

Topics in Proverbs

II. Worship

A. Sacrifice

1. Pr 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

a. The problem is not the offering, but the offerer

b. The wicked are

i. *rasha`* - morally wrong; an (actively) bad person:--+ condemned, guilty, ungodly, wicked (man), that did wrong.

ii. Rebellious - not interested in a relationship with God, - Isa 29:3-14

- checking the religion box - Mt 15:1-11

- the sacrifice may ease the conscience for wrong doing

iii. Presumptuous - thinking that the occasional sacrifice might cause the moral demands of the law to be overlooked - Is 1:11-17; Jer 7:21-24

iv. Manipulative - to win God over so that He will give them what they desire - 1 Sam 15:22-23; Pr 16:2; 17:3; 20:27; 21:2; 24:12;

c. one can be very religious and very lost

d. if we did everything right (rarely) we would be meeting the minimum requirement - Lk 17:10

2. Pr 21:3 To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

a. Compression of 1 Sam 15:22-23

b. Teaching children to apologize or teaching them to be more careful so that they don't need to apologize

c. a Godly walk is one part of acceptable worship

3. Pr 21:27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; How much more when he brings it with wicked intent!

a. The Fortiori Argument

i. if A is bad

ii. A+B is worse

iii. If it is bad for unrepentant sinner to offer a sacrifice, it is worse to do so with ulterior motive

b. Wicked intent - Scheme

i. *zimmah* - a plan, especially a bad one:--heinous crime, lewd(-ly, -ness), mischief, purpose, thought, wicked (device, mind, -ness).

ii. Giving

- Hoping God will bless my plans - 1 Sam 16:7

- To Impress another

B. Offerings

1. Pr 3:9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the firstfruits of all your increase;

a. Line B intensifies the idea of Line A

- b. the verb “Glorify” or “Honor” is not repeated in line B so that it dominates both lines
- c. The noun “Wealth” or “Possessions” is intensified by firstfruits which means first and best, chief, or principle thing

2. The Principle is clear, Keep God first; don’t give Him the leftovers, seconds, remnants - Mal 1:6-14

- a. wake up in the morning with TV, Newspaper, social media, etc
- b. if we pray only as a last resort or as we fall asleep

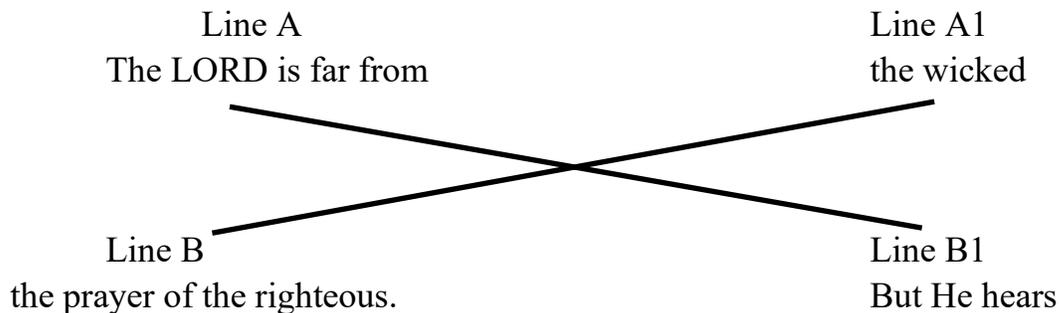
C. Prayer

1. Pr 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

- a. as sacrifice may be an outward demonstration of worship, prayer demonstrates the relational aspect of worship
- b. God accepts prayer from the one who - His delight (Favor)
 - i. comes through faith - Ge 15:6
 - ii. Is upright - Pro 11:3,6; 13:6; 16:17; 21:29

2. Pr 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

a. Contrasting Chiasm



- b. the contrast of the wicked and the righteous
 - i. the wicked my pray, but his prayers are not favorably received - if a wicked person repents, they are no longer considered wicked
 - ii. The wicked are not seen as praying, but it doesn’t matter what they are doing, God is far from him - Ro 3:10-12
 - iii. Those who are right in God’s eyes have His ear b/c they are close to Him - Ps 7:28; Pr 3:32

3. Pr 28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, Even his prayer is an abomination.

- a. Prayer is exalted among many as the most important Christian discipline
 - i. Prayer is considered to be the key to holiness, power, effectiveness, revival, and personal spiritual growth
 - ii. Prayer is talking to God; anything you say to God; not dialogue
 - iii. Prayer is drawing near to God w/ adoration, confession, supplication.
- b. The one not interested in hearing or doing God’s word, prayer is an abomination
 - i. an Abomination is anything disgusting, repelling, morally offensive to God
 - ii. Commonly understood
 - Homosexuality - Lev 18:22
 - Idolatry - De 7:25-26

- Apostasy - De 13:14
- Transvestitism - De 22:5
- burning one's child alive to a false god - 2 Kgs 16:3

iii. Commonly excused

- Lying - Pr 6:17,19; 12:22
- Pride - Pr 6:17; 16:5
- cheating in business - 11:1; 20:10,23
- wickedness in leadership - 16:12
- things that are highly esteemed by men - Lu 16:15 (friendship with or love of the world?) - Jas 4:4; 1Jo 2:15
- being a hearer of the word, but not a doer - Pr 11:20; 28:9
- justifying the wicked - Pr 17:15