

LESSONS THIS QUARTER

- 1) 07 June 2020.....Proverbs 01.....Chartered Waters
- 2) 14 June.....Proverbs 03:1-18.....Direction Offered
- 3) 21 June.....Proverbs 03:19-35.....Compassion Demonstrated
- 4) 28 June.....Proverbs 04.....The Choice
- 5) **05 July.....Proverbs 05.....Following God's Design**
- 6) 12 July.....Proverbs 08-09.....Pursuing Wisdom
- 7) 19 July.....Proverbs 14.....Living Wisely
- 8) 26 July.....Proverbs 15-16.....Pleasing God
- 9) 02 August.....Proverbs 23.....Staying Sober
- 10) 09 August.....Proverbs 29.....Accepting Discipline
- 11) 16 August.....Proverbs 31.....Finding Honor
- 12) 23 August.....Song of Songs 1-5.....Relational Foundations
- 13) 30 August.....Song of Songs 5-8.....Relational Investment

INTRODUCTION

- This chapter in Proverbs deals with loose morals
- **Do we have such a problem in churches today? And is it a minor issue, or a major issue, or an escalating issue that is getting worse?**
- Is society getting more moral or more immoral? Do society's ills spill over into the church? How should the Church prepare for dealing with immorality inside and outside the Church? Ignore it and hope it goes away | Welcome it | Ask immoral people to leave the church | Share the principles of morality found in the Bible
- **Know This – Sexual immorality is a sin like no other**
 - ♦ All other sins are outside of the body..... **1Cor 6:18**
 - ♦ History shows that sexual perversion (e.g., incest, homosexuality, bestiality) becomes rampant once a society drops its guard and accommodates fornication (sex outside of marriage) and adultery (often exhibited in remarriages) as normal life events.
 - ♦ God often had to wipe the slate clean when sexual immorality became rampant in a society (e.g., Noah's generation, Sodom & Gomorrah, the Canaanite tribes within the Promised Land, the tribe of Benjamin wiped out except for 400, and the Israelites were nearly wiped out except for a remnant who were exiled to Babylon for 70 years). Has America reached this level of immorality yet?
- The modern Church has lost its impact in society. We can no longer say homosexuality and fornication are wrong since we condone and even promote adultery every time we remarry divorcees. Ouch!
 - ♦ **What can the Church (at least those within the SBC) do to restore its testimony and saltiness? And do we have the guts to do so?**

Passage	Comments
Proverbs 5:1-5	<p>Watch Out for the Wayward Woman (or Man)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What safeguards should we employ at work, at church, in the neighborhood, on the web? <input type="checkbox"/> No physical contact? <input type="checkbox"/> Little to no social contact? <input type="checkbox"/> Not left alone with them? <input type="checkbox"/> Seek accountability group?
5:6	<p>The Wicked Do Not Consider Sin's Consequences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only the wise seem to consider the consequences of their actions. The wicked definitely do not – they are only concerned about feeding the lust of their flesh • Lam 1:9. Israel's uncleanness was in her skirts (sexual sins); She did not consider her future (NASB) • How should one consider sin's consequences? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> What happens if I'm found out? <input type="checkbox"/> Will it cost me my job? My marriage? My friends? <input type="checkbox"/> What will my kids think? <input type="checkbox"/> How will God discipline me? <input type="checkbox"/> Other?
5:7-14	<p>Even One Moral Slip is Costly</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • v8. "Keep far away from her." What other safeguards should we employ? • vv9-10. "You will give your vigor to others." IOW, you could be paying alimony & child support for years • v14. "I was in almost in utter ruin in church." Lost testimony is hard to recover even within church.

Passage	Comments
5:15-19	<p>Enjoy the Wife (or Husband) of Your Youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Be a One-Woman Man or a One-Man Woman, totally and intentionally focused and absorbed in your spouse • Recall the qualifications of Elders and Deacons – they were to be a One-Woman Man and be married to a One-Man Woman..... 1Tim 3:2, 12 • Also recall the qualifications of a widow who was to receive church support. She was to be a One-Man Woman (i.e., a "wife of one man")..... 1Tim 5:9
5:20-22	<p>God Sees All, Knows All</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember, everything will eventually come to light, and even shouted from the rooftop Luke 12:2-3 • God may let the unsaved wicked person get away with things. But not so with His children. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ♦ Remember to ponder sin's consequences before leaving the moral high road
5:23	<p>Don't Die Like a Fool – Shortened Lifespan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prov 1:32. The waywardness of the naive will kill them, and the complacency of fools will destroy them. • Prov 7:22. Suddenly he follows her as an ox goes to the slaughter • Job 36:12. But if they do not listen, they shall perish by the sword and they will die without knowledge.

CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS

- God's approach to immorality is to hold marriage in the highest esteem (1 man married to 1 woman for life); divorcees are to reconcile or remain single; and all others are to avoid having sex outside of a God-joined marriage **1Cor 7**
- Fortunately, God doesn't want to throw anyone away, and even with moral failures God prefers repentance & forgiveness **1John 1:9**
- So, what can the Church do to restore its testimony before the world?
 - ♦ Yes, we need to accept those in less than ideal marriages and not ostracize them
 - ♦ Consider 3 things the Early Church did to highly esteem marriage:
 1. They would not remarry divorcees
 2. Elders and Deacons could not be divorced or married to a divorcee
 3. They refused to marry additional women to a polygamist (that's another lesson)

NEXT WEEK: Proverbs 8-9. True Wisdom comes from God, and God desires an open-door policy for everyone to enjoy His Wisdom – BUT few choose to open the door to have Him come in and dine with them.



"We bicker incessantly, constantly antagonize and find fault with each other. Our marriage is a hellishly eternal nightmare. Honestly, Doc, it just keeps getting better and better."