

Proverbs - Chapter 7

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The focus of this chapter, like many before, is a warning against fleshly lusts. Solomon probably remembered the pain this type of sin caused for his father, David. As a king, he may have seen many lives of his people ruined by falling into this type of temptation. It appears that he thought he could never say enough about this type of sin in attempting to keep those he cared about away from it at all costs.

Even today, this type of sin continues, and as a result, we need to pay close attention to the wisdom that Solomon offers. We should always pray, "Lord, lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil..."

READ [v.1 – v.5](#)

[v.1 – v.5](#) – Notice in v.1 that Solomon states, **"My son, keep my words..."**. This is somewhat of a parallel to [6:20](#) where he says, **"My son, keep thy father's commandment..."**.

The use of the word "my" in this chapter seems to indicate that Solomon is speaking to us as children. He speaks in God's name because it is God's word and God's laws that we must endeavor to keep.

We must be careful with God's words. We must treasure them and "lay them up" where we cannot be robbed of them by the Devil. In v. 2, Solomon tells us to **"Keep my commandments, and live."** In other words, we are to keep God's words as something we cannot live without.

[Matthew 4:4](#) **"...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."**

[Deuteronomy 8:3](#) **"And he humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that he might make thee know that man doeth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live."**

[John 6:35](#) **"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life. He that cometh to me shall never hunger, and he that believeth on me shall never thirst."**

We need to treat God's words as something tender and precious. He tells us to keep God's laws as "the apple of thine eye".

Psalm 17:8 "Keep me as the apple of the eye, hide me under the shadow of thy wings."

We are precious in God's sight, even more so when we keep His laws and commandments.

Zechariah 2:8 "For thus saith the Lord of hosts, after the glory hath he sent me unto the nations which spoiled (robbed) you. For he that toucheth you toucheth the apple of His eye."

We need to be proud of God's words left to lead and guide us. "**Bind them upon thy fingers**" is somewhat akin to a wedding band, something that reminds us of a commitment we have made to someone. It also signifies to others that we are taken, and we are committed to someone else.

We also need to have our minds constantly set on God's laws. His laws should guide us in all we do. We need to have His words in our hearts to show us the proper steps to take in our daily lives.

Hebrews 8:10 "For this is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel. After those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts. And I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people."

Psalm 119:105 "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path."

And if we truly treasure God's word as mentioned previously, our heart will follow.

Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."

We need to be intimately acquainted with God's word (v.4). This implies that God's word and laws are something we are closely aligned with and something that we love, as much as a sister or any other family member. To reach this point, we have to study God's word.

2 Timothy 2:15 “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (current quarterly memory verse)

Finally, we must use God’s word as our defense. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, gave us this example of using God’s word as a defense against temptation while engaged in His 40-day fast in the wilderness. When tempted by Satan, Jesus quoted scripture. And the end result was that He not only was able to resist the temptation, but scripture indicates that Satan left Him for awhile.

Ephesians 6:17 “And take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.”

READ **v.6 – v.23**

v.6 – v.23 – This is a story that Solomon relates to make a point about the dangers of giving in to the sin of lust. There are some questions as to whether this was an actual event or a story made up by Solomon to prove a point. Regardless of whether or not this is actually true, the end result shows that this type of sin, or ANY sin for that matter, is not to be a part of a Christian’s life.

Solomon was a king, and as such, looked through his window (casement) on a regular basis at his subjects. He tells of this occurrence by showing that he observed a young man heading for trouble, completely unaware of the consequences that awaited him.

A Look at the Young Man

First of all, he shows how this young man laid himself open for this temptation. He refers to him as a simple, young man. Youthful lust left him open for temptation. As adults who are hopefully wiser, we need to teach our children about the traps and snares of Satan, and that adhering to God’s word will help them to avoid these types of sins.

2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts, but follow faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”

Second, the passage states that he was “void of understanding” (without wisdom). He ventured out into the world with no direction, no principles, or guidance. Satan knows that the time between youth and adulthood is where many people are susceptible to temptation.

That is why we need to raise our children in “the nurture and admonition of the Lord”. There is no better way to help them know how to flee from evil.

Job 28:28 “And unto the man he said, Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.”

Third, he kept bad company. He aligned himself with other simple youths, no one who could give him sound counsel or direction. Christ gave us an example when at 12 years old, he was found in the temple talking with teachers, religious leaders, doctors, etc.

We must be careful who we allow our children to associate with. Their future depends on it.

Fourth, in the “...**twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night...**”, he makes his way toward her corner. Maybe he was unaware of the danger, but one thing is certain – he had no business being where he was. He is wandering about, idle, without any aim or direction. An empty life such as this is vulnerable to temptation.

In my growing up, I was most often hurt or got into trouble when I was somewhere or doing something I had no business in doing – and I hated to hear my Dad constantly remind me of that fact (but I’m glad he did).

He finds himself in this area at night, not in the daylight when things can be seen, but almost as if he is trying to hide something. For that reason, I believe he knew exactly where he was going, completely oblivious to the potential danger that awaited him.

A Look at the Woman (The Tempter)

With regard to the woman who tempted the young man, it appears she was not a typical prostitute. She was apparently a married woman (v.19) whose husband was away.

Even if this young man did not know where he was going, this woman knew where she wanted him. And she used several different strategies to lure him.

She was dressed to entice him (v.10). This reminded me of the phrase that “everything that glitters is not gold”. The way she was dressed got her noticed by this young man, and it was enough to entice him to continue down this path. The scripture said that she was

dressed as a harlot – yet this only fueled his desire instead of his heart telling him to get away.

She was bold in her approach to the young man (v.13). She caught hold of him and kissed him. She had no modesty, and this increased his lust. Many things that attract our eyes open up our hearts to sin. We need to constantly guard our senses to be keen to things that could potentially draw us into temptation.

She invited him over to her place (v.16 – v.18). Again, recall that this was a simple man, with no understanding or direction, who was being lured into sin by this woman – and he had no moral compass to tell him that something was wrong with this invitation. Her very statements indicate what she was wanting from this young man, and yet he does not resist.

She answered any objection he could have put forth (v.19 – v.20). She tells him her husband is gone for awhile and they will not be disturbed. He has taken a bag of money and has gone away, so they are free to engage in this sin without any fear that her husband will come home and find him there. Why did he not get away when he realized she was married? I think that by this time, the temptation of this woman toward the young man was so great that he could no longer say no. When we allow temptation to dwell in our hearts and minds, we're playing with fire. We never come away unaffected.

Each of these enticements was designed to trap this young man into sin. And in each situation, there was ample time and evidence for him to say no, to get away. Yet, he did not.

Scripture tells us that for every temptation we face, God will make a way of escape. However, we have a free will, and we alone determine whether we will take the escape that is provided or give in to the temptation we are facing. The end result is always our choice.

Finally, notice v. 14. The woman tells the young man that “...**this day have I payed my vows.**” She is professing to be a pious or religious woman. She is basically telling him that she had been in the temple today and had made her offerings and vows to God in order to somehow add some portion of right to this wrong she was tempting this young man to commit.

I fear that many people come to church on a regular basis to “worship” without understanding what true worship really is. Coming to church

does not make us righteous, sinless, or a Christian. If we come to church to make an outward show of how religious we are, and yet continue to sin against God, we are playing a dangerous game. In other words, we know what is right and what is wrong, and we choose to do what is wrong, thinking that our church attendance or church membership is somehow going to shield us from God's judgment of our actions. Notice what the Bible says about this:

Romans 6:1-2 "What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein."

This was true of the Pharisees in Jesus' time who made long prayers to draw attention to their piety. They also made a show before the people, appearing to be religious, but on the inside, they were sinful. Jesus called them "whitewashed tombs" – clean on the outside, but filthy with sin and death on the inside.

God looks on the heart, not on our exterior. We need to ensure our religion and our Christianity comes from the heart.

All of these devices used by this woman are the same things the devil uses to tempt us.

- Satan makes sin look good to us. Even in the Garden of Eden when Satan tempted Eve, scripture says that the serpent was subtle.
- Satan is bold in his approach to us. He is afraid of God, but he is not afraid of us. The stronger we are in our Christian faith, the more we will be able to resist him. However, all it takes is one crack in our faith for Satan to seize the opportunity to tempt us to sin.
- Satan entices us to places where we, as Christians, have no business going. Scripture tells us to "avoid all appearance of evil". When we get close to sin, we are affected, just as Lot and his family was when he pitched his tent toward Sodom.
- Satan always has an answer for our objections. We must ensure we listen to God, and not Satan. He is subtle and enticing and will have just enough of "God" in his temptation to make it sound like the right thing to do. He used this strategy when tempting Jesus in the wilderness. But in reading this account, you will find that Jesus knew the true Word of God, and relied on it, not Satan's words. That's why we need to study God's word and hide it in our hearts to help us avoid sin

Psalm 119:11 “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”

In the end, the young man gives in to the temptation in front of him. He engages in this act with this woman. Solomon paints a bleak picture of the consequences that this causes for the young man.

He compares this to a ox being led to be slaughtered, to a person being confined in stocks, to being stabbed, and like a bird caught in a snare, not even realizing that it is about to die.

No one engages in sin and expects to be deeply affected. But we always are. And many times, this affect reaches beyond us to our families and our friends. Multiple lives are ruined and affected because of sins we commit.

The point Solomon is trying to make with this account is to show us that, if we have God's wisdom in our hearts and lives, things such as this do not have to occur. We can resist these temptations and God will help us to do so – IF we choose God's wisdom over our own inclinations.

READ v.24 – v.27

v.24 - v.27 - Solomon ends this chapter by telling us that we can take definite steps to avoid this type of temptation.

We must guard our minds. We must avoid things that stimulate our minds and our desires to focus on things that are wrong.

Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.”

We must avoid places and people that could tempt us to sin. Being in the wrong place at the wrong time is not an excuse for us to sin.

Finally, we must not just think of the moment we are in, we must think of the future.

When Joseph was tempted by Potipher's wife to engage in this same type of sin, he thought about the future and ran away.

"Run, Joseph, run. You'll be glad when the morning comes." ("Run, Joseph, Run" – The Reggie Sadler Family)

The thrill you experience today may result in a ruined life tomorrow.