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**BIBLE STUDY**

**Straightway Church of Christ, Inc.**

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**WALKING IN INTEGRITY**

**Proverbs 19**

***Proverbs 19:1 "Better [is] the poor that walketh in his integrity, than [he that is] perverse in his lips, and is a fool."***

We see in this poor man, someone who is poor in earthly goods only. He walks in his integrity; lets us know that he is not willing to gain the world's goods by any hook or crook. He is satisfied in the state that he has found himself in. He will follow Jesus whatever state he is in. In contrast to him, we see someone who tells lies (perverse lips) and will do most anything. The Scripture above does not state it but implies that the second is rich, because he has gotten that way in an evil process.

***Proverbs 19:2 "Also, [that] the soul [be] without knowledge, [it is] not good; and he that hasteth with [his] feet sinneth."***

We see here someone who is hurrying to get nowhere. He is without direction in his life. He is a foolish man who doesn't understand what he is doing and begins anyway.

***Proverbs 19:3 "The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD."***

It is man and his own foolish lust that causes sin in his life. He cannot blame anyone else. We see here that in this particular instance this man is complaining, blaming all his problems on God. Generally speaking, we bring our problems on ourselves.

***Proverbs 19:4 "Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour."***

We see that fleshly people who are not led by the Spirit run to those who have money to be their friend. Perhaps, they feel some of this will rub off on them. Since poor people have nothing they want, they don't visit them much. This is in direct opposition to what Jesus taught. People who do this are respecters of persons because of position and wealth.

***Proverbs 19:5 "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and [he that] speaketh lies shall not escape."***

False witnessing is called perjury and is a crime. Even today in our society perjury is a crime punishable by imprisonment or fine. Even if a liar gets away with it here on earth, God know if you have lied and He will punish the guilty.

***Proverbs 19:6 "Many will entreat the favour of the prince: and every man [is] a friend to him that giveth gifts."***

We see here in both instances someone who loves to receive things that they have not worked to get. They think this prince may give them a position in government. In the second instance, every man means it is the world's way to enjoy free gifts.

***Proverbs 19:7 "All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth [them with] words, [yet] they [are] wanting [to him]."***

In verse 7, we see that they feel like since he is poor, there is no way to make anything off of him; and so they stop going around him thinking he might want something they have. He begs them to come back, but they don't listen, because they think if they do come back, they will have to help him. This is a sorry lot that will not help their brother.

***Proverbs 19:8 "He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good."***

A person who seeks wisdom, seeks God. We know that wisdom is a gift from God. Truly all Christians should pray to receive wisdom. In the second part of this, we see someone who looks for good. A person who understands is not always looking for the dark side of life.

***Proverbs 19:9 "A false witness shall not be unpunished, and [he that] speaketh lies shall perish."***

Again, witnessing falsely is perjury and punishable by imprisonment or fine. Perhaps, this is not speaking of court. Even if the witness is between neighbors, when the truth comes out, there will be punishment even if it is just that neither neighbor will not have anything to do with you because they cannot believe a thing you say. No one likes a liar.

***Proverbs 19:10 "Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes."***

This is probably speaking of someone unwise who acquires sudden riches and fame and really is not equipped to handle the job at hand. Arrogance, conceit, and pride are a by-product of wealth and power thrust on someone who has not been prepared to handle it. The only way a person would be able to handle this situation would be to humble themselves before God and cry out for His help.

***Proverbs 19:11 "The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and [it is] his glory to pass over a transgression."***

We see here a man slow to anger. This Scripture is just saying a Christian who can overlook little injustices done to them by others is putting more stones in his crown he will wear in heaven. When we are forgiving others, we are making sure God will forgive us. Forgive and ye shall be forgiven.

***Proverbs 19:12 "The king's wrath [is] as the roaring of a lion; but his favour [is] as dew upon the grass."***

The king frightens the people under him. He has the say over them as to whether they live or die (in this world). His favour is desired by all his subjects, because he can see to it that they prosper or fail.

***Proverbs 19:13 "A foolish son [is] the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife [are] a continual dropping."***

We have gone into it before how a foolish son brings heartache and sorrow to the father. Now we see that a wife who is continually complaining is almost impossible to bear. This continual dropping is pure and simple nagging. Many women, that wonder why their husbands seem to stay away from home as much as possible, could check out and see if they are nagging when he is home. A person's home should be a pleasant refuge, not a place with no rest. In our day, the table here could be reversed. Men should not nag, either.

***Proverbs 19:14 "House and riches [are] the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife [is] from the LORD."***

This Scripture is saying that you may inherit great riches from your father and have a big home, but you cannot buy a good woman. For a man to receive a good Christian wife with wonderful principles is a gift from God. "Prudent" really goes into a lot of virtues. She would be industrious and intelligent, as well as being a Christian.

***Proverbs 19:15 "Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger."***

Laziness and sleeping long hours go together. No one will hire a lazy person to work, if they know they are lazy. If a person doesn't work, there is no money to buy food with; so we see hunger. Laziness for any length of time will affect your thinking, as well, and you will get to where you can't think clear thoughts. The doctors say now that a vigorous walk of 2 miles or more makes you think better.

***Proverbs 19:16 "He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; [but] he that despiseth his ways shall die."***

We have said this before, but it is worth saying again. Throughout the Bible, God's blessings are on those who keep His commandments, and His curse is upon those of disobedience. Even if self-preservation were the reason you were obeying, you would not be disappointed. God cannot, and will not, lie. If He promises blessings, you can depend upon them.

***Proverbs 19:17 "He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again."***

One of the best Scriptures to verify this is found in I Timothy 6:17-19.

***I Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;"***

***I Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;"***

***I Timothy 6:19 "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life."***

When you do good for anyone (especially the poor), you are doing that good deed to God. He will not forget, He will bless you for giving.

***Proverbs 19:18 "Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying."***

We see here that we are to whip (not abuse) our children. We are to teach them at a very early age, before they get too big to spank. We have pity on our own children and grandchildren; but if we want them to become responsible adults, we must teach them when they are very young to respect authority and obey. Even if they scream and cry, we must spank them hard enough that they will think twice before they commit that sin again. Sometimes God has to spank us hard to teach us a lesson. Even if we scream and cry for help, He lets us have the problem long enough to learn a lesson.

***Proverbs 19:19 "A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver [him], yet thou must do it again."***

Probably, temper is the hardest thing for even a Christian to keep under control. When we are lacking in self-control (let the flesh control us), we act before we think and have to pay the consequences for our angry action. Temper is something God has to deliver a person from. An onlooker can try to help, but may just make the angry situation worse. Pray that God will help you to stop being angry. Pray that your spirit will control your body. The spirit walk is a walk of peace and quietness, living peaceably with your neighbor. Forgive them, even if they do not deserve it. You will be the better for it.

***Proverbs 19:20 "Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end."***

Christianity is a daily walk. The song "One Day at a Time" describes it perfectly. We are on a journey to our promised land. We should be getting closer each day to being more like Jesus. The word "Christian" means Christ like. In the light of that, we would have to say that there are very few Christians. This Scripture above is saying each day receive instruction and grow in the Lord. When you are old, you will be wise unto salvation; because you have continually learned more and more about God. That is why daily Bible reading is so important. The more you read, the more you know of God's Word.

***Proverbs 19:21 "[There are] many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand."***

Man cannot always trust his own heart, but you can always trust the counsel of the Lord. Man must have a brand new heart engraved with the laws of God before his heart is trustworthy. The counsel of God is found in the Bible.

***Proverbs 19:22 "The desire of a man [is] his kindness: and a poor man [is] better than a liar."***

Here, again, it must mean a poor, honest man is better than a rich liar. God says He loves a cheerful giver. If a man desires to do good, he will be kind.

***Proverbs 19:23 "The fear of the LORD [tendeth] to life: and [he that hath it] shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil."***

If a person fears the Lord, he is conscious that there is a Lord. For us to be saved, we must first believe that there is a Lord. We must believe that He died for us, and we must believe that He rose again. If we believe all of the above, then we want to rise from death to life, also. The fear that is wise, is a fear that we might not make the resurrection; that we might not rise to new life in Him. If we are assured in our heart that we will live again with the Lord, we should be completely satisfied. As Paul said, we should be satisfied in whatever situation we find ourselves in on this earth, knowing there is a wonderful eternity with the Lord awaiting us. If we keep our minds on this, we will not even be tempted with evil. We will have overcome evil with good.

***Proverbs 19:24 "A slothful [man] hideth his hand in [his] bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again."***

We see, here, a man who is too lazy to feed himself. This man depends on others to make a living for him, even though he is able-bodied and in good enough health to work himself.

***Proverbs 19:25 "Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, [and] he will understand knowledge."***

This scorner seems to be beyond talking to and trying to help. Perhaps, he doesn't even want help. The smiting of the scorner here seems to be more in punishment of an act already done than an act to teach the scorner. The only one, it appears, will learn from this punishment is the onlooker (simple one). This might even be said that this punishment is to teach the others what will happen to them if they act this way. The reproof here is probably verbal, but that is all it takes for an understanding person. The understanding one will learn and grow in knowledge for the reproof.

***Proverbs 19:26 "He that wasteth [his] father, [and] chaseth away [his] mother, [is] a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach."***

Perhaps, this Scripture here about the father indicates that he not only wastes what he gets himself, but talks his dad out of what he has, and wastes his dad's savings, also. However, a son can waste his father in more ways than money. A son that will not take advice from his father, has wasted all the stored up knowledge his father could share with him. For this son to chase away his mother has to be something very terrible. Mothers do not give up their sons easily. Whether this literally means chases him out of the home or whether it means his evil deeds have driven her affection away, is very bad. A mother's love is next to God's love. This son would certainly be a dishonor to his parents. Shame and reproach would certainly be the after effects of this life.

***Proverbs 19:27 "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction [that causeth] to err from the words of knowledge."***

You are taking instruction from the wrong people. Don't let the blind lead you is what I see in this.

***Proverbs 19:28 "An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity."***

This ungodly witness laughs at true judgement. He is not interested in justice. He laughs at the court and perjures himself to make whatever point he wants. He forgets that there is a righteous Judge (Jesus Christ) that he will have to stand before and account for this lie. The wicked swallows wickedness. This wicked one just gets worse and worse.

***Proverbs 19:29 "Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools."***

This Scripture is closely related to verse 28. This, to me, is speaking of those who scorn judgement here will face the Judge of all the world. The word "prepared" here, to me, indicates that this will happen in the future. Fools many times, break laws and are punished for their law breaking. Fools will face the eternal Judge and pay for their evil deeds. The only way to avoid that punishment would be for the fool to become wise and accept Jesus as his Savior.

**QUESTIONS**

1. In verse 1, we see it is not talking about just a poor man, but what kind of a poor man?
2. A man that hasteth with his feet \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
3. Wealth maketh many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
4. Explain why verse 7 says a poor man's brothers hate him.
5. When you are seeking wisdom, you are seeking \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
6. In verse 10, who is it speaking of?
7. What is like a continual dropping in verse 13.
8. In verse 14, houses and riches are what?
9. In verse 15, we find that an idle soul shall what?
10. What are the rich of this world charged to do in I Timothy 6:17-19?
11. When should you chasten your children?
12. We must let our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_control us not our \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
13. Where are the Christians journeying to?
14. What does the word "Christian" mean?
15. In verse 22, what 2 types of people are intended?
16. For whose learning was the scorner smote in verse 25?
17. In verse 26, this son did what to his mother?
18. Why is the son in verse 27 to cease to hear this instruction?
19. What kind of witness scorneth judgement?
20. What is meant by the wicked devouring iniquity?
21. Who are stripes saved for?