

CHAPTER 16

THE preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, *is* from the LORD.

2. All the ways of a man *are* clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

3. Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

4. The LORD hath made all *things* for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

5. Every one *that is* proud in heart *is* an abomination to the LORD: *though* hand *join* in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

6. By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil.

7. When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

8. Better *is* a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

9. A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

10. A divine sentence *is* in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment.

11. A just weight and balance *are* the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag *are* his work.

12. *It is* an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

13. Righteous lips *are* the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.

14. The wrath of a king *is as* messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

15. In the light of the king's countenance *is* life; and his favour *is as* a cloud of the latter rain.

16. How much better *is it* to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

17. The highway of the upright *is* to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

18. Pride *goeth* before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

19. Better *it is to be* of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

20. He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy *is* he.

21. The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

22. Understanding *is* a well-spring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools *is* folly.

23. The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

24. Pleasant words *are as* an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

25. There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death.

26. He that laboreth laboreth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

27. An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips *there is* as a burning fire.

28. A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

29. A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way *that is* not good.

30. He shutteth his eyes to

devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

31. The hoary head *is* a crown of glory, *if* it be found in the way of righteousness.

32. *He that is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

33. The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof *is* of the LORD.

CHAPTER 17

BBETTER *is* a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices *with* strife.

2. A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.

3. The fining pot *is* for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

4. A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; *and* a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.

5. Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: *and* he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.

6. Children's children *are* the crown of old men; and the glory of children *are* their fathers.

7. Excellent speech becometh not

a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

8. A gift *is as* a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.

9. He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth *very* friends.

10. A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

11. An evil *man* seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

12. Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

13. Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

14. The beginning of strife *is as* when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

15. He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both *are* abomination to the LORD.

16. Wherefore *is there* a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing *he hath* no heart to it?

17. A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

18. A man void of understanding striketh hands, *and* becometh surety in the presence of his friend.

19. He loveth transgression that loveth strife: *and* he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.

20. He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.

21. He that begetteth a fool *doeth it* to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.

22. A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

23. A wicked *man* taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.

24. Wisdom *is* before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool *are* in the ends of the earth.

25. A foolish son *is* a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

26. Also to punish the just *is* not good, *nor* to strike princes for equity.

27. He that hath knowledge spareth his words: *and* a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

28. Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: *and* he

that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

CHAPTER 18

THROUGH desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh *and* intermeddleth with all wisdom.

2. A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

3. When the wicked cometh, *then* cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.

4. The words of a man's mouth *are as* deep waters, *and* the well-spring of wisdom *as* a flowing brook.

5. *It is* not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

6. A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

7. A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, and his lips *are* the snare of his soul.

8. The words of a talebearer *are* as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

9. He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

10. The name of the LORD *is* a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

11. The rich man's wealth *is* his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.

12. Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour *is* humility.

13. He that answereth a matter before he heareth *it*, *it is* folly and shame unto him.

14. The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

15. The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

16. A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

17. *He that is* first in his own cause *seemeth* just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.

18. The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.

19. A brother offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city: and *their* contentions *are* like the bars of a castle.

20. A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; *and* with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

21. Death and life *are* in the power of the tongue: and they that

love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

22. *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

23. The poor useth intreaties;

but the rich answereth roughly.

24. A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The contrast between evil and goodness is continued in our reading today. God promises us that, “He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: but whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he” (chapter 16:20). The only lasting happiness known to mankind comes from knowing the Lord. That happiness gives peace in time of trouble and sorrow; comfort in the time of death of a loved one; and it offers an eternal home in heaven with Christ after this life is over.

Chapter 17:28 says, “He that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.” I have often heard this statement: “Keep your mouth closed and people may think you are a fool; but open your mouth and you remove all doubt.” When you hear a person bragging about his accomplishments, they are only as the words you hear him say—you hear them one minute and they are gone the next. All of us should remember that the lips are exercised by words coming forth from the heart. We should carefully examine everything we say. Time is too short for foolish words. That same shortness of time should challenge and encourage us to use our tongue and lips to honor and glorify Jesus Christ, and to share with others what He has done in our lives.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“A poor man the oppreseth the poor is like a sweeping rain which leaveth no food” (Proverbs 28:3).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 24: For today’s memory verses, follow instructions on page 6.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1790

THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WAS ESTABLISHED.

Pray for God’s people in the District of Columbia.

1821

THE BIRTHDAY OF MARY BAKER EDDY.

Mary Baker Eddy was the founder of the Christian Science cult.

1882

THE DEATH OF MRS. ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Pray for the President’s wife today. Pray for God to bless and use her.

1931

THE DEATH OF C.T. STUDD, THE FAMOUS MISSIONARY-ATHLETE.

C.T. Studd gave away a fortune to become a plain, simple missionary. If you can find a copy of his life’s story, read it and rejoice in the blessings of God in his life. To him material possessions meant little. Spiritual power and God’s will meant everything. Ask God today to keep us from thinking that life consists of the abundance of possessions. Meditate upon Matthew 6:33 and live in the Spirit today. “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”

1945

THE FIRST ATOMIC BOMB TEST.

Perhaps nothing has cast the shadow of fear over our generation as much as the atomic bomb. We realize that man has learned how to destroy himself, his own generation, and civilization. Pray that God will give us spiritual wisdom and depth to know how to use properly the scientific knowledge that we have achieved and inventions that we have made. Pray for the moral integrity of our world to catch up in progress with the scientific advancement.

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.