

December 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Kevin Olivier  
Proverbs 30:11-17 – “The Wicked & Insatiable”

- A. Perhaps there has been a trend throughout history wherein the older generation speaks ill of the younger one.
- B. The Proverbs are God’s practical wisdom to mankind. They teach us how we ought to live.
2. The Proverbs help teaching young people the ways of wisdom, holiness, & fruitfulness in this life.
  3. Today’s text warns against wickedness yet it also against the consequences of a wicked life.

God calls you to flee wickedness to embrace eternal life in Christ.	I. <u>FLEE WICKEDNESS</u> II. <u>FLEE THE FATE OF THE WICKED</u>
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I. FLEE WICKEDNESS — **Verses 11-14** give us various examples of heinous sins to flee. Each section is described as a “**kind**.” This Hebrew word here could also be described a “**generation**.”

A. Flee the sin of dishonoring your parents → **v11**

1. To call down a curse from God upon one or both of your parents is probably one of the greatest abuses of the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment which is to “**Honor your father and your mother**” (Ex 20:12a).
  - a. Even if your mother or father do something that you feel is absolutely wrong, it is not your place to ask God to damn or curse them in any way.
  - b. Later in today’s text, God condemns the mocking or scorning of a parent.
2. Another sin that is condemned here against parents is a sin of omission— honoring your parents involves praying to God for their blessing & sustaining grace.
  - a. Your parents need you to pray for them in such a fashion.
  - b. We are to pray for those who are in authority in our government (**1 Tim 2:1-2**). We ought to likewise pray for those who are in authority in the home as well.

B. Be on guard against pride. → **vv12-13**: “**There is a kind who is pure in his own eyes, yet is not washed from his filthiness.** <sup>13</sup>**There is a kind—oh how lofty are his eyes! & his eyelids are raised in arrogance.**”

1. Proud, arrogant eyes often point to an arrogant, proud heart which is opposed to God.
2. What do you have that God has not given you? Selfish pride shows you are not washed of sin.

C. Flee selfish oppression. → **v14**: “**There is a kind of man whose teeth are like swords & his jaw teeth like knives, to devour the afflicted from the earth & the needy from among men.**”

1. When you think about **v14**, perhaps your mind goes to an evil dictator, corrupt politician, or a heinous criminal.
  - a. What about those who have legal business practices yet take advantage of others?
  - b. What about those in the church who are like Judas who steal from God & His people?
    - 1) Mary Magdalene anointed the feet of Jesus with costly perfume & wiped His feet...
    - 2) Only John’s gospel tells us the reason why Judas rebuked her: “...<sup>6</sup> **he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, & as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it**” (**Jn 12:5-6**).
    - 3) Jesus warned the people to “**Beware of the scribes, ... who devour widows’ houses...**” (**Lu 20:46-47**).
2. **v15** tells us why some seek to devour the afflicted & needy rather than seek to help them. They are like blood-sucking leeches. → **v15**: “**The leech has 2 daughters, ‘Give,’ ‘Give.’**”
  - a. Some people are selfish & never content; they are never satisfied & are always greedy to take more & more even if it means harming others.
  - b. **Eph 4** “**He who steals must steal no longer; but rather he must labor, performing /c his own hands what is good, so that he will have something to share /c 1 who has need**” (28).

II. FLEE THE FATE OF THE WICKED → (2<sup>nd</sup> ½ of v15-v16) **“There are 3 things that will not be satisfied, 4 that will not say, “Enough”:** <sup>16</sup>Sheol, & the barren womb, earth that is never satisfied with water & fire that never says, “Enough.”

A. These verses should make you tremble at the thought of the everlasting punishment due to the wicked.

1. The word **“sheol”** can be translated as the grave yet it often represents a far worse place.
  - a. It can be also translated as “the underworld, hades, hell,” or “the pit”
  - b. Solomon said, **“Jealousy is as severe as Sheol; its flashes are flashes of fire, the very flame of the Lord”** (Song of Solomon 8:6b).
2. Neither death, nor the grave, nor hell will ever be satisfied until Jesus returns.
  - a. Perhaps you ate a ton of food yesterday at your Christmas celebration yesterday; yet, eventually you became satiated or satisfied.
  - b. That is not so with death, the grave, or hell.
    - 1) Because of the fall of our 1<sup>st</sup> parents, death will continue take people from this life.
    - 2) v16 tells us that fire is never satisfied; it **“never says ‘Enough.’”**
      - a) As long as there is combustible material— wood, straw, or other fuel to throw-in— it will burn forever & ever.
      - b) → Turn to Rev 14:9-11
        - i) Hell is not a place void of God’s presence; it is a place void of His grace & mercy because it has been rejected by the unbeliever. All is left is His wrath due not just for sin for the sinner.
        - ii) This fire will never be satiated & say “Enough.” **“...the smoke of their torment goes up forever & ever; they have no rest day & night,”**

B. Hell is not merely a place of eternal fire. It is a place described as being consumed in a horrid manner. v17 **“The eye that mocks a father & scorns a mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, & the young eagles will eat it.”**

1. **“Scorn”** can be translated as “to despise.” It is to act with contempt or a hateful manner.
2. This verse gives the image of a young person who dies while young because of such sin & isn’t given a proper burial; instead, their body left out in a field for ravens, eagles, & other wild animals to devour.
3. As horrible as this is, I believe this text should be applied to more than just the physical realm.
4. Jesus describes hell as a place of unquenchable, eternal fire yet also a place of dreadful eternal consumption. In Mark 9:48, He says of those who are cast into hell: **“their worm does not die, & the fire is not quenched.”**

Conclusion, review, & further application:

1. The good news of the gospel is that Jesus came to save sinners such as you & I.
2. Rev 14:13 says of those with sincere, saving faith in Jesus: **“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!”**