

Prepare for the Future

Text: Proverbs 22:1-29

Introduction

The Bible is the most reliable and accurate “Handbook” ever printed on the subject of raising children. The principles of the Word of God have always proven themselves to be effective and true.

As we enter chapter 22 of Proverbs, we discover several “Life Principles” that should be taught to every child. These principles are focused on the future of one’s life.

Too many people live their lives only for the immediate (i.e., today). They make day-to-day choices with little or no regard for the consequences they will face tomorrow. Many people look back over their lives and say, “I wish I had done things differently.”

It is possible to avoid many of life’s pitfalls without having to go through the school of experience. While the school of experience is a good teacher, the tuition is very high. It would be wiser, and less costly, to learn for the experience of others.

It is in this chapter that Solomon, through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, gives us some sage wisdom about looking ahead. The truth is...*Tomorrow is only a day away!* It is also true that...*Tomorrow will be here before you know it!*

In order to properly face the future, there are some basic principles that must be understood. In this chapter, Solomon defines three main principles that should be a part of life’s core values in facing the future. These principles are not optional for anyone who desires to be wise and to live life to the fullest for the glory of God. Therefore, understanding these principles is a crucial step to proper training. We must understand...

I. The _____ of a Good Name (vv. 1-6).

Life Principle #86: _____ (v.1).

Notice that the first foundational principle for facing the future is based on the value of a “*Good name*” (v.1). How do you preserve your name? In order to preserve a good name, we should...

A. _____ its value (vv. 1-2).

1. It is better than _____, and produces “*favour*” (i.e., favor, grace, charm, elegance).
2. It is available to both _____ and _____ (v.2).
3. It is easy to _____ a good name.

B. Be _____ of it (v.3; cf. Eph. 6:10-18).

1. The wise watch where they are going and are _____ (v.3a).
2. The foolish recklessly go through life and _____ (v.3b).

- C. Realize the _____ of it (v.4).
1. The _____ of fearing the Lord.
 2. The _____ of fearing the Lord.
- D. Watch your _____ (v.5; cf. 4:23-27; 7:8).
1. The warning of the _____ of life.
 2. The blessing of the _____ life.
- E. _____ your child (v.6).
1. Train the _____.
 2. Secure the _____.

II. The Wisdom of _____ Free Living (vv. 7-13).

Life Principle #87: _____ !

Verse 6 is sandwiched in between several verses that deal with the proper attitude toward money (vv. 1-2, 4, 9, 16, 22, 26-27). In verses 7-12, we learn how to develop the debt-avoiding lifestyle. We are to develop a...

- A. A giving _____ (vv. 8-9).
1. Sow _____ (v.8).
 2. Sow _____ (v.9).
- B. A Godly _____ (v.10).
1. Ungodly attitudes produce _____ people,
 2. Ungodly attitudes produce _____ people.
- C. A _____ life (vv. 11-12).
1. Be _____ at all times (v.11; cf. Matt. 5:37).
 2. Be ready to give _____ to God (v.12).
- D. An _____ of work (v.13).
1. Not a _____ man.
 2. Not an _____ maker.

Life Principle # 88: _____

Before we move on to the next point, we should consider three Bible reasons to avoid debt in our text:

Three Reasons to Avoid Debt

1. It puts us in _____ to the creditor (v.7).
2. It puts what possessions God gives us at _____ (vv. 26-27).
3. It puts us in restriction to _____ God.

III. The Blessings of Right _____ (vv. 13-29).

A. Guard _____ relationships (vv. 13-15). —*Guard against the...*

1. Lazy man who erodes the _____ of the home (v.13).
2. Strange woman who destroys the _____ of the home (v.14).
3. Undisciplined child who despises the _____ of the home (v.16).

“Solomon's cure for misbehavior is out of favor with modern psychologists, sociologists, and humanists, but it is strongly recommended by the Holy Spirit.”¹

B. Avoid _____ relationships (vv. 16-25).

The wrong relationship will wreck the life and the home. Paul stated, “*Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners*” (1 Cor. 15:33).

1. Relationships that ignore the needs of _____ (vv. 16, 22-23).
 - a. The philosophy of “_____.”
 - b. Those that attempt to _____ from the less fortunate (vv. 16,22).
 - c. Those that incur the _____ of God (v.23).
2. Relationships that ignore the word of _____ (vv. 24-25).
 - a. These people “hear,” but never “_____.”
 - b. Listening takes _____ (“*bow down thine ear,*” v.17a).
 - c. Listening provides _____ (vv. 17b-18).
 - d. Listening provides _____ (vv. 19-21).
3. Relationships that lack self-_____ (vv. 24-27).

¹ John Phillips, Exploring Proverbs, Volume Two (Neptune, NJ: Loizeaux Brothers, 1996), 185.

a. No control of one's _____ (vv. 24-25).

Life Principle #89: _____ + _____ = _____

b. No control of one's _____ (vv. 26-27).

Conclusion (vv. 28-29)

In concluding this section on preparing for the future, Solomon leaves us with two thoughts...

1. Do not toss aside beliefs and convictions, simply because they were your _____ (v.28).
2. Be trained and ready to work hard, and _____ will come (v.29).