



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 21:16-31

16 One who wanders from the way of good sense will rest in the assembly of the dead.

17 Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

18 The wicked is a ransom for the righteous, and the traitor for the upright.

19 It is better to live in a desert land than with a quarrelsome and fretful woman.

20 Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it.

21 Whoever pursues righteousness and kindness will find life, righteousness, and honor.

22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty and brings down the stronghold in which they trust.

23 Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps himself out of trouble.

24 "Scoffer" is the name of the arrogant, haughty man who acts with arrogant pride.

25 The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

26 All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.


27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent.

28 A false witness will perish, but the word of a man who hears will endure.

29 A wicked man puts on a bold face, but the upright gives thought to his ways.

30 No wisdom, no understanding, no counsel can avail against the LORD.

31 The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the LORD



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DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 21:16-31

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Wandering isn't always a bad thing. Letting spontaneity take the lead and allowing for adventure can be fun. However, when the pleasure of wandering affects good sense that is spoken of in verses 16 and 17 of this passage, trouble will ensue. It is the aimlessness that causes trouble. No one wakes up one morning and announces, "I'm going to get lost today." It gradually happens, and one poor choice can change the trajectory of your life sending you down a slippery slope.

I never understood the concept of the slope formula until I was an aide in an eighth grade math class. The teacher explained that it is used to find how steep the incline is for two intersecting lines by saying that the first line is the rise. The second is the run, and you must always rise before you can run. How you rise affects how you run and where you end up. This is the 1 in 60 Rule. From a navigational standpoint, changing the rise of a line adjusts your destination, and by being one degree off target, you will miss your mark by 92 feet. For every 60 miles you move, you miss your destination by one mile. You thought you would never use geometry, right? The real point is that as we rise, we should look to Christ as our compass to keep us on point. Once we have dialed into Him we can run toward what He has in store for us. I am a lot less likely to veer off course when I keep my eyes on Jesus (Matthew 7:13-14). His way is straight. While there is no exact formula to seeking God's will, He will direct the path, and my God doesn't make mistakes.

Did you know that 90% of the time UPS trucks turn right? According to the Washington Post, left turns are seen as inefficient, because they leave trucks sitting in traffic longer. The logistics company says a policy of minimizing left turns has helped it save more than 10 million gallons of fuel over the past decade. They have a plan that has been tested and proven. There is a certain expectation due to the preparation. If I ready myself through prayer, seeking godly advice, studying His Word, and prepare for whatever the Lord has for me, I can trust that "the horse is made ready for the day of battle, but victory belongs to the Lord" (verse 31). Yes, I will make wrong turns and get off course from time to time, but He is so kind, He is so good, and He forgives me and guides me back on His path. He is the Victory!



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Questions:

1. What distractions do you have that tend to get you off course?
2. How can you be more effective with your rise and run?
3. Have you prepared for the battle at hand?