

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 167 – Excellent Things Written Through Diligent Men Honored (Proverbs 22:20-29)

1. Why did Solomon write excellent things in counsels and knowledge?

Verse 22 is the whole answer: *“(20) Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, (21) That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee”* (Proverbs 22:20-21)?

- Solomon, through inspiration (II Timothy 3:16-17), wrote excellent things (Proverbs 8:6).
- He wrote of counsels (Acts 20:26-27) and we'd be wise to listen (Proverbs 1:5, Proverbs 9:9, Proverbs 12:15, and Proverbs 19:20).
- He gave words of knowledge that we should listen to (Proverbs 2:2-6, Proverbs 22:17, and Proverbs 23:12; cf. Colossians 1:10, Colossians 3:10, and II Peter 3:18).
- We should know that the truth is certain (Luke 1:3-4, Psalms 119:89, Psalms 119:152, Psalms 119:160, John 17:8, and II Peter 1:16-21).
- We should be able to answer those in inquire of the truth from us (Colossians 4:6 and I Peter 3:15).

2. Should anyone take advantage of the poor because of his or her poverty?

No: *“Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate”* (Proverbs 22:22).

- Trying to cheat someone out of his or her belongings is never good (Proverbs 23:10-11).
- It is wrong to rob the poor (Deuteronomy 15:7-9, Isaiah 10:1-2, and Ezekiel 22:29).

3. Will the Lord allow those who rob the poor to escape consequences?

No: *“(22) Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate: (23) For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them”* (Proverbs 22:22-23).

- I Samuel 2:7-8, Psalms 12:5, Psalms 34:6, Psalms 140:12, and Jeremiah 20:13.

4. Is it right to befriend an angry person?

No: *“Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go”* (Proverbs 22:24).

- Proverbs 15:18 and Proverbs 29:22; cf. James 3:16.

5. If one does befriend an angry individual, what will likely happen?

Learn his ways: *“(24) Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: (25) Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul” (Proverbs 22:24-25).*

- Any sinner can rub off on us (**Psalms 106:34-36, Proverbs 13:20, I Corinthians 5:6, I Corinthians 15:33, and II Timothy 2:16-18**).
- Sinners can bring a big trap for others (**Proverbs 29:8**).

6. Should we become a surety [one who takes responsibility for another] for a debt?

No: *“Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts” (Proverbs 22:26).*

- **Proverbs 6:1-5, Proverbs 11:15, Proverbs 17:18, and Proverbs 27:13.**
- There may be exceptions. For example, Paul took the responsibility for any debt owed by Onesimus to Philemon (**Philemon 1:18-19**). There is spiritual reasoning in such a case (**John 15:12-13**).

7. What do you prevent by not having debts?

You prevent your belongings being taken from you: *“If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee” (Proverbs 22:27)?*

- Creditors take your belongings when you fail to pay (**II Kings 4:1-7**). *The following text is overall about forgiveness, but the illustration Jesus used shows debt collection as well (**Matthew 18:23-25; 28**).
- It is best to owe no man (**Romans 13:8**).

8. Were the landmarks [boundaries of lands in Israel] supposed to be moved?

“Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set” (Proverbs 22:28).

- **Deuteronomy 19:14, Deuteronomy 27:17, and Proverbs 23:10.**
- Land was the inheritance for the children of Israel (**Genesis 28:4, Numbers 26:53, and Numbers 33:54**).

9. Are those who are diligent in business honored by rulers?

Yes: *“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men” (Proverbs 22:29).*

- **I Kings 11:28 and Proverbs 12:24.**
- Consider the “Parable of the Talents” as an illustration here too (**Matthew 25:14-30**).
- If we cannot be trusted with the mammon of unrighteous, who would commit to our trust the true riches (**Luke 16:11**)?