

The Blessings and Courage of Wisdom

Proverbs 28 pt 2

"The evil do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand everything." -Proverbs 28:5

What are some ways we can promote and uphold justice today?

*Strengthen f _____ Systems & Institutions *Promote A _____

*Protect r _____ & human dignity *Strengthen C _____ bonds

*Participate in civic life *Educate & E _____

"Mankind, he has told each of you what is good and what it is the LORD requires of you: to act justly, to love faithfulness, and to walk humbly with your God." -Micah 6:8

● The Blessings & Courage of Wisdom pt 2

5 The evil do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand everything.

Notice the contrast:

➤ The understanding of the e _____ Vs The understanding of the r _____

Why do the evil have a hard time understanding justice?

✓ Because of what they s _____.

King Solomon shares that those who seek evil are not only spiritually blind, but further blinded by their own prejudices and passions. Evil becomes comfortable and blinds them to truth and justice.

What are some blind spots that evil people can't see?

✓ An evil person can r _____ their sin and still r _____ to repent.

✓ An evil person can be so c _____ by sin they don't recognize it anymore.

➤ Romans 1:28; 2 Corinthians 4:4

Justice: verdict (favorable or unfavorable), discretion, judgement, ordinance, right + wrong, worthy Psalm 9:7-8; Isaiah 9:7; Zechariah 7:9

In contrast to those who have a hard time understanding justice, what is the key to understanding everything?

➤ S _____ the Lord!

Search Him out by any method, specifically in worship or prayer; strive after Him, ask, beg, beseech, desire, enquire, get, make inquisition. Do whatever you can to find out as much as you can about the Lord!!

- Isaiah 55:6; Jeremiah 29:13

6 Better the poor person who lives with integrity than the rich one who distorts right and wrong.

Notice the comparison:

- P _____ vs R _____; Living with I _____ vs Living with d _____

What is the great lesson in this proverb and consistent theme in the Bible?

- ✓ It is better to be r _____ with God and I _____ in worldly goods than to have material comfort and be spiritually d _____. Mark 8:36
- ✓ There are worse things than poverty, and living in deception is one of them.

Two lifestyles and words to review:

Integrity: blameless, upright, innocently; quality of being honest and having strong moral principles; moral uprightness.

Distorts: perverse, crooked, perverted, twisted out of shape; giving a misleading or false account or impression.

People often associate riches with integrity and being blessed, but how might someone be rich and crooked at the same time?

*Business p _____ *Blatant c _____ *Blurring moral b _____

What could you do to avoid falling into the deception of earthly comfort?

- ✓ Sadly we live in a world where riches and possessions give people a false security about their life. To make matter's worse, they downplay the thought of giving up earthly comfort in light of honoring God and receiving the good news of Jesus Christ.

- Matthew 19:29; Luke 18:18-23

7 A discerning son keeps the law, but a companion of gluttons humiliates his father.

Notice the contrast:

An h _____ son vs A h _____ son

In light of the text, how does a son honor his father?

- ✓ By d _____: to attend, consider, diligently, having intelligence, thinking and an understanding view.
- ✓ By o _____: keeps the law; obedience is proof of wisdom.

- Proverbs 10:1; 13:1; 23:24-25; Ephesians 6:1-3

How does a son humiliate his father?

- ✓ By the c_____ he keeps: a companion of gluttons, those who indulge in any desire beyond reasonable limits. Examples include food, hobbies, vices, or addictions. Spending time with people lacking self control can lead to temptation, or being caught up in someone else's consequences. 1 Cor. 15:33
- ✓ By d_____: humiliates his father; disobedience is proof of foolishness.

➤ 1 Samuel 2:12; 8:3; Proverbs 19:26

Why is it important to honor our parents?

- ✓ To show others that we h_____ God and His Word in our h_____.
- Exodus 20:12; Colossians 3:20

8 Whoever increases his wealth through excessive interest collects it for one who is kind to the poor.

What is the lesson of this verse?

- ✓ Warning of taking a_____ of each other: King Solomon speaks about the law concerning excessive I_____ rates: Deut. 23:19-20

As you look at the current state of our economy, inflation, and debt to income ratio, what are some ways businesses and banks take advantage of interest rates?

*Applying I_____ to fees

*Using p_____ APRs

*Raising rates above cost

*Increasing rates during e_____ stress

Sadly, even in biblical times the people disobeyed God's law concerning increased rates because of greed. Nehemiah 5:7

- ✓ Wisdom of God: collects it for one who is kind to the poor. This is the justice and providence of God that such ill gotten gain will be forfeited to someone who treats the poor with kindness. Proverbs 13:22

Who is someone in the Bible that gave back to the poor?

- ✓ Z_____; Luke 19:8 Although this still happens today, most people are quiet about it due to risk of exposure or visibility. However, we can rest assured that God's justice will always prevail.

What is one thing you have learned that you are willing to share with someone else?

“The way we treat people is a reflection of our character.”