

RIGHTLY DIVIDING[©]

Title: Inheritance

SCRIPTURE: PROVERBS 13:22

“A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children’s children; and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.”

CONTEXT:

The essence of the Book of Proverbs is the teaching of moral and ethical principles. The peculiarity of this book is that it is largely given over to teaching by contrasts (i.e. the contrast of good and evil) in the first section. Good is dominated by several words – knowledge, instruction, understanding, equity, and learning, but especially wisdom.

Proverb 1:7 is consider the well-known text for the book. It reads, “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” This staple verse is echoed in Psalms 111:10 and Job 28:28. Wisdom, in Hebrew, is a feminine noun that allows it to be naturally personified as a woman. The author of Proverbs is contrasting “wisdom” (i.e. the virtuous woman) with the “harlot” (i.e. the strange woman). As wisdom stands for all virtue, so does the strange woman typifies and includes all sin.

In the second section, the Proverbs of Solomon, the teachings are presented almost exclusively by the single verse method and there is parallel of thought more often than contrast.

PROVERBS 13:22

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EVETTE

Pre-reading Proverbs 13 and Exodus 12

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*Sermons for Pastors and Leaders of
the Christian faith!*

HISTORICAL FACTS

Part of Proverbs is believed to be written by Solomon because his name occurs in three parts of the book – 1:1, 10:1, and 25:1. However, scholars reject the idea that Solomon wrote section three 22:17 – 24:22, section four 24:23-24, and section six 30:1 – 31:31. Solomon’s production of “proverbs and parables” is referred to in Ecclesiasticus dating back to 180 B.C. Many scholars would also suggest that there is no need to place the edit of the book after the traditional close of the biblical period about 400 B.C. Therefore, Proverbs can be dated between 180 B.C. and 400 B. C. (ref. KJV 584)

INTRODUCTION:

Proverbs 13 is a continuation of the wise and foolish contrast. The key verse for this message will speak of what is wise. Proverbs 13 is also a chapter about learning great principles for life and we witness very early in chapter thirteen the contrast between good and evil.

The book of Proverbs is deemed Hebrew poetry. This particular Hebrew poetry is explored as parallelism of ideas. Dr. A.C. Gaebelien has created an analysis thus defining three kinds of parallelism of ideas: synonymous, antithetic, and synthetic. The focus scripture – Proverbs 13:22 – is an antithetic parallelism. This is parallelism where a truth that is stated in the first clause is made stronger in the second clause by contrast with an opposite truth.

Let's begin our message by exploring both truths and carefully considering the contrast of good versus evil.

MESSAGE:

The church identifies with both parts of Proverbs 13:22

“A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children; and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.”

According to this proverb, a good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children – grand children. In following the allusion of cultural intertexture, we understand that good men have their foundation in God's righteousness. However, to understand this text it is important to connect the good man to the righteousness of God. *Good* [tôb] in the Hebrew text is used to describe men or women. [Tôb] is also used of an elite corp of people. In Proverbs 13:22, [tôb] would be used to describe and identify the elite corp of good men. To understand what is meant by the elite corp, we must cross reference Ezra 9:12 with Proverbs 13:22. Ezra 9:12 reads, “Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons,

neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever; that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever.” Ezra 9:12 is addressing the stipulations given to Israel that is designed to set the nation apart from other heathen nations. God has shown grace to give a little reviving in their bondage even after forsaking the commandments of God. Ezra has given Israel clear instructions thus keeping the nation from the uncleanness and abomination of the land.

In following Ezra's instruction, Israel will remain in right standing with God becoming the elite corp and will receive the promise of becoming strong, eating the good of the land, and leaving an inheritance to their children. Ezra has spoken the inheritance that will befall Israel if they remain free in their current state of bondage by accepting God's reviving. Therefore, the good man [tôb] is the man that follows the instruction of God and does not touch the unclean things of the land.

The beginning of the good man's elite status and his inheritance is remaining obedient to God's instruction. *Inheritance* [nāhal] in Hebrew means to inherit, get possession of, or take as a possession. If an inheritance is to be left (*leaveth*) for the children's children, it comes with a qualification of being elite through obeying God according to Ezra 9:12. The elite corp (by separation) is formed because of obedience to God's instruction. The children will inherit (i.e. take possession of) the land because they have now become strong through the obedience of hearing God's instruction.

To further understand inheritance by obedience, we can examine Genesis 17:7-8. Genesis 17:7-8 reads, “And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee. And I will give

Message Continued...

unto thee and to thy seed after thee the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession and I will be their God.” This particular scripture speaks to the inheritance being left to the children (seed) and the grandchildren *only if* God is their God. We also understand from this scripture that the possession (inheritance) will come from the land where God’s people are the stranger. The inheritance is linked to a relationship with God and this relationship allows God to give to His children that which belongs to the stranger. Therefore, gaining an inheritance from God for your children has the requirement of obedience (i.e. following God’s instructions) and singleness of worship (i.e. worshiping God alone).

The good man will receive from God because of his righteousness (i.e. his right standing before God) that can be found in obedience. This righteousness (obedience) is passed on through the generations and causes all generations to inherit that which belongs to the stranger. Because the good man is in right standing with God, it causes a transfer of wealth from the sinner (stranger).

“A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children’s children; and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.”

Let’s examine the transfer of wealth from the sinner that is laid up for the just. As a reminder, Solomon has written his proverb as antithetic parallelism where a truth, which is stated in the first clause, is made stronger in the second clause by contrast with an opposite truth. We will cross-reference two scriptures to complete our understanding of how the good man (just) will have what belongs to the sinner (stranger) - Proverbs 28:8 and Ecclesiastes 2:26. Proverbs 28:8 reads, “He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.” Proverbs 28:8 identify the way in which certain men receive their substance (usury and unjust gain). If a man

is obtaining his substance in this way, his substance shall be given to others that have not received by usury or unjust gain. *Usury [neshek]* in Hebrew means to gain because of interest on a debt and *Unjust [betsa]* in Hebrew means gain that is made by violence and unjust gain or profit. Usury and unjust gain speaks to the character of the sinner. The sinner (usury or unjust person) is persons that are not in right standing with God and their substance is gained by practices that involve violent measures. We find that the sinner increases his substance, which becomes the wealth that is gathered, accumulated, and stored for the just.

Solomon fills this book of wisdom with parallel contrast that gives understanding to good versus evil. For this particular scripture, we understand that there is a good man (just) versus a sinner (stranger). We also understand that there is an inheritance (obedience) versus wealth (substance). And, there is the idea of who receives – the grandchildren and the just.

Likewise, Ecclesiastes 2:26 provides knowledge regarding the good man receiving from the sinner. It reads, “For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy; but to the sinner he giveth travail to gather and to heap up that he may give to him that is good before God. This also is vanity and vexation of spirit.” Ecclesiastes also helps the believer identify the source by which the sinner releases to the good man. God gives the good man wisdom, knowledge, and joy and in parallel contrast God gives the sinner travail and labor. As believers, we must grasp that God gives to those that are good in His sight and we must know what makes a person good is their right standing (i.e. their obedience to God).

How do the children inherit and how is this wealth transferred? The inheritance is transferred by the good man, which are

Message Continued...

persons that are in right standing with God and are obedient to His instruction. The transfer will take place as the children embraces right standing and obedience to God's instruction.

The sinner's wealth is transferred to the just (good man) by listening to the strategies of God and executing according to His plan. For example, when the children of Israel were released by Pharaoh to go and serve the Lord, God had given strategy to Moses that allowed Israel to be protected from the smiting of the first-born. God had given Moses further strategy that allowed Israel to walk away with the wealth (possessions) of the Egyptians (Exodus 12:1-36). God's strategy to Moses was: (1) the tenth day of the first month kill a lamb for their fathers house and if the house hold it too little for the lamb share with your neighbor, (2) the lamb can have not blemish and must be male in its first year, (4) keep the lamb until the fourteenth of the month and kill it in the evening, (4) use the blood of the lamb on two parts of your door, (5) apply the blood on the two side door post and on the upper post of the house where you shall eat, (6) roast it with fire, unleavened bread, bitter herbs, (7) eat – consume all the lamb and if you do not consume all the lamb, set it on fire the next morning, and (8) eat with your loin girded, shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand. Israel obeyed the instructions given to Moses by God. Their household was unharmed by the Lord's Passover and they possessed the wealth of Egypt.

In order for the good man (just) to receive the wealth of the sinner that is laid up, the good man must hear the strategy of God and follow His instruction. This obedience guarantees the favor of the Lord that allows the good man to gain from the sinner.

MESSAGE NOTES:

1. The people of God must be in right standing.
2. Good men are to train their children in the

things of the Lord. This training is the process of keeping God ordinances.

3. The training should take place from generation to generation.
4. Sinners obtain great substance. Do not spend your life coveting what sinners have obtained.
5. There will be a transfer of wealth if you are in right standing with God.

PERSONAL MESSAGE NOTES:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

MESSAGE ILLUSTRATIONS:

- 1.
- 2.
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Concluding Thoughts

The people of God should understand the importance of being a good man (just). God does not require things of His people that cannot be attained. The measurement of a good man is not by works but is the way in which that good man obeys the Lord and follows his instruction.

If you are wanting to see better days, walk in the wisdom and knowledge of God, experience His joy, and obtain the wealth of sinners, then your quest should be righteousness. The sinner will not hand over the things they are travailing for and gaining by unjust practices. The sinner is going to respond to the strategy of God because in that strategy is the favor for the good man in order for the sinner to release the wealth.

The people of God should prepare their hearts to obey God and listen for His strategy that will transfer the wealth of the sinner to the just.



*Sermons for Pastors and Leaders
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The scripture and above material has been taken from the King James Version of the Holy Bible, Matthew Henry Commentary, and Vine's Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words. The opinions of this sermon are from Dr. Evette Hyder-Davis and should be researched further by the recipient. Rightly Dividing sermon series is a copyright of Dr. Evette Hyder-Davis with permission for use but not distribution.

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P. O. Box 34
Herndon, VA 20172
