

Proverbs III
Fairview Church of God
December 8, 2007

Today, we will pick up with Chapter 5 of Proverbs.

Proverbs 5

- 1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding,
- 2 That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge.
 - Avoid seduction to any evil
- 3 For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil;
- 4 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword.
- 5 Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell.
- 6 Lest you ponder her path of life-Her ways are unstable; You do not know them.
 - So many evil things have a pleasant appearance
 - You could hardly be lured to or tempted by something that did not appear pleasing
 - Of course, that is the basic premise behind advertising! To get you to buy something you may not want or even need.
 - **James 1:**
 - 13 Let no one say when he is tempted, "I am tempted by God"; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone.
 - 14 But **each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed.**
 - **15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.**
 - "If only"
 - I had that new car
 - I had a 20% raise
 - I had season tickets to ...
 - I had ...
 - 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.
 - 17 Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow of turning.
- 7 Therefore hear me now, my children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth.
- 8 Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house,
 - Don't even go near temptation!
 - Avoid the temptation and you will never be sorry
- 9 Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel one;
- 10 Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors go to the house of a foreigner;
- 11 And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed,
- 12 And say: "How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction!"
- 13 I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me!

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- 14 I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation."
 - Obedience will avoid ruin and regret
 - Many regret their actions – too late
- 15 Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well.
- 16 Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets?
- 17 Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you.
 - The Wizard of Oz
 - Live in Kansas!
 - **Tin Woodsman**: What have you learned, Dorothy?
Dorothy: Well, I - I think that it - it wasn't enough to just want to see Uncle Henry and Auntie Em - and it's that - if I ever go looking for my heart's desire again, I won't look any further than my own back yard. Because if it isn't there, I never really lost it to begin with! Is that right?
- 18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth.
- 19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured with her love.
 - A message against divorce
 - But the marriage should be healthy!
- 20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?
- 21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths.
- 22 His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin.
- 23 He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.
 - Lack of discipline and self-control is destructive
 - These verses may apply to a marriage, but also to any type of seduction to evil ways

Proverbs 6

- 1 My son, if you become surety for your friend, If you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger,
- 2 You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth.
 - Underwriting a friend's debt is ok, but make sure it is based on facts
 - A gullible person might lack judgment and be "trapped"
- 3 So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend.
 - If you do get caught in an unwise deal, ask out of it
 - Don't be too proud to admit the wrong decision
- 4 Give no sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids.
- 5 Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, And like a bird from the hand of the fowler.
 - Do it quickly

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- 6 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise,
- 7 Which, having no captain, Overseer or ruler,
- 8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest.
 - No one needs to tell the ant what needs to be done
 - The farmers' work ethic is much the same
 - The hay must be put in before the rains come
 - Wise work prepares one for the future
- 9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep?
- 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep-
- 11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.
 - **2 Thessalonians 3:**
 - 10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.
 - Work to avoid hunger and poverty
- 12 A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse (*corrupt*) mouth;
- 13 He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers;
- 14 Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord.
 - The Greek would have used the word for "hypocrite" or "two-faced"
 - Deceitful
- 15 Therefore his calamity (*disaster*) shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.
 - The Hebrew word may have inferred death, but it is not certain
- 16 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him:
 - In Hebrew, this is a "numerical ladder"
 - The point is that this list is not exhaustive
- 17 A proud look, A lying tongue (*a tongue of deception*), Hands that shed innocent blood,
- 18 A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that are swift in running to evil,
- 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.
 - Personal attitudes and personal actions
 - Direct contrast to the Beatitudes
 - **Matthew 5:**
 - 3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven."
 - Contrasts to "a proud look"
 - 4 Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted.
 - 5 Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth.
 - 6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.
 - 7 Blessed are the merciful, For they shall obtain mercy.
 - 8 Blessed are the pure in heart, For they shall see God.
 - 9 Blessed are the peacemakers, For they shall be called sons of God.
 - Contrasts to "one who sows discord"

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- 10 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,
For theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- Converse to the things God hates (i.e., things He must then love):
 - Humility
 - Truthful speech
 - Preservation of life
 - Pure thoughts
 - Eagerness to do good things
 - Honest witnesses
 - Peaceful harmony
- 20 My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother.
- 21 Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck.
- 22 When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you.
- 23 For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,
- 24 To keep you from the evil (*immoral*) woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress.
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- 25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids.
- 26 For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.
- 27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned?
- 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared?
- 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.
 - Avoid the temptation of anything that looks nice, but isn't good!
- 30 People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving.
- 31 Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house.
 - The thief must repay more than he stole.
- 32 Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul.
- 33 Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away.
- 34 For jealousy is a husband's fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.
- 35 He will accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.

Proverbs 7

- 1 My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you.
- 2 Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye.

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- 3 Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.
- 4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your nearest kin,
- 5 That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words.
 - The allure of an immoral woman for a man is one of the strongest emotions
 - Therefore, it makes sense to use that allure as a metaphor for any and all temptation
 - One of modern era advertisement rules is "sex sells"
 - Even auto dealers post pictures of women to lure in potential buyers
 - Whose pictures have you seen the most?
 - Female
 - Halle Berry
 - Liz Taylor
 - Ugly Betty
 - Male
 - Tom Cruise
 - Cary Grant
 - Lon Chaney
- 6 For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice,
- 7 And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, A young man devoid of understanding (*who lacked judgment, one void of common sense*),
- 8 Passing along the street near her corner; And he took the path to her house
- 9 In the twilight, in the evening, In the black and dark night.
 - The dark of night also indicates lack of knowledge
 - **Psalm 89:**
 - 15 Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! They walk, O LORD, in the light of Your countenance.
 - **John 8:**
 - 12 Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, "I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."
 - **Ephesians 5:**
 - 8 For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light
 - **1 John 1:7**
 - But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.
 - **Revelation 21:**
 - 24 And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honor into it.
- 10 And there a woman met him, With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart.
- 11 She was loud and rebellious, Her feet would not stay at home.
- 12 At times she was outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner.

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- Temptation is everywhere!
- 13 So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him:
- 14 "I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows.
- 15 So I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you.
- 16 I have spread my bed with tapestry, Colored coverings of Egyptian linen.
- 17 I have perfumed my bed With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
- 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with love.
- 19 For my husband is not at home; He has gone on a long journey;
- 20 He has taken a bag of money with him, And will come home on the appointed day."
 - Temptation tells you that everything is safe
 - You get something for nothing
 - There is no risk
 - The appeal is bold, exciting and apparently safe
 - Only wisdom can help one to resist the appeal
- 21 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him.
- 22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks,
- 23 Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life.
 - The cost of his life could be death or moral corruption
 - Once a person starts down the path, he is no longer in control of his own fate
- 24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth:
- 25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths;
- 26 For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong men.
- 27 Her house is the way to hell, Descending to the chambers of death.
 - Avoid temptation