

Proverb 21

- I. The ruler's heart Vs 1-2
- A. By God directed influences and arrangements God moves rulers to direct their government so as to carry out the _____ of the sovereign God Vs 1
 - B. A warning against self-deception and self-complacency which thinks its own ways the best Vs 2
- II. The ruler's duty before _____ Vs 3 righteous rule and proper judgment over the people
- III. Three self-centered attitudes and practices that are sinful Vs 4
- A. The reference is to _____ which reveals itself in a look which implies that other people are inferior, scarcely worthy of notice. Vs 4a "A high look"
 - B. Such a heart, wholly filled with self, is the cause of the haughty eyes. Vs 4b "A proud heart"
 - C. Possibly the allusion is to inordinate longing for wealth and power. Vs 4c
- IV. God's Providence and Human _____ Vs 5-9 (A kinship exists between all vices just as between all virtues. Human vice springs from a disturbance of one's relationship with God.)
- A. _____ Vs 5
 - 1. Here diligence is contrasted with hastiness.
 - 2. The person who makes up his mind to work steadily will find his prosperity increasing.
 - B. _____ Vs 6
 - 1. Wealth accumulated by deceit melts away, its possessors derive no profit from it.
 - 2. Instead of riches, they in reality seek death which is the punishment of their sin.
 - C. _____ Vs 7-8
 - 1. People who resort to violent deeds get caught in the net of their evil schemes. They are unable to break free, even if they wish. Vs 7
 - 2. The violence with which they treat others shall rebound on themselves. Their deliberate choice of the criminal method saps their willpower to live honestly. This is a judicial retribution on them for willfully declining to do what is right. Vs 8
 - D. A _____ spirit Vs 9
 - 1. The flat roof of the houses of Palestine were used for many purposes.
 - 2. It is preferable to live alone and experience discomfort than to live with a difficult wife
- V. Warnings from Life-experience Vs 10-13
- A. The covetous soul is _____ Vs 10
 - 1. A wicked person cannot rest without planning for some new evil activity.
 - 2. He will sacrifice anyone, however closely connected, so that he may work his evil.
 - 3. Such a person is totally self-centered.
 - B. Learning is _____ for a godly life Vs 11
 - 1. The unlearned in life experience learn from the punishment of wrong doers
 - 2. The wise person takes advantage of every circumstance, to increase his knowledge.
 - C. God ultimately _____ the wicked Vs 12
 - D. The hard of heart find no sympathy Vs 13
 - 1. A twofold _____ is threatened on the unmerciful person.
 - a. First, he himself shall fall into distress.
 - b. Second, in his distress he would appeal to his neighbors for help, but his appeal would go unanswered.
 - 2. The callousness he displayed will be remembered against him when he is in need of help.
- VI. Life's _____ Vs 14-19
- A. Tranquility vs. turbulence Vs 14
 - B. Justice vs. iniquity Vs 15
 - 1. The righteous feel real pleasure in doing what is right. They have the answer of a good conscience, and the feeling that, as far as they can, they are making God's will their will.
 - 2. A stable society can exist only when justice is strictly administered.
 - C. Wandering vs. _____ Vs 16

1. The verse seems to contrast the restless wanderings of the unwise in life with the rest they will only experience in death.
2. The sinner shall soon be with the dead spirits (Hebrew: shall meet with a speedy death. The "rest" is viewed as penal. The hint here is that retribution follows death.

D. Being frugal vs. being wasteful Vs 17

E. The upright vs. the wicked Vs 18

1. In the end the guilty person pays the _____ for the hardships which an innocent person has to undergo if wrongly convicted.
2. He eventually experiences the same plight as the upright who suffer without cause.

F. Solitude vs. disruptive relationships Vs 19

- a. Contentious-quarrelsome woman who sows discord in the home environment
- b. Angry-anger that is displayed in _____

VII. Wealth and Greed Vs 20-26 (These proverbs focus for the most part on the acquiring and _____ wealth.)

A. The _____ preserve wealth Vs 20

1. Treasure/Oil-wealth/oil spoken of here was expensive oil used for anointing the body
2. Wise/foolish
 - a. The wise person will obtain and retain wealth
 - b. The foolish person spends it as soon as he gets it on unnecessary things

B. The _____ are comfortable in life Vs 21

1. Followeth-pursue so as to live by their guiding principles
2. Righteousness-that spiritual quality that only God can impart on a person through the new birth.
3. Mercy-that attitude and behavior in which the person shows kindness to one who does not deserve kindness.
4. Finds life, righteousness and honor
 - a. Experiences a life that is good and filled with the blessing of the Lord
 - b. Experiences righteous treatment from God and usually other people also
 - c. Experiences honor-respect from others

C. _____ superior to brute force Vs 22

D. Wisdom guards the _____ Vs 23-24

1. Keepeth-guards his mouth from speaking that which is improper also protects himself from unnecessary trouble.
2. Scoffer-a _____ with his mouth
 - a. Proud and haughty-arrogant and presumptuous
 - b. The name and characteristics of one who ridicules or attacks another in a proud, vengeful manner.

E. Greed is _____ Vs 25-26

1. The desire of the lazy is to be _____, ultimately bringing about his destruction.
2. He is unwilling to go out and work for what he wants, where the righteous are willing to share what God has given to them.

VIII. Warnings against Trying to _____ God Vs 27-31

A. The _____ of the worshipper matters more than his worship Vs 27

B. Be sure your testimony about something or someone is _____ Vs 28

C. Be tender and open before the Lord lest He destroy you Vs 29

1. Hardeneth-become _____ to God and other people. He continues in evil.
2. Directeth-constantly takes counsel of the direction he is going so as to be sensitive to what God wants with his life.

D. It is _____ to go up against God Vs 30

E. True protection and safety is _____ found in God, not our own plans or efforts Vs 31