

CHAPTER 30

Proverbs 30:1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,

Some make Agur to be not the name of this author, but his character; he was a collector (so it signifies), a gatherer, one that did not compose things himself, but collected the wise sayings and observations of others, made abstracts of the writings of others.

Which some think is the reason why he says. ***Proverbs 30:3 I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.***

We must not bury our talent, even if it's just one. We have received the gift from God, so be a faithful steward of it. Agur may have collected what others have written. But I rather think it to be his name, which, no doubt, was well known then, though not mentioned elsewhere in scripture. Matthew Henry

Ithiel and Ucal are mentioned, either: As the names of his pupils, whom he instructed, or who consulted him as an oracle. Probably they wrote from him what he dictated, as Baruch wrote from the mouth of Jeremiah.

Ithiel signifies "God with me", the application of Immanuel, God with us.

Ucal signifies "the Mighty One", for it is upon one that is mighty that help is laid for us. The mighty God (***Isaiah 9:6***) with us, ***Isaiah 7:14***.

Three things Agur here aims at:

1. To abase himself. Before he makes confession of his faith he makes confession of his folly and the weakness and deficiency.

It is necessary that we be guided and governed by faith. Before he speaks concerning the Savior he speaks of himself as needing a Savior. He knows he nothing without Him; we must go out of ourselves before we go into Jesus Christ.

Agur speaks of himself as lacking righteousness, and having done foolishly, very foolishly. Especially when he reflects upon himself he states, Surely I am more brutish than any man. Every man has become brutish, (***Jeremiah 10:14***).

Agur, when he was applied to by others as wiser than most, acknowledged himself more foolish than any. Whatever high opinion others may have of us, it becomes us, to have low thoughts of ourselves.

Agur speaks of himself as wanting a revelation to guide him in the ways of truth and wisdom (***Proverbs 30:3***).

1. To advance Jesus Christ, and the Father in Him! (***Proverbs 30:4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?***):

Who ascended up into heaven. The Old-Testament saints expected the Messiah to be the Son of the Blessed, The great Redeemer, in the glories of His providence and grace, can neither be paralleled nor found out to perfection.

2. To assure us of the truth of the Word of God, and to recommend it to us, (***Proverbs 30:5-6 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.***).

Agur's pupils expect to be instructed by him in the things of God.

It is sure, and therefore we must trust our souls upon the Word of God, applied by faith, will give us peace in the midst of the greatest dangers, (***Psalms 46:1-2***).

The Word of God is sufficient, and therefore we must not add to it (***Proverbs 30:6; Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32***).

Proverbs 30:2 Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.

The fastest way to wisdom is to be a fool: for God resists the proud and gives grace to the lowly (***1 Corinthians 3:18-20; James 4:6, 10***).

The fastest way to folly is to think yourself wise: for God will destroy the proud (***Proverbs 26:12; Isaiah 5:21; Romans 1:20-25; 1 Corinthians 1:19-21; Galatians 6:3***).

Here are inspired Words of Agur, revealing his poor spirit and humble character at teaching Ithiel and Ucal. Note his use of "surely" to strengthen his admission. (***Proverbs 30:1***)

"Brutish" Of or pertaining to the brutes, or lower animals, as opposed to man. In want of intelligence or in failure to use reason: dull, irrational, uncultured, stupid.

He opens instruction to his students by claiming to be more ignorant than any man, like a brute beast; and there is no false humility here, for he speaks by prophetic inspiration.

Solomon showed the same humility; when offered anything by the LORD, he admitted he was but a child and asked for wisdom (**1Kings 3:5-9**).

And this humble spirit before God brought him great blessings of understanding and much more (**1Kings 3:10-13**).

Agur and Solomon are not alone, for we see this very same spirit also in:

- Moses (**Numbers 12:3**),
- Elihu (**Job 32:6-7**),
- David (**1Samuel 18:23; Psalm 131:1**),
- Asaph (**Psalm 73:21-22**),
- Jeremiah (**Jeremiah 1:6**),
- Daniel (**Daniel 2:30**),
- Amos (**Amos 7:14-15**),
- Paul (**Ephesians 3:8**).

Do you see a pattern? Great men of God do not claim to be wise, for their secret to success lies in their complete humility before their Lord. And this is God's order for things, as this brings Him the greater glory (**Romans 12:16; 1Corinthians 1:27**).

God accepts the man, broken in spirit and with a contrite heart (**Isaiah 66:1-2**).

God will bless the poor in spirit with riches of wisdom and other spiritual blessings (**Matthew 5:3; Luke 6:24**).

The man who says, "I do not know what to do," may stand still and see God work for him. Go to God this way today and become wise! (**2Chronicles 20:12, 17**)

None of us know as we ought to know, but we respond with confidence when confronting enemies of truth (**Job 33:1-3; 36:1-4; Luke 1:3; 1Corinthians 8:2; 14:20; 2Timothy 3:17**).

Has there ever been any meeker than our Lord Jesus? Never! He was lowly in heart, forsook promotional efforts, and never raised his voice in the street (**Matthew 11:29; 12:15-20**).

Proverbs 30:3 I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7).

The Loftiest Goal For Life Is Wisdom!

The highest development of our race is realized in the few men and women to whom God gives wisdom.

Not convinced? *"She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her: Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour: Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy is every one that retaineth her" (Proverbs 3:15-18).*

Wisdom provides great value, long life, riches, honor, pleasure, peace, life, and happiness should convince you! What else could you possibly desire!

Not convinced? *"How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver" (Proverbs 16:16)!*

"For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it" (Proverbs 8:11).

"For wisdom is a defence, and money is a defence: but the excellency of knowledge is, that wisdom giveth life to them that have it" (Ecclesiastes 7:12).

Only The Truly Hopeless Fools Pursue Money.

Now everyone wants to be wise! They want others to come knocking for answers to life's problems.

- Only a select few will pursue wisdom according to God's rules.
- Only the select few will obtain it.
- Only the select few know that wisdom starts by believing and admitting you know nothing at all.
- Only a select few use the grace of God to humble themselves to become truly wise and fulfill the highest calling in life.
- Only such a man, will God give humility, and he will be a great man (**1Corinthians 3:18-20**).

Wisdom is only for a select few, those who admit they know nothing at all. Is it too hard for you to admit? If so, you are with the great majority rushing through the wide gate to travel down the broad way to destruction.

If a man holds any self-confidence or lofty thoughts about himself, God will bring him down to a blithering idiot, where he was all along, but just didn't realize it.

Humility is the recognition of truth, that you are nothing, and the Most High is everything.

Here are Words of one of the wisest men ever, inspired Words of greatness! Covet these Words and the heart-felt conviction behind them! Strip your soul of self-confidence until you believe these Words about yourself! Become a fool! The more ignorant the better!

Humility is the key to open the treasure vaults of Heaven for wisdom.

If you do not abase and humble yourself before God and men, you will never even find crumbs of wisdom. You will waste your ridiculous life inhaling the fumes of human idiocy, which will you put under for your descent into darkness (**Proverbs 26:12**).

Consider your great wisdom: You arrived in life dirtying yourself.

It took you four years to color inside the lines,
It took you seven to ride a bike, sixteen to drive a car,
It took you to twenty-one to be trusted with voting,
It took you to forty to realize you are mortal,
It took you to sixty to know you wasted your life, and
It took you to eighty to fear what is next.

You will leave dirtying yourself. You will meet an angry God unprepared. And you think you are wise? It would have been better to not be born!

Now is the time to humble yourself! Defy your opinions! Curse your confidence! Damn your thoughts! Flush your intelligence! Memorize this Proverb and repeat it to God and all men. It is your only hope. Beg God for mercy!

The LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God (**Exodus 34:14**).

"God is jealous, and the LORD revengeth; the LORD revengeth, and is furious; the LORD will take vengeance on his adversaries, and he reserveth wrath for his enemies" (Nahum 1:2).

**God Hates Your Love Self!
God Hates Arrogance High Minded Opinions!
God Will Bring All Such Individuals Down!**

Any difference between you and others was by God's choice. Anything you have, which is nothing but vanity, was given to you by God Himself. Why do you think and speak about it as if you chose or earned it (**Proverbs 25:27; 1Corinthians 4:7**)?

Think soberly about yourself! Do not think so highly of yourself (**Romans 12:3; Galatians 6:3; 2Corinthians 10:12**).

David said, *"LORD, my heart is not haughty, nor mine eyes lofty: neither do I exercise myself in great matters, or in things too high for me" (Psalm 131:1).*

The man after God's heart, with glorious achievements and universal acclaim, denounces his own wisdom. So God gave him true wisdom in abundance (**1Samuel 18:5, 14-15, 30; 2Samuel 14:20**).

Solomon said, *"I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in."* He actually was a twenty-year-old genetic specimen with the best training and counselors the world could offer.

But Solomon knew the truth, he was an idiot in all matters of importance, due to the blinding control of sin on his heart (**Isaiah 44:20; Jeremiah 17:9**).

Therefore, humility is truly the principal thing! For wise Agur begins teaching wisdom by declaring total ignorance! See the comments on **Proverbs 30:2**.

The key to obtaining wisdom is humility, the rejection of all your wisdom and acceptance of all God's instructions.

If you lean to your own understanding at all, you will be cut off from even crumbs.

If you tear down all high thoughts and prostrate yourself before God, He will pour out a liberal blessing of wisdom on you.

True wisdom is simply rejecting all opinions, including your own, to dedicate yourself to God's Word (**Proverbs 3:5-6; Psalm 119:128; Isaiah 8:20; 2Timothy 3:16-17**).

Here is a great man in the earth, the man who can humble himself as a little child (**Matthew 18:1-4**).

God will be against any man who does not do this (**James 4:6**).

Before the Lord Jesus Christ, this humbling of ourselves ought to be easy. Let us say with John the Baptist, the greatest born of women, *"He must increase, but I must decrease" (John 3:30).*

Proverbs 30:4 Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if thou canst tell?

**Who Can Find Out Wisdom?
No Man Has! No Man Can!
No Man Will!**

Wisdom is a matter of revelation from God. Paul said, *"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (1Corinthians 2:11).*

The knowledge of God and wisdom is only by inspired revelation!

Proverbs 30 is an appendix to Solomon's Proverbs. Agur, a wise man, taught Ithiel and Ucal (**Proverbs 30:1**).

His lessons are an inspired revelation of wisdom, for they are called "*the prophecy*" (*Proverbs 30:1; 31:1*).

He introduced his lessons by first confessing his great natural ignorance (*Proverbs 30:2-3*).

He then began by proving man's inability to find out God and wisdom (*Proverbs 30:4*).

He finally defined the absolute necessity and sufficiency of Scripture (*Proverbs 30:5-6*).

The seven rhetorical questions here are to prove that no man can find out God or wisdom by human effort. The answer to each question is an obvious negative.

No man has gone to heaven, or come back, or conquered the elements to learn the ways and wisdom of God.

Agur forced Ithiel and Ucal to admit by force of reason there was no man. They could not name any man who had done such a thing, and they could not name his son.

Agur proceeded to teach that every inspired Word of God is pure and necessary (*Proverbs 30:5*).

Not a single Word was to be deleted or degraded.

Putting trust in God and His Words was the surest defense against dangers in this world or the next.

Furthermore, man's words were not to be added, for this would corrupt God's Words, and God would be angry (*Proverbs 30:6*).

The seven rhetorical questions are a device teaching man's inability to discover the real truth and wisdom of the universe.

Since knowledge and understanding are with God, what man has ascended up into heaven to learn them, or returned back to earth to teach them? No man! Having confessed his own ignorance, Agur used these questions to condemn all men of ignorance as well. Wisdom is beyond the reach of mortal men. (*Proverbs 30:2-4*)

The first two questions are also connected by the coordinating conjunction "or," which positively indicates a hypothetical alternative. Did God ascend? Or did He descend?

Applying the questions to God creates confusion. The questioning is rather rhetorical about man. No man had gone to heaven to get wisdom, nor had any man come from heaven with it. Agur taught Ithiel and Ucal man's dependence on God for wisdom.

Agur proceeded further to humiliate man in the face of God's glorious creation. Who, like God, has the wisdom

and power to control and harness the wind in his fists? No man!

God proved Job's inferior wisdom and power by a consideration of the wind (*Job 37:14-27*).

David and Jeremiah taught the same (*Psalms 135:5-7; Jeremiah 10:13; 51:16*).

Who, like God, has the wisdom and power to gather large amounts of water in the clouds? No man!

God proved Job's inferior wisdom and power by a consideration of the water in clouds (*Job 36:24-33; 37:11-24; 38:33-37*).

David and Jeremiah taught the same (*Psalms 135:5-7; 147:7-8; Jeremiah 10:13; 51:16*).

Who, like God, has the wisdom and power to establish all the ends of earth, to lay the foundation and build upon it? No man!

God proved Job's inferior wisdom and power by these very considerations (*Job 38:4-7*).

Solomon reasoned about wisdom's great value through God's use of it to create the world and settle the mountains (*Proverbs 8:25-26*).

Is there any such man? No, not one! Agur pressed further. **If** there is such a man, what is his son's name? They had to answer in the negative. There is neither man nor son that knows or understands these things! They are too high and wonderful for man (*Psalms 131:1*).

The seven questions are not simply answered with "God." The middle three questions are true of God, but that is not his argument. We have seen above that the first two questions create a hypothetical alternative. The last two questions create an unanswerable dilemma.

Agur taught there is no man or son that has the wisdom of God, Who created all things by understanding.

Man has no knowledge or wisdom of his own, and he cannot find out God's knowledge or wisdom by himself (*Isaiah 8:20*).

Agur knew it to be true of himself and all men, so he convinced his students by these rhetorical questions. Wisdom is a matter of revelation: God must give it by inspiration (*Deuteronomy 29:29*).

Agur will conclude his introduction by identifying, that perfect wisdom is in the inspired Words of God's Holy Scriptures (*Proverbs 30:5-6*)!

The wisdom of God is too high for man to reach (*Job 11:5-12*).

Though man might look and search in many places, he will not find it by any natural means (*Job 28:12-28*).

The wisdom of God is revealed supernaturally through inspiration, and then men have no need for trips to heaven or across the sea for it (*Deuteronomy 30:11-14; Romans 10:6-8*).

No wonder David considered God's Word so very delightful and precious (*Psalms 19:7-11*).

Those who see an allusion ^{passing reference} to eternal generation here have only found an illusion ^{believe but false}.

Their desperate efforts to find support for Origen's hallucination are again found wanting. God did not yet have a son, for the Word had not yet been made flesh (*Luke 1:35; John 1:14*).

David and Isaiah knew God's Son was future (*Psalms 89:19-37; Isaiah 7:14; 9:6*).

As in the personification of wisdom, many seek mystical allusions, where there are none. (*Proverbs 8:22-31*)

The rhetorical questions are nonsensical, **If** they are merely answered with "God." God and His name Jehovah were well known by all three men (*Proverbs 30:5, 9*).

Agur did not teach Ithiel and Ucal that God had created the wind, clouds, and earth. They already knew that.

Agur taught them that no man had wisdom even close to that of God. It is our privilege and duty to see a dark saying here, not childish questioning. (*Proverbs 1:6*)

Since only God has the infinite wisdom implied by our proverb, it is our blessing to value and treasure every single Word of His inspired Scriptures (*Proverbs 30:5-6; Matthew 4:4*).

Since every Word is pure, we cannot take any away (*Proverbs 30:5*).

We are told not to add our words (*Proverbs 30:6*)!

We are told not take away from God's Words nor add to them (*Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Revelation 22:18-19*).

Let us hold fast to a Bible that is Word perfect and keep every precept in it (*Psalms 119:128*).

No mortal man can ascend up to heaven, nor descend from it, to obtain wisdom. But Jesus Christ descended and then ascended to sit at God's right hand (*John 3:13; Ephesians 4:9*).

Jesus Christ made all things by His power; by Him all things consist; and He upholds all things by the Word of His power (*John 1:3; Colossians 1:17; Hebrews 1:3*).

In Him are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, and He has been made wisdom for you (*Colossians 2:3; 1Corinthians 1:30-31*).

Proverbs 30:5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.

A word is the smallest component of language that carries meaning.

In God's inspired Scriptures, every Word is specially chosen for value.

God has purified His inspired Words very carefully, as silver purified seven times in a refining fire, until they are perfectly pure (*Psalms 12:6*).

God will bless and protect any person that trusts Him and His Words.

David expressed the sense of this Proverb with these Words: "*As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the LORD is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him*" (*Psalms 18:30*).

God's way is perfect; He has examined and perfected His word; and He will protect those that trust Him. How do we trust God? We believe what He has written to us.

Do not question God's words! He has magnified His word above all His name, and He will not forgive any tampering with it (*Psalms 138:2; Revelation 22:18-19*).

Satan's questioning of God's words ruined our race, for which he is the father of lies (*Genesis 3:1; John 8:44*).

God mocks and ridicules textual critics and Bible skeptics (*1Corinthians 1:19-20; 1Timothy 6:20-21*).

Do you have a Word-perfect Bible? Do you trust each word?

Do you value the statements of Scripture as pure and right, so that you hate every contrary opinion (*Psalms 119:128; Isaiah 8:20*)?

Can you say with David, "*Thy word is very pure: therefore thy servant loveth it*" (*Psalms 119:140*)?

And, "*I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love*" (*Psalms 119:113*)?

Jesus and Paul had Word-perfect Bibles, and they never saw or heard about the originals! Any person referring to originals is either confused or lying.

- The originals were never in a book for anyone to use.
- The originals were never appealed to by anyone for any matter.

- The Bible itself never recommended their use. Copies, translations, copies of translations, and translations of copies have always been used. You just need to find God's Bible.

Consider how Jesus used copies and translations. He defended the resurrection by "am" (*Matthew 22:31-33*). Jesus declared His deity by the same word (*John 8:58*).

Jesus argued for His divinity from the noun "lord" (*Matthew 22:41-46*).

Jesus rebuked the Jews by the noun "gods," when He declared that Scripture's Words "cannot be broken" (*John 10:33-36*).

What about Paul? He defended salvation by grace and the spiritual promises to Abraham by the difference between the singular and plural of "seed" (*Galatians 3:16*).

Paul knew God's Scriptures used the singular "seed" in all promises to Abraham, as *Genesis 12:7; 13:15-16; 15:5, 13, 18; 17:8-10, 19; 21:12; 22:17-18; 24:7*.

To their shame and condemnation, modern versions corrupt God's "seed," flagrantly and profanely destroying Paul's lesson.

Did Paul truly trust every Word of God? He sure did. He based his argument for the end of the old covenant on the integrity and meaning of the Word "new" and the three words "yet once more" (*Hebrews 8:13; 12:26-27*).

Paul exalted God's role in our salvation by changing from the active to passive voice of the verb "know" (*Galatians 4:9*).

Do you trust your Bible like Jesus and Paul trusted theirs? Do you have the Bible you can trust?

Since the English Revised Version (1881), new Bibles appear at the rate of one per year.

- They add words, delete words, and change words to defy God's inspiration and preservation of pure Words.
- The textual critics and profane skeptics behind these versions do not trust God or His Words;
- They trust themselves and their carnal profession instead.

Do you trust what the words of your Bible teach? Do you train your children as the Bible orders (*Proverbs 29:15*)?

- Do you practice firstfruits giving (*Proverbs 3:9-10*)?
- Do you reject the company of fools (*Proverbs 14:7*)?
- Do you submit to your husband (*Ephesians 5:22-24*)?

- Do you obey all ordinances of civil government (*1Peter 2:13-17*)?
 - Do you give thanks in everything (*1Thessalonians 5:18*)?
 - Do you reject all bitterness (*Ephesians 4:31-32*)?
 - Do you always speak with grace (*Colossians 4:6*)?
- The purest trust in God is your trust of His Words that affect your life (*John 14:23-24; 1 John 2:3-5*).

It is easy to speak of trusting God as a fair Being, but the true test of your faith is your willingness to alter your life now and trust Him for eternal life to come.

If you trust His Words about this life and the next, He will be a protecting shield to you.

Are you attending a church where every pure Word of God is preached (*2Timothy 4:1-4*)?

Or are the assemblies filled with entertainment and the sermons with fables and illustrations?

It is your duty to find a church where every Word of God is preached with confidence and conviction.

For man shall not live by bread alone, but by every Word of God (*Matthew 4:4; Luke 4:4*).

Proverbs 30:6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.

The Bible is totally sufficient for all righteousness, wisdom, and truth (*2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:19-21*).

There is no need or room for further revelation, human rationalization, or religious tradition (*1Timothy 6:3-5, 20-21*).

Adding your thoughts to His inspired Words is sheer arrogance and folly (*Deuteronomy 4:2; 12:32; Matthew 28:20*).

Since He has magnified His Word above all His name, He will not take your profane additions lightly (*Psalms 138:2*).

He will judge you severely for adding your lying thoughts to His pure Words (*Proverbs 30:5; Revelation 22:18*).

Wise Agur had just taught his two pupils, Ithiel and Ucal, that every word of God is pure (*Proverbs 30:1, 5*).

Though Agur confessed his own brutish ignorance, he exalted the glory and wisdom of God Himself (*Proverbs 30:2-4*).

Agur knew that God had revealed His wisdom to the sons of men in the Holy Scriptures, the Bible (*Deuteronomy 29:29; Psalm 19:7-11*).

Therefore, Agur was adamant that Ithiel and Ucal not think outside Scripture, but rather submit in reverent fear to the Author of the Bible, the Creator God of heaven and earth (*Isaiah 66:2, 5*).

There are no better ideas! Reject the thought! All the thoughts of man are vain! All of them! (*1Corinthians 1:19-20; 3:19-20*)

The thoughts of modern man are even more foolish and profitless. God has spoken, and that settles every issue, controversy, and question. Let God be true, but every man a liar (*Psalm 119:128; Isaiah 30:8; Romans 3:4*)!

Progress in learning is the prosperity of fools (*Proverbs 1:32; Deuteronomy 32:15; Psalm 69:22; 92:7*).

It is God's blinding judgment on men as they sink deeper and deeper into a moral cesspool of ignorance and depravity.

But Bible corrupters have been around for a long time (*2Corinthians 2:17*).

They have added to and taken away from the Scriptures from the beginning, when Satan began his conquest of the human family by altering the Words of God (*Genesis 3:1-6*).

They are worse today than ever, as Paul warned Timothy (*1Timothy 4:1-3; 2Timothy 3:13*).

Through extended education and the information explosion, human learning is expanding geometrically, but without any truth (*2Timothy 3:6-7*)!

Men are blinder today than they were 500 years ago.

Consider a few additions that God has and will reprove as lies!

The Mother Church adds the confused and contradictory hallucinations of the so-called church fathers.

The Seventh Day Adventists add the visions of the afflicted Ellen Harmon.

The Mormons add the plagiarized fantasies of Joseph Smith.

The Jehovah's Witnesses add the failed forecasts of the perjured Charles Russell.

The Charismatics add the word-faith delusions of Benny Hinn.

Contemporary Christians add the psycho-babble of James Dobson.

Look around! Men have added all kinds of heresies to God's Words.

- A fish hat on the pope,
- No meat on Fridays,
- Vows of celibacy,

- Calling priests "father,"
- Mary's assumption into heaven,
- Purgatory,
- Infant baptism,
- Extreme Unction,
- Candle sales,
- A church office called cardinal,
- Required confession of sins to a priest,
- Mary's sinless perfection,
- Calling three meals a day during Lent a fast,
- Reverence for Latin, and
- Nuns' habits. And these are just a few of Rome's additions!

Men also have added to God's Words:

- Same-sex marriages,
- Casual worship,
- Women preachers,
- Sodomy as an acceptable lifestyle,
- Divorce for any cause,
- Labor unions,
- Disrespectful children,
- Christian rap,
- Baptism by sprinkling,
- Seeker sensitive compromise,
- Partnership marriages,
- Time-out for training children,
- Gender-neutral Bible versions and hymnals,
- And many more inventions.

The Proverb teaches wisdom. God has revealed knowledge and understanding in His Word, and He offers it to those that will read it for themselves or hear it from one of His preachers. What will you do with it? Or do you prefer your own thoughts?

Have you joined a church that adds to God's Words? He will reprove and expose you as a liar for adding to His Words. Humble yourself before His Words today!

Proverbs 30:7 Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:

Do you pray wisely? Do you pray fervently? You reveal your heart by your prayers.

Life is short, and pleasing God should be your greatest ambition. Only a few men use their lives well in pursuing this noblest of goals.

Agur expressed himself strongly to God for two crucial factors in living a life to honor God. ¹Admitting the

brevity of life, and ²confessing his great need, he appealed aggressively for these two important things.

Agur's prayer was not long, for content and fervency are more important than length. God rejects the vain repetitions and heathen practice of the Rosary (*Matthew 6:7-8*).

Though Agur had other needs, he knew the supreme priority of spiritual blessings. His first request was directly spiritual; his second was subordinating his carnal needs to it.

If you always sought God's kingdom and righteousness first, he would take care of the rest (*Matthew 6:33*).

What did Agur request? He first asked God to save him from vanity and lies (*Proverbs 30:8*).

Agur begged for deliverance from the foolish and profitless ideas of men and the empty and worthless life this world offers.

Agur asked the Lord to keep him from believing the deceitful lies of men.

Agur knew that worldly opinions and activities were vain and vexing (*Psalms 119:113; Ecclesiastes 1:1-3; 12:8; Matthew 6:24; 1Timothy 4:8; 2Timothy 3:1-5; James 4:4; 1John 2:15-17*).

What did Agur request? He then asked God to give him only convenient and modest success (*Proverbs 30:8*).

Agur wanted to avoid both poverty and wealth, knowing that each brought its own set of temptations and trials (*Proverbs 30:9*).

Agur did not pray, against carnal difficulties each could bring, but rather for their effect on his service to God. Riches could puff up his mind and turn his heart away from God, and poverty could lead him to steal and disgrace the name of God (*Proverbs 1:10-19; 6:30-31; 18:11; 28:11; 1Timothy 6:6-10*).

These two requests were very wise and noble. Agur did not use prayer to satisfy his lusts, as most men do when they pray (*James 4:3*).

Agur sought the glory of God, the truth, and the spiritual good of his soul, even if it meant sacrificing some success.

As in Solomon's case, obtaining wisdom to please God was more important than riches (*1Kings 3:5-13*).

As with Moses, reproach with God's people was better than sinful pleasures (*Hebrews 11:24-26*).

Consider Agur's aggressive prayer. He required the things of the Lord! He did not merely suggest an idea or

propose a thought; he demanded the blessing, like Jacob long before him (*Genesis 32:24-28*)!

Agur was intensely serious about these requests, for he knew they were holy petitions. He then confessed his definite mortality, appealing to the immortal God for a speedy answer before his short life would be over (*Psalms 90:10-12*).

Agur's prayer surely worked, for it was fervent in application and righteous in content (*James 5:16*).

Do you pray more for carnal or spiritual things? When did you last pray for wisdom (*James 1:5*)? When did you last pray, for a heart to fear God (*Psalms 86:11*)?

When did you last pray for the Holy Spirit (*Luke 11:13*)?

When did you last pray for God to make you keep His precepts (*Psalms 119:35-37*)?

When did you last pray for the Lord to expose your errors (*Psalms 139:23-24*)?

When did you last wrestle with God for these things, refusing to take no for an answer? Importunate and persistent prayers get answers; comfortable and quick prayers of convenience do not (*Luke 11:5-13; 18:1-8; Romans 12:12; Ephesians 6:18*).

Proverbs 30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

**How Wise And Prudent Are You?
Do You Fear Wealth As Much As Poverty?
Do You Know Financial Success Is A Vain Lie?**

Here are the most important prayer requests you can ever pray! Agur gave inspired instruction to his two students about the danger and deception of money and riches, and your future success and tranquility depends on it as well. Agur had a great desire for his petitions (*Proverbs 30:7*).

Agur knew the dangerous consequences of not obtaining them (*Proverbs 30:9*).

Agur understood the deceitful and damning nature of both financial success and poverty,

Agur begged God to deliver him from the arrogance of being rich and from the temptations of being poor. He begged for a moderate income.

Agur really prayed for two things:

- To be saved from vanity and lies, and

- To obtain only moderate success in life, avoiding both poverty and riches.

What vanity and lies are under view? The vanity and lies of riches and success! How so?

Let the connection, and context, and Bible drive the interpretation, since there is no hint at lies of false religion, evolution, false gods, a cheating spouse, hypocrites, perjurers, or other such lies. (*1Corinthians 2:13*)

Vanity is anything futile, profitless, worthless, or empty.

You know what a lie is. Riches are both! David wrote, "*Surely men of low degree are vanity, and men of high degree are a lie: to be laid in the balance, they are altogether lighter than vanity*" (*Psalms 62:9*).

God condemns men and their empty accomplishments. Agur wanted to be saved from wasting his life chasing the illusion of riches and success (*Proverbs 23:4-5; Psalm 119:136-137; 1Timothy 6:6-10*).

Think honestly and wisely about money! It does not satisfy, even when you get lots of it; this is vanity (*Ecclesiastes 4:8; 5:10*)!

The vanity of money disappears quickly (*Proverbs 27:24; Ecclesiastes 5:11*)!

The vanity of money corrupts morals (*Mark 10:23-25; 1Timothy 6:9-10; Titus 1:11*)!

The vanity of money chokes out and destroys fruitfulness (*Matthew 6:24; 13:22*).

You cannot take money with you (*Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 12:13-21; 1Timothy 6:7*).

What vanity! Are you wise enough to believe these warnings and pray against wealth?

A wise man prays for a moderate income and estate, so he can avoid the temptations to sin on either end of the financial spectrum (*Proverbs 30:9*).

He prays for contentment, and he learns contentment, knowing it is the true measure of success (*1Timothy 6:6; Philippians 4:10-13*).

A wise man maximizes life by walking with God, regardless of assets or enemies (*Hebrews 13:5-6*).

A wise man fully despises obsession with filthy lucre (*1Timothy 3:3, 8; Titus 1:7; 1Peter 5:2*).

This advice is only in the Bible! The fools around you adore riches! They have sacrificed their lives to vanity and lies!

Proverbs 30:9 Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

Prosperity And Poverty Are Dangerous!

Riches lead to self-confidence and security, which cause a man to forget the LORD.

Destitution leads to desperation, which causes a man to consider stealing and reproaching the LORD's name. A wise man will ask for a moderate portion of success to avoid both of these dangers. Lord, give us such wisdom!

This verse explains Agur's sober prayer for two things in life (*Proverbs 30:7-9*).

A wise man asks first for salvation from sin, vanity and lies; then he asks for convenient food, neither poverty nor riches.

Here is a wise man's careful reflection on what he needs in life! And he begs God for them. Agur has learned the spiritual wisdom that moderate success is just right!

Agur fears only one thing - sin! He does not fear the troubles of riches, or the difficulty and shame of poverty.

A wise man fears them both for the temptations to sin they create!

Here is practical holiness that should convict and provoke our spirits. The name and service of the LORD is Agur's primary concern to be delivered from both extremes.

Agur's relationship with God, is of much greater concern than any economic condition. Amen!

Only fools think riches would help them serve God. All the evidence refutes it.

Pharaoh was the richest man of his generation, but he literally said, "Who is the LORD?"

When God blessed Israel, they rebelled and forgot Him. "*But Jeshurun waxed fat, and kicked: thou art waxen fat, thou art grown thick, thou art covered with fatness; then he forsook God which made him, and lightly esteemed the Rock of his salvation*" (*Deuteronomy 32:15*).

Riches are a horrible temptation and often a curse to men who fear God and love holiness (*Deuteronomy 6:10-12; 8:10-14; 31:20; Nehemiah 9:25-26; Job 31:24-28*).

Jesus plainly warned about the cares of this world and deceitfulness of riches choking out the Word (*Matthew 13:22*).

The rich young ruler turned away from Jesus, when faced with choosing his money or the Lord (*Matthew 19:16-22*).

What a horrible exchange! Jesus said a camel could go through the eye of a needle before a rich man could enter the kingdom (*Matthew 19:23-24*).

Lord, teach us hatred for the love of riches, and to love and follow Jesus Christ without temptations.

We have economic lives. But when we must buy, we should treat it as if we had nothing; when we must use the financial world, we should soberly limit the use (*1Corinthians 7:29-31*).

Our goal is to be without carefulness to better please the Lord (*1Corinthians 7:32*).

We cannot serve two masters, so the goal of being a rich Christian is folly (*Matthew 6:24; 1Timothy 6:6-10*).

True success is godliness with contentment (*1Timothy 6:6*). Learn it!

A contented man is always happier than a rich man! And he doesn't have the worries! **If** the Lord promised to be with us, we should be content with anything (*Hebrews 13:5*).

With Him as our Portion forever, there is nothing in earth or heaven to attract us (*Psalms 73:25-26*).

It was this blessed contentment Paul learned by Christ's strength for all his circumstances (*Philippians 4:11-13*).

Are you content with necessities? Jacob prayed for food and raiment (*Genesis 28:20-22*).

Jesus taught us to pray for our daily bread (*Matthew 6:11*).

And Paul encouraged Timothy to be content with food and raiment (*1Timothy 6:8*).

It is the wise man that does not seek riches who may be blessed with them (*1Kings 3:10-13*)!

**Ah, Lord God,
Thou Art Very Great!**

Don't think for a moment you have given up much, as Peter once did! For Jesus promised to return 10,000% in this world, and eternal life in the world to come (*Mark 10:28-31*)!

Now that is an exchange with which to live and die! The rich young ruler was a loser!

Poverty is hardly a consideration in our nation. But we also want the Lord to save us from that side of the economic coin, lest we despair, or are tempted to sin to provide our needs.

Oaths were often used to extract confessions from suspects, including thieves, thus our Proverb's Words (*Exodus 22:10-12; Leviticus 5:1; 1Kings 8:31-32*). See the comments on *Proverbs 29:24*.

With sufficient means for subsistence, there are fewer temptations to steal, covet, deny the poor, neglect giving, or other financial sins that reproach the LORD. It is wisdom to pray for a minimum of mercy to keep the righteous from temptation (*Psalms 125:3*).

Consider the spiritual weight of his prayer. Many pray against poverty! But few pray against prosperity!

Is it possible in this age of greed and covetousness for a man to pray against poverty, and prosperity? Is your affection on things above (*Colossians 3:2*)?

Can your soul make the prayer sincerely? Do you yet mind earthly things (*Philippians 3:18-19*)?

A wise man is willing to sell all that He has to buy the spiritual treasures of Christ (*Matthew 13:44-46*).

A wise man perceives the exchange is entirely in His favor! The world loses, by taking the cursed riches off his hands! He gains his soul in the trade (*Matthew 16:26*)!

A wise man wins, by obtaining the true riches of glory, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory (*Colossians 1:27*)!

Proverbs 30:10 Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.

Accusations must be just and merciful, especially against the afflicted or oppressed, who cannot easily defend themselves.

Unnecessary harshness could cause them to curse you, which will then bring God's hard judgment on you. God requires, under both testaments, compassion and mercy for the lowly, weak, or oppressed.

The God of the Bible, Jehovah by name, protects the lowly, weak, and oppressed:

He commands that all others do the same. He protects orphans and widows (*Psalms 68:5; 82:1-4*).

He protects animals (*Proverbs 12:10; Deuteronomy 22:6; 25:4*).

He demands that men speak up when they are able to help those who cannot defend themselves (*Proverbs 24:11-12; 31:8-9*).

Servants or slaves were a low class of men, easily afflicted or oppressed by masters, and with little protection by ordinary means of justice or redress.

Servants or slaves depended on fairness and kindness from their masters, so God protected them by a variety of duties required of their masters (*Leviticus 25:39-46; Deuteronomy 15:12-15; 23:15-16; 24:14-15; Colossians 4:1*).

This Proverb protects servants or slaves from false or harsh accusations from others inside the household. And false or harsh accusations from those outside could also provoke their masters and lead to deprivation or punishment.

The Proverb condemns accusations that were slanderous (a false accusation), trivial (unnecessary), or harsh (unmerciful).

A servant or slave's lowly status did not stop accusations of wrongdoing that were given honestly, for a major offence, and without prejudice or revenge.

Respect of persons in judgment, either low or high, is wrong (*Exodus 23:3; Leviticus 19:15*).

The lowly do not deserve sympathy when guilty of crimes (*Proverbs 6:30-31; Genesis 21:25-26; Leviticus 19:17; 1Samuel 26:19*).

How important is this matter? Almighty God defends and judges those with no power to protect themselves, so beware (*Proverbs 22:22-23; 28:27; Deuteronomy 10:18; 15:9; Psalm 10:14, 18; 146:9*).

Deal carefully, judge lightly, and choose to err on the side of liberality and mercy, and God will bless you. Do justly and love mercy (*Proverbs 19:17; 21:13; 22:16; Isaiah 58:6-11; Micah 6:8*).

Consider an example. Jacob moved his family to Egypt, where through a succession of kings they became servants of the Egyptians.

The accusation was made that unless they were oppressed, they would become too numerous for the Egyptians (*Exodus 1:8-14*).

Then Israel cried unto the Lord, and He heard them (*Exodus 2:23-25*).

Think ten plagues, dead firstborn, a drowned army, and a plundered and ravaged nation! Be careful about accusing a servant!

Consider another example. The scribes and Pharisees, religious elite of the Jews, accused the lowly apostles to their Master Jesus (*Matthew 15:1-2*).

It had been better for them not to have left their homes that day! Jesus promptly and publicly took them to task for their hypocrisy and vain religion, shaming them before the multitude (*Matthew 15:3-11*).

When informed that the Pharisees were offended, He condemned them further (*Matthew 15:12-14*)!

Consider another example. Judas Iscariot was a thief (*John 12:6*):

He conspired with the Jews against the Servant Jesus for the price of a servant (Matt 26:15; Ex 21:32).

Jesus cursed Judas, and he ended up without the money, swallowed up with guilt and grief, and a disemboweled suicide in a worthless field (*Psalm 109:6-20; Matthew 18:7; 26:24; 27:3-10; Acts 1:16-20*).

Be careful about accusing a servant, especially the Son of God!

Consider another example: The Jews hated Jesus, and they despised and rejected Him, hid their faces from Him, and accused Him of horrible crimes before God (*Isaiah 53:3-4; Matthew 9:34; 12:24; 26:65; John 8:48*).

God leveled the city of Jerusalem to the ground because they so treated their holy Servant and Visitor (*Luke 19:43-44*).

Be careful about accusing a servant, especially the Son of God! Kiss Him instead (*Psalm 2:12*)!

To be sure of godliness, speak evil of no man (Titus 3:2).

Worry more about the beam in your own eye than the mote in another's (*Matthew 7:3-5*).

Love mercy over judgment (*James 2:13*).

Remember the ten thousand talents you were forgiven when considering the hundred pence owed you (*Matthew 18:21-35*).

Let love cover what it can (*Proverbs 10:12; 17:9*).

Do you understand Christian liberty? God has left many incidental matters of life to each believer's choice or preference.

You have no right to criticize or accuse about these choices. Paul wrote, "*Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? to his own master he standeth or falleth. Yea, he shall be holden up: for God is able to make him stand*" (*Romans 14:4*).

Does Solomon's Proverb extend beyond what you first thought?

Let every man or woman in a position of authority practice fairness and gentleness to fully keep the righteousness of God indicated by this Proverb.

Let no civil ruler oppress any under him (*Ecclesiastes 5:8*).

Let every employer deal fairly (*Colossians 4:1*).

Let every father avoid discouraging his children (*Colossians 3:21*).

Let every husband honor his wife (*1Peter 3:7*).
Let every pastor despise respect of persons (*1Timothy 5:21*).

Christian reader, you are a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ. If you live godly in Christ Jesus, you will be persecuted, and some will think they are even pleasing God (*Isaiah 66:5; 2Timothy 3:12*).

Hear your Master, *"No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of me, saith the LORD" (Isaiah 54:17).*

Proverbs 30:11 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.

Agur taught inspired wisdom for your life through sets of four things (*Proverbs 30:11-31*).

Here is the first of four kinds of men, identified by particular sins.

All Children Dishonor Their Parents To Varying Degrees

There are some who are exceptionally perverse and profane. They curse their father and will not bless their mother. They are cruel monsters.

The Word *"generation"* is used here to describe a kind of man, a kind of person, a specific type of individual.

It is not a prophecy about all the people born at some time in the future, when children would be rebellious, for all ages have had such sinners.

It is not a direct reference to the evil men living at the time of Jesus Christ, for such a use would be unique in the book of Proverbs and without practical wisdom for life.

The four generations might be loosely connected to the four temperament types:

- Sanguine - Confidently optimistic and cheerful,
- Choleric - Easily moved to anger,
- Melancholy - A feeling of thoughtful sadness, and
- Phlegmatic - Showing little emotion

Each temperament has instinctive tendencies.

But the wisdom taught is more than temperamental disposition: the four lessons are specific sins and their related duties. Rather than assigning temperaments to each generation, learn the sin and corresponding wisdom of each generation.

The first generation, or kind of evil person, is cruel and rebellious to parents.

They show a vile heart toward authority, specifically the first and most tender one we meet in life.

Their profane rebellion forms and delivers a curse against their father, a desire or intent for his injury or death.

They will not say or do anything kind to the woman who gave birth to him.

This wicked individual is not worthy of the air it pollutes. God considers the crime to deserve horrific judgment (*Proverbs 20:20; 30:17; Exodus 21:17; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 27:16*).

There are lessons to be discovered by study (*Proverbs 1:6*).

The world has always had ungrateful children. What should you learn?

¹ There are at least five lessons: ¹God honors parents highly; ²Wisdom identifies these wicked brats as brute beasts, deserving severe judgment; ³You must avoid any tendency toward this sin; ⁴You must train it out of your children; and ⁵You must see the same lesson applying to all spheres of human authority from God.

² God created the man and woman:

- Designed their desire for sexual intimacy and its reproductive results, limited both things to marriage.
- Ordained the office of parent, divided it between fathers and mothers, gave them great authority and honor.
- Chose the specific, man and woman for your parents, and gave you to them, helpless and ignorant.
- God did not ask your opinion before His choice, and He does not care about your opinion now.
- Parental validity and authority are derived from God, and the Bible reveals these facts.

- Reproduction and the office of parent did not evolve from primordial slime, as educated idiots propose. They do so today, in profane hatred for God and the Bible.
- The concept of parental authority is by divine wisdom. God ordained the office of parent, and He gave strict laws to define it. He provides severe punishments for infractions, and great rewards for compliance (*Proverbs 20:20; 23:22; 30:17; Exodus 20:12; 21:15, 17; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 21:18-21; 27:16; Ephesians 6:1-3*).

³ You must obey and honor your parents, regardless of age (*Proverbs 23:22*).

It does not matter how they treated you, for God ordained the office and person in it (*Romans 13:1-7; 1Peter 2:18-21*).

Honor is broader than obedience, and it means treating them with special regard.

Since they took care of you when you were helpless, you owe the same to them in old age (*1Timothy 5:4*).

Do you treat your parents totally different than the evil generation described?

⁴ You must also teach this rule of wisdom to your children and enforce their obedience to it, lest they destroy your peace and bring God's curse on their dysfunctional lives (*Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 22:6, 15; 23:13-14; 29:15*).

God gave them to you totally ignorant and morally depraved, and it is your duty to conform their will to submit to His ordained authority.

If you neglect this duty, you hate your children and yourself (*Proverbs 3:12; 10:1; 13:24; 17:21, 25*).

⁵ The lesson extends beyond parents to all authority. The wicked wretch that resents and defies his parents will have problems with authority in marriage, in the workplace, in society, and in the church.

God considers him no better than a rabid dog (*Jude 1:8-10; 2Peter 2:10-12*).

The Darwinists are often shocked by brutality in the world, but they are too arrogant and ignorant to admit their failure to follow God's laws for parental honor.

You live in the perilous times of the last days, when an effeminate brand of Christianity has corrupted Bible godliness, and one of its dangerous traits is disobedience to parents (*2Timothy 3:1-7*).

What is the cure? The sound preaching of God's inspired Word (*2Timothy 3:14 - 4:4*).

How should it be preached? With thundering power, as John the Baptist did to reconcile parents and children in his generation (*Malachi 4:5-6; Luke 1:17*).

Proverbs 30:12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

Agur taught inspired wisdom for your life through sets of four things (*Proverbs 30:11-31*).

Here is the second of four kinds of men, identified by particular sins.

Most men are self-righteous to varying degrees, but there are some who are exceptionally haughty in their religious arrogance. They are pure in their own eyes, and yet they are not washed from their sins.

The Word "generation" is used here to describe a kind of man, a kind of person, or a specific type of individual.

It is not a prophecy about all the people born at some time in the future, when men would be very self-righteous, for all ages have had such sinners.

It is not a direct reference to the evil men living at the time of Jesus Christ, for such a use would be unique in the book of Proverbs and without practical wisdom for life.

The four generations might be loosely connected to the four temperament types:

- Sanguine - Confidently optimistic and cheerful,
- Choleric - Easily moved to anger,
- Melancholy - A feeling of thoughtful sadness, and
- Phlegmatic - Showing little emotion

Each temperament has instinctive tendencies. But the wisdom taught is more than temperamental disposition: the four lessons are specific sins and their related duties. Rather than assigning temperaments to each generation, learn the identified sin and corresponding wisdom of each generation.

The second generation, or kind of evil person, is self-righteous about his own purity.

The self righteous, has a haughty heart toward the Word of God, presuming that it does not apply to him.

The self righteous is confident in his own wisdom and standard of holiness,

The self righteous looks down on others as inferior and lords it over them in speech and conduct.

The self righteous feels God is obligated to accept him and will most certainly do so.

The self-righteous sees no need for self-examination or repentance.

What is self-righteousness? It is a woman despising an adulteress, while defrauding her husband six nights of the week (*1Corinthians 7:1-5*).

Self-righteousness is a foolish man with a big mouth thinking that preaching about the tongue is for others (*2Corinthians 13:5*).

Self-righteousness is an obese woman eating three desserts at the church potluck, yet condemns wine (*Luke 21:34*).

Self-righteousness is the odious woman refusing to learn graciousness due to haughtiness (*Proverbs 27:22*).

Self-righteousness is the haughty girl ridiculing a warning and stating that it would never happen to her (*1Corinthians 10:12*).

Self-righteousness is Simon the Pharisee despising the sinful woman at Jesus' feet (*Luke 7:36-50*).

Self-righteousness is the Pharisee thanking God that he is not as bad as the publican (*Luke 18:9-14*).

Self-righteousness is the Jews condemning the man born blind and his parents for asking questions they could not answer (*John 9:13-34*).

Self-righteousness is the man who will not say he is sorry, even when he is proven wrong.

Self-righteousness is the man who brags of his relationship with God, but cannot get along with others.

Self-righteousness is the woman who says the Spirit taught her and she does not need the Bible.

There are lessons to be discovered only by study (*Proverbs 1:6*).

The world has always had haughty and self-righteous people. What should you learn? There are at least five lessons:

¹ **God hates self-righteousness;** He only accepts the humble; you must learn to hate this sin; you must avoid any tendency toward it; and you must train it thoroughly out of your children.

² **God hates the self-righteous.** He condemned proud Jews saying, "I am holier than thou" (*Isaiah 65:1-7*).

Jesus blasted the religious leaders of his day for self-righteousness (*Luke 16:15; 18:9-14*).

They had perverted God's law by false definitions (*Luke 10:25-37*), and

They despised sinners (*Luke 7:36-50*).

Jesus did not come for the self-righteous, and He expected His disciples to exceed their pitiful standards (*Matthew 5:20; Mark 2:15-17*).

³ **God loves the poor in spirit** - those broken and contrite for their sins and sinfulness (*Psalms 34:18; 51:16-17; 138:6; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2*).

Jesus came into this world to save sinners, and Paul admitted he was chief among them (*1Timothy 1:15*).

God resists the proud, but God gives grace to the humble (*1Peter 5:5-6*).

The poor in spirit are blessed heirs of heaven (*Matthew 5:3*).

If you come to Jesus Christ any other way, He will not receive you (*Mark 2:17*).

⁴ **You must hate self-righteousness,** for it is a very damning sin. Once allowed into your thinking, you will reject the very correction and instruction you need to please God, for you will believe you are free from serious faults (*Proverbs 26:12; Galatians 6:3*).

You will resent parents or pastors who try to correct, rebuke, teach, or warn you. You must become a fool, admit you are nothing, and despise your own heart (*Jeremiah 17:9; 1Corinthians 3:18; Ephesians 3:8*).

⁵ **You cannot afford any self-deception in this matter.** You are a sinner, with sinful desires, and sinful tendencies. Therefore, you must apply all preaching and teaching to yourself, not to others.

The hypocrite who wants to remove the speck from another's eye while having a beam in his own has a severe problem with self-righteousness (*Matthew 7:3-5*).

Therefore, you must dread the very thought of hardening your heart against instruction (*Proverbs 28:14*).

Train your children to be humble, broken over sin, and contrite for faults.

If you do not, they will become adults with self-righteous conceit that will destroy them.

If you do not they will reject instruction, look down on others, and provoke the Lord to be their enemy.

Exalt God's holy standards and teach your children self-criticism and self-examination more than self-esteem.

Teach them that without God's grace through Jesus Christ they are totally lost.

Proverbs 30:13 There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

Agur taught inspired wisdom for your life through sets of four things (***Proverbs 30:11-31***).

Here is the third of four kinds of men, identified by particular sins. All men are arrogant and proud to varying degrees, but there are some who are exceptionally conceited and haughty.

These men are stuck up in pride, with their eyes looking down on everyone else. God hates this proud look, and He will bring down the proud man or woman. (***Proverbs 6:16-17***)

The Word "*generation*" is used here to describe a kind of man, a kind of person, or a specific type of individual.

It is not a prophecy about all the people born at some time in the future, when men would be very self-righteous, for all ages have had such sinners.

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Each temperament has instinctive tendencies. But the wisdom taught here is more than temperamental disposition: the four lessons are specific sins and their related duties. Rather than assigning temperaments to each generation, learn the identified sin and corresponding wisdom of each generation.

The third generation, or kind of evil person, is arrogant and proud about his character, abilities, and value.

This evil person has a conceited and haughty heart, presumptuously believing he is superior to others.

This evil person thinks the world revolves around him; He is highly offended by any neglect from others; He despises correction and reproofs;

This evil person is envious at the advantages of others; and He is quick to criticize and condemn.

Rather than casting his eyes to the ground in humility, this evil person lifts them up even in the sight of God (***Luke 18:9-14***).

Pride is a terrible sin. Cost the devil his position in heaven (***Isaiah 14:12-14; 1Timothy 3:6***). Yet today it is used as a good word, as in, "I am so proud of what I have done."

This evil person is sold as the personal cure-all for every psychological malady under the names of self-love and self-esteem.

This evil person is one of the devil's three main devices against you - the pride of life (***1John 2:16***).

You are selfish, you envy others, your refuse instruction, you get offended, and you fight by pride!

The truth is, you are nothing. You are less than nothing. Your character is depraved and profane (***Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:9-18***).

Your abilities and potential are so pitiful that your entire life can be snuffed out by squeezing your nose (***Isaiah 2:22; Psalm 146:3***).

Your achievements and estate are so small that no one will remember you two weeks after you are buried (***Psalm 49:10-13***).

Actually, low class men are obviously nothing; upper class men are a lie; put together they are less than vanity (***Psalm 62:9***)!

The Holy Spirit never heard of the dignity or value of man! You came into this world not knowing a single fact, not even your own existence!

You did not have the ability, conscience, memory, or strength to keep from dirtying yourself. You could not take food from a spoon, and drinking from a cup was an impossible task. You have difficulty making a tricycle go forward and saying the letters of the alphabet taxed your brain and body to their limits. And now you think you are great? What arrogance! What pride!

You are doomed, unless you humble yourself. God hates pride, for He only has un-derived beauty, glory, holiness, power, righteousness, truth, and wisdom. He only can say, "I AM THAT I AM."

In fact, God can take this awesome description as His own name! God will resist you if you think highly of yourself (***James 4:6***).

Nebuchadnezzar was the greatest king in the world's history, but he had to say after seven years of living as an animal under God's judgment, "*Those that walk in pride he is able to abase*" (***Daniel 4:37***).

True wisdom, which will save you from much error and will cause you to grow in favor with God and man.

A man with true wisdom is willing to get down and confess ignorance to God and men. The evidences of this gracious spirit wins favor with both, and depends heavily on the excellent spirit of a humble man.

Solomon was a very favored child. Favored by God and men. He had the genes, the opportunities, and the successes. But even as king over a very prosperous nation, he said, *"I am but a little child: I know not how to go out or come in"* (**1Kings 3:7**).

Are you humble? It is easy to tell. Do you love to be corrected, or would you rather correct others? Are you anxious to serve, or be served?

Do you fully submit without resentment to those God has put over you?

If you are a woman, do you know you are the weaker vessel and created to help one man? Are you thankful for blessings or advantages of another, or are you envious? When others offend you, do you get angry, or do you quickly forgive them?

Do you stay in the background and listen to others? Are you a better hearer or teacher? Do you listen most and talk less, or talk most and listen less?

God has no use for any man or woman that thinks he or she is something. He will look to bless and help the man with a poor and contrite spirit, who trembles before His word (**Isaiah 66:1-2**).

Your first duty is to humble yourself before God and obey His every Word. Your second duty is to humble yourself before men and become a servant.

The greatest in the kingdom of God are the servants, not the rulers.

If you will humble yourself, God and men will exalt you (**Proverbs 22:11; James 4:10; 1Peter 5:6**).

If you will not humble yourself, God and men will despise you (**Proverbs 15:25; 16:5, 18; 21:24**).

The Lord Jesus Christ humbled himself to be born of a poor woman, to live an obscure life of poverty and service, and to die an unjust death for others.

For this great work His Father promoted Him far above all the angels of heaven (**Philippians 2:5-11**).

Are You Like Jesus Christ At All?

Proverbs 30:14 There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

Agur taught inspired wisdom for your life through sets of four things (**Proverbs 30:11-31**).

Here is the fourth of four kinds of men, identified by particular sins. Some people love to take advantage of others and oppress them, especially those who are relatively weak and unable to help themselves. These violent persons have no ordinary compassion or pity, but mercilessly use others in any way they wish for their own pleasure or profit.

The Word "generation" is used here to describe a kind of man, a kind of person, a specific type of individual.

It is not a prophecy about all the people born at some time in the future, when children would be rebellious, for all ages have had such sinners.

It is not a direct reference to the evil men living at the time of Jesus Christ, for such a use would be unique in the book of Proverbs and without practical wisdom for life.

The four generations might be loosely connected to the four temperament types:

- Sanguine - Confidently optimistic and cheerful,
- Choleric - Easily moved to anger,
- Melancholy - A feeling of thoughtful sadness, and
- Phlegmatic - Showing little emotion

The fourth generation, or kind of evil person, is oppressive and cruel in word and deed, especially toward the helpless, poor, and weak.

This intimidating and threatening brute has no pity or regard for those in need or trouble. He or she is selfish, merciless, and violent.

This evil person does not have ordinary compassion for those under them or near them, and they often rise to positions of power by corrupting or destroying anyone in their way.

Consider the first two brothers, Cain and Abel. How could Cain kill his brother for merely doing what was right? Especially after God warned him and told him how easily he too could be accepted?

How could Cain then casually hide the murder, even when God Himself inquired? Because he was a child of the devil, and you show the same devilish spirit of murder when you are angry without a just cause (**Matthew 5:21-26; 1John 3:12**).

It is easy to direct the Proverb at monsters of human history like Joseph Stalin, Adolph Hitler, Mao Tse-Tung, Idi Amin, Pol Pot, Harold Shipman, Luis Garavito, and others.

But Solomon directed his wisdom closer to home, where aggressive or violent treatment of the poor and needy qualifies: From abortion, to oppressing employees, to defrauding spouses, to harshly crushing the spirits of children to excessively taxing the poor, to paying less or charging more than fairness indicates, to callously ignoring those who are in need.

David faced such men during his life, Saul, Doeg, Absalom, and others. Even his own nephew Joab had a cruel spirit of revenge far different from David's, which caused him grief on several occasions.

David wrote of his predicament with such men in these Words, *"My soul is among lions: and I lie even among them that are set on fire, even the sons of men, whose teeth are spears and arrows, and their tongue a sharp sword"* (**Psalm 57:4**).

Jesus Christ, the Son of David, had to endure cruel and hateful treatment by the Jewish leadership during His life, and they forced His crucifixion in the end, though He had done nothing to harm them or their nation. Within his own band of apostles was a heartless thief, who stole from the poor and betrayed His lord, master, and friend for a measly thirty pieces of silver.

Together they fulfilled this Proverb better than anyone else. Godly men are merciful men. In fact, they love mercy (**Micah 6:8; Matthew 5:7**).

Solomon taught elsewhere that righteous men are even merciful to animals, but the men of this proverb are cruel even when mercy should be shown (**Proverbs 12:10**).

It is the pure religion of Jesus Christ to kindly consider the poor and to visit orphans and widows in their affliction (**Galatians 2:10; James 1:27**).

Instead of picking on the less fortunate, they pick them up!

It is the duty of every parent to teach their children to be merciful, lest they grow into the selfish tyrants condemned here. Home is a great place to teach and require compassion and mercy in all dealings.

Sibling rivalries, oppressive parenting, irreverent responses, and other such relational problems should be corrected before a monster is formed by a dysfunctional home allowing cruelty of any sort.

In contrast to these wicked men, you may cast all your cares upon the God of heaven: Our Lord cares for those who put their trust in Him (**1Peter 5:7**).

Even **If** your mother and father forsake you, which is contrary to nature, then the LORD will take you up (**Psalm 27:10**).

Proverbs 30:15 *The horseleach hath two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yea, four things say not, It is enough:*

Proverbs can be dark sayings. They are to make you think, enjoy the interpretative process, and remember the lesson. (**Proverbs 1:6**)

They are often not plain (**John 16:25, 29**).

We know the lesson of this Proverb by its Words and context. Its Words introduce things in life that are never satisfied or contented, four things that always want more.

Its context lists the four things, the grave, the barren womb, dry ground, and an out-of-control fire. So we know the lesson is referring to things that are never satiated, full, or pacified.

What is a horseleach? Other than the name for a horse doctor, farrier, or veterinarian surgeon, it is the name of a blood-sucking leech, which has the reputation of an insatiable thirst for the blood of its victim.

The Oxford English Dictionary states, Horseleach. An aquatic sucking worm differing from the common leech in its larger size, and in the formation of the jaws. A rapacious, insatiable person.

Agur is not teaching veterinary science, so we understand him to be introducing never-satisfied, always-wanting-more, and never-content persons and things.

Agur is starting one of his lists of four things, which occupy much of this chapter (**Proverbs 30:11-31**).

Agur uses the bloodsucker as a great introduction, for we still use it to describe insatiable people.

What are the two daughters? They are more things or people of the same character, which the Bible indicates by references to children (**Ezekiel 16:44-45; Matthew 23:31; John 8:44; Acts 7:51**).

The two means no more than does the three, when he plans to list four. Unless the noun or context requires its importance, the number is irrelevant (**2Kings 9:32**).

Agur will list in the next verse four things that are never satisfied, four things that never say, It is enough.

These observations from nature are to teach us about each one and to recognize by the lesson that there are people and things that can never be satisfied.

Thus, we will consider them when we come to that text. Until then, understand the category.

Contentment is a virtue (The quality of doing what is right and avoiding what is wrong) contrary to these things (*1Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:5*).

Paul learned to say he was full, even when hungry (*Philippians 4:11-13*).

Implacability is never being satisfied, is a forgotten sin of the New Testament (*Romans 1:31*).

The only insatiable appetite we should have is for spiritual blessings (*Genesis 32:26; Matthew 5:6; Romans 9:1-3; 10:1; 1Corinthians 12:31*).

Saints know the flesh has many lustful daughters with insatiable greed, which we are to mortify to the glory of God (*Job 15:16; Ephesians 4:17-19; Colossians 3:5-7*).

Silver will not satisfy the man who allows himself to desire it, until it has destroyed him (*Ecclesiastes 5:10; 1Timothy 6:7-10*).

Most women will not satisfy the man who craves them, until they destroy him (*Judges 16:16-17; 1Kings 11:1-11; Ecclesiastes 7:26-28*).

However, **If** the LORD is your Portion, He will cure your cravings and bring contentment and satisfaction like nothing else in the whole world (*Psalms 73:25-26; Philippians 3:8*).

Proverbs 30:16 The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough.

Discontentment Is A Horrible Vice!

Discontentment is the mark of a bloodsucker (*Proverbs 30:15*)!

Men who are never satisfied are compared here to four other things that are never satisfied. The grave, the barren womb, the dry ground, and a raging fire illustrate the vice of discontentment.

A Foolish Man Is Never Happy!

A foolish man loves silver, and gets some; but he is not content, for he wants more (*Ecclesiastes 5:10*)!

A foolish man marries a beautiful woman, but he lusts after others' wives (*Jeremiah 5:8*).

Covetousness, a hideous sin, denies men contentment, peace, or satisfaction in life.

The Grave Is Never Satisfied.

No matter how many are buried today, cemeteries will take more tomorrow. Though death cuts men down by

the thousands, there is room for more. The grave never says, "*It is enough!*" It has an insatiable desire for the bodies of men.

The Barren Womb Is Never Satisfied.

Today's women do not count! Today's secular women are perverse. In Bible times, women craved bearing children.

The barren womb has an insatiable desire for children. Rachel said to her husband Jacob, "Give me children, or else I die" (*Genesis 30:1*).

The Earth That Is Not Filled With Water Is Never Satisfied.

Dry ground absorbs water applied to it and is still dry. The water disappears, and the ground demands more. Though much water is supplied, it yet wants more. The dry ground has an insatiable desire for water.

The Raging Fire Is Never Satisfied.

As long as fire can find combustible material, it will continue to burn. It never approaches a forest or house and stops due to lack of desire to burn. The raging fire has an insatiable desire to burn anything it can touch.

These four things, never satisfied and with insatiable desires, powerfully picture man's sinful lusts.

Some men are never content, though given much, for they always want more.

Some men live frustrated and painful lives, with their eyes always looking for more (*Proverbs 27:20*).

Contentment leads to happiness; and it is easy to get; but few men find it.

Contentment has nothing to do with circumstances (*Philippians 4:12*).

Contentment is a learned choice (*Philippians 4:11*).

To the hungry soul, every bitter thing is sweet (Proverbs 27:7).

You choose contentment by making the Lord your portion (*Genesis 15:1; Psalm 73:25-26; Hebrews 13:5-6*).

Great gain is godliness with contentment (*1Timothy 6:6*).

Are you content, reader? Or are you frustrated? Why? God has given you much, and promised you more!

What else could you possibly want? Or are you like the grave, the barren womb, the dry ground, and a raging fire? You are **If** you do not choose contentment today.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Disrespect Of Parents Will Be Punished

God hates even irreverent looks, gestures, and attitudes toward parents, which is the first authority He sends in life.

So this Proverb is added to the condemnation of verbal offences against parents (***Proverbs 30:11***).

Such a strong stand on parental reverence is lost today, though our grandparents knew it well.

The results of rebellious, dysfunctional, selfish, and lazy young people should not surprise us. A prime theme of entertainment today, and a daily occurrence in most homes, is flagrant disrespect of parents.

This Proverb sounds Neanderthal in our world. It is the infallible Word of God. The man who treats parental reverence lightly will eat the fruit thereof. Trouble and pain from his children and the LORD (***Proverbs 13:15; Isaiah 1:19-20***).

The use of "eye" is a synecdoche (Substituting a more inclusive term for a less inclusive one or vice versa) for facial expressions, but especially the looks and attitudes.

God means more than just the muscle and mucous membrane that resides in one of your sockets.

No Eyeball Shows Disdain For Authority Without The Heart Directing It!

The eye is the window to the soul, there had better never be irreverence seen through it.

Mocking is haughty disrespect by ridicule or scorn. We call it "rolling the eyes" in disgust or resentment.

It is now done commonly, and the thought of punishing looks and attitudes, was rejected long ago. And everyone suffers accordingly. But God hates it. Despising to obey a mother, is facial expressions of saucy refusal to honor her requests.

God pictures this rebellious brat as buzzard bait, with the hooked beaks and talons of these birds ripping out eyeballs and eating them.

Politically incorrect in our effeminate society, it graphically shows God's opinion of disrespectful children.

Such fools will live and die under the harsh judgment of a holy God, Who defends all His ordained offices. Both parents are included.

Mothers should be esteemed and revered comparable to fathers, and a wise father will demand and enforce such respect for his wife at all times.

The holy God of heaven set capital punishment for speaking lightly about parents. Are you well established and agreed with God about this matter? Or do you think such harsh provisions of Moses' law are long outdated, extreme, and without value?

Deuteronomy 27:16 Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.

Wouldn't this text from Moses make great responsive reading for a youth conference? Why doesn't all youth leaders have it, or our Proverb quoted at the beginning and end of their meetings?

It would create real training for a godly family!

God prescribed the death penalty for stubborn and rebellion children (***Deuteronomy 21:18-21***).

Parenting easy, if executions were done in public for all to see and fear! God also prescribed it for cursing parents and hitting parents (***Exodus 21: 15, 17; Leviticus 20:9***).

When Absalom presumed to oppose his father and sovereign, the LORD hung him by his own hair in a tree and gave him the despicable tomb of a pile of stones (***2Samuel 18:9-18***).

When forty-two little children mocked Elisha, he cursed them in the name of the LORD; and God honored him with two she bears to tear them for their jesting (***2Kings 2:23-24***).

We live in the perilous times of a generation given to self-love and child rebellion (***2Timothy 3:1-5***).

This describes Christians, not the pagan world at large, where it is also very true (***Romans 1:29-31***).

Parents, starting young, you must train children God's way. From the earliest days of conscious understanding, children must be taught to reverence parents.

Even slight indications of a rebellious spirit, shown by looks, gestures, or attitudes, must be dealt with immediately. There is no room for compromise on this point.

Disrespectful speech, rolling of the eyes, tossing of the head, looking away with the eyes, slamming of doors, blazing eyes of rebellion, wrinkled noses, sullen eyes of

disregard, saucy answers, and foolish eyes of jesting disrespect cannot be tolerated.

Correct it early, and your children will give you rest and peace (*Proverbs 19:18; 29:15, 17*).

If we compromise, we offend the Creator of parents and bring upon ourselves the just consequences of neglecting our duty. May the good Lord save us from such folly.

Fulfill the assignment from heaven, and prepare children to serve nobly under all authority. And they will be much happier themselves, finding that secure, peaceful, and respectful relationships are much superior to anger, bitterness, and rebellion.

Our Lord Jesus taught the honor of parents, and He repeated the death penalty warning (*Matthew 15:4*).

Paul repeats the duty two more times, and he assumes reverence fathers of (*Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20; Hebrews 12:9*).

A great promise of a blessed life is for those honoring parents, our Proverb promises great judgment on those who do not. (*Ephesians 6:2-3*)

Proverbs 30:18 There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not:

Here the “*three.... yea, four*” has to do with wonders on top of wonders.

In every area of life there are marvels beyond the understanding of even the wisest of men in that area of knowledge. God alone is the master of the wonders of the universe and He alone has the key to unlock the secrets of them to us.

If He chooses not to reveal them to us, then the best theories of men are eventually proven to be only so much foolishness. We know only what He reveals to us (*Deuteronomy 29:29*).

Agur now mentions some more things, which he is unable to understand and would really like to understand. But as with many things in the creation, we can see them but learning the intricate details sometimes eludes us as humans.

Let’s make this verse personal. Humility is a tough thing to get. The minute you think you got, you lose it. As Agur explains to his two young listeners about life, one of his themes is the danger of self-exaltation.

I must take responsibility for my own sin (*Proverbs 30:18-20*).

Agur says that there are some things that he cannot understand:

How can an eagle fly through the air and not leave a path behind him?

How can a snake crawl on a rock without leaving, as the snail or the worm does, a hint of his path?

How can a ship part the waves without leaving a permanent dent in them?

How can a man be with a maiden and leave no hint of his past presence?

What does this has to do with a life honoring God? Agur gives us an explanation. This is what we try to do with our sin. We try to leave no hint of our sin behind, no proof of our deeds.

Agur speaks specifically of adultery here but this certainly applies to many sins. We sin and then try to hide it so that we will not lose face before others or so that we will not be punished.

To hide our sin is evidence of our desire for self-exaltation. To not take responsibility for our own wrongdoing is proof of our pride.

Hiding Sin Does Not Eliminate Sins Reality

Edgar Allan Poe wrote a short story called “The Cask of the Amontillado” in which the main character carries out the perfect crime. He chains his enemy in a wine cellar room and bricks him in to die.

How much more would we sin if we thought we could get away with it? What sin are you hiding? What sin are you pretending does not exist in your life?

If you are to humble yourself before God you must acknowledge the reality of your sin.

To deny a sin does not eliminate accountability. Do not forget that even **If** you leave no mark, God will hold you accountable for your sin.

Agur has already mentioned this in the previous verse *Proverbs 30:17*.

Sin will not go unpunished. Jesus Himself said that every word said in secret will be made public. Think of the most secret sin that you have ever committed, the one sin that you would be most horrified if anyone should find out about it. It is already known and you will be held accountable.

Proverbs 30:19 The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the

way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

Agur continued his observations of life with another set of four things. These four things were too wonderful for Agur to comprehend and understand: they were very impressive and mysterious to his consideration (*Proverbs 30:18*).

The lesson is God's glorious design in all four of them, with emphasis on the last one involving men and women. And he also used the four wonders to condemn the unbelievable audacity of an adulteress (*Proverbs 30:20*).

The way of an eagle in the air is gloriously mysterious. Floating and gliding on thermal updrafts, the eagle can soar and circle majestically with hardly a movement of its 7-foot wings.

Diving toward earth to catch unsuspecting prey in the air, on the land, or in the water, it can exceed 100 mph! Eagle courtship includes spectacular aerial displays in which the birds grasp each others' feet high in the air and plummet towards the earth, cart wheeling with their wings and legs outstretched. Who can grasp its wise design?

The way of a serpent upon a rock is likewise amazing. The snake has no arms, legs, or feet! Slithering and twisting through grass or sand is one thing, still quite a sight to consider, but how about on a smooth rock! Where does it find any leverage?

How can snake move forward and upward on the slippery surface without hands or feet?

Angry or frightened, a snake moves quickly and directly toward or away from an enemy. It uses no footholds and leaves no tracks, yet it moves efficiently. Who can grasp its wise design?

The way of a ship in the midst of the sea is also remarkable. A sailing vessel has no propeller, oars, or other visible means of propulsion, yet it scoots along the water easily. Its huge size is directed by a very small helm and rudder.

The sailing ship leaves no path to follow behind its slight wake; it can handle most storms without capsizing; and the ship crosses large bodies of water without signposts or landmarks to its desired port.

It is the air in front of the sail that moves it, not the air behind the sail! Who can grasp its wise design?

The way of a man with a maid is wonderful and mysterious. A virgin girl, a maid, is protected well for 12-20 years.

She can be happily content with chores, school, job, hobbies, nature, friends, and family. Love and sex barely disturb her.

Consider the change when a man charms her! With attention, words, and promises, he lights a fiery response never seen before.

A few embraces and kisses, and she is emotionally obsessed and physically willing to give him anything and everything.

She will eagerly leave all to follow him, without fear, and in spite of any warnings. Who can grasp its wise design?

Since Agur described all four things in our Proverb as wonderful and beyond knowing, there is no need or reason to condemn the fourth thing, winning a maid. (*Proverbs 30:18*)

Every married man is thankful he could win his maid for marriage! And most married couples fondly remember the passionate pleasure of early love and early sex!

It has been said, if guys were as content with being friends as girls can be, Adam and Eve would still be the only two people on earth, platonically holding hands and admiring the cute little animals outside Eden!

Thank you, Lord, for the beauty and glory of romance! Thank you for love, marriage, and sex! In this order! Thank you for the wise design of the fourth thing!

The "chemistry" that occurs between a man and a maid is glorious. The emotional and sexual reaction is wonderful.

The love and lovemaking described by Solomon in his Song is beautiful and passionate poetry, and a good manual for couples.

Romance is the basis for initiating most marriages, and it is a practice all marriages should continue to use.

There are lessons in this fourth thing:

First, every husband should continue to win his wife as in the beginning. God required a year dedicated to the task (*Deuteronomy 24:5*)!

If a marriage is romantically cool, it is the husband's fault. Any man can win most any woman, for that is the fourth wonder.

If a boring husband were single again, he would not need lessons on winning and dining maids! Therefore, the Lord expects men to continue to win their wives (*Proverbs 5:19; Ecclesiastes 9:9; 1Corinthians 7:2-5; Ephesians 5:25-29; Colossians 3:19*).

Second, every father must protect his daughters from seduction. Rather than expecting them to do something contrary to nature, they should not be put in situations where seduction can occur.

Jacob and her brothers did not send a chaperone with her, and a pagan Canaanite seduced her. Dinah, the daughter of Leah, should have been protected better (*Genesis 34:1-5*).

A father guides a girl in childhood, and it is his duty to preserve her virginity and approve suitors (*Proverbs 5:7-13; Exodus 22:16-17; 22:6, 15; Numbers 30:3-5; Deuteronomy 22:14-17*).

Third, every woman must guard herself from seduction.

She should avoid unnecessary conversation and activities with other men. If she must work outside the home with other men, she should be very careful.

The fourth thing is a wonder, for she is so vulnerable. Let every woman be chaste, modest, and a keeper at home (*Proverbs 7:11; Titus 2:3-5; 1Peter 3:1-6*).

Husbands must protect their wives from all kinds of men. If Adam had been a better husband, he would have kept Eve from Satan's words (*2Corinthians 11:3; 1Timothy 2:13-14*).

Both should recognize her weakness for false teachers that creep into houses (*2Timothy 3:6-7*).

Admire the eagle; respect the snake; appreciate sailing; and consider emotional and sexual romance.

God has made all things wonderful in their own time and place, but men have sought out ungodly inventions and abuses of them (*Ecclesiastes 3:1-11; 7:29*).

The Son of Man came to win a maid from the world of sin to be his chaste and holy bride (*Jeremiah 31:3; Hosea 11:4*)!

There is no resisting His drawing power, and He will not fail with a single one (*John 6:37-39*)!

His ministers live daily in holy jealousy to present them practically as chaste virgins to Jesus Christ (*2Corinthians 11:1-4*).

Proverbs 30:20 Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

An adulteress is incredible! She has the least amount of conscience and the most amount of pretension!

An adulteress commits one of the most heinous acts of betrayal possible, yet she can talk and live, as if she has done nothing!

Having just described four wonderful things beyond his imagination, Agur compared an adulteress to them (*Proverbs 30:1, 18-19*).

The way an eagle soars on thermal updrafts and dives after prey is marvelous. The way a snake moves without arms or legs on a smooth rock is marvelous. The way a bulky ship sails smoothly through seas without oars or trail is marvelous. And the ease and power with which a man seduces a virgin is marvelous.

These four things are hard to believe, and so is it hard to believe a married woman, can have sex with another man (*Proverbs 30:18-20*).

The eating of this Proverb does not involve food, it is the sexual acts of the adulteress. She opens her legs to a stranger and enjoys physical pleasures limited to her husband and his bed only.

Eating is used here as a euphemism for sexual intercourse, as it was used earlier (*Proverbs 5:15; 9:17; 20:17*).

While the Bible may use plainer speech in other places, it chooses a euphemism to enhance the Proverb here (*Ezekiel 16:17, 25-26; 23:16-21*).

The wiping of her mouth does not involve a napkin, it is the covering of her tracks to avoid detection.

An adulteress does everything necessary to hide her liaisons from her husband and others. She waits for her husband to be away (*Proverbs 7:19-20; Genesis 39:7-12*).

An adulteress speedily takes care of household duties; makes the lost time disappear; hides any signs of her sin; washes her body and prepares to meet her husband as if everything is fine.

An adulteress pretends by her words and actions to her husband that all is well.

An adulteress dotes on her husband at home and in public. She enters his bed and is intimate with him as if all is well.

An adulteress plays with her children, speaks with the neighbors, attends church on Sunday, dresses merrily, and continues to wear his wedding ring! There is no compunction, guilt, or remorse. She acts as if she has done nothing wrong at all, in spite of her heinous sin.

The present generation glamorizes adulteresses by movies and serials, performing artists and actresses, romance novels, psychotherapists, and profane marriage counselors.

Think "Desperate Housewives," "Sex and the City," Princess Diana, etc.! Hollywood never glamorizes marriage! Never!

Adultery once brought capital punishment, public flogging, or branding, it is laughed at today and admired as an exciting event. Though a crime on the books of many states, it is not enforced in any state.

The whole world eats, wipes its mouth, and says, "*I have done no wickedness!*"

But there is a God in heaven that hates adultery. It is not an affair, it is not having a lover; it is adultery (*Exodus 20:14*)!

Adulterers received the death penalty in a nation where God wrote the laws (*Leviticus 20:10; Ezekiel 16:38*).

For any adulteress convicted and condemned by this Proverb, repentance makes all the difference in the world!

The Lord Jesus Christ is as quick to forgive this sin as any other (*Luke 7:36-50; John 4:4-42; 8:1-11; 1Corinthians 6:9-11*)!

Jesus received repenting harlots gladly, and they entered His kingdom before religious types (*Matthew 21:31-32*)!

God blessed Bathsheba to be the mother of Solomon and in the lineage of Jesus (*2Samuel 12:24; Matthew 1:6*)!

Both Tamar and Rahab made the same lineage, though guilty of the same sin (*Matthew 1:3, 5*)!

While the sins of Mary Magdalene, once possessed by seven devils, are not known, Jesus appeared to her first after His resurrection (*Mark 16:9*)!

Rejoice, repentant reader! Your sins are forgiven! Go in peace, and sin no more!

There is more than one way to be an adulteress. The very thought of foolishness is sin, so any fantasies of the heart are equal in the sight of God to the actual deed (*Proverbs 24:9; Exodus 20:17; Job 31:1; Matthew 5:28*).

A godly woman is chaste in thought and deed (*Titus 2:5; 1Peter 3:2*).

There is no more liberty for a woman to read romance novels, watch soap operas, or enjoy Hollywood romance movies than for a man to fantasize with pornography.

There is more than one way to be an adulteress. God considers friendship with the world by His saints or

churches to be spiritual adultery (*Ezekiel 16:1-59; Hosea 1:1-3; 9:1; 2Corinthians 11:1-4; James 4:4*).

God is a jealous God, and He will not share His glory, affection, or worship with others (*Deuteronomy 4:23-26; Joshua 24:19; Hebrews 12:28-29*).

God rejects those who think they can love Him and the things of the world at the same time (*Matthew 6:24; Philippians 3:18-19; 1John 2:15-17*).

God rejects compromised worship like a man would reject his wife remembering or doting on other lovers (*Ezekiel 23:38-39; 2Corinthians 6:14-17*).

If you love the world, you are flirting or committing adultery with God's enemy!

Jesus Christ showed John a vision of a great whore with harlot daughters, who was full of abominations and filthy fornication (*Revelation 17:1-6*).

This whore also eats, wipes her mouth, and professes to be innocent and pure, for she is a specific church renowned for spiritual fornication against the God of heaven.

Her severe judgment is described in detail (*Revelation 17:15-17; 18:1-24*).

What church is she? The city that ruled the world in the days of John (*Revelation 17:18*)!

Who Are The Great Whore's Daughters? The Churches That Came Out Of Her Later!

Proverbs 30:21 For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear:

The goal of wisdom is to please God and men, so Agur lists four kinds of people that are irritating and obnoxious. (*Proverbs 3:3-4; Luke 2:52*)

If you are wise, you will never be irritating and obnoxious, and you will reject those that are.

Here are four kinds of people that greatly disrupt the world, and you must learn to avoid being like them, being around them, or accepting them.

This chapter of Proverbs contains several lists of things to teach wisdom (*Proverbs 30:11-31*).

The wise prophet Agur used this method to teach inspired wisdom to Ithiel and Ucal (*Proverbs 30:1-6*).

In this list, we have four kinds of people that disquiet the earth, disturb the peace and pleasure of life, and that

the earth cannot bear. They are obnoxiously repulsive to most men.

Most men love a quiet life, one of peace, pleasure, and security. That goal is ruined, if one of these four is near.

You will be angered by their despicable and intolerable conduct. Relaxation and rest will be impossible, for they are bent on making life miserable for others, even though they never grasp how much they are despised!

The first is a "*servant when he reigneth.*" God made masters and servants, leaders and followers. When this divine order is altered, and a person God made to serve is put in authority, the power corrupts their weak character and makes them unbearable.

Solomon despised this perversion of roles (***Proverbs 19:10; Ecclesiastes 10:5-7***).

It is found today in labor unions, employee committees, many deacon boards, political polls, and spoiled children.

The second is a "*fool when he is filled with meat.*" Prosperity and pleasure are a curse to the fool, for they flatter his depraved soul and cause him to boast and offend. The best thing for a fool is a beating and starvation (***Proverbs 20:4; 26:3***).

The worst thing you can give a fool is honor and kindness (***Proverbs 19:10; 26:1, 8***).

Such fools are found today in rebellious youth with pampered lives, athletes with excessive salaries, and actors with contracts.

The third is an "*odious woman when she is married.*" Here is a common curse to mankind, an irritating, obnoxious, and repulsive woman. Many men have had their lives ruined by these despicable creatures.

Solomon warned about her often (***Proverbs 11:22; 12:4; 19:13; 21:9, 19; 25:24; 27:15-16***).

She will hide her ugly soul and character while dating in order to entrap a foolish man. But after marriage he will discover hell on earth.

It is incredibly wise and important for young men to let married men examine their dates!

The fourth is a "*handmaid that is heir to her mistress.*" A female servant could become heir of her mistress by legitimate service, ingratiating herself to her mistress, or by marrying her master (***Genesis 16:1-4***).

Either the prospect or the possession of the mistress's position had a subverting effect. Though of low origin and character, the servant would swell in pride and haughtiness.

If promotion comes, men must remember their humble beginnings and despise arrogance. Today we see excessive divorce settlements, employees with stock option plans, and estate battles.

These four kinds of people ruin a peaceful and pleasant life. You must examine yourself to see **If** you are like any one of them, and repent before God and men if you are!

Do you seek or have a position above your God-given abilities? Does your foolishness come out when prospered or in pleasure?

Are you an obnoxious woman? How many good men and women love your company? Are you from humble origins? Then stay humble!

You must also identify such people around you and oppose them. Don't be party to promoting employees over employers!

Don't allow fools to partake of prosperity and pleasure! Do everything you can to keep odious girls and women single! Protect foolish young men! And remind those from poverty that their promotion is by God's grace!

Proverbs 30:22 For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

Here are two kinds of men you must not be and that you must avoid for peace and pleasure in life.

When men are promoted beyond their ability, training, or birth, they will be intolerably arrogant and incompetent.

When fools are fed, protected, or honored, they will give vent to greater folly than what otherwise might have occurred.

This Proverb begins a list of four kinds of persons that trouble humanity and that are too much to bear (***Proverbs 30:21***).

The prophet Agur used sets of four objects to teach wisdom (***Proverbs 30:11-31***).

Here are two classes of men you will encounter in life that disquiet the earth and cost the world its peace and tranquility. It is wisdom to not be like them or to support them.

God made everything very good in the beginning (***Genesis 1:31***).

God ordained order in human society for the peace, pleasure, and prosperity of all.

When God's order for society is altered, these precious objectives will be surely compromised or lost.

Here are two corruptions of God's order, a servant promoted to rule, and a fool emboldened with food.

Consider a servant when he reigneth. This is a man that is given authority above his ability, training, or birth. The undeserved honor will flatter his conceit and provoke him to oppress those around or under him.

The purpose or value of the office he improperly holds will suffer, for he cannot comprehend its responsibility or execute the tasks of it.

God Made Masters And Servants. It is troubling to reverse this order, no matter how noble sounding (*Proverbs 19:10; Ecclesiastes 10:5-7*).

The responsibilities of the one far exceed the abilities of the other, exposing the folly. It is God's judgment when this corrupting reversal of office is widespread (*Isaiah 3:1-5*).

It is seen today in labor unions, politicians, employee committees, deacon boards, political polls, spoiled children, HR departments, etc.

The business world also recognizes this wisdom by the Peter Principle, where "every employee tends to rise to their level of incompetence."

Frequent promotions for reasons other than performance lead to many upper positions being filled by employees incompetent for their duties.

Work in those companies is accomplished by the employees who have not yet been promoted to their level of incompetence.

It is your wisdom to promote God's order in every way you can, beginning in the home where servants once labored.

The authority structure of father, mother, and children should be observed at all times and taught to children from birth.

As you look outside the home, the value of any position or assignment must be matched by proven abilities and diligence of those given the office. Oppose the reversing of this order whenever possible.

Consider a fool when he is filled with meat. A fool is a person who does not fear God and stubbornly thinks himself right. This kind of person is bad enough without a full belly, and wisdom demands that you avoid them (*Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 14:7*).

Prosperity and pleasure are a curse to the fool, for these blessings flatter his depraved soul and cause him to

boast and offend. When his belly is full of drink or meat, his mouth is that much louder and more profane.

Remember rich Nabal's obnoxious response to David, when he was enjoying prosperity. This fool destroyed his own family. (*1Samuel 25:2-11, 36*)

Such Fools Are Found Today:

- In rebellious youth with pampered lives,
- In profane athletes with excessive salaries,
- In perverse university professors with tenure,
- In ignorant actors with extravagant contracts.
- In wild youth, boys that play games,
- In self-loving philosophers,
- In corrupt stage-lovers which are bad enough without any help.

When these persons are praised, protected, and fed, their words and deeds grow into an unbearable clamor.

It is wisdom to promote godliness and crush foolishness in any sphere you can influence. Beginning at home: Reward the faithful and punish the slothful. Praise the righteousness, and condemn wickedness. Promote the diligent, and deny the sluggard's actions.

Your family and the world cannot endure fools, so do not be an accomplice with them by any encouragement.

Let every man love God's order in society and maintain necessary and profitable distinctions between masters and servants, of all kinds and all offices, wherever possible.

Let fools find no comfort, friendship, help, or support from you. Your peace and tranquility and that of those around you depend on it.

Proverbs 30:23 For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

Being odious has to do with hatefulfulness, which she conceals before marriage, but afterwards is then revealed and her true character is known.

The marital security, that odious woman thinks she now has, allows her to cast off all restraint and treat everyone badly.

Likewise, a former maidservant who has become heir to her mistress may make herself unbearable to those about her. As did Hagar, (*Genesis 16:4*).

Matthew Henry stated, "Let those therefore whom Providence has advanced to honor from mean beginnings carefully watch against pride and haughtiness."

Our Lord stated, we are to endeavor to be peacemakers, not peace-breakers, (*Matthew 5:9*)

Peter also stated, *1Peter 3:10-11 For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it.*

What else is being odious? To have a mean spirited attitude toward someone who is abhorred and one who no one wants to have a relationship with.

This woman allows all her hateful qualities to come rushing out. She is loud, abusive, unloving toward her husband, and she makes the home where she lives a place where people do not want to go or if they live with her a place they would like to leave.

The second half of this verse is akin to the previous verse where the servant reigns (*Proverbs 30:22*).

Here we have a handmaid which was a female servant who somehow dispossessed her mistress. She is the one who is in charge or she may have worked her way into the heart of the husband of the mistress and he divorced her and took the handmaid as his wife.

Now the original mistress is out and the handmaid had dispossessed her and now probably has rule in the house or has stolen the husband.

She is now the mistress, she will either be cruel in her attempt to be a ruler or she will fail in that position being subservient to others all her life and unable to shake that servant's mindset.

Pride is a sin detestable to God; and its effects through an odious woman are: That even men cannot bear them. Especially is this true, when she is raised up by a sudden and unexpected rise from a low and despised position.

Here is great wisdom! A wise man would not wish to be raised by God to a condition much above his present state, unless God would give him grace to bear it with moderation.

Consider Haman: When a servant is raised to a throne, or to some high station in the government, he thinks himself almost a god; and unless every one gives him homage he is filled with wrath and revenge.

Haman was raised so high by Ahasuerus that he became giddy; and he thought the offence of one man that would not bow the knee to him so grievous, that it required the blood of a whole nation to make atonement for it.

Consider Joseph and David: Both were raised by God to high places, and behaved well in them. God knew

their hearts, and God gave them such grace that they were still lowly when their position was high.

Consider the affairs of the church: Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, forbids a novice to be made a ruler in the church, lest, being lifted up with pride, he fall into the condemnation of the devil. (*1Timothy 3:6*).

Consider a fool who is troublesome at all times: for there is no bearing him, when his lust of self-indulgence or greediness is fully satisfied. For similar reasons an odious woman is intolerable when she is married.

Women of meek and quiet spirits are a lovely part of the human race!

But women of fretful spirits and unbridled passions are odious; and when they are married, it would require all the patience of Job, and the meekness of Moses to bear with them.

Before marriage an odious woman's pride was checked because she realized that all men fled from her, and covered her true character with prudence.

After marriage an odious woman will throw off every restraint, and her new situation is a means of increasing her vanity and ill nature.

Proverbs 30:24 There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:

You can learn much from little things on earth. Agur continues teaching wisdom through observations of sets of four in the things in nature.

He now lists four very small things, and he points out that much wisdom can be learned from each of them.

Men consider these four creatures, ants, rabbits, locusts, and spiders, insignificant, stupid, and beneath their respect.

Men spend much more time and effort trying to destroy these creatures than they do observing and learning the wisdom their Creator gave them.

It is humbling for man to find wisdom in them that he has not consistently acquired himself! The Creator is teaching us a general lesson of humility!

The instincts of these small creatures are generally superior to our higher world of reason and intelligence.

- Who has the foresight of the ant?
- Who is as secure as the cony?
- Who works as cooperative as the locust?
- Who is as diligent as the spider?

The Creator puts us in our place. Without God we are fools.

In the instincts and habits of these four animals is wisdom that can teach, correct, and rebuke any man. Our business schools still speculate on the causes of success!

How perceptive and discerning are you? Are you impressed by size, beauty, sound, and show?

Do you look for wisdom and conduct, foresight and diligence, and other traits of much greater value than appearance?

Wisdom is the principal thing, and it will serve you well to see the wisdom these small, ugly, silent, and reticent creatures have.

God is glorious in all His works, even the small ones. God discusses with Job about His largest creatures, leviathan and behemoth; but here we can also see His majesty in small things. (*Job 40:15; 41:11*)

Do you look close enough to see that God's whole creation declares His glory?

Do you get as much pleasure from the hummingbird as the elephant?

Nature contains lessons of wisdom that have been lost in our "enlightened" world.

For example, our brother Paul appeals to the natural rules of hair (*1Corinthians 11:14-15*).

Long hair on a man is disgusting, but long hair on a woman is glorious. Ignoring the perverts of our generation, these rules have been observed by most enlightened men from the creation of the world.

It does not matter what the hippies or designers say, the rule is as true as gravity! Long hair on a man is the same as a man wearing a laced nightgown!

Paul also appeals to the universal condemnation of sodomy inherent in our nature (*Romans 1:26-27*).

God's Word plainly condemns this abomination, but so does nature. Most men have despised it since creation.

Modest understanding of anatomy, biology, hygiene, health, character, sexual attraction, and human society create disgust of this perversion.

Our fifty states all had plain laws against sodomy, and only with great effort have they been repealed in some states. Several states still had them as late as 2003.

Agur seeks to teach four lessons of wisdom in four consecutive Proverbs, identifying unique characteristics of four very small things. They are:

- The ant (*Proverbs 30:25*),
- The cony (*Proverbs 30:26*),
- The locust (*Proverbs 30:27*),
- The spider (*Proverbs 30:28*).

Fretting over precisely which species Agur intends with each of these creatures misses the lessons. The lessons are:

- Foresight and savings (*Proverbs 30:25*),
- Secure defense (*Proverbs 30:26*),
- Cooperation in societies (*Proverbs 30:27*),
- Persistent diligence (*Proverbs 30:28*).

Let us be careful not to despise the poor and weak of this world when we meet them, for God has chosen them rich in faith and heirs of His kingdom (*James 2:5; 1Corinthians 1:26-29*).

When we need wisdom, let us go to the God of wisdom, Who is able to endow even these small things with great amounts of it. Surely He can answer your need (*James 1:5*)!

Proverbs 30:25 The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

Wise Agur used another small creature for our learning. Ants are social creatures, living in colonies that may contain thousands of ants.

We consider them one of the weakest of all creatures, but they have great wisdom that many men do not have. They work hard when the getting is good; and with a wise eye to the future, they save for harder times!

Solomon also used the ant to illustrate economic wisdom, when he exhorted his son to consider: Their diligence, their initiative without supervision, and their foresight to prepare and save for the future (*Proverbs 6:6-8*). See the comments on *Proverbs 6:6-7*.

Are you as wise as the ant, or can you learn a lesson from them? Do you have a regular savings program?

Though ants are very weak, you may crush hundreds of them with a single foot, they use wisdom to preserve and protect themselves.

In fact, they prosper by their wisdom! In the summer, they work diligently to accumulate as much food as possible, which they eat during the fall and spring, when underground. They generally hibernate in the winter.

Wise men do not spend all their income; only fools spend it all (*Proverbs 21:20*).

Saving some of your income is not a recommendation or suggestion; it is a commandment of the LORD.

We are to learn from the ants (*Proverbs 6:6-8; 30:25*).

Savings protects us from unforeseen danger in the future (*Proverbs 27:12*).

Not saving some of your income is sinful waste (*Proverbs 12:27; 27:24*).

Savings must be a priority in life, not an option for money left over after expenses. **If** a commitment to savings is not made before spending occurs, it will not be done.

**Paying Bills Is Paying Others.
Saving Money Is Paying Yourself.**

Godly economics is simple: pay God first (tithes and offerings), pay yourself second (consistent savings), and live on the rest. There is no need for fancy budgets or financial models, live on the rest!

What you save is what you pay yourself! What you spend is what you pay others!

How much do you have for all the years of sweat, toil, difficulty, and frustration of working? You have nothing left from all those years, except your savings account and net assets. Is paying yourself, saving some of your income, starting to make sense? Thank you, ants!

Saving less than 10% of gross income is playing games. Wise men will save at least 10%. The change in lifestyle to save 10% is insignificant, if prudence is practiced elsewhere.

Many employers today will match your savings in a 401(k) plan. A simple savings program is easy. You pay God first (10%+), yourself second (10%+), and live on the rest.

By living on 80% of your income, you will appreciate things more (*Proverbs 27:7*)!

Savings creates another benefit, capital! See the important comments on *Proverbs 14:4*.

Every man will have a few opportunities in his life, called time and chance in the Bible, to make big money (*Ecclesiastes 9:11*).

But you must have capital, savings, to take advantage of these opportunities. Some call this investment capital seed corn, for it is the seed that can be planted for a future harvest.

The ant's wisdom has taught us savings and investment!

You never touch savings! It is for the future, dire emergencies and opportunities!

If the ants took vacations and ate their food stores, they would die in the fall and winter, when they need those food stores.

If you need extra cash for unusual expenses during the year, it comes from cash management and other reserve funds; it does not come from savings. Your saved capital is not to be touched; your seed corn is not to be eaten!

If you invest your capital conservatively and wisely, it will grow during all the hours of the day and night.

If you buy bonds, you are earning interest every second of every day and night (*Matthew 25:26-27*).

If you buy stocks, you have many people in many companies around the earth working for you every day and night. You are leveraging your limited ability and effort by the multiplied abilities and efforts of many others. Thank you, ants!

Financial success requires diligence, discipline, sacrifice, consistency, and time. The ants do all five well (*Proverbs 6:6-8; 30:25*).

Diligence is working hard to maximize your income.

Discipline is paying the Lord first and yourself second, before spending even a dime.

Sacrifice is doing without a few toys and luxuries you want.

Consistency is doing it without interruption during your productive years. Time is what allows savings to grow!

If your estate is small and your savings negligible, it is because you have ignored the ants and Solomon's wisdom.

Have you never heard that you ought to save at least 10% of your income for the future, for emergencies and opportunities? Have you never heard? Or are you more foolish than the ants, which save without a ruler or guide?

**Preparing Your Financial Future Is Good
Preparing Your Eternal Future Better!**

Here is wisdom in its brightest and purest form. As the unjust steward protected himself from unemployment, Jesus exhorted His children to protect themselves from that great accounting to take place in the last day (*Luke 16:1-16*).

Have you looked to the future and laid up a good foundation against the time to come (*1 Timothy 6:17-19*)?

The Lord Jesus Christ will come soon, and you will face an emergency like no other! Save up for it!

Proverbs 30:26 The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

Are you as smart as a coney? Wise Agur used four small creatures to teach his students great wisdom (***Proverbs 30:1, 24***).

The ants prudently save for the future (***Proverbs 30:25***).

The locusts know the power of numbers (***Proverbs 30:27***).

The spider by diligence goes where most cannot (***Proverbs 30:28***).

The conies wisely avoid risk and loss by choosing the safest and strongest protection.

Evolution is a damnable lie from hell believed by God haters after He darkened their minds (Romans 1:18-25; 1Timothy 6:20-21).

God created every living thing, and much wisdom can be obtained by analyzing them. Sluggards can learn by the industry of the ant (***Proverbs 6:6-8***).

The fearful can learn by considering God's care for birds and flowers (***Matthew 6:25-32***).

What is a coney? It is a rabbit, which used to be properly and ordinarily called a coney. The variety Agur considered for this Proverb lives in the caves and clefts of mountains on several continents.

Without ability to defend themselves other than speed of retreat, these feeble creatures make their homes in rock strongholds where they can run for protection.

What is the lesson of wisdom for you? When exposed to danger or risk, you should wisely hide yourself from the threat (***Proverbs 22:3; 27:12***).

Rather than foolishly exposing yourself to trouble, you should protect yourself from loss by using whatever means are available. You are not very strong yourself, so you should look for other protection.

Consider some examples. Your life is feeble, and your family will suffer if you die early. Term life insurance would create an estate for them, if that were to happen.

Your health is feeble, and medical costs today could quickly wipe out your savings. Health insurance protects you from that catastrophe.

This is how feeble folk make their houses in rocks! You are a feeble investor, but you can easily join a mutual

fund for professional management and diversify your risk across many stocks.

You are feeble at savings, but a company 401k plan can give you a very solid advantage. An unplanned child could make your family feebler, so you choose a rock solid method of birth control to protect your marriage and family!

This is how feeble folk make their houses in rocks. They are safe!

Think spiritually! Your father Adam's sin and your own sins have made you very feeble, without strength, before God.

You are exposed to horrific eternal danger. But thanks be to God, Who sent Jesus Christ to die for mankind in his feeble condition (***Romans 5:6-21***).

Flee to the Rock Christ Jesus for refuge and guarantee your future safety by building your house upon the rock of His sayings (***1Corinthians 10:4; Matthew 7:24-27; Hebrews 6:18; Psalm 62:7; 94:22***).

Proverbs 30:27 The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;

Here is a fabulous Proverb in fourteen Words. It is simple, intriguing, and contains an obscure lesson of great wisdom.

Locusts teach us that society is better than individuality, That there is power in numbers and unity. Without a leader, they travel in large, coordinated swarms that still frighten men today. Can you learn their wisdom?

Four little creatures teach powerful lessons (***Proverbs 30:24-28***).

Here is the desert locust, which inhabits the areas near Israel. The LORD Jehovah gave the desert locust a very unique trait to teach us wisdom, and the Holy Spirit reveals this wisdom here for our learning.

The desert locust usually lives a very lonely, quiet, individual, and solitary life. They are extremely shy except for their brief mating encounters.

They fly at night and avoid each other, very content at being alone. They are rather sluggish by nature, they are quite harmless.

But when put in a crowded situation with other locusts, due to ideal ecological circumstances or the search for food, they drastically change to become very social creatures.

This radical change in personality is their unique trait. In addition, their very physiology and color change to indicate their new temperament.

Locusts now want to swarm together, and they do so in very coordinated ways with sometimes billions of locusts involved. So great is this transformation, they were regarded as two separate species until recently!

Scientifically, a locust with its individualistic and reclusive temperament is called "solitarious."

When the locusts undergoes its great personality change and becomes a very eager social creature, it is scientifically said to be "gregarious"!

We use the word ourselves to describe someone who is very friendly, social, interactive, and enjoying group activities!

Only three inches long and weighing two grams, a single locust can eat his weight in food every day! They have a top speed near 20 mph, and they can cover 75 miles in a day. With a few others, they can ravage a country, devouring most edible things in their path.

A swarm of locusts covering 2,000 square miles crossed the Red Sea in 1889, and was estimated to weigh 500,000 tons and contain 250 billion individual locusts. Swarms still occur today and are a serious threat to agriculture from North Africa to Asia.

God calls these creatures His army: He describes their character and destructive capability in great detail (*Joel 1:4-7; 2:1-11, 25*).

God sent this army into Egypt once to encourage Pharaoh to let His people Israel go to Canaan. The results were devastating! The locusts darkened the sun and ate every single green thing! (*Exodus 10:3-6, 12-19*)

He commands the locusts! He created their great use of society! (*2Chronicles 7:13*)

The wisdom to be learned is the advantage of numbers and unity. Society is better than individuality. Solomon taught, "*Two are better than one ... and a threefold cord is not quickly broken*" (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*).

Every person with a decent spouse knows that marriage is certainly better than being single (*Genesis 2:18; Ecclesiastes 9:9*).

This fact is obvious to wise men, regardless of the modern babbling about the blessings and virtue of the single life.

There are four advantages to human society, or the gathering of individuals into a group (*Ecclesiastes 4:9-12*).

1. They can share the rewards of labor and prosperity.

2. When one has difficulties, the others can help him.
3. Their different abilities are synergistic and result in greater productivity.
4. They can defend against greater enemies.

Loners are losers, for their choice of individualism guarantees their perpetual inferiority. God has chosen human society to maximize human potential.

Marriage is a wonderful blessing to a single person; a family is a glorious social unit, and so it is with companies, nations, and churches. Careful regard for the vitality of the group is essential wisdom!

We see the purpose of the local church from locusts. Saints join together into a common society for the greater benefits of the group.

By Holy Spirit's four reasons, they can thrive spiritually, when they use one another. And the apostles taught this fact (*Acts 2:42-47; Romans 15:1-7, 13-14; 1Corinthians 12:13-27; Galatians 6:1-2; Ephesians 4:16; 1Thessalonians 5:14; Hebrews 3:12-13*).

Those who lightly regard God's divine wisdom and neglect assemblies are selfish men and dangerous to the body. They are counterproductive deadbeats. Every true saint is needed to help maintain the integrity and vitality of the overall body. (*Hebrews 10:23-25; 2Thessalonians 2:15; 3:6*)

We also see the need for a close and unified church. What good is a church divided against itself? It will surely fall, as Jesus taught (*Matthew 12:25*).

Division in a family, city, or kingdom will bring certain ruin, so a church must be united. God the sowing of discord is a serious problem (*Proverbs 6:16-19; Matthew 18:17; Romans 16:17-18; 1Corinthians 1:10*).

Regardless of how you feel about others, you cannot do nearly as much or as well by yourself, as you can with the assistance of others.

And you will be a whole lot happier in the exchange, for there is great pleasure in the group dynamics of saints, especially when assisted by the power of the Holy Spirit (*Psalms 133:1-3*).

Do you have a locust's wisdom? Do you understand the value of human society? Are you maximizing your marriage? Promoting your family? Building your church? Enhancing your company? Unifying your nation? Do you know how to modify your individual tendencies to serve the group's needs?

The locust teaches these things, and he does not need a king to force him to do them.

The Locusts Does What It Does By

Obedience To Its Creator!

Proverbs 30:28 The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

Spiders are very small creatures of God, but they are very wise (*Proverbs 30:24*).

Here is the fourth of the small things that provide object lessons for us. Agur will teach us the wisdom of the spider (*Proverbs 30:1*).

Instead Fearing Or Despising Learn The Lesson!

Are you too proud to learn from this small creature, which you should crush and destroy? *"A wise man will hear, and will increase learning" (Proverbs 1:5).*

Are our hands less capable than a spider's? Palaces more closed to us than spiders?

Many people think spiders are dangerously poisonous and likely to attack at any time. This is not true.

The only dangerous spiders in our part of the world are the brown recluse spider and the black widow spider.

The brown recluse is not common, especially in places of human activity; and the black widow rarely bites, and not without provocation. For the most part, spiders are beneficial, eating insects and other spiders! Spiders are invertebrates, they do not have a backbone or spinal column. They are also arthropods, they have a skeleton on the outside of their body, and their legs are jointed.

Spiders have two body parts, a head and an abdomen. They have eight eyes in their head; and they have four pairs of legs on their abdomen, which is larger than the head.

Spiders are mostly known for their intricate webs to catch insects. The webs are made of fine silken threads produced by "spinnerets" on their abdomen. The silk is secreted in liquid form, which hardens when exposed to the air.

Wipe a web away today, and there will be one there tomorrow! Some species spin parachutes to travel great distances! The ingenious design, pattern, and structure of webs reveal incredible intelligence from God!

Wise Agur, by the inspiration by God, wants us to know two things about spiders.

1. They take hold with their hands (all eight of them),
2. They are in kings' palaces.

Even though great pains are taken to keep them out of palaces, they are still found there! And from these two

observations we may learn a lesson to teach us God's wisdom for success.

Faithful and diligent perseverance in a task, even against much opposition and difficulty, will bring significant reward!

When you have a job to do, use your hands and do it! When it is a repetitious job, keep using your hands. Don't stop! Take the next object in your hand and perform the necessary operation.

Do not fold your arms or put your hands in your pockets, like the sluggard. Use them! (*Proverbs 6:10; 19:24; 24:33; 26:15; Ecclesiastes 4:5*) See the comments on *Proverbs 19:24*.

Men do not assist spiders at all, and they do most everything to hinder their work and lives. Spiders are discriminated against constantly, and they have every reason to be discouraged. But they do not complain, sue, or quit! They simply keep taking hold with their hands, and they do not give up because of trouble!

The Way A Woman Uses Her Hands Reveals Her Character.

A virtuous woman's hands are seldom still, because there are so many things to be done with them (*Proverbs 31:13, 19-20*).

You can find these women by their well-dressed children, clean and organized homes, and excellent meals.

And good women with diligent hands should be rewarded (*Proverbs 31:16, 31*)!

If you use your hands diligently, you also will end up in kings' palaces, for kings and great men want diligent persons working for them (*Proverbs 22:29*).

Slack or lazy hands lead to poverty; but diligent hands lead to riches (*Proverbs 10:4; 12:14, 24; 14:1; 21:25; 26:6; Ecclesiastes 10:18*).

Can you match the spider today? What task do you have before you? Take hold of it! *"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might" (Ecclesiastes 9:10)!*

Proverbs 30:29 There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going:

Here are the last of the six quatrains, and has to do with great stateliness in motion. It is, where possible, to have grace in our motions, as well as grace in our manners.

It is also as the former examples taught and try to impress us by frequent repetitions of prudence and skill.

And it is also that the four following examples demonstrate steadfast and fearless progress in right undertakings.

It is in a spiritual sense, that there need for comeliness in going.

We never see or find God when: Diminishing a man of his manhood. Demeaning a man of his good aspirations. Or degrading a man in the scale of his being.

All the divine movement is toward lifting a man upward. Do you act like the Divine?

Do you seek out opportunities to lift someone up? Is it even important to you?

Do you strive to be good and be pleasing to God and man.

Do you present, by your appearance and attitude demonstrate Christian character?

Here Agur ends up the chapter with four things that he finds to be good and pleasing. These four things are pleasant to look at, as they go forward.

As a garden is rendered pleasant to the eye by the rich variety of fruits, and herbs, and flowers, which it contains, so to the eye of the mind the world is a beautiful scene, containing such a surprising variety of creatures, every one of them possessing qualities peculiar to itself.

One of the great lessons of this verse is that if you are wicked you will not believe in Christ, the invisible things of God are clearly seen in the things that he has made, and in those various endowments which he has bestowed on his creatures.

Romans 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*

Agur had spoken of those creatures that are remarkable, for their great wisdom in little bodies, and he proceeds to mention some creatures that deserve admiration, for their courage and spirit, and others for the dignity that appears in their motions.

Psalms 104:24 *O LORD, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all: the earth is full of thy riches.*

Proverbs 30:30 *A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;*

Our God loves to boast of His creation, and this Proverb directs our attention to the king of beasts.

The lion is first in the list of four things that go well and are comely in going (**Proverbs 30:29**).

Here is a beautiful sight, and we should understand it and rejoice in it.

The worship of God includes meditating on His great works, and His creation of wonderful animals, is certainly one of His great works. (**Psalms 77:11-12; 143:5**)

God thought the animal creation of the sixth day was good, and we should give Him glory for it. (**Genesis 1:24-25**)

It was common for saints of both testaments to address the Lord in prayer by referencing His creative power in the animal kingdom (**Nehemiah 9:6; Acts 4:24**).

When did you last visit a zoo? It is not just for children, though parents can certainly teach children about God and creation at the zoo. It is a place where mature saints can worship their Creator by seeing many of His wonderful works. Plan a trip there soon.

Do you rejoice in God's creative genius? Do the different features of the great variety of creatures He made fascinate you? Do you love the lion? Give Him glory reader!

The Lord forced Job to consider The generative traits of wild goats (**Job 39:1-4**).

The independent spirit of wild asses (**Job 39:5-8**).
The cantankerous strength of the rhinoceros (**Job 9-12**).

The beauty of the peacock's feathers (**Job 39:13a**).
The stupidity and ignorant courage of the ostrich (**Job 39:13b-18**).

The strength and glory of the horse (**Job 39:19-25**).

The wonderful traits of the hawk and eagle (**Job 39:26-30**).

And these are only some of those creatures with which God humbled Job! Have you considered behemoth and leviathan (**Job 39-41:1-34**)!

But what of the lion? His beauty is the great strength and fearlessness with which he carries himself. And we are considering the male lion for his much greater size and regal appearance. His head and mane are glorious! He is a beautiful and frightening sight!

A male lion is magnificent! They may grow to 10 feet in length (not counting the tail), 4 feet in height (at the shoulder), and weigh 600 pounds! An average lion has a vertical jump of 12 feet and can run over 40 mph for

short distances! His fore body is so strong that he can knock a zebra off its feet and breaks its back with a swipe of his paw! His roar is so powerful and loud it can be heard six miles away!

For those who love the tiger, consider these two things: tigers did not live anywhere near Israel, and both God and man have designated the lion as the king of beasts.

The Holy Spirit chose the lion as a picture of Satan's character and danger to saints, appropriately requiring our sober vigilance (*1Peter 5:8*).

The lion stalks its prey to greedily devour the weak and careless, so the devil is watching for saints to give him a little opportunity to leap on them and devour their souls.

Yet, if we will resist him, he will flee from us (*1Peter 5:9; James 4:7*).

However, the Lord also chose the lion to represent the Lord Jesus Christ. One of the twenty-four elders in heaven told John that Jesus was the Lion of the tribe of Judah (*Revelation 5:5*).

He is the glorious and regal Savior of our souls. Jacob had intimated this grand picture thousands of years earlier (*Genesis 49:8-12*).

And we need not ever wonder which lion is stronger, for Jesus proclaimed He was stronger; and the devils tremble with horrible fear at the mighty name of Jesus of Nazareth (*Mark 1:23-28; Luke 11:18-22*)!

His Father and our Father has exalted Him far above all principalities and powers in this and all other worlds (*Ephesians 1:19-23; Colossians 1:15-19*)!

Give glory to the LORD this day for the comely glory of the regal lion, but remember that the greatest visible glory in the universe is found in the Lion of the tribe of Judah, even our Lord Jesus Christ.

Adore and praise Him today. He is coming soon in power and great glory to be admired by all them that believe and destroy all His enemies.

Proverbs 30:31 A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up.

Here are three more comely things in their going, beautiful in the discharge of their gifts and offices (*Proverbs 30:29-31*)!

The lion, the king of beasts, has already been described (*Proverbs 30:30*).

If you meditate carefully on these three things, there are lessons of wisdom to be found (*Job 12:7-10; Psalms 107:43; 119:96*).

The greyhound is beautiful by speed, the he goat by grave leadership, and an invincible king by irresistible authority. Delight in these traits!

Agur the son of Jakeh wrote this chapter of Proverbs (*Proverbs 30:1*).

God inspired His Words by three counts:

1. All Scripture is inspired, and Proverbs is part of Scripture (*2Timothy 3:16-17*).
2. These proverbs by Agur were a prophecy, a revelation of God's wisdom by inspiration (*Proverbs 30:1; 2Peter 1:19-21*).
3. Agur warned against adding to God's Words. Therefore, we should read these Words as from God Himself. (*Proverbs 30:5-6; Revelation 22:18-19*)

Most of Agur's Proverbs are lists of things (*Proverbs 30:11-31*).

The list here is four things that are comely in their going, beautiful in their appearance, movements, and conduct (*Proverbs 30:29-31*).

The lion, already mentioned in the previous verse, has a bold and majestic walk, showing confident pride; he fears no creature, and he does not turn away from any (*Proverbs 30:30*).

He is the king of beasts and illustrates boldness, confidence, and fearlessness.

What is beautiful about the greyhound? The greyhound is a slender, streamlined dog, having loins tightly girded for exceptional running speed.

The greyhound's name has nothing to do with color, but rather with being a hunting/game chasing dog, a hound that hunts by sight and pursuit.

English gentlemen and pharaohs owned greyhounds, with references dated before 3000 B.C. The typical male greyhound weighs 70 lbs., and it can run short distances near 45 mph.

The greyhound is elegant, easygoing, and gentle. With long legs and tail, compact muscles, slender profile, and alert appearance, the greyhound is attractive, fast, and agile.

The greyhound's eyesight to see small moving objects at up to one half mile away, it was created and bred to hunt by sight and chase.

The greyhound is comely in its going, whether walking elegantly or agilely chasing down a rabbit in an open field, a task only a cheetah could match!

What is beautiful about the he goat? With a long beard, magnificent horns, and constant presence at the head of the flock, the he goat presents a strong picture of grave and sober leadership.

The he goat was common knowledge that he goats go at the front of the flock (*Jeremiah 50:8*).

And God used a he goat as the powerful symbol for Alexander the Great, which is very fitting, as the Macedonians revered the goat. (*Daniel 8:5-8*)

The he goat is an excellent guide and protector, illustrating the beauty of a faithful, patriarchal leader!

What is beautiful about an invincible king? It is hard to appreciate the authority of a king, against whom there is no rising up, since there are no more kings, other than figureheads.

National rulers today have little authority or power in comparison.

Leaders must answer to legislators and courts, have their college conduct scrutinized, beg the votes of peasants to remain in power, obtain permission for vacations, cooperate with the media, shake hands and kiss babies, grin and wave like a mannequin, and justify every decision to scorners.

Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon was the greatest king (*Daniel 2:37-40; Jeremiah 27:6-7; 28:14; Ezekiel 26:7*).

Nebuchadnezzar was not voted into office; he answered to no one but God; opponents did not draw rude cartoons about him; he didn't shake hands or kiss babies.

Nebuchadnezzar could start a new religion on a whim and enforce it with death by fire on every politician in the world (*Daniel 3:1-7*)!

If you offended him, even if you were in his cabinet, he would have you cut in pieces, your house leveled, and a great pile of dung erected in its place (*Daniel 2:5; 3:29*)!

Solomon and his father David were great kings in their own right. They understood the power of a king, and they wrote about it. (*2Samuel 8:1-6; 1Kings 2:12; 4:20-28*)

A king like this was to be feared as the lion is feared in the jungle (*Proverbs 16:14-15; 19:12; 20:2; 24:21-22; Ecclesiastes 8:2-5; 10:4, 20*).

A king, was to suppress all evil in his realm (*Proverbs 14:35; 16:10; 20:8, 26; 29:14*).

We know this by Agur's Words that the trait we are to admire is his invincibility and irresistibility, which is declared by the Words, "*Against whom there is no rising up.*"

This can be a beautiful thing, if used righteously no matter what the Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights may imply!

What lessons can be learned by this list from the natural creation? The Lord Jesus Christ fulfills all these traits perfectly. Christians should also seek to fulfill them.

It is not enough for you to be righteous: you should also be comely in going, by adding beauty and grace to every performance.

It is by comely conduct in duties that Christians add glory and praise to their religion.

Duty and righteousness are excellent; but the manner and spirit in which you do them adds to their beauty (*Proverbs 22:11; Matthew 5:16; 1Corinthians 13:5; Galatians 4:18; 5:6; Philippians 1:27; Titus 2:1, 9-10*)!

Christian, Are You Comely In Your Goings?

Christian are you bold and fearless like the lion in doing your Christian duties, regardless of opposition or threats (*Proverbs 28:1; Job 32:1-14; Psalm 119:98-100; Hebrews 13:6*)?

Christian are you quick to keep the commandments of God, like the greyhound (*Psalm 119:60; Galatians 1:15-17*)?

Christian are you a leader by example in your marriage, family, and church, like the he goat (*1Corinthians 16:13; Ephesians 4:16; 6:4*)?

Christian are you unmovable, like a great king, in defending God-ordained authority, righteousness, and the apostolic gospel (*Proverbs 22:17-21; 1Peter 3:15; Jude 1:3*)?

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Lion of the tribe of Judah and turns away from none (*Revelation 5:5*).

The Lord Jesus Christ destroyed the works of the devil, who is described as a roaring lion (*1John 3:8; 1Peter 5:8*).

The Lord Jesus Christ is like the greyhound, for he is quick in understanding and coming quickly (*Isaiah 11:3; Revelation 2:5, 16; 3:11; 22:7, 12, 20*).

The Lord Jesus Christ leads His people, as their Apostle, Bishop, and great High Priest, much like the

he goat. And there is no rising up against Him, for He is King of kings, the Blessed and Only Potentate (*1 Timothy 6:13-16*)!

Proverbs 30:32 If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth.

Do not speak, unless you have something peaceful and righteous to say, for words of either pride or sin will produce greater evil and harm. Let every word count for good.

If conscience or others correct you for arrogance or wickedness, do not attempt to excuse or justify your sins. Humble yourself, confess your error, and thank the one who reproves.

Your Mouth Is The Vent Of Your Heart And Mind.

If you have not ruled your thoughts, at least rule your mouth by keeping your folly or wickedness to yourself, lest it harm those around you and spread the sin further.

This rule is so valuable that even fools can be thought wise by restraining their words and remaining silent (*Proverbs 17:27-28*).

Your tongue can be a flame that fires the course of nature, and it is set on fire of hell. Words can be deadly poison (*James 3:6, 8*).

You hold the power of death and life in your mouth (*Proverbs 18:21*).

Much talking always includes sin (*Proverbs 10:19*).

You will give an account for every idle word, including filthy, foolish, and jesting words (*Matthew 12:36; Ephesians 5:3-7*).

Doing foolishly in lifting up yourself: Is to be puffed up with pride and vaunting yourself against authority or over others. When you have foolishly gone this far, the best choice is to stop talking, otherwise provocative things will be said leading to a greater conflict.

Pride is the cause of all fighting, So the fewer arrogant words spoken the better. (*Proverbs 13:10*)

Thinking evil is: Your imagination fantasizing or your imagination lusting for forbidden things. Your imagination assuming evil motives for another person's actions, your imagination purposing to rebel against authority, or related sins of the mind.

Even the thought of foolishness is sin (*Proverbs 24:9*).

If you have failed to rule your thoughts, you can still rule your mouth to keep your evil from spreading. Laying your hand over your mouth is a Biblical expression for ending your speech and being silent.

Job told his three friends to do this rather than continue their accusations against him (*Job 21:5*).

Job did this himself when confronted by God (*Job 40:4*).

It is what you should do when you feel pride welling up inside or sinful thoughts at work. The context in the prior verse describes a great king's authority (*Proverbs 30:31*).

A wise man will not provoke him with fighting words, for he has the power to destroy (*Proverbs 16:14; 19:12; 20:2; Ecclesiastes 8:2-5; 10:4*).

This warning even includes thoughts or private conversations in your bedroom (*Ecclesiastes 10:20*).

Retorting against authority is folly, but especially against civil rulers (*Titus 2:9*).

The context after describes the certainty of a fight or war if wrath is pressed. A wise man is quick to hear and slow to speak. (*Proverbs 30:33*)

A wise man knows that wrath does not work the righteousness of God (*James 1:19-20*).

He knows that strife in the heart leads to confusion and every evil work, so he refuses to add grievous words to the fire (*Proverbs 15:1; James 3:14-18*).

The general lesson is valuable. Words take pride and evil imaginations further than intended. Words can provoke others to respond in kind, words are impossible to retract, and the damage is difficult to repair, as with offended brothers (*Proverbs 18:19*).

Therefore, your tongue should lie silent in your mouth until and unless there is something peaceful and godly to say.

When pride or evil whet the tongue, its sharp words pierce others, cutting them needlessly and/or starting a fight. It is so much better to choose the tongue of the wise, dealing grace and health to all who hear (*Proverbs 12:18; 10:20-21; 16:24; Colossians 4:6; Ephesians 4:29*).

What a peacemaker you could be, If you were always first to lay your hand over your mouth (*Proverbs 15:1; 25:15*).

But alas, the fire that burns inside often finds release and causes damage (*Psalms 39:1-3*).

Be quick to hear and slow to speak to make peace (*James 1:19-20*).

Instead of conceited or corrupt speech, choose instead the gracious and learned tongue of Jesus Christ, Who spoke better than any man ever (*Psalms 45:2; Isaiah 50:4; Luke 4:22; John 7:46*).

Proverbs 30:33 Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

The God-hating professor taunted the philosophy class, "No one in here can prove even one statement of the Bible to be absolutely true!" A sober young man spoke from the back of the room, "I can."

The professor retorted, "Well, here's your opportunity!" The young man approached the teacher, took the teacher's nose in his hand, and twisted it hard. The blood ran freely, and the young man quoted this Proverb!

God put laws in His creation and revealed them to men. **If** the cream from milk is agitated in a churn, it will separate into butter and buttermilk. The process has been known from the beginning of the world, and it is as sure and certain as gravity. Poor conditions may make it take longer, but butter will definitely result from churning milk.

The blood vessels in the nose are weak and near the surface. **If** the nose is hit or twisted hard, these vessels will break and blood will flow from the nose.

Nosebleeds are very common, and a simple wringing of the nose is enough to cause this bleeding. As sure and certain as gravity, a twisting of the nose will rupture blood vessels and bring forth blood.

With the same certainty, acting in wrath to force or defend your cause will create strife. Wrath is anger, and strife is fighting and division.

How you deal with anger is whether or not you cause conflict and trouble. "*A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife*" (*Proverbs 15:18*).

Angry strife is devilish and from hell; it leads to confusion and every evil work; wise men are peacemakers instead (*James 3:13-18*)!

Everyone gets angry, but wise men defer anger and pass over the offences of others (*Proverbs 19:11; Mark 3:5*).

Wise men do not let anger cause them to sin, and they get rid of it as soon as possible (*Ephesians 4:26*).

Wise men are slow to wrath. They rule their spirits and do not allow the passion of anger to control them. They are great men! (*Proverbs 14:17, 29; James 1:29*) (*Proverbs 16:32*)

Angry men are dangerous fools. They always have strife. Avoid them!

If you associate with angry men, you will learn their sinful ways and get involved in fighting and trouble (*Proverbs 22:24; 29:22*).

It is better to choose friends from faithful and perfect men (*Psalms 101:6*).

Anger is the mark of a fool (*Ecclesiastes 7:9*).

Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous (*Proverbs 27:4*).

Anger and wrath both lead to strife. Choose to be offended, or even defrauded, rather than get angry (*1 Corinthians 6:7*).

You need not defend yourself; the Lord will defend you (*Romans 12:19-21*).

