

“Insights into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 14:8-14

12/7/22

1. Always Think Through Your Course of Action – 8

“discern his way” – “way” refers to the path he is taking as he goes through life. The prudent person thinks things through and therefore isn’t easily deceived. He is able to look at 2 options and see what God sees in them.

“deceiving” – deceiving others or himself? Context indicates deceiving himself
Fools think their conduct is right
Proverbs 14:12; 16:25

2. Instead of Mocking Sin Repent of Sin – 9

“mock at the guilt offering” – they mock at the concept of sin and mock at the thought of feeling guilty for sin.

Jesus is our guilt offering. This folly is repeated today when people give no thought to the Substitutionary Atonement – 1 Corinthians 1:23

“upright” – unlike the fool, if the upright sins, he confesses to God (1 John 1:9) and makes it right with the offended (Matthew 5:23-26)

“acceptance” – acceptance with God and with others

3. Spend Time with the Lord Who Knows Your Sorrows and Joys – 10

“its own bitterness” – “bitterness” here doesn’t refer to what we might call a bitter spirit but it refers to deep sorrow, anguish

Each of us is a unique person and when we have sorrow, no one else can totally know it.

But the God Who created us knows (He sees the depths of our heart)

Psalms 44:21; Proverbs 15:11; Jeremiah 17:9-10

Jesus uniquely knows us (He is the God-Man) – Hebrews 4:15-16

“shares its joy” – since God knows our sorrow & joy as no one else does, He can turn our sorrow into joy – Jeremiah 31:13

4. Walk by Faith, Not by Sight – 11

“destroyed” – Jesus explained this in Matthew 7:24-27

“tent of the upright” – in contrast to a “house”. It is designed to be set up today & taken down and moved somewhere else tomorrow.

The Christian sees himself as a temporary resident down here. He is looking for a heavenly country – Hebrews 11:16

“flourish” – it is God that gives it stability and security

The Message: “Lives of careless wrongdoing are tumbledown shacks; holy living builds soaring cathedrals.”

The believer walks by faith and not by sight – Hebrews 11:1, 6

5. Trust in Christ Alone, Not in Your Good Works – 12

This proverb refutes the idea that sincerity in believing what you believe is all that matters.

“seems right to a man” – most non-believers see themselves as basically good and they believe that after death they will go to Heaven.

They are convinced that their way is right and it takes the intervention in their life by the Word of God used by the Holy Spirit to bring them under conviction – Romans 10:14-17

“way to death” – Proverbs 30:12

Matthew 7:13-14

6. Seek the Everlasting Joy of Christ – 13

“ache...grief” – heart ache and grief came into the world as a result of sin.

God has promised that someday they won't be experienced by His people – Revelation 21:3-5

In the meantime, the child of God has a joy even though we experience heart ache and grief:

Psalms 30:5b

Psalms 16:11

Galatians 5:22

Compare Jesus' promise to the disciples – John 16:19-22

7. Make Sure Good Fruit Is Being Produced by Your Life – 14

“backslider” – a person who has professed to love God and follow Christ but who has turned his back on Christ and is walking in rebellion against God.

The backslider is not the person who temporarily yields to temptation – Galatians 6:1

“good man” – the believer – he may sin but he repents

“filled with the fruit of his ways” – he will reap what he has sown – Galatians 6:7-8

This proverb is the lives of two “Sauls”:

- King Saul – 1 Sam 26:21
- Saul who became Paul – 2 Timothy 4:6-8