

Facing the Future
Text: Proverbs 27:1-27

Introduction

Proverbs is full of wisdom for those who would be wise. In the previous chapter, we saw the marks of evidence for the fool. In this chapter we find that the one who is wise will be thoughtful for the future. While we must live as though each day might be our last, we must also plan for the future.

What are some basic, Bible and faith principles for facing the future? We find this chapter gives us a collection of bits of wisdom for the answer.

I. Do Today's Business _____ (vv. 1-4).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #96: _____!

Many people have great intentions of accomplishing great task. They make their list, they state their objectives, they boast of their plans. Yet, they never seem to do anything. Why not? The culprit is the cancer of procrastination. Procrastination is bred by...

A. _____ (v.1). —We should not boast about tomorrow in the areas of...

1. _____.

DEFINITION OF SIN:

Pro. 21:4 - *Anything a wicked man* _____.

Pro. 24:9 - *Foolish* _____

Rom. 14:23 - *Anything we do that is not of* _____

Jam. 4:17 - *Not doing* _____, *when you know to do it.*

I Jn. 5:17 - *All* _____

—It is _____ (Heb. 3:13; cf. Jer. 17:9)

—It is _____ (cf. Rom. 1:18-32).

—It is _____.

a. Sin _____ (Jam. 1:13-15).

b. Sin _____ res (cf. Eve.; I Jn. 2:15-16).

c. Sin _____ (Rom. 6:23).

2. _____.

a. _____ Reading (cf. Psa. 1:1-3; Jos. 1:8; 2 Tim. 2:15).

b. _____ (cf. Matt. 6:5; Lk. 18:1; Heb. 4:16).

c. _____ Attendance (cf. Heb. 10:25; Psa. 122:1).

- d. _____ (cf. Mal. 3:8-10; 1 Cor. 16:1).
- e. _____ (cf. Matt. 28:19-20; Mk. 16:15; Acts 1:8).
3. _____ (cf. II Cor. 6:2; Heb. 3:13; 4:7).
- B. _____ (vv. 2-4).
1. _____ (v.2).
2. _____ (vv.3-4).

II. Cultivate Friendships That _____ (vv. 5-10).

A good friend is a real comfort in life!

- A. Be _____ in your friendships (vv. 5-6).
1. Real friends are _____ honest with their friends (v.5).
- The friendship must be of a nature that correction can be offered _____ received.
2. Real friends are willing to _____ you in order to _____ you (v.6; cf. v.17).
- B. Be _____ in your friendships (v.7).
1. People _____ friends are more selective (v.7a; cf. Psa. 119:63).
2. People _____ friends are more embracing (v.7b).
- C. Be _____ in your friendships (v.8).
1. Don't be a _____ -washy friend.
2. Do be a _____ friend (cf. Jam. 1:8).
- D. Be _____ in your friendships (vv. 9-10).
1. Seek to be a _____ (v.9).
2. Maintain _____ friendships (v.10a).
3. Do not take _____ of a friend (v.10b; cf. v.14).

III. Exercise _____ in Decisions (vv. 11-22).

Reveal wisdom by . . .

- A. Being a wise _____ (v.11).
—The life of the _____ should validate the father's _____.
- B. Being alert to consequences in _____ (v.12; cf. 22:3; Eph. 6:18).
- C. Being free of _____ (v.13; cf. 22:7).
- D. Being _____ in your actions (v.14, i.e., using common sense).
- E. Being careful who you _____ (vv. 15-16).
—A contentious woman cannot be _____!
- F. Being willing to _____ (v. 18).
- G. Being willing to _____ on one's life (v.19).
- H. Being _____ with what you have (v.20).
- I. Being immune to man's _____ (v.21).
—Praise either brings out the _____ or the worst in man.

IV. Plan Your Finances (vv. 23-27).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #97: _____.

- A. Plan your _____ (v.24).
1. Live on a _____ (v.23).
 2. Look toward _____ (v.24).
- B. Provide for this life's _____ (vv. 25-27).
1. Do the sowing and _____ (vv. 25-26).
 2. Enjoy the _____ of the harvest (v.27).