

CHAPTER 22

A *GOOD* name is rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favour rather than silver and gold.

2. The rich and poor meet together: the LORD *is* the maker of them all.

3. A prudent *man* foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

4. By humility *and* the fear of the LORD *are* riches, and honour, and life.

5. Thorns *and* snares *are* in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

6. Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

7. The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower *is* servant to the lender.

8. He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

9. He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

10. Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

11. He that loveth pureness of heart, *for* the grace of his lips the king *shall be* his friend.

12. The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

13. The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

14. The mouth of strange women *is* a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.

15. Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

16. He that oppresseth the poor to increase his *riches*, *and* he that giveth to the rich, *shall* surely come to want.

17. Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

18. For *it is* a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

19 That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee.

20 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

21 That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

22. Rob not the poor, because he *is* poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

23 For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

24. Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

25 Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

26. Be not thou *one* of them that strike hands, *or* of them that are sureties for debts.

27 If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

28. Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

29. Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean *men*.

CHAPTER 23

WHEN thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what *is* before thee:

2 And put a knife to thy throat, if thou *be* a man given to appetite.

3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they *are* deceitful meat.

4. Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

6. Eat thou not the bread of *him that hath* an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so *is* he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart *is* not with thee.

8 The morsel *which* thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

9. Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

10. Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

11 For their redeemer *is* mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

12. Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

13 Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

15 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

16 Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

17. Let not thine heart envy sinners: but *be thou* in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

18 For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

19. Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe *a man* with rags.

22 Harken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

23 Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise *child* shall have joy of him.

25 Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

27 For a whore *is* a deep ditch; and a strange woman *is* a narrow pit.

28 She also lieth in wait as *for* a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

29. Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

34 Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea,

or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast.

35 They have stricken me, *shalt thou say, and* I was not sick; they have beaten me, *and* I felt *it* not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

CHAPTER 24

BE not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

2 For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

3. Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

4 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

5 A wise man *is* strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

7. Wisdom *is* too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

8 He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

9 The thought of foolishness *is* sin: and the scorner *is* an abomina-

tion to men.

10. *If* thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength *is* small.

11. If thou forbear to deliver *them that are* drawn unto death, and *those that are* ready to be slain;

12 If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider *it*? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth *not* he know *it*? and shall *not* he render to *every* man according to his works?

13. My son, eat thou honey, because *it is* good; and the honeycomb, *which is* sweet to thy taste:

14 So *shall* the knowledge of wisdom *be* unto thy soul: when thou hast found *it*, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

15. Lay not wait, O wicked *man*, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:

16 For a just *man* falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

17. Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

18 Lest the LORD see *it*, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

19. Fret not thyself because of evil *men*, neither be thou envious

at the wicked;

20 For there shall be no reward to the evil *man*; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

21. My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: *and* meddle not with them that are given to change:

22 For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

23. These *things* also *belong* to the wise. *It is* not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

24 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou *art* righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

25 But to them that rebuke *him* shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

26 *Every man* shall kiss *his* lips that giveth a right answer.

27. Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the

field; and afterwards build thine house.

28. Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive *not* with thy lips.

29 Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

30. I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

32 Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction.

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

34 So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Our emphasis today will be on Proverbs 23:15-35, in which a godly father warns his son against the sin of drunkenness. There are more than ten million alcoholics in our nation, and millions more that are problem drinkers. According to statistics, we are manufacturing alcoholics at the rate of more than 50 an hour, 24 hours a day. At least 70% of the problem drinkers started drinking when they were in their teens. It is no wonder that breweries and distilleries focus a large part of their more than \$250 million annual advertising budget on winning the young people.

The Bible warns against strong drink. In today's reading the concerned father tells his son of the evil results that will take place in his life as a result of drinking. For example, verses 20 and 21 say that drinking will lead to poverty. Americans spend more than \$13 billion a year on alcohol; money that often should be used to purchase clothing, food, and an education for families of the drinkers. The average alcoholic loses at least 25 days of work a year because of his drinking. This costs industries millions of dollars in man hours, and causes price increases for the non-drinking population.

In verses 29-33 we see that alcohol causes misery.

Alcohol is a great deceiver—it promises joy but brings sorrow; it pretends to bring life, but it really brings death. Many people die each year as a result of alcoholism. It is the number three health problem in the United States, surpassed only by heart disease and cancer; yet the intellects tell us that alcoholism is a disease. If it is a disease, then it is the only disease that we advertise and promote. We never see an advertisement recommending heart disease or cancer; but in newspapers, magazines, on television and radio, we hear alcohol advertised every few minutes. Alcohol is the cause of some 55% of all the fatal automobile accidents.

Verse 29 tells us that drinking results in woe, sorrow, contentions (arguments and brawls), babblings (drinkers like to talk), wounds, and redness of eyes.

Verses 26-28 tell us that drink causes immorality. Many men and women have lost their virtue and character because of drink. Alcohol is not a stimulant; it is a narcotic that affects the brain and causes a person to lose his control. Neither is it a food; it is a poison. When a person loses control of himself, his fallen nature naturally leads him to do all kinds of evil deeds.

What should your position be concerning strong drink? The Bible teaches total abstinence. Do not take the first drink! Refuse it, and keep refusing it for the rest of your life!

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach” (Proverbs 18:3).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 25: For today’s memory verses, follow instructions on page 8.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1747

THE BIRTHDAY OF JOHN PAUL JONES.

1918

THE ALLIES BEGAN THE WORLD WAR I WESTERN OFFENSIVE.

Thank God today for those who died in the battlefields. Then spend a few moments thinking of those whom you know personally. Pray for the widows and parents who have lost loved ones on the battlefields.

Now pray for the servicemen stationed abroad, protecting American interests and lovers of freedom throughout the world. “Oh, God, bless them. Care for them and bring them home safely to us,” is our prayer.

1938

THE DATE OF CORRIGAN’S FLIGHT.

WITNESS TODAY.

Talk to someone about Jesus today. Oh, be a soul winner and bring people to Him. Spend some time today talking to someone about the Saviour and help by showing him the way of Heaven.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1753

LEMUEL HAYNES ESCAPED FROM HIS SLAVEHOLDER in Framingham, Massachusetts.

1863

FIFTY-FOURTH MASSACHUSETTS VOLUNTEER, REGIMENT composed of free blacks of North, made famous charge on Fort Wagner in the Charleston, S.C., harbor. Sgt. William H. Carney won Congressional Medal of Honor for his bravery in the charge and became the first black soldier to receive the coveted award.

1964

RACE RIOT, HARLEM. Rioting spread to the Bedford-Stuyvesant section of Brooklyn.

A Christian Life . . .

GEORGE CAMPBELL MORGAN (1863-1945)

G. Campbell Morgan was born in Tetbury, England, the son of a Baptist minister. His home was one of such genuine piety that in later years he wrote: "While my father could not compel me to be a Christian, I had no choice because of what he did for me and what I saw in him."

When Campbell was 10 years old, D.L. Moody came to England for the first time, and the effect of his ministry, combined with the dedication of his parents, made such an impression on the life of young Morgan, that at the age of 13, he preached his first sermon. Two years later, he was preaching regularly in country chapels during his Sundays and holidays.

In 1886, at the age of 23, he left the teaching profession, for which he had been trained, and began devoting his full time to the ministry of the Word of God. He was ordained to the Congregational ministry in 1890, having been rejected by the Wesleyan Methodists two years before. His reputation as preacher and Bible expositor soon encompassed England and spread to the United States.

In 1896, D.L. Moody invited him to lecture to the students at the Moody Bible Institute. This was the first of his 54 crossings of the Atlantic to minister the Word. After the death of Moody in 1899, Morgan assumed the position of director of the Northfield Bible Conference. The many thousands of converts from the ministry of Moody needed a teacher of the Bible to strengthen and deepen their faith. G. Campbell Morgan became that teacher.

After five very successful years there, he returned to England in 1904 and became pastor of Westminster Chapel of London. His preaching and his weekly Friday night Bible classes were attended by thousands. During two years of this ministry, he was president of Cheshunt College in Cambridge.

Leaving Westminster Chapel in 1919, he once again returned to the United States, where he conducted an itinerant ministry for 14 years. Many thousands of people heard him preach in nearly every state and also in Canada. Finally, in 1933, he returned to England, where he became pastor of Westminster Chapel again and remained there until his retirement in 1943.

He went to be with the Lord on May 16, 1945, at the age of 81. His paramount contribution to the Christian faith lay in teaching the Bible and showing people how to study it for themselves.



Treasure Path to Soul-Winning

MEMORY VERSE TOPIC FOR THIS WEEK:

DIFFICULT PROBLEMS SOLVED: "I HAVE NO FEELING"

(Assignment 25)

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.)

Justified by faith.

() Romans 5:1

Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Justified by His Grace.

() Romans 3:24

Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Justified by His Blood.

() Romans 5:9

Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him.

Justified by Believing (Never by feeling).

() 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.

Justified in the name of the Lord Jesus.

() 1 Corinthians 6:11

And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.