

## Mid Week • Proverbs 5-9

### INTRO

Tonight we will cover chapters 5-9 and finish out what we might call the introduction to the book of Proverbs

When we think of the Proverbs, we usually think of the terse, pithy pearls of wisdom that are no longer than one verse

But that part of the book of Proverbs doesn't begin till chapter 10

Chapters 1-9 are Solomon's introductory comments to his son about the value and root of wisdom

It's important to remember this context in which the proverbs were given:

They are a father's parental advice to his son

They are the accumulated wisdom of the ages distilled into short, memorable verse

They are also Spirit -inspired insights into the moral laws that govern the creation

Just as there are physical laws that govern the physical universe, there are spiritual principles that govern the realm of the soul

Proverbs is the revelation of these principles

And if a person wants to be successful in living, they have to understand and abide by these principles

So Solomon appeals to his son to make it his aim in life to not just live in the realm of the physical, but in the realm of the Spirit

And to make wisdom, the grasp of understanding and the acquisition of knowledge of the deeper principles behind life, his main aim

### CHAPTER 5

#### **Vs. 1-6**

Solomon knows from experience that as his son emerges from childhood into an adult, he is going to be beset with an entire world of enticing delights

Satan spreads a sensuous banquet for the flesh and one of his chief lures for young men is the immoral woman

She is a tool of the devil - and she has led many a poor soul astray from the path of life

Sex is a powerful motivator because the sex drive is a part of who and what we are as human beings

God created us as sexual creatures, and He instilled the sex drive within us

But the Fall marred us and defaced the image of God in which we were created

Sin has tweaked our sexual identity

And Satan has perverted the sex drive into something other than what God intended for it

Because the sexual element of our being effects the way we see ourselves as people, the devil uses sexual sin as a weapon to bind us and distort our understanding of ourselves

He appeals to the often raging sexual urges of young people, especially young men, and seeks to enslave them in addiction to sexual perversion because he knows what guilt and shame he can then heap on them

He also knows such addiction is hard to break

Solomon knew this so he urged his son to not give in to the enticing appeal of the immoral woman

Men - decide ahead of time how you are going to respond to sexual temptation

Ladies - don't think that it will never happen to you

Don't wait till you're in the teeth of it and then try to figure out what you will do

Have an action plan for what you will do when you are faced with this kind of temptation

Rehearse it in your mind - like the fire drills you did in school

### **Vs. 7-14**

Solomon charts the progress of sinful sexual addiction - even that among those who belong to God's people

It eventually dominates and then destroys a person's life

So his counsel is - don't even get started on that path

Stay far away from sexual sin!

How many men and women have lived a double life?

For years they cultivate some secret sin, some sexual perversion

They try to keep it hidden, but because of the fact that it is actually changing them as a person, it progressively demands more and more attention and time

It starts costing more - and eventually it consumes one's life and livelihood

Sexual sin, Sexual perversion by it's very nature starts in secret but ends up very public

That was Satan's aim from the beginning - to make that person a public trophy of his power!

And the person who gets caught, whose shame becomes public, laments with deep remorse that he or she hadn't stopped when the first pangs of conscience smote them

They wish they had heeded the warning of their pastor, or their mother or father, or a friend that risked the friendship by coming to them and saying the hard word of confrontation

Listen - if you're caught in sexual sin or any other sinful addiction - you can stop if you will repent and ask the Lord to give you the strength to overcome it

But one of the primary means of overcoming you need to take is something we looked at just two weeks ago - go to a mature brother or sister in Christ,

confess your sin, and ask for prayer support to overcome it

### **Vs. 15-20**

Solomon's counsel is great - enjoy sex!

But let it be in the context God set for it - marriage!!!!!!!!!!

Sex is a precious gift and to be embraced and enjoyed

But this can only be in the marriage bond

Hebrews 13:4 says

**Marriage is honorable among all, and the bed undefiled; but fornicators and adulterers God will judge.**

I realize this subject is difficult to talk about

There are two subjects that are generally considered taboo to talk about in church - sex and money

These are two intensely personal and private issues - and talking about them makes many people very uncomfortable

Consequently, the Church has largely refrained from dealing with them

And that's unfortunate because in our silence and the resulting vacuum that has resulted, the world has rushed in with it's counsel and ruined the lives of millions

Why is it that the church is so silent on sex and money yet the world gives us a steady diet of it

Watch any evening of network TV programming

Virtually every show drips with sexual innuendo or blatant sensuality

And the commercials are nothing but an appeal to spend

The Church should not, and cannot be silent in answering the world with the Counsel of God

And here the word tells us that we are to find our sexual satisfaction in our relationship with our mate

And note how really explicit Solomon is to that end

If you think this borders on the erotic, then read the Song of Solomon!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

### **Vs. 21-23**

You can't hide sin from God - he sees and knows all

## **CHAPTER 6**

### **Vs. 1-5**

Solomon now turns to some practical issues of life

#1 - Avoid getting entangled in issues of money with your friends

Don't co-sign for a friend, let alone a stranger!

We can probably all say a hearty "Amen!" to the counsel Solomon gives here

Many of us have lost friends over money!

You loan someone something,

You so-sign something to help a friend out,  
You hear about a "great-deal"  
And you go in, but it turns sour and the friendship ends

This is tough counsel because you may appear *unfriendly* when a friend comes  
and asks you to co-sign or loan you some large ticket item or a hunk of  
cash  
But really, they are presuming greatly on the friendship and throw some  
suspicion on how they see you!  
It ought to be recognized that the etiquette of friendship *prohibits* such  
surety

### **Vs. 6-11**

#2 - Solomon says to avoid laziness!  
He is showing his son how to avoid the plague of poverty  
First of all, don't co-sign  
Second - don't be lazy  
Be diligent with your life and work  
This is a subject he speaks more on later

### **Vs. 12-15**

#3 - Solomon warns his son against cultivating a life of deceit and disingenuity  
The con man is someone whose life is one big lie  
Every where he goes and everything he does is marked by deception  
He is always scheming on how to con someone  
But He will be found out!

### **Vs. 16-19**

It comes as a bit of a shock to some to realize that God *hates*  
In fact, there are 7 specific things that He utterly abhors, He loathes them  
They turn His stomach, so to speak  
They are

First on the list is **A proud look**, because pride is usually the basic motivation for  
all other sins.

It was pride that turned Lucifer into Satan (Isa. 14:12-14) and that led Eve to  
disobey God and eat the forbidden fruit (Gen. 3:1-6)  
God abhors pride because it is the taproot of all other sin  
It is the exaltation of self in defiance of God's perfect plan  
Pride wrenches us from our rightful place in creation and seeks by force of will  
to grasp position for which we were never created and can only disrupt the  
order of things, bringing disharmony and pain  
A proud look is the reflection of a proud heart

Second - God hates **a lying tongue**, for God is a God of truth (Deut. 32:4; John  
14:6; 1 John 5:6), and His Law says, "You shall not bear false witness" (Ex.

20:16).

God sees a lie, not merely as an act of speech but as a deadly force that goes to work in society and divides and destroys.

When we lie, we open the door for Satan to work, for he is a liar (John 8:44); When we speak truth, we give opportunity for the Spirit to work (Eph. 4:14-25).

Rev. 21:8 and 2 Thess 2:10 says that there is a place reserved in hell for liars

#### **Hands that shed innocent blood,**

The third sin God hates is *murder*,

His commandment is, "You shall not kill [murder]" (Ex. 20:13).

In Genesis 9:5-6, God gave permission to the civil government to exercise capital punishment as a way to *preserve* society's sense of the sanctity of human life and to strengthen justice in the land

Paul reaffirms this role of human government in Rom. 13:1-7

But the shedding of *innocent* blood pollutes the land (Num. 35:30-34).

Like liars, murderers have their part in the lake of fire (Rev. 21:8; 22:15).

#### **{18} A heart that devises wicked plans,**

Is the 4<sup>th</sup> hateful thing to God because it's a misuse of the great gift of imagination that He has given us. (See Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Jer. 23:17; Rom. 1:21.)

The imagination is the "womb" out of which either evil or good is born.

People who can plan evil things that hurt others can also plan good things that will help others.

The imagination needs to be cleansed and kept pure before God so He can use it in His service.

The 5<sup>th</sup> thing God hates is **Feet that are swift in running to evil,**

The word "evil" here is better understood as "mischief"

Sinners have *feet that are swift in running to mischief* because they want to fulfill their schemes quickly and enjoy their pleasures immediately.

It's interesting the number of times *feet* are mentioned in the bible

The feet of God's people are supposed to be clean feet, cleansed by the work of Christ (John 13:1-17; 1 John 1:9),

Those who carry the good news have "beautiful feet" (Rom. 10:14-15),

As we enter into daily spiritual warfare we are to have "prepared feet" (Eph. 6:15)

If we do, we'll bring blessing.

But the wicked use their feet to get involved in sin:

They are meddling busybodies (2 Thes. 3:11; 1 Tim. 5:13),

They tempt others into sin (Prov. 5:5 and 7:11),

They break God's laws (1:10-16).

If the saints were "on their feet" and as eager to obey the Lord as sinners are to disobey, the lost world would soon be evangelized!

The 6<sup>th</sup> thing God abhors is **"A false witness who speaks lies, "**

Bearing false witness is a violation of the Ninth Commandment (Ex. 20:16).

Without truth, things start to fall apart;  
When people “lie officially,” the foundations of society begin to crumble.  
Whether it’s a statement from a government official, a clause in a contract, a deposition in court, or a promise at the marriage altar, truth cannot be violated without society ultimately suffering.

The British poet John Dryden wrote, “Truth is the foundation of all knowledge and the cement of all societies.”

And that is a truth lost to the modern American public and seemingly to the majority of our elected officials

Finally, the 7<sup>th</sup> thing God hates is **One who sows discord among brethren.**

Psalm 133:1 says, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity”.

The wicked person destroys that unity by sowing “seeds” that produce a bitter and divisive harvest.

These seeds might be: pride or gossip or anger and hatred

They might be just a generally quarrelsome spirit

Or foolish questions that are aimed at stirring up strife

This list of abominations varies widely from the things we might *guess* God hates

Where are the more obvious sins that usually come in for condemnation and rebuke among Christians?

Like - drunkenness and adultery

Why no mention of cheating?

Actually, all these things are implied in the list we find here

This list speaks more to the real heart issues that drive these other sins

And it reminds us that the only way we can distance ourselves from that which illicit God's hatred is to get a new heart

### **Vs. 20-24**

In other words - trust me son!

I know you think that you are hip to the ways of the world and that I'm an old fuddy-duddy

But trust me - I've been around the block and I've seen this old world and things really do not change

Don't resist correction or stand above counsel - do not be wise in your own eyes, but trust the wisdom of your elders

Solomon now returns to a theme he had begin earlier - the appeal of the seductress, the immoral woman who is nothing more or less than the gatekeeper of hell!

### **Vs. 25-35**

Obviously, I cannot add anything to what Solomon says here about adultery - he puts it so well

But I will say this

In all the counseling I've done where a marriage has been ripped by adultery, the hurt and anguish is indescribable!

As Solomon says here - Adultery's price is high and it's return is nothing but pain  
Adultery is a car, parked in a garage that you pay \$100,000 for  
Only to discover that the car is nothing more than a Chevy Vega, with no engine  
It will never leave that garage and has no power to get you anywhere but feeling ripped off  
Don't listen to the slick lies of the salesman - he's a devil in disguise!

## CHAPTER 7

### **Vs. 1-5**

Another appeal to embrace wisdom instead of sin

### **Vs. 6-27**

Solomon tells a story that well sums up the lure and enticing nature but devastating end of sin, especially sexual sin  
It's power and appeal is that it looks so good and has such a powerful attraction  
So all the more we need to not be simple and just wander through life carelessly like the young man in this story  
We need to see the world as a moral minefield and it takes wisdom and discretion to avoid the pitfalls and traps  
So here's Solomon's counsel - DON'T BE DUMB!!!!

## CHAPTER 8

In contrast to the immoral woman who is bold and brazen in her temptations is wisdom who is also personified as a woman  
But this woman is neither brazen nor a painted hussy  
She is beautiful with a kind of beauty that is only appreciated by those with an eye trained to perceive it

### **Vs. 1-36**

Wisdom is a part of the fabric of creation  
As I mentioned at the outset of tonight's study, just as there are physical laws, there are moral laws - principles that govern the immaterial dimension of creation  
Wisdom is to the realm of the Spirit what physics is to the material realm  
Wisdom *is* the physics of the spiritual realm  
So, if you want to live well and safely, just as you do in the physical realm, you need to know what the spiritual physics are  
Because ultimately, we will transcend the physical realm and dwell completely in the spiritual and the principles of wisdom we learn now we will live by in eternity

## CHAPTER 9

### **Vs. 1-6**

Solomon continues the personification of wisdom by picturing her as the owner of a palatial palace

She prepares a banquet of all the finest things in life and invites anyone and everyone to come to the feast and enjoy

### **Vs. 7-9**

How one receives rebuke and correction is a good indicator of the kind of person you are

The fool resists correction

He is proud and does not respond well to criticism

The wise person knows he or she is not perfect but longs to be

So they appreciate it when they are directed to what needs work

Look, there is little point in rebuking someone who's a fool

Don't bother, because it will only turn around to bite you

### **Vs. 10**

Once again we see the root of all wisdom and knowledge - and that is a healthy reverence and respect for God as God!

### **Vs. 11-12**

While wisdom is something that makes it's appeal to all, every single person has to decide for him or herself how they are going to respond

I cannot be wise for you - and you cannot be wise for me

I cannot accumulate so much wisdom in my life that it will spill over onto my children

They have to seek and choose wisdom for themselves

Certainly I can share it with them - but only they can take it

The same thing with folly

We probably all know parents who have exercised great wisdom in life

They lived diligent, godly lives and been prosperous

But their kids turned into foolish rebels and wasted the heritage of good their parents left them

Conversely we hear about those whose parents lived incredibly foolish lives

But the kids grew up to be standouts in their field and to go on to great success in life!

It all has to do with a unique gift God gave us - the power to choose!

Which path do you choose?

There are only 2 - folly and wisdom

Which path are you on tonight - which will you pursue tomorrow?

The choice is yours - it's not too late to change your path

### **Vs. 13-18**

Solomon takes one last shot at sexual sin



And as he does he hits on something that is profound  
We find it in that line

**{Prov 9:17} “Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant.”**

Part of the great deceit of sin is the temptation that there is something good in  
evil

Does stolen water taste better than water acquired legally? No!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Does forbidden bread taste better than regular bread? Not at all!

But temptation would make us think so

And *there* is our victory over temptation - don't be suckered by the deceit of sin

Instead of looking at *what* is offered, look at *who* is doing the offering!

And see the leering face of death behind the trinket, behind the supposed  
pleasure

Sin is a worm that hides a hook called death

These verses were certainly the inspiration for the story of Pinocchio

Remember how Pinocchio went underground into the shady world of the  
carnival?

Where the more pleasures he enjoyed and the candy he ate, the more like a  
donkey he became?

The ruler of the carnival, the festival of the flesh, was a guy named Stromboli  
whose whole aim was to make donkeys he could slaughter and turn into  
glue

What an apt picture of what Solomon warns about here

There is victory in Christ over sin!

If you want to find freedom from sin, if you've been hooked and feel like  
you're being reeled in, liberty is found by running to Christ

Just like a fish runs round a rock and so breaks the line

Flee to the Rock who is Jesus and find your freedom in Him