

Scripture Reference: Proverbs 27

Date: January 27, 2013

Title: "All Facets of Life"

Focus: God's Truths Touch Every Area of Life.

Intro:

1. What are your thoughts on the Bible? Is it bread or cake? Is it meant for daily consumption or special occasions?

2. People are accepting the errant premise, "Faith," a relationship with God, and the Bible are private issues reserved for personal matters.

3. In reality they transcend private and public, personal and corporate. It is evident in Proverbs that God's truths address a variety of life domains:

Body:

V. 3: Relating to the Difficult; The struggle of reason with rambling, of ration vs. illogic.

- It is inevitable, despite one's best efforts, people will be encountered who are difficult to deal with. They will "weighs" on the mind and heart.

- What they do and say will not make sense. For a "fool" can be provocative or angry for any reason in his mind, as he perceives to have been offended.

- This is the way they are. If they are going to be dealt with it must be *lovingly*. It doesn't mean they are to be placated. But, the one dealing with them needs to understand they are who they are and dealing with them will be a burden.

V. 5: Accepting Correction; Love not demonstrated is useless.

- Love is evident in actions. People know they are loved when they are the objects of another's attention.

- Nothing can replace this simple truth. Stuff and emotions distract for a time. But, humanity has been created as communal creatures. We thrive on interaction of others.

- What does this teach us about God and His love for us? What does it reveal about the love we profess for others?

V. 10: Helping Others; "Who is my neighbor?"

- Like many western states, Arizona has a large number of disconnected people. Family, a built-in support system, is far away.

- In times of need to whom are these people to turn? As a result impersonal social agencies fill the void.

- Jesus addressed this in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Care is a matter of proximity, not obligation. If you see a need, do something about it. Be a neighbor.

V. 14: Unanticipated Responses; Consider the other person.

- Have you ever said the nicest thing only to get the worst reaction?

- Maybe it was a bad time for the person, tone and timing matter.

- We do not possess the ability to control the emotional state of another. They are responsible for that. But, we can be considerate of the other person when we speak.

V. 19: Self-Revelation; The heart only reflects what is there.

- There are times when our reactions to circumstances surprise us.

- We need to realize that events, especially unanticipated ones, betray what is truly in the heart.

- Who you are lies at the core of your being, the spiritual center. Care needs to be rendered here.

Closing:

1. There exists no domain of life, personal, public, private or social to which God does not speak. Nor is there an area in which His truths will not affect a godly change.
2. That is, given one condition. His words must be applied.
3. Minimizing and excluding God and His truths from our lives only serves to rob people of powerful truths.