

## Proverbs 18: God's Situational Handbook.

Solomon's son seems to be progressing in Earth's Graduate school of Higher Learning. Together with him, we will learn the spiritual truths contained in the book of the Proverbs.

**Proverbs 18:1:** *He who separates himself seeks his own desire; He quarrels against all sound wisdom.*

➤ The key word here is \_\_\_\_\_. This is the division among people that our God sees. He does not care about ethnicity, social status, or skin color, and neither should we. What God does see is a separation between those who have received Jesus as both Lord and Savior, as opposed to those who have chosen to remain separated, indulging in their own \_\_\_\_\_s, rejecting God's divine \_\_\_\_\_. Paul addresses this in 2<sup>nd</sup> Cor. 6:16-18: *And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For we are the temple of the living God. As God said: "I will live in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they will be my people. <sup>[17]</sup> Therefore, come out from them and separate yourselves from them, says the Lord. Don't touch their filthy things, and I will welcome you. <sup>[18]</sup> And I will be your Father, and you will be my sons and daughters, says the Lord Almighty."* <sup>[NLT]</sup>

Compiler's note: when God's Spirit speaks through Paul about the filthy things, the Greek word that Paul uses is **akathartos**, {*ak-ath'-ar-tos*}; meaning impure, that is, it is ceremonially unclean, morally devoid, or demonically foul. So here, God is referring to things like Idolatry (read fortunetelling, Ouija boards, even reliance on the Zodiac). We need to separate ourselves from things like that. Unfortunately, some "saved" folks take this idea of separation to an extreme that God never intended; forming their own little exclusive groups, making up their own commandments or denominational requisites that are never taught in God's Word. There is also another group far more dangerous to the fellowship of the true Church; Jude (our Lord's physical half brother) speaks about this in Jude 1:19. *Now they are here, and they are the ones who are creating divisions among you. They live by natural instinct because they do not*

*have God's Spirit living in them.* <sup>[NLT]</sup> In my experience, these are the folk that have accepted the forgiveness offered by Christ, but have never been baptized with His Spirit (made Jesus Lord, and invited His Holy Spirit to indwell them). They withdraw from any Christian teachings that would, in the context of Scripture, reprimand them, and in turn, they formed their own assemblies, based on their own wisdom, rejecting the authority or inerrancy of Scripture. Would you want to serve a God who is so powerless as not to be able to keep one book error free, let alone govern the world?

**Proverbs 18:2:** *A fool does not delight in understanding, but only in revealing his own mind.*

- This one is similar to several in chapter 17. The \_\_\_\_\_ willingly rejects God's wisdom, found in His Word, but rather is far more interested in injecting their own agenda. Just recently several politicians revealed the truth of this proverb on a human level by objecting vehemently to a new state law, while at the same time admitting that they have never read the law. They weren't interested in \_\_\_\_\_ rather, only advancing their own agenda. Dr. McGee offers a quote that is most apropos; "If I stop to think before I speak, I won't have to worry afterward, about what I said before."

**Proverbs 18:3:** *When a wicked man comes; contempt also comes, and with dishonor comes reproach.*

- With the depraved person's arrival, \_\_\_\_\_, shame, and disgrace are sure to follow close behind. Another human proverb declares, "Some folks bring happiness when they arrive, while others bring happiness when they go."

**Proverbs 18:4** *The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; The fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.*

- During the Feast of Tabernacles, as celebrated at the Temple in Jerusalem, was a ceremony known as the drawing

of the water. Jesus used this formal procedure as a teaching metaphor about Himself. John 7:37-38: *On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, "If you are thirsty, come to me! <sup>[38]</sup> If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living \_\_\_\_\_ will flow out from within."* <sup>[NLT]</sup> John interprets this for us so as to remove any obscurity in 7:39: *(When he said: "living water," [this is the water that we are to be immersed in], he was speaking of the Spirit, who would be given to everyone believing in him. But the Spirit had not yet been given, because Jesus had not yet entered into his glory.)* <sup>[NLT]</sup> Every true believer has been baptized with His Spirit, filled with the fruit of the Spirit, which forms within us a new nature. We then must submit to the course correcting, teaching and training of His Spirit, who uses the Word of God as He begins the life long process of bringing our flesh-trained minds into conformity with our new nature. As a child of God, we need to learn to draw on the \_\_\_\_\_ of wisdom offered by His Spirit when we are presenting the Word of God or talking about the things of God.

**Proverbs 18:5:** *to show partiality to the wicked is not good, Nor to thrust aside the righteous in judgment.*

- There is a human proverb followed today in our own society; "The ends justify the means." This seems to be a policy that some of our politicians have adopted in spite of God's directive to do otherwise. We must never align ourselves with the \_\_\_\_\_, neither nations, nor individuals, to bring down the righteous.

**Proverbs 18:6-8:** *A fool's lips bring **strife**, and his mouth calls for blows. <sup>[7]</sup> A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are the snare of his soul. <sup>[8]</sup> The words of a whisperer are like dainty morsels, and they go down into the **innermost** parts of the body.*

- Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:22 that we are not to call someone a fool, and that's because only God is able to; God

knows what is in our \_\_\_\_\_ nature. Again, the person who has rejected God's offer of forgiveness and a new nature is quick to cause trouble, contention, and dissension, bringing on \_\_\_\_\_ by whispering humiliating gossip and rumor. As Ambassador's of Christ, we must guard our speech.

**Proverbs 18:9:** He also who is slack in his work is brother to him who destroys.

- Two passages come to mind here when we think of this in the spiritual realm. The "brother" who \_\_\_\_\_, as an apostate who leads many onto the broad way that leads to destruction, and the person who is \_\_\_\_\_ in their witness, by action or speech, they also open a detour onto the broad way. *Never be lazy in your work but serve the Lord enthusiastically.* Romans 12:11: [NLT] *Then you will not become spiritually dull and indifferent [a slacker]. Instead, you will follow the example of those who are going to inherit God's promises because of their faith and patience.* Hebrews 6:12 [NLT]

**Proverbs 18:10:** *The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous runs into it and is safe.*

- The believer, who relies on our \_\_\_\_\_, is protected through His divine power, made known in and through our Lord Jesus Christ, the living Word. The Word and His indwelling Spirit form a strong \_\_\_\_\_ of defense against the wiles of God's enemy, Satan.



**Proverbs 18:11** *A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his own imagination.*

- How deceitful the defense of the rich man, who has his

portion and treasure in this world! It is a strong city and a high wall, built only by their own conceit and by their \_\_\_\_\_; for it will fail when most in need. In the end, they will be exposed to the just wrath of that Judge whom they despised as a Savior.

Compiler's note: Wealth was never promised to the Christian as it was for the Nation of Israel. Deut. 31:20: "*For when I bring them [the nation of Israel] into the land flowing with milk and honey, which I swore to their fathers, and they have eaten and are satisfied and become prosperous, then they will turn to other gods and serve them, and spurn Me and break My covenant.*" <sup>[NASB]</sup> Many teach that the Church is God's continuation of Israel [where the blessing that was to go to Israel will now go to the church, this faulty doctrine is called Replacement theology], and even though there are many parallels, the differences speak otherwise. These same teachers are quick to misapply spiritual blessings for material ones. Ephes. 1:3: "*How we praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we belong to Christ.*" <sup>[NLT]</sup>

His provision of wealth is for our eternal security with Him. This wealth is found throughout His Word as He prepares to separate for Himself a people, with whom He will spend eternity. Don't waste your time storing up material wealth at the expense of the spiritual wealth found in His Word. Col. 2:3: "*In him lie hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.*" <sup>[NLT]</sup> So Jesus warns us in Matthew 6:19-20: "*Don't store up treasures here on earth, where they can be eaten by moths and get rusty, and where thieves break in and steal. [20] Store your treasures in heaven, where they will never become moth-eaten or rusty and where they will be safe from thieves.*" <sup>[NLT]</sup> And Paul, writing under the inspiration of His Spirit writes in Romans 8:17; "*And since we are his children, we will share his treasures—for everything God gives to his Son, Christ, is ours, too. But if we are to share his glory, we must also share his suffering.*" <sup>[NLT]</sup>

**Proverbs 18:12:** *Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, but humility goes before honor.*

- Self-importance will show itself as impotent, either in this life or as one passes from it when \_\_\_\_\_ follows. James 4:10 cautions us to . . . *bow down before the Lord and admit your dependence on him, he will lift you up and give you honor.* Peter is in accord, writing by the inspiration of the same Spirit in 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 5:6: *So humble yourselves under the mighty power of God, and in his good time he will \_\_\_\_\_ you.* [NLT]

**Proverbs 18:13:** *He who gives an answer before he hears, it is folly and shame to him.*

- I don't mean to be political here, but this is reminiscent of the recent words of a politician who said, "Vote your acceptance of this law so that you can find out what is in it." And another powerful federal official just publicly and openly advocated opposition to a new state law while in almost the same breath admitted, "that he hadn't read it." In other words, giving an \_\_\_\_\_ before he heard. God calls on us to be discerning, but we should first be sure that we have all of the facts. Eagerness coupled with conceit will expose a person to \_\_\_\_\_.

**Proverbs 18:14:** *The spirit of a man can endure his sickness, but a broken spirit who can bear?*

- A person can recover from most physical ailments, but with a broken \_\_\_\_\_, one has given up hope! . . . *which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.* Col. 1:27 [NASB] Our hope cannot be centered on this physical life which will soon wither away, rather our hope must remain in Him and His promises. Psalm 147:11 reminds us "*the Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.*" [NIV] Healing for a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit comes from Jesus, the living Word of God, as His Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write: *Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.* Romans 15:13 [NASB]

**Proverbs 18:15:** *The mind of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.*

- **We have extensively covered similar proverbs in other chapters; however, in this case, let's look at it from another perspective. Paul was teaching a new understanding of some Old Testament doctrines to the people of His day. Unlike some of the heretics and apostate teachers of his day, and ours; he encouraged them to be \_\_\_\_\_ and check out all that he disclosed. Acts 17:11: *And the people of Berea were more open-minded than those in Thessalonica, and they listened eagerly to Paul's message. They searched the Scriptures day after day to check up on Paul and Silas, to see if they were really teaching the truth.* [NLT]**

**Proverbs 18:16:** *A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before great men.*

- **Some antagonists have written that this passage displays an error in Scripture when compared to Proverbs 25:14: *Like clouds and wind without rain, is a man who boasts of his gifts falsely.* [NASB] We will cover that passage more extensively when we get to it, suffice it to say it is a comparison rather than a contradiction when we think of the "gifts," beginning with the gift of the Spirit, who dispenses giftings liberally, rather than gifts of monetary value intended as a bribe. Who comes to my mind is the Reverend Billy Graham? His message was simple, and his vocalizations were not extraordinary; yet his gift of evangelism opened doors which allowed him to share the gospel with many \_\_\_\_\_ men, who made \_\_\_\_\_ for him in their busy schedules.**

**Compiler's note:** I have written many times how Satan hates us and desires to destroy our relationship with God. Perhaps this is just a coincidence but did you know that Rev. Graham's rise to national prominence is partly because of the assistance he received from news mogul William Randolph Hearst; whose interest in

Graham was that he respected Graham for being his own person and following what he believed, even though the two had never met. William Hearst, who stood against the tide of his time, advocated the creation of a "homeland for dispossessed or persecuted Jews." When news of the Holocaust began to seep out of occupied Europe, Hearst covered it as important news in contrast to other newspapers, which downplayed the mass murders. Where the satanic interaction or retribution may have occurred is with William's granddaughter Patty Hearst, a name most of us remember. Patty gained notoriety in 1974 when, following her kidnapping by the Symbionese Liberation Army (SLA), where she ultimately joined her captors in furthering their cause. Apprehended after having taken part in a bank robbery with other SLA members, Hearst was imprisoned for almost two years before her sentence was commuted by President Jimmy Carter. She was later granted a presidential pardon by President Bill Clinton in his last official act before leaving office. The good and godly deeds of her grandfather are lost to the sensationalism of Patty Hearst' antisocial exploits.

**Proverbs 18:17:** *The first to plead his case seems just until another comes and examines him.*

- Solomon cautions his son to withhold judgment until both sides of an issue are presented. God knows the deceitfulness of the human heart and the influence that emotion plays over reality. So, in a troublesome situation, He requires that two witnesses, with corroborating testimony, are necessary to \_\_\_\_\_ a case. Matthew 18:16 . . . *take one or two others with you and go back again, so that everything you say may be confirmed by two or three witnesses.* <sup>[NLT]</sup> The principle is recorded in the Law and found in Deut. 19:15: *"Never convict anyone of a crime on the testimony of just one witness. The facts of the case must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.* <sup>[NLT]</sup>



**Proverbs 18:18:** *The lot puts an end to contentions and decides between the mighty.*

- **Coin tossing and short straws are similar to the drawing of the \_\_\_\_\_.** The lot was used for example, in the case where Jonah was tossed overboard then swallowed by a special fish that our Creator provided. The coin toss is a simple and unbiased way of settling a dispute or deciding between two or more arbitrary options or opinions since there are only two possible outcomes. The coin toss is usually used where sacrifice by one or another of the parties involved is necessary to settle a dispute, method, or direction. One significant coin toss our United States history involved the naming of the city of Portland, Oregon. Asa Lovejoy and Francis W. Pettygrove, who owned the claim to the land that would later become Portland, each wanted to name their new town after their respective hometowns of Boston, Massachusetts and Portland, Maine. Pettygrove prevailed in the coin flip, and the town was named Portland by the toss of a coin.

**Proverbs 18:19:** *A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.*

- **Willie Nelson made the song lyric's "you always hurt the one you love" into an oft-repeated theme.** What is true is that mental and emotional trauma is most damaging when it comes from a loved one or a close friend. God's Word says in hyperbole, "It is far more difficult to make amends with an offended friend than to capture a fortified \_\_\_\_\_." Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with iron bars.

**Proverbs 18:20:** *With the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach will be satisfied; he will be satisfied with the product of his lips.*

- **We struggle to find godly application unless we think of this passage in spiritual terms.** We have all been called to be

witnesses from the moment we chose to make Him Lord of our lives. Romans 10:9: *For if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.* <sup>[NLT]</sup> God protects and provides for those who call Him "Abba", the Hebrew word for father. So, in a spiritual sense, with the \_\_\_\_\_ of our lips, by the words of that come out of our \_\_\_\_\_'s\_, we will find satisfaction and peace in our innermost parts; the part that is indwelt by His Spirit.

**Proverbs 18:21:** *Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.*

- \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ are in the power of the tongue which can be used to lead others to Christ and eternal life, or; it can be used as an instrument of death, as we yield to Satan's wiles, twisting the Word of God, holding up a detour sign onto the broad way that leads to destruction. Matthew 7:13: *"You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way.* <sup>[NLT]</sup>

**Proverbs 18:22:** *He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.*

- God must have a sense of humor inspiring Solomon to record this; and Solomon must have realized the truth of marriage being a \_\_\_\_\_ thing, since he had 700 wives, and 300 concubines, which left him with 1,000 mothers-in-law. On a serious note, I will say this. I have been blessed with a wonderful wife who has been my completer and companion for over 50 years.

**Proverbs 18:23:** *The poor man utters supplications, but the rich man answers roughly.*

- Before our maker, we are all poverty stricken, leaving us no room to \_\_\_\_\_ or demand anything from Him; rather

**we must throw ourselves at the foot of His throne; thanking him for the mercy and provision that He has made for our salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord, and the indwelling presence of His Holy Spirit, who is preparing us for our sojourn in heaven.**

**Proverbs 18:24:** *A man of many **friends** comes to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.*

➤ **Jesus said in John 15:13: "Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his \_\_\_\_\_,"** [NASB] This is the kind of love Jesus showed us when He described you and me as sheep, and Himself as the good Shepherd. John 10:11 reads; **"I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep."** [NASB]

**A fitting closing for this passage and this Chapter are found in the lyrics of the classic hymn by Johnson Oatman, Jr. "No, no not one"**

***There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus  
No, not one! No, not one!  
None else could heal all our souls' diseases  
No, not one! No, not one!***

***Chorus:  
Jesus knows all about our struggles  
He will guide till the day is done  
There's not a friend like the lowly Jesus  
No, not one! No, not one!***