

Proverbs Chapter 27 deals with the subject of Friendship.

Proverbs 27:1: *Do not **boast** about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.*

- **As Christians, we are not guaranteed a single day of additional life, so we shouldn't _____ about what we will do tomorrow; However, God does guarantee us a safe landing. In 2nd Cor. 5:3-5, we read Paul's insight: *For we will not be spirits without bodies, but we will put on new heavenly bodies. [4] Our dying bodies make us groan and sigh, but it's not that we want to die and have no bodies at all. We want to slip into our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by everlasting life. [5] God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee, he has given us his Holy Spirit.***

Jesus gave this illustration in Luke 12:16-21, about assuming another day of physical life. *"A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. [17] In fact, his barns were full to overflowing. [18] So he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store everything. [19] And I'll sit back and say to myself, my friend; you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!' [20] "But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get it all?' [21] "Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."* NLT

Some societies, including some in ours, live by this rule of procrastination: "Never put off today what you can put off tomorrow.

Proverbs 27:2: *Let another **praise** you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.*

- ***Every saint has a past, every sinner has a future.* Every person who joins the family of God is given a mission and the tools to perform that calling, none more important in God's**

eyes than the next. Paul writes in 1st Cor. 1:26-30: *Remember, dear brothers and sisters, that few of you were wise in the world's eyes, or powerful, or wealthy when God called you. ^[27] Instead, God deliberately chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise. And he chose those who are powerless to shame those who are powerful. ^[28] God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important, ^[29] so that no one can ever boast in the presence of God. ^[30] God alone made it possible for you to be in Christ Jesus. For our benefit God made Christ to be wisdom itself. He is the one who made us acceptable to God. He made us pure and holy, and he gave himself to purchase our freedom. ^[NLT] Life without God is like an unsharpened pencil - it has no point. The _____ that we should desire must come from God alone.*

Proverbs 27:3: *A stone is heavy and the sand weighty, but the provocation of a fool is heavier than both of them.*

➤ This proverb goes to the subject of forgiveness. When we carry around resentment, provoked by the actions of an unbeliever, we are only hurting ourselves. As we forgive and pray for that person it is as if a _____ bag of sand has been lifted from our shoulders. Paul writes in Ephesians 4:32: *"Instead, be kind to each other, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God through Christ has forgiven you.* He continues this train of thought in Colossians 3:13: *You must make allowance for each other's faults and forgive the person who offends you. Remember, our Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. ^[NLT] If you think the _____ against you is too much to forgive, consider the words of our righteous Lord Jesus as He hung upon the cross of Calvary: Jesus said, "*Father, forgive these people, because they don't know what they are doing.*" *And the soldiers gambled for his clothes by throwing dice.* Luke 23:34*

[NLT] You say; "well that was Jesus!" Then consider if you will, the final words of Stephen who was stoned to death, for proclaiming Jesus as God incarnate. Acts 7:60; and *he* [Stephen] *fell to his knees, shouting, "Lord, don't charge them with this sin!" And with that, he died.* [NLT]

Those who have no command of their passions sink under the load.

Proverbs 27:4: *Wrath is fierce, and anger is a flood, but who can stand before jealousy?*

- The emotion connected with jealousy, or its synonym, envy, cannot provoke a more powerful adversary than that of _____. This is illustrated in Genesis by the action of the brothers of Joseph, who sold him into slavery. They were jealous of their father's partiality toward him. Solomon addresses the power of jealousy in the Song 8:6: . . . For love is as strong as death, and its jealousy is as enduring as the grave . . . [NLT]

Proverbs 27:5-6: *Better is open rebuke than love that is concealed. [6] Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but deceitful are the kisses of an enemy.*

- My school days, as a child, were during much more modest times than what we experience in our society today. A true friend would quietly tell his close lady friend that her slip was showing rather than allow her to be the subject of the schoolboy's delight and giggles, thus saving her embarrassment, rather than concealing love and concern by silence. My, how far we have digressed. Plain and faithful correction from one who loves and is concerned, is better and hurts less than a _____ betrayal by an _____.

Proverbs 27:7: *A sated man loathes honey, but to a famished man any bitter thing is sweet.*

- To Hungry men even _____ food tastes sweet, and they are grateful for every bite. To the man rich enough to fill his belly, even delicacies seem tasteless and require no praise. In a like manner, the proud and self-sufficient tend to disdain the gospel; but those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, find comfort from the good news that testifies of Christ Jesus; His forgiveness and blessing found in His Word.

Proverbs 27:8: *Like a bird that wanders from her nest, so is a man who wanders from his home.*

- I believe that God has called each Christian into a fellowship. The book of Hebrews cautions us to . . . "not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage and warn each other . . ." Hebrews 10:25 [NLT] According to this passage, even in the early church days, some _____ed_ away. God has given each born again person, a gift to utilize in the ministry to which we have been called. 1st Cor. 12:7 records: *A spiritual gift is given to each of us as a means of helping the entire church.* [NLT] Using the human body as an analogy, but contextually referring to the Church (as the body of Christ). Paul writes in 1st Cor. 12:18: *but now God has placed the members, each one of them, in the body, just as He desired.* [NASB] Some harbor that gift and choose to use it in pursuit of worldly ventures, wandering away from the ministry to which God has called them, for example, Paul speaks of "Demas [who] has deserted me because he loves the things of this life and has gone to Thessalonica . . ." 2 Tim. 4:10 [NLT] Demas having wandered away, has walked off of the pages of the biblical historical record, so, as far as we know, he never did fit into that place that God had designated for him.

Proverbs 27:9-10: *Oil and perfume make the heart glad, so a man's counsel is sweet to his friend. [10] Do not forsake your own friend or your*

father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; better is a **neighbor** who is near than a brother far away.

➤ Today we live in a transient society, usually with family and old friends scattered. An assembly of believers in any community should be a place where we can find new and trustworthy folks amongst our _____s, to confide in when trials and the conflagration of tribulation loom near. You might argue, but we have the internet, so my old friends are no farther than my keyboard. And while there is some validity to that, when you need to be comforted, the keyboard is akin to keeping a manikin in your closet, which you can drag out when needed, as you nestle yourself at its side, Not Good! God knows our needs and He has given us the church as a group where we should be able to find comfort and uplifting, even before we are able to establish long-term relationships. Peter acknowledged this principle as a primary mission of the church in 1st Peter 5:1-2, addressing the Church elders. *And now, a word to you who are elders in the churches. I, too, am an elder and a witness to the sufferings of Christ. And I, too, will share his glory and his honor when he returns. As a fellow elder, this is my appeal to you: ^[2] Care for the flock of God entrusted to you. Watch over it willingly, not grudgingly—not for what you will get out of it, but because you are eager to serve God. ^[NLT]*

Proverbs 27:11: Be **wise**, my son, and make my heart **glad**, that I may reply to him who reproaches me.

➤ Affectionate parents urge their children toward prudent _____ and godly behavior. The good conduct of maturing Christian children makes the parental heart _____; it demonstrates that the Christian way is the best way, especially in answer to all who find fault with the gospel.

Proverbs 27:12: A **prudent** man sees evil and hides himself, the naive proceed and pay the penalty.

- It does no good to hide only our heads in the sand and ignore the escalating ill winds that are enveloping us. By this juncture in our current system of global world governance, it is becoming very apparent that mankind cannot solve our own problems. When a _____ person foresees the danger ahead he takes precautions. It is the simpleton who goes blindly on and suffers the consequences. Where our Lord has given us the means to provide for the future, we should avail ourselves of it.

Proverbs 27:13: *Take his garment when he becomes surety for a stranger, and for an adulterous woman hold him in pledge.*

- Proverbs has warned us about putting up _____ for a stranger in Proverbs 11:15: *Guaranteeing a loan for a stranger is dangerous; it is better to refuse than to suffer later.* ^[NLT] King Solomon implored his son, to be vigilant in this area of contract law, to be alert to its hidden dangers. *My child, if you co-sign a loan for a friend or guarantee the debt of someone you hardly know—^[2] if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said—^[3] quick, get out of it if you possibly can! You have placed yourself at your friend's mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased. ^[4] Don't put it off. Do it now! Don't rest until you do. ^[5] Save yourself like a deer escaping from a hunter, like a bird fleeing from a net.* Proverbs 6:1-5 [NLT] God is even fully aware of how weak, foolish, and out of control a man can be, who is led by his hormones wrapped around a wayward _____. As the Lender use prudence when you secure a loan with collateral as a co-signer, or you may become the loser.

Proverbs 27:14: *He who blesses his friend with a loud voice early in the morning. It will be reckoned a curse to him.*

- This proverb goes to “respect” for our friends. You, like me, may be an early bird. I am a Springer, I spring out of bed

excited and ready to face a new day with gusto. However, many of my friends, my wife included are gropers; they grope around for their slippers and a cup of coffee. They don't tolerate or appreciate my enthusiasm_____ in the morning, or very well for that matter; therefore, out of respect for them, we Springer's must learn to patiently wait for the Gropers to "come alive," so that our greetings don't become a _____.

Proverbs 27:15: Again! *A constant dripping on a day of steady rain and a **contentious** woman are alike;*

- Back when I was a boy, most of the local fairs had a greased pig-catching contest. As I have stated before, this can go to either spouse; trying to stop a nagging spouse is sort of like trying to hold onto something like the greased pig. Nagging can be the antipathy of Love. God's Word defines love in 1st Corinthians 13:4-7 by what it is and by what it isn't; "Love is forgiving and kind. Love knows no jealousy. Love does not brag and is not conceited. She is not unmannerly, nor selfish, nor irritable, nor mindful of wrongs. She does not rejoice in injustice, but joyfully sides with the truth. Love overlook faults and is full of trust, full of hope, and enduring." Love . . . looks for a way of being constructive, not _____. Solomon writes "*Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest.*" Ecclesiastes 9:9.

Proverbs 27:17: *Iron sharpens iron, so one man **sharpens** another.*

- Wherever I have lived, I have developed at least one friend with whom I can intimately and openly discuss Scriptural principles without fear of being misinterpreted or "misquoted." Speaking off the record and candidly I always come away refreshed and more knowledgeable, with my pastoral skills _____ed_.

Proverbs 27:18: *He who tends the fig tree will eat its fruit, and he who cares for his master will be honored.*

- **In God's economy, workers are allowed to enjoy the fruit of their own labor, perhaps not during our sojourn on earth, but in the kingdom. As ambassadors of Christ on earth, representing Him, we are to honor God by protecting our employer's interest. Jesus gave two parables that relate to this subject. Luke 12:42-44 records Jesus' words: . . . *"I'm talking to any faithful, sensible servant to whom the master gives the responsibility of managing his household and feeding his family. [43] If the master returns and finds that the servant has done a good job, there will be a reward. [44] I assure you, the master will put that servant in charge of all he owns.* [NLT] Of course the equivalent in this proverb is in reference to God, as our Master, and similarly in Luke 19:17, the King would be none other than King Jesus during His 1,000-year reign on earth. [the dispensational view of Scriptural interpretation] *'Well done!' the king exclaimed. 'You are a trustworthy servant. You have been faithful with the little I entrusted to you, so you will be governor of ten cities as your reward.'* [NLT]**

Even though our calling may be laborious or despised, if we are faithful to keep and fulfill it, we will find it is worth it in the end; for our, God is a Master who will _____ those who serve Him faithfully.

Proverbs 27:19: *As in water, face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects man.*

- **We spoke of the hypocrite in early passages; his actions will eventually expose his real nature. Just as a person's image is reflected in calm water, so the true nature of an individual's heart will be reflected in his walk. Those who walk by the flesh will echo that nature, and the one who is walking by the guidance of God's indwelling Spirit will mirror the New Nature that God has instilled within the believer's**

_____ . We should carefully watch our own hearts, comparing them with the Word of God.

Proverbs 27:20: *Sheol and *Abaddon are never satisfied, nor are the eyes of man ever satisfied.*

*Abaddon 'abaddown, {ab-ad-done'}; intensive destruction.

- Two things are said to be never _____, death and sin. The appetites of the carnal, flesh-trained mind are for profit and pleasure, and always desiring more. Believers on the other hand, whose _____ are always toward the Lord, find satisfaction and completeness in Him and have no desire to wander after worldly affluence.

Proverbs 27:21: The crucible is for silver and the furnace for gold, and a man is tested by the praise accorded him.

- Silver throughout Scripture pictures redemption, our Redeemer was sold out for 30 pieces of silver. The _____ is a heat resistant container for collecting the precious metal and is analogous of our Christ, who collects our prayers of repentance. Just as Silver and gold are tried by putting them into the furnace and refining-pot; so is a man _____ by praise, appealing to our old nature and pride. A person's true humility and submission to Christ can be tested by praise; will we be arrogant and receive the praise that belongs to our master in condescension, or will we give God the glory due Him.

Proverbs 27:22: *Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his folly will not depart from him.*

- Just as you cannot separate _____s_ (unbelievers) from their foolishness; even though you grind them like grain with mortar and pestle; we must remember that some folks are so sold out to their flesh, no normal training or teaching can reach them. Only through our prayers and God's life-changing Spirit will a change come.

Proverbs 27:23-27: *Know well the condition of your flocks and pay attention to your herds; ^[24] for riches are not forever, nor does a **crown** endure to all generations. ^[25] When the grass disappears, the new growth is seen, And the herbs of the mountains are gathered in, ^[26] The lambs will be for your clothing, And the goats will bring the price of a field, ^[27] And there will be goats' milk enough for your food, For the food of your household, And sustenance for your maidens.*

➤ **We are to pay attention and know the state of those that God has put in our path, our friends, our family, and our neighbors. We are to put our heart into caring for them. Our opportunity to share Christ and walk out the gospel in their presence will not last forever. If we don't teach our children, then the _____ of Christ might not be secure for their generation. God's Word addresses this in Romans 10:14-15: *But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them? ^[15] And how will anyone go and tell them without being sent? That is what the Scriptures mean when they say, "How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!"* [NLT]**

It has been wisely stated that God does not have grandchildren, only children. When we put our faith in Him just as a little child does a parent; Our heavenly Father will provide for our needs and the needs of those we are called to care for, crop after crop, clothing, and warmth. We will have enough milk for ourselves and for our family, along with an abundance to share with our fellow servants.

Do you have unsaved friends as I do? Then pray for them and ask God's Holy Spirit to show them the way to the narrow gate and guide them along its narrow path to salvation. Matthew 7:13: "*Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide,*

and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it. [NASB]

Jude 1:23: *Rescue others by snatching them from the flames of judgment. There are still others to whom you need to show mercy. . .* [NLT]