

Proverbs 22 deals with aptitudes, attitudes, attributes and interpersonal relationships.

Proverbs 22:1: *A **good** name is to be more desired than great riches, Favor is better than silver and gold.*

➤ **Since the word good is italicized in the formal transcript, it means that that the translator qualified and added it. The good name does not refer to the name we were given at birth, rather it is one that we chose by the path that we follow. It is better to die with a _____ name than to live with a bad one. Eccles. 7:1: *A good reputation is more valuable than the most expensive perfume. In the same way, the day you die is better than the day you are born.* [NLT]**

Compiler's note: Here is an often-overlooked phrase in this verse *the day you die is better than the day you are born*, but in the case of a true Christian, death should be a time of great celebration rather than a time of mourning, if we mourn, we mourn for our own loss. What may come to your mind is the "Irish Wake," but as its name implies that was not to celebrate the passing so much as it was to await the person coming out of their comatose condition brought on by drinking alcohol from a lead-based pewter mug. At one period this problem became so prevalent that the dead were buried in a coffin with a string attached to their wrist and bell on the surface, to be rung should the dead "wake" up. We get the word phrase "a dead ringer" from this practice.

Proverbs 22:2: *The rich and the poor have a common bond, the Lord is the **maker** of them all.*

➤ **That means that before God all men are the same, born in the image of *Seth. This means we must all answer to the same judge; the Lord our _____ and Designer, who will judge our lives all by the same standard. The man who arrogantly boasts that he is just as good as half of the folks in the church usually doesn't say which half he identifies with.**

Compiler's note: Genesis 5:3: *When Adam had lived

one hundred and thirty years; he became the father of a son in his own likeness, according to his image, and named him Seth. ^[NASB] Seth was born in the image of his post-Lapsarian father Adam, who was then spiritually dead. We are all descendants of Adam's depraved nature, which is only taken away through Christ Jesus' sacrifice and through the keeping and course correcting power of His Holy Spirit. Paul writes in Ephes. 2:3; *Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest.* ^[NASB]

Proverbs 22:3: *The prudent sees the evil and hides himself, but the naive go on and are punished for it.*

➤ Today we are _____ if we buy insurance as preparation for every calamity, everything from health to death. Insurance is like paying for calamities on the installment plan; and Life insurance is the only instrument that takes from the poor now, to make them wealthy when they need it least. Sadly, too many folks fail to prepare for eternity. I heard of a Christmas card that a Christian businessman sent out that read, "Merry Christmas to my Christian friends, Happy Hanukkah to my Jewish friends, and good luck to the rest of you."

Proverbs 22:4-5: *The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life. ^[5] Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; he who guards himself will be far from them.*

➤ It has been my experience that our God wants us to look to Him for blessings and protection just as children would look to their earthly father, both in awe and reverence. Our _____ of disappointing our Lord will produce _____ and life. We should recall Jesus' plea to God the Father as "Abba", an Arab, evocative term of endearment. "*Abba, Father,*" he said, "*everything is possible for you. Please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will, not mine.*" ^[Mark 14:36 NLT]

As adopted children into the family of God the Spirit, writing through the pen of Paul suggests our using this term of familiarity and endearment by calling upon God, as Jesus does, "**Abba,**" which translated means Father. In Romans 8:15 we read: . . . *You should behave instead like God's very own children, adopted into his family—calling him "Father, dear Father. [Abba]"* ^[NLT] He further states in Galatians 4:6: *And because you Gentiles have become his children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, and now you can call God your dear Father.* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 22:6: ***Train** up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

- **Parenting is hard work; _____ing_ up a child requires effort and discipline, but the eternal rewards for both the parents and the child are great. We have already discussed the human way is usually not God's way - we are to teach our children godly ways. John 14:6: *Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.* ^[NLT]**

Compiler's note: Parents take heart, I have watched my own "rebellious" child sow his wild oats, but in the end, like the "prodigal son", he repented and returned to the God of his youth.

Proverbs 22:7: *The rich rules over the **poor**, And the borrower becomes the lender's slave.*

- **Here is a lesson that I had to learn the hard way. It is important for every man to keep out of debt. As to the material things of this life, there is a difference between the rich and the poor; but let the poor remember, it is the Lord that makes the difference, to soften the material things of this world detour us off of God's narrow way.**

Perhaps a lowly state is most favorable for inward peace and for growth in holiness. God would give all

believers the riches and admiration of this world if these were not a distraction, keeping us from doing good; seeing that He has chosen us to be rich in faith, making us heirs of His kingdom, which He promised to bestow on all who love him. Think about how often riches lead to vice and disobedience, and what great reproaches are thrown upon God and religion by men of wealth, power and worldly greatness. Consider this, God must love the _____ 'cause He made so many of us.

Proverbs 22:8: *He who sows iniquity will reap vanity, and the rod of his fury will perish.*

➤ You _____ what you sow, those who plant the seeds of sin and injustice will harvest disaster, and their reign of terror will not end well.

Proverbs 22:9: He who is generous will be blessed, for he gives some of his food to the poor.

➤ When it comes to giving, some people will stop at nothing! Someone once said that a miser is merely a rich pauper. The evangelist Billy Graham commented, "God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not to be cisterns made for holding; rather we are to be channels made for sharing." God will bless the _____.

Proverbs 22:10: *Drive out the scoffer, and contention will go out, even strife and dishonor will cease.*

➤ Too often the cause of division and church splitting happens when a _____ illegitimately comes into power or is allowed into a position of authority. All in all, we should feel sorry for them, for the poor atheist who feels grateful has no one to thank. The scoffer cannot find God for the same reason that a thief cannot find a policeman.

Proverbs 22:11-12: *He who loves purity of heart and whose*

*speech is gracious, the king is his friend. [12] The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, but He overthrows the words of the **treacherous** man.*

➤ **To be apropos to us in the 21st century America we must consider the King to be none other than our Lord Jesus. 1st Samuel 16:7 informs us that . . . *God sees not as man sees, for man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the _____.*" The _____ man will be found out and his duplicity revealed.**

Compiler's note: The heart refers to the home of our emotions and attitudes, it is the tabernacle of the Holy Spirit. Proverbs 16:2: *All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the Lord weighs the motives.* Motives are generated in the center of our being and manifest a method carrying out their purpose by our minds. God has given us a new nature with new attitudes when we invited His Holy Spirit to indwell us after we were forgiven and made clean.

Proverbs 22:13: *The **sluggard** says, "There is a lion outside; I shall be slain in the streets!"*

➤ **I think God's Spirit, speaking through Solomon, is using hyperbole for the experience about the results of the languid indolent. Here the _____ or lazy man is making an extreme excuse for his lack of effort and the end results are not good.**

Proverbs 22:14: *The mouth of an **adulteress** is a deep pit; he who is **cursed** of the Lord will fall into it.*

➤ **God regards Himself as Israel's Husband, just as the church is considered the bride of Christ. Isaiah 54:5, confirms this premise as well as a veiled reference to the Trinity. God the Father as Israel's husband: "*For your husband is your Maker, whose name is the Lord of hosts; and your Redeemer [Jesus] is the Holy One of Israel, who is called the God of all the earth.*" [NASB] [Confirmed Hosea 2:19] Paul writes in 2 Cor. 11:2 of the Gentile church, *I am jealous for you with the jealousy of God himself.***

For I promised you as a pure bride to one husband, Christ. ^[NLT] Accordingly, God would consider the follower who falls away, whether Jew or gentile as an _____, should she not repent and return, in the end she will be _____.

Proverbs 22:15: ***Foolishness*** is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.

➤ _____ is sin, and sin is rebellion against the ways of God; all children are born with an inward inclination to rebel. Just as God's spirit corrects those of us who are born again and in the process of sanctification; as parents, we also need to correct the course that a willful child will take left on their own. Proper discipline will not provoke a child to wrath as long as we are not just venting our own anger.

Proverbs 22:16: He who ***oppresses*** the poor to make much for himself or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

➤ I struggled with this for a moment until I looked up the word _____ in the lexicon and realized that it can just as easily mean deceive or defraud. So the application can more easily be understood as "A person who gets ahead by deceiving the poor or by showering gifts (read bribes) on a person in a position of power. They will end in poverty, if not physically in this life, at least spiritually. There is coming a judgment day for each of us. Romans 14:10: . . . ***For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God.*** ^[NASB]

Proverbs 22:17-21: *Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise and apply your mind to my knowledge; ^[18] for it will be ***pleasant*** if you keep them within you, that they may be ready on your lips. ^[19] So that your trust may be in the Lord, I have taught you today, even you. ^[20] Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, ^[21] to make you know the certainty of the words of truth that you may correctly answer to him who sent you?*

- **To these words, to this knowledge, the ear must be bowed down, humbling ourselves before the instructions of God's wisdom, inspired through the pen of Solomon. God has instilled in each born again person a New Nature filled with faith, love, hope, and charity. To live a life of delight in God and have a dependence on Him is the foundation of all true and practical religious conviction. As we allow His Spirit to bring our flesh-trained mind into agreement with the attributes of our new nature, regardless of the circumstances that surround us physically, there will remain a _____ inward awareness of peace. The way to know the certainty of the Word of Truth is to make a conscious effort to study God and His ways through His instruction manual, our Bible.**

Solomon now recaps the principles that he has been attempting to teach his son. This is good advice for him and us as well.

Proverbs 22:22-23: *Do not rob the poor because he is poor or crush the afflicted at the **gate**; ^[23] For the Lord will plead their case and take the life of those who rob them.*

- **Wow! This may seem like a pretty extreme penalty for a robber, but remember that sin, any sin carries the penalty of death. To understand the second part of this warning, we must realize that the city _____ was the place where justice was meted out (analogous to our court system), so the prohibition on robbery would include and extend to exploiting the poor and needy in court. ^[NLT]**

Proverbs 22:24-25: *Do not associate with a man given to anger; or go with a hot-**tempered** man, ^[25] lest you learn his ways, and find a snare for yourself.*

- **I have found that people (of which I am one) are great justifiers, both consciously and subconsciously. Subliminally, when we are around people who laugh a**

lot we tend to mimic their happy attitude. Conversely, when we hang out with negative and angry people, those who often lose their _____, we are in danger of adopting their mindset and becoming like them, trapping ourselves back into our old way of thinking.

Proverbs 22:26: *Do not be among those who give pledges, among those who become sureties for debts. [27] If you have nothing with which to pay, why should he take your bed from under you?*

- **Becoming surety, or co-signing for someone else's _____, must have great danger for the spiritual man, since Solomon, through God's inspired writing, addresses this subject seven times in Proverbs. The danger is that when we do this we are involving ourselves in a situation that, in truth, places us into a position of slavery to someone else's trustworthiness, creating a self-inflicted form of worry and anxiety, thus violating Jesus' axiom found in Matthew 26: "not to worry or be anxious"**

Proverbs 22:28: *Do not move the ancient boundary which your fathers have set.*

- **Moving a _____ marker is a form of covetousness or greed, deceptively attempting to steal land from your neighbor. We don't hear much about this kind of theft anymore, especially with the type of deed documentation (metes and bounds) that we use in these United States; however, there is a spiritual application to this type of boundary moving that we do need to examine.**

There was a time in our nation, which was founded on godly principles by godly men, where a man's word was his bond; a time when we didn't need 1,200 pages of a binding contract; even the Constitution that established this God-ordained nation was only 4 pages long. Who moved the boundary?

As we enter into a post-Christian era, where the landmarks that were used to establish American principles are being eroded, we find that they are replaced with modernism, liberalism, and progressivism. The progressives say that the doctrines taught in the Bible are no longer relevant. We are so far advanced that we can do away with the teachings of Christ, so sophisticated that we no longer are bound by that dusty old book, foolishly believed to be the plenary (full and complete) inspiration of God's Spirit. The distinguished doctrines of the Christian faith have been washed away, no longer taught in many churches. The change that we so desperately need in America is to go back and rebuild those boundary markers that made the United States the great benevolent nation envisioned by our Founding Fathers and, yes I believe, even God Himself.

Proverbs 22:29: *Do you see a man skilled in his work? He will stand before **kings**; He will not stand before obscure men.*

➤ Our God, as _____ and Judge, will one day reward the diligent and faithful servant. In the parable of the Man who went on a trip, trusting each of His servants with a valuable sum; upon His return, and examination of their faithfulness, he had this to say in Matthew 25:21: ***The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!'*** [NLT]

His commendation for you and me will not be based upon the amount of work that we have accomplished, or the people to whom we have witnessed, or even our labor; it will be based on our faithfulness to the task which we have been given during our tenure on earth's campus. Romans 12: 6: ***God has given each of us the ability to do certain things well . . .*** [NLT] ***"As each one has received a special gift, employ it in***

...serving one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. ^{1 Peter 4:10 [NASB]}

Perhaps Romans 12:10-11, will be an appropriate closing for this informative chapter. *Love each other with genuine affection and take delight in honoring each other. [11] Never be lazy in your work but serve the Lord enthusiastically.* ^[NLT]