

Principles from Proverbs: The Family, Part 2

Introduction: In the last lesson, we examined some general principles about the home. These principles provide a framework for the more specific ordering of the home. The present lesson will examine the unique blessing of God upon righteous homes.

II. God's Blessing upon a Righteous Home

A. Prosperity and Success

Note that being prosperous and successful is neither wrong nor unspiritual. While money and material possessions should not be our primary goal (Prov. 1:19 teaches that greed drains away one's life.), obedience to the principles of Proverbs will result in material sufficiency.

→**The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish. (Proverbs 14:11)**

1. The word "tabernacle" means tent, but it hints at the spiritual orientation of the upright home.
2. Ultimately, instability leads to destruction in the wicked home.

→**The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just. (Proverbs 3:33)**

1. The emphasis here is upon righteous treatment of others. Those who are "just" are those who are conscientious in their dealings with others.
2. Note that the "wicked" are singled out for a curse!

→**In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble. (Proverbs 15:6)**

1. This not a promise of wealth for the righteous, but rather a promise that righteous living tends toward accumulation while wickedness tends toward trouble.
2. Consistent obedience to Biblical principles results in material blessing *over time*.

→**There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up. (Proverbs 21:20)**

1. Wisdom is always conservative in relation to spending money. The wise man, due to his conservative fiscal actions, has both luxury items (treasure) and necessity items (oil) in abundance.

2. Fools tend to spend! Note that the condemnation here is NOT on poverty, but rather on spending. The foolish man had it, but he spent it. Foolish spending makes a fool.

B. Stability and Perpetuity

→**The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand. (Proverbs 12:7)**

C. Protection and Security

→**Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place: For a just man falleth seven times and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. (Proverbs 24:15, 16)**

1. Sometimes bad things happen to good people, but good people always arise from their calamities. The character of the “just man” calls him to be an over-comer. A “just man” does not glory in victimization; he rises above it! You can’t keep a good man down!
2. Wicked men ultimately fall into mischief. The proverb makes no promise of rescue for the wicked. While the wicked may appear to prosper for a time, their fall is ultimately assured.

→**The Lord will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow. (Proverbs 15:25)**

1. Pride always brings severe consequences in the Proverbs (16:5, 6:16, 17). In essence, pride is self-sufficiency flaunting itself before God.
2. In Bible times, real estate was marked with landmarks (frequently piles of stones) that indicated the border of property. Sometimes an unscrupulous man would move the landmark under cover of darkness, giving himself slightly more land. Over time the imperceptible moving of the landmark would significantly alter the “border” of the property. Widows, because of their helplessness, were particularly susceptible to this deception.
3. God has special care for widows and the disadvantaged (Prov. 22:22, 23; 23:10, 11). A widow who humbly trusts in God will experience God’s special protection. However, those who trust in themselves will come to ultimate destruction. If he’s a self-made man, he will eventually be a self-destructing man!