THE PRINCIPLE PREPOSITIONS

**DATE: 8/10/2014 pm -**

**TEXT: Proverbs 1:10-33**

**INTRODUCTION**

In the introduction we mentioned that the Proverbs are often given in Contrasts [Shown by Marked difference]

In **vs. 10-33** we see these Principle Propositions Presented by the use of 2 Opposing Life-Styles

 A Preposition is *a form of speech in which something is either affirmed or denied*

These verses help us to better understand …

**“WHY THE PROVERBS?”**

Let’s pray and look at …

***“The Principle Preposition of Proverbs”***

***~~~Prayer~~~***

The first is the Life-Style of the Foolish

**I. THE ENTICEMENT TO FOLLY – vs. 10-19**

Men, since the fall, are profoundly Selfish

Temptation is always geared toward self

**Selfish** – *is being concerned with your own interests, needs, and wishes while ignoring those of others*

**Folly –** *thoughtless and reckless behavior*

**A. A ‘Perverse Proposal’** - **vs. 10-12**

**v. 10a - *“My son, if sinners entice thee,”***

I think of the old adage – *“Misery love company”*

Solomon says – *“Sinners love company”*

Beginning with Satan, in the Garden, until the present, this pattern has continued

Sinners have sought to entice the innocent

***“Entice”*** - *to tempt by offering something attractive*

Sinners will always make sin look attractive

Whether the sin is that of dishonesty, immorality, disrespect, or violence

**I John 2:16 *– “For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world”***

Sinners will often seek to enlist gullible and naive accomplices in their evil

The counsel of Solomon is as simple as it is profound -

**v. 10b -** *“****consent thou not”***

The sinner suggests –

- Try it, you might like it

- At least, try it once

- You only go around once

- Don’t be a prude or a square

- Hey, man, be cool

But God says – *“****consent thou not”***

It is as simple as that

**B. The ‘Tempting Promise’ – vs. 13, 14**

**v.14a – *“cast in thy lot …”***  Join us! / Why?

**v. 13 - *“We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:”***

This enticement is always offered, showing how it will benefit you

The ungodly seek to entice the naive to join by offering great wealth / spoil

***“precious substance; houses filled with spoil”***

**Mark 8:36 – *“For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?”***

**C. The ‘Counseled Path’ – vs. 15, 16**

**v.15 - *“My son, walk not thou in the way with them;***

***refrain thy foot from their path:”***

The Principle of Separation comes into view here

The Godly Counsel of Solomon to his son,

…was for his Son Not associate with the world’s crowd

Don’t go with them

Truly, ***“blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly”* - Psalm 1:1**

Separation from the world is a profoundly wise principle

**II Corinthians 6:17 *– “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,”***

The beneficiaries of this Wisdom are our children

Solomon’s Counsel continues …

**v. 16 – *“For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood****”*

The world’s crowd is quick to run to that which is sinful

And want to know why you don’t

**I Peter 4:4** ***– “Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:”***

This eventually leads to violence

***“shed blood”***

The news is full of these events every day

Do you want to be a part of that?

At first, you might, but after, I’m sure you wished you didn’t (shoplifting at O’Connor’s Toy store)

**D. The ‘Fatal Prospect’ – vs. 17-19**

**v. 17 – *“Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird”***

Keep in mind the context

It’s a warning to his son about those who would entice him to act criminally

The key to understanding this verse is found in the following 2 vs.

The thought is that someone who sets a trap for another will do so in vain

Eventually, the trap will catch the one who sets it

It is not only wrong to try and harm someone, it is

dumb

The whole thing will eventually backfire

**THE ENTICEMENT OF FOLLY**

Now the Contrast …

**II. THE INVITATION OF WISDOM – vs. 20-33**

Solomon now shows the contrast or the Godly choice

We find Solomon *Personifying* Wisdom here

That is, describing something with human qualities

**A. Its ‘Prolonged Proposition’ – vs. 20, 21**

Solomon, having shown how dangerous it is to hearken to the temptations of Satan,

Now declares how dangerous it is Not to hearken to the call of God

**v. 20 – *“Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:”***

***“crieth”*** – means *continues to cry, has continued*

The thought of Wisdom crying in the streets implies

that she has been shut out of people’s homes

Therefore shut out of their lives!

And so it is today

The World is welcomed with open arms (media)

While Wisdom is left out in the cold

That doesn’t stop her from calling out, though

**v. 21 – *“She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words”***

Where else does Wisdom speak?

Not only in the Day to Day activities of People’s lives

The Public in general …

But also at the city gate where the leaders are transacting official business – gov’t

No matter where people are, they need to hear Wisdom's call

Yet sadly, Wisdom is also shut out from those in positions of influence

**B. Its ‘Promise to the Simple’ – vs. 22, 23**

**v. 22 - *“How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? …and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?”***

The Question is asked – ***“How Long?”***

3 categories of people are noted here –

They all are related

**1.** ***“simple ones”***

Refers to those who are naïve, especially to Godly principles

They believe anything - **14:15a – *“The simple believeth every word:”***

But Examine nothing

They're gullible and easily led astray

**2. *“scorners”***

Are those who mock what’s right and especially the things of God

They think they know everything

**21:24 – *“Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath”*** [militate]

They scoff at the things that are really important

While the *simple one* has a blank look on his face,

The *scorner* has a sneer

**3.** ***“fools”***

Are those who rebel against God

**Psalm 14:1a – *“The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God”***

The fool says no to God!

The Foolish are people who are willingly ignorant of the Truth

**II Peter 3:5 – *“For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the Word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water:”***

Their problem isn't a low IQ or poor education;

Their problem is a lack of spiritual desire to seek and know God (principle vs. passion)

Fools enjoy their foolishness, but don't know how foolish they are!

The outlook of fools is purely materialistic and humanistic

They hate righteousness and have no interest in spiritual things

Wisdom continues to cry out, asking; how long will you reject my Godly Counsel?

The answer is apparent

The ungodly to this day, ignore Godly Wisdom

**v. 23 – *“Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you”***

The Counsel of God is to *turn* at His reproof

The idea is of repentance / turning to God

That call remains the same today

The wicked and Christ-rejecter will not heed the call to turn to God

For the minority that does, God promises to pour out the blessing of His Spirit and teach His Word to them

Notice that God actually refers to His *Words*

The very Words of God are inspired and are essential

Beware of those who would try to add, subtract or correct the Word of God

The sense now turns to those who refuse to turn to God and His wisdom

**C. The ‘Tragic Prediction’ – vs. 24-32**

These verses are some of the most heartbreaking in all Scripture

**vs. 24, 25 – *“Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded”***

***“But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:”***

***“Set at nought”*** - *deride, scorn, slight, show contempt*

There are two streams of thought running side by side here

On the one hand is a warning for those who ignore Godly Wisdom

On the other hand is the warning for those who ignore God’s Word

For those who reject Wisdom, fearful consequences await

Even more so, for those who reject Christ

The World routinely refuses the call of God

When God, in His great mercy has extended His hand

of grace in Christ to a lost world, most disregard it

**I Corinthians 1:21 *– “For after that in the wisdom of God the world by [their] wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe”***

They ignore His Word and want nothing of His correction

So are Fools who ignore Godly Wisdom in their lives

**v. 26 – *“I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;”***

The day will come for ungodly men, when God may laugh at the consequences of their sin

Will God scoff as they scoffed at Him?

Moreover, the ultimate fulfillment of this warning

… will be when Christ rejecters stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment

In that day, God may very well laugh at their predicament

He offered His grace and they rejected it

Who will be the one laughing then?

These words should not be interpreted as a cynical indifference to human condemnation,

But as the eventual vindication of Wisdom in the face of repeated and rude rejection

**vs. 27, 28 – *“When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you” “Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me”***

When that Judgment arrives, sinners will try to call upon the Lord but it will be too late

**Isaiah 55:6 – *“Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near:”***

**II Corinthians 6:2 – *“(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”***

**vs. 29, 30 – *“For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:” “They would none of My counsel: they despised all My reproof”***

The Simple, the Fool, and the Scorner hate the Truth of God

- They willfully ignore the fear of the Lord

- They want nothing to do with His Word or Counsel

- They despise God’s morality

- They snicker at true Wisdom and mock its Truth

They reject Godly Wisdom as being ‘moralistic’ or ‘prudish’

Therefore, they will suffer the consequences of their folly and sin

Sinners will reap what they have sown

**v. 31 – *“Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices”***

**v. 32** says – ***“For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them”***

**II Timothy 4:4 – *“And they shall turn away their ears from the Truth, and shall be turned unto fables”***

Their Refusal to hear the Truth will ***“slay them”***

**Revelation 3:17 *– “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:”***

Their Prosperity will ***“destroy them”***

They are complacently comfortable with believing lies

**D. A ‘Blessed Prospect’ – v. 33**

***“But whoso hearkeneth unto Me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil”***

**II Timothy 1:7 *– “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”***

That’s what Wisdom brings

The Lord shows us these Contrasts so that we can make and intelligent decision based on the Word of God

What will you choose?

**THE ENTICEMENT OF FOLLY**

**THE INVITATION OF WISDOM**

**THE “PRINCIPAL PROPOSITIONS” OF PROVERBS**