

**I. The Promise - Prov 23:17-18**

1. Don't envy sinners (**verse 17**)
    - Rea -sometimes they seem to have it all together
    - sometimes they seem to never have problems
    - Rea -I've noticed that my Facebook friends never seem to have the same problems I do.
    - Rea -Because it's hard to be a Christian we always feel the "grass is greener"
  2. By contrast... be zealous for the ways of the Lord
  3. Verse 17 is a
    - Rea -don't be... and a
    - do be...
  4. There is a future hope for believers (**verse 18**)
    - there is an encouragement that your "hope will not be cut off"
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. The future hope is harder to grasp than the present "success" of the wicked
    - believers have made our faith just a "future" thing... delayed gratification
  2. We reap what we sow... good and bad... but it is hard to "wait" for the good seed to sprout, life has a way of taking a while
  3. These two verses have a "watch out" flavor - from father to son

**II. The Petition - Prov. 23:19-21**

1. Listen (**verse 19**)
    - Rea -how often have we heard the word "listen" in the Proverbs?
    - Rea -"set" your heart - is it possible to just "set" yourself in the right way?
  2. Heart focus - on the right way
    - Rea -compare Colossians 3:1 - set your attention on things above
  3. Don't join some folk (**verse 20**)
    - A. Those who drink too much
    - B. Those who eat too much - gorge themselves
  4. The end result of verse 20 is found in **verse 21**
    - A. The drinkers and gluttons become poor and drowsy
    - Rea B. There is more in the Bible about drunkenness than gluttony - so to say that gluttony is just as bad as alcohol will not hold water (which is not to excuse gluttony)
    - Rea C. The upcoming Scripture tells the problem with alcohol - which is altogether passed over in our "modern" culture - we used to think alcohol was wrong,... in the days of temperance leagues
    - C. The end is drowsiness and rags
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. So, we judge present activities by future consequences?
  2. So, let's fast forward... what does it take to say no to gluttony and drunkenness?
  3. Why do you think that "social drinking" has somehow become okay in our world?
  4. When was the last time you heard a preacher speak out against alcohol?
    - has the alcohol changed?

### III. The Portrait - Prov. 23:29-32

1. The danger of drunkenness (**verse 29**)  
Rea -our writers sees this as a passage about being “addicted” to alcohol - does it really say that? So, slicing thin, there is drinking, “lingering” over alcohol (which is not addiction) and “addiction”
2. Who has sorrow? And woe? (**Verse 30**)  
-bloodshot eyes, and bruises?  
Rea -those who “linger” (not addicted or even problem drinkers) - these are not necessarily those who have “lost control” of their lives - they are the ones who “linger” and “gaze”
3. Different drinks are mentioned:  
-wine  
-mixed wine  
Rea -sometimes Scripture makes a difference between wine and hard liquor (or mixed drinks)
4. So, don’t “gaze” at it when it’s red (**verse 31**) - versus the glance at it  
-the look is appealing  
Rea A. The “look”  
-Adam and Eve looked at the fruit  
-David looked at Bathsheba  
-there is the lustful look  
B. So is the problem in the look? Or is the problem in the alcohol?
5. In the end it bites like a snake (**verse 32**)  
Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
  1. An inherent problem with alcohol is how much is too much?  
-for some to drink just a little is to be drunk - for others it takes more  
-for most to drink even a little impairs driving, and thinking - we do things that we would not have done if not for the numbing effect of alcohol. How many men have been unfaithful having been drinking?
  2. “Take a little wine for your stomach’s sake” - Paul’s admonition to Timothy  
-plainly means that Timothy did not drink, and had to be encouraged to do so... for it’s medicinal effect
  3. We often drink to “fit in” - if you’re concerned about “fitting in” you’re already in trouble  
-it’s the desire to “fit in” that makes us watch shows we ought not  
-it’s the desire to “fit in” that makes us gossip with the girls  
-it’s the desire to “fit in” that makes us wear clothing that is too revealing  
-it’s the desire to “fit in” that makes a pastor keep his mouth shut about the issues of our age

### IV. The Problem - Prov. 23:33-35

1. The seriousness of the problem is seen in these verses (**verse 33**)  
-this verse shows that alcohol affects what we see and confuses the mind

- Rea            -on the road? In your job? With your wife?
- Rea            -if a man is a bit jealous he will be even more so “under the influence”
- Rea            -if a man gets angry at his wife and hits her because he is a “little bit” under the influence, is that somehow okay?
2. **Verse 34** shows alcohol’s affects
- like sleeping on the high seas
- Rea            -alcohol controls you. Most people who have a problem don’t believe they have a problem... and that becomes the problem.
- Rea    3. Another example of alcohol’s effects - our writer says this is “abusing drugs” or “drinking heavily” but the Scripture doesn’t say this person is “drinking heavily”
4. So numbed that we don’t feel the “hit” - we just want another drink (**verse 35**)
- Rea    **Ideas and Questions:**
1. Most of the alcoholics I know (recovered or otherwise) are great sources to help us know that we can’t handle alcohol - so we ought leave it alone
  2. If we get this confused... just when does this happen? 1 drink or 2? The fact that we don’t know is key.
  3. Warnings about alcohol are throughout Proverbs... why don’t we hear anything about them? Instead it is somehow “acceptable” to be drinking, as long as you get someone to drive you home. How very, very foolish we are with this deadly thing.
  4. Discuss how many mistakes it takes to lose one’s life on the road. How many mistakes to ruin someone else’s life? Your reaction time is just a bit slower and you get behind the wheel of tons of steel and paralyze someone for life. You might walk away, but what about them?

Argile Smith/ SS Lesson for 8-2-20