

CHAPTER 4

HEAR, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.

2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.

3 For I was my father's son, tender and only *beloved* in the sight of my mother.

4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.

5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget *it* not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.

7 Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.

9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.

10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

13 Take fast hold of instruction; let *her* not go: keep her; for she *is* thy life.

14 ¶ Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil *men*.

15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

16 For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause *some* to fall.

17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

18 But the path of the just *is* as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

19 The way of the wicked *is* as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.

20 ¶ My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

22 For they *are* life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.

23 ¶ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

CHAPTER 5

MY son, attend unto my wisdom, *and* bow thine ear to my understanding:

2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and *that* thy lips may keep knowledge.

3 ¶ For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* an honeycomb, and

her mouth *is* smoother than oil:

4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.

5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, *that* thou canst not know *them*.

7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

9 Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:

10 Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours *be* in the house of a stranger;

11 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,

12 And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

13 And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

14 I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.

15 ¶ Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.

16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, *and* rivers of waters in the streets.

17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.

18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.

19 *Let her be as* the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

21 For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

22 ¶ His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.

23 He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

CHAPTER 6

MY son, if thou be surety for thy friend, *if* thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,

2 Thou art snared with the

words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

3 Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand *of the hunter*, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

6 ¶ Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:

7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,

8 Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.

9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

10 *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.

12 ¶ A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

13 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

14 Frowardness *is* in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.

15 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.

16 ¶ These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

20 ¶ My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:

21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, *and* tie them about thy neck.

22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and *when* thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

23 For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

26 For by means of a whorish woman *a man is brought* to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

30 *Men* do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

31 But *if* he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

32 *But* whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

33 A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

34 For jealousy *is* the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

35 He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Chapter 4:23 says, "Keep thy heart with all diligence, for out of it are the issues of life." The heart is the master control of life. A wrong heart always produces a wrong life. To allow sin into the heart is to pollute the entire life. In this chapter, Solomon warns us to guard our lips (verse 24); yet Luke 6:45 tells us the lips and tongue are controlled by the heart. A froward mouth is a proud mouth, a mouth that speaks scornfully and arrogantly. A Christian's words must never be arrogant; they must always be spoken in love (Ephesians 4:15).

In chapter 5 we see folly offering men condemnation. Wherever God offers His gracious invitation, Satan is there with an alluring offer of his own. He has a counterfeit for everything God has to offer. With the description of the wicked woman in chapter 5 we can see how Satan tries to make sin appear beautiful. But verse 5 tells us that her feet go down to death and her steps take hold on hell. God warns us not to even come near her door (verses 7 and 8). Sin has always been costly. It can cause you to lose your reputation (verse 9), your possessions (verse 10), your health (verse 11), and your very life (verses 22 and 23). The cords of sin bind man, slowly but surely, until one day he discovers that he has no power within himself; and he cannot escape the grips of Satan and sin.

Chapter 6:16-19 says, "These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood. An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh and he that soweth discord among brethren." While it is true that we serve a God of love, on occasion God is described as hating certain characteristics found in men. Few Christians, of course, are guilty of bloody hands, a wicked heart, and other crimes mentioned here. But the sin of sowing discord among the brethren is often found in Bible-believing churches. Only eternity will reveal the number of churches that have been torn apart because of it. It is a sad but true fact that more churches have suffered shipwreck due to disposition than to position. Troubles arise in most churches, not because of some incorrect theological position, but because of the deadly tongue disposition of some gossiping man or woman. Let us never forget that God hates this attitude; for, when we speak against the body of Christ, we also grieve the Holy Spirit of God who dwells within us.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death" (Proverbs 11:4).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 24: For today's memory verses, follow instructions on page 8.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

100 B.C.

THE BIRTHDAY OF JULIUS CAESAR.

As you tour the ruins of Rome and the Roman empire, you become reminded of the Caesars and the great powerful Roman Empire. One stands in awe as he sees the old Roman Forum and its ruins, realizing that the Apostle Paul walked that way. It was there that Mark Antony said, "I come not to praise Caesar but to buy him." Pray for the Roman people and for God's people in Italy. One of the most intriguing cities in all the world is Rome, and yet it is one of the most needy cities for the Gospel.

1854

THE BIRTHDAY OF GEORGE EASTMAN.

George Eastman is the inventor of the Kodak camera. Think what his work has meant to us. Thank God today for his invention. At my house I have two 35mm cameras and a video camera, all of which are built upon the foundation of George Eastman. Think of the many pictures of children, of infancy, of happy family outings, of important and sacred events, the babies' pictures, the wedding pictures, the graduation pictures, and others that mean so much all made possible by this invention and this inventor. Thank God today for him.

1934

THE BIRTHDAY OF VAN CLIBURN, PIANIST.

Van Cliburn is from Kilgore, Texas, where Jack Hyles has preached and just a few miles from where Dr. Hyles attended college. As we think of a pianist today, may we pause to thank God for our church pianist and our church organist. Perhaps a letter of appreciation would be in order. These unsung heroes deserve our attention and our appreciation. Sit down now and write a letter or do a kind deed for your church accompanists. It will mean so much to them. Their labor deserves our praise as well as our prayers.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1951

GOVERNOR ADLAI STEVENSON, CALLED OUT NATIONAL GUARD to stop rioting in Cicero, Illinois. Mob of 3,500 tried to keep black family from moving into all-white city.

1963

NATIONAL GUARD TROOPS IMPOSED LIMITED MARTIAL LAW in Cambridge, Md., after open confrontations between demonstrators and white segregationists.

1966

RACE RIOT, CHICAGO. National Guard mobilized.

1967

TWENTY-THREE KILLED IN NEWARK REBELLION. The racial uprising spread to ten of the city's twenty-three square miles. More than 1,500 persons were injured and 1,300 were arrested. Police reported 300 fires. The Newark rebellion, the worst outbreak of racial violence since Watts, spread to other New Jersey communities, including New Brunswick, Englewood, Paterson, Elizabeth, Palmyra, Passaic, and Plainfield. The National Guard was mobilized.

1980

DEATH OF JOHN W. DAVIS (92), civil rights activist and former president of West Virginia State College, in Englewood, New Jersey.

The Story of the Psalms

PSALMS 59

AUTHOR: David

THE STORY BEHIND THE PSALM:

Saul sent messengers to watch the house of David and commanded them to kill David. Michal, David's wife, who was the daughter of Saul, warned David. David escaped out a window, and an image of goat's hair was left on David's bed. Saul was told that David was sick, whereupon he commanded his servant to bring the bed and all to get David. However, David had escaped again. He wrote this Psalm in acknowledging his escape and God's protection.

THE WAY IT WAS USED BY GOD'S PEOPLE:

It was used by the Jews when they were afraid.

Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE"

(Assignment 24)

Please recite all three components of each of these five verses aloud, five times each morning, and five times each evening, for the next seven days. The three components of each verse are: Subject, Scripture Reference, and Scripture Text. (For more details, see "The Treasure Path to Soul Winning," page xiii near the front of this book.)

A closed book to every one before conversion.

() Romans 3:11

There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

It is spiritually discerned.

() 1 Corinthians 2:14

But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

It may be foolish to the unsaved.

() 1 Corinthians 1:18

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Carnal mind at enmity with God.

() Romans 8:7

Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

God's writings are strange to the lost.

() Hosea 8:12

I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.