

Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 24:23-34

23 These also are sayings of the wise. Partiality in judging is not good.

24 Whoever says to the wicked, "You are in the right," will be cursed by peoples, abhorred by nations,

25 but those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

26 Whoever gives an honest answer kisses the lips.

27 Prepare your work outside; get everything ready for yourself in the field, and after that build your house.

28 Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause, and do not deceive with your lips.

29 Do not say, "I will do to him as he has done to me; I will pay the man back for what he has done."


30 I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense,

31 and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down.

32 Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction.

33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest,

34 and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Proverbs*

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 24:23-34


AUTHOR: BRANDON BACHTEL

We live in a society that desperately desires to be in charge of their own lives, wills, and ways. As a result, our society is on a quest to determine what is right or wrong for themselves. In an attempt to do so, it undermines the truth of God's supreme rule and sovereign nature, and seeks to redefine absolute truth into relative norms. Our society desires inclusion, equality, decisions without consequences, and the freedom of self-expression without push-back. Matter of fact, push-back in our culture automatically assumes that a person is judgmental, unloving, harsh, and an unapproachable bigot. Therefore, a vast majority of people remain silent in a country that exchanges currency with the motto, "In God We Trust", while making decisions that reflect, in fact, we are a godless people.

As I read the end of Proverbs 24, I am personally convinced (and convicted) that our silence says to the wicked "You are in the right." In the midst of godlessness, arrogance, slander, gender confusion, abortion, lust, sexual immorality, and the decay of marriages and family, it is illogical for Christ-followers to stay silent against evil because our silence encourages evil men to flourish.

Instead, we are to be the light in the darkness, a city on a hill, hope for the nations, the salt of the earth. As God's ambassadors, we should be theologically sound, tender-hearted, compassionate neighbors, faithful expositors of God's truth, and voices of righteousness when wickedness abounds. Our voice is not a means to repay evil for evil (Proverbs 24:29); no, instead we are encouraging people to rejoice in the truth in the midst of evil. As we pass by the fields of sluggards, we don't merely point out their foolishness and lack of sense, or their broken and unfortified walls, but we put on our work clothes, awake from our slumber, and point them to the Lord of the harvest as we trust in the Lord ourselves. Just as an idle farmer can quickly become impoverished due to thorns and thistles, I presume to believe it so for the spiritual sluggard. As a result, we cannot sit idly by, silently hoping for change, but we must actively participate with God as He works through us (Ephesians 2:10). We can't sit idly by, hoping for change, we must take part in initiating the change.

Isaiah 58:12 says, "And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to dwell in." The fact is, we live among wealthy, yet impoverished people. We are the home of the free, but the vast majority of our neighbors are enslaved to sin. We are militarily strong but morally weak. We are living in the midst of ruins. A spiritual wasteland. Our land has been breached, and our streets need cleaning. How will you respond?



Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Proverbs*

Questions:

1. Take a few moments to read Jeremiah 1:11-19. What did God ask from Jeremiah? What was God's promise to him in the midst of his assignment?
2. Read 2 Timothy 3:1-16 and answer the following questions.
 - a. What will happen in the last days?
 - b. How does verse 5 and verse 7 correlate together? What do they mean?
 - c. According to verse 9, how will we know when people are foolish? (Extra reading: Matthew 7:13-27)
 - d. What does Paul encourage of the reader in verse 10?
 - e. What does Paul promise in verse 12? Does that sound familiar to Jesus' words in John 16:33?
 - f. According to verse 16, why is it pertinent to know God's Word in the midst of a wicked generation?