



1 Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom. 2 A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself. 3 When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach. 4 The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook. 5 It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment. 6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes. 7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. 8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. 9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster. 10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. 11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit. 12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility. (Prov 18:1-12)

Desire is a longing, or craving, for something. Quite often, our desires may be righteous but, more than not, they are sensual and carnal. Desire is a tool found in the tool kit of the Devil.; but it can be turned against that old serpent if the desire is Holy and righteous: *Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.* (Romans 10:1) But there is another desire that the Devil hopes to cultivate with this tool called 'desire:' *But now, after that ye have known God, or rather are known of God, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements, whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage?* (Gal 4:9) *Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.* (Eph 2:3) So we must fix our desires upon those things imperishable and despise those things which are without durability or worth. Worthy DESIRE could be summed up in this verse: *Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart.* (Psalms 37:4) God can freely make this promise because the desire of any who delight in the Lord will be Holy and sanctified.

1 Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom. The desire spoken of is an unholy and carnal desire arising from pride. This man has separated himself in order to gratify the desires of his flesh through false wisdom. True wisdom cannot be falsely achieved. This man desires to choose some perceived wisdom of better men to acquire ungodly objects. He may play the perfect gentleman to seduce an innocent girl, or even worse.

2 A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself. This is the man that knows no loyalties except to his own decadent desires. He is much like the traitor to country described by Sir Walter Scott in his famous work: "Lay of the Last Minstrel:

Despite those titles, power, and pelf, The wretch, concentr'd all in self, Living, shall forfeit fair renown, And, doubly dying, shall go down To the vile dust, from whence he sprung, Unwept, unhonor'd, and unsung.

3 When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach. Have you ever noted the inordinate contempt of the wicked against all who attempt to defend the institution of marriage, or the sanctity of human life. The snarls, sneers, and profanity reaches levels that cannot be discussed in polite company, much less in the scope of a devotion. Contempt, again, can be righteous, but in almost all cases it is not, but arises from a black and darkened heart. Because the wicked always come to disgrace and exposure, they also receive, in this life, a fitting reproach. Still, being fools, they pursue the same demented course as before.

4 The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook. My grandmother used to say that a "deep river is silent while the white water, shallow stream is boisterous" and "an empty wagon makes a lot of noise." The heart of a man, whose cup runneth over, is deep in understanding and wisdom. Whatever he says will be worthy of hearing. The mountain spring-fed brook continues to constantly flow bringing pure and life-giving waters to the pastureland. My father used to advise me to "always drink upstream of the herd - to drink the pure waters where they emerge pure and unpolluted by the hands and feet of men and animals. That is why I have CONTEMPT only for the modern bible versions that are spotted with the unclean hands of men bent of developing a politically correct bible.

5 It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment. This is a verse directed at the heart of today's church. How is it possible that homosexual wedlock could even be considered a possibility, or acceptance of this filthy and abhorrent sin ever be given the dignity of tolerance in a nation whose Founders followed the dictates of God in her Founding? Just because we are not the direct agents of evil does not make our hands clean of the wickedness we tolerate in our midst. Have we voted for pro-abortion politicians, for example, simply because they have promised a favor in some entitlement program? *How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked?* (Psalms 82:2)

6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes. The fool is always quick to temper and speak out before he has given due consideration to the matter. His answer for every occasion of disagreement is to strike out at his perceived opponents. Either alone, or with a great company, his mentality is that of the mob.

The fool is condemned by the words from his own mouth. **7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.** Wicked conversation and words have

consequences - greater to the one who utters them than upon whose ears they fall.

8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. Distress of shame and embarrassment at the gossips of the talebearer can cause ulcers to their victims. His tongue is a great destroying weapon. The owner of such a tongue shall suffer torments in judgment.

True labor is productive of results that are sought - whether for food or products. **9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.** The man who is slothful in labor is wasting the benefits of his labor. If a job is worth doing, is it not worth doing right? Actually, a shabbily done job is worse than not labor at all. Someone will need to come behind and see that the damage is undone, and the work finished agreeable to its purpose.

10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe. Is it a wonder that *all who call upon the Name of the Lord shall be saved? " . . . whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."* (Acts 2:21) A tower is a "High Place". Claiming the Name of the Lord, we are aspiring to a higher plane than we have thus lived. The Name of the Lord is the dwelling place of the Lord. wherever the Lord is found, there is safety. He is our Ark in these last days. All righteous on earth shall forego the fires of destruction that are destined to fall soon upon an wicked and adulterous generation.

11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit. There is a difference in the Strong Tower of God and the high wall of the arrogant man. A strong tower cannot be easily destroyed without those who attempt it being crushed at its base. A wall can be easily breached by siege engines because it is really only a facade. It may look strong from without, but once penetrated, all inside has been lost. The pride of arrogance, once penetrated, leaves only ashes for the former big shot.

12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility. The truly great men and women of history have not started out believing themselves better than they really are; but the proud man conversely always starts out with a much higher opinion of himself than is justified by his foolish heart. I know a very special Korean girl (my adopted daughter) who is a 4.0 Dean's list scholar at university, but, before every major exam, she laments her poor level of preparation and fears she will fail the exam. Later I learn that she received an 'A' on the exam. In fact, I believe that we should always recognize that we are nothing but dust before God. It is His works that make us succeed. Marching forth in His Name, and under His Banner, do you believe that defeat is even possible? The pursuing victory will never be our own, but His!