

Proverbs 17: God's situational Handbook.

Solomon continues to bestow godly wisdom to his son, and conversely, God's wisdom to us.

Proverbs 17:1-28: *Better is a dry morsel and quietness with it than a house full of feasting with strife.*

➤ **In our society, disobedience to the principles of God seems to be the main issue that invokes _____.** Americans, in an effort to eliminate the tensions brought on by conflicting family members, will often resort to such humor as this: When I married him, I vowed: "for better or worse." "He couldn't have done better, and I couldn't have done worse." In the same sense, the female of our human species is often sardonically quipped to have lengthy and very long memories. God has placed in each Christian the ability to forgive and forget, and in truth, He expects it of us. **Romans 12:17; *Never pay back evil for evil to anyone. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable.* Ephes. 4:32; *Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.* Col. 3:13; *You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others.* 1st Peter 3:9; *Don't repay evil for evil. Don't retaliate when people say unkind things about you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God wants you to do, and he will bless you for it.* [NLT]**

Can you see the strife dissipating, if we were to follow the expectations of God?

Proverbs 17:2: *A servant who acts wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully and will share in the inheritance among brothers.*

➤ **Solomon's words here appear to be prophetic. Israel acted shamefully and has been under the Gentile thumb ever since. God has taken them to the woodshed; this discipline is between them and God, if the church is smart, we will stay out of it. God is not done with the Jew, He will retain a remnant, and we, the Gentile church [servant] will share with them in their _____.**

Proverbs 17:3: *The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the Lord tests hearts.*

- **We have read several times how God works as a silversmith refining a people for the final separation. In 1st Cor. 10:13 we read: *But remember that the temptations that come into your life are no different from what others experience. And God is faithful. He will keep the temptation from becoming so strong that you can't stand up against it. When you are tempted, he will show you a way out so that you will not give in to it.* [NLT]**

So why does God allow trials and temptations at all? God tests our _____ for two purposes, the first is to continually bring our flesh trained minds into an agreement with our New Nature, and the second is to check our progress in sanctification, (that of becoming more like His son Jesus).

Proverbs 17:4: *An evildoer listens to wicked lips, A liar pays attention to a destructive tongue.*

- **Turning the subjects around makes the proverb a bit clearer. Those with Wicked lips and a _____ tongue (usually false teachers, gossips, and slanders), are welcomed by those that live in unrepentant sin.**

Proverb 17:5: *He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; He who rejoices at calamity will not go unpunished.*

- **The reason they are a _____ is that the attitude displayed is one of self-centeredness belonging to our old nature. Mocking the poor is self-elevating as is rejoicing at another's _____ or misfortune.**

Proverbs 17:6: *Grandchildren are the crown of old men, and the glory of sons is their fathers.*

- **The other side of this coin is found where the book of the Law concedes, that those who live outside of the confines of God's principles; here, "the sins of the fathers will follow their children**

through future generations.” When children are raised in a God-fearing home, right living and God’s blessings will follow, attesting to the godly upbringing passed on by the parents and grandparents. The children will be a _____ to the parents and grandparents. Sadly, when parents don’t teach their children godly ways, the children will continue to follow the path of their rebellious, sinful natural born nature.

Proverbs 17:7: *Excellent speech is not fitting for a **fool**; much less are lying lips to a prince.*

- **Just as excellent speech does not become a person who is a _____ in God’s eyes, usually because their conversation is contradictory, neither do lies become a person who is in the role of leadership. Politicians beware!**

Proverbs 17:8: *A bribe is a charm in the sight of its owner; wherever he turns, he **prospers**.*

- **I am not sure why the NASB translates this Hebrew word as a bribe, **shachad** {shakh '-ad;}, a donation, gift, present, reward or bribe as defined by the context]. When the KJV and other quality manuscripts translate the Hebrew word as gifts. When we read it as gifts or donations the proverb makes common sense. *A present [is] a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; wherever he turns, he prospers.* ^{NKJV}. Grateful people will _____. Paul writes *No matter what happens, always be thankful, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.* ^{1 Thes. 5:18 [NLT]}**

Proverbs 17:9-10: *He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter **separates** intimate friends. ^[10] A **rebuke** goes deeper into one who has **understanding** than a hundred blows into a fool.*

- **When we are able to look beyond another’s faults, we preserve our love relationship with them. Gossiping about them to others or nagging them about their shortcomings can _____ close friends.**

- On the other hand, to the one who has _____ of God's expectations, a _____ from knowledgeable brethren is profitable.

Proverbs 17:11: *A **rebellious** man seeks only evil, so a cruel messenger will be sent against him.* ^[NASB]

- As a pastor, I have often been asked; how could a loving God allow a certain tragedy to take place? The book of Job [ee'jobe] comprehensively answers that question, but considering time constraints and space, let's just look to 2nd Peter and James for a more concise answer; one that states how a rebellious man seeks only evil, so a cruel messenger will be sent against him. Remember that Satan and the minions of Satan are merely tools that God uses to test and teach His own. Sadly, the _____ folks, who choose to remain under the control of Lucifer; they are on their own. 2nd Peter 2:9: *So you see, the Lord knows how to rescue godly people from their trials, even while punishing the wicked right up until the Day of Judgment.* ^[NLT] James 1:13-15: *And remember, no one who wants to do wrong should ever say, "God is tempting me." God is never tempted to do wrong, and he never tempts anyone else either.* ^[14] *Temptation comes from the lure of our own evil desires.* ^[15] *These evil desires lead to evil actions, and evil actions lead to death.* ^[NLT] Satan, who really hates humanity, is quick to grab hold of our weaknesses and exploit them to his own end and for his own diabolic purposes.

Proverbs 17:12: *Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a **fool** in his folly.*

- A person is safer in the presence of an angry mother bear, after having abducted her cubs, than trusting in the plans of a _____ who rejects the salvation offered freely by God, through the authority of His Word. Acts 4:12: *There is salvation in no one else! There is no other name in all of heaven for people to call on to save them.* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 17:13: *He who returns evil for good, Evil will not depart from his house.*

- In this proverb, I am humbled, as I cannot help but think of My Lord, His rejection by Israel, and all of the tragedy that has befallen the house of Jacob ever since, the assault of _____ has not departed their house. King David writes prophetically in Psalm 35:12-16 about the rejected Messiah. ^[12] *They repay me with evil for the good I do. I am sick with despair.* ^[13] *Yet when they were ill, I grieved for them. I even fasted and prayed for them, but my prayers returned unanswered.* ^[14] *I was sad, as though they were my friends or family as if I were grieving for my own mother.* ^[15] *But they are glad now that I am in trouble; they gleefully join together against me. I am attacked by people I don't even know; they hurl slander at me continually.* ^[16] *They mock me with the worst kind of profanity, and they snarl at me.*
[NLT]

Compiler's notes: In my theological understanding, Christ's prayers for Israel went unanswered, to allow for the age of the Gentiles (the Church). I fully believe that our Bible teaches that a time will come when God will restore a repentant remnant, Israel.

Proverbs 17:14: *The beginning of strife is like letting out water, So abandon the quarrel before it breaks out.*

- A contentious disagreement is like opening a floodgate; there are times when it is better to _____ the matter before a dispute breaks out. The exception, of course, would be in the defense of the gospel. Bear in mind that we are Christ's ambassadors. Jesus openly contended with the moneychangers in the temple. Luke 19:46: *He told them, "The Scriptures declare, 'My Temple will be a place of prayer,' but you have turned it into a den of thieves."* [NLT]

Proverbs 17:15: *He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the righteous, both of them alike are an abomination to the Lord.*

- It is an offense to God to acquit the guilty or to condemn those who are not guilty. This would, of course, be according to the principles set forth in His Word and not the subjective wisdom of our carnal, un-renewed, old nature. I am sure that we can all cite many examples of this, especially when it comes to such hot topics as abortion or the death penalties. We are free to hold an opinion, both pro and con, but God's Word is the final arbitrator of _____ness_ Those who would willfully transgress the principles found in the Word of God are an _____ to our Lord.

Proverbs 17:16: *Why is there a price in the hand of a **fool** to buy wisdom, when he has no sense?*

- The "writer's intent bible" [NLT] translates this proverb like this. "*It is senseless to pay tuition to educate a fool who has no heart for wisdom.*" What comes to mind is the altercation between Peter and John with Simon. Simon saw these two apostles imparting God's gift of His Holy Spirit by the laying on of hands and thought that he could buy that power, having no fear of God; It was "*a price in the hand of a _____ who has no sense.*"

Proverbs 17:17: *A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for **adversity.***

- God knows that we also need flesh and blood support and affirmation in times of _____, so He has provided for us the family unit and the "God-fearing" church. However, the greatest friend that we have is Jesus, the one who laid down His life for you and me. No friend except Christ deserves our unrestrained confidence. Jesus said: "**This is My commandment, that you love one another, just as I have loved you.** [13] "**Greater love has no one than this; that one lay down his life for his friends.** John 15:12-13 [NASB]

Proverbs 17:18: *A man lacking in sense pledges and becomes **surety** in the presence of his neighbor.*

- **When you allow yourself to become collateral for someone else, you assume an obligation for a debt that is not yours. Even though Christ became _____ for our sin debt, it was, through His Divine wisdom; for he was able to discharge the bond that inhibited God's Spirit from indwelling all who would invite Him.**

Proverbs 17:19-20: *He who loves transgression loves **strife**; He who raises his **door** seeks destruction. ^[20] He who has a crooked mind finds no good, and he who is perverted in his language falls into evil.*

- **The rebellious man loves to stir up contention and _____. We read back in Proverbs 16:18 how "*pride goes before destruction.*" In reference to one raising their own _____, [boasting] Paul writes in Romans 12:3; *As God's messenger, I give each of you this warning: Be honest in your estimate of yourselves, measuring your value by how much faith God has given you.* ^[NLT] It is obvious that a person with a perverse mind usually winds up in a mess, while the person who uses deceptive speech, will reap what he has sown; snared by his own lies.**

Proverbs 17:21: *He who begets a **fool** does so to his sorrow, and the father of a **fool** has no joy.*

- **This proverb was covered back in 10:11, and we will see it again in Proverbs chapter 25, therefore it must be really important. The _____ in God's mind is one who would reject Christ's ultimate sacrifice made on our behalf. God sends no man to perdition; it is a choice that we make. John 3:16: **"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.** ^[NLT]**

Proverbs 17:22: *A **joyful** heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit dries up the bones.*

- Our _____ should not be relative to the situation that surrounds us; rather it is dependent on God's approval. ^{Matthew 5:3} *"God blesses those who realize their need for him, for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them."* ^[NLT] Counting your blessing will add to our health, while self-inflicted depression will shorten our Days. Jesus reminds us in Matthew 6:34: *". . . not to be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."* ^[NASB] Paul confirms this in Philippians 4:6: *"Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need and thank him for all he has done."* ^[NLT] And Peter also reaffirms Jesus' words in 1st Peter 5:7: *"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about what happens to you."* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 17:23: A wicked man receives a bribe from the bosom to pervert the ways of justice.

- The Hebrew word for bosom is the word **cheyq**, {khake}; which means to enclose or hold within", so the probable meaning that Solomon intended to convey to his son is that a _____ person who is in a position of power, possibly will receive a bribe from his inner circle, they will then attempt to manipulate " _____ " for their own perversion.

Proverbs 17:24: Wisdom is in the presence of the one who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

- God's indwelling Holy Spirit imparts wisdom to those who will realize their inadequacies and listens to the inner guidance of the Spirit; while the fool seeks _____ from all types of earthly sources, whose teaching is limited to the input from our five senses. God gave this command to Moses in Exodus 4:12: *"Now go and do as I have told you. I will help you speak well, and I will tell you what to say."* ^[NLT] Jesus also applied this principle to us when we are defending the gospel. Luke 12:11-12: *"And when you are brought to trial in the synagogues and before rulers and authorities, don't worry about what to say in your defense, ^[12] for*

the Holy Spirit will teach you what needs to be said even as you are standing there." ^[NLT] Our wisdom comes from the Holy Spirit within.

Proverbs 17:25: *A foolish son is a grief to his father and bitterness to her who bore him.*

- This is another principle that God must feel strongly about, enough that the theme is repeated three times. We looked at it in depth in Proverbs 10:1 and will see it again in chapter 19. The children with godly parents that reject the object of their devotion are a _____ and a great disappointment to their fathers, as well as an affront to their mother's faith. Hear this: in our frustration with them, we must never stop praying for them, remembering that God loves them far more than we do and is not willing for them to perish.

Proverbs 17:26: *It is also not good to fine the righteous, Nor to strike the **noble* for their uprightness.*

* *nadiyb, naw-deeb*; properly understood as *voluntary* and generous, thus noble, or of a willing heart.

- **Wow! A lot of illustrative applications here but suffice it to say; it is wrong to _____ the godly for being good or to punish volunteers for their willingness to render help! I personally have in mind the recent noble efforts of a "faith-based organization," where the Salvation Army Volunteers were _____n_ by the PC crowd while working on a FEMA project under the Obama administration. They were asked to change out of their tee shirts that bore the logo of the Salvation Army, and although the reason was buried, it is most probably so that their Christianity would not be an offense to the secular group which appeared to have no Christian co-laborers.**

Proverbs 17:27: *He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.*

- This is good common sense advice: we also covered a similar subject back in Proverbs 10:19. In the New Testament, James

writes in 1:19, *this you know, my beloved brethren. But let everyone be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger;* [NASB] The Fruit of the Spirit contained within our new godly natures and enlightens us that God has placed within each born again person, peace, patience, gentleness, long-suffering, and self-control. It is the object of our life, through the sanctifying power of His Spirit, to train our minds to respond according to these attributes. In other words, we are to bite our tongue and keep our _____.

Let me end this chapter with a great narrative and then in the next passage we will see some apropos statements by some of the better-known personalities and political leaders in our American society, that may have been better left unsaid.

A member of a certain church, who previously had been attending services regularly, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still silent. The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and realized it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with a tear running down his cheek, 'Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I will be back in church next Sunday'. We live in a world today, which tries to say too much

with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken. *He who restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.*

Compiler's thought: The best sermon that anyone can give is to quietly walk out the gospel of Christ as we go about our daily business. Do this so that others may see the fruit of His Spirit that is within us which may create a desire to know the source of our new disposition.

Proverbs 17:28: *Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is counted prudent.* [NASB]

- **Perhaps silence would have spoken better than these revealing words.**
- ✓ **"Outside of the killings, Washington has one of the lowest crime rates in the country."-- ***** Mayor of Washington, D.C.**
 - ✓ **"I've never had major knee surgery on any other part of my body." -- ***** , University of Kentucky basketball forward.**
 - ✓ **I haven't committed a crime. What I did was fail to comply with the law." -- ***** Former New York City Mayor.**
 - ✓ **Smoking kills. If you're killed, you've lost a very important part of your life." -- ***** famous Hollywood actress.**
 - ✓ **"It's no exaggeration to say that the undecideds could go one way or another. Compiler: do you think? -- ***** , Former US President**
 - ✓ **"I have opinions of my own -- strong opinions --but I don't always agree with them."-- ***** , Former US President**
 - ✓ **Just as being too busy gives you nightmares, being a fool makes you a *blabbermouth.** Eccles. 5:3 [NLT] * **dabar, daw-bawr**; advice with many causes or much-perceived knowledge.