

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

*Part 161 – A Hasty Inheritance Through Cleansing Wounds (Proverbs 20:21-30)*

1. If someone all of a sudden comes into an inheritance, will that do good for him or her in the end?

No, people who gain instant wealth don't fair well: *"An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed"* (**Proverbs 20:21**).

- Don't be in a hurry to gain instant wealth, it doesn't fair well (**Proverbs 28:20** and **Proverbs 28:20-22**).
- On the other hand, those things we labor for are good for us (**Psalms 128:1-2**, **Ecclesiastes 2:24**, **Ecclesiastes 3:13**, **Ecclesiastes 5:12**, and **Ecclesiastes 5:18-19**).
- Still, even with labor, it should not to be rich (**Proverbs 23:4**, **John 6:27**, and **I Timothy 6:6-10**; cf. **Isaiah 55:1-3**).

2. Should we repay others with evil?

No: *"Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee"* (**Proverbs 20:22**).

- **Proverbs 17:13**, **Proverbs 24:29**, **Matthew 5:39-48**, **Romans 12:17-21**, **I Thessalonians 5:15**, and **I Peter 3:9**.

3. How does the Lord view dishonest measurements?

Abomination to Him: *"Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good"* (**Proverbs 20:23**).

- **Proverbs 20:10**, **Leviticus 19:35**, **Proverbs 11:1**, **Proverbs 16:11**, and **Proverbs 20:23**; cf. **Romans 12:17**.

4. Can man understand his own way?

No: *"Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way"* (**Proverbs 20:24**)?

- Our way is ordered by the Lord (**Psalms 37:23**, **Psalms 119:133**, **Proverbs 16:1**, **Proverbs 16:9**, and **Acts 17:28**). Therefore, we cannot understand our OWN way (**Jeremiah 10:23**; cf. **Proverbs 3:5-7** and **Isaiah 5:21**).

5. Is it wrong to do something, say it's holy, and then later find out if it was really the right thing to do?

Yes: *"It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry"* (**Proverbs 20:25**).

- **Proverbs 13:3**, **Proverbs 18:7; 13**, and **Ecclesiastes 5:1-5**; cf. **Leviticus 10:1-2**.

6. What does a wise king do to the wicked?

*“A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them” (Proverbs 20:26).*

- **Proverbs 20:8; cf. Psalms 101:8.**

7. Does the Lord know the spirit [our spirit/soul] that is within us?

*Yes: “The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly” (Proverbs 20:27).*

- Each of us has a soul/spirit (**Genesis 2:7, Job 32:8, I Corinthians 2:11, and James 2:26**).
- God knows what’s going on inside of us (**I John 3:19-20**).

8. Does a king benefit from being merciful and truthful?

*Yes: “Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy” (Proverbs 20:28).*

- **Psalms 21:7, Proverbs 16:12, and Proverbs 29:14.**

9. What is the glory of young men and what is the beauty of old men?

*“The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head” (Proverbs 20:29).*

- These are not for us to glory in (**Jeremiah 9:23-24**).
- The glory of the young is their strength (**I John 2:14**).
- Gray hair is the glory of the old man (**Proverbs 16:31**).

10. Can bruises and wounds help some learn lessons?

*“The blueness [bruise; black and blue mark] of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes [wounds] the inward parts of the belly” (Proverbs 20:30).*

- Beatings are for certain types of people (**Proverbs 19:29**), but are not always effective (**Proverbs 15:10; 17:10**).
- Those who want to learn will endure and learn from hard correction (**Proverbs 3:11 and Hebrews 12:5-13**).
- Consider this application: *“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him” (Proverbs 22:15).*