

## Proverbs Week #131 (12:26)

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*"The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them." (Proverbs 12:26 KJV)*

*"The righteous should choose his friends carefully, for the way of the wicked leads them astray." (Proverbs 12:26 NKJV)*

*"The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, But the way of the wicked leads them astray." (Proverbs 12:26 NAS95)*

### **Review of Last Weeks Three Concepts**

- 1) God sets us free for Himself - to be a people who are zealous for good works (Titus 2:11-14)**
  - a. We are instructed in how to live
  - b. We have a hope that Messiah will again appear
  - c. His desire for us is that we would do what is good in His sight
- 2) We are set free to produce good fruit and show the great value of our God's love, sacrifice, and faithfulness (John 15:8-11)**
  - a. He is the vine – connected to Him we bear fruit of the same kind He does
  - b. The grafting into Him is based upon love-the same kind of love that the Father has for the Son
  - c. The fruit we bear lets the world know we are His disciples
- 3) We work out our salvation as God works in us (Phil 2:11-16)**
  - a. His work is to bring about the desires and the results
  - b. As a rule – when we work we should not grumble or argue with each other
  - c. His desire is that we are to be blameless and pure children of God – without blemish as we live in a world full of crooked and perverse people

Translators render today's verse differently based upon uncertainty in the first Hebrew word in the verse. The word could either mean "search out," "more," or "guide" depending upon which root is chosen. While it is uncertain which root is more likely, the proverbs expresses its truth clearly when the first and second phrase are seen as a whole. The teacher emphasizes that if one follows the way of the wicked they will be led astray from the true or right way.

The New King James Version and others start the phrase urging one to be careful in choosing friends. Friendships are important for many reasons. How we feel about ourselves and how we choose to spend our time can be greatly determined by our friendships. Real friends are not easy to find (please don't confuse "friends" on social media with the friends I'm talking about) and require certain obligations. We learn about loyalty, encouragement, and giving and receiving of correction from our friends. When people group together they can do so for things that are good or evil. Ecclesiastes tells us "a chord of two or three is not easily broken." (Ecc 4:12) Practice makes things permanent (not perfect as some would say) and how much more so will things become that we practice together with our friends.

*"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful; and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more as you see the day drawing near." (Hebrews 10:23-25 NAS95)*