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Encouraging

VERSES

From the
Proverbs, Ecclesiastes,
Song of Songs

Proverbs to Ponder

Wisdom does not come by sitting in a lotus position uttering strange noises or contemplating your own naval. Wisdom does not come through information or even through study of the sciences. Wisdom comes from God. Proverbs and Ecclesiastes are God's wisdom literature. Wisdom comes from meditating on God's word. Think about it. Muse on it. Mull it over until it becomes second nature to you. Here are some proverbs to meditate on.

Proverbs 1:7

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs 3:1-4

1. My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart, 2. for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity. 3. Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. 4. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

Proverbs 3:5-8

5. Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; 6. in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight. 7. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and shun evil. 8. This will bring health to your body and nourishment to your bones.

Proverbs 3:9-10

9. Honor the LORD with your wealth, with the firstfruits of all your crops; 10. then your barns will be filled to overflowing, and your vats will brim over with new wine.

Proverbs 3:24-26

24. When you lie down, you will not be afraid; when you lie down, your sleep will be sweet. 25. Have no fear of sudden disaster or of the ruin that overtakes the wicked, 26. for the LORD will be your confidence and will keep your foot from being snared.

Proverbs 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life.

Proverbs 5:14-20

I have come to the brink of utter ruin in the midst of the whole assembly." 15. Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well. 16. Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? 17. Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. 18. May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19. A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. 20. Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?

Proverbs 5:21

For a man's ways are in full view of the LORD, and he examines all his paths. 22. The evil deeds of a wicked man ensnare him; the cords of his sin hold him fast.

Proverbs 6:6-11

6. Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7. It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8. yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. 9. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? 10. A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- 11. and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.

Proverbs 6:16-18

There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17. haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, 18. a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19. a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.

Proverbs 6:20-22

My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. 21. Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. 22. When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you.

Proverbs 7:2-3

Keep my commands and you will live; guard my teachings as the apple of your eye. 3. Bind them on your fingers; write them on the tablet of your heart.

Proverbs 8:13

To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.

Proverbs 8:17

I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

Proverbs 9:8

Rebuke a wise man and he will love you.

Proverbs 9:10-11

"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding. 11. For through me your days will be many, and years will be added to your life.

Proverbs 10:5

He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.

Proverbs 10:12

Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.

Proverbs 10:18

Whoever spreads slander is a fool.

Proverbs 11:1

The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.

Proverbs 11:14

For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.

Proverbs 11:22

Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

Proverbs 11:24-25

One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. 25. A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. 26. People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell.

Proverbs 12:10

A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.

Proverbs 13:4

The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.

Proverbs 13:7

One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

Proverbs 13:24

He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Proverbs 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 14:26

He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. 27. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,

Proverbs 14:29

A patient man has great understanding, but a quick-tempered man displays folly.

Proverbs 15:1

A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Proverbs 15:13

A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.

Proverbs 15:15-16

All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast. 16. Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil. 17. Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred.

Proverbs 15:22

Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.

Proverbs 15:28

The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil.

Proverbs 16:3

Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed. 4. The LORD works out everything for his own ends-

Proverbs 16:9

In his heart a man plans his course, but the LORD determines his steps.

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.

Proverbs 16:33

The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

Proverbs 17:9

He who covers over an offense promotes love, but whoever repeats the matter separates close friends.

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 17:22

A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

Proverbs 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

Proverbs 18:19

An offended brother is more unyielding than a fortified city, and disputes are like the barred gates of a citadel.

Proverbs 19:18

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.

Proverbs 19:23

The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.

Proverbs 20:13

Do not love sleep or you will grow poor; stay awake and you will have food to spare.

Proverbs 20:22

Do not say, "I'll pay you back for this wrong!" Wait for the LORD, and he will deliver you.

Proverbs 21:1-2

The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD; he directs it like a watercourse wherever he pleases. 2. All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD weighs the heart.

Proverbs 21:9

Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

Proverbs 21:17

He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.

Proverbs 22:1

A good name is more desirable than great riches; to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.

Proverbs 22:6

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22:15

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 22:24

Do not make friends with a hot-tempered man, do not associate with one easily angered, 25. or you may learn his ways and get yourself ensnared.

Proverbs 23:7

For as he thinks in his heart, so is he

Proverbs 23:13

Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish him with the rod, he will not die. 14. Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death.

Proverbs 24:3-5

By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; 4. through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures. 5. A wise man has great power, and a man of knowledge increases strength; 6. for waging war you need guidance, and for victory many advisers.

Proverbs 24:10

If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!

Proverbs 24:11-12

Rescue those being led away to death; hold back those staggering toward slaughter. 12. If you say, "But we knew nothing about this," does not he who weighs the heart perceive it? Does not he who guards your life know it? Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?

Proverbs 25:20

Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

Proverbs 25:25

Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.

Proverbs 25:28

Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.

Proverbs 26:4

Do not answer a fool according to his folly, or you will be like him yourself.

Proverbs 27:5

Better is open rebuke than hidden love.

Proverbs 27:15

A continual dripping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

Proverbs 27:23

Be sure you know the condition of your flocks, give careful attention to your herds;

Proverbs 28:9

If anyone turns a deaf ear to the law, even his prayers are detestable.

Proverbs 28:13

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Proverbs 28:20

A faithful man will be richly blessed, but one eager to get rich will not go unpunished.

Proverbs 28:23

He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.

Proverbs 29:1

A man who remains stiff-necked after many rebukes will suddenly be destroyed--without remedy.

Proverbs 29:11

A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man keeps himself under control.

Proverbs 29:17

Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.

Proverbs 29:18

Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but blessed is he who keeps the law.

Proverbs 29:22

An angry man stirs up dissension, and a hot-tempered one commits many sins.

Proverbs 29:25

Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.

Proverbs 30:5

"Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. 6. Do not add to his words, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.

Proverbs 30:8

Keep falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread. 9. Otherwise, I may have too much and disown you and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or I may become poor and steal, and so dishonor the name of my God.

Proverbs 30:11-15

"There are those who curse their fathers and do not bless their mothers; 12. those who are pure in their own eyes and yet are not cleansed of their filth; 13. those whose eyes are ever so haughty, whose glances are so disdainful; 14. those whose teeth are swords and whose jaws are set with knives to devour the poor from the earth, the needy from among mankind. 15. "The leech has two daughters. 'Give! Give!' they cry. "There are three things that are never satisfied, four that never say, 'Enough!':

Proverbs 30:24

"Four things on earth are small, yet they are extremely wise: 25. Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer; 26. coney are creatures of little power, yet they make their home in the crags; 27. locusts have no king, yet they advance together in ranks; 28. a lizard can be caught with the hand, yet it is found in kings' palaces.

Proverbs 30:33

For as churning the milk produces butter, and as twisting the nose produces blood, so stirring up anger produces strife."

Ecclesiastes

Ecclesiastes 1:4 & 6

Whoever watches the wind will not plant; whoever looks at the clouds will not reap. Sow your seed in the morning, and at evening let not your hands be idle, for you do not know which will succeed, whether this or that, or whether both will do equally well.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

1. There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven: 2. a time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, 3. a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, 4. a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, 5. a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain, 6. a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, 7. a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, 8. a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace.

Ecclesiastes 4:9-12

9. Two are better than one, because they have a good return for their work: 10. If one falls down, his friend can help him up. But pity the man who falls and has no one to help him up! 11. Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm. But how can one keep warm alone? 12. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, "I find no pleasure in them"--

Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

1 Remember now thy Creator in the days of your youth...2 While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain: 3 In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened, 4 And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low; 5 Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goes to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets: 6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern. 7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-12

9. Not only was the Teacher wise, but also he imparted knowledge to the people. He pondered and searched out and set in order many proverbs. 10. The Teacher searched to find just the right words, and what he wrote was upright and true. 11. The words of the wise are like goads, their collected sayings like firmly embedded nails--given by one Shepherd. 12. Be warned, my son, of anything in addition to them. Of making many books there is no end, and much study wearies the body.

Ecclesiastes 12:3-14

13. Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole [duty] of man. 14. For God will bring every deed into judgment, including every hidden thing, whether it is good or evil.

Song of Songs

Song of Solomon 1:2

Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth! For your love is better than wine

Song of Solomon 1:15-16

Look, you are beautiful, my beloved. Look, you are beautiful. Your eyes are doves. Look. you are beautiful. my beloved. Truly pleasant.

Song of Solomon 2:1

I am a rose of Sharon, a lily of the valleys.

Song of Solomon 2:3

As an apple tree among the trees of the forest, so is my beloved among the young men. With great delight, I sat in his shadow, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.

Song of Solomon 2:4

He brought me to the banqueting house, and his intention toward me was love.

Song of Solomon 2:15

Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

Song of Solomon 2:16

My lover is mine and I am his; he browses among the lilies.

Song of Solomon 2:16

How fair and pleasant you are, O loved one, delectable maiden! You are stately as a palm tree and your breasts are like its clusters. I say I will climb the palm tree and lay hold of its branches. Oh, may your breasts be like clusters of the vine, and the scent of your breath like apples, and your kisses like the best wine that goes down smoothly, gliding over lips and teeth.

Song of Solomon 3:4

Scarcely had I passed them when I found him whom my soul loves. I held him, and would not let him go until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her who conceived me.

Song of Solomon 4:7-10 Your Beauty

7 You're beautiful from head to toe, my dear love, beautiful beyond compare, absolutely flawless. 8 Come with me from Lebanon, my bride. Leave Lebanon behind, and come. Leave your high mountain hideaway. Abandon your wilderness seclusion, where you keep company with lions and panthers guard your safety. 9 You've captured my heart, dear friend. You looked at me, and I fell in love. One look my way and I was hopelessly in love! 10 How beautiful your love, dear, dear friend - far more pleasing than a fine, rare wine, your fragrance more exotic than select spices.

Song of Solomon 4:11-16 Your Kisses

11 The kisses of your lips are honey, my love, every syllable you speak a delicacy to savor. Your clothes smell like the wild outdoors, the ozone scent of high mountains. 12 Dear lover and friend, you're a secret garden, a private and pure fountain. 13 Body and soul, you are paradise, a whole orchard of succulent fruits - Ripe apricots and peaches, oranges and pears; Nut trees and cinnamon, and all scented woods; 14 Mint and lavender, and all herbs aromatic; 15 A garden fountain, sparkling and splashing, fed by spring waters from the Lebanon mountains. 16 Wake up, North Wind, get moving,

South Wind! Breathe on my garden, fill the air with spice fragrance. Oh, let my lover enter his garden! Yes, let him eat the fine, ripe fruits.

Song of Solomon 4:17

Let my beloved come to his garden, and eat its choicest fruits.

Song of Solomon 5:1

Eat, friends, drink, and be drunk with love!

Song of Solomon 5:10-16

10. My lover is radiant and ruddy, outstanding among ten thousand. 11. His head is purest gold; his hair is wavy and black as a raven. 12. His eyes are like doves by the water streams, washed in milk, mounted like jewels. 13. His cheeks are like beds of spice yielding perfume. His lips are like lilies dripping with myrrh. 14. His arms are rods of gold set with chrysolite. His body is like polished ivory decorated with sapphires. 15. His legs are pillars of marble set on bases of pure gold. His appearance is like Lebanon, choice as its cedars. 16. His mouth is sweetness itself; he is altogether lovely. This is my lover, this my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.

Song of Solomon 6:3

I am my beloved's and my beloved is mine; he grazes among the lilies.

Song of Solomon 7:10

I belong to my lover, and his desire is for me.

Song of Solomon 8:3

His left hand is under my head, and his right hand embraces me!

Song of Solomon 8:6

Place me like a seal over your heart, like a seal on your arm; for love is as strong as death, its jealousy unyielding as the grave. It burns like blazing fire, like a mighty flame.

Song of Solomon 8:7

Many waters cannot quench love, neither can floods drown it. If a man offered for love all the wealth of his house, he would be utterly despised.