

CHAPTER 7

MY son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.

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

5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words.

6 ¶ For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,

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

8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:

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

11 (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:

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

13 So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him,

14 *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.

15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.

16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt.

17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.

19 For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey:

20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed.

21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

22 He goeth after her straight-way, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life.

24 ¶ Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by her.

27 Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

CHAPTER 8

DOTH not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?

2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

4 Unto you, O men, I call; and

my voice *is* to the sons of man.

5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.

6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips *shall be* right things.

7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

8 All the words of my mouth *are* in righteousness; *there is* nothing froward or perverse in them.

9 They *are* all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.

10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

11 For wisdom *is* better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

12. I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

13 The fear of the LORD *is* to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

14 Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom: I *am* understanding; I have strength.

15 By me kings reign, and

princes decree justice.

16 By me princes rule, and nobles, *even* all the judges of the earth.

17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

18 Riches and honour *are* with me; *yea*, durable riches and righteousness.

19 My fruit *is* better than gold, *yea*, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

22. The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 When *there were* no depths, I was brought forth; when *there were* no fountains abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the

world.

27 When he prepared the heavens, I *was* there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:

30 Then I was by him, *as* one brought up *with him*: and I was daily *his* delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights *were* with the sons of men.

32. Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed *are they that* keep my ways.

33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

34 Blessed *is* the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

36 But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they

that hate me love death.

CHAPTER 9

WISDOM hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:

2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.

3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,

4 Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither: *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine *which* I have mingled.

6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked *man* getteth himself a blot.

8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

9 Give *instruction* to a wise

man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just *man*, and he will increase in learning.

10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy *is* understanding.

11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.

12 If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but *if* thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear *it*.

13 ¶ A foolish woman *is* clamorous: *she is* simple, and knoweth nothing.

14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:

16 Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither: and *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant.

18 But he knoweth not that the dead *are* there; *and that* her guests *are* in the depths of hell.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

We are given wisdom's second call in chapter 8, the call to wealth. We again find wisdom in the streets, calling men to follow God's path. In verse 5 she calls the simple and the fool, but not the scorner. The scorner was the one who laughed and mocked, so God passed him by. How solemn to think a man's heart should be so hard that he no longer hears the voice of God.

The invitation given in chapter 8 is to true wealth, the wisdom that is far above silver, gold, and precious jewels (verses 10 and 11). Verses 15 and 16 tell us that to know God's wisdom is to reign like a king. Again, verses 18 and 19 affirm that wisdom and godly living are greater in value than all worldly wealth. In verses 22-31 Solomon introduces an Old Testament picture of Jesus Christ, who is the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:24,30). As we read this description of Christ in Proverbs, we can see Him as the creator of the universe. To know Him and to have Him is true wisdom. Without having God's Son as personal Saviour, all other possessions are as nothing. To gain the world is but loss without Christ. Earthly possessions can never satisfy the longing for peace and security. That longing can only be satisfied by God.

In chapter 9 wisdom's third call is to life. The first invitation was to the simple, the scorner, and the fool; the second invitation was to the fool and the simple; but the third invitation is only to the simple (verse 4). The lesson found in these first nine chapters of Proverbs is obvious—to reject wisdom is to accept folly! There is no middle ground; no fence in the middle of the road. Jesus said, "He that is not with me is against me." No man can serve two masters, and no man can live without a master. We either follow wisdom (Christ) or folly (sin).

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence" (Proverbs 13:2).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

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

BIRTHDAYS TODAY

BEATRICE SMITH
TINA FRAZIER

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1821

THE BIRTHDAY OF NATHAN B. FORREST.

1787

THE OPENING OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORY.

Pray for the Christians in the Northwestern part of our nation. Pray for the pastors there. Pray for the fundamental churches in this area. Pray for God's hand of blessing to rest upon each of them. It is difficult to think of the Northwest without thinking of the great Christian, David Brainerd, who was burdened so much for the Northwest and who was considered one of the great men of prayer in all the history of our nation.

"THREE'S"

Think on these things for awhile today. There is a discussion concerning "threes" for a preacher. These "threes" could be applicable to laymen and clergy alike. For example there are three things that a Christian should do regularly:

1. Win souls
2. Pray
3. Read his Bible

There are three things that top my prayer list:

1. Power
2. Love
3. Wisdom

Every Christian needs an abundance of these things.

Then there are three books in the Bible that I think are the most important books in the Bible to know:

1. Genesis
2. Romans
3. Revelation

Genesis tells us from whence we came; Revelation tells us where we are going, and Romans tells us how to get there.

Then there are three books in the Bible that I read regularly.

1. Psalms—This keeps my heart full of praise and love.
2. Proverbs—This is used to build character and integrity.
3. Acts—This is used to keep one living the life of the New Testament Church.

There are many other important "threes" for the Christian, but these could be applicable and appropriate for you today.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1787

CONTINENTAL CONGRESS EXCLUDED SLAVERY from Northwest Territory.

1863

HOSTILITY TO DRAFT AND FEAR OF BLACKS,"THE CAUSE" OF THE WAR AND POTENTIAL COMPETITORS IN THE LABOR MARKET, LED TO "NEW YORK DRAFT RIOTS," one of the bloodiest race riots in American history. Mobs swept through streets, murdered blacks and hanged them on lamp posts.

1868

OSCAR J. DUNN, A FORMER SLAVE, FORMALY INSTALLED AS LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA, the highest elective officer held to

date by an American black. Antoine Dubuclet was installed as state treasurer.

1868

ALABAMA LEGISLATURE (26 BLACKS, 106 WHITES) MET IN MONTGOMERY.

1919

RACE RIOTS, LONGVIEW AND GREGG COUNTIES, TEXAS. Martial law declared. There were twenty-six riots during the "Red Summer" of 1919.

1972

BUREAU OF CENSUS REPORT SAID BLACK UNEMPLOYMENT AVERAGED 9.9 PER CENT IN 1971, compared with a 5.4 per cent rate for whites. The report also said that 31.8 per cent of all black families were headed by a woman, and increase from the 28 per cent reported in 1970.

Hymn of the Week

“JOY TO THE WORLD”

Isaac Watts and George Frederick Handel

One of our most popular Christmas carols is the result of the combining of the efforts of two truly great men, Isaac Watts and George Frederick Handel. Statues of both may be seen today in Westminster Abbey. Handel, a large, robust, outspoken man, was quite different from Watts, a frail, sickly little man only five feet tall. Both lived in London. They were acquainted and each much have appreciated the other's talents.

In 1719, Isaac Watts, already a notable hymn writer, sat down under a tree at the Abney Estate near London and began to write some verses based on the Ninety-eighth Psalm. Little did he realize, at that time, the popularity and fame that his poem would receive, nor that the verses would later be put to a musical setting written by Handel.

Then in 1741 George Frederick Handel, who was already famous as the writer of some of the world's greatest opera, decided that he wanted to do a truly great work. After spending some time in prayer he arose from his knees and for twenty-three days labored almost continuously day and night. He came from his labors, a victor. He had written the immortal *The Messiah*. From this masterpiece, which for two centuries has been heralded as one of the greatest of sacred classics, has come the basis for many other sacred compositions.

Handel was born in Germany in 1685. He was the son of a devout Christian lady who was intimately acquainted with the Bible. The influence of her godly life could be seen in his actions until his death.

His father wanted him to study law, but he wanted to study music, so he won his father's approval and later became a church organist in England.

A nobleman once praised him for the entertainment he had furnished in the music of “He Was Despised and Rejected.” He let the nobleman know in no uncertain terms that his music was not to entertain, but to make men better.

Nearly a century had gone by since the writing of *The Messiah* when Boston's choir-director-composer, Lowell Mason, arranged a portion of this great work to fit the poem that Isaac Watts had written in 1719. In every Christmas season we hear around the world, the resounding strains of:

*Joy to the world the Lord is come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room,
And Heaven and nature sing.*

EVENING STAR DAILY BIBLE

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.