

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 25

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 14:32

Related Passages: Proverbs 11:4; 11:19;
11:21; and 11:23

Sermon Date: March 23, 2008

The righteousness that saves from death.

Our study in Proverbs this Easter week is looking at the righteousness of God that saves from death. When the Bible speaks about death, it tells us that there are two kinds of death: a physical death, which happens to all people when they cease from living and a spiritual death which is when people go through life without having a relationship with God and Jesus Christ.

The Easter story is not about candy or cute bunny rabbits, but it is the story about Jesus Christ and his coming to earth, living as a man, just as you and I, but more than that it is the story of his death and his rising from the dead. Because of him, each one of us has the chance to live eternally in heaven with God. What a glorious thought and assurance.

Revelations 21:8 speaks of the second death of man when it says: "But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murders, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—their place will be in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death." Let's look together at God's Word to understand the meaning of the righteousness that saves from death.

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 14:32 (NIV)</p> <p>14:32 When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down,</p> <p>but even in death the righteous have a refuge.</p> <hr/> <p>11:4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,</p> <p>but righteousness delivers from death.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>11:19 The truly righteous man attains life,</p> <p>but he who pursues evil goes to his death.</p> <p>11:21 Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished,</p> <p>but those who are righteous will go free.</p> <p>11:23 The desire of the righteous ends only in good,</p> <p>but the hope of the wicked only in wrath.</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. This week we are looking at a “righteousness that saves from death”.
 - a. To begin to understand the meaning of this statement, let’s go back to Proverbs Study #9 and refresh our memories as to a good definition of righteousness. What is righteousness? Consider Isaiah 11:1-9, 45:19, and Deut 32:3-4.
 - b. How can righteousness deliver someone from death or provide them with refuge? Consider Romans 5:12-15, 6:5-7 and 2 Peter 3:4-13.
 - c. Who is considered righteous in God’s eyes? Consider Romans 4:18-24, 2 Corinthians 5:20-21 and Romans 5:17-19.
 - d. Do you consider yourself righteous? On what basis?
5. The second half of Proverbs 14:32 says “even in death the righteous have a refuge”. In old testament times the Israelites established “cities of refuge” There were six of these cities where a person could go if they had killed someone accidentally and they were safe from retribution by a family member of the person who was killed. The KJV translates this phrase: “the righteous hath hope in his death”. How do you feel about God being our refuge or hope in death? Does it comfort you? Why?
6. Proverbs 11:4 says “wealth is worthless in the day of wrath”. What is the “day of wrath”. Consider Ezekiel 7:1-27 and Revelations 6:15-17. Why will wealth be worthless on that day?
7. What does God require of us in order for us to claim him as our hope and refuge?
8. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 11:4

^{11:4} Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.

Psalm 23

- 23:1 The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.
23:2 He makes me lie down in green pastures,
he leads me beside quiet waters,
23:3 he restores my soul.
He guides me in paths of righteousness
for his name's sake.
23:4 Even though I walk
through the valley of the shadow of death, [a]
I will fear no evil,
for you are with me;
your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.
23:5 You prepare a table before me
in the presence of my enemies.
You anoint my head with oil;
my cup overflows.
23:6 Surely goodness and love will follow me
all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD
forever.

Would you like to dwell in the house of the Lord forever, just as Psalm 23 promises? You can if you follow the words of Romans 10:9: "if you confess with your mouth, 'Jesus is Lord' and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved." Take the time right now to confess that Jesus is Lord and ask him to be your savior and Lord. It is that simple and God's Word is true—you will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Halleluiah! Praise the Lord. The Lord has risen, He has risen indeed!

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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