

Scripture Reference: Proverbs 6

Date: January 6, 2013

Title: "Hope and Despair"

Focus: Avoiding Despair.

Intro:

1. Proverbs is "Wisdom Literature." It is meant to guide people in making wise choices by pointing out both positive and negative examples from life. It is not a book of promises. Nor is it meant to be a collection of anecdotes, such as "A stitch in time saves nine."

2. Proverbs provide glimpses into the lives of others in order that another might learn from their experience.

3. Some see Proverbs 6, and some translations break it down, as multiple separate issues:

Misjudgment (vv. 1-5)

Laziness (vv. 6-11)

Wickedness (vv. 12-15)

What YHWH hates (vv. 16-19)

Diligence to God's Commandments (vv. 20-24)

Keeping from a Evil Woman (vv. 25-29)

The difference between misjudgment and sin (vv. 30-35)

4. These verses can be taken as individual truths. However, a larger theme is present, "*Bad decisions teach about sin, but the two are not the same.*"

Body:

We all Make Bad Decisions, Correct Them Quickly (vv. 1-5)

- Everyone makes bad choices. Why? Because we are flawed, finite creatures.

- We do the best we can with what we know. But, too often, this is not enough.

- Make haste to correct your mistakes before it is too late. (v. 5)

Doing Nothing get a Person Nowhere (vv. 6-11)

- As demonstrated by nature, action is necessary to take care of one's needs.

- Every time a person ignores a problem, it does not go away. When it shows up, it will demand payment. (v. 11)

Wickedness Has its Consequences (vv. 12-15)

- Wickedness, sin, will have its day when payment will be demanded. That day will leave the person "*broken*" and with no hope for healing. (v. 15)

- Repent of sin quickly, before the day arrives.

God *Hates* Wickedness (vv. 16-19)

- God is righteous. Everything He is, is right.
- Consequently, He opposes sin. Do not be mistaken on this.

God's Instructions are Beneficial to Life (vv. 20-24)

- Because God is righteous, that which comes from Him, His words and commandments are good.
- If they are obeyed, they will keep a person from harm. (v. 24)

The Lure of Sin is Strong (vv. 25-29)

- Like a beautiful woman, or man, sin is attractive to flawed, finite creatures, like us.
- No one ever escapes the damaging affects of sin. (v. 29)

Bad Decisions and Wickedness are not the Same (vv. 30-35)

- Stealing because you are hungry is one thing (v. 30), but to sleep with your "neighbor's wife" is another. (v. 29)
- Though there are consequences to both, the transgressions are not the same. It is true with man. It is true with God.

Closing:

Galatians 6:7-8; *"Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life.*

1. Though we may minimize sin as synonymous with making a bad choice, God does not. While He understands mistakes, He does not excuse sin.
2. So serious was the matter that the only resolution for sin was the sacrifice of Jesus at Calvary.