



"15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. 16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall. 17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul. 18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. 19 A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer. 20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him. 21 He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length. 22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression. 23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit. 24 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not. 25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe. 26 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD. 27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked."  
(Proverbs 29:15-27)

Dr. Spock and humanist philosophy have left a track of utter ruin in our youth and society itself. If we cannot hear the counsel of Scripture on the importance of parental guidance for a child, we should at least resort to common sense. Those mustangs of the west, descended from domesticated horses of the Spaniards, are not wild by nature, but have become feral horses due to being left to forage for themselves. Any creature will take on a wild nature when not informed and trained to be in a social environment. When children are raised by one parent, oftentimes who does not care about the child's welfare except for government subsidy, it is only natural that they will become wild and full of contempt for all others. **15 "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame."** I have heard the government propaganda that "we must help the poor" - that "even Jesus says so." They are perfectly willing to fall back on the Name of Jesus when it suits their socialist agenda, but in all other ways, do not mix government policy and religion! There is no such thing as government charity. Charity comes from the heart and cannot be forced through tax policies else it is extortion. So we have more than one generation of young people who

have never known love or responsibility. Should we be shocked that our streets are full of violence? Corporal punishment would solve most the social problems of modern youth.

The next verse logically falls on the heels of the first: "16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall." Satan aims to destroy man that God created and placed upon the earth. If he can eradicate every moral restraint in youth, he will soon have generations of the wicked. In that way, they are multiplied. Do we not see sin and crime increasing phenomenally over the past three decades? We have turned our former institutions of learning into training grounds for delinquency and havoc. Why is the Bible disallowed in public school while it is permitted in prisons?

17 "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul." If the sapling tree is bent after planting, it will remain so throughout its lifespan. The child is like an arrow in the hand of his father. But the arrow must be kept straight, polished, and sharp. Once placed to the bow-string, it must be released with a steady and able hand for, once released to the world, the father has no more control on its flight. The father must aim his instruction of his child to hit the proper mark in life. The child watches his parents with attentive eye and perceives his first beginning impressions of right and wrong. My grandsons who, by the way, are perfect in every respect in my opinion, came this past weekend to visit. Eli, the youngest of 2 years age, tried to wear my shoes home. He could have made his own canoe of one of them. But children want to wear the shoes of their fathers in every respect. They wish to go where their fathers have trod, and they want to be like them in every other way; so, be careful, fathers, of the tracks you make for your children. May those footprints of the fathers lead to the Straight and Narrow Way and not to the Broad way that leads down to destruction.

Where do visions come from? From whence came the vision of Bach, or Mendelsohn, of Beethoven? Where did daVinci gain his vision, or Raphael, or Michelangelo? Do we not call such men inspired and, if so, has their inspiration to beauty not come from God? Such men had a vision to create - not something new, but something that would imitate the already created beauty that God had instilled in nature. 18 "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Look at our America today - does she not reel to and fro as a drunken man? Do you believe our leadership in America is inspired, or do you believe it has reached a rapidly falling state of decadence at all levels? Were we not once a very happy nation? Did we need drugs to create a false high? Were we dwelling in peace and prosperity? What happened? Where is the vision for America? Have we not abandoned the "Old paths wherein our fathers walked?" What do you believe the Founding Fathers would think of our current state of decadence and lawlessness? There is a cardinal principle that has long governed the matter of the laws of a nation: "The greater the numbers of laws, regulations, and regimentation, the more common are the transgressions against the law of the nation.

19 "A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer." More than words have always been necessary to insure the gainful production of laborers at hire. Money is one incentive, and fear of retribution is another. But a servant is servant because he has fallen into the state by misfortune or poor wisdom. He will be reluctant to take commands from his superior simply based on verbal expressions only. But the servant of God (and all who believe are servants) will conduct themselves according to the Word of God because they know that God's Word

has more than verbal consequences.

20 "Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him." A person who does not chew his food well before swallowing will not digest that food very efficiently. His health will lack the full benefit of the nutrients. A man who is hasty to speak will not have chewed over his words very well prior to expressing them. To such a man, words are as cheap as the effort required in speaking them. Such a man who speaks before he thinks is a fitting role model for fools. "*The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.*" (Prov 21:5)

21 "He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length." My church is comprised of many young people of high school and college age - especially in the past ten years. I have come to consider each of the dear young people as my own personal sons and daughters. I love them as such, and they have been a great blessing of God to me as such. Love always responds to love. One of the problems facing the modern church is a lack of love for souls, and an abundance of love for money and prestige.

22 "An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression." Two points up front: anger itself is not sinful and neither is a furiousness borne out of righteous indignation. In fact, it is also a characteristic of God. "*God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies.*" (Nahum 1:2) So a constant and cringing acceptance of every evil due to reluctance to anger is no sanctuary for the limp-wristed ministers and Christians of our day. Jesus was no happy-faced coddler of the wicked. Remember the money-changers in the Temple: "*And when he had made a scourge of small cords, he drove them all out of the temple, and the sheep, and the oxen; and poured out the changers' money, and overthrew the tables; And said unto them that sold doves, **Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise.***" (John 2:15-16) But there is an anger that is a contrast to that Holy anger that is aroused on behalf of the honor of God. It is a selfish and self-satisfying anger that is born out of pride and haste. It becomes the normal manner of many wicked men. They have discovered that an angry disposition may intimidate and give them advantage in dealing with others. When our anger is based on self and not the honor of God, we are unreasonable and demanding of others. If our anger is not satisfied, it grows into blind fury that destroys even those its owner may love.

Just how low can pride bring a man? How low did it bring the father of pride, Lucifer? Though our stations may be elevated to the gates of Heaven, pride can bring us to the lowest pits of Hell. "23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit." There is a huge difference made between pride and honor. Honor is humble and needs not boast of itself. Pride will drive a man to lie, cheat, and steal in order to gain prestige and public acclaim (witness our endless numbers of politicians in Washington). The premier sin of eternity past arose from PRIDE: "*Thy pomp is brought down to the grave, and the noise of thy viols: the worm is spread under thee, and the worms cover thee. How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*" (Isaiah 14:11-15)

The great 'I WILL' (man's will) is always trying to usurp the "**GREAT I AM**" of God. God has already owned all of the glory and honor to be had - He is the Great I Am! Man who stands in His stead will never gain the prominence. The great English poet, William Wordsworth has written: "The Babel-Tower of sin is a tower which a man builds in pride, and when it reaches to Heaven, then it is suddenly thrown down." How often have we seen men and women struggle all of their lives to build a larger mansion than their neighbor, drive a Mercedes Benz and at last realize what a miserable and paltry life they have led. They built their ivory towers, but soon found that it was dwarfed by God's own majestic mountains. Pride is a false construction material that will collapse of its own weight at last.

**24** *"Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not."* Since the wages of sin is death, to go into partnership with sinners is to become party to their reward in Hell. *"But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death."* (Proverbs 8:36) There was a time, dimly lit in my own memory, that cursing and profanity were causes for arrest in America. Now, one will hear the most vulgar and filthy of expressions everywhere he goes in public places. God's ancient law forbade cursing and swearing. It was, as well, an arrest offense in the early days of Israel. *"And if a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity."* (Lev 5:1) What has happened to a nation that has ceased to observe the laws of morality and righteousness? Prepare for the battle, for the day shall surely come when our proud towers shall fall, and our walls breached on every side. In fact, the process has already begun, America!

**25** *"The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."* Fear of our enemies results in appeasement and eventual capitulation. If we lived up to our motto in America, IN GOD WE TRUST, we should be very safe and free. But it is only a slogan that has now gathered the dust of bad faith and worse trust. It has become very much like the Lord's Prayer being prayed by those who do not even consider the words they speak – a mere formality at church!

**26** *"Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD."* Seek the ruler's favor with flatteries and wealth, but the earthly ruler is subject, lock, stock, and barrel, to the Ruler of the Universe. The ruler to whom you ingratiate yourself today will be dead and buried when your final judgment comes. You will then pass before the Ruler who has always and forever held your soul in the very Palm of His Hand.

**27** *"An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked."* Our righteous characters are defined by as much those things that we disdain as those which give us pleasure. The true Christian is an abomination to the man of wickedness, and the wicked man is an abomination to the true Christian man of principle. The project manager of Bell Textron in Iran once told me, when there was a labor dispute, that he would prefer an unprincipled labor representative to negotiate terms rather than a principled man. When I asked him why, he responded, "A principled man will not compromise, whereas an unprincipled man will compromise away the interest of those he represents." I made the point in response that an agreement with an unprincipled man is no better than the scrap of paper it is written upon. Please read these final verses of Romans 1 and see if the Christian can righteously declare neutrality in the battle the government is waging to promote the most egregious of abominations, homosexuality: *"And likewise also the men, leaving*

*the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." (Romans 1:27-32) Please observe the final sentence of verse 32. What does that mean? It means that such vulgar and atrocious sins as God has condemned so forcefully cannot be 'tolerated' in a righteous nation, period, end of comment! Do you harbor a cowardly view toward such sins as bring nations down and destroy souls? Time wanes – get right with God.*