

# Proverbs Week #35 (3:31-33)

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*“Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways. For the devious are an abomination to the Lord; but He is intimate with the upright. The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the dwelling of the righteous.” Proverbs 3:31-33*

Our lessons from Proverbs are meant to help train us in wisdom. Part of the training process is reviewing what we have learned and remembering why we are learning. The Bible teaches us that we should discipline ourselves for Godliness. (1 Tim 4:7) I have suggested that you remember three things and do them on a regular basis as part of this training process.

- 1) Sing for Joy in the Lord – learn to sing to Him and worship Him (Psa 33)
- 2) Give thanks to the Lord – learn what it means to be thankful (Psa 118)
- 3) If you lack wisdom ask God and trust Him to provide what you need (James 1)

I want to ask all the children a question. What kind of house are you a part of? Did you know that God is building a house and if you are a true believer in the Messiah you are a part of that house? What do you think I mean by that? You probably don't think of your life as part of a house building project. The name of our little community is Beit Hallel. That means house of praise. I was not here when that name was chosen – would those who were like to share how we got that name?

Peter tells us, “...you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Yeshua the Messiah.”(1 Peter 2:4-5) God's overall plan for His truth to be made known in the world is accomplished through people. We are set apart by the truth of His word (John 17:17). Part of this process is handling His scripture in a proper manner.

Think about what the uses are for the tools I'm about to mention. How does a carpenter use a hammer or a saw? How does a doctor use a scalpel or a cook a mixing spoon? Each of these items is used differently. I recently bought a bunch of fancy chop sticks and have found that they work very well as coffee stirrers. Would you say that I was using them for their intended use? Tools sometimes are not used for their intended purpose and this may be ok but it may also be very dangerous. If the verses above from the Proverbs could be used as tools how could a wise disciple of the Messiah use them? Let me take a moment to read them again.

We are directed by scripture to “Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:5) God's word can be handled accurately and in a way in which we do not have to be ashamed.

If we fail to take the advice of these verses, we are in danger of being in a house that has God's curse upon it. If we hear and apply the wisdom found in them correctly we can trust in God to bless our houses. These verses also tell us that we can either be seen in God's eyes as an abomination or find that He is intimate with us. All this is bound up in the wisdom that is found in these verses and through all of God's scripture. Are you learning to sing to and praise God? Are you thankful to Him? Are you continuing to ask Him for wisdom?