

8/2/22 "Lessons for Life"

1. Wisdom Exalts God!

Proverbs 16:1-9 TPT

[1] Go ahead and make all the plans you want, but it's the Lord who will ultimately direct your steps. ("The Lord gives the right reply.")

[2] We are all in love with our own opinions, convinced they're correct. But the Lord is in the midst of us, (Or "in the midst of spirits."). testing and probing our every motive. [3] Before you do anything, put your trust totally in God and not in yourself.

(Commit your business to God.)

Then every plan you make will succeed. [4] The Lord works everything together to accomplish his purpose. ("for its answer.") Even the wicked are included in his plans- he sets them aside for the day of disaster. [5] Exalting yourself is disgusting to the Lord, for pride attracts his punishment- and you can count on that! [6] You can avoid evil through surrendered worship and the fear of God, for the power of his faithful love removes sin's guilt and grip over you. [7] When the Lord is pleased with the decisions you've made, he activates grace to turn enemies into friends. [8] It is better to have little with a heart that loves justice than to be rich and not have God on your side. [9] Within your heart you can make plans for your future, but the Lord chooses the steps you take to get there.

2. Living like a King!

Proverbs 16:10-20 TPT

[10] A king speaks the revelation of truth, so he must be extraordinarily careful in the decrees that he makes. [11] The Lord expects you to be fair in every business deal, for he is the one who sets the standards for righteousness.

("Honesty with scales and balances is the way of the Lord, for all the stones in the bag are established by him.")

[12] Kings and leaders despise wrongdoing, for the true authority to rule and reign is built on a foundation of righteousness. [13] Kings and leaders love to hear godly counsel, and they love those who tell them the truth. [14] The anger of a king releases the messenger of death, but a wise person will know how to pacify (appease) his wrath. [15] Life-giving light streams from the presence of a king, and his favor is showered upon those who please him. [16] Everyone wants gold, but wisdom's worth is far greater. Silver is sought after, but a heart of understanding yields a greater return.

[17] Repenting from evil, places you on the highway of holiness. Protect purity and you protect your life. ("Receive instruction and you'll be prosperous; he who listens to correction shall be made wise." "He who guards his ways preserves his own soul; he who loves his life will watch his words.") [18] Your boast becomes a prophecy of a future failure. The higher you lift up yourself in pride, (overconfidence) the harder you'll fall in disgrace. [19] It's better to be meek and lowly and live among the poor than to live high and mighty among the rich and famous. [20] One skilled in business discovers prosperity, but the one who trusts in God is blessed beyond belief!

3. Walking with Wisdom!

Proverbs 16:21-33 TPT

[21] The one with a wise heart is called "discerning," and speaking sweetly to others makes your teaching even more convincing. [22] Wisdom is a deep well of understanding opened up within you as a fountain of life for others, but it's senseless to try to instruct a fool. [23] Winsome words pour from a heart of wisdom, adding value to all you teach. [24] Nothing is more appealing than speaking beautiful, life-giving words. For they release sweetness to our souls and inner healing to our spirits. (Or "healing to the bones." Bones are a metaphor for our inner being.)

[25] Before every person there is a path that seems like the right one to take, but it leads straight to hell!

(The Hebrew is "the ways of death.")

[26] Life motivation comes from the deep longings of the heart, and the passion to see them fulfilled urges you onward. [27] A wicked scoundrel wants to dig up dirt on others, only to spread slander and shred their reputation. [28] A twisted person spreads rumors; a whispering gossip ruins good friendships. [29] A vicious criminal can be persuasive, enticing others to join him as partners in crime, but he leads them all down a despicable path. [30] It's easy to tell when a wicked man is hatching some crooked scheme- it's written all over his face. His looks betray him as he gives birth to his sin. [31] Old age with wisdom will crown you with dignity and honor, for it takes a lifetime of righteousness to acquire it. [32] Do you want to be a mighty warrior? It's better to be known as one who is patient and slow to anger. (It's better to be forgiving than strong.

Do you want to conquer a city? Rule over your temper before you attempt to rule a city. [33] We may toss the coin and roll the dice, but God's will is greater than luck.