

Proverbs Chapter 14: God's Situational Handbook.

Proverbs 14:1-35: *The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish tears it down with her own hands.*

- Since women have never been the traditional carpenters or builders of structures the proverbs must mean something other than the physical building, and of course, it does. Scripture refers to families and dynasties, such as the House of David or the House of Jacob. The Hebrew word is **bayith**, {*bah'-yith*}; and while it can mean many things including a building, contextually it refers to "family." We have a limited perception on how a particular mother's teaching will impact her offspring or will extend to all that her offspring will come into contact and have influence over. We need only to look to Jochabed for an example. Jochabed was a lowly slave woman in Egyptian captivity, who could not have envisioned the impact her teaching about the one true God and His promises to Abraham, would have on her son Moses as he led Israel into the Promised Land. Jochabed, with God's inspiration, built her house. An example of a _____ woman who tore her house down would be Athaliah, we have read about her earlier but here she is again in 2nd Chronicles 22:2-3: *Ahaziah was twenty-two years old when he became king, and he reigned one year in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Athaliah, the granddaughter of Omri. ^[3] He also walked in the ways of the house of Ahab, for his mother was his counselor to do wickedly.* ^[NASB] The foolish Athaliah tore down the house of Ahab with her own _____. Mothers: God has given you a great deal of responsibility in the training up of those young lives that He has entrusted to your care and teaching. This is not to let fathers off of the hook, for we are the priests of our households and God will require an answer from us, also.

Proverbs 14:2: *He who walks in his uprightness fears the Lord, but he who is crooked in his ways despises Him.*

➤ **Walking in the “_____ of the Lord” is to hold Him in absolute awe. I am afraid that we have lost our sense of trepidation, perhaps because of these hyper times in which we live. We are so used to instant gratification and immediate results that we are usually oblivious to a day of reckoning, unable to comprehend the patience and mercy of God and His unwillingness to drop a lightning bolt on us for the slightest infraction.**

For those of us who are called by His name, He expects and deserves our obedience. Do you recall the story of King Saul? His kingship was accepted by God; however, in what may seem like a small matter to us in our day where corruption is rampant and seems almost tolerable; through a single stroke of disobedience, God tore the kingdom from Saul and inaugurated the house of David in its place.

This expectation of obedience to His Word is carried forward into the New Covenant. Jesus makes this abundantly clear in John 14:15: *"If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.* [NASB] In the tradition of Scripture, He goes on to expound the stated principle a few passages later; . . . *"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him, and make Our abode with him.* John 14:23 [NASB]

The apostle John took this to heart as he converted the principle into application in 1st John 2:5-6: *But those who obey God's word really do love him. That is the way to know whether or not we live in him. Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Christ did.* [NLT]

Proverbs 14:3: *In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back, But the lips of the wise will preserve them.*

➤ Solomon probably drew this proverb from an example known to him through the escapades and stories about his grandfather - King David's encounter with the mighty Philistine giant and enemy of Israel, Goliath. Out of the _____ of this fool, who was about to meet his Maker, came overconfident boasting; *"Am I a dog," he roared at David, "that you come at me with a stick?" And he cursed David by the names of his gods. [44] "Come over here, and I'll give your flesh to the birds and wild animals!" Goliath yelled.* 1st Samuel 17:43-44 [NLT]

Soon to be king, young David responded with _____ and godly words recorded in 1st Samuel 17:45-46; . . . *"You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord Almighty—the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. [46] Today the Lord will conquer you, and I will kill you and cut off your head. And then I will give the dead bodies of your men to the birds and wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel!"* [NLT]

And of course, we all know the rest of the story, pre-inaugural King David, with only a sling and God's inerrant aim; together they slew the Giant and delivered Israel from the army of the Philistines, just as He will deliver and _____ us when we depend solely on Him.

Proverbs 14: 4: *Where no oxen are, the manger is clean, but much increase comes by the strength of the ox.*

➤ We may have a little trouble relating to this proverb since in our society, we have long ago replaced the ox with a tractor, and the pickup truck. But only a few centuries ago, the ox was a most needed farm implement; however, his crib required continuous maintenance and manure removal. The easy way to muck or clean the stall and have no maintenance is to kill the ox, but then you would be deprived of the needed work and _____ of the servant

animal, the one who enabled an increase in the first place. So how is this applicable to us in 2010, you may ask?

In a functioning church, we usually have a person, or a group of "Bible believers and teachers," those who make up the **strength of the assembly**. They are the ones who organize and lead our mission to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ, but their zeal often means inconvenient work and labor for the pew warmers. The easy way for the apathetic assembly to have a clean _____ is to kill the ox and get rid of those troublesome zealots. This seems to be what is happening to our dying Churches here in America as we follow Europe's post-Christian path of indifference. Church boards have stilled the voices of those who deliver the Word of God. Today, many of our once vibrant Churches remain as only another Sunday Morning Social Club.

Proverbs 14:5-6: *A faithful **witness** will not lie, but a false witness speaks lies. ^[6] A scoffer seeks wisdom and finds **none**, but knowledge is **easy** to him who has an understanding.*

➤ The application of this proverb that comes to my mind is one of contrast to a Christian Actor. Throughout my years of knowing Christ as my Lord and Savior, I have known several who claim with their words and acquired Christianese, to _____ the saving love of Christ, but then they proceed to live their not always completely concealed lives, like the devil. Usually, it is because they refuse to willingly give up their old nature and allow His indwelling, course correcting, Holy Spirit too truly *renew their minds. They seek true knowledge but find _____. To those of us who truly know Jesus, knowledge comes _____ and **we don't have to live a lie**; we will speak of the life-changing mercy of Christ, not only with words but with our actions and deeds.

* Romans 12:2: *Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing*

the way you think. Then you will know what God wants you to do and you will know how good and pleasing and perfect his will really is. ^[NLT]

Compiler's note: Turning the other cheek is a well-known unnatural act of our old nature.

Proverbs 14:7-8: *Leave the presence of a fool, or you will not **discern** words of knowledge. ^[8] The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit.*

➤ **As I contemplated this proverb, I am reminded of the childhood song that most of us enjoyed; the sonnets went "be careful little eyes what you see, be careful little ears what you hear," and on and on. It seems many of us, as adults have forgotten to apply these mantras to our grownup lives. I really enjoy TV's history channel and the Discovery channel on certain documentaries, but I refrain from watching anything that moves into the spiritual realm. Many are written and produced to sway and discredit God and the truth of His Word. Facts that substantiate the Bible are usually ignored and in their place are spurious arguments that discredit God as the Designer of all things. My problem is that when we put that kind of stuff into our minds, we become confused and are not able to _____ truth. I am thinking of subjects meant to deceive like the prophecies of Nostradamus or the DaVinci code. The DaVinci Code became a movie made from a recently popular novel. It is a fiction work that has provoked an unhealthy distraction from the Word of God and has been given venues that invoke certain credibility. One of History's heinous despots once said, "A lie told often enough is accepted as truth." These deceptive books and movies refocus many toward ethereal objects like the existence of a Holy Grail or they create fabricated legends of Mary of Magdala's role in the history of Christianity. They have also given their audience a distorted view of real history while engendering scientific inaccuracies; the denial of an Intelligent Designer with some**

esoteric notion that we evolved by happenstance from some primordial goo, is a good example.

Compiler's note: The real founders of this tact and unsubstantiated theory was not Charles Darwin, rather, several atheist who stood against Christian theology, in an attempt to discredit those who accepted and believed in His Holy Bible, annulling their influence on society. For more information on the Christian/Evolution debate, please request my free PowerPoint notes on "It takes more Faith to be an Atheist." Or find a link on [Http://breakfastbiblebytes.org](http://breakfastbiblebytes.org)

Proverbs 14:9: *Fools **mock at sin**, but among the upright, there is **good will**.*

➤ Today there is a plethora of mocking jokes about the _____ of Bill Clinton or even more current, that of Tiger Woods, and maybe they are well deserved; but do we also remember to pray for their souls when we pass these jokes on? We should train ourselves to do this, not only as a gesture of _____ but because it pleases the Father.

Proverbs 14:10-11: *The heart knows its own **bitterness**, and a **stranger** does not share its joy. ^[11] The house of the wicked will be destroyed, But the **tent** of the upright will flourish.*

➤ We cannot know the sting of conviction that clouds another's mind, bad things, that through _____, shape the adult we see today, this is the purview of God and only the power of His Holy Spirit can bring healing to our innermost being. Neither can the _____ to Christ, understand the peace of mind a true believer enjoys, even when we are facing poverty, sickness or death. Christians pitch their _____ in heavenly places. There is an inspired hymn that sings, "Our hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus Christ and His righteousness."

Proverbs 14:12: *There is a way which seems **right** to a man, but its end is the way of **death**.*



When I was a child, I lived mostly without adult supervision, plunked from foster home to foster home, where I was mostly viewed as a source of income rather than a child needing supervision and training to bring order to my life. As a teenager, I was often in trouble with the law. At the ripe old age of 17, I joined the Navy and shipped out to the Great Lakes boot camp. The truth is, I really enjoyed what most boots saw as oppressive regulation, I experienced for the first time in my young life order and organization.

Perhaps this is why some religions flourish and appeal to the flesh more than others. In my experience, the flesh of a natural man desires order and organization, usually finding it just beyond their grasp. Just think about the requirements and demands of the Islamic faith or the works-oriented Jehovah's Witnesses. The rigorous requirements appeal to the flesh as a way of winning their god's favor and seem to be _____ in the mind of the natural born man. If you follow the rules and regulations, you will make it, bow to Mecca umpteen times a day or follow certain do's and don'ts and you will please god[s]. Christianity does not satisfy the desires of our flesh; God's way petitions our free-will and self-determination rather than appeasing through rules and regulations, in fact, we only have two: Jesus said, . . . ***'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.'*** ^[38] ***This is the first and greatest commandment.*** ^[39] ***A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'*** ^[40] ***All the other commandments and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments.*** Matthew 22:37-40 [NLT]

Sadly, the deception perpetrated by most cults and 'ism's lead to _____. Jesus openly declared; . . . ***"I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."*** John 14:6 [NASB]

Proverbs 14:13: *Even in laughter the heart may be in pain, and the end of joy may be grief.*

- The external show of emotions can be an undependable sign of what is really going on in the _____ of an individual. I remember a career test that I once had to take. After weeks of intense hard study, when I passed, I almost came to tears. Why tears? Aren't they reserved for _____? Apparently not! These would be tears of relief. I have also heard folks react to tragic news with a harsh laugh, not one of joy, rather as an expression of emotional pain, *the end of joy*.

Proverbs 14:14: *The backslider in heart will have his fill of his own ways, but a good man will be satisfied with his.*

- There are many on their deathbeds who are about to come face to face with their Judge, who are heartsick with the fear of having ignored His mercy and the free gift of forgiveness, living in their own _____. Meanwhile the righteous can go to their Maker with great joy and assurance that Christ has completely forgiven their transgressions. **Psalm 103:12:** *As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.* ^[NASB]

Proverbs 15:15-19: *The naive believes everything, but the prudent man considers his steps. ^[16] A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is arrogant and careless. ^[17] A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated. ^[18] The naive inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. ^[19] The evil will bow down before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.*

- These last few parable comparisons actually express the view of the natural born person concerning the followers of Christ. They believe us to be weak and _____, people who will follow any foolishness that some charismatic preacher will preach to us, while the exact opposite is really accurate for the true child of God.

➤ Granted there are many foolish pastors who, for the sake of a dollar, or who may be driven by an out of step ego, may foolishly present their congregation with half-truths or applied sensationalism, relative to some current event. However, the true child of the King will act as did the Bereans of old and search the Scriptures, seeking true _____ and not remain as one of the *naïve* who *inherits folly*

➤ The _____ man will follow the leading of God's indwelling Holy Spirit, while he considers his _____ carefully, *turning away from evil*; allowing the renewing of his mind, that he may learn patience and not display anger in the presence of the *arrogant and careless*.

Proverbs 14:20: *The **poor** is hated even by his neighbor, but those who love the **rich** are many.*

➤ This is a dichotomy that seems to be prevalent in our society today! There are many who offer lip service to the poor or indigent but will not dirty their hands to get personally involved. Instead, they willingly submit that duty to the "charity" of our government. Their free time and disposable income are spent liberally on their idolatry of the _____, often becoming imitators of the Hollywood types.

➤ Perhaps a similar attitude is rampant in our churches. For most, we sympathize, having great compassion for those lacking access to the gospel of Jesus Christ, those who are _____ in knowledge. As the collective church, we seem to be more than willing to give to missions in faraway places, yet we withhold our personal witness to the poor in our own communities, it's almost an act of defiance and hatred ("We're here, can't they see our beautiful building; what more do they want, a personal invitation?"). The cults and 'ism's are more than eager to go knocking on doors; sadly, the members of the Christian community lack any enthusiasm to follow **our commission from Jesus; to go and invite**, to introduce them

to our Lord Jesus Christ, as our Redeemer and theirs, if they will only receive Him.

Proverbs 14:21-22: *He who despises his neighbor sins, but happy is he who is **gracious** to the **poor**.^[22] Will they not go astray who devise evil? But kindness and **truth** will be to those who devise **good***

➤ In this compiler's mind, charity is the God-given responsibility of the assembly of believers; but we together as a group, me included, have been all too willing to turn this duty over to the government to run entitlement programs, without a whimper. In doing this we miss a certain satisfaction that can only be found in being _____ toward another, who may be less privileged than we ourselves. Have you ever noticed how much more satisfying it is to give a gift than to receive one? This affable concern can equally apply to those who are _____ in the knowledge and mercy of our Lord and Savior.

➤ Seeking to do _____ is a principle of the Kingdom of Heaven, and one that we are encouraged to follow here in earth's preparatory school. Jesus told us in Luke 6:38: "***Give, and it will be given to you; good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, they [the blessings] will pour into your lap. For by your standard of measure it will be measured to you in return***" ^[NASB] We reap kindness and _____ from God when we sow the goodness of the Christ in us toward others.

Proverbs 14:23: *In all **labor** there is profit, but mere talk leads only to poverty.*

➤ This proverb is one that we may chalk up to "not applicable in our society," if we were only concerned with the physical; but our God, who is writing to us through Solomon's pen, is more concerned with our spirit and soul, heaven and eternity. Jesus said: "***If you love Me, you will keep My commandments.***" ^{John 14:15 [NASB]} In our un-sanctified minds we might be inclined to counter, "but He also said;

'For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.' Matthew 11:30 [NIV]

And while that is very true, we must also _____ in His Word to put all of the principles of the Word of God into our minds, that His Spirit may show us application at the appropriate times, thereby *renewing our flesh-trained mind.

*Romans 12:2

Proverbs 14:24: *The crown of the wise is their riches, but the folly of fools is foolishness.*

- We have covered at length in the earlier chapters of Proverbs that the prudent are made _____ by the riches of the righteousness that Christ, through the truths of His written Word will reveal to us by His indwelling Spirit. Paul tells us that *All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;* 2nd Tim. 3:16 [NASB] Jesus said that He will help us to learn His ways if we are willing. Matthew 11:28-29: ***"Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. [29] "Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart; and you shall find rest for your souls. [NASB]***

Proverbs 14:25: *A truthful witness saves lives, but he who speaks lies is treacherous.*

- Jesus stated a principle, albeit in a little different context . . . ***And if a blind man guides a blind man, both will fall into a pit.*** Matthew 15:14 [NASB] Our God knows that the heart of a natural born man is _____ and full of _____. He calls upon those that are born of the water and the Spirit to live differently from the ways of the world. ***And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . .*** [Romans 12:2 NASB]

Compiler's note: If you have never received the forgiveness of sin offered by the sacrificial death of Christ on the Cross, in

our place, or received His indwelling Holy Spirit as your personal guide and communicator, then please do so now. The prayer of acceptance is as simple as *Lord Jesus, I accept your mercy and forgiveness; I now choose to live by the laws of the kingdom of heaven and reject the reign of Satan and his authority in my life. I willingly embrace the indwelling presence of Your Holy Spirit, the new nature that You will create in me, filled with the Fruit of Your Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Long-suffering, and Self-control. Help me each and every day, to keep an open heart and mind to the voice of Your Holy Spirit. Holy Spirit of God, be my Teacher, cause your Word to be alive in me.*

If you have just sincerely prayed this prayer, you have taken a giant step that will affect your place in eternity. A noticeable change will now create a conflict between your mind and your heart and will quickly become apparent. You can also expect to wind up on the hit list of the demonic forces that stand against Christ and His Spirit that is now within you. Please email me if you need someone to talk to or contact some other God-fearing Spirit-filled Christian for encouragement.

Proverbs 14:26-27: *In the fear of the Lord there is strong confidence, and his children will have refuge. ^[27] The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, that one may avoid the snares of death.*

➤ It can be a fine line that we walk as Christians; we will often tend to "go along to get along," fearing repulsion by the peer group with whom we are trying to associate; be it socially, politically or religiously. Jesus warns us against compromising His good name, the one that we identify ourselves by, the Name that our ambassadorship represents. He writes in His Word: ***"But I will warn you whom to _____: fear the One who after He has killed has authority to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear Him!"*** [Luke 12:5 NASB]

Proverbs 14:28: *In a multitude of people is a king's **glory** but, in the dearth [**'ephec, eh'-fes**; leading to nothingness] of people is a prince's ruin.*

- **If this is written for us today, this can't be simply a political statement, not if it is to have application; unless, of course, we realize that we belong to the kingdom of heaven and our King is the Lord Jesus Christ. Since God is not willing for any to perish, and Jesus said "**All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out;** John 6:37 [NASB] then truly *in a multitude of people is a king's _____.***

Proverbs 14:29-30: *He who is slow to **anger** has great understanding, but he who is quick-tempered exalts folly. ^[30] A tranquil heart is life to the body, but **passion is rotteness to the bones.***

- **We have just covered this problem of anger back in Proverbs 14:17, so it must be something that His Spirit wants us to be more aware of, and of our need to avoid or control it. Perhaps in this instance, He wants to show us the end result of a life ruled by a fervor of _____, it will not only affect us spiritually but physically as well.**

Proverbs 14:31-33: *He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, but he who is gracious to the needy **honors** Him. ^[32] The wicked is thrust down by his wrongdoing, but the righteous has a refuge when he dies.*

- **Good works do have a place in the Christian walk. Yes! We are saved by grace and faith alone, but as we are sanctified, having our flesh trained minds renewed by His indwelling Holy Spirit, our minds come into agreement with the Fruit of the Spirit in our new nature; and we begin to act in a new way, doing things that we know will _____ Him; not because we have to, but because we want to please Him.**

Proverbs 14:33: ***Wisdom rests** in the heart of one who has **understanding,** but in the bosom of fools it is made known.*

- **The question that needs to be answered is what is the _____ that one needs to attain in this life, if we are to be able to utilize God-given _____ as a tool that will enable us to retain a godly walk and righteousness? It hasn't changed over history; Solomon had the Torah [the book of the Law and the Prophets]. Through a special gift of godly wisdom bestowed on him, he, himself, became a large part of God's transcription to you and me, that we also may find _____ and wisdom through His living Word.**

Proverbs 14:34: *Righteousness exalts a **nation**, but sin is a disgrace to any people.*

I am one of those arcane people who still believe that God establishes governments and can also tear them down. I see it as part of His overall plan to "Separate for Himself a People." Daniel 2:21: [**God**] *He determines the course of world events; he removes kings and sets others on the throne. He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to the scholars.* [NLT]
also in Dan. 4:17 and 4:32

- **You might ask, then why on earth would He allow a wicked government to rule a _____. It is apparent from the whole context of Scripture that God will not interfere with self-determination or our free will until it becomes so offensive that even the righteous remnant is imperiled by the enemy of our souls.**

God gives us a bit of insight in Genesis 15:16 through His promise to Abraham: "Then in the fourth generation they shall return here, for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet complete." [NASB]

He didn't show favoritism to one people at the expense of another. Apparently, God has a level of tolerance that eventually brings Him to a point that He will say, "Enough is enough!" God completes this observation in Leviticus 18:24, through a warning to the newly established nation of Israel: 'Do not defile yourselves by any of these things; for **by all**

these the nations which I am casting out before you have become defiled. [NASB]

Compiler's note: There is a doctrine which is way beyond the scope of this study to explore, and that is the "age of the Gentiles," along with all of the ramifications concerning remnant Israel. Luke 21:24: *They [Israel] will be brutally killed by the sword or sent away as captives to all the nations of the world. And Jerusalem will be conquered and trampled down by the Gentiles until the age of the Gentiles comes to an end;* [NLT] which should bring us to the restoration of all things and a pardon for the returning remnant of Israel.

The God that we serve is . . . *a God merciful and gracious, Slow to anger and abundant in loving-kindness and truth.* Psalm 86:15 [NASB] What is happening to Israel and what will happen to the nations that willingly participate in her chastisement, is of our own doing. God is merely reporting on the evil bent in naturally born humanity.

Proverbs 14:35: *The king's favor is toward a servant who acts wisely, but his anger is toward him who acts shamefully.* [NASB]

➤ Our American attitude toward the authority or exaltation of a King seems to be relegated to a rather course phrase like "he puts his pants on like I do, one leg at a time." For this passage to then be apropos to us, we must recognize that the King here should be viewed as our Lord Jesus, who is King of Kings. Because He alone is our Creator and Designer, we need to learn to hold Him in absolute awe, seeking forever His _____.

Isaiah 30:18:

***Therefore, the Lord longs to be gracious to you,
And therefore, He waits on high to have compassion on you.***

For the Lord is a God of justice;

How blessed are all those who long for Him? [NASB]

Comment or questions? Please Email me at GregDeans@gmail.com

If you have chosen to receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior, please do not hesitate to call or speak with another Spirit-filled born-again person soon or email me and I will call you back.