

THE WISDOM OF SOLOMON

PART 4: UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD

Introduction:

1. Three things are necessary to possessing true wisdom:
 - a. A proper knowledge of God
 - b. A proper respect for parents
 - c. A proper understanding of the world
2. In order to possess true wisdom, one must see the world as it truly is.
 - a. A battlefield, not a playground
 - b. A place for testing, proving, and growth
 - c. A temporary abode, not a permanent dwelling
3. Many are lost because of the sin of worldliness (1 John 2:15-17).
4. It is easy to become enamored of and ensnared by things of the world (2 Pet. 2:20).
5. Wisdom allows one to see the dangers of the world and the peace found in Jesus.
6. Wisdom allows one to see the superiority of the spiritual over the physical.
7. Consider some of Solomon's wisdom concerning this present world...

- I. Wisdom and Wine (Proverbs 23:29-35)
 - A. The worldly view of alcohol...
 - B. God's view of alcohol (Prov. 20:1; 23:29).
 1. Mocker – boastful, scornful, arrogant
 2. Raging – loud, noisy; a brawler; to rage, roar, growl; to be in an uproar
 3. Deceived – to go astray, to wander, to transgress
 4. Woe – lamentation; cry of grief or despair
 5. Sorrow – exclamation of pain out of want, desire, or uneasiness
 6. Contentions – strife, fighting, brawling
 7. Babbling – complaining, quarrelsomeness
 - C. The dangerous power of alcohol (Prov. 23:30-35).
 1. It stings (vs. 30-32).
 - a. "Bites like a serpent" – venom affects the nerves (neurotoxin)
 - b. "Stings like an adder" – venom affects the blood (hemotoxin)
 - c. Alcohol is both, damaging nervous and circulatory systems!
 2. It stupefies (vs. 33-34).
 - a. Physically
 - b. Morally
 3. It seizes (vs. 35).
 - D. Eventually, it destroys (Prov. 23:21; 21:17).
 - E. The wise will avoid alcohol at all costs (Prov. 31:4-7).
 1. Note that verses 6 and 7 do not condone social drinking nor drinking to forget one's troubles.
 2. This is alcohol used as medicine for one in excruciating pain near the point of death (cf. Mark 15:23, 36).
- II. Wisdom and Wealth (Proverbs 30:8-9)
- III. Wisdom and Authority (Proverbs 16:12; 29:2; 31)

Proverbs 1:8 – 7:27; 31:1-31

- IV. Wisdom and Abomination (Proverbs 6:16-20)
- A. The word 'abomination' refers to "anything greatly disliked or abhorred; intense aversion or loathing; a vile, shameful, or detestable action; a disgusting thing."
 - B. The word is used 21 times in Proverbs.
 - C. 3:32 – The froward – *perverse, departed from truth* (cf. 11:20)
 - D. 6:16-20 – Seven abominations
 - 1. A proud look
 - 2. A lying tongue
 - 3. Hands that shed innocent blood
 - 4. Heart that devises wicked
 - 5. Feet that run to mischief
 - 6. A false witness
 - 7. One who sows discord among brothers
 - E. 8:7 – Wickedness
 - F. 11:1 – A false balance
 - G. 12:22 – Lying lips
 - H. 15:8 – The sacrifice of the wicked (cf. 21:27)
 - I. 15:9 – The way of the wicked
 - J. 15:26 – The thoughts of the wicked
 - K. 16:5 – The proud in heart
 - L. 17:15 – Those who justify the wicked or condemn the just
 - M. 20:10 – Unequal weights and measures (cf. 20:23)
 - N. 24:9 – The scorner
 - O. 26:24-25 – The hateful deceiver
 - P. 28:9 – The prayer of the lawless
 - Q. 29:27
 - R. God's view of abominable things is very different from that of the world.