

Proverbs

#3- A Matter of Life and Death

Matt 5:21–30; Prov 6:21; 7:3; Prov 6:23; 7:2; 6:24; 6:30, 31; Prov. 7:26, 27.

Memory Verse

Proverbs 6:23, NKJV “*For the commandment is a lamp, and the law a light; reproofs of instruction are the way of life*”.

The Law in Our Lives

Proverbs 6:21 *Bind them continually upon thine heart, And tie them about thy neck.*

Proverbs 7:3 (NKJV) *Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.*

Deuteronomy 6:6–9 (NKJV) “*And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

***Deuteronomy 11:18 (NKJV)** “*Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.*

Exodus 13:8–9 (NKJV) *And you shall tell your son in that day, saying, ‘This is done because of what the Lord did for me when I came up from Egypt.’⁹ It shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the Lord’s law may be in your mouth; for with a strong hand the Lord has brought you out of Egypt.*

Proverbs 3:3 (NKJV) *Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart,* Although the biblical intention of these images was purely symbolic, it is noteworthy that these symbols have been taken literally in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions. It is seen through the use of the Jewish tefillin around the head and the fingers, the Christian crosses around the neck, and the Muslim (and Christian) rosaries around the fingers.

***Romans 7:7 (NKJV)** *What shall we say then? Is the law sin? Certainly not! On the contrary, I would not have known sin except through the law. For I would not have known covetousness unless the law had said, “You shall not covet.”*

Matthew 5:21–30

Monday - Light and Life

Proverbs 6:23 (NKJV) *For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,*

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV) *Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.*

Darkness cannot put out a light. If the darkness increases until it is black as a cave, it is still not dark enough to extinguish a light. No one has yet smothered a light by increasing the darkness. Darkness gets darker only because the light fails. When we fail to reflect Christ's light, we let the darkness win." Watch light has saved me.

Proverbs 7:2 (NKJV) *Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye.*

***Psalm 19:8 (NKJV)** *The commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes;*

2 Peter 1:19 (NKJV) *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;*

Matthew 19:17 (NKJV) *So He said to him, “Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. But if you want to enter into life, keep the commandments.”*

Revelation 14:12 *Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.*

John 8:12 (NKJV) *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”*

Tuesday - Fighting Temptation

Proverbs 6:24 (NKJV) *To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. Revelation pictures to women*

Wisdom is sometimes pictured as a woman and so is temptation.

Proverbs 6:25–29 (NKJV) *Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? So is he who goes in to his neighbor’s wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent.*

1 Corinthians 10:13 *No temptation has overtaken you except such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will also make the way of escape, that you may be able to bear it.*

1 Corinthians 6:13–20 Now the body is not for fornication, but for the Lord; and the Lord for the body. 14 And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power. 15 Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ? shall I then take the members of Christ, and make them the members of an harlot? God forbid. 16 What? know ye not that he which is joined to an harlot is one body? for two, saith he, shall be one flesh. 17 But he that is joined unto the Lord is one spirit. 18 Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body. 19 What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? 20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's.

"Satan offers to men the kingdoms of the world if they will yield to him the supremacy. Many do this and sacrifice heaven. It is better to die than to sin; better to want than to defraud; better to hunger than to lie."—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 495.

***Mark 14:38** (NKJV) *Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.*

Wednesday - "You Shall Not Steal"

Proverbs 6:30–31 (KJV 1900) Men do not despise a thief, if he steal To satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; He shall give all the substance of his house.

Proverbs 30:8–9 (NKJV) Remove falsehood and lies far from me; Give me neither poverty nor riches— Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, And say, "Who is the LORD?" Or lest I be poor and steal, And profane the name of my God.

The two sins are indeed somewhat similar. In both cases, someone is illicitly taking something that belongs to someone else.

1 Thessalonians 4:3–6 (NKJV) For this is the will of God, your sanctification: that you should abstain from sexual immorality;⁴ that each of you should know how to possess his own vessel in sanctification and honor,⁵ not in passion of lust, like the Gentiles who do not know God; ⁶ that no one should take advantage of and defraud his brother in this matter, because the Lord is the avenger of all such, as we also forewarned you and testified. **David stole Uriah's wife**

" 'Thou shalt not commit adultery.' This commandment forbids not only acts of impurity, but sensual thoughts and desires, or any practice that tends to excite them. . . . Christ, who taught the far-reaching obligation of the law of God, declared the evil thought or look to be as truly sin as is the unlawful deed."—Ellen G. White, *Patriarchs and Prophets*, p. 308.

Thursday - The Threat of Death

Proverbs 7:22–23 (NKJV) Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life.

Romans 6:23 (NKJV) For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

***Proverbs 7:26–27** (NKJV) For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong men.²⁷ Her house is the way to hell, Descending to the chambers of death.

Romans 8:5–6 (NKJV) For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. 6 For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

"Choose poverty, reproach, separation from friends, or any suffering rather than to defile the soul with sin. Death before dishonor or the transgression of God's law should be the motto of every Christian. As a people professing to be reformers, treasuring the most solemn, purifying truths of God's word, we must elevate the standard far higher than it is at the present time."—Ellen G. White, *Testimonies*, vol. 5, p. 147.