



10 Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty. 11 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother. 12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness. 13 There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up. 14 There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men. 15 The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough: 16 The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough. 17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it. 18 There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: 19 The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid. 20 Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness. 21 For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear: 22 For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat; 23 For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress. (Proverbs 30:10-23)

You may have noticed in this next to the last chapter of Proverbs that God categorizes his meanings to make them more easily understood and remembered. He gives us specific numbers and classes of things to be observant about. These are not intended to curb our joys in life, but rather to facilitate them. Proverbs are a great professor of knowledge to us, and, like a good professor, the subject material is being summarized near the close of our period of instruction. But the subject material is never fully learned and Solomon would have us review, review, review in order to master the material of wisdom.

God's Word is a two-edged Sword, but so is false speech as well. It may hurt the

object of its hate, but that sword cuts backward to fall upon the wicked one who wields it. **10 "Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty."** The implication here is a false accusation and a public rebuke. Even if we are correct, we do not correct another in the presence of his superior unless necessary. But to falsely accuse bears a double penalty that will come home to roost with its parent. Even the secular law punishes those who lie and scandalize the innocent. How much more is the wrath of God raised against such a tale-bearer.

Verses 11 through 14 describe four classes of wicked people: 1) Those who do not honor parents; 2) Those who are self-righteous; 3) Those who are full of vanity, pride and insolence; and 4) Those who are greedy, cruel, and who oppress the poor.

11 "There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother." It is no surprise that this particular class is listed first, for it signifies the birth and origin of societal immorality. ***For Moses said, Honour thy father and thy mother; and, Whoso curseth father or mother, let him die the death: But ye say, If a man shall say to his father or mother, It is Corban, that is to say, a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me; he shall be free. And ye suffer him no more to do ought for his father or his mother; Making the word of God of none effect through your tradition, which ye have delivered: and many such like things do ye.*** (Mark 7:10-13)

Those who curse their own father and do not bless their dear mother are the siblings that grow into an unrighteous and wicked generation. This is particularly prevalent in America today. The generational ball is being fumbled between parent and child so that each generation is less righteous than the previous. One cause of this is that we have turned the raising of our children over to the unlikely parentage of government. Our schools have begun to teach every filthy and abhorrent sin that contradicts biblical morality. We have allowed a wicked man to come and live in our home alongside our wives and children. The man is an alcoholic, an adulterer, a murderer, and his speech is full of cursings and blasphemy. Moreover, he undresses completely before the eyes of our innocent daughters. His name is TELEVISION. He seldom sleeps, and we never rebuke him for his trespasses. Our children are not at fault for their evil learning for we, the parents, have made all things of violence and filth appealing to our very children. God forgive this nation for its transgressions against a God that has blessed us beyond every other nation of the earth.

12 "There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness." The Pharisees of Jesus' time come to mind, but so do the holier-than-thou Christians of our day who do all for appearance sake and whose hearts are void of spiritual understanding. It is very difficult to find a theologian, or a minister, who does not presume to have an answer for every mystery of Holy Scripture; yet, they are foolish hypocrites: ***For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him.*** (Isaiah 64:4) Can we not simply admit that there are mysteries in God's Word that we cannot fully comprehend in our mortal coils, but admit that whatever the mysteries, it is good beyond imagination?

13 "There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up." Well, now, we in our church are all pretty good, aren't we? Not at all. The very moment we begin to feel that we are "good enough" is the very moment that we become unworthy beyond all measure in the eyes of God! Insofar as worth is concerned, we are no better than a mud worm, but in His Mercy and Grace, God has seen fit to extend to us the privilege of son ship to all who believe unto salvation. This is another of those

marvelous mysteries that no theologian can begin to fathom in depth. But some are like the Pharisees. They have read their Bible through and through. They can quote beautiful scripture for every occasion, but their hearts are black with secret sins and envyings. *"The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts."* (Psalms 10:4) Rather than portraying the beauty of God's Word to others, the prideful professor will appropriate the Word of God to himself and take the credit, too.

14 *"There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men."* There are ruthless land owners and business men; bankers and politicians, who care NOTHING for the plight of the poor. Their only effort toward to the poor is to perpetuate their plight and to increase their numbers. "Keep them on the plantation" is their slogan. But they phrase their approach in cunning words that appeal to the desperate heart that unknowingly falls for their deceptions. God has issued a stern rebuke to these money-grubbers both in business and in the ministry: *"He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor."* (Prov 14:31) *"But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?"* (James 2:6)

Moderation in all things is also a Godly way. An insatiable appetite is wicked beyond measure. God compares the man who lusts for everything with envy and greed to the horseleach - a bloodsucker of the fly family. It is never satisfied and will suck blood from its victim until there is no more blood to be had. The same with loan sharks and sophisticated bankers (and preachers). **15a** *"The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give."* There are now presented four things that are possessed of insatiable appetites - so much so that they are amazing for magnitude: **15b** *"There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough."* **16** *"The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough."*

What are these things? Study them as presented and see if they can ever be satisfied: 1) The grave and Hell; 2) the barren womb; 3) the parched ground of the earth; and 4) The consuming fire in the midst of combustible materials. Which of these four can be satisfied? Have we filled the half of the graves of the world as of yet, or the gaping abyss of Hell? Can the womb that cannot bear offspring ever be satisfied since the womb is created for the very purpose? Can the parched earth ever be satisfied with an abundance of water? What of a raging forest fire where timbers are in abundance? Can the fire be satisfied until it consumes all? Can rage and jealousy be satisfied until its intemperate appetite is curbed by the vacuum it creates? Envy is never filled, and lusts are forever driving the flesh.

Here are judgments that follow, not as punishment, but as a direct result of greed and envy: **17** *"The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it."* Such a child shall be a vagabond and an exile. He shall perish in his wanderings from grace. Being disobedient and disrespectful to parents, he shall have his eyes plucked out in wilderness places. The first thing that a raven mutilates of a down animal is its eyes - even while the poor creature struggles in pains of death. The remains of such a child are not worthy of the honor of burial in God's eye. The buzzards will be its only grave.

18 *"There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: 19 The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a*

ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid." Now we come to four things that are inscrutable and beyond understanding of the observer: 1) An Eagle in flight is wonderful in its ability to ride the updrafts of mountain slopes. It soars without effort as the Christian soul riding upon the windward drafts of the Holy Spirit.; 2) The way of a serpent upon the rock. Though the rock may be smooth and polished by wind, the serpent seemingly glides across that surface; 3) The way of a ship at sea. The ship sails according to the winds of God. It leaves no trail in the sea that will later expose its course. The world understands not the Christian whose life is governed by the winds and currents of the Holy Ghost. He cannot follow in the path of righteousness who does not understand the mysteries of God's seas. 4) The way of a man with a maiden. This, too, is perplexing to me and has been from the time of my youth. It seemed to me that the prettier girls always sought out the fellows who respected them least, yet they were attracted by some unseen force to such men who abused their honor and their name. Why are some who profess Christ led off the path by those shysters who rob them of their money as well as their souls through deceitful ministries? An adulterous woman would actually prefer such fellows. Their libels make excellent advertisement for their craft. **20 "Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness."** The only thought of the woman my mother described as a "hussy" is self-gratification of the senses. She is so reprobate that she doesn't even recognize her sins.

There are four things that disquiet and disturb the very earth itself: **21 "For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear:"** What are these four? **22 "For a servant when he reigneth"** 1) When a servant or a poorly qualified employee is raised to a position of leadership, there is no reckoning his abundance of self-pride and arrogance. "... and a fool when he is filled with meat;" 2) The only curb on a fool's foolishness is his hunger. Once that particular want is satisfied, he is free to resort to his full-blown foolishness. **23 "For an odious woman when she is married"** 3) A loathsome woman may be curtailed when alone in the world, but when married, there will be no curtailing her loathsome nature - it is rather magnified. and 4) "... and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress." What has this last statement to do with the carnage and wars of the Middle East today?

Does the handmaiden, Hagar, come to mind? Sarah was strongly disquieted by the obvious presumption of Hagar once she had bore a child to Abraham, Ishmael by name. Ishmael became the father of the Arab nations, and there has not been a single day of peace in the region from that moment to this. The Angel of the Lord found Hagar in the wilderness place called at a well called Beerlahairoi (The Lord Seeth me) when she had fled her mistress, Sarai. "**And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude. And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction. And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.**" (Gen 16:10-12) There is a great principle implicit in this account. Sin (of Abraham and Sarai) is never personal. It always has far-reaching consequences of eternal import. The Arab nations have never been at peace. They constantly war with one another if there is no greater common enemy that threatens from without.