

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 20

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

A Portrait of the Wise

Key Passage: Proverbs 27:20

Related Passages: Proverbs 21:17; 21:20;
23:20; 25:16; 25:28; 26:11 and 28:7

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The wise exercise self-control.

In today's materialistic society, have you noticed how many of the television and radio ads are geared towards the consumer with the phrase either implied or stated: "Come on you deserve it". One of the most blatant one that I heard just recently on a local news radio station features a popular singer pitching an advertisement for a free two night and three day trip to Los Vegas. She ends the commercial with a statement that goes — "It's Vegas, come on you know you want to, you deserve it, call right now."

So much of our modern day advertising that we are subjected to on radio, television and in magazines is geared to our desires and our need to have the latest and greatest thing. And we need it, want it now!

Some of us have problems in controlling our emotions, anger for one. For others it may be eating or getting enough exercise. For others it may be getting up in the morning on time. Whatever it may be, I am quite sure that we all have something in our lives that we would consider to be out-of-control. This week we are looking at the subject of exercising self-control. Let's explore this important subject together and see what God desires

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have.
 The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Verse Proverbs 27:20 (NIV) ^{27:20} Death and Destruction are never satisfied,</p> <p>and neither are the eyes of man.</p> <hr/> <p>^{21:17} He who loves pleasure will become poor; whoever loves wine and oil will never be rich.</p> <p>^{21:20} In the house of the wise are stores of choice food and oil, but a foolish man devours all he has.</p> <p>^{23:20} Do not join those who drink too much wine or gorge themselves on meat,</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>^{25:16} If you find honey, eat just enough— too much of it, and you will vomit.</p> <p>^{25:28} Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.</p> <p>^{26:11} As a dog returns to its vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.</p> <p>^{28:7} He who keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons disgraces his father.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father,? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins** to avoid
- ◆ **Promises** to believe
- ◆ **Examples** to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands** to obey
- ◆ **Knowledge** to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. Proverbs 27:20 in the New Living Translation says: "Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so human desire is never satisfied." Why is human desire never satisfied? What is the motivating force behind our desires? Consider Ecclesiastes 1:8.
5. What is it about someone who loves pleasure that causes them to become poor? Why do lovers of wine and oil never become rich (Proverbs 21:17)? Consider Proverbs 6:9-11; 11:24 and 21:17.
6. Can we as believers in Jesus Christ and followers of God, expect to have self-control in all areas of our lives? Why or Why not?
7. What causes a person to lose self-control in one or more areas of their lives? Consider James 4:1-4.
8. How do we gain more self-control in our lives? Consider Psalm 119:9-11; Galatians 5:13-26; 2 Timothy 3:1-5, 2 Peter 1:3-10.
9. How do we help a brother or sister in Christ who cannot exercise self-control in some area of their lives? Consider I Corinthians 8:9-13. Galatians 6:1-2, James 5:16, and Hebrews 10:24-25..
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 25:28

^{25:28} Like a city whose walls are broken down
is a man who lacks self-control.

Our memory verse for this week, Proverbs 25:28, says: "Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control." This verse states the seriousness of our lack of self-control. A city without walls is defenseless, and Proverbs is telling us that so are we if we do not have self-control in our lives.

How do we go about gaining self-control over our lives and the things in it that we cannot now exercise control over? James 4:7 to 4:10 says that we have to submit ourselves to God, resist the devil and he will flee from you. We need God's help to gain control over our lives. We need to call on him for that help and submit our lives to following Jesus.

If you have not committed your life to following Jesus Christ, do it now. Ask Jesus to forgive you of your sins against him, and ask him to be Lord of your life. Then submit to God your will to be in control and let God lead you on your daily journey with him. Take the time right now to ask Jesus into your life and begin walking down the path with him today. You will not regret it.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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