

I. The Book of Proverbs: Principles for Life

The book of Proverbs is a book of principles. It deals with the issues of life, the things that you and I think. I personally believe that every issue that we will find in life, if you sit down with your Bible, will find its way back to the book of Proverbs. I believe that every example in the Bible of people doing right and people doing wrong, the things that the Bible says were for our admonition and examples, I think all of those things you can trace back to the principles found in the book of Proverbs. From Adam and Eve up to the Apostle Paul, right to you and me today when we do the things that we do.

Proverbs is the most unique book in all of the Bible. Its sole mission, the only reason it exists, is to give you and me the cause and the effect of everything in life based on what we do. It will show you the cause, why we do it, and it will show you the effect after you do it, whether it is good or bad, what comes along with it. It will take us and really show us everything, how God's opinion is, or what He wants us to do.

Today, I want to look again at our next set of verses and I want to look once more at some great principles that will establish us and give us good counsel and good advice. You remember, if it wasn't last week, it was the week before last, I gave you four things that the book of Proverbs will do for you.

- 1.) It will give you purpose in life. This is the number one problem that most of God's people have. They are saved, they are on their way to heaven, and have no purpose in life. Proverbs will give you that purpose.
- 2.) It will establish you. It will establish you, first of all, in the Word of God. When it establishes you in the Word of God, it will establish you in your life. When it establishes you in your life, it will establish you in your church and you will be worth something here, something that we need.
- 3.) It will give you good counsel, good strong counsel out of the Word of God.
- 4.) It will give you good solid advice, and then you take it and do something with it.

II. The Principle of Balance

Today I want to read Proverbs 20:23-26.

Proverbs 20:23-26

Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD, and a false balance is not good.

Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry.

A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them.

Verse 23 says, “Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD, and a false balance is not good.” You will remember coming back from Proverbs 20:10, we also saw some similar verses. We have looked at it before. It says, “Divers weights and divers measures are an abomination.” Remember back in Proverbs 11:1, it says, “A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.” We saw that one and how that all worked in there.

We have talked about it before. We really have the balance of the Christian life. It is simply a balance between the world that we live in versus the spiritual world that we work in and we walk in. That is really what a balance is. It is a balance between the world that we live in, with the world all around us, versus the spiritual world that we walk in and we do the work of God in. There lies the challenge for us.

I want you to note the word "abomination." We think of the word abominable, abomination. Of course, that is a combination of a couple of words in the Old Testament. Abomination is abominable nations, the abominable things that the other nations were doing that Israel was supposed to stay away from. It always got them out of balance. That is why you find the word abominable or abomination coming up so many times, because Israel was called out to be a holy people, separate from the world. They cut their hair differently. They circumcised themselves. They had different dietary laws, all to make them separate. The word abomination comes in because they always got out of balance with God when they, as God's holy people, allowed the abominable things of the other nations to come into their life.

For you and me, it is simply allowing the world into our life, allowing the things of the world to come into our Christian life and upsetting the balance that God has in our life. The balance for a Christian will be the hardest thing to keep and to stay focused on. I talked about it last week a little bit. It will require self-discipline that most of God's people do not have today.

Let me say this: we all get out of balance from time to time, every one of us. I am not sitting up here preaching to you about being out of balance and going to let you believe that I do not get out of balance sometimes. We all do. When we do, and everybody does, do not beat yourself up and go out of here thinking, "Well, I am a terrible person because I got out of balance." No, you are a terrible person when you are in balance. It is okay. When we get out of balance, it is the biblical principles, it is this church, it is the preaching of the Word of God that does not allow you to stay out of balance. That is the way God designed it, by design.

A washing machine, I think, is one of the greatest inventions that ever came along. Most of you older folks probably remember this as I do, that you walk into somebody's kitchen now in a modern-day convenience of a washer and dryer. We did not have that growing up. I remember how happy my mom was when she got a new washing machine that had two tubs with a hand wringer. You just did a lot of the work. I do not remember what we did before that. I guess it was a bucket with a washboard. I do not know. But I remember how happy my mom was. Then I remember that they came out with what they have today. It is an incredible thing.

Romans 1:20 says, “For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse.” I have always looked at a washing machine like a good church. Some

