

2018 Daily Household Bible Readings for February Proverbs

February 12- February 18 Theme this week- MONEY

February 12th Read Proverbs 28:24-28 & Mark 8:36 The Wise know about Greed (1)

Today we will focus upon the wise who know about the power of greed upon the soul. We will look at both Proverbs and the New Testament so see the consistency of Scriptures' witness about this.

1. Beginning with Proverbs 28:25 we learn that GREED leads to strife often with our human relationships. It forms a wedge between people. It will also personally impact the soul of the greedy person. So its power is very influential to you and also upon others.
2. **Q. What is the real nature of greed?**
It is an aggressive appetite to possess and acquire and it will create conflict in social relationships. It is the opposite of contentment. It is the outworking of a covetous heart.
3. Bruce Walke said, "The pious trust God to uphold his divinely established moral boundaries, which includes honest work, contentment, helping others, and so on." The pious are enriched by others whereas rather the greedy will stir up strife with others.
4. Ponder Mark 8:36 and Luke 12:15 and consider how the wise hear know the power of greed.

Prayer: *Pray today for contentment in the Lord and faith.*

Pray also for a repentant heart to seek peace and enrichment with others.

February 13th Read Ecclesiastes 5: 1-12 The Wise Know about Greed (2)

Proverbial wisdom is a constant theme in scripture as we saw yesterday from our readings. Today we turn to the great wisdom book of Ecclesiastes 5:10,11 to learn more about greed and particularly the vanity of greed.

1. The more one possesses does not guarantee happiness. Money and things cannot satisfy the longings of the heart. Eccles. 4:8 is also a reminder that though riches increase, still one cannot be happy or satisfied.
2. There are five things which greed not checked can do: Greed often leads the heart away from the Lord; it leads to new temptations; it can lead to new strife and discord with other people; it can lead to anxiety and worry, even sleeplessness; and finally it can lead to bitterness at death.
3. **Q. Do you think Solomon a wealthy man discovered that greed had not brought him happiness?**

4. **Q.** What wisdom do you have for the greedy?
5. **“Money is a good servant but a bad master” Italian Proverb**

Prayer: Lord make us thankful for the work we might have presently and Lord help me to know more about peace with you.

February 14th Read 2 Corinthians 9:1-7 The Wise Know about Cheerful Giving

In verses six and seven we see two great points:

1. If you give sparingly so you will reap sparingly.
2. Second, giving must be with joy, delight and with readiness.
3. Here are four things to remember about giving: always **first** *remember* that every gift first comes from the Lord. This will then impact the manner of your giving.
4. **Second**, *remember* that we owe a great deal—God gave His Son!
5. **Third**, *remember* that the gift we give helps and extends the work of the Lord.
6. **Fourth**, *remember* God blesses His children in various ways as they give. (CT)
7. *If you understand the grace of God then cheerful giving will become a way of life. Q. What is grace?*
8. *“To give grudgingly or not at all is a sign of a heart issue – that we value money, comfort, and security more than the Kingdom of God. It is only when we learn to give ourselves to Christ that we can cheerfully give to support His purpose.” (CT)*

Prayer: Lord we praise and thank you for the indescribable gift of your Son Jesus Christ at the cross. Forgive us for losing sight of this too often in the manner of our giving. Renew us in our understanding of grace.....Lord for personal issue that we have with money and giving hear us today as we pray.....Amen

February 15th Read Proverbs 13:1-11 The Wise know that it is often best to accumulate Money, little by little, through Consistent Work

Proverbs 13: 11 is a single proverb which speaks volumes to us about the **how** of accumulating money.

1. The first part of the proverb speaks about money being gained **hastily** in the ESV. This immediately makes us think of acquiring money quickly. The prodigal son acquired money quickly through his demanded inheritance and it also parted quickly.
2. It can also mean more than just being hastily gained but also the how it was acquired hastily, that is, *it may be acquired through less than-honest-means such as cheating people or governments, or even outright fraudulent schemes, or some means of dishonest scheming.*

3. The point of all this is that the person has acquired the money but really NEVER worked for it. Keller writes, “If you don’t grow wealth over years through diligence, vigilance, and skilfulness, you may not have grown the character and habits necessary to manage the money well.”

4. Lessons about “self-control, wise management, and the virtue of delayed gratification” need to be learned next to the acquisition of money. Character development and acquiring money must go together otherwise quick money can lead to spiritual problems and various temptations.

5. Re-read verse 13 Part B. Here is the point: it is better to acquire money little by little through diligence. **Q.** *How will we teach this in the home and in the church?*

Prayer: *Lord save us from sudden fame and fortune and prepare our character to receive such if in your providence You will such. Also Lord, protect us from the temptation of quick schemes to acquire money which by-pass work.....*

February 16th Read Psalm 127:1-5 The Wise know That Work and Money we attempt to earn are Under the Providence of the Lord

As we have seen proverbial wisdom is not restricted to the book of Proverbs, it is found in many Biblical books, including the book of Psalms. Psalm 127:1-2 fits well with what we have been studying recently about work and money mainly through the book of Proverbs.

1. Re-read Psalm 127:1-2. We see a picture here of a very hard working person and that they are truly diligent to acquire money or goods.
2. BUT, yes, there is a BUT here! The Lord is in control of work and money ultimately. The Lord must never be forgotten in all our work and money-making.
3. I like this old quotation: “The Holy Spirit is not the patron of lazy and inert men; but he directs the minds of those who labour to the providence and power of God.” - Wolfgang Musculus **Q.** *What do you think of this quotation?*
4. “God is to be acknowledged in all our works, by seeking his direction before we do them, by depending upon his help in them, and by giving him the glory.”

Prayer: *Lord forgive us for rushing into money-making without first seeking your wisdom and blessing. Lord also free us from worry and anxiety and to rest in you by faith.....*

February 17th Read Proverbs 22: 26-27 The Wise know about Debt

Money and debt are often closely related! **Today we are going to read a selection of proverbs about debt.**

1. Starting with **Proverbs 22: 26-27** we are given advice about being careful whose debts we guarantee and how much we guarantee. If the person’s reputation is

dubious then exercise wisdom. Likewise if you had to pay-up could you do it? Many other proverbs say much the same things, so it is wise to think through becoming a lender and who you lend to (see also, **Proverbs 11:15, 17:18**)

2. Next, **Proverbs 22: 7** is a warning that debt can turn us into slaves to those whom we owe. Again be discerning and wise.
3. And, **Proverbs 27:13**, is about making sure there is some type of deposit or written statement from a debtor as a security in the event of trouble down the road.
4. Discuss this old American Proverb: "Before borrowing money from a friend, decide which you need most."
5. **Q.** *Have you talked about the Christian and debt in your household? Or is that a topic which is never discussed?*

Prayer: *Lord, help us to see that all areas of our lives come under the authority and wisdom of your scriptures including the topic of debt.....*

February 18th Read Proverbs 21:1-3, The Wise know what is more acceptable to the Lord

Today is the Lord's Day and we return to a comparative proverb **Proverbs 21:3** about living for the Lord **or** doing sacrificial looking, external worship. We briefly touched upon this on January 10th but here the matter is even clearer.

1. In this little proverb a comparison is made between moral obedience (A) and ceremonialism (B). The first (A) takes precedence over the latter.
2. This moral obedience is rooted in the principle of love to God and neighbour and shows itself in seeking purity, righteousness, fairness, and equity.
3. It is paralleled to **Micah 6:6-8, Isaiah 1:11, I Samuel 15:22**, and also in **Matthew 12:7 and Matthew 23:23** **Read each of these verses and see the parallels.**
4. **Q.** *It is so good to see the unity of the Bible. Do you see this now with this little proverb?*
5. **Q.** *Fundamentally what was the problem with the Pharisees in the New Testament?*

Prayer: *Paraphrase Psalm 51 :15-19*

