

Clippings from Proverbs 5

Prepared for the 3C Sunday School Class

Calvary Baptist Church

Beginning January 20, 2013

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NOTE: This material is exactly what the name implies. These are clippings from various sources, gathered on the run as I teach through the book. This is not intended for distribution or publication in the current form, since permissions have not been secured. The notes are provided to members of our Sunday School class, our church and students of the institutes, colleges and seminaries where I am called upon to teach. They are for personal use.

PULLING PROVERBS TOGETHER: You will find that Proverbs deals with the sexual temptations of the young man in these passages. (2:16-22; 5:3-23; 6:24-35; 7:5-27; 9:13-18).

IN A NUTSHELL God has provided marriage as the fulfillment of earthly joys and the hedge against temptation to immorality. Feel free to enjoy fully the pleasures of marriage. Be sure to listen to your parents because they will save you from the disaster of sexual immorality.

Holman Old Testament Commentary

QUOTE: "Successful marriage is always a triangle: a man, a woman, and God." Cecil Meyers

OPEN: The Myth of Greener Grass J. Allan Petersen wrote a book entitled *The Myth of the Greener Grass* (Wheaton, Ill.: Tyndale House, 1983). Though the book was written many years ago, it's conclusions are still up-to-date. Petersen wrote:

Sex, sex, sex. Our culture is near the point of total saturation. The cesspool is running over. Books, magazines, billboards, movies shout it ceaselessly. TV, the most powerful and immediate medium, trumpets it in living color. Sex gets the ratings. It is the recurring theme in daytime soaps and talk shows, the inevitable subject in the nighttime interview. Every day, all day, the message bombards us like pellets from a brain-washing gun: "Get all the sex there is.... Don't miss out. There is no tomorrow" (Petersen, 15-16).

And because of this saturation, for many people the grass seems greener somewhere else. If they are single, the grass seems greener with premarital sex. If they are married, the grass seems greener with another person other than their present spouse. The world used to take adultery seriously, but things have changed. The tabloids and TV talk shows send the message that adultery is normal. "Everybody's doing it" becomes a moral guideline. And judging from the statistics, America is listening. Therefore, the warnings against premarital sex and adultery given us by Solomon are even more relevant today than ever before. Yet the Scripture teaches,

and observation demonstrates, that immorality is never a good answer—it always promises more than it can deliver. From Solomon's time until today, everyone would be wise to heed the warnings of Solomon. *HOTC*

COMMENTARY

MAIN IDEA: An illicit affair may provide short-term pleasure, but the long-range consequences will be disastrous. Stay faithful to your spouse, and you will experience genuine satisfaction—and God will be pleased. You cannot escape the painful results of immorality.

I. The Demand for Attention (5:1-2)

1 My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding: 2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

- **Bow the ear.** Proverbs, at times, stresses the importance of a posture of attention. (See ch. 4)
- **Lips keep knowledge.** Having a word of Scripture on the lips is a time-tested way to fight temptation.
- **ILLUS:** Jesus said, “It is written.”

II. The Description of the Adulteress (5:3-6)

3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil: 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell. 6 Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS	REALITY DISCOVERED LATER
Lips – flattery Like honeycomb. (Sweetie, sugar, honey) Smoother than oil. (slick)	Bitter as gall. Like a knife! Death Hell (Sheol, realm of the dead)

- Loose women know how to attract a man, and they use a tool that some wives have either abandoned for forgotten.
- They offer men respect, dignity, worth.
- Of course it is all just empty flattery.
- There is a lesson here for the young man.
- But there is a lesson here for wives.

- One final caution is given! When the loose woman is through telling you lies, she will move onto some other victim.

III. The Disaster that Awaits (5:7-14)

A. A Repetition (5:7)

7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

B. A Request (5:8)

8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:

C. A Ruin (5:9-11)

9 Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: 10 Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; 11 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,

D. A Regret (5:12-14)

1. His Foolishness (5:12-13)

12 And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; 13 And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

2. His Hopelessness (5:14)

14 I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.

Proverbs 5:14 (ESV) I am at the brink of utter ruin in the assembled congregation.”

Proverbs 5:14 (NLT) I have come to the brink of utter ruin, and now I must face public disgrace.”

IV. The Decision that is Advised (5:15-19)

15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. 16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.

Or, “Should you let your fountains be dispersed into the streets”?

17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. 18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. 19 Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished [intoxicated] always with her love. 20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?

QUOTE: 5:19-20. No one can deny the excitement of physical attraction. Proverbs calls on the man to channel that excitement toward his wife. He should appreciate her beauty as if she were a graceful deer and be satisfied with her body and her love. He should love her “alone” (v. 17) and always. The word translated captivated is sometimes used to describe the effects of intoxication, to stagger or to be exhilarated (Prov. 20:1; Isa. 28:7). So God intends a man to be exhilarated with the affection of his own wife, not some other man's wife. *HOTC*

V. The Divine Awareness (5:21-23)

A. The Eyes of the Lord (5:21)

21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord , and he pondereth all his goings.

B. The Consequences (5:22-23)

22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins. 23 He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

CONCLUSION:

QUOTE: It is vital that we read Proverbs as a book for today. We must not conclude because the history, culture, and location are different from ours that things are really different for us. We must resist the temptation to think that those people had a primitive culture, they would not understand what life is like today, and we cannot take the teachings of Proverbs straight across to our lives today. To come to that conclusion would be a big mistake.

Cecil Dickard once said, “Give me a Bible and a candle and shut me up in a dungeon, and I will tell you what the world is doing.” Things have not changed since Bible times. That is why Solomon said, “There is nothing new under the sun.” Our motivations, our desires, our weaknesses remain unchanged since the beginning of time. Proverbs is a warning to us. Today. We would be foolish not to hear its message. *HOTC*

PRINCIPLES

- Grass will often seem greener in the other pasture, and it will appear greener and greener the more we look.
- The devil will see to it that we don't get through life without temptation to immorality.
- God's avenues for fidelity are sufficient.

APPLICATIONS

- Always assume that you are vulnerable to sexual temptation, and take drastic measures to guard against it.
- Physical infidelity always begins with mental infidelity.
- Guard your mind! Don't feed it things that strengthen temptation; instead, occupy it with thoughts that strengthen holiness.
- If you feel yourself weakening, get help! Seek a pastor or a spiritual mentor. Don't fight a losing battle alone.

What to do about it? Petersen suggests six things.

First, develop a biblical conscience. Educate it with Scripture, and strengthen it through memorization and meditation.

Second, defuse it by not fearing it. Every temptation is an opportunity to defeat the devil.

Third, decide irrevocably if you want victory. If you don't want it badly and commit to it, you'll be in grave danger.

Fourth, determine your response ahead of time. Predetermine how you will react, before the pressure hits.

Fifth, discipline your mind with counteraction. Don't leave your mind a vacuum, but fill it with things that encourage faithfulness.

Sixth, follow Christ as your example. He was totally committed to doing his Father's will. He countered temptation by quoting Scripture that he had memorized. He guarded his mind from tempting thoughts and spent time cultivating an eternal perspective.

In the face of the kind of temptation we face today, and in light of the exhortations of Solomon, we would all do well to take the message of Proverbs to heart, realizing that each of us is vulnerable to temptation. If we accept our vulnerability ahead of time and put the safety measures into place up front, we'll be more secure from sexual temptation. *HOTC*