

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 148 – Preparations Of The Heart Through Just Measures (Proverbs 16:1-11)

1. Should we look to our hearts when we speak or should we look to the will of God (PLEASE NOTICE THE INFORMATION BELOW BEFORE ANSWERING)?

- In studying Proverbs 16:1 it did not make biblical sense to conclude that God prepares the hearts of men. Other Scriptures do not support that conclusion (II Chronicles 12:13-14, Ezra 7:10, and Luke 8:11-15). I then found other Scriptures that made the text even more obscure (i.e. Psalms 10:16-17). Doing a word study does not help, for the Hebrew word, “מַעַרְבָן; ma`arak” (Strong’s # 4633), only appears this one time in the Scriptures.
- Yet, looking to other translations of this text did help and certainly adds clarity that agrees with other Scriptures. Notice these translations:
 - ❖ “The plans of the heart belong to man; But the answer of the tongue is from Jehovah” (ASV).
 - ❖ “The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD” (NKJV).
- It certainly appears that the KJV is not a clear in translating this verse as the ASV and NKJV are. We’ll discuss some more along these lines when we look at Proverbs 16:9.

We should allow our answers to come from the will of God: *“The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD” (Proverbs 16:1).*

- We should not “speak from the heart” (**Psalms 53:1, Proverbs 28:26, Jeremiah 16:12, and Jeremiah 17:9**).
- We must see that our hearts are converted to the Lord (**James 4:8**) and not just partially converted either (**Jeremiah 3:10**).
- We must then allow God’s will to move our mouths (**Isaiah 8:20, Colossians 3:17, and I Peter 4:11**).

2. Is it hard for people to see that their own ways are wrong?

Yes: *“All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits” (Proverbs 16:2).*

- **Proverbs 16:25, Proverbs 20:6, Proverbs 21:2, Proverbs 30:12, Luke 18:9-14, and Galatians 6:3.**
- It must also be noted that God knows what is going on inside of us (**I Samuel 16:7, Proverbs 5:21, Proverbs 24:12, Jeremiah 17:10, Luke 16:15, and Hebrews 4:13**).

3. What must we do to have our thoughts established?

*“Commit [roll **Proverbs 26:27**; trust **Psalms 22:8**; commit **Psalm 37:5**] thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established” (Proverbs 16:3).*

- **Colossians 1:10 and II Peter 1:3-12.**

4. Did God create everything for us or for Himself?

For Himself: *"The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil"* (**Proverbs 16:4**).

- The Lord is the Creator of all things (**Isaiah 43:7** and **Revelation 4:11**).
- To simplify the statement, "wicked for the day of evil"... Consider that God reserves wicked days [even the day of destruction] just for evil people (**II Kings 21:10-12**, **Jeremiah 1:14-16**, **Jeremiah 6:19**, and **II Peter 2:9**).
- For further studies, know that the creation of knowledge to do good or evil is of God (**Genesis 2:9**). In fact, He puts before us the choice of good and evil (**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**).
- God equips us to stand in the day of evil (**Ephesians 6:12-13**).
- "The day of evil" is what slays the wicked (**Psalms 34:21** and **Jeremiah 17:17-18**).
- Does this mean that God created people just do condemn them? NO (**I Timothy 2:4**, **Titus 2:11**, and **II Peter 3:9**)!
- God does not take pleasure in the death of the wicked (**Ezekiel 33:11**), but He has reserved a day for them (**Job 21:30**).

5. What is God's view of prideful people?

"Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished" (**Proverbs 16:5**).

- **Proverbs 6:16-19**, **Proverbs 8:13**, **Zechariah 9:6**, **James 4:6**, and **I John 2:15-16**.
- Pride is deceptive (**Obadiah 1-4**).

6. How do mercy, truth, and fear help us to be saved?

By causing us to depart from sin: *"By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil"* (**Proverbs 16:6**).

- Mercy helps us to be saved (**Micah 7:18** and **Titus 3:5**).
- Truth helps us to be saved (**II Thessalonians 2:10**).
- Fear helps us to be saved (**Psalms 85:9** and **Philippians 2:12**).

7. What benefit can pleasing the Lord bring about concerning our enemies?

"When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him" (**Proverbs 16:7**).

- We know this is not always the case (**I Peter 3:13-18**; cf. **Romans 12:17-21**).
- Jesus always did what pleased the Father (**John 8:29**), yet His enemies were not at peace with Him (**Matthew 16:21**).

8. Should a righteous individual be more content with a little than the unrighteous will be with great revenues?

Yes: *"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right"* (**Proverbs 16:8**).

- **Psalms 37:16, Proverbs 15:16, Philippians 4:11-16, and I Timothy 6:6-10.**

9. Taking into consideration all that we learned in Proverbs 16:1, should we trust our hearts or the Lord to direct our steps?

The Lord: *"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps"*
(**Proverbs 16:9**).

- Notice these Scriptures: **Psalms 37:23, Proverbs 19:21, Proverbs 20:24, and Jeremiah 10:23**; cf **Psalms 119:105 and Proverbs 6:23**.

10. If a king has a divine sentence [oracle] in his lips, will he transgress in judgment?

No: *"A divine sentence [oracle] is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment"* (**Proverbs 16:10**).

- **I Kings 3:28 and Psalms 72:1**; cf. **Luke 21:12-15**. *See notes on verse 1 also.

11. Is honesty in our business dealings something that matters to God?

Yes, He is the author of honest trade: *"A just weight and balance are the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag are his work"* (**Proverbs 16:11**).

- **Leviticus 19:35-36, Deuteronomy 25:13-15, Proverbs 11:1, Proverbs 20:10, Romans 12:17 and II Corinthians 8:21.**