

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes Book of Proverbs—Proverbs 22

11/7/12

Wisdom instructions On Keeping A Good Name

THEME: Wisdom For All People (Chapters 10-24)

PURPOSE: Solomon wanted to impart wisdom to all people, regardless of their age, sex, or position in society. These short, wise sayings give us practical wisdom for daily living. We should study them diligently and integrate them into our life.

OUTLINE:

- I. A GOOD NAME (22:1) : A good reputation is better than silver or gold.
- II. SOME GENERAL GUIDANCE (22:2-16): The Lord made all of us, and we all have the choice to do right.
- III. SOME GOOD ADVICE (22:17-29): The wise will heed these sayings as they trust in the Lord. "

Proverbs 22

(New International Version)

(Verse 1) A GOOD NAME: A good reputation is better than silver or gold.

1 A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

(Verses 2-16) SOME GENERAL GUIDANCE : The Lord made all of us, and we all have the choice to do right.

² Rich and poor have this in common: The LORD is the Maker of them all. ³ The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty. ⁴ Humility is the fear of the LORD; its wages are riches and honor and life. ⁵ In the paths of the wicked are snares and pitfalls, but those who would preserve their life stay far from them. ⁶ Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it. ⁷ The rich rule over the poor, and the borrower is slave to the lender. ⁸ Whoever sows injustice reaps calamity, and the rod they wield in fury will be broken. ⁹ The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor. ¹⁰ Drive out the mocker, and out goes strife; quarrels and insults are ended. ¹¹ One who loves a pure heart and who speaks with grace will have the king for a friend. ¹² The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he frustrates the words of the unfaithful. ¹³ The sluggard says, "There's a lion outside! I'll be killed in the public square!" ¹⁴ The mouth of an adulterous woman is a deep pit; a man who is under the LORD's wrath falls into it. ¹⁵ Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away. ¹⁶ One who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and one who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty.

PROVERBS 22:4

This is a general observation that would have been especially applicable to an obedient Israelite living in Solomon's God-fearing kingdom. Nevertheless some have been martyrs at a young age, and some have given away all their wealth for the sake of God's Kingdom. The book of Proverbs describes life the way it should be. It does not dwell on the exceptions.

PROVERBS 22:6

In the process of helping our children "choose the right path," we must discern differing paths for each child. It is natural to want to bring up all our children alike or train them the same way. This verse implies that parents should discern the individuality and special strengths that God has given each one. While we should not condone or excuse self-will, each child has natural inclinations that parents can develop. By talking to teachers, other parents, and grandparents, we can better discern and develop the individual capabilities of each child.

PROVERBS 22:6

Many parents want to make all the choices for their child, but this hurts him or her in the long run. When parents teach a child how to make decisions, they don't have to watch every step he or she takes. They know their children will remain on the right path because they have made the choice themselves. Train your children to choose the right way.

PROVERBS 22:7

Does this mean we should never borrow? No, but it warns us never to take on a loan without carefully examining our ability to repay it. A loan we can handle is enabling; a loan we can't handle is enslaving. The borrower must realize that until the loan is repaid, he is a servant to the individual or institution that made it.

PROVERBS 22:12

"Knowledge" refers to those who have knowledge, those who live right and speak the truth. It takes discipline, determination, and hard work to live God's way, but God protects and rewards those who make the commitment to follow him. The unfaithful may seem to have an easier time of it, but in the long run their plans fail and their lives amount to nothing. Don't resist God and expect lasting success.

PROVERBS 22:13

This proverb refers to an excuse a lazy person might use to avoid going to work. The excuse sounds silly to us, but that's often how our excuses sound to others. Don't rationalize laziness. Take your responsibilities seriously and get to work.

PROVERBS 22:15

Young children often do foolish and dangerous things simply because they don't understand the consequences. Wisdom and common sense are not transferred by a parent's good example alone. Just as God trains and corrects us to make us better, so parents must discipline their children to help them learn the difference between right and wrong.

Verses (17-29): SOME GOOD ADVICE (22:17-29): The wise will heed these sayings as they trust in the Lord. "

¹⁷ Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach, ¹⁸ for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips. ¹⁹ So that your trust may be in the LORD, I teach you today, even you. ²⁰ Have I not written thirty sayings for you, sayings of counsel and knowledge, ²¹ teaching you to be honest and to speak the truth, so that you bring back truthful reports to those you serve? ²² Do not exploit the poor because they are poor and do not crush the needy in court, ²³ for the LORD will take up their case and will exact life for life. ²⁴ Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, ²⁵ or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared. ²⁶ Do not be one who shakes hands in pledge or puts up security for debts; ²⁷ if you lack the means to pay, your very bed will be snatched from under you. ²⁸ Do not move an ancient boundary stone set up by your ancestors. ²⁹ Do you see someone skilled in their work? They will serve before kings; they will not serve before officials of low rank.

PROVERBS 22:22, 23

This proverb is a message of hope to people who must live and work under unjust authoritarian leaders. It is also a warning to those who enjoy ruling with an iron hand. Sometimes God intervenes and directly destroys tyrants. More often, he uses other rulers to overthrow them or their own oppressed people to rebel against them. If you are in a position of authority at church, work, or home, remember what happens to tyrants. Leadership through kindness is more effective and longer lasting than leadership by force.

PROVERBS 22:24, 25

People tend to become like those with whom they spend a lot of time. Even the negative characteristics sometimes rub off. The Bible exhorts us to be cautious in our choice of companions. Choose people with characteristics you would like to develop in your own life.

PROVERBS 22:28

In Joshua 13-21, the land was divided, and the boundaries were marked out for each tribe. Moses had already warned the people that when they reached the Promised Land they shouldn't cheat their neighbors by moving any of the markers to give themselves more land and their neighbors less (Deuteronomy 19:14; 27:17).