

Proverbs Week #51 (5:6)

“She does not ponder the path of life; her ways are unstable, she does not know it.” Prov 5:6

As we continue in this portion of Proverbs we are again given reasons to avoid the influences of those who are unfaithful. In this verse we are told two things that provide further reasons to avoid being involved with this “strange woman.” (Prov 5:3) We are told that she does not ponder the path of life and that she is unaware that her way is not stable. Is she deceived or willfully ignorant?

I talked over the last few lessons about Yeshua’s teaching of the sower and the seeds. From the book of Proverbs we also have been learning about the results and benefits of being wise. If we grow in wisdom it produces good fruit in our lives. What exactly does that mean? Paul teaches in Galatians 6 that we should not be deceived. In our lives we will grow what we plant. If you were to plant a garden with a row of corn, a row of peas, and a row of green beans what would you expect to see as the plants grew? At first you would see just a little bit of green poke through the ground. Then the plants would grow taller and wider and they would bud. Eventually, you would see ears of corn, pods with peas, and green beans. The ‘fruit’ of planting seeds is the produce that results. This is also true about the growth of wisdom in our lives. If we trust in God and faithfully plant His seeds in our life (the seeds are the truth we learn from the Bible) then we can expect to see results. In this week’s verses the result of being wise is that we are saved from the ways of the wicked. The benefit of growing in wisdom is realized as we live our lives according to what is pleasing to God. God uses these means to bring about His ends.

Not everyone in the world believes in God. Some people who do not believe in Him will talk badly about Him and try to persuade others not to believe in Him too. What we see in our verse today is that they may not even think that they are doing anything wrong. In reality, they are not considering right and wrong as much as they are thinking about what is most enjoyable to them.

“But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with them.” 2 Timothy 3:1-5

Let’s consider these words that Paul taught Timothy in the context of the protection that comes from wisdom. The people described in these verses seem obviously evil. Paul says these people have a form of godliness. That makes me stop, think, and wonder... Are these people that the world might consider to be wise? Could these people even think they have faith in God? As we study the book of Proverbs and consider the importance of wisdom it should cause us to stop and examine our own lives. Proverbs teaches us that we should not be wise in our own eyes (Proverbs 3:7). We should be willing to learn and not think that we already know everything. Remember, a person who is wise learns and adds to their learning (Proverbs 1:5).

“Do not be deceived: Bad company corrupts good morals.” 1 Cor 15:33

Paul also warns us not to be deceived based upon the company we keep. Being deceived is not an excuse. We have often heard it said, “Ignorance of the law is no excuse.” We can’t always choose the company we keep but when we can we should choose wisely. If we are disciples of Yeshua we can always trust that God will faithfully shepherd us and that He will provide us the wisdom and “seeds” to bring about His desired growth in our lives.