

Proverbs 13: God's Situational Handbook

As we continue studying God's textbook on Christ-like living, at the University of Earth, we will see that it has historic application as well as current and practical application to our lives today. Historic, because Solomon, although he was not David's choice as successor to the throne, listened and absorbed his father's teaching; while Solomon's son and successor Rehoboam, did just the opposite, bringing about a great divide among the twelve tribes. For us today, as we plow through the text with our personal annotations for practical application; in these couplets, we will see that the way of Rehoboam as an example of the way of the un-saved, while the converse pictures the path that our heavenly Father desires us to walk.

Proverbs 13:1: *A wise son accepts his father's discipline, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.*

➤ **Scripture has a great deal to say about discipline and this will prove to be a repetitive theme throughout Proverbs where we will encounter it again and again, so perhaps it is important. Job learned godly discipline in the same as we must, in earth's University of Hard Knocks; the same one that we, who are Christians must graduate from, He writes in 5:17: "Behold, how happy is the man whom God reproveth, So do not despise the _____ of the Almighty. [NASB]**

Paul writes some practical godly advice in Ephesians 6:4 concerning the level of discipline needed to bring about a course correction in a child; and *now a word to you, fathers. Don't make your children angry by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction approved by the Lord. [NLT]*

Solomon's son and successor to the throne rejected his father's advice along with the counsel of his elders. The Chronicles of God records this: *But Rehoboam spoke harshly to them, for he rejected the advice of the older counselors [14] and followed the counsel of his younger advisers. He told the people, "My father was harsh on you, but I'll be even harsher!*

My father used whips on you, but I'll use scorpions!" 2nd Chron. 10:13-14 [NLT]

Discipline, while unpleasant at the time of administration, is an act of parental love. John records the words of Jesus in Rev. 3:19: ***I am the one who corrects and disciplines everyone I love. Be diligent and turn from your indifference.*** [NLT]

Hebrews 12:11: ***No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it is painful! But afterward, there will be a quiet harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.*** [NLT]

God's Word continues to enlighten us as to the purpose of parental discipline, especially that which has eternal goals in mind. In Hebrews 12:7-9 we are told: ***As you endure this divine discipline, remember that God is treating you as his own children. Whoever heard of a child who was never disciplined? [8] If God doesn't discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children after all. [9] Since we respect our earthly fathers who disciplined us, should we not all the more cheerfully submit to the discipline of our heavenly Father and live forever?*** [NLT]

Because we have a free-will, we are not like a small child under the absolute authority of a heavy-handed parent, we must choose to accept the discipline offered. Paul writes to his foster son Timothy . . . ***discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; [8] for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.*** 1st Tim. 4:7-8 [NASB]

Proverbs 13:2-3: *From the fruit of a man's mouth he enjoys good, but the desire of the treacherous is violence. [3] The one who guards his **mouth** preserves his life; the one who opens wide his **lips** comes to ruin.*

➤ **One of the things missing in social settings where people gather to converse in casual conversation and what is often**

an aforethought, is that of guarding our _____. This was a sin that in my earlier life, especially before I receive Christ as my Lord and Savior and began listening to the voice of His Spirit after I was baptized by the same. I was very guilty of loose lips, but the Spirit in me has since tempered my _____ as He renewed my mind. I would carelessly speak my mind regardless of the damage that those irrevocable words would do; today I see that this is especially prevalent in satirical humor that comes over the internet. Words once spoken and emails once sent, cannot be withdrawn or erased! We must learn that words are fluid and can have different meanings to different people, depending on their life-filters that are used to interpret those words.

Compiler's note: If I were to ask you, "are you a Christian"? Depending on your prior teaching and impressions, the meaning of the word can mean anything from, "yeah! I sometimes go to Church" to the other extreme of "hanging from the chandeliers". I recently sent out an email, passing along an idea that I thought appropriate and harmless. I am opposed to our government's use of racial backgrounds as a means of gerrymandering. The email that I forwarded suggested that when filling out our mandated census, we check the box of "other" when it asks for our ethnic background and writes in AMERICAN. I could not, in the filters of my mind, believe that anyone would find this suggestion objectionable – I was wrong. In the eyes of a responding person came a railing objection: did my error hurt my reputation, or the one that I represent, Jesus? Can you see how narrow the path is, and how dependent on God's indwelling Spirit we must be to avoid the potholes.

Proverbs 13:4: *The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the soul of the diligent is made fat.*

➤ Throughout our Christian history, there have been those who followed some human interpretation of an obscure prophecy by selling all of their possessions, and waiting for a certain moment, when they expected Christ' return. Even as early as Paul's day this was occurring. Paul was also confronted with another similar problem that is familiar to us

today; those with the mindset of the _____, one who makes it a profession, going from church to church, milking their Christian charity, too lazy to work or offer anything in return including their attention to the Christian message, for the gifts given.

2nd Thessalonians 3:10-11: *Even while we were with you, we gave you this rule: "Whoever does not work should not eat." [11] Yet we hear that some of you are living idle lives, refusing to work and wasting time meddling in other people's business. [NLT]*

Proverbs 13:5-6: *A righteous man **hates** falsehood, but a wicked man acts disgustingly and shamefully. [6] **Righteousness guards the one whose way is blameless**, but wickedness subverts the sinner.*

➤ **The person who is being schooled to live according to our new nature begins to _____ lies and falsehoods, as does our heavenly father. Rev. 21:8: . . . all liars—their doom is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death." [NLT] Apparently lying comes naturally to our old nature; Paul addresses this in Romans 7:5: *When we were controlled by our old nature, sinful desires were at work within us, and the law aroused these evil desires that produced sinful deeds, resulting in death. [NLT]***

Before God placed a new nature in us that was filled with the Fruit of the Spirit; . . . *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, and self-control, . . .*, Galatians 5:22-23 [NLT] we were like that. [20] *In those days, when you were slaves of sin, you weren't concerned with doing what was right. [21] And what was the result? It was not good, since **now you are ashamed of the things you used to do, things that end in eternal doom.** Romans 6:20-21 [NLT]*

If you will recall, back in Proverbs 6:19, we found that lies, false-witness, and testimony, made it on to God's hate list. Our natural bent toward self-serving sin is one of the reasons that all mankind, apart from accepting Christ as Lord and Savior, are already condemned. Insight from God's Holy Spirit compelled Paul to write in Romans 8:8; *that's why those who are still under the control of their*

sinful nature can never please God. ^[NLT] Or for Jesus to say in John 14:6; . . . **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.** ^[NLT] As Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus, He laid out God's plan to provide a new nature for all that would accept Him, His forgiveness, and His indwelling Spirit. This encounter is recorded in John 4:3-8.

Proverbs 13:7-8: *There is one who pretends to be rich, but has nothing; another pretends to be poor but has great wealth. ^[8] The ransom of a man's life is his riches, But the poor hears no rebuke.*

➤ **The first part of this couplet deals with hypocrisy. The reality is, it reveals pride in a person who feels they must _____ to be something they are not. This poor person who puts his faith in power, position and wealth, wants to brag by pretending to be rich, and a part of that elite group, rather than looking to our heavenly Father and giving thanks for the blessing that God has already provided. The hypocrisy found in the rich man is stinginess, "crying poormouth" when he really lacks for nothing. Both are an offense to God.**

These truths are revealed in verse 8, where, when something of great value is threatened, *the rich can pay a ransom, but the poor won't even get threatened,* makes me think of an old country song about a cotton farmer whose crop was so bad and left him so poor, that he was compelled to sing; "If the wolf comes knocking on my door, he'd better bring his own picnic lunch". Hostage takers would be foolish to try and extract a _____ from poor folk.

Proverbs 13:9: *The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked goes out.*

➤ **It is this compiler's belief that the righteous line of the kings of Judah, will one day be restored as Christ takes up the throne in the land of Israel, to which He is a rightful heir, this by a lineage ancestor on His mother's side, to King David. But what of the northern kingdom? Their _____ (or light of life) was continually snuffed out, just as was that of well known, _____, maniacal leaders of our recent past, Hitler**

and Stalin; as will be those in our near future, who may suffer the disadvantage of coming face to face with our Creator.

Proverbs 13:10: *Through presumption comes nothing but strife, but with those who receive counsel is wisdom.*

- I am not sure why NASB saw fit to use the word presumption in this edition; they may have realized that it didn't quite communicate the complete picture, so in a later revision, they changed the word "presumption" to insolence, which comes close. The well-respected Jamieson-Fausset-Brown Bible Commentary renders the passage in this manner: The obstinacy which attends self-conceit produces contention, which the well-advised, thus evincing modesty, avoid. —

Most other well-known Bible translations simply translate **zadown**, {*zaw-done'*} as pride, which is the root cause of contention and _____ within the church, and without!

Proverbs 13:11: *Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, but the one who gathers by labor increases it.*

- English doesn't seem to have a single word that correctly communicates the true meaning of the Hebrew word **hebel**, {*heh'-bel*}, which is translated as fraud in the NASB, and dishonesty in the NIV, "from get-rich-quick schemes" in the NLT, to Vanity in the KJV. Other commentaries, in essence, all seem to lean toward wealth obtained from nothing: or without labor and personal effort. This could be from a fraudulent swindle, lottery winnings, or an inheritance from a rich uncle, all of which seem to pass unappreciated by the recipients. Those who gather wealth by _____ tend to be much more careful with their investment strategies.

Proverbs 13:12: *Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but desire fulfilled is a tree of life.*

- Hope is the object of our faith: We can place our hope in earthly things, at such a level of expectancy that, should they

not come to pass, it will crush us, making us emotionally _____, or we can place our hope in eternal things through the mercy and grace of our Lord Jesus. An oft-sung hymn calls upon us "To place our hope on nothing less than Jesus Christ and His righteousness". All of which reminds me of a passage in Ephesians 2:12, where Paul is addressing the Gentiles in that congregation as well as us, saying: *In those days you were living apart from Christ. You were excluded from God's people, Israel, and you did not know the promises God had made to them. You lived in this world without God and without hope.* [NLT]

Proverbs 13:13: *The one who despises the word will be in debt to it, but the one who fears the commandment will be rewarded.*

- In our society, we have lost our fear of the Lord and along with that a respect for His Word, our instruction manual. Our children are taught subtly that God's word has little to offer and nothing to _____ as it is unceremoniously barred from the library shelves in our public-school system.
- The word fear is the Hebrew word **yare'**, {yaw-ray'.} Contextually it means to revere and hold in absolute awe. Do we revere the word of God in our advanced civilization as much as the scholastically perceived, ignorant, founding fathers and framers of our nation did? Why not? Science has never been able to discredit the Word, although they, along with all who _____ the Word, have made every attempt to do so. No book in the world has been more scrutinized than the Word of God, and yet it remains preserved as timeless and true.

Proverbs 13:14-15: *The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn aside from the snares of death. ^[15] Good understanding produces favor, but the way of the treacherous is hard.*

- As we have learned in earlier chapters, wisdom is found in Christ and inspired by His indwelling Holy Spirit. We are born with a human nature that is rebellious toward Him and can never inherit the Kingdom of Heaven. Each of us must

covenant with Him, turning aside from our flesh trained old nature, and embrace the Fruit of the Spirit found in our new nature if we are to avoid the _____ leads to the second death. God writes to us in Isaiah 65:2 that He wants no part of our old rebellious nature, *"I have spread out My hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in the way which is not good, following their own thoughts,"* [NASB]

Rather; even though all things are a product of His creativity and design, belonging to Him, including all humanity, it is only . . . *To him who is humble and contrite of spirit, and who trembles at My word, . . . to this one will I look upon with _____*. Isaiah 66:2 [NASB]

Proverbs 13:16: *Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool displays folly.*

- The source of our _____ is found in the written Word, while its application is found within, through His indwelling Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit brings to remembrance the Word of God. John 14:26 records Jesus words as he told His disciples about the coming day [the day of Pentecost]; . . . *when the Father sends the Counselor as my representative—and by the Counselor, I mean the Holy Spirit—he will teach you everything and will remind you of everything I myself have told you.* [NLT]

Proverbs 13:17: *A wicked messenger falls into adversity, but a faithful envoy brings healing.*

- Today, perhaps due to 24/7 news, movies, and TV, we seem to have become impervious, and impassive to the story of the spy or the courier, who steals sensitive material or information and then sells it to our enemy. We are made insensitive by the endless lawsuits filled with what was previous, secret information about who done it, and why; so much so that we are almost always expectant of a story behind the story. One _____ reporter, who recently went to be with our Lord, hosted a very popular radio show for as long as I can remember. The commentary news show

was based on revealing the “rest of the story,” but in such a way that brought _____. This of course was Paul Harvey who was a faithful messenger.

Proverbs 13:18: *Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline, but he who regards reproof will be honored.*

- **Jesus [who is God] came to earth in the form of a man, not in great wealth and pomp, but as a lowly carpenter's son, that He may experience life as the average individual does; therefore He is qualified to address situations that real life brings about, even life confounded by the enemy of our souls, who seeks to detour and destroy all that are His. Because He understands the difficulties of normal life, He has given us a situation manual through His written Word and an Interpretive Guide in the person of His Holy Spirit, to keep us on the narrow path. The only problem with any guidebook, or Guide for that matter, is that the possessor must not _____ the _____ to follow the principles set forth or the Teacher that instructs us in the way.**

Complier's note: It is like crew boss giving his worker a pile of lumber and shingles, with all of the tools and hardware that is needed, along with the instruction book, and instructing him to assemble a doghouse. Having never seen a doghouse, but instructed to build one; what would the end product look like if the worker never looked at the blueprints or read the instructions? The results might be similar to blind men trying to describe an elephant. To one the leg would feel like a tree, to another the trunk like a snake, the side perhaps like a wall, and ears like fans. God knows that life for each of us is like a blind-man or the foolish carpenter who fails to read and follow instructions. We will remain on the broad way of familiarity that leads to destruction, passing by the off-ramp for heaven and eternal life. Jesus cautions us, ***"For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.*** Matthew 7:14 [NASB]

Proverbs 13:19-21: *Desire realized is sweet to the soul, but it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil. ^[20] He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm. ^[21] Adversity pursues sinners, but the righteous will be rewarded with prosperity.*

➤ The point of these three couplets is easily understood, however, the application must be revealed in the lives of the reader. They are summed up in verse 21; bad stuff is the reward of _____, while the _____ are rewarded with a certain peace in life that cannot be obtained in the flesh. God provides and protects His own.

Isaiah 51:7: *"Listen to me, you who know right from wrong and cherish my law in your hearts. Do not be afraid of people's scorn or their slanderous talk."* [NLT] Those who are known by Him, whose names remain written in the Lambs Book of Life; *they fill their hearts with God's law, so they will never slip from his path.* Psalm 37:31 [NLT] One of the sad things that have happened in America, because of our freedom to worship openly and overtly, is that we have lost our "fear of the Lord". We have become too familiar with Him considering Him as no more than our "Good buddy, God." Jesus warned us in Luke 12:5: *But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has the power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.* [NIV]

Proverbs 13:22: *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.*

Solomon may have been thinking of monetary wealth since he was one of the richest men on the planet, and apparently, throughout most of his life was consumed with gathering even more. 1st Kings 10:21: *And all King Solomon's drinking vessels were of gold, and all the vessels of the house of the forest of Lebanon were of pure gold. None was of silver; it was not considered [very] valuable in the days of Solomon.* [NASB]

➤ **But our God is more concerned with a spiritual _____.** If we fail to pass our faith and knowledge on to our children, if we fail to teach them about God's justice, great love, and mercy demonstrated through the Cross of Christ, they and their future generations may remain condemned, lost in spiritual poverty.

John 3:18: *"He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already because he has*

not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.
[NASB]

Mark 16:16: "*He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved, but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned.*" [NASB]

Compiler's note. Baptize [baptize {bap-tid'-zo}] is a verb that speaks of action, it is not the Baptism which is a noun as in John's Baptism – a person, place or thing. We read in Matthew 3:11 "I baptize you with water for repentance, but the One who is coming after me is more powerful than I. I am not worthy to remove His sandals. He Himself will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire." John baptized with the water for repentance, but did you notice what Jesus will baptize with? He will baptize with the Holy Spirit. It is grammatically incorrect to say the bible uses the term, "the Baptism of the Spirit", rather it is the verb form "With the Holy Spirit." It is Christ who is the baptizer and the believer is immersed in the Holy Spirit who is the transformer. Like a cucumber that is transformed into a pickle, the transformation is permanent. The Greek word **BAPTIZO** which means to immerse. In Hebrew it is referred to as a **MIKVEH** – still an immersion. A text from the Greek poet and physician by the name of Nicander, who lived about 200 B.C., recorded a recipe for making pickles. The recipe uses both words. Nicander says that in order to make a pickle, the vegetable should first be 'dipped' (bapto) into boiling water and then 'baptized' (baptizo) in the vinegar solution. Both verbs concern the immersing of vegetables in a solution. But the first is temporary. The second, the act of baptizing the vegetable which produces a permanent change. We may submit to John's Baptism of repentance, but it is receiving the Holy Spirit and a new nature that brings about the transformation. This is not second blessing holiness, rather it reveals the conviction of the Spirit which should lead to the immersion into Christ death and resurrection or transformation to New Life in the Spirit.

Proverbs 13:23: ***Abundant** food is in the **fallow** ground of the poor, but it is swept away by injustice.*

➤ Throughout human history, we can read of the dictators and evil regimes that have starved their populations for sordid reasons and ethnic cleansing by disrupting the food chain. _____ Provisions would have been possible, but by evil

mastery and injustice, they forced the ground to lay

Compiler's note: we have just witnessed such political arrogance in California, where the needed water for the fields that provide food for the nation was turned off and the required water was diverted into the ocean by the political power and force of extreme environmental groups, placing the value of a tiny fish above the value of human life.

Proverbs 13:24: *He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

➤ The love of a father is displayed by their willingness to diligently _____ the wayward child. Sadly, this runs to two opposing extremes, and neither is correct. Our designer calls upon us to *not provoke our children to anger* in Ephesians 6:4; yet, *we are to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.* ^[NASB] On the rare occasion I found it necessary to spank our children, I would send them to their bedroom, while I gained emotional stability. We are never to physically discipline while we are angry, this only provokes them to rebellion. I have used a large flat breadboard, one that created more noise than pain, and after administering the board of education to their seat of knowledge, the results would be tears, mine as well as those who were the subject of my discipline, so I would stay and cry with them. I found spanking to be a seldom needed, but a useful tool in their education.

Today, it seems many parents are more worried about being loved by their child than they are lovingly disciplining them. They want to be their buddies rather than their parents. All four of my children today are close and remain a loving part of our family, while the "child buddies" that I am aware of, those who were undisciplined, have all grown up and moved on and away. On this subject of being an undisciplined child, I speak first hand, for I was one of those. Shamefully, I was not even made aware of my own father's death until weeks

after his burial. sorrowfully, he wanted nothing to do with me, and to my shame, I responded in kind.

Compiler's note: God does not want us as buddies, we are His adopted children and He deserves of Love and obedience.

Proverbs 13:25: *The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, but the stomach of the wicked is in want.* ^[NASB]

- **This can be a difficult proverb to interpret when we live with and are surrounded by so much affluence. Perhaps it is wiser to look at this from a spiritual perspective. The _____ person feeds on the word of God, to the satisfying of our souls, with the promises of the gospel and our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Bread of life.**