

2018 Daily Household Bible Readings for February Proverbs

February 19- February 28

For the next ten days we are going to read select themes daily from the Proverbs.

February 19th Read Proverbs 6:1-19 The Wise know What God Hates and What God Likes

This is a passage in Proverbs which every Christian needs to study and know well. It will make for very wise and maturing Christians when this is put into practice. All six things are very important to study but it is leading to the climatic point of number seven—God hates the one who sows discord amongst the brethren of the Lord.

1. Notice that the basic pattern follows **body imagery** for the most-part. It was no doubt used to help with memory work for children and youth. So let's go through the seven points now.
2. 1.haughty **EYES** **Q What is this?**
 - 2.a lying **TONGUE**
 - 3.**HANDS** that shed innocent blood
 - 4.a **HEART** that devises wicked plans
 5. **FEET** that run quickly to evil
 6. a false witness -- speaks lies
 - 7.A sower of discord, strife

3. **Number Seven**, one who is not concerned about unity but stirs up trouble.

4. Read in the New Testament about Paul's warning about getting close to such troublemakers-- **Titus 3: 9-11** . **Then turn next to Matthew 5:9**

Q. *Do we pursue peacemaking enough in the Body of Jesus?*

Prayer: *Lord we come to you seeking mercy for any division or disunity that we have been the cause. We pray that we will be gentle and patient with our brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus. Give us patience as you are patient and longsuffering towards us..... Amen*

February 20th Read Proverbs 18:17 The Wise Know about Judging too Quickly

Basically the theme here is the popular saying, "every story has two sides" so be wise!

1. Proverbs 18:17 is about making judgements which we all must do on occasion sometimes actually quite often. So be careful how you read what Jesus says about

judging (**Matthew 7:1-2**) . There is a very real difference between the *judgemental spirit* and the *act of judging when necessary*.

2. This Proverb is built upon the truth of **Deuteronomy 1:17**.
3. Consider these four quotations about this proverb for discussion: “One-sided statements are not reliable.” (JFB) *“It is well to listen to our enemies, that we may form a better judgment of ourselves.”* Matthew Henry “They suspend their plumb, not from the middle, but from one edge of the rule, and that the edge which lies next their own interests.”—Arnot. *“Party spirit has as much influence as gifts to blind the eyes of the wise, and to pervert the words of the righteous.”*—Lawson.
4. **Q.** *Who are the Bereans in the book of Acts? Why are they considered more “noble”?*

Prayer: *Lord help us to become like the Bereans and examine all things in light of the scriptures and not by our own prejudices.*

February 21st Read Proverbs 1: 10-19 The Wise Know about Being Led into Temptation

Recently one petition of the Lord’s Prayer has received world-wide media attention by what Pope Francis was saying about one petition in the Lord’s Prayer. He was wanting to adjust the translation of this petition. Today our theme is the wise know about being lead into temptation.

1. Verse ten is a general warning from a mentor to the younger to NOT give into those who will tempt you with the wrong way. It is basically repeated again in verse 15A.
2. **Q What is temptation?** *Basically it is to be placed under trial, where desires to do wrong or unwise things are before one.*
3. **Q.** What was the most famous temptation in the New Testament? We can you find this in the Gospel of Chapter Four.
4. Quickly look back over Proverbs 1:10-19 and select out how tempters operate. List their methods.

Prayer: *Lord, we think of how the Lord Jesus was tempted yet without sin. We know that there is a spiritual war going on in our lives. So Lord we ask you today to lead us away when we are facing temptation and to fight the evil one. Give us Lord a way of escape and help us to pursue righteousness and the way of faith.....Amen*

February 22nd Read Proverbs 22: 24- 29 The Wise Know about being Careful in our Human Relationships

Yes, there are some people whom you have to watch out can really be dangerous to be around.

1. The focus here is 22: 24-25. Verse 24 warns us about discerning if someone has a reputation for being a hot-tempered person or one who is easily angered and full of revenge. This is far beyond the adage of “he’s got red hair so he’s got a temper”. If it were only that easy to look at hair colour and to know the real character of someone!!
2. No, we must practise discernment and evaluate people. Beware of those with anger issues and do not get too close to them. We also may think we can resist such kinds of people and it is fine to become intimate with them and close companions, but we may actually start to take on their characteristics (vs 25). So be warned.
3. Yes there is a place to counsel—that is another matter al-together. Some may be called to confront and help people with such anger and bitter spirits but remember that is not the call of all. Generally speaking these two proverbs are a warning about human relationships and that we need to be discerning.
4. **Q.** *How can we learn to control our tempers and anger?*

Prayer: *“Lord, we pray today against being naïve. We really need wisdom and discernment in our human relationships.*

Lord, we also must confess our ways of sin not just in being gullible but also in our own anger and tempers where we have harmed Your Name. Hear us as we confess....

February 23rd Read Proverbs 18:22 The Wise know that seeking a marriage partner is a serious matter

Who we marry is a serious matter and wisdom here is needed.

1. Truly it is a **good** thing to have a *helpmate*. This really takes us back to the beginning and to one of the purposes of marriage (Genesis 2:18). It is a true blessing to be granted a spouse and we should see the mercy of the Lord in this.
2. The idea of **“finds”** a wife is an interesting word. Some have argued, and rightly so, that this is the idea of searching for something in particular, that is, certain qualities and attributes. This is what makes for a good spouse and when one finds such then there is blessing and rejoicing!
3. **Q.** *So ask yourself what are the qualities and attributes that one should look for in a spouse? (I think much here can apply either for a wife or for a husband).....*

4. Let me share with you what I read from Tim Keller: “How should a Christian go about seeking a mate? **First**, look for a fellow believer.....If the fear of the Lord is the very foundation of a wise understanding of reality, how could you look for anything but another Christian? **Second**, look for a person of such spiritual character that it evokes your admiration and praise. The fruit of the Spirit....**Third**, get advice, not only about the prospective spouse but also about your own readiness for marriage. If you are listening only to your heart and not to advice, you have left the path of wisdom. **Finally**, remember Paul’s teaching... that we do not need to be married to be a fully completed person. Only union with Christ can do that...”

Q *What do you think about those four points?*

Prayer: *“Lord, marriage is a great good, but not the ultimate good. Because our enjoyment of your love is so weak, we become too desperate and, therefore, also too fearful of marriage. Lord there are many not finding marriage who should, and many you have called to singleness who are discouraged by it. Help them all.” Amen (TK)*

February 24th Read Proverbs 14:1-14 The Wise know about the backslidden way

Our theme here is about the believer who becomes a backslider verse 14.

1. The key idea here is about repeated wrong decisions going further away from where one once was. It is a slow progression by degrees towards a life that is unfaithful and ruin is just around the corner UNLESS it is arrested now by repentance.
2. Many wrong decisions made will lead increasingly to a lifestyle which may consciously or not lead to regret –such will reap what they sow.
3. Someone once said backsliding begins on the inside and comes to the surface! Backsliding is a matter of the heart being drawn in another direction and the hands will follow. Further we often start to observe something—less and less time is spent with fellow believers. Watch for the signs.
4. **Q.** *How does verse 14B relate to this verse in Timothy? “... godliness with contentment is great gain.” (1 Timothy 6:6)*
5. **Read Revelation 2:5** and ask, does this verse provide a remedy for today’s Proverb?

Prayer: *Take today’s proverb and lessons above and paraphrase this as a closing prayer today.*

February 25th Read Proverbs 15:1-8

The Wise know about Prayer

We often do not think about the topic of prayer and relate it to the Book of Proverb. Today here is a proverb which does mention prayer and so we focus upon it this Lord's Day.

1. This proverb is based upon contrast: those who attempt to justify themselves yet fail to realise that they are sinners with rituals which will not redeem them, versus those who are justified in the Lord and pray to Him.
2. A little deeper it is like this: failing to humble oneself before the Lord and seek Him by faith and repent of one's sin. In contrast the Holy Spirit has been calling a sinner to cry out to the Lord in prayer seeking mercy, grace and pardon. It is about a new relationship with the Father above through Christ Jesus the Son by the prompting of the Spirit.
3. A side-note of history is that this proverb was used in the fourth century in North Africa by a group of Christians called Donatists, to reject the teaching of Augustine and others. Curious how this little verse today has lost its once powerful nature in church history and was a debatable point about the sacraments and their validity.
4. Today approach your worship time seeking sincerity, openness to the Word, and praying for others who will gather with you to be blessed.
5. Read: **James 5:16** and **I Peter 3:12** **Q.** *Do you find it amazing how Peter comes so close to the theme of this Proverb? The Lord does not change! Note, Q, where is Peter referring in the Old Testament? (Psalm 34:15) The book of Proverbs has more parallels then we often acknowledge in the whole Bible. Today's proverb helps us see this.*

Prayer: *Take time in confession of sin: ritualism, love of the world.....
Seek the mercy of the Lord.*

February 26th Read Proverbs 30:1-14

The Wise Know about Pride

The way of the wise is one of understanding the issue of pride and its power over the heard and all the ways that pride will then manifest itself. Today's proverbs speak to this overarching matter of human pride.

1. Verse 11-14 are four descriptions of people with problems. The problem however manifests itself differently in all four cases **BUT the root is the same – PRIDE.**

2. Here are the four cases: i) the children who refuse parental authority (vs 11); ii) blind to personal inconsistencies and mistakes (vs 12); iii) extremely proud of themselves and arrogant in every way (vs 13); iv) treating those lesser than themselves, with contempt (vs 14). **Q.** *Can you see how pride manifests itself under so many different categories?*

3. Os Guinness, "Pride leads to every other vice: it is the complete anti-God state of mind." And to paraphrase C. S. Lewis, pride is you comparing yourself to others and always coming out best for in your heart you despise others, this is the essence of pride.

4. Look to the Lord Jesus Christ. Read John 8:50 and Philippians 2:1-5.

Prayer: *"Lord, I confess that I am too proud to admit how proud I am. It is only as I read of your great humility in the gospels that I begin to see my lack of it. Show me more of this painful truth so that I can be more free from the poisonous effects of pride."* Amen (TK)

February 27th Read Proverbs 21: 14-22; 23:20-21 The Wise Know about Gluttony

Today is a most unusual theme in the proverbs—gluttony. Our proverbs are **Proverbs 21: 20** and **23: 20-21**.

1. Let's start with a definition of gluttony. Today we see it is *over-eating* but it is more than that, as it is an approach to the way one lives. It really is about the sin of not being able to wait and take things in proportion in life. It is the issue of self-discipline and delayed gratification. It is the spirit of excessiveness, over-indulgence, over – consumption.
2. It can apply to food, drink, money, personal care, etc. and can lead to wastefulness and even poverty or other things such as a total disfunctionality of life.
3. **Q.** *What is it to learn balance, moderation, temperance, and sometimes even abstinence in the Christian life?*
4. The Lord Jesus was falsely accused of being a glutton (**Luke 7:34**)
5. The Prodigal Son was a glutton and he repented of his sins. (**Luke 15:13**) Praise God there is hope.
6. It was said of John Stott that he was a model of simplicity. **Q.** *What might that mean?*

Prayer: *"Lord, so many things are neither bad nor good but to be used with discretion. It is wisdom to know what they are and how to use them wisely. Failure to discern has ruined many lives. Protect me and my loved ones from foolishness in regard to food and drink" and also..... Amen (TK)*

February 28th Read Proverbs 18:10-24 The Wise Know about the value of Friendship

Today is our last study for now on Proverbs. Lord willing, I will take it up again in January and February, 2018. Our final proverb concerns the wise knowing the value of true friendship.

1.Part A of Proverbs 18:24 speaks of having many friends and as in the KJV stresses, also the idea of being one who desires friends and is open to others not reclusive.

2. **Part B of Proverbs 18:24** stresses in this couplet portion that true friendship is mutual and reciprocal.

3. Jesus was given that wonderful title, *the friend of sinners*. Matthew 11:19. How true it is in your relationship with the Lord. You seek His friendship as your Saviour and Lord and you want to live mutually and reciprocally now for the Lord.

4. Now the basic application of Proverbs 18:24 is most profound in a culture which valued so highly the family. "Your family may be there for you but they may not really like you or understand you... A friend, however, may *stick* with you over the years *closer than a brother*... But remember how deliberate friendship must be....It must be carefully, intentionally cultivated through face-to-face time spent together..." Friends are constant, are transparent, are voluntary, are sensitive, and good for counsel. (TK)

5. **Q.** "How have your best friends over the years shaped and influenced you? Are you putting in the effort to be a friend?"

Prayer: "Lord Jesus, you befriended a handful of disciples and through those friendships you changed the world. Help me choose my friends wisely, cultivate them carefully, and learn all I should learn from them so I can grow into the person you've called me to be." Amen
(TK)