VIRTUES VERSUS VICES

**DATE: 11/29/2015 pm**

**TEXT: Proverbs 10: 1-7**

**INTRODUCTION**

This chapter marks the beginning of the next major section of the Book of Proverbs

To this point, the focus has largely been philosophical, addressing the Benefits of Wisdom versus the Bitter Consequences of Sin

Now, the book becomes more practically focused,

Emphasizing (excuse me) the Stupidity of Sin and the Wisdom of Righteousness

Though Righteousness as a concept certainly has been addressed to this point, now the mention of it picks up noticeably

The focus increases upon Practical Righteousness

That is, to Live Right, from day to day

Whereas in the first 9 chapters, there has been some continuance of context

Now, the format becomes largely lengthy lists of

often unrelated Proverbs or Wise Sayings

The one thread of continuance found throughout, however, is the Wisdom of doing what is Right and the Folly of Sin

What I’m going to call … Virtue versus Vice

**Virtue -** speaks of moral excellence

It’s goodness, decency, doing right, honesty, modesty and purity

**Vice -** refers to wickedness

It speaks of degrading habits

It’s the corruption of conduct

It’s conceived and carried out in the depravity of human will

Hundreds of Proverbs are recorded in this book and they are a Treasure Trove of Inexhaustible Wealth

**Proverbs 3:13, 14 *– “Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding” “For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold”***

These Proverbs cover every area of life:

Personal Relationships, Responsibilities to Home and Family, Social Involvements and Civic Duties

They commend what is Virtuous and contrast it with what is Vice

Let’s stand to read **vs. 1-7**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

**I. A “FAMILY” THING – vs. 1**

There is nothing like having a Happy Home

But they don’t come naturally

**Psalm 128:1, 3 – *“Blessed is every one that feareth the LORD; that walketh in His ways” “Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table”***

The American Home is in a sad case of disarray

Most folks are reaping the consequences of raising their families without the help of God

Let me give you 4 things that make for a Happy Home

**1.** Submission

The Husband is submitted to Christ, the Wife to her Husband, and the children to their parents

**Ephesians 5:21 *– “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God”***

**2.** Sweetness

Bitter, critical, and cantankerous attitudes will tear a home apart

**1 Peter 3:4, 7 *– “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” “Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge,***

***…giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered”***

**3.** Sensitivity

Families are to consider the needs of each other

There needs to be times of Talk, Touch, and Tenderness in a Home

Sensitivity in your marriage is a necessary foundation for happiness

**4.** Spirituality

The greatest defense against the World , the Flesh , and the Devil is Spirituality

The first 3 foundations are held together by this 4th!

The only safe home is a Spiritual home!

A Saved, Spiritual family will be able to weather the storms and stand secure

If your home is in trouble, You must begin with you own Spiritual condition! (Do it now!)

***“If the foundations be destroyed, What can the righteous do?”***

The answer is – nothing … but cry!

The first thing we see in regards to our FAMILIES …

**A. ‘Happiness’ – v. 1a**

***“A wise son maketh a glad father:”***

The success or failure of children is a reflection on life in the home

The Decisions a child makes and the Directions they take, will make the parents sad or glad

A son will not become wise unless wisdom is

demonstrated in the Home

Having learned what is good, he keeps on learning and puts it into practice

The language he uses doesn’t embarrass his father

The company he chooses is with his father’s approval

Everything he does causes his father happiness

A wise son is the result of a spiritual home

**B. ‘Heartache’ – v.1b**

***“but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother”***

But to the contrary, a foolish son weighs heavily upon a mother

***“Heaviness”*** - *speaks of grief*

It is a burden so heavy that it breaks the heart

The thought is that a foolish son is a grief to a father,

But weighs even more upon a godly mother

A fool is one who is arrogant, selfish, and rebellious

A major goal of parenting is to ensure that someone’s children are trained in Righteousness and Wisdom and not allowed to become fools

**Proverbs 22:6 *– “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”***

The latter will come naturally if a child is left to

his own devices

**Proverbs 29:15 *– “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame”***

The greatest Son of all was He in whom His Father was well pleased

**Matthew 3:17 *– “And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”***

What will you be, A Sad Dad? or a Happy Pappy

**A “FAMILY” THING**

**II. SOME “FINANCIAL” THINGS – vs. 2-5**

The emphasis today is on the economy which focuses on wealth

The book of Proverbs has a lot to say about wealth which is obviously ignored by most of society / govt.

**A. Profits and Loss – v.2**

We live in a society that is based solely on profit and loss / the bottom line

What will it cost me / how much will I make

America is made up of nothing more than idolater and covetous people

Now, don’t get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with making money / we need it to survive

I say, Get all you can, while you can

But NOT at *whatever* Cost!

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

Notice what the Bible says …

**1.** Of the Wicked

***“Treasures of wickedness profit nothing:”***

A man may seem to profit by his treasures

And to be wonderfully off for a time

But what was the profit of Naboth's vineyard to Ahab, when in his ivory palace he was withering under the curse of God?

**I Kings 21:19 *– “And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, Hast thou killed, …***

***… and also taken possession? And thou shalt speak unto him, saying, Thus saith the LORD, In the place where dogs licked the blood of Naboth shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine”***

What was the profit of the thirty pieces of silver to Judas?

Instead of delivering from death, their very presents brought him to an early death

**Matthew 27:5 *– “And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself”***

What profit was it to the Rich Man in **Luke 12:15-20**

**Luke 12:21 *– “So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”***

**2.** Of the Righteous

***“but righteousness delivereth from death”***

Wickedness limits the power of wealth

Righteousness will do more for the economy than all the wealth of the wicked

***“Delivereth from death”***

Righteousness is the greatest of riches

The right kind of living can spare someone from physical death for many reasons

Honest dealings have a tendency to extend life

But Righteous living delivers from spiritual death

It is righteousness that is imputed by Christ as a result of faith

**Philippians 3:9 – *“And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:”***

**Titus 3:5 – *“Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;”***

**Profit and Loss**

**B. Assets and Liabilities – vs. 3, 4**

Assets and Liabilities are 2 more Financial things

**Asset** - *is something of value*

**Liability** – *is a disadvantage*

Note the 2 contrasts here between:

-- ***“soul”*** and ***“substance”***

-- ***“the righteous”*** and ***“the wicked”***

The spiritual man is more concerned with his soul than with his substance

The wicked man is more concerned with his substance than with his soul

Here’s the Wisdom in Living Righteously

**1.** The Assets of the Righteous

**v. 3a - *“The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish:”***

The Wisdom of righteous living brings not only natural benefits, but supernatural benefits as well

Here, the Lord Himself intervenes to bless the righteous

God will not allow those who live righteously to be at a disadvantage

**Psalm 37:25 *– “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread”***

Righteous living is both an Asset to ourselves and our Families

**Matthew 6:33 *– “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you”***

**v. 4b – “*the hand of the diligent maketh rich”***

Hard Work is the key to wealth

Our economy is in trouble because of the welfare philosophy that wants more for less

Paying a non-producing person leads to poverty of the economy

This balance in American society is unsustainable

Far better to be on the side of His blessing than the side of His judgment

**2.** The Liability of the Wicked

**v. 3b – “*but He casteth away the substance of the wicked”***

***“substance”*** – *is what the wicked considers important*

The righteous find satisfaction but the wicked find scarcity – ***“casteth away”***

The craving of those who do not belong to God only find disappointment

They find no real enjoyment for their efforts

God prevents any lasting pleasure in their pursuits

**v. 4a - *“He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand:”***

The lazy are penalized with poverty

As a general rule wealth will not come to those who will not work

**Proverbs 14:23** ***– “In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury”***

The idle hand will be an empty hand but the diligent hand will be an enriched hand

**C. Work and Laziness – v.5**

***“He that gathereth in summer is a wise son:”***

The old adage is – *“Make hay while the sun shines”*

The old saying means taking advantage of the opportunity

Our time is short and not one minute should be wasted

A Wise person knows what must be done, when it must be done and does it with all his heart

**Ephesians 5:16 *– “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil”***

**Colossians 4:5** ***– “Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time”***

But on the other hand …

***“he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame”***

Someone who sleeps in harvest is someone who wastes valuable time

Lets work go undone and looks for every opportunity to take a break

The wise person makes hay while the foolish person misses honor

His laziness brings him a loss of respect / ***“shame***

**A “FAMILY” THING**

**SOME “FINANICAL” THINGS**

**III. A “FINAL” THING – vs. 6, 7**

Having observed the preoccupation people have with making money …

Solomon raised a caution concerning the here and the hereafter / Final Things

**v. 6 - *“Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked”***

The word ***“blessings”*** here points not only to good things,

But to good things bestowed by another, particularly to good things bestowed by God

Material things can be accumulated in Legitimate ways or by Lawless means, by virtuous methods or by violence / vice

Many of the Old Testament saints were rich

The patriarchs were rich, Job was rich, and David and Solomon were rich

There is nothing wrong with being rich

However, the morality of the Bible lays social and spiritual responsibilities on the rich to care for the poor and further the work of God in this world

God has not blessed us to spend it all on our selves

The morality of the Bible, furthermore, forbids getting rich by fraud, violence, or oppression … vice

But, this verse applies to more than merely the making of money though

The contrast between Blessings and Violence is well illustrated in the story of Joab and David

Joab was David's nephew and commander-in-chief of his army

He had great ability, but was thoroughly ambitious, ruthless, and vindictive

After the death of Saul, Joab played a prominent role in the ensuing civil war

When Abner, who commanded the forces against David, surrendered, Joab murdered him

Joab's pretext was to avenge his brother’s death, who had died at the hands of Abner in the course of the war

But Joab's real reason was to remove a potential rival

He murdered Amasa, another of David's generals, for the same reason

Joab held a trump card over David

David had used him in the murder of Uriah

David never felt strong enough to deal with Joab

David left Joab to Solomon to deal with

While Joab's end was marked by violence, David's end was blessed

Having warned about the *here*, Solomon now warned about the *hereafter*

**v. 7 - *“The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot”***

Many examples of this contrast can be found in both sacred and secular history

We think of Noah and Nimrod, Samuel and Saul, Jonathan and Joab, Hezekiah and Haman, Paul and Pilate

In each case one man's name is blessed and the other's is covered with shame

Righteous men are long remembered

Their just lives remain a blessing for posterity

Witness the great men of God throughout Scripture

who remain a blessing by their righteous example to this day

In contrast is the history of wicked men

Their memory stinks / ***“rots”***

No one names their son Judas, or Pontius, or Cain

The memory of these men stinks to this day

The stark contrast between the blessings of righteousness and the curse of wickedness is apparent

**CONCLUSION**

In this life one of two things happens to us

Either our Sins get blotted out

**Acts 3:19 *– “Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord;”***

Our Names get blotted out

**Revelation 3:5 *– “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels”***

There can be no greater horror for a man than to wake up in a lost eternity to the terrible realization that his name has been blotted out

If he had been redeemed, his name would have been written in the Lamb's book of life

To be remembered for Christ's sake forever

**A “FAMILY” THING**

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