

**Sunday – July 9, 2017**

## **Preparation**

This week we'll conclude the final thirty-one chapters of the book of Psalms before embarking on our journey through the book of Proverbs. Through much of the last several days in our reading, we have extensively highlighted the glory and pleasure of God. If we, as men of God, can ever wrap our minds around the fact that our "body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price:" (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) then truly our lives would, without doubt, reflect the glory of God which He both deserves and desires. The middle of the book of Psalms, also being the middle of our entire Bible, does much to emphasize this principle. If we haven't picked up on this by now, then it would do well for us to pause for a moment and take some time to go back over the Book of Psalms.

Moving ahead in our reading, this week we'll cover chapter 139 in the book of Psalms, which takes a turn from what we've been focused on to covering God's thoughts toward us. There are twenty-four verses in the chapter and the first four set the tone: "O LORD, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O LORD, thou knowest it altogether." And then the chapter is brought to a pinnacle in verses 17-18, "How precious also are thy thoughts unto me, O God! how great is the sum of them! If I should count them, they are more in number than the sand: when I awake, I am still with thee." Considering God, in all His glory and splendor of which He is most definitely deserving, considers us, or perhaps better said, thinks of us constantly, is an overwhelming thought. Why? Why does He consider us? Simply stated, "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more in number than any people; for ye were the fewest of all people: But because the LORD loved you." (Deuteronomy 7:7-8) We are reminded, in 1 John 4:19, that "We love him, because he first loved us." The simple fact that God loved us enough to give his "only begotten Son" is, again, overwhelming to say the least. All we can say is praise be to God, and Amen!

In closing out the book of Psalms, we enter into the first of three books that Solomon, son of David, king of Israel, penned by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. The Book of Proverbs contains 31 chapters, centered on true Biblical wisdom. To set the tone for this book, check out Proverbs 3:5-9, "Trust in the LORD with all

thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.”

As we begin the next book in our Bible, may our lives, if not already, become reflective of the trust we have in the Lord and in His holy word, “For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.”  
(Proverbs 2:6)

**TODAY'S READING: PSALM 120-135**

**OVERVIEW:**

Prayer for deliverance from lying lips; the Lord as the Keeper of Israel; prayer for the peace of Jerusalem; prayer for the Lord's help; praise for the Lord's deliverance of Israel; the blessing of trusting God, thanksgiving for the return from captivity; prosperity comes from the Lord; the blessedness of the fear of the Lord; prayer for the overthrow of Zion's enemies; hope in the Lord's forgiveness; childlike trust in the

Lord; prayer for the Lord's blessing upon the sanctuary; the blessedness of unity; the blessing of the night watchers; praise for the Lord's works, and the vanity of idols and idol worship.

**HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

What if Eve would have been able to write verse one of Psalm 120 – *"In my distress I cried unto the Lord, and he heard me"* ? What if the cry of her heart would have been the cry of the psalmist's heart in verse 2, *"Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue"* ? It's wonderful to dream about what might have been if Eve had applied these verses, but how wonderful would it have been had we applied them at key times in our lives, and how wonderful will it be if we can apply them today, and the remainder of our days?!

Do note that verses 2-7 of Psalm 120 are all pointing to the Antichrist during the Tribulation Period in the prophetic application of these verses.

Psalm 121 also has incredible prophetic implications and applications for Israel. When her "help" comes, it will come from "the hills" (121:1). God is careful to name these "hills" in His Word:

1. MountSinai(Deut.33:2;Jud.5:5;Ps.68:8)
2. MountSeir(Ezek.35:2,3,7)
3. MountParan(Deut.33:2;Hab.3:3)
4. MountofOlives(Zech.14:1-6)

During the Tribulation Period, God will establish Israel (121:3), He will "preserve" them (121:7) and from "this time forth" (i.e. from the time of the Second Coming and throughout the Millennium) they will come in and go out of Jerusalem (121:8).

Psalm 122 is descriptive of what will take place in the Millennium.

As you read Psalm 123, read it from the perspective of a Jew in the Tribulation Period awaiting the arrival of the Messiah.

Psalm 124 describes Israel's literal deliverance from a literal flood and from literally being eaten and swallowed. For those who have the time to get into it, some key cross references are Isa. 6:13; Rev. 6:9-11; Ps. 35:22; 44:22; Rev. 20:4; 12:15; Dan. 9:26; Jer. 51:34.

The prophetic context of Psalm 125 is the beginning of the Millennium (note *"from henceforth even for ever"* in verse 2).

Psalm 126 refers to the Second Coming of Christ when He *"turns the captivity of Zion"* and establishes His Kingdom on the earth. The "soul-winners" in verses 5 and 6 are those described in Ecc. 11:1-7, and yet from a devotional/inspirational standpoint it is true for us. When we travail in prayer for the lost, watering the seed of God's Word (Luke 8:11) that we have sown in the soil of men's hearts with our tears, we will reach people with the gospel!

It is vitally important to understand and apply the truth of Psalm 127:1 to our individual lives, our marriage, our family, our church, and our nation: *"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it."* Psalm 128 is another vital and practical Psalm in relation to our marriages and families.

Psalm 129 describes the scourging endured by our Lord Jesus Christ in His first coming, and yet points to the execution of His judgment at His second coming. Psalm 130 is also a Messianic Psalm with tremendous practical implications. Psalm 131 is predominantly practical, with prophetic (Millennium) overtones in verse 3. Psalm 132 is filled with Millennium references. (See verses 11, and 13-18).

The "brethren" of Psalm 133:1 are the brethren of Matthew 25:34-42 and Matthew 28:10. Devotionally, it is, however, very wonderful and "pleasant" when all of God's children in His church "dwell together in unity" (133:1 c.f. I Cor. 1:10).

Only Psalm 117 is shorter than Psalm 134, and its context is obviously the Millennium. (The *"house of the Lord"* – 134:1, is a literal house to be built on this earth – Ezek. 40-44, and the *"servants of the LORD"* – 134:1, will stand in that house again.)

By now, hopefully you can identify the prophetic context of the Psalms, identifying the Tribulation, Second Coming, and Millennium references, while still applying these verses to your life inspirationally in a practical sense. Try your hand at it in Psalm 135.

## **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As our PROTECTOR – the ONE WHO PRESERVES OUR GOING OUT AND COMING IN – Ps. 121:8 (John 10:9)

As DAVID'S FRUIT or DESCENDANT who will sit upon David's throne – Ps. 132:11 (Luke 1:32; Acts 2:29-30)

**Tuesday – July 11, 2017**

**TODAY'S READING: PSALM 136-143**

**OVERVIEW:**

Thanks for the Lord's goodness to Israel; response to Israel's captivity; thanksgiving for the Lord's blessing; God's omniscience, omni- presence, and omnipotence; prayer for protection against the wicked; prayer for sanctification and protection; prayer for help in trouble; prayer for deliverance and guidance.

**HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

Psalm 136 is a masterful and beautiful way of showing and stating that the God of the Bible who is THE Lord (vs. 1), the GOD of gods (vs. 2), the LORD of lords (vs.3), the GOD of heaven (vs. 26), and the God of creation (vs. 5-9), is tremendously merciful, and has been demonstrating His mercy throughout all of history (vs. 5-26). Twenty-six times in 26 verses we are reminded, "for his mercy endureth for ever." Remember, grace is God GIVING to us what we DO NOT deserve. Mercy is God NOT GIVING to us what we DO deserve!

Psalm 137 is a tremendously sad song about God's people being taken captive by the godless Babylonian empire (representative of Satan's false kingdom of religious systems in the Bible). This song (Psalm) could and should be felt and sung by those of us living during this time of "Laodicean" captivity (Rev. 3:14-22).

Psalm 138:2 is one of the most important statements in all of the Word of God concerning itself! "I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: FOR THOU HAST MAGNIFIED THY WORD ABOVE ALL THY NAME." In light of what the Lord's "NAME" actually is (i.e. the sum total of all of His attributes) and what the Lord says regarding His own name (i.e. Neh. 9:5 – "Blessed be thy glorious name, which is exalted ABOVE ALL blessing and praise"), how then could anything be exalted ABOVE His name? God magnified His Word above His name, because it is only through the Word of God that all that God is (His name) is revealed to us, and it is only through His Word that we learn how to "magnify" (Ps. 138:2), "exalt, bless, and praise" (Neh. 9:5) the name of the Lord!

In a world that has totally gone mad with reconstructive and plastic surgery to recreate what we don't appreciate about "the look" God gave to us when He created us, Psalm 139 teaches us that the God who is omniscient (139:1-6), omnipresent (139:7-12) and omnipotent (137:13-17) made us to look just like we

look for His purposes! Rather than being all bummed and depressed about it, we need to accept it, get over it, and use our “look” to fulfill His purposes for our lives! It will be a wonderfully freeing day when you can thank God for all of your “features” that you would change if you could!

Psalm 140 and verse 1 says, “Deliver me, O LORD, from the evil man: preserve me from the violent man”. The evil man is one of the main characters of the Book of Proverbs to which we will go into detail in a couple of days. We will see in the doctrinal/prophetic application, the “evil man” is none other than the Antichrist of the Tribulation Period. Note the singular “evil man” and “violent man” in verse 1, as if it were just one individual, and yet the pronoun in verse 2 is plural: “Which imagine mischiefs in THEIR heart...”. I John 2:18 is a key cross reference – “Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that ANTICHRIST shall come, even now are there MANY ANTICHRISTS; whereby we know that it is the last time.”

As we have seen continuously through the Psalms, at the end of the Tribulation Period, the Antichrist will have united the nations (UN) in war against the Nation of Israel as verse 2 described, “continuously are they gathered together for war.” Then the key word to set the context appears in verse 3: “Selah”. Just as it looks utterly hopeless for Israel, then the Lord returns to judge His enemies and establish His rule and rest in His millennial kingdom. That context, (see it set in verses 3, 5, 8) prevails throughout this entire Psalm, pointing to “that day” when “the upright shall dwell in thy presence” (vs. 13) on the earth. Once again, it’s amazing the “doors” that open with just a few simple “keys” of Bible study!

Verse 2 of Psalm 141, “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense” has beautiful scriptural ramifications. In the Old Testament Tabernacle, the altar of incense was set just outside the veil where the Lord dwelt in the Holy of Holies. The prayers of the saints, represented in the incense, is the delightful aroma that made its way into the Lord’s presence. That Old Testament Tabernacle was just a picture (Heb. 8:5), and when John was caught up to see the True Tabernacle, he wrote in Rev. 5:8 – “And when he (the Lord Jesus Christ) had taken the book (the title deed to the earth), the four beasts and four and twenty elders (the church) fell down before the Lamb, having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, WHICH ARE THE PRAYERS OF SAINTS”!

In Psalm 142, the historic background and context is set for us in the title, “Maschil of David; A Prayer when he was in the cave” (i.e. When Saul was seeking David’s life). This is another great Psalm to use as a guide for those times in life when we find ourselves pressed by our “troubles” (vs. 2), “when our

spirit is overwhelmed within us” (vs. 3), when our enemies have “laid a snare for us” (vs. 4), when you feel you’ve forsaken by everybody, and nobody “cares” (vs. 4), when we’ve been “brought very low” (vs. 6a), when we’ve been “persecuted” (vs. 6b), and when it feels that our very soul is in “prison” (vs. 9). It is encouraging to know that David teaches us that we can be honest with God about our circumstances of life and how we feel, and yet, rather than allow yourself to wallow in self-pity, recognize that there are a good five billion people who are alive at this very minute who are absolutely clueless that this Psalm is descriptive of their spiritual condition, and if they knew enough about their condition to articulate it, they could repeat verse 4 with David, “I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.” Will you be that man or woman today (and every day!), who will care for the souls of the lost, pointing them to the refuge, the might cross?

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As the ONE WHO DELIVERS SOULS FROM PRISON – Ps. 142:7 (Luke 4:18).

**TODAY'S READING: PSALM 144-150**

**OVERVIEW:**

Prayer for rescue and prosperity; the Lord extolled for His goodness and greatness; praise for the Lord's help; praise for Jerusalem's restoration and prosperity; the whole universe and all of creation invoked to praise the Lord; Israel invoked to praise the Lord; everything that hath breath invoked to praise the lord.

**HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

Join David today in Psalm 144 in "blessing" and praising the Lord in the personal application of His attributes and power (note the personal pronoun "my" in verses 1 and 2):

□ Praise the Lord that He hasn't just "strengthened" you, He IS your "STRENGTH" (144:1).

□ Praise the Lord that He hasn't just made you "good," He IS your "GOODNESS"(144:2).

□ Praise the Lord that He hasn't just taught you principles of defense against the enemy, He IS your FORTRESS," your "HIGH TOWER," and your "SHIELD" (144:2).

□ Praise the Lord that He hasn't just made a way of escape, He IS your "DELIVERER" (your way of escape – 144:2).

Oh my, let that preach to your soul today!

In light of WHO HE IS (as described in 144:1 and 2), we cry out with David in verse 3, "WHO in the world ARE WE?" We cry out, "Lord, what is man that thou takest knowledge of him! Or the son of man, that thou makest account of him!" (I love the exclamation points that God has placed in His perfectly preserved Word! Note that both statements in verse 3 are actually questions, but are followed by exclamation points rather than question marks. What's up with that? Perhaps the psalmist understood that in light of God's incredible GREATNESS and man's incredible SINFULNESS, there could never be a suitable answer to the questions, so the questions become major STATEMENTS of just how incredible, wonderful and awesome God actually is!!!!

In light of God's unequalled and incomprehensible awesomeness the Psalm ends with, "Happy is that people, whose God is the LORD." Are you "happy"?

May the cry of the psalmist's heart in verses 1 and 2 of Psalm 145 be the genuine cry of our hearts, "I will extol thee, my God, O king; and I will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever." Remember A.W. Tozer's surmise of the evangelical church in our day, that "worship" is "the missing jewel" that desperately needs to be "rediscovered." Allow the glorious words the psalmist uses to lift up his praise and worship to the Lord in verses 3-21 become your words today as you seek to "rediscover the missing jewel."

Verses 1 and 2 of Psalm 146 are likewise great verses to make your own as the expression of your total resolve to praise the Lord for the remainder of your time on earth and for all eternity: "Praise ye the LORD. Praise the LORD, O my soul. While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being" (146:1-2).

Psalm 147:1 reminds us of the reason we praise the Lord: "for it is good to sing praises unto our God; for it is pleasant; and praise is comely (or beautiful)."

Psalm 148 teaches us about the three "heavens" (148:1 c.f. II Cor. 12:2) from which praise is to come forth. The first "heaven" is from the earth to the clouds. It is where birds and airplanes fly, what we call the earth's atmosphere (148:7-14). The second heaven is that which is above the clouds to the "frozen face of the deep" (Job 38:30) that is billions and billions of miles above our heads (what we call outer space – Ps. 148:3-6). Then, the third heaven (148:1-2) is the abode of God, above the frozen face of the deep (Job 38:30). This is what John saw in Rev. 4:6 when he said, "And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal." The point of Psalm 148 is praise is to come from every place in the entire universe!

You gotta love the glorious simplicity of the psalmist's exhortation to those of us who have been "beautified" with the precious gift of "salvation" (149:4). "Let the saints be joyful in glory Let the high praises of God be in their mouth, and a twoedged sword (see Heb. 4:12; Rev. 19:15; Eph. 6:17) in their hand" (149:5-6). As you live in pursuit of God today (and everyday!), that is a great way of simplifying and concising your goal: Have the high praises of God in your mouth, and keep the twoedged sword of God's Word right at your fingertips (i.e. in your hand and in your heart, ready to be applied as needed)!

Could there be a more glorious way to end the Book of Psalms than with the

psalmist's words in Psalm 150? The psalmist exhorts us to praise the Lord (150:1) in the place that He dwells (i.e. "in His presence," or "in His sanctuary"), and in all places that His presence and power are found (i.e. Everywhere! "In the firmament of His power" – 150:1). We are to praise Him (150:2) for all that He DOES ("His might acts"), which proceed out of all that He IS ("His excellent greatness"). We are to praise Him with any and all musical instruments in existence (150:3-5), but most importantly, with the instrument of our mouth, as our words are validated by the life that we live.

"Praise ye the Lord" (150:6). Just do it!

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As the ONE WHO GIVES SIGHT TO THE BLIND – Ps. 146:8 (Matt. 9:27-30; Mark 10:46-53; John 9:1- 41).

Thursday – July 13, 2017

## **TODAY'S READING: PROVERBS 1-4**

### **OVERVIEW:**

The purpose for the Book of Proverbs; the enticement of sinners; the need for wisdom; the prerequisites of obtaining wisdom, knowledge, and understanding; the power of wisdom and knowledge to protect from the “evil man” and the “strange woman”; the rewards of wisdom; the instruction of a father.

### **HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

In the first four verses God lets you know that the Book of Proverbs was designed to accomplish nine things:

1. To know wisdom and instruction.
2. To perceive the words of understanding.
3. To receive the instruction of wisdom.
4. To receive the instruction of justice.
5. To receive the instruction of judgment.
6. To receive the instruction of equity.
7. To give subtilty to the simple.
8. To give the young man knowledge.
9. To give the young man discretion.

Nine, as you recall, is the number of “fruit-bearing” in the Bible. We could say that Jesus wrote this Book of the Bible to us to teach us how to have a fruitful life.

We look at the gangs that threaten safety in every major city (and in many not-so-major cities) in America, and wonder how could society have so degenerated to such extreme and senseless violence. Verses 10-19 of chapter one show us that it is really nothing new! They reveal to us that there is something within our depravity that finds such behavior appealing and “enticing,” and will be a part of a culture where children grow up with no “fear of the Lord” (1:7), and do not receive or “hear the instruction of their fathers, and forsake the law of their mothers” (1:8).

For those who become frustrated because you can't always make heads or tails out of what you read in the Bible, take heart! Claim God's promise in 1:23 – “I will pour out my spirit unto you, and I will make known my words unto you” !

Note also the related promise in chapter 2 and verse 6, “For the Lord giveth

wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.” But notice that there are five verses in chapter 2 preceding the promise of verse 6. There are seven prerequisites to receiving God’s wisdom, understanding and knowledge.

#1 – You must RECEIVE His WORDS. (2:1a)

#2 – You must HIDE His COMMANDMENTS with thee. (2:1b)

#3 – You must INCLINE YOUR EAR unto WISDOM. (2:2a)

#4 – You must APPLY YOUR HEART to UNDERSTANDING. (2:2b)

#5 – You must CRY OUT for KNOWLEDGE. (2:3a)

#6 – You must LIFT UP YOUR VOICE for UNDERSTANDING. (2:3b)

#7 – You must SEEK and SEARCH for God’s WISDOM as you would for silver & hid treasure. (2:4)

Notice the very next word in verse 5: “THEN”! After those seven prerequisites are fulfilled, “THEN” verse 6 will be a reality. The fact is, people don’t know God’s Word, and thus, do not receive His wisdom, understanding and knowledge (2:6), for the simple fact that they don’t really want it. God is basically saying through the seven prerequisites – “You gotta want it!” When you really want it, and thereby, receive it, note the incredible benefit it provides as your internal defense mechanism against sin in 2:10-22. “Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee (2:11), to deliver thee from the way of the evil man (2:12)... to deliver thee from the strange woman” (2:16).

The “evil man” and the “strange woman” are key characters in the Book of Proverbs and in life. Keeping in mind the three applications of Scripture, in a historical and devotional sense, every culture has “evil men” who speak froward (perverse) things (2:12), and love to do evil and to pull others into their wicked ways (2:14). God’s wisdom, understanding and knowledge is what “preserves” us and “keeps” us (2:11) from these “ways of darkness” (2:13), and “the frowardness of the wicked” (2:14). Every culture also has “strange women,” women we refer to today as seductive, loose, or whorish, who seek to lure and allure men sexually. Again, wisdom, understanding, and knowledge is what “preserves” us and “keeps” us (2:11) from her enticements and entrapments.

From a doctrinal or prophetic standpoint, the “evil man” refers to those in whom the “antichrist spirit” dwells, that is the personification of the very Devil himself. They are found in every culture, and yet will ultimately be represented in THE

Antichrist (Satan in a human body – I John 2:18), THE “evil man”! The “strange woman” in a doctrinal or prophetic sense, refers to the harlotrous false religious systems of the world that seduce men (mankind) into her bed and hold them there (2:19).

The “evil man” and the “strange woman” are to be avoided in a devotional sense because they will make your life a living hell. The “evil man” and the “strange woman” are to be avoided in a doctrinal/prophetic sense because they will send you to a literal, eternal hell!

### **CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As the SON OF DAVID; ISRAEL’S WISE KING – Prov. 1:1 (Matt. 9:27; 15:22; 20:30-31).

As the CREATOR WHO FOUNDED THE EARTH – Prov. 3:19 (Col. 1:16; Eph. 3:9; Heb. 1:2-3). As the TEACHER OF WISDOM – Prov. 4:7,11 (Col. 2:3).

**TODAY'S READING: PROVERBS 5-8**

**OVERVIEW:**

The pitfalls of immorality, the father's counsel to his son; the wiles of the strange woman; the blessing of wisdom; understanding and truth.

**HIGHLIGHTS & INSIGHTS:**

These four vital chapters in today's reading reveal how God has provided wisdom and understanding to preserve the purity of a person's God-given sexual desires. God shows us that these desires are reserved to be fulfilled in the chamber of a covenant marriage bed that is undefiled (Heb. 13:4).

God also reveals the attempt of the enemy of all righteousness, who tempts us through the invitations of the opposite sex to satisfy these desires in the heat of passionate compromise, with the ultimate goal to destroy personal purity, contaminate a church or community, and condemn a country, thus aborting potential for successful leadership, from the lack of a pure heart and clear conscience.

The person who is pre-disposed to do the right thing is one who has predetermined to guard ("keep") his heart, so as not to be lured away from his surrender to Christ's Lordship. Understanding the benefits of wisdom is a major part of that process, as we learned in chapter four. We must first hear the father's instruction attentively so we can understand his doctrine (teaching), and purpose not to forsake what we have been taught.

Chapter five opens with PAY ATTENTION to my wisdom, to my understanding so you will not fall for the invitation of the strange woman. Her alluring words are sweet, her smooth seductive mouth will be inviting, (vs. 3), but she will become bitter, calloused, and fickle in her ways.

**RUN!** Is the father's advice, before you pay the price.

1. Giving your honor to others. (vs. 9)
2. Your years to cruel habits. (vs. 9)
3. Strangers controlling your money. (vs. 10)
4. You will work as a laborer. (vs. 10)
5. You will lose your health. (vs. 11)
6. You will experience cycles of regret and depression. (vs. 12-14)

7. You will miss God's plan of experiencing the pure love of your life mate. (vs. 15-19)
8. You will develop addictions to your sin tendency. (vs. 22)
9. You will experience an early death from ignoring instructions. (vs. 23)

All these losses lead progressively to the warning of idleness and deceit, in chapter six, (often referred to as the devil's workshop). The culminating sum of ignorance in these warnings is sudden calamity and brokenness that is irreparable (vs. 15), which is often caused by the sowing of discord among the brethren (vs. 19). This person is characterized by the following six things that the Lord hates, seventh actually being an abomination to Him:

1. A proud look. (vs. 17a)
2. A lying tongue. (vs. 17b)
3. Hands that shed innocent blood. (vs. 17c)
4. A heart that deviseth wicked imaginations. (vs. 18a)
5. Feet that are swift to run into mischief. (vs. 18b)
6. A false witness that speaketh lies. (vs. 19a)
7. Sowing discord among the brethren. (vs. 19b)

Obey your mother and father (vs. 20-24, c.f. Eph. 6:1-2) is still the best advice for young men to avoid the dangers of the strange woman. The strong warning is in vs. 25, lusting in the heart, which is adultery (Matt. 5:28).

Chapter seven opens with the admonition to keep the father's words and commandments to guard against the lure of sensual involvement so prevalent in every generation. The young man void of understanding ("simple" – vs. 7), is easy prey for the strange woman, especially when his curiosity lures him to her neighborhood (vs. 8), i.e. "curiosity killed the cat," and it will kill this cool cat also! Being cool is often being stupid ("There is none cool, no not one!" is one of my favorite "verses"). This woman should have been easily recognized by the way she was dressed, or by the way she was undressed, but there are three unmistakable characteristics given in vs. 11: She is LOUD, she is STUBBORN, she does not like to STAY HOME. (CAUTION). This is a temptation for teenage girls to act this way for acceptance with her peers. The precious life is sought after even by the adulteress woman in chapter 6 and verse 26, but they hunt in all the wrong ways, and in all the wrong places. (i.e. "I've been looking for love in all the wrong places" – Country music's, Waylon Jennings.)

Ironically, what this woman does beginning in verses 15-18, would be totally appropriate if this preparation was done in anticipation of spending this time

presenting herself to her husband. It would fit very nicely in the context of the Song of Solomon.

The opening theme in chapter eight is three-fold: wisdom, understanding, and truth. This three-fold theme carries with it the following promises:

1. By me kings reign.
2. By me princes decree justice.
3. By me princes rule.
4. By me nobles rule.
5. By me all the judges of the earth rule.
6. All riches and honor are with me.

**CHRIST IS REVEALED:**

As the CREATOR WHO prepared the heavens – Prov. 8:27-31 (Hebrews 1:10; John 1:3).

**Saturday – July 15, 2017**

## **Reflection**

Closing out the book of Psalm was bittersweet in some aspects. Yes, “Every word of God is pure:” (Proverbs 30:5), however, there is so much encouragement and hope in the book of Psalms that it is difficult to put it down. It was truly refreshing to read of God’s thoughts toward us in the final chapters. Of course, this has nothing to do with the fact that this life is not about US, yet, it’s still encouraging to know, and be reminded, that God looked on us in our lowly estate (Psalm 136:23).

Then as we read through chapter 144, our minds were brought back to the beginning of Psalms in chapter 8 when we read, “What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.” Again, Psalm 144:3-4 writes, “Lord, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him! Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away.” When we read without “comparing spiritual things with spiritual” (1 Corinthians 2:13), it would be easy to associate Psalm 8 with a typical man, however, with the gift of the Holy Spirit discerning this book for us, we must go to Hebrews 2 and find just Who this Psalm was referencing when David was penning the chapter. Hebrews 2:9 tells us, “But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.” That being said, it should cause us to praise God even more, for when we consider these passages and the thoughts God has toward us, it’s only through the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ, “who was made a little lower than the angels”, that we can “come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” (Hebrews 4:16)

The last couple of days we began the book of Proverbs. Wow! If there is a book that any modern day man of God needs to grasp, then it is Proverbs. The life lessons we can take away from the book are limitless, and are not only beneficial to our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ, they are essential. We began by finding that “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Proverbs 1:7) We’ll see this week that “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding. (Proverbs 9:10) We could do our best to attempt at explaining

exactly what it means to “fear the LORD” , and although we could derive some decent point, the word of God itself, as always, is the best teacher. Concerning the “fear of the LORD” , Proverbs 2:1-5 explains, “My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee; So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures; Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.” That being the case, who’s up for the challenge?

As we mentioned, Proverbs provides a distinct contrast between the “strange woman” and “wisdom” . As the days go on, we’ ll have plenty of commentary on the two, but for a review of “wisdom” we would do well to go back and read both yesterday’ s devotional (Day 195), and the assigned reading for the day (namely chapter 8). As we move forward through this book, consider this “strange woman” . There is the possibility that some reading, might brush this topic to the side because they don’ t really “have a problem” with the “strange woman” . However, understand that the “strange woman” can be substituted for any number of sins, lusts, or desires contrary to the word of God. So, as we reflect on this past week’ s reading, may this review serve also as a warning. May we, as men of God seeking true Biblical wisdom, be aware of Satan’ s tactics, and “receive” God’ s words, and “hide” His commandments within our hearts. Because as the Psalmist writes, “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” (Psalm 119:11)

### **SCRIPTURE REFLECTION:**

**Psalm 127:1** “Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.”

**Psalm 136:23** “Who remembered us in our low estate: for his mercy endureth for ever:”

**Psalm 144:3-4** “LORD, what is man, that thou takest knowledge of him! or the son of man, that thou makest account of him! Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away.”

**Proverbs 1:7** “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

**Proverbs 8:11** “For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.”