

Proverbs Week #132 (12:27-28)

*"An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up. A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray. **The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions. In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.**" (Proverbs 12:25–28 NIV)*

In this week's lesson we finish up the 12th chapter of the book of Proverbs. We conclude with a statement of truth; "In the way of righteousness there is life." The larger context teaches wisdom relating to anxiety, friendships, and the proper prizing of possessions. During these last few weeks I have tried to emphasize a definition of freedom that encompassed all these themes. In the Messiah we are set free. The freedom we have in Him is real and affects all parts of our lives. How we deal with our internal emotions, the value we place on friendships and family relationships, and the plans we make for our future find their true meaning in Him. The clear message of scripture teaches us that as members of His family He lives in us through His Spirit. We are in Him and He is in us.

What has God given you or maybe a better question what is God giving you right now? If you don't know how to answer that question then think about things that cause you to thank God. When is the last time you thanked God for your family and friends? When is the last time you thanked God for being healthy and having enough food to eat? There are so many things we have and enjoy that can cause us to thank God. Thankfulness and having a proper value on the things God has given us go hand in hand.

Review of Three Concepts

1) God sets us free for Himself - to be a people who are zealous for good works

"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all men, instructing us to deny ungodliness and worldly desires and to live sensibly, righteously and godly in the present age, looking for the blessed hope and the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Messiah Yeshua, who gave Himself for us to redeem us from every lawless deed, and to purify for Himself a people for His own possession, zealous for good deeds." (Titus 2:11–14 NAS95)

2) We are set free to produce good fruit and show the great value of our God's love, sacrifice, and faithfulness

"My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. "Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love. "If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love. "These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full." (John 15:8–11 NAS95)

3) We work out our salvation as God works in us

"So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure. Do all things without grumbling or disputing; so that you will prove yourselves to be blameless and innocent, children of God above reproach in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you appear as lights in the world, holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of the Messiah I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain." (Philippians 2:12–16 NAS95)

"As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life." (1 Timothy 6:17–19 ESV)