

Proverbs Chapter 11 Continued

Proverbs 11:17 "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but [he that is] cruel troubleth his own flesh."

A merciful person, who is always doing for others, feels good about himself. A cruel person has no good memories. A cruel person has only regrets.

Proverbs 11:18 "The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness [shall be] a sure reward."

We have been reading before about the deceitfulness of riches. If a person works only for self gain, he is deceived and is wicked. The righteous seek to do good. The righteous may not be rewarded here on this earth, but will reap rewards on harvest day.

The efforts of the wicked deceiver often do not yield the riches his deception seeks, but the righteous receive a reward from God.

Proverbs 11:19 "As righteousness [tendeth] to life: so he that pursueth evil [pursueth it] to his own death."

Righteousness not only tends to life, but actually makes life more enjoyable here on this earth and brings life for all of eternity, as well. Evil, on the other hand, keeps you in trouble on the earth and brings death and hell for all of eternity.

Proverbs 11:20 "They that are of a froward heart [are] abomination to the LORD: but [such as are] upright in [their] way [are] his delight."

The word translated "froward" here means crooked, distorted, and false. Our heart will give away what we really are. God judges our heart more than He does our actions. What was our intent, to do evil or good? We are what our heart is. God loves a person with a pure heart. He even expects our giving to be from our heart.

Proverbs 11:21: "[Though] hand [join] in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered."

The combined power of the wicked cannot free them from just punishment, while the unaided children of the righteous find deliverance by reason of their pious relationship.

Psalm 37:25 "I have been young, and [now] am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread."

Psalm 37:26 "[He is] ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed [is] blessed."

Acts 16:31 "And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Proverbs 11:22 "[As] a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, [so is] a fair woman which is without discretion."

A woman with physical beauty can become even more beautiful to you if she lives the Christian life; but if she is a harlot or lives an evil life, that beauty seems to go away as you get to know her and she becomes a swine in your sight. The important beauty comes from within.

In the Old Testament times, a nose ring was an ornament intended to beautify a woman. It was as out of place in a pig's nose as the lack of discretion was in a lovely lady.

Proverbs 11:23 "The desire of the righteous [is] only good: [but] the expectation of the wicked [is] wrath."

Every Christian you ever meet has a desire in their heart to do good. They are seeking good and not evil. An evil person is continually negative. They know the wrath is coming and they expect it.

The words "Desire and Expectation" are terms referring to outcomes from God's perspective.

Proverbs 11:24 "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and [there is] that withholdeth more than is meet, but [it tendeth] to poverty."

This is just saying, give and it will be given to you. I have a saying, "You can't out give God". If we are greedy and never give to others, we will find ourselves in poverty. There is a law that God gives to those who give to others. To get, you must give.

The principle here is that generosity, by God's blessing, secures increase, while stinginess leads to poverty instead of expected gain. The one who gives receives far more in return.

Proverbs 11:25 "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

This is the very same thing (as verse 24), just stated differently.

Proverbs 11:26 "He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing [shall be] upon the head of him that selleth [it]."

To have foodstuff that a neighbor needs and that you don't need for your own household, and not be willing to sell him some would be terrible. Not only would your neighbor curse you for that, but God will be displeased, as well. If you can help someone else, even by selling them something, God will see and bless you for it.

Proverbs 11:27 "He that diligently seeketh good procureth favor: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him."

A person who is trying to do good is also seeking to do good for others as well, and is pleasing to God in the doing. The penalty of an evil life is that it comes back to you. Evil begets evil.

Proverbs 11:28 "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch."

We read in 1 Timothy, that we must not trust in uncertain riches.

1 Timothy 6:17-19 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."

You see riches cannot get you to heaven. We must do good and not evil with what God has entrusted to us.

Those who have much tend to trust in their wealth. But God provides far more security than any earthly investment can ever give.

Proverbs 11:29 "He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool [shall be] servant to the wise of heart."

We see from this Scripture above that a man who causes trouble in his own house will not be able to build, but will be destroyed.

The one who mismanages his house will see all he has blown away, and he will have nothing left in the end. He will serve the one who manages well.

Proverbs 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous [is] a tree of life; and he that winneth souls [is] wise."

“Tree of Life” as we studied (in Proverbs 3:18), is an expression or metaphor referring to temporal and spiritual renewal and refreshment.

The righteous are fruit bearers. You can tell what kind of Christian they are by the fruit they bear. Not only in their children of their flesh, but those they have led to the Lord, as well. Righteous trees produce righteous fruit. We have mentioned it before in these lessons, but the righteous are wise unto salvation.

“Winneth Souls” means in the sense of doing them good or influencing them with wisdom’s ways.

Proverbs 11:31 "Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner."

The bottom line here is God's final blessing and reward to the "righteous", and His judgment and punishment of the "ungodly and sinners" come after life on the earth has ended. But there are foretastes of both during life on the earth, as the righteous experience God's personal care and goodness, while the wicked are void of it.

Good morals bring good results, and bad morals bring bad results. Today, as never before, in our society we see people who have lived immoral lives feeling the brunt of punishment for their evil actions here on this earth in the disease aids.

There is an eternal punishment for the unrepentant sinner as well. We shall reap what we sow. God is a just God.

Some things we bring upon ourselves, because of our behavior. Those who live Christian lives, uprightly before God, will be watched over by Him. Some diseases come to all, but worldly diseases that are caused by our own behavior are reserved for the evil children. A few people get aids without being evil, in that instance it would not be a worldly disease. A worldly disease I say one or more times, is one that we bring on ourselves by the sins in our life.

We see Godly living leads to good health.

Proverbs Chapter 11 Continued Questions

1. Whose soul do the merciful help?
2. If you are always doing good for others, what does it make you think of yourself?
3. To him that soweth righteous shall be _____.
4. If a person works only for himself, his is _____.
5. He that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own _____.
6. A person who is upright in God's sight are His_____.
7. In verse 20 "Froward" means three things, what are they?
8. What does God judge more than our actions?
9. We are what our _____ is.
10. What does "hand in hand" in verse 21 probably mean?
11. Who are the seed of the righteous?

12. What chapter and verse in Acts tells us "thou shalt be saved and thy house".
13. What is a "fair woman without discretion" like?
14. Where does the beauty that counts, come from?
15. The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is_____.
16. In verse 24, what does it mean about scattering and yet increasing?
17. What will happen to the person who waters?
18. How do the people feel about someone who withholds their corn?
19. A person who seeks mischief can expect what?
20. What happens to those who trust in their riches?
21. In I Timothy 6:17 we are told not to be _____ or trust in _____.
22. What are we to trust in?
23. What should a wealthy person be ready to do?
24. He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the_____.
25. Who shall the fool be servant to?
26. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of _____.
27. You can tell what kind of a Christian a person is by what?
28. We know the righteous will go to heaven, but what will happen to them on the earth?
29. What are 2 diseases in our society today that are many times brought on by our own sin?
30. Godly living leads to what?