

Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 7:1-27

1 My son, keep my words and treasure up my commandments with you;

2 keep my commandments and live; keep my teaching as the apple of your eye;

3 bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," and call insight your intimate friend,

5 to keep you from the forbidden woman, from the adulteress with her smooth words.

6 For at the window of my house I have looked out through my lattice,

7 and I have seen among the simple, I have perceived among the youths, a young man lacking sense

8 passing along the street near her corner, taking the road to her house

9 in the twilight, in the evening, at the time of night and darkness.

10 And behold, the woman meets him, dressed as a prostitute, wily of heart.

11 She is loud and wayward; her feet do not stay at home;

12 now in the street, now in the market, and at every corner she lies in wait.

13 She seizes him and kisses him, and with bold face she says to him,

14 "I had to offer sacrifices, and today I have paid my vows;

15 so now I have come out to meet you, to seek you eagerly, and I have found you.

16 I have spread my couch with coverings, colored linens from Egyptian linen;

17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.

18 Come, let us take our fill of love till morning; let us delight ourselves with love.

19 For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey;

20 he took a bag of money with him; at full moon he will come home."

21 With much seductive speech she persuades him; with her smooth talk she compels him.

22 All at once he follows her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a stag is caught fast


23 till an arrow pierces its liver; as a bird rushes into a snare; he does not know that it will cost him his life.

24 And now, O sons, listen to me, and be attentive to the words of my mouth.

25 Let not your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths,

26 for many a victim has she laid low, and all her slain are a mighty throng.

27 Her house is the way to Sheol, going down to the chambers of death.



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DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 7:1-27

AUTHOR: WENDI CALLAWAY


When I first started really studying the Old Testament, I often wondered why there was so much repetition throughout it. I couldn't see the purpose and considered it a waste of space. Then, one night, I heard part of a sermon on the radio and the speaker said something that I'll never forget: "If our faith truly lies in the assurance that the Bible is indeed the 'inspired Word of God,' we can also be assured that there is a purpose for every word in it. God, as the source of the Bible's content, has never spoken a single word in vain. Therefore, if anything is repeated, it is done so because it is very important for God's people to know." I understood that to mean that basically, the things that are repeated over and over are for emphasis, and are important for the reader to remember, just like the words in red in the New Testament are important for us to remember. Jesus stressed the importance of many scriptures from the Old Testament by repeating them again.

The point is this: Proverbs 7 is about sexual immorality and King Solomon's warning to his son on how to avoid being tempted into participating in such activities. So, if we consider the extra importance of God's words that are repeated throughout scripture, His stance on sexual immorality, in particular, is very high on the list. Warnings against sexual immorality are addressed in more than forty passages of Scripture. Be assured that it is important for God's children to know how He feels about it.

As in previous chapters, Solomon warns and emphasizes the importance of understanding God's Word and keeping His commands, as well as relying on the wisdom imparted by others, specifically a father's wisdom. If these things are kept close to the heart, the temptations are easier to resist.

Just like in Solomon's time, our current culture is no different. We are constantly bombarded with sexual images. Pornography is easily accessible. We live in a sexually permissive culture where sex and pregnancy are disconnected, where social media technology allows for easier anonymous meetings, where we have laws making divorce much easier, and where widespread prosperity brings more freedoms. Our society has become deaf to God's words.

It's only possible to resist such temptations with God's Word in our hearts (Psalm 119:11). I know this to be true from personal experience. I once was the type of person Solomon describes in this chapter. For years, I was the one who was easily tempted into sexually immoral situations. Eventually, my heart was hardened, and I became like the other character in Solomon's story. Only God could pull me out of that pit, and He did, but not until I realized that I had to



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choose between that lifestyle and having a relationship with Him. I chose God, and He completely changed my entire life. I also made a vow to remain celibate until I am married to someone He chooses. And if His plan for the rest of my life does not include marriage, that is perfectly fine. His Will is my will. With God's Word in your heart, His strength makes it possible to resist any temptations the adversary throws at you.

Questions:

1. Is there something in your life, like an addiction or negative thoughts and feelings toward others, that is preventing you from having a deeper relationship with God? Please read Mark 7:20-23 and pray for God to reveal these things to you
2. In 1 Corinthians 6:18, the Apostle Paul contrasts sexual sin with other sins, saying that all other sins are committed outside the body whereas sexual sin is committed against one's own body. If, as believers in Christ, our bodies are temples for the Holy Spirit, what are the implications of sexual sin?
3. Our modern culture picks and chooses what we call "sin". How do you define sin for yourself? How do you decide what is a sin and what is not?