

Proverbs Chapter 6

This chapter continues with advice from a father to a son, who is about to leave the nest and face the wiles of the world. It also applies to us today; our heavenly Father wants us to live above the world.

Proverbs 6:1: *My son, if you have become surety for your neighbor, have given a pledge for a stranger,*

- Since the Word of God cannot contradict itself, "_____ "` (arab, {awrab'}, become security for) and must mean more than simply lending. Jesus tells us in fact, if it is within our power to lend or to bless those that have a need, then we should do so. Matthew 5:42: *Give to those who ask, and don't turn away from those who want to borrow.* [NLT]

Luke 6:34: *And if you lend money only to those who can repay you, what good is that? Even sinners will lend to their own kind for a full return.* [NLT]

Several times in the book of Proverbs we will run across passages like this one found in 11:15; *Guaranteeing a loan for a stranger is dangerous; it is better to refuse than to suffer later.* [NLT] The Hebrew word for stranger is **zuwr**, {zoor}. We have looked at this word in the previous chapter and have discovered that it means one who has turned away from the ways of God and has become like a foreigner to Him.

Proverbs 6:2: *If you have been snared with the words of your mouth, have been caught with the words of your mouth,*

- Times have changed, progressively. Not many years ago, "a man's word was his bond." In Today's society that seems to have changed. I have sold real estate for more than a dozen years and have watched the "Offer to Purchase" contract grow from 2 pages to 9 pages. Why? Because business can no

longer be done on a handshake. A man's word can no longer be trusted. This is not true for you and me if we are truly Christians; we need to always remember that we are walking gospels, representing the very image of Christ. Our word still needs to be our bond! We need to guard the _____ that we speak, being careful that they do not become a _____ to our witness of Him.

Proverbs 6:3: *Do this then, my son, and deliver yourself; since you have come into the hand of your neighbor, Go, **humble** yourself, and importune your neighbor.*

- **I thought about the urgent nature of this instruction not to place ourselves between the lender and the borrower for a while before I realized the conflict was between godly ways and the ways of this World. When we cosign, we are creating a new contract using the same collateral as we have previously rendered to God's Holy Spirit. In other words, when we put ourselves up as collateral, we are yielding some control of our lives over to another. We are in some danger of relinquishing or interfering with the work of God's indwelling Spirit, to whom we have already promised that power. Therefore, we are to _____ ourselves before them, with the intent of being released from that pledge and obligation, being careful in the process, not to break our word and thus impugn the character of our Lord Jesus.**

Proverbs 6:4: *Do not give sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids; ^[5] Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hunter's hand, And like a **bird** from the hand of the fowler.*

- **Solomon stresses the importance of being released from this type of obligation using the word picture of a hunted animal or a _____ caught in a snare. We are not to rest until we are released. We are to be very careful with our**

words both in business and our personal lives; after all, the reputation of Jesus is at stake.

Proverbs 6:6: *Go to the ant, O sluggard, Observe her ways and be wise, [7] Which, having no chief, Officer or ruler, [8] **Prepares** her food in the summer, And gathers her provision in the harvest.*

➤ **The point that the dad is making to his son is to _____.** As Christians, we are to prepare ourselves for eternity. We are living our childhood years in the nursery of the earth, preparing for perpetuity in heaven. Consider our sojourn on earth as “cramming for our finals” in the college of hard knocks. Titus 2:14 *He gave his life to free us from every kind of sin, to cleanse us, and to make us his very own people, totally committed to doing what is right.* [NLT] Hebrews 9:14; *Just think how much more the blood of Christ will purify our hearts from deeds that lead to death so that we can worship the living God.* For by the power of the eternal Spirit, Christ offered himself to God as a perfect sacrifice for our sins. [NLT]

Proverbs 6:9-11: *How long will you lie down, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? [10] "A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest"-- [11] and your poverty will come in like a vagabond, and your **need** like an armed man.*

➤ **As if to answer his own imperative, Solomon warns about the end result of laziness. Failure to prepare will leave you short of your _____.** I am thinking about the illustration Jesus gave, characterizing the ten virgins. Matthew 25:2-4; *"And five of them were foolish, and five were prudent. [3] "For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, [4] but the prudent took oil in flasks along with their lamps. [NASB] Matthew 25:10-12; "And while they [the five foolish] were going away to make the purchase, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut. [11] "And later the other virgins also came, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open up for us.' [12]*

"But he answered and said, 'Truly I say to you, I do not know you.'
[NASB]

Compiler's note: May I suggest this; throughout Scripture, Oil is a picture of the Holy Spirit. The virgins without the oil did not take the opportunity to be baptized with His Spirit, nor the time to offer themselves in sanctification, as bondservants, for the renewing of their minds. Hebrews 12:14: Pursue *peace with all men, and the* ***sanctification without which no one will see the Lord.** *Sanctification: **hagiasmos**, {*hag-ee-as-mos'*}; *purification, a purifier* that leads to holiness,

Solomon gives his son and by inference, you and me, a description of worthless and wicked people:

Proverb 6:12-13: *A worthless person, a wicked man, Is the one who *walks with a **false** mouth, ^[13] Who winks with his eyes, who signals with his feet, Who points with his fingers; * **halak**, *haw-lak'* – has multiple applications – in this context, they are constant liars.*

➤ **This person generally will smile to your face, thus Scripture records "a _____ mouth," but all the while be making obscene gestures behind your back. Many years ago, when I worked as a wholesale sales representative, I had a customer like that. I really detested any time that I was required to spend in his office. He was one that would answer the phone and speak so sweet to the person on the other end; meanwhile, he would be making indecent gestures, unobserved by the person on the other end. This left me with a trust level of zero: for I knew that when I was out of sight, he would be doing the same thing to me. This kind of thing must never be part of our behavior as Christians, for we are never out of God's sight.**

Proverbs 6:14-15: *Who with **perversity** in his heart devises evil **continually**? Who spreads **strife**. ^[15] Therefore his calamity will come suddenly; instantly he will be broken, **and there will be no healing.***

➤ Who with _____, devises evil _____; this is **perverse** behavior and is in itself an interesting and important word study. The Hebrew word used is the word **tahpukah**, {*tah-poo-kaw'*}; it adds a sense of boldness or forwardness to its root word **haphak**, {*haw-fak'*}; which in turn means to *turn about* or by implication to *change, overturn, or pervert*. **Tahpukah** then can mean to sometimes, inexplicably, exhibit irrational behavior contrary to what can be regarded as normal or reasonable. Often this leads to a self-defeating, and in a way, a behavior that seems contrary to good sense, all for reasons that seem unaccountable.

➤ In a previous chapter, we read about and footnoted Jim Jones, who through fabricated _____, led his followers into mass suicide.

Compiler's note: What I found troubling was trying to understand the application of the finality of the words in verse 15 "and there will be no healing." The Spirit led me to a passage in 2 Chron. 36:14-16; to a time when Israel, then in the land, willfully followed its leaders with perversity in their collective hearts. All the leaders of the priests and the people became more and more unfaithful. They followed the pagan practices of the surrounding nations, desecrating the Temple of the Lord in Jerusalem. ^[15] The Lord, the God of their ancestors, repeatedly sent his prophets to warn them, for he had compassion on his people and his Temple. ^[16] But the people mocked these messengers of God and despised their words.

They scoffed at the prophets until the Lord's anger could no longer be restrained and there was no remedy. ^[NLT] You will have to apply this to your own theology as best you can, but I firmly believe that our God has called us to live a life "set apart"; yes! One that is holy.

He has provided His Spirit to guide us in living that "called out" lifestyle through the renewing of our minds. Romans 12:1-2; I urge you, therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ^[2] And do not be

conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. [NASB]

Now we have come to God's hate list. You may object to this reference to hate by saying, "The God that I worship is a God of Love!" and, yes, that is true, He is! But we also know that the opposite of love is hate, just as sin is the opposite of holiness; God is holy and therefore He hates sin. How can both be true? I love my children, but I hate those things that will lead them astray. A while ago, we had a doctor on the Outer Banks that would write prescriptions for the young people without concern for the addictions that they may cause. One of my offspring, by this time a legal adult, temporarily was angry with me for coming between him and the doctor, as I openly exposed what this fellow was doing. I got involved because I love my children, but I hated what this "doctor" was doing, not only to my own but to others who had no one else to go to their defense.

God is love, but He also has a hate list. His Word declares in Psalm 101:3; *I will refuse to look at anything vile and vulgar. I hate all crooked dealings; I will have nothing to do with them.* [NLT] In Deuteronomy 16:22 our Lord says that He hates idol worship: *And never set up sacred pillars for worship, for the Lord your God hates them.* NLT One of the prophetic psalms tells us that God "Loves what is right and hates what is wrong". Psalm 45:7 [NLT]

Because we are being made over into the image of our Creator, as our minds are being renewed by His Holy Spirit, we will also come to hate that which our Lord hates and we must learn to hate sin!

In Revelation, where speaking to the church, Jesus commends them for hating the deeds of the Nicolaitans, which He also hates. Just as light is the opposite of dark, hate is the opposite of love. There is no such thing as darkness! Darkness is only the absence of light as hate is the absence of love. Is there a middle ground? Yes, there is "dim"; but not for the child of God, here there is no middle grounds, we are commanded to hate sin as our heavenly Father does and to love as Jesus loves.

Proverbs 6: 16-19: *There are six things which the Lord hates, Yes, seven which are an abomination to Him: ^[17] Haughty eyes, a lying tongue, And hands that shed innocent blood ^[18] A heart that devises wicked plans, Feet that run rapidly to evil, ^[19] A false witness who utters lies, And one who spreads strife among brothers.*

➤ **Those _____ things our Lord detests cannot be just a numerical coincidence. Seven, throughout the Word, means or implies completeness. For example, there are seven days in a complete week. The Jews were commanded to keep the year of Jubilee, a year of restoration which begins on the fiftieth year. Why that peculiar number selection, for a time of new beginnings? Israel lived on a lunar calendar. It wasn't just a number snatched out of a hat; rather, the sun and the moon only come back into initial alignment every 49 years [7x7].**

Compiler's note: We are told that the number of man is 6 according to Rev. 13:18 *Wisdom is needed to understand this. Let the one who has understanding solve the number of the beast, for it is the number of a man.* ⁱⁱ His number [the anti-Christ] is 666. ^[NLT] Why is the number of man not seven? I believe that it is because we are not yet complete! Paul writes in 1st Cor. 15:52-54: *Perfection will come; it will happen in a moment, in the blinking of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, the Christians who have died will be raised with transformed bodies. And then we who are living will be transformed so that we will never die.* ^[53] *For our perishable earthly bodies must be transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die.* ^[54] *When this happens—when our perishable earthly bodies have been transformed into heavenly bodies that will never die—then, at last, the Scriptures will come true: "Death is swallowed up in victory.* ^[NLT]

When this happens, I believe that our number will change, and we will become like seven, complete. Sin will be no more!

Let's take the seven things that our Lord abhors and look at them one at a time.

1. **Haughty eyes:** Unmistakably, this is pride. This is the one thing God hates more than anything else. Should we notice that he listed it first? Pride can manifest itself in many ways, but here it is body language, which can be a more reliable indicator of what is going on in the heart than even a lie detector. It can manifest itself in a rolling of the eyes or an upturned nose that looks down on others. Isaiah records the first sin, and no, it did not occur on earth, rather, it transpired in heaven. * The most perfect angel that God ever created was Lucifer, but pride was found in him! Isaiah 14:12-14: *"How you are fallen from heaven, O shining star, son of the morning! You have been thrown down to the earth, you who destroyed the nations of the world. ^[13] For you said to yourself, 'I will ascend to heaven and set my throne above God's stars. I will preside on the mountain of the gods far away in the north. ^[14] I will climb to the highest heavens and be like the Most High.'*

[NLT]

Compiler's note: my proofreader brings to our attention --- God created *Lucifer*, whose name described his character (translucent, shining). His name was changed to Satan when his character became pride-filled and adversarial to God.

This was followed by Satan's interaction with Adam and Eve, in the garden where he enticed the first couple with these words in Genesis 3:5; *"God knows that your eyes will be opened when you eat it. You will become just like God, knowing everything, both good and evil."* [NLT]

Did you notice Satan's motive and the recurring theme that he consistently presents before fallen men? We can become like God! This appeals to our pride; the antonym for proud or haughty is to be modest, meek, and unassuming.

King David understood this; Psalm 131:1 records his petition before God. David appeals with these words . . . *Lord, my heart is not proud; my eyes are not haughty. I don't concern myself with matters too great or awesome for me.* [NLT] Jesus confirms this contrite heart attitude in Matthew 5:3 ***"God blesses those who realize their need for him,***

for the Kingdom of Heaven is given to them. [NLT] Isaiah 66:2 reports on our Lord's promise to those who are His: . . . *I, the Lord, have spoken! "I will bless those who have **humble** and **contrite** hearts, who tremble at my word.* [NLT]

➤ **God wants us to come before him with a _____ and _____ heart, not one that is proud and haughty.**

2. A lying tongue: The second item on God's hate list is the lying tongue. Our Bible has a great deal to say about the power of the tongue and the destruction it can bring. It seems to be common to humans, even those that hold to a commitment to our Lord.

Compiler's note: James realized the power of the tongue when he compared it to the small rudder that steers a large ship.

The writer to Psalm 116 and verse 11 realizes this and writes . . . *All men are liars.*" [NASB] God must have agreed since He left this statement in His Word.

The psalmist (**most probably David**) wrote these words in Psalm 120:2: *Deliver my soul, O Lord, from lying lips, from a deceitful tongue.* [NASB] Perhaps David's attitude was acquired from personal knowledge and experience since he himself was guilty of a deceitful tongue and lying lips, when he sent *Uriah the Hittite* to his death, as he connived and expeditiously executed a devious plan to take Bathsheba for his own wife.

We need to come to a place where we recognize the fallen nature that has trained our unsaved minds; we need to repent and wholly submit our carnal thoughts to the ways of our Lord. In Psalm 51:6, David writes: *Behold, Thou dost desire truth in the innermost being, and in the hidden part Thou wilt make me know wisdom.* [NASB]

Recognizing his wicked sinful bent, David continues his plea: *Create in me a clean heart, O God. Renew a right spirit within me.* Psalm 51:10 [NLT] He throws himself at the feet of God, as should we, recognizing that in our natural person there is nothing good. Isaiah notes in 64:6:

We are all infected and impure with sin. When we proudly display our righteous deeds, we find they are but filthy rags. . . . ^[NLT] In 1st John, John makes it clear that we are even capable of deceiving ourselves if we fail to recognize the rebellious bent toward sin in our old nature, and that through the course correcting convictions of His Holy Spirit, our flesh-trained minds need to be renewed. We need to pray along with King David; Into *Thy hand, I commit my spirit; Thou hast ransomed me, O Lord, God of truth.* Psalm 31:5 ^[NASB]

3. God hates *hands that shed innocent blood*: innocent blood implies premeditated murder. Here we can go back before the Law. Soon after Noah's family disembarked and came ashore, along with God's command to repopulate the earth, God saw it necessary to lay down a principle about capital punishment, thereby setting up the authority of governance. Genesis 9:6 *Yes, you must execute anyone who murders another person, for to kill a person is to kill a living being made in God's image.* ^[NLT] The Law clearly states in Deut. 19:21 *"Thus you shall not show pity: life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot."* ^[NASB] While we are no longer under the penalty of the Law, we remain obliged to the principles contained therein since our God is unchanging. And the principle remains; God hates *hands that shed innocent blood!*

4. God hates "a heart that plots evil." This, as we have learned, refers to the unregenerate, natural man. When we are born again and accept the guidance of His indwelling Holy Spirit; God places in each of us the Fruit of His Spirit which is contrary to what is natural in a man: *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control.* Now you may holler, "**WAIT A MOMENT PREACHER**", I have been baptized with His Spirit and I still lack many of these!" **The truth is, No you don't!** We (**all of us who are still breathing**), just haven't finished the retraining of our flesh-trained minds, which enables us to act out the Fruit of the Spirit in our lives. This is the sanctified walk in our life; our minds are renewed. Life-long, our thinking is changing according to the principles of God, in preparation for our spending an eternity with Him.

Jesus knows the heart of the natural man. He writes in Matthew 15:19; ***“For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders.”*** [NASB]

5. **God knows that natural born men *have feet that race to do wrong*** [NLT], and He hates it! Isaiah writes to those under law: *Their feet run to do evil, and they rush to commit murder. They think only about sinning. Wherever they go, misery and destruction follow them.* Isaiah 59:7 [NLT]

“Listen! The Lord is not too weak to save you, and he is not becoming deaf. He can hear you when you call. [2] But there is a problem—your sins have cut you off from God. Because of your sin, he has turned away and will not listen anymore.” Isaiah 59:1-2 [NLT] Thank God that through the propitiation of Jesus Christ we have forgiveness; and through His indwelling Spirit that we have received when we accepted Jesus as our Lord and Savior, He hears our call of repentance and our plea for course correction. We no longer have to live in the depravity of our un-renewed minds, and our feet are no longer obliged to hasten toward an evil deed.

6. **Proverbs 6:19:** God hates ***a false witness who utters lies.*** My mind immediately goes to the politicians of our day, where even the conservative news seems to think that there should be a distinction between a campaign promise and the actual actions of the person elected. It is no longer a lie, rather, they become miss-applied truths that one must tell to satisfy the many divergent views of the electorate. I am inclined to think that the political class is one of the more prodigious groups of liars, were it not for the fact that they get more news coverage than perhaps a nondescript university professor. These are the ones who write their personal bias on the blank pages of a willing student’s mind, leaving out any contradictory information.

7. ***And one who spreads strife among brothers.*** [NASB] There are a lot of reasons that a person may do this, but none are good that I can think of, **and God hates it.** What comes to mind is one who will spread strife within their family for personal gain, position, or

pretentious love; and the person in the church who builds allies to impress their will upon an unsuspecting congregation. This is the person who will have roast preacher for lunch. I think of the politician who legislates and creates class divisions or envy, for power, position and personal gain. Jesus speaks to these issues in Matthew 5:9; **God blesses those who work for peace, for they will be called the children of God.** [NLT]

Since we know that God has a hate list, together, let's examine ourselves personally, repent in areas that we have transgressed, and ask His Holy Spirit to correct our shortcomings as we mature in Him. Col. 3:10: *In its place, you have clothed yourselves with a brand-new nature that is continually being renewed as you learn more and more about Christ, who created this new nature within you.* [NLT]

Proverbs 6:20-22: *My son, **observe** the commandment of your father, and do not **forsake** the teaching of your mother; [21] Bind them continually on your heart; Tie them around your neck. [22] When you **walk** about, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; and when you awake, **they will talk to you.***

- **Once again Solomon gives warning to his son; and vicariously God offers this counsel to us, albeit many thousands of years later. We are to _____ God's commandments and not _____ the teaching of His Word, **being attentive to the voice of His Holy Spirit** while remembering His principles in our mind; that through our free-will they may emerge as godly actions in our daily _____.**

Proverbs 6:23: *For the commandment is a lamp, and the **teaching** is light, And reproofs for **discipline** are the way of life,*

- **The picture painted here is the symbolic reference to the Lampstand in the Holy Place, within the Tabernacle. The Lampstand is a perfect allusion to Christ; made of pure gold**

(His deity), hammered, not poured (His suffering), branches coming out of the vine (He is the *vine and we are the branches; ^{John 15:5}), each branch with an almond blossom (identifies Him as our *High Priest). Each almond bud formed a cup to hold oil that would power the flame to light the Holy Place. As I have already stated, Oil throughout Scripture pictures **God's Holy Spirit**. It is He who will be the power behind our understanding and the _____ that **will bring about the renewal of our carnal minds**.

**John 15:5 I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me, and I in him, he bears much fruit; for apart from Me you can do nothing. [NASB]*

Compiler's Note: The story of Aaron's rod that budded is found in Numbers, chapter 17:1-10. Moses was challenged; should he be the only authority able to communicate with God? So, the Lord set up a test to appoint a High Priest. A staff from each of the tribal leaders was chosen and Aaron's name was placed on the staff, representing the tribe of Levi. They were all placed in the Holy of Holies. We pick up the story on the following morning in verse *Now it came about on the next day that Moses went into the tent of the testimony, and behold, the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi had sprouted and put forth buds and produced blossoms, and it bore ripe almonds. [NASB]* This miracle is what placed Aaron as Israel's high priest, but wait, there is another, more perfect picture. Aaron's old dead stick came back to life (which pictures the resurrection). It produced buds (new life) and even bore ripe fruit, which pictures Christ, our High Priest, whose Spirit is in us, giving us gifts and His Fruit [covered earlier in this lesson].

Proverbs 6:24-25: The Word of God and the keeping power of His indwelling Holy Spirit if we will keep the counsel of the Word will . . . *keep you [us] from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the **adulteress**. [25] Do not desire her beauty in your heart, nor let her catch you with her eyelids.*

➤ It has always amazed me how a woman can speak volumes with just the flirtatious fluttering of her _____. The meat found in this passage for us men is found in verse 25; don't dwell on her feminine charms down in our hearts. We have been given a new nature, and His Holy Spirit has taken up residence there. I don't think He cares to live alongside of the _____, either one that is physical or figurative of idolatry.

Jesus spoke of this in the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:27-28
"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery'; [28] but I say to you, that everyone who looks on a woman to lust for her has committed adultery with her already in his heart. [NASB]

Compiler's note: Do you struggle trying to live up to the beatitudes, values like turning the other cheek, or *plucking out your eye if it strays? Welcome to the natural world of planet earth. These are the Laws of the Kingdom of Heaven, but they also represent the principles that we should strive to emulate in this body, on this imperfect earth. The beatitudes represent God's perfect standard.

*An obvious Hyperbole, meant to illustrate the seriousness and danger, that something as ill-disciplined as that of a lusting eye, can be to our relationship with our Lord.

Proverbs 6:26: *For on account of a harlot one is reduced to a loaf of bread, and an adulteress hunts for the precious life.*

➤ In these current sordid times of our society where commitment runs so shallow, we have innumerable examples of visible prestigious celebrities taking the fall. Among regular folk, adultery is just as common; broken covenants (marriage vows) have wreaked havoc on many a home. A prostitute has brought poverty and _____ many a marriage to shambles.

- The gentle wording, “*an adulteress hunts for,*” points to the harsh reality of an enraged jealous husband; where sleeping with another man's wife may cost you your very _____.

On the spiritual level, one who worships another god; is a slap in the face to our Creator, how can they expect to be protected and blessed by Him? If the agnostic continues on this detour, it certainly will take him on the broad road that leads to destruction.

Proverbs 6:27: *Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?*

- The answer is obviously no! The Hebrew word for bosom is **cheyq**, {*khake*}; apparently meaning to *enclose*. The real question being asked is can a person embrace passionately, enclose in his heart, the seductiveness of the adulteress, without it destroying spiritual life in his soul? The truth is he will get _____!

As if to drive home a point, the father, Solomon, and our heavenly Father repeat the illustration. Judging by human history, I am sure that our heavenly Father knows we are pathetically weak and need the repetition. The repetitious counsel and the redundancy of the many passages within the book of Proverbs will make this point abundantly clear.

Again, some wise counsel from our proofreader; Redundancy – In the Bible something mentioned once is just there; mentioned twice means pay attention to this, note it; mentioned more than that it is imperative to know

Proverbs 6:28: *Or can a man walk on hot coals, and his feet not be scorched?*

- Now you may have seen men walk on hot coals as I have, being documented on television, and without apparent harm; but, when it comes to breaking a covenant with God or your

own wife, you will be _____, for our God is a covenant keeper and expects his children to be the same.

We all know of families that have been destroyed by a man's indiscretions, or lack of self-control. Like a wagon rut, once a man is in the track, it is difficult to get out. We all need to choose a rut that takes us through the narrow gate and along the narrow path. The story is told of a humorous sign being placed at the beginning of the Trans-Canadian highway which joins the ten provinces of Canada. eighty years ago, before it was paved, when it mostly consisted of frozen mud. Some wit addressed the vehicles entering with this sign; "choose your rut carefully; you'll be in it for the next 3,000 miles."

Proverbs 6:29 *So is the one who goes in to his neighbor's wife; whoever touches her will not go unpunished.*

- The deed will not go _____. Even if your family is not taken from you, remember there is a God in heaven, who is the defender of fatherless children. Choose your rut carefully, for we are without excuse.

Proverbs 6:30: *Men do not despise a thief if he steals to satisfy himself when he is hungry;*

- Society may punish him, but a jury of peers will not _____ him.

Proverbs 6:31: *But when he is found, he must repay sevenfold; He must give all the substance of his house.*

- Think of the wisdom God presents here as opposed to our failed system of incarceration and jurisprudence. If the penalty for theft were to force a repayment _____, would that not be more of a deterrent than putting the person in a modern motel with an Econo-Lodge-like atmosphere that we call prison. In our "rehabilitating" prisons, apart from the

bad social environment, we taxpayers provide three meals a day, recreation, medical, and albeit a token wage. Pop Quiz: which method of justice provides the better disincentive toward theft?

Proverbs 6:32-33: *The one who commits adultery with a woman is lacking sense; He who would destroy himself does it. ^[33] Wounds and disgrace he will find, and his reproach will not be blotted out.*

- **I am sure that you have, as have I, witnessed a home that has become dysfunctional or even destroyed, through a lack of good _____ by the husband who has committed _____. Even if the wife forgives him in her heart, since the marriage bed has been dishonored, trust has forever been lost. The husband, who is an utter fool, has been destroyed by his own mindset through his weak will and lack of commitment.**

Proverbs 6:34-35: *For jealousy enrages a man, and he will not spare in the day of vengeance. ^[35] He will not accept any ransom, nor will he be content though you give many gifts.*

- **My friend, if you are that man, you cannot make it right with the husband of the wayward wife, you cannot make it up to him. Our Designer knows the heart of a man, and the danger of the _____ that will _____ the one who has been wronged. Forgiveness can only be found in our Lord Jesus.**

Have you asked our Lord Jesus for forgiveness, regardless of your transgression? Then also ask Him for the gift of His Holy Spirit, that you may be immersed in Him and His ways. Listen to His guidance, as He renews our carnal minds and frees us from the rut that wants to send us over the precipice or trap us on the broad way that eventually leads to destruction.

If you have questions, comments or additional insight, I would appreciate hearing from you.

Note from Evangelist Greg Deans: Please Email me at gregdeans1@gmail.com Put the word HELP in the subject line regardless of the reason.

i " Nicolaitan" is simply the name given to followers of the heretic Nicolas (Greek: Nikolaos-the name itself meaning 'victorious over people' or 'victory of the people'). Several of the early church fathers, including Irenaeus, Epiphanius, and Theodoret, mentioned this group. Irenaeus discusses the idea that "they lead lives of unrestrained indulgence." Over the course of history, Nicolaitanism has also been identified as a concept of a clergy class dominating the laity. This view is popular in some churches, especially the sect known as the Brethren churches. Their understanding and acceptance may come from the influence of Watchman Nee's writings or other sources that drew from John Darby, along with other dispensational teachers. The Lord has appointed over each body of believers a Shepherd, whose job it is to build, using the Lord's building blocks upon the foundation of Jesus Christ.

ii 666 is the number of man times three since it refers to the fallen angel Satan, the Beast, and the false prophet.