mind; keeping a due means between extremes” (balance)
 - ii) Galatians 5:22-23- But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, **temperance**: against such there is no law.
(1) **Temperance**- “Patience, calmness, not given to over-zealousness” (balance)
(a) 1 Corinthians 9:25; Titus 1:7-8; 2 Peter 1:5-6

Closing

- Are you being deceived into being a drunkard? Physically OR spiritually?
- Are you plowing even in the cold seasons of your life?
- Is your life properly balanced in all areas?