

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 172 – Honey Likened To Knowledge Through Not Respecting Persons (Proverbs 24:13-23)

1. What is eating honey and the honeycomb likened unto?

Knowledge being sweet and tasty for the soul: *“(13) My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste: (14) So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off” (Proverbs 24:13-14).*

- The point of these verses is that knowledge and wisdom are sweet to the soul (**Psalms 119:111** and **Jeremiah 15:16**).
- Fact: The truth is better than honey and the honeycomb (**Psalms 19:8-10**).
- The need to FIND knowledge and wisdom (**Proverbs 2:1-5** and **Proverbs 3:13**).
- These Scriptures aren't saying to go and eat a bunch of honey (**Proverbs 25:16** and **Proverbs 25:27**).
- That being said, honey is a good food (**Isaiah 7:13-14** and **Matthew 3:4**).

2. Can the wicked ultimately triumph over the righteous?

No: *“(15) Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place: (16) For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief” (Proverbs 24:15-16).*

- Righteous people get back up (**Job 5:19**, **Micah 7:8**, **II Corinthians 4:8-12**, and **Philippians 4:13**).
- The victories of the wicked are short (**Job 20:5**).

3. Should we rejoice when our enemies fall?

No: *“Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth” (Proverbs 24:17).*

- We should sorrow over lost souls (**Luke 19:41-44** and **Romans 9:1-3**). *Considering that the Jews persecuted both Jesus and Paul, but they sorrowed over the failures.
- God finds no pleasure in the death of the wicked (**Ezekiel 33:11**).

4. What happens when the righteous rejoice over the fall of their enemies?

The Lord turns His wrath away from that enemy: *“Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him” (Proverbs 24:18).*

- Cf. **Job 31:29** and **Proverbs 17:5**.

5. Should we envy the wicked?

No: *“Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked” (Proverbs 24:19).*

- Almost the same verse in **Psalms 37:1**.
- Same points taught elsewhere (**Psalms 73:3, Proverbs 23:17, and Proverbs 24:1**).
- What's there to envy about someone who is Hell bound (**Psalms 37:20, Luke 13:28, and John 5:29**)? *See next question & answer...

6. Why shouldn't we envy the wicked?

His end is not good: *"For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out"* (**Proverbs 24:20**).

- Hell bound, yes that is the reward (**Psalms 9:17 and II Thessalonians 1:7-9**).
- No good rewards to come (**Isaiah 3:11**).

7. Should we meddle with those who are given to change?

No: *"My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change"* (**Proverbs 24:21**).

- Fear the Lord (**Ecclesiastes 12:13, Hebrews 12:28, and I Peter 2:17**) and king (**Proverbs 20:2**). *Unless the king is against God (**Matthew 10:28**).
- We're obviously not talking about those given to repentance, for this is good and right (**Jeremiah 26:13 and Acts 26:20**).
- We are talking about those who change FROM what is good (**Joshua 1:7, Joshua 23:6, and II Peter 2:20-22**) or change that which is good (**Proverbs 30:5-6, Jeremiah 6:16, Jeremiah 7:23, Colossians 2:6-8, II Timothy 1:13, and Revelation 22:18-19**).

8. Do things turn out for good for those who are given to change?

No: *"For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both"* (**Proverbs 24:22**)?

- King Saul is an example of this (**Hosea 13:10-11**).
- When the erring are too comfortable, look out; for THE Judgment comes when you're unprepared (**I Thessalonians 5:3**).

9. Is it good to have respect of persons?

No: *"These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment"* (**Proverbs 24:23**).

- Truth belongs to the wise because the wise see and understand truth (**Psalms 107:43**).
- It is not good to respect persons (**Leviticus 19:15, Deuteronomy 16:19, Proverbs 28:21, I Timothy 5:20-21, and James 2:1-12**).