

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 144 – Profit In Labor Through Favor Toward A Wise Servant (Proverbs 14:23-35)

1. Is it better to be a worker or a talker who doesn't get things done?

Be a worker or suffer penury [poverty]: *"In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury"* (**Proverbs 14:23**).

* This applies carnally (**Proverbs 12:24** and **II Thessalonians 3:7-13**).

* It also applies spiritually (**Matthew 25:14-30**, **John 6:27**, **I Corinthians 15:58**, and **Hebrews 6:10-12**).

2. Rather than a crown of true riches (i.e. Proverbs 8:18 and Revelation 2:9; 3:18), what do fools reap?

Foolishness: *"The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly"* (**Proverbs 14:24**).

* First off, we know the riches of the wise are not earthly treasures because Solomon has already shown the foolishness of trusting in earthly riches (**Proverbs 11:28** and **Proverbs 13:7-8**).

* Fools produce folly (**Proverbs 13:16**, **Proverbs 15:21**, **Proverbs 17:12**, and **Proverbs 26:11**).

3. Can a true witness be helpful?

Yes: *"A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies"* (**Proverbs 14:25**).

* Think about how much we benefit from the Apostles being eyewitnesses of our Savior and His works (**Acts 2:32**, **Acts 3:15**, and **Acts 26:22**).

* On the other hand, false witnesses can cause much harm (**Psalms 35:11**, **Proverbs 25:18**, **Matthew 26:59-66**, and **Acts 6:9-13**).

4. Is it profitable to fear the Lord?

Yes, of course: *"(26) In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. (27) The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death"* (**Proverbs 14:26-27**).

* **Psalms 112:1**, **Proverbs 3:7-8**, **Proverbs 19:23**, and **Philippians 2:12**.

5. Does a king want to be among a multitude of people?

Yes: *"In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince"* (**Proverbs 14:28**; cf. **I Kings 4:20-21**).

6. Is it good if one is easily provoked to a point of wrath?

No: *"He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly"* (**Proverbs 14:29**).

* **Proverbs 14:17, Proverbs 15:18, Proverbs 16:32, Ephesians 4:26, Ephesians 4:31, and James 1:19-20.**

7. Is envy a good thing?

No: *"A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones"* (**Proverbs 4:30**).

* A sound heart is good (**Proverbs 4:23**).

* Envy is destructive (**Job 5:2, Proverbs 27:4, Matthew 26:17-18, Acts 17:1-5, Romans 13:13, and James 3:16**).

8. Is it pleasing to God for us to oppress the poor?

No: *"He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor"* (**Proverbs 14:31**).

* **Psalms 41:1, Proverbs 22:16, Proverbs 22:22-23, Zechariah 7:10, and Luke 6:20.**

* The Lord is the maker of all (**Proverbs 22:2**).

9. What do the righteous have hope in?

Death either of self or the wicked (I am not sure which this verse is discussing, but both are true): *"The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death"* (**Proverbs 14:32**).

* This point could be true in the righteous having hope in the death of the wicked (**Proverbs 11:10 and Proverbs 28:28**).

* This point could also be true in the righteous having hope in his own death (**Psalms 116:15 and Philippians 1:21**).

10. Where does wisdom rest?

"Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known" (**Proverbs 14:33**).

* Our hearts are places wherein understanding and wisdom meet together (**Proverbs 2:2 and Colossians 3:16**).

* Thus, it is imperative to seek understanding with all of our hearts (**Proverbs 15:14**).

11. Are nations affected by the actions of the people therein?

Yes, good comes to a nation through righteous people while sin brings reproach: *“Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people”* (**Proverbs 14:34**).

* *“Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance”* (**Psalms 33:12**).

* Also: *“Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness”* (**Proverbs 25:5**).

12. To obtain favor of a king, what kind of servant does one want to be?

A wise servant: *“The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame”* (**Proverbs 14:35**).

* **I Samuel 18:5**.

* The only downside to being a wise servant is if the king is envious and always worrying about being overthrown, though a wise servant would never do such a thing (i.e. Saul; **I Samuel 18:12**).

* These things matter for this reason: *“The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass”* (**Proverbs 19:12**).

* Spiritually, Christ is our KING (**John 18:36-37**). The application to us spiritually is that we want to be wise servants (**Matthew 24:45-51**).