

CHAPTER 28

THE wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

2. For the transgression of a land many *are* the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding *and* knowledge the state *thereof* shall be prolonged.

3. A poor man that oppresseth the poor *is like* a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.

4. They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.

5. Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all *things*.

6. Better *is* the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than *he that is* perverse *in his* ways, though he be rich.

7. Whoso keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous *men* shameth his father.

8. He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

9. He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

10. Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good *things* in possession.

11. The rich man *is* wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.

12. When righteous *men* do rejoice, *there is* great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

13. He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

14. Happy *is* the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

15. As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; *so is* a wicked ruler over the poor people.

16. The prince that wanteth understanding *is* also a great oppressor: *but* he that hateth cov-

etousness shall prolong *his* days.

17. A man that doeth violence to the blood of *any* person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.

18. Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but *he that is* perverse *in his* ways shall fall at once.

19. He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain *persons* shall have poverty enough.

20. A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

21. To have respect of persons *is* not good: for for a piece of bread *that* man will transgress.

22. He that hasteth to be rich *hath* an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

23. He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.

24. Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, *It is* no transgression; the same *is* the companion of a destroyer.

25. He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

26. He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

27. He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

28. When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.

CHAPTER 29

HE, that being often reproved hardeneth *his* neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

2. When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

3. Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth *his* substance.

4. The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

5. A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

6. In the transgression of an evil man *there is* a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

7. The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: *but* the wicked regardeth not to know *it*.

8. Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise *men* turn away wrath.

9. If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, *there is* no rest.

10. The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

11. A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

12. If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants *are* wicked.

13. The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.

14. The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

15. The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

16. When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

17. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

18. Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

19. A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer.

20. Seest thou a man *that is* hasty in his words? *there is* more hope of a fool than of him.

21. He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become *his* son at the length.

22. An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

23. A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

24. Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth *it* not.

25. The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

26. Many seek the ruler's favour; but *every* man's judgment *cometh* from the LORD.

27. An unjust man *is* an abomination to the just: and *he that is* upright in the way *is* abomination to the wicked.

CHAPTER 30

THE words of Agur the son of Jakeh, *even* the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,

2 Surely I *am* more brutish than *any* man, and have not the understanding of a man.

3 I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what *is* his name, and what *is* his son's name, if thou canst tell?

5 Every word of God *is* pure: he *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

7. Two *things* have I required of thee; deny me *them* not before I die:

8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

9 Lest I be full, and deny *thee*, and say, Who *is* the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God *in vain*.

10. Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

11 *There is* a generation *that* curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

12 *There is* a generation *that are* pure in their own eyes, and *yet is*

not washed from their filthiness.

13 *There is* a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

14 *There is* a generation, whose teeth *are as* swords, and their jaw teeth *as* knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from *among* men.

15. The horseleach hath two daughters, *crying*, Give, give. There are three *things that* are never satisfied, *yea*, four *things* say not, *It is* enough:

16 The grave; and the barren womb; the earth *that* is not filled with water; and the fire *that* saith not, *It is* enough.

17 The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

18. There be three *things which* are too wonderful for me, *yea*, four which I know not:

19 The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

20 *Such is* the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I

have done no wickedness.

21 For three *things* the earth is disquieted, and for four *which* it cannot bear:

22 For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

23 For an odious *woman* when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

24. There be four *things which* are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:

25 The ants *are* a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

26 The conies *are but* a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

27 The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;

28 The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

29. There be three *things* which go well, yea, four are comely in going:

30 A lion *which is* strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;

31 A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom *there is* no rising up.

32 If thou hast done foolishly in

lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, *lay* thine hand upon thy mouth.

33 Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

CHAPTER 31

THE words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

2 What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?

3 Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.

4 *It is* not for kings, O Lemuel, *it is* not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:

5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.

6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

8 Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

9 Open thy mouth, judge right-

ously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

10 ¶ Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.

11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.

14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.

15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.

17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.

18 She perceiveth that her merchandise *is* good: her candle goeth not out by night.

19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household *are* clothed with scarlet.

22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing *is* silk and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth *it*; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.

25 Strength and honour *are* her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue *is* the law of kindness.

27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her.

29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

30 Favour *is* deceitful, and beauty *is* vain: *but* a woman *that* feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

Warnings and instructions are continued in chapter 29. In verse 15 Solomon says, “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.” Too many parents today fail to apply the rod of correction to a child. I am sure no parent enjoys spanking his children but, according to God’s Word, the rod is to be used for correction.

Verses 25 and 26 present the major hangup for Christians today. “The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe. Many seek the ruler’s favour, but every man’s judgment cometh from the LORD.” It makes no difference whether you are in favor of the ruler, as long as your life is right with God. Too many people sell their birthright for a bowl of pottage, as Esau did. Do not try to gain favor with the rulers or the wrong crowd at the expense of your testimony. Have no fear of those who may laugh at you or mock you, but trust in the Lord and His promise is that you will be safe.

Only eternity will reveal the blessings that godly women have been down through the years. The Book of Proverbs has much to say about wicked women in chapters 1—9; about nagging wives in chapters 21 and 25, but the book closes with a glorious tribute to the godly, dedicated wife who brings honor to God and joy to her family. It has been said that behind every great man is an even greater woman. Certainly many servants of God thank Him for their godly wives and mothers. The most important decision a person will make, other than his decision for Christ, is the choice of a life’s mate. “A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband” (Proverbs 12:4); “Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD” (Proverbs 1:22); “A prudent wife is from the LORD” (Proverbs 19:14).

PROVERB FOR TODAY

“The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion; whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul” (Proverbs 20:2).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

ASSIGNMENT 25: For today’s memory verses, follow instructions on page 9.

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

1789

THE FIRST UNITED STATES NAVIGATION ACT WAS APPROVED.

1838

THE DEATH OF CHRISTMAS EVANS.

Evans was a Welsh Baptist preacher. In great revival preaching he made several tours to South Wales and brought great numbers to the Lord Jesus Christ. The story is told that when Evans was on his deathbed some young preachers came to him and asked for advice before he went to Heaven. He supposedly raised his head and said, “Young men, preach the blood in the basin.” The day Evans was converted he lost his sight in one eye while being stoned by the old crowd. What have we suffered for Jesus Christ and our testimony for Him?

When Christmas Evans lay at the point of death, he gave the above advice. This is, of course, a necessary part of the preaching of the Gospel. Many make light of the blood and its importance. This, however, does not take away the necessity of the blood of Christ. It has always been God’s law that a sinner die or a substitute pay the price. Jesus is God’s substitute and the only acceptable offering for sin. Truly we should “preach the blood in the basin.”

Christmas Evans was called “the dear old Christian of Wales.” He died singing a song of victory.

1944

ADOLPH HITLER WAS WOUNDED.

Many people today who grew up during World War II had a great childhood fear of Adolph Hitler. He came into power when some people today were just children approaching their early teens. He put fear in the hearts of the whole world. Thank God that this menace was put down and the fear of Nazism no longer hangs over America. Pray for peace today. Pray for our German friends. Pray for God’s blessings to rest upon them and for God to bless the work of fundamental preachers and missionaries in this great country.

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1967

RIOT, MEMPHIS, National Guard mobilized.

MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND PERSONS ATTENDED THE FIRST BLACK POWER CONFERENCE in Newark, New Jersey.

Hymn of the Week

“JUST AS I AM” Charlotte Elliott

Probably the most widely-used gospel song in America today is “Just As I Am Without One Plea.” It has been called the world’s greatest soul-winning hymn. Many souls have been influenced by this song to give their hearts and lives to God. A complete volume could be written telling of the wonderful happenings in connection with the singing of this song.

Its author, Charlotte Elliott, most of her life suffered the ills of an invalid body. Many times her weak, invalid condition caused her great lamentation. Such was the case in 1836 when her brother, H.V. Elliott, was raising funds for St. Mary’s Hall, at Brighton, England, a college for the daughters of poor clergy. She wanted so much to have some little part, but was hindered by reason of her condition. She remembered the words of a great preacher, Cesar Malon, who had talked to her fourteen years before. He had told her to come to Jesus, “just as you are.” These words helped her to find Christ. The poem was published without her name and was handed her one day in a leaflet form by her doctor, the latter not realizing that she was the author. Tears streamed down her face as she read the six verses. Copies of this poem were being sold and the money given to St. Mary’s Hall. She then realized that she had at last had a big part in the building of the school.

Only eternity will reveal the blessings heaped on other lives by this song. She probably would have shouted for joy if she could have heard the following story.

During a song service in a church, John B. Gough was asked by a man next to him in the pew, what was to be sung. To the orator the questioner was a most repulsive sight—a victim of a nervous disease that had left him blind and twisted in body. The poor man joined the congregation in the singing of the song, “Just As I Am.” As they came to the words, “Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind,” the wretched creature lifted his sightless eyes to heaven and sang with his whole soul. Mr. Gough later said, “I have heard the finest strains of orchestra, choir and soloist this world can produce, but I never heard music until I heard that blind man sing, ‘O, Lamb of God, I come, I come.’”

*Just as I am without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

*Just as I am Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve,
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come!*

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.