

Message #85

Proverbs 21:15-19

WISE PEOPLE CAREFULLY EXAMINE GOD'S WISE WAY OF LIFE AND ITS CONSEQUENCES, KNOWING THAT IT WILL BRING GREAT BLESSINGS IN THIS LIFE AND THE NEXT.

SUBJECT #1 – Righteousness or wickedness is determined by one's reaction to judgment.
21:15

The word “justice” is one that refers to judgment that is right and lawful according to the standards of God. The word “righteous” refers to one who is righteous and forensically right with God. The term “iniquity” refers to one who is wicked and false and is not forensically right with God. To one right with God, proper, right, lawful judgment is a joy. To one not right with God, it is devastating.

SUBJECT #2 – Wandering from righteousness leaves a person on a course of death. **21:16**

The word “wander” means to go astray or to err. The point is the one who wanders or strays from the wise ways of God is one who will end up in the assembly of the dead. The word “dead” refers to one who is very sick, near the point of literal death. One who wanders from the wise ways of God is destined for a very sick and dead existence, which may in fact end in a literal judgmental death.

SUBJECT #3 – Pursuing pleasure will leave a person on a course of poverty. **21:17**

The idea behind the word “love” is the idea of breathing after something. The point here is not to stress some ascetic form of life that never enjoys pleasurable things, rather this is written about the one who makes pleasure the sum mum bonum (ultimate good) of life. One who makes pleasure his or her primary passion will end up very poor. The second part of the proverb gives two objectives that can do this: oil and wine. Oil represents a pursuit of wealth and wine represents a pursuit of pleasure. One who breathes after these things will end up very poor.

SUBJECT #4 – Following wickedness will leave a person a ransom for the righteous. **21:18**

Here is a very deep and complex proverb which teaches that God will use wicked people in a sacrificial manner in order to make statements for His people and to protect His people. There will come a day when the wicked will be punished because of what they did to the righteous.

SUBJECT #5 – Living alone is better than living with an argumentative wife. **21:19**

This verse picks up the same theme as 21:9—be careful in your spouse selection because the wrong spouse can make your life miserable. The word “vexing” refers to a woman who is always irritable, provoked and mad. In 21:9, Solomon says it is better to be on a roof; in 21:19, he says it is better to live in a wilderness than to live with this kind of woman.