

Probing Proverbs into a Man's Life

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When I was a boy, I remember playing an old game called "Operation." It consisted of a probe and various plastic body parts that one had to place within the human body. Each part had to be placed in its appropriate place without touching the sides. If you touched the sides a buzzer would go off and you would get no points. In this study we are going to perform an operation on men by probing into their lives. Some buzzers may go off along the way to get the attention of men. If we are traveling in a wrong direction as a father or man we need to make the decision to change the direction of our life.

God expects us to take a good look at ourselves (1 Cor. 11:28) and investigate the kind of man we have been in relationship to God, our job, daily routine, and family. The Word of God can act as a probe that reveals what is wrong with our lives as men (Heb. 4:12; 2 Tim. 3:16-17) so we might clean up our lives and live according to God's design ("ye are clean through the word" - John 15:3). God's Word reveals the spiritual defects and problem areas within our lives much like the probe of a surgeon reveals the problem areas in the physical human body. The Proverbs that we will investigate in this study are those clear references which involve the life and role of a man.

There are five sets of proverbs that probe into a man's life.

A. Man is to be a good father.

Proverbs 17:21

"He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy."

Proverbs 17:25 adds:

"A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him."

Proverbs 19:13 declares:

"A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping."

These verses probe deeply into a man's life. They reveal the truth that the son can become a sorrow, grief, and calamity ("disaster") to his father. The family is filled with calamities today. The reason for all of these calamity cases is because fathers are not willing to invest their time with their children and give them proper discipline and training. The foolish acts, undisciplined life, and unspiritual living of a son can bring shame and reproach upon a father's name. A reckless son will disappoint his father greatly and cause heartache for him. This is stating a fact of life. Foolish and undisciplined children are normally the result of negligence in the training process. For the most part fathers are saddened by foolish children because of their failure to train their children, discipline them, and set the proper spiritual example in the home. This is the normal and usual outcome of negligence on the father's part.

Exodus 20:5

"Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth *generation* of them that hate me."

Generally speaking, the life of the father lives on within the life of his children. A father reproduces himself. This is an incredible and probing truth for every father. Your life will be passed down to future generations to come. You will still be alive after you are dead. May God help every father to see this. What you are today will be passed on to the lives of your offspring for generations to come. This is why training and tutoring children is so vitally important for every father. Children will for the most part follow the male example. The impression of a father will leave its indelible mark upon the child. Dad, if you are naive enough to think that your son will not be like you, then you are going to be dealing with a foolish son in the future.

If you are not careful how you live, if you are not committed to the Lord, if you are carnal in your living ("ye are yet carnal" - 1 Cor. 3:3), then don't expect your children to be any different. Your children will follow your footsteps in many ways. Is that scary to you today? Does this truth probe into your heart? Your child will be what you are. Do you want them to live like you are living? Do you want them to follow the same path that you are following?

As fathers we should practice spending more time with our children and teach them the spiritual lessons that they will need for their future living. We should remember the great significance of instilling Biblical values and virtues within the hearts and lives of our children, teaching them the fear of the Lord (Prov. 1:7), and how to live holy and wisely in the midst of a wicked world (Phil. 2:15). If we fail in this process, we can be sure that our son or child will grow up to be a disappointment to us. The Bible says a wise son brings joy to his father (Prov. 10:1; 15:20).

Proverbs 17:6

“Children’s children *are* the crown of old men; and the glory of children *are* their fathers.”

This verse is suggesting that children are the reflection of the father. It is saying that grandchildren (“children’s children”), or the children of the father’s own children can be a “crown” (ornament of beauty and honor) to a father who is now a grandpa (“old men”), since he has taken the time to instill godly values in his own children. The flipside of this is that children who have been raised properly and taught how to live spiritually and godly are proud of their fathers (“and the glory of children are their fathers”). Children want to express recognition and honor to their father when he has taken the time to instill within them godly principles that will last a life time.

When you throw or skip a stone across the water you can see a rippling effect that occurs throughout the water. It moves across the water until you can no longer see its effects. There is a rippling effect that occurs when fathers raise their children properly. The beauty of a godly life ripples down to the next generation of the family line. If dad does his job with his own children, then this will have a profound effect upon the grandchildren. Sadly, there are fathers today who are passing down a type of unspiritual rippling effect upon their children and grandchildren. Even sadder, the children and grandchildren will pass down the same type of unspiritual and uncommitted lifestyle to their children.

There is only one person who can stop this unspiritual transmission. It’s a father. Dad, God’s finger is pointing at you! Let God’s finger probe deep into your soul. “Adam, where art thou?” (Gen. 3:9). Some

of you fathers need to let God get a hold of your life and shake you up. You are not committed to the Lord and your children are going to be the same way. One preacher said it as straightforward as I have ever heard any preacher say it. He declared, "You'll be sorry!"

This verse in Proverbs 17:6 also suggests that when fathers train their children properly the wide generation gap will not exist between the older and younger generations. The older men will be honored and respected. Today there is a great gap between the older and younger Christian generation, between the grandpas and grandchildren. The young Christian children want to sing Christian rock music and look like the world in many ways. Why? What is the reason for such a gap or difference in the two generations? In some cases, it's because the younger generation has lacked training by their fathers. Somewhere along the way fathers have become lax and lazy instilling the needed spiritual values within the lives of their children. The end result will always be a gap or difference between the two generations. Grandpa may be living off of the spiritual direction that his father gave to him but the grandchildren may have lacked proper discipline from their own father and not continue the spiritual line.

We can summarize the departure of the present generation in this way. To our Christian forefathers (ancestors) the doctrine of separation or holiness was a *conviction*. To many of our Christian grandfathers the doctrine of separation was received as an *inheritance*. To the fundamental Christian parents of these grandfathers the doctrine of separation or holiness has grown to be a *convenience*. To many children of these same Christian parents the doctrine of separation has become a *nuisance*.

Beloved, this is why there is a desperate need to pass down the commands and principles of Biblical separation and teach how our separation is an act of priestly worship rendered up to God (Rom. 12:1-2; 1 Pet. 2:5). The present generation needs to be taught how to walk in the light (1 John 1:5-7) and live according to God's holiness (1 Pet. 1:15-16).

Proverbs 20:6-7

"Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful

man who can find? The just *man* walketh in his integrity: his children *are* blessed after him.”

Men, if you want your children to be blessed after you, then instill within them the commands and principles of Bible separation and godliness. Teach them the values of godly living and what the vices are which steer them away from God’s righteous path. The Bible teaches that parents should lovingly shelter their children from the world system, teach them the principles of truth, and reprove them when necessary (Prov. 1:15; 2:1-4; 3:1-4, 11-12; 4:10-15, 20-23; 5:1-3; 6:20-23; 7:1-3; 23:15-17; 23:26; 24:21-23; Deut. 6:6-9; Prov. 22:6; Eph. 6:4; Heb. 12:7).

This sheltering (not smothering), teaching, and reproving ministry is a necessary part of parenting, so that children will be able to face the world without mother and father, as they grow to maturity. This is one of the most basic and needful ministries that parents are expected to do for their children as they grow and mature. Nevertheless, the modern mentality of evangelical freethinking has blind-sighted many present day Christians to this timeless aspect of parental sheltering and love.

In Proverbs 20:6-7 we find three different virtues that should be part of every man’s life. Don’t pass over them so quickly.

1. Faithfulness

This is God speaking to your life today as a man. When God speaks you should listen. First, there is the matter of faithfulness (vs. 6 – “a faithful man”). God wants you to be faithful to your marriage, job, church, family, and to the Lord in general. Remember that faithfulness in all of these areas is what makes a man and also shapes your children. Promptness, finishing a job well, and keeping your appointments with God are part of a man’s life. When a man becomes lax in his marital relationship, lazy on the job, and uncommitted to God and to the church, then he is being unfaithful.

You can be sure that children will spot unfaithfulness within the man’s life. Our children can see hypocrisy and unfaithfulness. If you are not faithful to the many details of life and to God’s will and program for

your life, then you are not being the kind of man that God wants you to be.

Please note that most men just talk about how important it is to be faithful in life and try to mention all the good things that they do (“most men will proclaim every one his own goodness”). There is a lot of talk going on today. However, many fathers and men are all talk and no show. Many men talk about their goodness but do not demonstrate it before their children. The reason I say this is because the text follows up with the all-important question, “... but a faithful man who can find?” In other words, many men do a lot of talking, but when it gets right down to it, they don’t practice a whole lot of faithful living. This is the bottom line. The fact is that many men are not faithful to God no matter how many times they pat themselves on the back and try to convince people of their good living. Many honest fathers could really say to their children, “Do as I say and don’t do as I do.” They are all talk but no show.

Some men are like the old dentist that I went to see because one of my teeth was cracked. He told me that he couldn’t do anything for me at the present time until my tooth cracked further and then charged me for telling me that he couldn’t do anything for me. Before I left he told me that I should not eat pretzels anymore because they are hard on my teeth. Then he said to me with a smile on his face, “Do as I say, don’t do as I do.”

Talk is cheap. God is saying to you men to put your walk where your talk is. This is God’s word for every Christian man in our present generation. You are to demonstrate outward faithfulness by the life that you live. You should be faithful to God, church, and your family. God and your children are looking for one thing in your life – faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 4:2

“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.”

Let the Word of God speak for itself! Stop talking about it and start living it! Put away your “how to do” manuals and start living a faithful example before God and your family. Don’t be like the man of Psalms 15:4 who swears or makes an oath to do something and then never

does it. That's cheap talk. "He that sweareth to *his own* hurt, and changeth not." Men, when you are going to change? Some men talk the walk and some men walk the talk.

2. Righteousness

The man is also to be "just" in his manner of living (Prov. 20:7). This attribute means that he is to be righteous in his lifestyle and demonstrate real holiness before his children. Do you know what children need today? They need a holy father. I'm not talking about a Roman Catholic Father sitting in the Vatican but a father that sits in the home and demonstrates what it means to live a righteous life in a world that has gone stark raven mad! Children need a father who is righteous and holy in his actions and manner of living. They need to hear righteous words and not degrading words coming forth from his lips. They need to see a life that is genuine and reflects the fruit of the spirit (Gal. 5:22-23). Far too often men live by the flesh of their old humanity instead of the fruit of their new nature. God is looking for fruit - not flesh! God is looking for holiness and righteous living. This is what makes a real man! It's not the muscles on his arms. The true measure of man is seen in his righteous living which reflects God's character. *Righteous living is right living*. Men, do right! Make the right decisions in life and move in the right direction in life. Stop making bad choices. The ball is in your court.

"Do right till the stars fall
Do right till the last call
Do right when you're all alone
Do right, do right!"

3. Integrity

Next there is the attribute of "integrity" (Prov. 20:7). Integrity carries the idea of being well rounded or complete as a person in life. It would suggest that you are upright and honest as a person in all of your dealings within life. A man of integrity has uncompromising adherence to moral and ethical principles, soundness of moral character, and honesty. A man of integrity is a man of respect. God is not looking for the Marlboro man but a man of integrity. God wants us to be honest, upright, and straightforward in all that we do in life. God

is looking for spiritual and ethical integrity. We should be a man that can be respected by our family, society, and God. God is not looking for shady dads but trustworthy dads. He is looking for men who follow His Word, stand by the truth, and who do what is right no matter what.

I was visiting an elderly woman not long ago. Many times when I go visit godly saints, who are bedridden, they become a greater blessing to me than I have been to them. This particular godly woman said to me, "Pastor, stick by the stuff!" Those words penetrated deep into my heart. As men, God wants us to stick by the stuff. He wants us to maintain integrity by standing upon the Bible, not compromising truth, and being obedient to what the Bible tells us to do. Men of integrity stick by the stuff.

We see by these attributes that the measure of a man is his life of faithfulness, righteousness and integrity. If you are not practicing these attributes, then you are not a real man. You are not a spiritual man who is concerned about his walk before his family, society, and God. God is looking for men today, men who are faithful, righteous and full of integrity.

So what is the result when a man lives by God's standards for His life? The Bible says in Proverbs 20:7 that "his children are blessed after him." You heard correctly! Your children will be affected by the way that you live and present yourself to God. In an old commentary on the book of Proverbs, David Thomas said: "The destiny of children greatly depends upon their parents. The sap in the roots shapes the branch, and gives its character to the fruit."

Children are blessed and properly directed in life by the man who is practicing Biblical manhood – not worldly manhood. Children are greatly blessed in life when they have a father who is faithful, righteous, and full of integrity before others and God. Children are blessed with the example, training, and habits that they receive from a man or father that is faithful, righteous, and filled with integrity. Children who have a father who is unfaithful, unloving, uncommitted, and unruly in his life are not blessed but cursed. These children ought to be pitied.

It has been said that one day Plato saw a child doing mischief in the street and immediately went to the father to correct the father. There are a lot of fathers who need to be corrected today. They need someone to go up and talk to them about the error of their ways (James 5:20) and their need to wake up (Eph. 5:14) before it's too late (Gal. 6:7). What we need today are fathers who are willing to be corrected. We need men who are willing to face the probing correction of God, so they will save their own immediate family and the generations to come from much spiritual unrest and turmoil.

God has each man today on roll call. He is telling each man to stand up straight and salute Him. He is demanding your loyalty to Him. God deserves it and your children will be blessed by it. They will be blessed with your example of loyalty to God and grow up with godly habits and proper training that they have learned from your lips and lifestyle.

Proverbs 23:24 declares:

“The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise *child* shall have joy of him.”

Dad, you must create a wise child. Wise children just don't happen by chance. They are not a freak of nature as people say today. Wise fathers produce wise children (Proverbs 1). A wise father will instruct his children to live right and do right. He will provide proper training and discipline for his children. We must remember that discipline was not created to make a child miserable but wise! When a father is willing to discipline his children they will bring joy to him in the future. Their life and dedication to God will bring great rejoicing and blessing to his heart.

Proverbs 28:7

“Whoso keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous *men* shameth his father.”

When your child starts hanging around with the wrong crowd at school and becomes influenced by the lifestyle of the unsaved, or even the crowd of modern worldly Christianity, you will be shamed as a dad and father. The word “companion” speaks of flocking together as sheep would do. The idea is that your children can very easily flock with the wrong crowd and be swept away with the pressure of

the unsaved and worldly crowd. The expression “riotous men” speaks of someone that is shaky morally. They are loose or lax in their morals and manner of living.

Let me be very frank with you men today. You will be sorry if you let your children go running around with the unsaved and worldly crowd. They will steal away the heart of your child and cause them to be swept away in the unsaved, carnal, and worldly living. God says that your child will bring shame to you if you let them team up with the unsaved and present worldly generation. Men, you better teach your children the principle of Bible separation. We are to win the unsaved but not become like them! When your child is that close to the unsaved that he is pressured to become like them, then he is too close! You had better do something about it dad! God is talking to you! Men, you had better wake up before it's too late. You will be shamed if you don't teach your children the principle of Bible separation.

Psalm 119:63

“I *am* a companion (“associate”) of all *them* that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.”

The idea behind the word “companion” is to be in a close association with another person. It refers to a tightly knit relationship where two people are very close together. The close friends that you are to have as a Christian father and the close friends that your children are to have, must be saved friends, who are walking in accordance with the Bible. Our closest friends should not be with the unsaved or even with Christians who live like the unsaved (2 Thess. 3:6).

Let me throw a few more Bible verses at you. Take these to heart as a dad.

2 Corinthians 6:14 says:

“Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?”

The idea behind being “yoked together” suggests a very close relationship that is tightly knit and interwoven together. Two animals

would be yoked together for farming work. The concept of the “unequal yoke” comes from Deuteronomy 22:10, “Thou shalt not plow with an ox and an ass (donkey) together.” The ox was a clean animal to the Jews, but the ass (donkey) was not (Deut. 14:1–8). Therefore, it would be wrong to yoke them together. Furthermore, their step and pull are not unequal; therefore, it would be cruel to bind them to each other. In the same way, it is wrong for believers to be yoked together with unbelievers since both have different value systems and different outlooks on life. Our steps and pull are not the same (Ps. 37:23). The saved and unsaved have two opposite natures and would not work well together in relationships and religious or spiritual endeavors.

The principle being taught is this. Believers are not to be yoked or closely tied together with the unbelievers of this world in religious association and close friendships. If this occurs, then there will be friction and problems between the two and an unholy alliance will be created. This is exactly what happens when you try to join together with the unsaved. The believer is to be yoked with Christ and not with unbelievers (Matthew 11:28-29).

1 Corinthians 15:33 says:

“Be not deceived: evil communications (companionships) corrupt (spoil, ruin or defile) good manners (moral habits).”

Men, I am asking you to wake up and protect your child from the unequal yoke. If you allow your children to develop strong relationships with the unsaved then you will be sorry. You will be shamed by the way that your child turns out.

Proverbs 28:7 once again states:

“Whoso keepeth the law *is* a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous *men* shameth his father.”

God wants your children to be holy. What do you want for them? What kind of father are you anyway? Do you even understand the basics of Bible separation? I am teaching this truth to you from a pastor’s heart but I am also sharing it with conviction. I will not candy coat the true doctrine of Bible separation. What is true is true. God says that strong and close relationships must be with born again, blood washed, and Bible obedient believers.

Some of the modern evangelical fathers of today are saying they don't want to smother their children. What do they mean by this statement? Furthermore, where do they get these kinds of statements? It's probably from some half-baked preacher or some humanistic, child psychology, article that they have read. God's Word declares we are not a real man or father if we don't lead our families in the way of separation or holiness. Joshua said something long ago that should become a motivating factor for every father.

Joshua 24:15

"And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

Did you catch what Joshua said? Joshua was speaking for his household which God had put him in charge of as the man. Men, it's time for you stand up and say it the way it is, and stop compromising with your children. You need to wake up and smell the coffee! You need to lead your family in the way of truth and the "paths of righteousness" (Ps. 23:3).

One son has written a little article that has a strong message. It is a small article with a big punch. It is called "My dad."

"When I was growing up I was sure that I had two of the greatest parents that any boy could have. And I was right. My mother was a woman who was loving, tender, and kind. She was so understanding. My dad was a hard worker and good provider in every sense of the word. He liked to take me hunting and fishing – we enjoyed each other's company.

As I continued to "grow up" I noticed a big change in my dad. The man who at one time had been a faithful Christian, was now unfaithful to the Lord. My mother talked to him countless times. Preachers, elders, Christian friends pleaded with him to return to his first love. But he didn't listen. Once in a while he would go to services, an occasional Sunday night service, even then only once or twice every couple of months. If dad would have lived long enough, I am

confident he would have been restored, BUT HE DIED. It was on a Saturday night, I'll never forget. He had mowed the yard and had just taken a shower. He sat down to read the paper and fell asleep in his chair, never to wake up again.

Dad had just turned 48 a month before. He had never been sick a day in his life. But, he died very quickly, quicker than I ever dreamed possible. He died leaving behind five children, a loving wife, and a host of memories. Some of the memories are really great, but they slide into the background when one over-riding thought comes to mind. He was unfaithful to the Lord.

I've got a son now that is a year old and I love him very much. I hope my son never has to go through the sleepless, crying nights because of the fact that I was unfaithful. I hope I'll always be faithful to God. I hope I'll bring my son up in such a way that causes him to love God more. It's my duty, responsibility and a promise I made to God."

B. Man is to be a good hunter.

1. The lazy hunter

Proverbs 12:27

"The slothful *man* roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man *is* precious."

Most men love to hunt. Some of you hunters like to go hunting for turkeys when they are in season. The problem with many of you hunters is that you come home empty handed after the hunting season and end up buying a Butterball Turkey at the store for Thanksgiving! I hear all the turkey stories as men talk in the back foyer of the church. "We heard them gobbling 25 yards away and could see them through the brush. They were the biggest turkeys we have ever seen. We were calling them in when all of a sudden I fell out of the tree stand!" The wives could probably get together and write a book called "Great Turkey Stories of the Past Century." What happens to most hunters? Well, the bird makes a turkey out of the man!

The next proverb we are investigating speaks about the man who is a hunter. However, this particular man is a hunter who does not value the turkey that he does shoot. This “slothful” (lazy) hunter evidently does not roast what he has taken in hunting. He lacks the drive to finish what he began. He also shoots for sport and does not value the prize of his hard efforts. The proverb goes on to say that the “substance” (wealth) of a diligent man is very “precious” (valuable) to him. In other words, a hunter who shoots a turkey will value or treasure that bird and make good use out of the meat. There will be roast turkey and stuffing on Thanksgiving Day. He will finish what he shot by plucking the bird and getting it ready for roasting. So the “diligent” (active and hard working) hunter values what he has worked for and uses it to the best advantage. Ruth was like this for she beat out what she had gleaned (Ruth 2:17).

The lesson of this proverb is that we must learn to be hard workers and not become lazy and lethargic in life. We must learn to finish what we do. The lazy man leaves half-completed jobs wherever he goes. Men, many times we can become lazy in our jobs and even in the spiritual things that God has called us to do. Whatever we do, we are to do it with great diligence. We are to put much effort into it. This same truth is echoed forth in Proverbs 12:24 which reads: “The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.” God is looking for diligent (hard working) men and fathers who are not lazy and carefree in their approach to life. We are to be men of commitment to whatever secular job God has called us to (Titus 2:9) and whatever spiritual job that He wants us to do (Matt. 6:33).

When I was a boy, I would eat lunch with my grandmother. In those days they were still using the railroad. Sometimes when we were eating, poorly dressed men would come walking past the house making their way to the railroad tracks. We used to call them “bums.” They would try to hitch a free ride on the train and try to freeload from one place to another. These fellows knew when it was lunchtime. They just happened to be passing by when the soup and sandwiches were on the table!

The whole point of this proverb is not hard to interpret. Don’t become a secular or spiritual bum in life. Sitting around and being lazy is the mark of a slothful man. There is no honor or respect that comes to a

“slothful” or lazy man. God is looking for “stick to it” men and not slothful men. God is looking for hunters that finish the job.

I remember watching a Moody Science film called “The Sloth.” The sloth was some kind of animal that did not move very much. It just hung around in a tree and did nothing but move slowly. This animal was a slow-moving, tropical animal, having hooklike claws. It usually can be seen hanging upside down in a tree. You can tell that this was a very interesting and exciting film!

Men, don’t be a sloth! Don’t become lazy in the work that God has called you to do both in the secular and sacred world. You are to finish the things that God expects you to complete (“The slothful *man* roasteth not that which he took in hunting”). God is not looking for men who are hanging around in trees; He is looking for men who are willing to get out and finish the job that God has called them to do. A man shames himself when he fails to work hard in life and finish the things that God has called him to do. God is looking for serving men - not slothful men.

Romans 12:11

“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.”

The church needs faithful men. The church needs men who are willing to finish the spiritual work that God has called them to do. What any pastor needs within the local church are faithful men who will stick to the necessary matters of church ministry and life. The pastor is looking for men who will stand by him and work hard in the service of the King. Many pastors have a bunch of “sloths” in their congregations who are hanging upside down in the tree called Christendom (Matt. 13:32). They feel comfortable in their ecclesiastical castles and are spiritually lazy. They don’t want to commit themselves to anything. They lack faithfulness and commitment to Christ’s cause and work. Are you a sloth?

Proverbs 22:29 declares:

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean (insignificant or low) *men*.”

This simply means if you want to be honored before any king or person in leadership, such as an employer or pastor, then you must

learn to be a diligent, hard working servant in this life. More importantly God will honor us in the future for all of our diligence, when we stand before Him (2 Cor. 5:10; Heb. 6:10).

Another lesson from this proverb (Prov. 12:27) is that a lazy hunter does not really value what he shoots when he fails to roast and eat his game. A lazy person does not really value what he owns and those things that God has given to him. We should value what we own and consider all that we have as a blessing from God (“the substance of a diligent man is precious”). Our home, family, and church are all blessings from the hand of God. Like the lazy hunter, the lazy man fails to see these things as blessings from the Lord and does not value them, as he should. We should appreciate all the things that God has given to us and not take them for granted.

James 1:17 says:

“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.”

As men we need to thank God today for our family, home, church, and God’s provisions for our lives. When we value what God has given to us we will endeavor to keep the church property nice, our families spiritual, and be willing to do our part in God’s work (“the substance of a diligent man is precious”). What is most precious to your life today? God or your golf clubs? The Bible or your bank account? The family or fishing? Where does your true treasure lie (Matt. 6:21).

2. The crazy hunter

Proverbs 26:18-19

“As a mad *man* who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, So *is* the man *that* deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?”

This is another proverb that portrays man as a hunter of a different sort. This section in Proverbs introduces a crazy hunter who is shooting flaming arrows everywhere. After it’s all over he comes to his neighbor and says that it all was just one big joke, or it was done in “sport” (out of laughter, for fun, play). This of course is humor in

bad taste. Humor is a delightful gift from God (Prov. 17:22) but it can be misused. The proverb is saying that when a person deceives or fools his neighbor in some manner (“deceiveth his neighbour), he is like a wild man who shoots arrows all over the place, which might even bring death to some people (“a mad *man* who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death”), and then comes along and says it was all just a big joke (“in sport”). Even if this man was only playing a trick, it was hardly funny. Good humor does not laugh at another man’s discomfort and misfortunes. The prankster shows insensitivity toward other people. The wild hunter claimed that his shooting rage was all just a big joke but this was not really the case. He was only trying to deceive others and cover up his tracks.

Deception (“the man *that* deceiveth”) seems to be in the forefront of the mind of the writer. God does not want us to become deceptive and manipulative in our conduct and actions before others. This is what this particular hunter did. He shot flaming arrows at people and tried to cover up his actions by calling the whole ordeal a joke. Men, we are called upon to be straightforward and honest in our dealings with others. We must understand that all deception and trickery is never God honoring and is certainly not a sign of true friendship.

Romans 12:17 says:

“Provide things honest in the sight of all men.”

Edward Young once wrote:

“A foe to God was ne'er true friend to man, some sinister intent taints all he does.”

God wants us to be sincere and without hypocrisy in our approach to living. Lying, deceit, and trickery will never be condoned in the life of the man of God (1 Tim. 6:11).

Philippians 1:10

“That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.”

God wants men who are willing to present themselves before others truthfully since God hates “a lying tongue” (Prov. 6:17). Deceitfulness and trickery are things that God despises (Mark 7:21-22; 1 Thess. 2:3). God wants us to have a genuine heart for people and

demonstrate this in all of our actions and conduct. Shooting flaming arrows at others (Prov. 18:8), while claiming that you are concerned about them, is trickery of the worst sort. Be genuine. Be real! God is looking for the real deal.

A farmer was detained for questioning about an election scandal. "Did you sell your vote?" the attorney asked. "No sir, not me," the farmer protested. "I voted for that there fella cause I liked him." "Come, now," threatened the attorney. "I have evidence that he gave you fifty dollars for a vote." "Well, now," the farmer said, "It's plain common sense that when a fella gives you fifty dollars you like him."

Dearly beloved, we must stop trying to deceive ourselves and others. Don't be like the crazy hunter in this proverb.

C. Man is to be a good businessman.

We now come to the world of banking and business. The man in Proverbs is seen to be a shrewd type of businessman. He tries to receive and regulate his money in an unjust manner. How you use your money is important to God. In these verses we are told how men can abuse money.

Proverbs 11:16

"A gracious (kindhearted) woman retaineth honour: and strong *men* retain riches."

The word for "strong" speaks of a ruthless man without any scruples. We have a lot of men like this in the world today. They live in the corporate world and live by the "dog eat dog" philosophy. They live for themselves and have no scruples in their business transactions of life. This particular man is seen to be the opposite of the gracious or kindhearted woman who retains honor and has respect for her character and reputation as a person. However, the ruthless man who gains riches by his lack of scruples, improper business transactions, and personal greed, stands in contrast to the gracious woman of this proverb.

Proverbs 11:18

"The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward."

The worldly businessman with his bag full of tricks is only out for himself. He is a deceitful worker and will not possess a good character and reputation in his dealings with people. Men, you can't hide your true character. The way that you obtain money tells a lot about your character and will also send a message to others about the kind of person you really are. Bad business decisions and transactions in life will leave a mark on your reputation. For instance, when you don't pay your bills on time (Rom. 13:8), or when you earn money deceitfully, you can be sure that word will get around the community. God is looking for clear-cut honesty when it comes to money transactions. Don't work under the counter or try to be shady in your business affairs of life. You will quickly mark yourself as a man without scruples if you try to take advantage of people.

Proverbs 18:16

"A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men."

This verse speaks of bribery but it is not condoning it. It is actually placing a black mark upon the worldly businessman who is out for himself and bribing people in order to fulfill his plan or greedy scheme in life. This sounds like the modern world of business and politics. When you give gifts to the right people, you can open certain doors for yourself and advance in life ("maketh room for him"). This is simply a stated fact. However, God is not suggesting that you act in this manner. God does not want you to give something to someone in order to get a return from them in the future ("and bringeth him before great men").

Some people will do anything in order to excel or get ahead in life. They take advantage of others through their techniques of bribery and expect something in return. Men, God does not want us to operate in this fashion. When you give to others expecting a hand out in the future, this is called bribery. The man in this particular proverb is not a good banker. He is a cheat possessing a conniving type of character that always has his own program and bank account in view ("his own cause" – 18:17). Remember that there are always two sides to a story. The conniving man may say that his cause is just but another person can see through his little scheme ("his neighbor cometh and searcheth him" – 18:17b). Riches have always inspired

falsehood and profiteering. The endless quest for money on religious TV shows demonstrates that this is true. Many of these TV preachers are scam artists running religious rackets.

Proverbs 22:16

“He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.”

When it comes to making money, some people imitate General Custer and his famous word - "Charge." They charge into the business world of money and dreams and try to make a buck any way they can, even if it hurts people, or uses people in the process. Some even devour widows houses as Jesus taught (Matt. 23:14).

J.H. Jowett said something that I never forgot:

“The real measure of our wealth is how much we'd be worth if we lost all our money.”

The love of money (1 Tim. 6:10) and the treasures on earth (Matt. 6:19) can easily rule our hearts as men and lead us to do things that are dishonest or unchristian in character and conduct. Something else that you need to remember is this: “True happiness lies not in the greatness of your possessions, but in the fewness of your wants.”

D. Man is to be a good lover.

The Bible teaches that man is a lover. He longs for the love and companionship of the opposite sex. This is the way God designed him (Gen. 2:21-25). Certain proverbs bring this truth out in a very clear fashion.

1. Wedded love

Proverbs 5:15-21

“Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, *and* rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. *Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe*; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love.

And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.”

This is certainly up-to-date in a world polluted by pornography and programs on TV that are designed to lead men into sex relationships with other women. Man is portrayed in these verses as a lover of his own wife. This is what God expects of every husband. Our hearts devotion and physical desires should be directed toward our own wife. We commit a terrible sin when our physical passions are directed toward other women. God is not pleased with our life when our passions become shifted outside the marriage bond. God wants you to fulfill your natural God-given passions with your wife.

There can be no mistake about it. God says your wife is to be your only lover. We live in a world that has adopted a playboy philosophy. The spiritual erosion of morals is the telling sign that a society has lost its spiritual moorings (Rom. 1:21-28). People are doing that which is right in their own eyes and heart (“the way of a fool is right in his own eyes” - Prov. 12:15). However, in the midst of this sea of Internet pornographic adultery and playboy philosophy God is demanding that you as a man remain absolutely faithful to your wife.

Proverbs 5:15-17 introduces the pictorial truth about physical passions. The picture is very clear to see. You drink out of your “own” cistern, you drink out of your “own” well (vs. 15). Your physical passion toward your own wife is compared to these water sources. She alone is to bring your physical refreshment in life. In other words, sexual desires should be controlled and channeled in one’s marriage, not directed outside the marriage relationship.

Proverbs 5:3

“For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil.”

Proverbs 5:8

“Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house.”

In other words, be faithful to your own wife. Drink from your own water source. In the East water was scarce and was very precious. It was not shared. As a person would never drink water from his neighbor's cistern (2 Kings 18:31), so a man should have his physical needs met by his own wife, not someone else's. There is no need to drink from another well. There is no need to be promiscuous within your marriage relationship. Sexual purity is very important in the Christian life.

Proverbs 5:16-17 continue to describe the man's delight within the refreshing waters of marital love. The springs of satisfying physical love are to be lavishly poured out within the confines of the marriage relationship, as depicted by the springs flowing everywhere, and the streams of waters flowing within the streets ("Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers or waters in the streets"). The water of marital refreshment is to flow freely and be enjoyed within the confines of the marriage relationship.

Once again, all of the fountains of love and passion are to stay within the boundaries of the marriage relationship. The man is to enjoy the refreshing effects of physical passion only with his wife within the marriage bond ("Let them be only thine own" - vs. 17). There is to be no sharing of physical desires or springs of water outside the marriage bond ("not strangers with thee" - vs. 17). God cannot make the picture any clearer. Let the water of physical passion flow within the marriage (vs. 16) but do not let it flow outside the marriage (vs. 17).

Proverbs 5:18

"Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."

This verse actually interprets the whole picture for us. The man's fountain of bubbling physical desires is to be fulfilled with his own wife. Marital love with one's wife is pictured as enjoying one's own spring. As verse 16 suggests, the man's fountains of bubbling physical passions are to be totally unleashed within the marriage relationship.

Proverbs 5:19 declares:

"Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."

This verse points out the need for a man to be physically satisfied with his own wife. The phrase “loving hind” (female deer) and a “pleasant roe” (female mountain goat)” is a reference to animals commonly used in poetry as figures of female beauty and endearment (see Song 4:5). The man is to find in his wife great beauty and delight. Her natural physical attractions to him are full of beauty, even as these animals portray. Therefore, man as a lover is to always be “ravished” (intoxicated) with the physical love of his own wife. Her love is to captivate his heart and bring refreshment and fulfillment to his life.

There is something that is very wonderful, marvelous or extraordinary for any man to do. Proverbs 30:18-19 states is this way: “There be three *things which* are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid (a newly married virgin woman).”

There is something that is just indescribable about a man with a woman. God has created pleasure within the marriage. It’s not something dirty within the context of the marriage relationship. As the eagle, snake, and ship move about into uncharted territory with ease and grace, so it is on the honeymoon night for the married couple. There is virgin territory as they pursue their affection toward each other. There is great wonder, amazement, and newness in the life of a married couple who give all their devotion to each other in the physical realm. There will be the spring of refreshment, intoxication, and joy.

Men, you may need to redirect your passions only toward your wife instead of other women. You may need to get your eyes off the smut channels of Hollywood and the pornography on the Internet. God wants the fountain of passion to flow within your own marriage. Like Job, you need to purpose within your heart to suppress those strong physical desires that seek fulfillment outside the marriage bond.

Job 31:1

“I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?”

Job made an agreement with God to not look lustfully at another

woman. He firmly purposed in his heart not to do it. Paul made a point to bring his body under subjection by God's power (1 Cor. 9:24-27). Purity is a decision! Cleansing yourself is a personal commitment (2 Cor. 7:1). Do it! God is holy and He wants you to be holy in the realm of your heart (Matt. 5:28) and in all manner of living (1 Pet. 1:15-16).

2. Adulterous lust

Hebrews 13:4

“Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”

God hates all adultery and promiscuous sex whether it's within or outside the marriage relationship. Man was created as a lover, but this love must be channeled in the right way and reserved exclusively for the marriage partner, or else it becomes lust. There is no such thing as free love! There is no such thing as free sex. Sex outside of the marriage relationship will cost you something (1 Cor. 6:18). Sin always costs you something (Gal. 6:7-8). The devil wants us to believe that we can grab the bait and somehow avoid the consequences that are attached to it. Of course, this is the trick of the devil (Eph. 6:11). Adultery is a growing problem in our land today. A world filled with debased sexual practices accepts adultery as part of a postmodern society. However, God has never condoned or accepted adultery or any sexual deviation from the marriage relationship.

a. There is the peril of adultery.

Proverbs 6:26-33 warns: “For by means of a whorish woman *a man is brought* to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life. Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned? Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned? So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. *Men* do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But *if* he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house. *But* whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.”

God is saying that adultery will strip a man of all his dignity, integrity, and purity in life. This is portrayed by the “piece (crust) of bread” analogy indicating how a man is brought to a low level of shame. God also says that when your skin is on fire you will not escape injury or harm. You will experience pain from the burned and charred skin. Likewise, when you commit adultery you will not escape the consequences of your actions. You will be burned!

First of all, you will become dirty and unclean before God (“shall not be innocent” – Prov. 6:29). America seems to think that it’s all right to have a love affair or fling now and then. They claim that it will not be detrimental to one’s life. They live in a soap opera world of illusion and dreams. God says adultery is detrimental to a person’s life. Above of all else, you will be unclean before the God of Heaven. After committing adultery with Bathsheba, David declared in Psalm 51:4: “Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight.”

Second, the Bible suggests that an adulterer will never be able to make restitution for his sinful crime. A thief might be able to make restitution for his crime under the law of the Old Testament but this is not true of the adulterer (Prov. 6: 30-32). Surely God can forgive you, change your life, free you from the past, and give you a fulfilling and rewarding life (Phil. 3:13-14). However, there are certain effects that you cannot undo when you commit adultery. Under the Old Testament law adultery was punishable by death (Leviticus 20:10). Their life would be destroyed in a physical manner (“it desroyeth his own soul” - Prov. 6:32). If we were governing our lives after the Old Testament economy, there would be a lot of funerals in America and in the church itself. Funeral directors would need to graduate from the funeral home to the funeral warehouse!

Something else is true about adultery. It can destroy us in a different manner. Adultery can corrupt and pervert our life in a way that we can never really restore. What this means is actually explained in the next verse.

Proverbs 6:33 gives this warning:
A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.”

When you commit adultery your life is also affected in another way. Your life will be scarred and shamed. There are some things that cannot be erased from your life when you run around and cheat on your wife. You will undergo a deep “wound” in your personal life and experience “dishonour” (shame and disgrace) among other people within society. You will “get” exactly what is coming to you. You will get “reproach” (ridicule and scorn) from others because of your actions.

Adultery brings shameful reproach upon your life and embarrassment. It leaves the scars of shame and disgrace upon your life that will never be wiped away (“shall not be wiped away”). Within this humanistic secular world today there seems to be no shame for such an act as this. However, among God fearing and respectable people today, adultery is still a detestable and despicable sinful act that brings shame upon a person’s life. It’s a shame and reproach that can never fully be taken away.

People who still have morals recognize that this particular sin brings a certain amount of shame and disrespect upon a man’s life. Men, you had better weigh your actions today! Adulterous relationships have far reaching consequences. When you cheat on your marriage partner and commit adultery, you will have to live with a certain amount of shame, disrespect, and regret for the rest of your life. Life is never quite the same in certain ways. This is a timely warning for men. It’s the other side of adultery that nobody in the church wants to talk about today. All they want to talk about is adultery recovery workshops. Quite honestly, there are some things that you cannot recover from when you have an adulterous relationship. There will be a certain regret and shame that you will have to take with you the rest of your days on earth.

Proverbs 7:26

“For she (the adulterous prostitute) hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by her.”

Men experience a certain wound when they succumb to an adulterous relationship. There is a wound that they cannot heal. Their purity, integrity, and dignity are diminished and these things create a gaping infected wound that will never completely be healed. This is

the other side of adultery. Listen to God and believe what He says! Adultery will cost you something in life. The price for adultery is high.

b. There is the place of adultery.

This Proverb also warns about placing yourself in the place of temptation where adultery can be easily committed.

Proverbs 7:7-10

“And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding (good judgment), Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house, In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart.”

Here is a man who knew the neighborhood but still chose to walk into the area of temptation. He was in a place where he should not have been. He was “near her corner” (vs. 8).

Robert Alden said:

“If you want to avoid the devil, stay away from his neighborhood.”

Men, we can't help being tempted, but we can help from tempting ourselves! The Bible says we are to make no provision for the flesh (Rom. 13:14). In almost all the cases of adultery, men deliberately put themselves in the place of temptation. They go to the wrong place at the wrong time believing that they will not give in. Some of you men are playing with fire. You are like a dog sitting in front of an ice-cream cone trying to convince itself that it will not eat. Gentlemen, take the necessary precautions to keep yourself from adulterous relationships. Never do business with a woman secretly and alone. Buy an internet block for your computer. Keep yourself out of the place of temptation and your will “keep thyself pure” (1 Tim. 5:22).

3. There is the personal attraction of adultery.

Proverbs 7:16-22

“I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let

us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks.”

There is a fleshly attraction that is associated with adultery. The seductive woman, who is known as old sweet lips, seduces and suggests that everything will be okay, if two consenting adults engage in the adulterous relationship. She paints a good picture that is personally attractive for the adulterous relationship to take place. What she says seems very appealing and inviting. Sin is always like this. It appears to us as the colors of the rainbow! Verse 21 says that the man was melted with her speech. His heart was pounding and he gave in to her adulterous speech. Why? It's because this fellow placed himself in the way of temptation. Furthermore, he did not purpose in his own heart like Joseph did to flee temptation.

Genesis 39:12

“And she caught him by his garment, saying, Lie with me: and he left his garment in her hand, and fled, and got him out.”

Men, let me put it as blunt and straightforward as I can. You sin because “you are drawn away of your own lust” (James 1:14). James says we must take personal responsibility for our “own lust” and sin. You sin because you want to sin and love your sin more than you love God (Mark 12:30). Don't blame God for giving you uncontrollable sexual desires or anyone else for your misdirected passions toward other women. The devil does not force you into the bedroom of an adulteress and make you commit adultery. The devil does not make you drink alcohol and view pornography over the Internet. You choose to sin. You can't blame God, the devil, or chemical imbalances for your sin. Stop passing the buck! Take your lumps and admit that you are at fault when you sin sexually.

Many Christian men feel hopelessly trapped and overcome by the allurements of sexual sins? Have you been living in sexual defeat? Here is the good news. God has provided victory for us as His children (Rom. 8:37). We are on the victory side! God has a special word for men today.

1 John 2:13 promises:

“I write unto you, fathers, because ye have known him that is from the beginning. I write unto you, young men, because ye have overcome the wicked one. I write unto you, little children, because ye have known the Father.”

As men, we can claim the victory we have over adultery and any other sexual sin, which has been plaguing our lives. We don't have to be a victim. We can be a victor! The Bible triumphantly declares “ye have overcome the wicked one” (the devil). Because of Christ's defeat of Satan on the cross (Col. 2:14-15) and through the infusion of His divine power and presence (Gal. 2:20) we can live victoriously over sexual sins. God has made a way of deliverance. There is a way out.

Man is presented as a lover in the book of Proverbs. He is presented as either a good or bad lover. God wants you to be a lover that devotes all of your affection and physical desires toward your own wife. If you don't love your wife as you should, and direct your passion elsewhere, then I will repeat once again what that old preacher said: “You'll be sorry!”

E. Man is to be a good grandfather.

Proverbs 20:29

“The glory of young men *is* their strength: and the beauty of old men *is* the grey head.”

We end this study on a lighter note. Here is the grandpa of the Bible. It is the man who has gone through many years and has seen just about everything. This verse is teaching there is a certain glory or splendor in all men, both young and old. Don't ask me to tell you what is old and what is young. I will say this. If it takes you two attempts to get out of the lazyboy recliner and you find yourself looking for dark hairs in between all your gray hairs, you *may* be getting older. Just maybe!

One day while the late Dr. Andrew Telford was still with us, he was eating in the restaurant with some other believers. He must have been about 90 years old at this time (he lived to be 101). As he was

sitting at the table, some 90 years old himself, he was informed that a lady in the room was 100 years old. In his own Telford way he said, "She's old!" Nobody wants to admit that they are old, but the Bible seems to honor old age.

Someone has said: "Your getting old when almost everything hurts, and what doesn't hurt doesn't work." One man said to me he knows the Bible is not true. He told me how the Bible says the glory of old men is their gray hair. He then said, "The Bible must be false because I don't have any hair!" What the writer is suggesting is that there is something to be said about the young man and the old man. Young men are admired many times for their strength and the older men for their wisdom. In Hebrew culture the young and old each had a particular excellence not possessed by the other. The young took pride in their physical strength, the older in their wisdom, revealed by their gray hair.

God honors a young man by giving him strength. As the strength of the older man decreases, God then honors that man with more wisdom and experience, if he has grown in the Lord (1 Pet. 5:5). The gray hair was to be an indicator of wisdom and experience that people can rely upon. Today every church needs both strength for service and age for wise counsel. This is the balanced church. Zeal without knowledge is not good (Prov. 19:2). This is why there should be a partnership between the zeal and energy of youth and the wisdom of the older saints. As in any good partnership, one partner supplies what the other lacks.

Proverbs 16:31

"The hoary head *is* a crown of glory, *if* it be found in the way of righteousness."

The "hoary" or aged head (gray head) becomes a "crown of glory," or something of honor and respectability to an older man, since it is to be a symbol of his achieved wisdom gained over the years. The next time you look at your gray hair in the mirror consider it a crown! Some men forfeit this crown or honor because they have not grown wise through the years and lack good judgment and righteous living. The grey hair can only become a crown of honor "*if* it be found in the way of righteousness." Instead of living a righteous life many older men

are still living the carnal life. However, for older men who are living for the Lord, their grey hair becomes the sign of maturity and wisdom.

A godly grandpa who continues to live a righteous life signifies that he has gained much wisdom through the years that can be of help to children, grandchildren, and the church family. What a blessing elderly people are to the church today. How shameful when young men who are fresh out of seminary, and who are still green around the collar, refuse to listen to the wisdom and advice of the older generation. This brought disastrous results in the days of King Rehoboam. Failure to listen to the wisdom and insight of the older generation caused the split or division of the kingdom of Israel.

1 Kings 12:8 says:

“But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him.”

Shame on us when we fail to listen to the godly advice and wisdom that comes from those men who are wearing the gray-headed crowns.

In this study we have investigated five sets of probing proverbs for men. We need to allow these proverbs to probe deep into our hearts today and change our lives. We need to gather wisdom from these great verses of the Bible in order to accumulate the wisdom that we need as our head and hair become old and gray.

Proverbs 1:5-6

“A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels: To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.”

When we allow the Book of Proverbs, which is God’s ancient book of wisdom, to probe our lives, we will increase our learning, understanding, and wisdom and become better Christian men because of it.

A Chinese seminary student was asked to read Psalm 119 from the original and translate verse 130 into the English language without consulting another version.

Psalm 119:130

“The entrance of thy words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple.”

He studied the passage for a few moments and then volunteered the following: "The Bible says, 'God speaks--a light comes! This makes a dumb man a wise one.'" He had rightly interpreted the sense of the passage. If we want to live wisely in a foolish world then we must practice the proverbs and allow God's Word to provide the necessary light, understanding, and wisdom we need for daily living and conduct.