

CHAPTER 8

WHO *is* as the wise *man*? and who knoweth the interpretation of a thing? a man's wisdom maketh his face to shine, and the boldness of his face shall be changed.

2 I *counsel thee* to keep the king's commandment, and *that* in regard of the oath of God.

3 Be not hasty to go out of his sight: stand not in an evil thing; for he doeth whatsoever pleaseth him.

4 Where the word of a king *is*, *there is* power: and who may say unto him, What doest thou?

5 Whoso keepeth the commandment shall feel no evil thing: and a wise man's heart discerneth both time and judgment.

6 ¶ Because to every purpose there is time and judgment, therefore the misery of man *is* great upon him.

7 For he knoweth not that which shall be: for who can tell him when it shall be?

8 *There is* no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the

spirit; neither *hath he* power in the day of death: and *there is* no discharge in *that* war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

9. All this have I seen, and applied my heart unto every work that is done under the sun: *there is* a time wherein one man ruleth over another to his own hurt.

10 And so I saw the wicked buried, who had come and gone from the place of the holy, and they were forgotten in the city where they had so done: this *is* also vanity.

11 Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.

12 ¶ Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his *days* be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him:

13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong *his* days, *which are* as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.

14. There is a vanity which is done upon the earth; that there be just *men*, unto whom it happeneth according to the work of the wicked; again, there be wicked *men*, to whom it happeneth according to the work of the righteous: I said that this also *is* vanity.

15 Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun.

16 ¶ When I applied mine heart to know wisdom, and to see the business that is done upon the earth: (for also *there is that* neither day nor night seeth sleep with his eyes:)

17 Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek *it* out, yet he shall not find *it*; yea further; though a wise *man* think to know *it*, yet shall he not be able to find *it*.

CHAPTER 9

FOR all this I considered in my heart even to declare all this, that the righteous, and the wise, and their works, *are* in the hand of

God: no man knoweth either love or hatred *by* all *that is* before them.

2 All *things come* alike to all: *there is* one event to the righteous, and to the wicked; to the good and to the clean, and to the unclean; to him that sacrificeth, and to him that sacrificeth not: as *is* the good, so *is* the sinner; *and* he that sweareth, as *he* that feareth an oath.

3 This *is* an evil among all *things* that are done under the sun, that *there is* one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness *is* in their heart while they live, and after that *they go* to the dead.

4 ¶ For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion.

5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

6 Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any *thing* that is done under the sun.

7 ¶ Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works.

8 Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment.

9 Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity, which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that *is* thy portion in *this* life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun.

10 Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do *it* with thy might; for *there is* no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

11 ¶ I returned, and saw under the sun, that the race *is* not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

12 For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so *are* the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.

13 ¶ This wisdom have I seen also under the sun, and it *seemed* great unto me:

14 *There was* a little city, and few men within it; and there came a great king against it, and besieged it, and built great bulwarks against it:

15 Now there was found in it a poor wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city; yet no man remembered that same poor man.

16 Then said I, Wisdom *is* better than strength: nevertheless the poor man's wisdom *is* despised, and his words are not heard.

17 The words of wise *men are* heard in quiet more than the cry of him that ruleth among fools.

18 Wisdom *is* better than weapons of war: but one sinner destroyeth much good.

CHAPTER 10

DEAD flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so *doth* a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom *and* honour.

2 A wise man's heart *is* at his right hand; but a fool's heart at his left.

3 Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom faileth *him*, and he saith to every one *that* he *is* a fool.

4. If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place;

for yielding pacifieth great offences.

5 There is an evil *which* I have seen under the sun, as an error *which* proceedeth from the ruler:

6 Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.

7 I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth.

8 He that diggeth a pit shall fall into it; and whoso breaketh an hedge, a serpent shall bite him.

9 Whoso removeth stones shall be hurt therewith; *and* he that cleaveth wood shall be endangered thereby.

10 If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom *is* profitable to direct.

11 Surely the serpent will bite without enchantment; and a babler is no better.

12. The words of a wise man's mouth *are* gracious; but the lips of a fool will swallow up himself.

13 The beginning of the words of his mouth *is* foolishness: and the end of his talk *is* mischievous madness.

14 A fool also is full of words: a man cannot tell what shall be; and what shall be after him, who can tell him?

15 The labour of the foolish wearieth every one of them, because he knoweth not how to go to the city.

16 ¶ Woe to thee, O land, when thy king *is* a child, and thy princes eat in the morning!

17 Blessed *art* thou, O land, when thy king *is* the son of nobles, and thy princes eat in due season, for strength, and not for drunkenness!

18 ¶ By much slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through.

19 ¶ A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all *things*.

20 ¶ Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter.

CHAPTER 11

CAST thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.

2 Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.

3 If the clouds be full of rain, they empty *themselves* upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward

the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be.

4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap.

5 As thou knowest not what *is* the way of the spirit, *nor* how the bones *do grow* in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

6 In the morning sow thy seed, and in the evening withhold not thine hand: for thou knowest not whether shall prosper, either this or that, or whether they both *shall be* alike good.

7 ¶ Truly the light *is* sweet, and a pleasant *thing it is* for the eyes to behold the sun:

8 But if a man live many years, *and* rejoice in them all; yet let him remember the days of darkness; for they shall be many. All that cometh *is* vanity.

9 ¶ Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these *things* God will bring thee into judgment.

10 Therefore remove sorrow

from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth *are* vanity.

CHAPTER 12

REMEMBER now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;

2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:

3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened,

4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of musick shall be brought low;

5 Also *when* they shall be afraid of *that which is* high, and fears *shall be* in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

6 Or ever the silver cord be

loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

8 ¶ Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all *is* vanity.

9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, *and* set in order many proverbs.

10 The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and *that which was* written *was* upright, *even* words of truth.

11 The words of the wise *are* as goads, and as nails fastened *by* the masters of assemblies, *which* are given from one shepherd.

12 And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books *there is* no end; and much study *is* a weariness of the flesh.

13 ¶ Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

14 For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether *it be* good, or whether *it be* evil.

DEVOTIONAL COMMENTS

The mind of the unregenerate man continues to say, "Vanity of vanities, all is vanity." Today's reading unveils the desperation and frustration which permeates the heart and spirit of this "man under the sun." It is no wonder that an unsaved man becomes an alcoholic, a drug addict, or commits suicide. The unsaved man is described in the New Testament as being "without God and without hope in this world." To add insult to injury, the unsaved man lives a life of hell on earth and then dies and spends eternity in a literal hell under the earth.

God is not the author of discouragement. He is the God of all encouragement. When you become despondent, it is because you have lost fellowship with Christ and are no longer tapping the limitless resources of God. Discouragement is the opposite of faith. Faith believes that God can do all He says. Discouragement accepts the circumstances and environment, in spite of what God says. There are times when everything looks dark to us. Adversity comes and our hearts become heavy. But remember, "All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."

In chapter 11 Solomon plants some good advice among all his words of discouragement. "Cast thy bread upon the waters" is a principle of the Christian life. Giving our all to God is essential to Christian growth. Absolute surrender and abandonment to the will of God always brings the blessings of heaven.

After 11 chapters of frustration, Solomon finally arrives at the ultimate for successful living. Having explored everything this world has to offer, he ultimately discovers that the life of man is designed for the pleasure of God. He therefore suggests to all young people the importance of remembering God in the days of their youth. Solomon describes the Christian life from youth to old age in chapter 12. He eventually determines that our highest calling is to reverence God and obey His Word.

PROVERB FOR TODAY

"Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats" (Proverbs 23:6).

TREASURE PATH TO SOUL WINNING

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

BIRTHDAY TODAY

BEATRICE HOLMES

ON THIS DATE IN HISTORY

BIRTHDAY OF MARY MAGDALENE.

According to the Farmer's Almanac this is the birthday of Mary Magdalene, the woman possessed by seven devils who was forgiven and saved by the Lord Jesus Christ.

THE DATE OF THE BURIAL OF SUSANNAH WESLEY.

She said on her deathbed, "Children, as soon as I am released, sing a song of praise to God." What a way to go into the presence of God! Charles Wesley wrote the epitaph that was placed on the tombstone as follows:

*"In sure and certain hope to rise
and claim her mansion in the skies.
A Christian here her flesh laid down,
Her cross exchanging for a crown."*

According to some authors the following letter was one written by Susannah to her son John:

Dear Son:

According to your desire, I have collected the principle rules I observed in educating my family; which I now send you as they occurred to my mind and you may (if you think they can be used to any good) dispose of them in what order you please.

When turn a year old (and some before) they were taught to fear the rod and to cry quietly. By which means they escaped abundance of correction they might otherwise have had. And that most odious noise of the crying of children was rarely heard in the house; but the family usually lived in as much quietness as if there had not been a child among them.

In order to form the minds of children, the first thing to be done is to conquer their will and bring them to obedience...

ON THIS DATE IN AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY

1900

PAN-AFRICAN CONGRESS MET IN LONDON.

Among the leaders of the Congress were H. Sylvester Williams, a West Indian Lawyer with a London practice, W.E.B. Du Bois, and Bishop Alexander Walters.

1948

PROGRESSIVE PARTY CONVENTION, MEETING IN PHILADELPHIA, NOMINATED HENRY WALLACE FOR PRESIDENT.

New Party made major effort to attract blacks. Approximately 150 black delegates and alternates attended the convention. The keynote speaker was Charles P. Howard, an attorney, publisher and former Republican from Des Moines, Iowa. Thirty-seven blacks ran for state and local offices on the party ticket. Ten blacks ran for Congress. The party attracted few black voters but forced the Democratic party to make serious gestures to hold the black vote.

1967

FORTY-THREE PERSONS KILLED IN REBELLION IN DETROIT.

Federal troops were called out for the first time since the Detroit riot of 1943 to quell the largest racial rebellion in a U.S. city in the twentieth century (until the Los Angeles riots of 1992). More than two thousand persons were injured and some five thousand were arrested. Police reported 1, 442 fires. Rioting spread to other Michigan cities.

1968

RACE RIOT, CLEVELAND.

Eleven persons, including three policemen, were killed and National Guard was mobilized. Riot was sparked by alleged ambush of police detail by black radicals.

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.