PAY ATTENTION OR PAY THE PRICE

**DATE: 6/28/2015 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 5:1-14**

**INTRODUCTION**

The first part of **Proverbs 5** deals with one simple yet profound subject

The utter Folly of Fornication (sexual sin outside of marriage)

Not only is Fornication or Adultery morally wrong, it is utterly stupid

Godly wisdom dictates that a man should be true to his wife

This Proverb is divided up into 2 parts **vs. 1-14** & **15-23**

The 1st half deals with the Immorality

The 2nd half with the Morality

The voice of experience is calling for his son to pay attention regarding the sin of the 7th Commandment

The failure to pay attention will result in a far greater price to pay

Therefore the Title …

***“Pay Attention or Pay the Price”***

Excluding the expense of the time, it costs very little to pay attention

However the cost for **not** paying attention will be a much greater cost

The payment up front is less than the cost at the end

Let’s read **vs. 1-14** together

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. THE “DESIRE” – vs. 1, 2**

The Desire here again is for the Listeners to use Wisdom

True wisdom will produce Moral Discretion

A Wise person will be morally discreet

They will understand the sensitivity of the subject

No consensual act of Fornication or Adultery was ever

entered into without verbal agreement

One party had to make the suggestion and the other had to concur

Therefore Solomon urges his son to get the wisdom needed to keep or guard his lips from flirting

**v. 2b - *“…that thy lips may keep knowledge”***

What goes in the ears and eyes comes out the lips

That’s why God is so against visuals / idols

That why the Devil uses it so successfully today / flicker effect

**A. The ‘Term’ – v.1**

***“My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding”***

There’s that word ***“attend”*** again

We saw it used twice in **chp. 4**

It means to *give heed with regard, to pay close attention*

This is reinforced in the 2nd part of **v.1**

***“bow thine ear to my understanding”***

This pictures an ear close to the mouth

It is an invitation to come close and give undivided attention

Young men are especially regarded here because of their inexperience

**B. The ‘Thought’ – v.2a**

The Thought here is to have Regard for being discreet

***“That thou mayest regard discretion”***

***“regard”*** - *To attend to with respect and assessment; to value*

***“discretion”***  - *to judge critically of what is correct and proper, united with caution*

Recognition goes a long way toward Resistance

Pitfalls in *plain sight* can be easily avoided

It is the unknown obstacles along the way that causes someone to trip and fall

Appearance and Actuality are not always the same

The Desire here was for Solomon’s son to protect himself from the sin of Fornication

**THE “DESIRE”**

**II. THE “DESCRIPTION” – vs. 3-8**

The Description here is of the ***“Strange Woman”***

5 times in the Book of Proverbs are we warn about this *Strange Woman*

**2:16-22**; **6:24-35**; **7:5-27**; **9:13-18** and here

***“Strange”*** – means *unfamiliar, not belonging*

A strange woman refers to any female, be it a prostitute, a promiscuous flirt, a woman willing to engage in an affair, a female open for a one-night stand, etc.

**Proverbs 2:17** ***– “Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God”***

In short, such a woman is any female other than one’s wife

In describing her sinful skill Solomon speaks of ...

**A. Her Mouth – v.3**

Her Mouth is Similar to Honey

***“For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:”***

Honey and Oil were precious commodities in Israel

She is described as having both Sweet and Smooth words

2 very desirable traits

This woman knows how to be sweet /smooth talk

Her words are Complimentary and Convincing

She is well versed in what to say to seduce careless men

She knows how to inflame the passions of those who stop to listen to what she says

She is an old hand at enticement

She knows which words to use in her approach, how to respond to the reply, how to make the next move

She has no trouble sizing up each prospective client

She knows how to choose the words that will lead him on

Those who listen to her are left dazzled

They never suspect that dark ways hide behind her convincing words

**Her Mouth is Similar to Honey**

But in buying what she has to sell her customer finds ...

What she has to offer is Hard to Handle

**B. Her Merchandise – v.4**

***“But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword”***

Those who follow this way of sin find the opposite of what is offered

What seems to be Sweet and Smooth turns out to be Bitter and Sharp

Disastrous consequences come to those who walk this way

In distinction to the sweet talk of the initial flirting

The conclusion of a liaison with a strange woman is inevitably

Wormwood refers to hemlock and is a metaphor for extreme bitterness

You will always feel guilty after any type of illicit affair

Furthermore, involvement with someone other than one’s wife leads to trouble, even violence

How often are crimes of violence a result of an affair!

They go hand in hand

Fornication always Destroys lives

**Her Mouth is Similar to Honey** (But)

**Her Merchandise is Hard to Handle**

**C. Her Movement – v.5**

Her Movement is Straight to Hell

***“Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell”***

The last thing a person thinks of when listening to the siren voice of a wanton woman is the danger and death that accompany her

So Solomon warned of where all this leads

The Bible is blunt about lascivious sins

There is nothing Prudish or Victorian about the Bible

While the Bible is quite frank, it contains nothing sensual in its pages

The so-called “R” movie, on the other hand, moves the watcher slowly and enticingly through one lustful scene after another

Such movies excite and stimulates, gloating over every detail and constantly stirring the filth portrayed

The Bible, however, cuts through sin like a surgeon's knife

The cut exposes the moral ruin, the physical wreckage, and the shameful death that result from this sin

The perpetrators of pornography are depraved sensualist

The Holy Spirit is a surgeon

Fornication deadens the soul

**Hosea 4:11 *– “Whoredom and wine … take away the heart”***

Satan is smart

He knows there is no attraction in ugliness

Therefore all his pictures are drawn with deceit

He dresses up the door to hell with beautiful decorations

The invitation to come inside comes without cost

Once inside all the glitter is gone and there is no end of the payment

**Her Mouth is Similar to Honey** (But)

**Her Merchandise is Hard to Handle**

**Her Movement is Straight to Hell**

This strange woman is messed up and moving in the wrong direction

So we see, next …

**D. Her Means – v.6**

Her Means is her Movability

***“her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them”***

***“Moveable”*** - refers to an unstable condition

It indicates someone who changes all the time

**James 1:8 –** ***“A double minded man is unstable in all his ways”***

The devil knows that lasciviousness takes away the heart - **Hosea 4:11**

Therefore he endlessly promotes this sin through many different means

Every medium he can, is filled with Immodesty, endless innuendos, and enticements by the world

When an individual yields himself to this type of activity …

He deadens his heart to consideration of the true issues of life

Spiritual values evaporate under the heat of the lust of

Passion

The strange woman resorts to endless variations of provocative dress, sensual flirting, and any other seductive means to solicit an affair

The point here is that there are endless variations to the ways in which immoral situations can present themselves

The writer’s greater point is that involvement with such a person is not only wrong, it is stupid

Moreover such women are always seeking new ways to entice

(The focus here is upon immoral women because the chapter is addressed to Solomon’s son)

The greater truth is that immorality for anyone is wrong, stupid, and spiritually deadening

**Her Mouth is Similar to Honey** (But)

**Her Merchandise is Hard to Handle**

**Her Movement is Straight to Hell**

**Her Means is her Movability**

**E. Her Magnetism – vs. 7, 8**

Her Magnetism need to be Broken

**v. 7 - *“Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth”***

The terminology moves from a son to children to make sure that the instruction is not regarded as a private matter

The young are identified but all are included

Temptation is not limited to age / nor gender though

Note the words ***“hear”*** and ***“depart”***

It is imperative to hear but hearing alone is not enough

Action must be taken on what is heard

**v.8 - *“Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house”***

The strange woman has a magnetic personality

Men are drawn to her as moths to light

The force of magnetism is greater in its nearness to the object

The resistance of the sin is by the removal of the steps

The distance takes away the danger

Once the momentum is started it is hard to stop

The best way to stop is to never start

The magnetism is halted if it is never given a chance

Steer clear

**Her Mouth is Similar to Honey** (But)

**Her Merchandise is Hard to Handle**

**Her Movement is Straight to Hell**

**Her Means is her Movability**

**Her Magnetism need to be Broken**

**THE “DESIRE”**

**THE “DESCRIPTION”**

You will …

**PAY DEARLY IF YOU DON’T PAY ATTENTION**

This is marked also by...

**III. THE “DANGER” – vs. 9-11**

The Dangers that are Disclosed

3 Dangers are described here that will come as a result of someone going off into fornication

**v. 9a - *“Lest thou give thine honour unto others”***

A failure to pay attention would result in a lost reputation

The best years would be spent in the worst way

Your Prime will be Polluted

***“Honour unto others”*** means you’ve thrown yours away

Instead of getting respect, you are disrespected

Honor is lost by dishonor

The loss is not by coercion but by choice

Those who once held you in high regard, now have no regard for you

In this humbled position is found...

**A. Cruelty – v.9b**

***“Lest thou give … thy years unto the cruel:”***

***“lest” –*** *in order to prevent something from happening*

Moments that could have been found with comfort will be filled with Cruelty

Days that could have been brightened by happiness, are darkened by hopelessness

Regrets for a wasted life are met by insensitivity and rudeness

Many are the cruel … family, friends, foes, even an accusing conscience

This Cruelty is intensified by the ...

 **B. Cost – v.10**

The Cost is One’s Wealth

***“Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth;***

***… and thy labours be in the house of a stranger”***

Involvement in an immoral affair has not only spiritual consequences, but also economic consequences

Fornication brings an economic aftermath

It may be legal expenses (lawyers)

One thing the world refuses to confront is that this type of sin fuels poverty

Adultery causes divorce which is very expensive

It may be alimony / child support

The backlash of an affair is frequently costly

In most cases the spouse takes up with someone else

Now this other person has the house and things that go with it

What you worked so hard to get is put into the hands of others / strangers

How many a young woman has ruined her potential for further education and income because she engaged in fornication in her youth and had unwed children?

How many single-parent families living in poverty are there because of children born out of wedlock?

A lot of the poverty in this land is the result of fornication!

The prodigal son wasted all his substance with riotous living / fornication

The time came when he had spent all and he went to work in the house of a stranger

 **Luke 15:11-16**

 **The Cost of One’s Wealth

C. Consumption – v.11**

The Consumption of One’s Health

***“And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed”***

The cost of an immoral life comes not only with the consumption of finances and freedom but also with the consumption of the flesh

The deterioration of the body by disease will make people old before their time

If people could see what is at the close of a sinful life it would result in different choices at the beginning

Everything should be viewed at the start in the light of the end

How often people are foolish early but wise later on

How many contract STD’s?

Sadly, they carry these diseases or the consequences

of them for the rest of their lives

***“at the last”***

When they finally wake up to how stupid they have been, it’s too late

So far we have looked at the ..

**“DESIRE” TO FLEE FORNICATION**

**“DESCRIPTION” OF THE FORNICATOR**

**“DANGERS” OF FORNICATION**

Paying Attention or Paying Dearly is sorrowfully and forcefully accentuated in our last point by …

**IV. THE “DISTRESS” – vs. 12-14**

The Distress caused by our Callousness

**A. The Refusal – vs. 12, 13**

***“And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;”* *“And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!”***

One day they realize that their parents were right

And the Sunday School teacher knew what he or she was talking about

But now they have the disease or the scars to contend with for the rest of their lives

Fornication is not only wrong, it’s stupid!

God’s way is the Best Way

Purity until marriage and monogamy thereafter is not only morally right, it will prevent a garbage-truck load of problems later

**B. The Ruin – v.14**

***“I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly”***

The worst loss of all is to bring disgrace and dishonor on the people of God and the circle of one's fellowship

Immorality is a serious sin in the church

**I Corinthians 5:9 *– “I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators”***

In the Old Testament immorality was a capital offense

Today most people underrate the seriousness of formal Church Discipline

When it is deserved and delivered, all too often the culprit simply runs off to another church and fondly imagines that he has escaped the spiritual consequences of his sin

Not so! No one can run away from God, and God upholds the legitimate discipline of the congregation of His people

The purpose of Church Discipline is to separate the local church from evil and to preserve the integrity of the church's testimony in the community

Church Discipline is also designed to lead the offender to repentance, confession, and restoration

The disgrace of a church member is shared by the church

If the disgrace comes from the pew, that’s bad enough;

If it comes from the pulpit, that is even worse

If immorality is found in a national Christian figure the disgrace is the worst possible

It gives the enemies of the gospel great cause to blaspheme

**CONCLUSION**

Thank God for the ***“almost”***

**Almost** – means *not exactly, not yet, or not in fact, but very close to being or happening as described*

If we will just …

***“…attend unto … wisdom, and bow (our) ear to … understanding:”***

**WHY?**

***“That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge”***

The Folly of Fornication

**THE “DESIRE” TO FLEE FORNICATION**

**THE “DESCRIPTION” OF THE FORNICATOR**

**THE “DANGERS” OF FORNICATION**

**THE “DISTRESS” CAUSED BY FORNICATION**