

The Blessings and Courage of Wisdom

Proverbs 28 pt 4

"Happy is the one who is always reverent, but one who hardens his heart falls into trouble." -*Proverbs 28:14*

What are some benefits of having a positive attitude?

*Emotional & M_____ Well Being

*Cognitive & P_____ Benefits

*Social & Relationship Advantages

*Physical H_____ Boosts

*Life Satisfaction & M_____

"Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference."

● **The Blessings & Courage of Wisdom pt 4**

13 The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.

Notice the contrast: C_____ sins Vs C_____ sins

What is the main idea of this verse?

❖ How to h_____ our problem with s_____.

Conceal: hide, close, clothe, cover, secrecy; Genesis 3:8-10

Sin causes guilt and shame. Sadly, instead of dealing with it head on, most people try to hide or ignore it. This only makes matters worse. King Solomon says, the one who does this will n____ prosper.

Why is it wrong for humans to conceal our wrongdoing?

*It shows we don't r_____ God's a_____. Isaiah 46:9-10; Hebrews 4:13

*It is a sign of u_____. Psalm 10:11-13

Confess: give thanks, open hand, penitence; Joshua 7:19

Renounce: commit self, forsake, reject, stop using, letting go, leaving; Proverbs 9:6

Confession occurs when a person admits their wrongdoing, God's righteous, and gives Him glory. Renouncing is the a____ of repentance.

Why is it better to admit our wrongdoing before we get caught?

*It frees us from heavy b_____ of guilt and shame; Psalm 32:3-7

*It makes way for God's healing, forgiveness, and m____; 1 John 1:9

14 Happy is the one who is always reverent, but one who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

What Contrasts do you notice?

- ❖ H _____ heart Vs H _____ heart
- ❖ R _____ Vs R _____

What is the main idea of this verse?

- How s _____ do take the dangers of s ___; Proverbs 1:7

Reverent: be afraid, stand in awe, fear, make to shake

One of the main reasons we see a decline in morality and well-being of a society/nation as a whole is because people have stopped having a healthy f ___ of God.

What are some reasons people don't fear God?

*Out of t _____ *Lack of u _____ *S _____

Happy: Blessed; blessedness; Psalm 1:1-2; 2:12

On the other hand we see the burden of a hardened heart... falls into trouble.

What are some symptoms of a hard heart?

*Dense *C _____ *Fierce *G _____
*S _____

- Exodus 7:13; Daniel 5:20; Hebrews 3:8; 15

With verse 13 in mind, how would you encourage someone who has a hard heart?

- C _____ and R _____ ! Matthew 5:6

15-16 A wicked ruler over a helpless people is like a roaring lion or a charging bear. A leader who lacks understanding is very oppressive, but one who hates dishonest profit prolongs his life.

King Solomon was a man of peace who ruled his people wisely and judged them fairly. In this verse, he observes the effect a wicked ruler has on his people.

Wicked ruler: Ungodly, guilty, condemned; Zephaniah 3:3; Isaiah 56:11

Helpless people: Oppressed, mistreated, fearful; Exodus 1:11; 13-14; Ezekiel 22:27

Notice the scene: This wicked ruler is unpredictable and handles the people with an uncontrollable ferocity. Like a lion or bear, he too is very dangerous and should not be taken lightly.

Not only is the wicked ruler dangerous, but they are also oppressive. What are some examples and effects of oppression?

*Chronic fear & A_____

*Distrust

*Brain d_____

*Suppression of freedoms

*Division

*Civil u_____

*Moral & Ethical d_____

"The difference between a democracy and a dictatorship is that in a democracy you vote first and take orders later; in a dictatorship you don't have to waste your time voting."

Historically speaking, how have the most notorious dictators ruled their people?

*Control of I_____

*Use of Security F_____

*Weakening Democratic I_____

*Control of the Economy

*Divide and C_____

*Cult of Personality

Why do they rule this way?

➤ He lacks u_____; discretion, reason, skillfulness, wisdom; Proverbs 9:10

How can we promote the Kingdom of God in a hostile and oppressive environment?

*Take a stand for r_____

*Walk in I_____

*Build trust through relationships

*Resist h_____ & Dehumanization

➤ Isaiah 1:17; Zechariah 7:9-10; Amos 5:14-15

What will ultimately happen to the wicked rulers?

*They will p_____; Isaiah 10:1-2

*They will be j_____ by God; Jeremiah 5:26-29

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

"May he vindicate the afflicted among the people, help the poor, and crush the oppressor." -Psalm 72:4