

Find Happiness
and Fulfillment
by way of God
and the Holy
Spirit

Bible Study

Proverbs Chapter 16

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Proverbs was written by Solomon who is believed by many to be one of the wisest men that ever lived.

God is teaching through Solomon and the verses in this chapter about the importance of spiritual things and the lack of importance in material things comparatively speaking.

It touches on:

1. Human's desire and our search to obtain satisfaction
2. Why it's important for us to know God's will for our lives
3. How pride can turn us to evil and ultimately destroy us

PROVERBS 16 – Reading from the King James Version of the Holy Bible

¹ The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

² All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.

NOTE: You see this today more than ever. I'm referring to people trying to justify everything they do even if it is blatantly wrong or immoral.

NOTE: As the scripture said, "it's clean in their own eyes". However, it is not clean or approved by God because God knows your heart and your spirit. He is also well aware when men do good things for what appears to be a noble cause but the reasons are often time for personal gain, to avoid some type of punishment or set-back or to manipulate something or somebody.

³ Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

NOTE: If you commit whatever you're doing to the glory of the Lord, your thoughts or your wants and desires will be established or in other words obtained. If the ultimate goal of your work is to help others and exalt God, God will bless you and your work and see to it that your plans are obtained.

⁴ The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

NOTE: Have you ever thought about that. The fact that although wicked and evil people serve and do the work of Satan, God sometimes allow their evil works to affect the saints to strengthen the saints or to prepare them for something that God has in stored for them. If you know the story of Job, then you are saying amen to this. If you don't know Job's story then you may want to get a bible and go to the book of Job and read it.

Another appropriate scripture you should know is Roman 8:28

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²⁸ And we know that in all things, God works for the good of those who love him, who^[a] have been called according to his purpose. Therefore, even when you go through some tough times and experience challenges in your life, if you are serving God and doing what he has planned for you, the things that you go through will inevitably be some type of benefit to you.

God is the creator of all things made and He knows the beginning from the end. Therefore, based on the bible, God knew that there would be evil in the world. Verse four starts out by saying the Lord made all things for himself. Consequently, Satan and evil in the world has a part to play. However, we as saints need to remember that we are in the world but are not of the world. This world is not our home or our ultimate destination and even if we lose our life in this world, we will live again when the King of kings returns and make all things new.

Matthew 10:39 states:

He that finds his life shall lose it: and he that loses his life for my sake shall find it.

⁵ Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

⁶ By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

NOTE: Once you start reading God's word and start to get to know God and his awesome power you will also begin to fear or respect God. This healthy respect will cause you to want to stop sinning. As you get to really know Him you will also develop a real love for Him, which will also dissuade you from willingly sinning.

⁷ When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

⁸ Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

⁹ A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

NOTE: The NIV states it this way:

⁹ In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.

Let me just say this about that. One of the things you will find when you surrender your life to the Lord and commit to do what he want for your life, is that the path God takes you down is not exactly or may not even be remotely close to what you had in mind for your life.

Nonetheless, I should also let you know that there is also a strong possibility that once you reach the destination that God had mapped out for you, it is very likely that you will grow to be very comfortable, happy, fulfilling and exceptional in and with the works he has for you to do. Think about how reluctant Moses was with his appointment from God and how well he carried out his work. The bible is filled with other examples that prove this point.

¹⁰ A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment.

¹¹ A just weight and balance are the LORD's: all the weights of the bag are his work.

¹² It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

¹³ Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.

¹⁴ The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

¹⁵ In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain.

NOTE: These next scriptures compare worldly things to spiritual ones and explain which one is better.

¹⁶ How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

¹⁷ The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.

In other words, if you stay upright or walk in righteousness you depart from evil or sin and you save your soul.

¹⁸ Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

In other words, if you take a look at the disposition of many prominent people who end up falling from their prestigious positions you will find that they were prideful and haughty, which means they were puffed up or full of themselves.

¹⁹ Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

¹⁹ Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud.

²⁰ He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.

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²¹ The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.

²² Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

²³ The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

²⁴ Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

NOTE: This is why you need to be careful about what you hear or listen to. If you are listening to and watching the wrong things, it just might make you sick; literally.

²⁵ There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

There are many people who seem to be prospering in accordance to the world's standards. They go on fancy trips, drive high price cars and live in big luxury homes, but too many of them have to sacrifice time with their families and have to do things contrary to the word of God to get these things. Unfortunately many of these people at the end of their lives will die without ever establishing a relationship with God and will lose their souls.

²⁶ He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.

²⁷ An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.

²⁸ A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.

Verse 27 and 28 is written like this in the NIV:

**²⁷ A scoundrel plots evil,
and on their lips it is like a scorching fire.**

**²⁸ A perverse person stirs up conflict,
and a gossip separates close friends.**

I know a lot of you know about verse 28 regarding gossiping separating close friends based on personal experience, but several of you probably didn't know that this was actually in the bible.

²⁹ A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good.

³⁰ He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

³¹ The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

Here's verse 31 in the NIV:

**³¹ Gray hair is a crown of splendor;
it is attained in the way of righteousness.**

³² He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

NOTE: If you are able to contain your anger and stay calm, when most people will get heated, you are better off than someone who has great physical strength or authority and if you are able to take control of your spirit you are better off than someone who cannot control their spirit but have the ability and power to take over a city. Why are you better off you ask, because people who lack control are a danger to others as well as themselves. Furthermore, if they remain in an out of control state, their life story doesn't usually end very well.

³³ The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

Verse 33 is written in the NIV like this:

**³³ The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.**

Conclusion

This lessons makes it clear that we should not put the pursuit of material things over the pursuit of God and spiritual things because material things along will not bring us happiness. In fact, we should seek God first and get to know Him and the plan he has for our life because we will not ever obtain a feeling of true fulfillment, satisfaction, joy and happiness until we are walking and working in accordance to his purpose.

QUIZ

What did we learn?

1. We are not supposed to commit our work unto the Lord ___ True ___ False
2. Having pride is a good thing and will get you far in life ___ True ___ False
3. We need to be careful about what we listen to. ___ True ___ False
4. What we want and what God wants for us is always the same. ___ True ___ False
5. It is more important in life to get gold, silver or money over wisdom and understanding.
___ True ___ False

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