THE HOUSE ON THE ROAD TO HELL

PART 1

**DATE: 8/23/2015 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 7:1 - 12**

**INTRODUCTION**

8 times in these first 7 chapters we see Solomon exhorting his son to obey God’s Word

With statements like …

**Proverbs 1:8 – *“My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:”***

**Proverbs 2:1 – *“My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;”***

**Proverbs 3:1 – *“My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:”***

**Proverbs 4:10 – *“Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many”***

**Proverbs 4:20 – *“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings”***

**Proverbs 5:1 – *“My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:”***

**Proverbs 6:20 – *“My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:”***

(Note the use of the pronoun ***“my”*** / possessive)

And in **7:1** we come to it again …

***“My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee”***

**Proverbs 4:7 – *“Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding”***

*Wisdom is simply taking God at His Word and applying it to your life*

Let’s stand to read …

Let’s begin reading in **vs. 6 -8 …**

***“For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,” “And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,” “Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,”***

Now skip down to **vs. 26, 27** and read …

***“For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her”*** ***“Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death”***

The warning to avoid the strange woman is carried over from chapter 6

**Proverbs 5, 6** have given us extensive warnings about immorality

And now we find in **Proverbs 7** the most extensive of the three warnings given

… In that, the whole chapter is on the subject of immorality

God has certainly made it plain in His Word about the Practice and Peril of immoral conduct

And I want to think on this thought tonight

***“The House on the Road to Hell”***

And might I say, the House on the Road to Hell is a Dead End

**~~~Prayer~~~**

Before Solomon goes into his main thought, he again encourages his son in **vs. 1-5**

And discusses, first …

**I. THE “PROTECTION” OF WISDOM – vs. 1-5**

… And ultimately the Protection from Immorality (and)

Again the **“*strange woman”*** in **v. 5** refers to a woman who has forsaken the guide of her youth and in general refers to the conduct of immorality

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

Solomon’s warning is prefaced by an Exhortation

Wisdom’s protection gives …

**A. Life – vs. 1, 2**

Solomon's statement in **vs.1, 2a** is referring to *the ‘source’ of life*

***“My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee” “Keep my commandments, and live;”***

The source of Real Life is found in the Word of God

**John 4:24 *– “God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth”***

**John 6:63 *– “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the Words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life”***

**John 6:68 – *“Then Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life”***

Until someone embraces the Truth of God’s Word they abide in death

**John 5:24 –** ***“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My Word, and believeth on Him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life”***

**John 3:36 *– “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”***

Twice here we are told to ***“keep”*** – *guard, protect, attend to, observe*

***“lay up”*** – *to hide*, A metaphor for not leaving treasure laying around, but stored away, not left out in the open

Why do you store something away? For Protection!

***“and live”*** - Not just physically, but more importantly, spiritually

I’ve said this before and I’m saying it again

*“Life is more than just mere existence, and then we die”*

Our Creator has a much greater plan then just someone fumbling along thru life

When we walk in the way of the Word of God,

We will be protected from evil … while even at times not realizing it

The commandments of wisdom will ***“keep”*** us from evil

But not (if we don’t) ***“keep”*** / ***“lay up”*** the commandments of wisdom

Peter gave the same sense when writing **I Peter 1:23-25**

***“the Word of God, which liveth and abideth forever”***

The Word of God is Life-giving

God’s Word regenerates; it imparts life … the very life of God … into those who will believe

It is ***“incorruptible seed”***

Everything else is transient, but ***“the Word of the Lord endureth for ever”***

Wisdom’s Protection brings …

Not only **Life** but …

**B. Laud (Regard) – v.2b**

**Laud –** *is an old English word that means to highly regard someone or something*

When something is the ***“apple of thine eye”***

It is something that is *greatly regarded, is of great value*

The Word of God must be highly regarded in someone’s life for them to practice it, to be protected

Most people’s lives reveal exactly how much they regard God / His Words

Wisdom’s Protection brings …

Not only, Life and Regard …

But also …

**C. Loyalty – v.3**

***“Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart”***

It will cause us to be Loyal to others in our life

Again Solomon reference both the outward and the inward view

(Up to this point we have seen this thought 4 times)

**Proverbs 1:9 *– “For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck”***

**Proverbs 3:3 –** ***“Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:”***

**Proverbs 3:22 *– “So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck”***

**Proverbs 6:21 –** ***“Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck”***

**1.** Inward – ***“table of thine heart”***

**2.** Outward – ***“Bind them upon thy fingers”***

Just like people wear rings

A Wedding Ring is especially a declaration of loyalty

Jewelry is used to, outwardly adorn someone

Our outward adorning shouldn’t be with bling though

The principle is rather …

**I Timothy 2:9, 10 –** ***“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness (decency) and sobriety;***

***(seriousness) not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array;” (Which attracts unwanted attention)***

**Titus 2:10 *–*** (servants) ***“Not purloining, (to misappropriate) but shewing all good fidelity; (loyalty)******that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things”***

Peter says it best …

**I Peter 3:3, 4 –** ***“Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel;” “But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price”***

Loyalty is necessary if we are to profit from the Word of God

We must not forsake it in time of temptation.

And the 4th thought in Wisdom’s Protection is …

**D. Love – v.4** (for wisdom)

***“Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:”***

We are to have a love for Wisdom like we love our siblings

The thought here is that of making the commandments as a sister or kinswoman (a near relation)

Affection for our relations is to be enduring, patience and tolerant despite difficulties

Difficulties will come; how you treat them (the Difficulties) will be a reflection of your attitude toward the Word of God

Thus, our affection for the Word of God must be strong, enduring if it is to Protect us from evil, especially immorality

**THE “PROTECTION”**

**II. THE “PUBLICITY” - vs. 6, 7**

Public people love Publicity

Politicians, the hellywood crowd, sports figures etc.

But not the fornicator

Immorality would rather be concealed, incognito, private and secret

But the truth of the matter is that immorality cannot be hidden

Sooner or later it will become public

It will be no secret that you have been immoral

**Numbers 32:23 *– “But if ye will not do so, (right) behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out”***

**A. The ‘Providence’ in the Publicity – v.6**

***“For at the window of my house I looked through my casement”***

**Providence –** the Guidance & Knowledge of God

**II Chronicles 16:9a *– “For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong”***

God has ways of revealing wrong through providence

**Genesis 26:8 –** ***“And it came to pass, when he had been there a long time, that Abimelech king of the***

***Philistines looked out at a window, and saw, and, behold, Isaac was sporting with Rebekah his wife”***

Isaac's lie was exposed by providence

A king happened to look out the window providentially and saw a scene that betrayed Isaac's lie

Abraham was caught in the same lie, the same way

God exposed Judah’s wrong doing, when he went unto his daughter-in-law (**Gen. 38**)

You think you are in a safe place, out of town

When all of a sudden, there is someone you know,

Someone you never expected … sees you

Then the secret is out

Sin cannot be hidden

I think of David’s sin with Bathsheba

God’s Word is replete with examples

**B. The ‘Perception’ that is Public – v.7**

***“And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding”***

There are behaviors that give away someone's conduct

**Discern** – *to notice, understand, distinguish*

In its simplest definition, discernment is nothing more than the ability to decide between truth and error, right and wrong

Discernment is the process of making careful distinctions in our thinking about truth

In other words, the ability to think with discernment is synonymous with an ability to think biblically

**I Thessalonians 5:21, 22 –** ***“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good” “Abstain from all appearance of evil”***

It’s the responsibility of every Christian to be discerning

The apostle John issues a similar warning when he says in **I John 4:1**

***“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God:***

***… because many false prophets are gone out into the world”***

According to the New Testament, discernment is not an option

The key to living an uncompromising life lies in one's ability to exercise discernment in every area life

Failure to distinguish between truth and error leaves the Christian subject to all manner of false ideas

False ideas then leads to an unbiblical mindset, which results in unfruitful and disobedient living

Unfortunately, discernment is an area where most Christians fail

They exhibit little ability to measure the things they are taught against the infallible standard of God's Word,

They unwittingly engage in all kinds of unbiblical decision-making and behavior

In short, they are not armed to take a decidedly biblical stand against the onslaught of unbiblical thinking and attitudes that face them

The need to Discern is a part of everyday life

And God's Word provides us with the needed discernment about every issue of life

**II Peter 1:3** – ***“According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and***

***… godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue:”***

You see, it is through the ***"the knowledge of Him,"*** that we have been given everything we need to live a Christian life in a fallen world

And how else are we going to have true understanding but through the pages of His Word?

In fact, Peter goes on to say in **v.4** - ***“Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises:”***

Discernment -- the ability to think biblically about all areas of life -- is indispensable to an uncompromising life

It is incumbent upon the Christian to rely upon the discernment that God has provided for us in His Word!

Without it, Christians are at risk of being ***“tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;”* Eph. 4:14**

Someone with Biblical discernment sees the obvious

The sinner tries to act as though nothing wrong has happened,

Sooner or later their deed is discerned though, and the sin becomes public

Matter-of-fact, let’s look at this in our third thought

We saw …

**THE “PROTECTION”**

**THE “PUBLICITY”**

Now let’s look at …

**III. THE “PEOPLE” – vs. 7 - 12**

Those who engage in immorality manifest certain traits which the Scripture profiles and then exposes

Several characteristics of immoral people are disclosed in our text

**A. They’re ‘Foolish’ – v.7**

***“simple ones …void of understanding”***

Immorality is folly, and so it’s not surprising that one of the characteristics of an immoral person is foolishness

Folly - *thoughtlessness, recklessness, or thoughtless or reckless behavior*

You get the impression that this young man is either terribly dumb or very proud, convinced that he can play with sin and get away with it

But he's only tempting himself and heading for trouble

To begin with, he's out at night

**v. 9 – *“In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:”***

The Bible says the fool …

**2:13 – *“… leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;”***

**John 3:19-21 –** ***“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil”   
“For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved"*** ***“But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God”***

He's deliberately walking near the place of temptation and danger

There’s that allure, the mystery of iniquity

The fool doesn’t heed the wise counsel of the Lord,

**5:8 – *“Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:”***

God's Word wasn't controlling his actions

**Proverbs 3:26 –** ***“For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken”***

**Proverbs 4:27 *– “Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil”***

During my tenure I've listened to many a sad story from people who have indulged in sin and suffered greatly;

And in almost every instance, the people deliberately put themselves into the place of temptation and danger

Unlike Job and Joseph

**Job 31:1 –** ***“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”***

**Genesis 39:12 *– “And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out”***

**II Timothy 2:22 –** ***“Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart”***

We can't help being tempted, but we can certainly help dwelling on it / thus tempting ourselves

**They’re ‘Foolish’**

**B. The ‘Female’ – vs. 10 - 12**

The female who engages in sin has some definite characteristics which expose her wickedness and desire

**1.** Her Dress **– v.10**

As Solomon sees the young man head toward this woman

Solomon describes her

***“And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart”***

She was dressed to show off her wares

She was wily

She knew how to bait the trap

How to catch this young man’s eye, how to hold it, and how to turn the look into lust

This temptation is as old as the human race

The same subtle serpent who seduced Eve taught this woman her wiles

**Genesis 3:6** tells us that the first temptation was swift

**“Eve saw... she took... she eat... she gave”**

-- She saw!

The serpent kept Eve's gaze riveted on the forbidden fruit so that the look might become a lust

The Bible says the tree was pleasant to the eyes and good for food—it was a tree to be desired

-- She took!

The desire became a deed

-- She ate!

The choice led to a chain reaction

-- She gave!

Eve the Sinner became Eve the Seducer

The deadly deed was done!

Likewise the woman Solomon saw designed her dress to catch and hold the young man's attention

She subtly kept his gaze riveted until he couldn't resist what she offered

Woman wear what they wear today not realizing what it does, they simply think they are in fashion

**2.** Her Deportment **– v.11**

Continuing his description of the harlot, Solomon tells us about her Conduct

***“She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house”***

This woman, as we learn later, is married

She plied her profession only when her husband was away, and then she was like someone released from prison

She doubtless found married life to be extremely dull and boring

She had long since tired of her husband

She wanted excitement, a new conquest, someone else

The Flesh is never satisfied

As soon as her husband left and it was dark, she went looking

Her subtlety told her that the right approach with this young man was to take him by storm and refuse to let him go

With someone else she might have tried a different approach

She might have pretended to be poor, or frightened, or lonely

But she had seen this young man coming and she knew his type was best taken by a bold frontal attack

Solomon did well in describing this woman’s wiles

**3.** Her Domain **– v.12**

Completing the description of this harlot, Solomon tells us about her Realm

***"Now she is without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner"***

She was a woman of the streets, a streetwalker

Solomon knew the streets she worked

He knew her favorite corners

A place where two streets met, where there was twice the traffic and twice the chance of making a catch

If the young man Solomon was watching thought he could lead her on, flirt a little, and then run on home for supper and boast to his friends the next day of his *little bit of fun*, he had grossly miscalculated

He had underestimated her expertise and over calculated his own powers of resistance

His miscalculations are typical mistakes of those who deliberately walk in temptation's path

**CONCLUSION**

By going to her house, the young man willfully disobeyed God's Law

God allowed the youth to indulge in his sensual appetites and suffer the consequences

God could have stopped him, but He didn't … why?

Because the Word says -

**Deuteronomy 6:16 –** ***“Ye shall not tempt the LORD your God”***

**Matthew 4:7 –*“Jesus said unto him, It is written again, Thou shalt not tempt the Lord thy God”***

Instead of tempting the Lord, the young man should of …

-- Looked up to the Lord and remembered His Word

**v. 24 –** ***“Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the Words of My mouth”***

-- Looked within and kept his heart focused on God's truth

**v.25 – *“Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths”***

-- Looked ahead to see the terrible consequences of his sin

**vs. 26, 27 – *“For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her” “Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death”***

He should have never went that way!

But …Society today not only smiles at immorality, it actually approves and encourages it

Perversions that shocked people 50 years ago are openly discussed today and are even made the subject of novels, movies, and TV sitcoms

What Paul described in **Romans 1** is now rampant

But people resent it if you call their practices *sin*

After all - *Everybody's doing it*

**Hebrews 13:4 –** ***“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge”***