

Message #98

Proverbs 23:26-35

WISE YOUNG PEOPLE OBEY THE INSTRUCTION OF GODLY PARENTS AND AVOID HARMFUL THINGS.

Wise young people are those who will use their ears (23:12), their heart and their eyes (23:26) to listen to and apply the wise instructions of godly parents.

DANGEROUS ENTICEMENT #1 – The enticement of women. 23:27-28

The righteous father warns his son to stay away from godless women. He uses two terms to describe them: “harlot” (a prostitute or whore), and “adulteress” (a foreign, strange woman who is off limits). Many Bible scholars believe the first woman was probably an unmarried woman and the second was married.

(Fact #1) - They will lure a man into permanent captivity. 23:27

The words “narrow well” and “deep pit” describe a place where there is no escape.

(Fact #2) - They will lure a man into unsuspecting ambush. 23:28a

The imagery of “lurking as a robber” is that of carefully twisting a snare that will ambush the prey.

(Fact #3) - They will lure a man into increased unrighteousness. 23:28b

Godless women do not enhance a man’s spirituality; they destroy it.

DANGEROUS ENTICEMENT #2 – The enticement of wine. 23:29-35

Here is, as Dr. Derek Kidner said, “an unforgettable study of the drunkard....” This is the longest warning against drunkenness in Proverbs. A godly parent will challenge a child to stay away from the enticement of alcohol.

(Action #1) - The father asks questions. 23:29–He asks his son to look at society.

Too much alcohol causes great emotional problems (“woe” “sorrow”).

Too much alcohol causes great social problems (“contentious” “complaining”).

Too much alcohol causes great physical problems (“wounds” “redness of eyes”).

These things are “without cause” which means they could have been avoided.

(Action #2) - The father answers the questions. 23:29

The one with these problems is one who loves to drink. He loves any type of wine (with spices and without) and will stay at drinking for many hours.

(Action #3) - The father commands self-restraint. **23:31**

The language here is that no matter how good the wine looks or tastes, do not spend a lot of time drinking it. For wine to look red, or to sparkle or to go down smoothly, one must be well on his or her way to being drunk.

(Action #4) - The father shows the effects. **23:32-35**

Pathetic Effect #1 - It kills like a deadly snake. **23:32**

A serpent's bite is unexpected and quick, but its results are fatal. Alcohol seems harmless and innocent, but it is a deadly drink waiting to attack and destroy.

Pathetic Effect #2 - It causes severe mental problems. **23:33**

Visions, nightmares, foolish speech and foolish activity comes to one who tarries long at the wine. The language here describes one who loses control of mental faculties.

Pathetic Effect #3 - It causes behavioral problems. **23:34**

Look at where the drunk ends up sleeping—not his own nice home or comfortable bed, but in a ship or on top of a mast.

Pathetic Effect #4 - It causes discipline problems. **23:35a**

The language here is of one being punished but he does not feel the punishment.

Pathetic Effect #5 - It causes addiction problems. **23:35b**

When a drunk sobers up and comes out of his stupor, he craves more alcohol.

Stay away from immorality and drunkenness. Follow this advice and you will be very wise and very happy.