

DIAMOND INSTITUTE

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Year 1 – Winter Semester

Course – Growing up spiritually

Session 7

Pastor Robert Fisk

SESSION 7 THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM

REVIEW OF THE FOUNDATIONS FOR SPIRITUAL GROWTH

FOUNDATION 1 – Jesus

FOUNDATION 2 – Loving God AND your neighbor and yourself

FOUNDATION 3 – Knowing Father AND Son AND Holy Spirit

FOUNDATION 4 – The number of the Gospels

FOUNDATION 5 – The number of “Ministry Gifts to Men”

FOUNDATION 6 – The “Basic Doctrines Of Christ”

FOUNDATION 7 – THE SEVEN PILLARS OF WISDOM

Underlying our Christianity is the Wisdom of God found in the Old Testament. Nowhere is the Wisdom of God MORE CONCENTRATED than in the book of Proverbs.

Prov 9:1-6 (KJV) Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:
2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.
3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,
4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,
5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.
6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.

Wisdom has “seven pillars” . . . as you study the book of Proverbs, these pillars or “main themes” become very visible:

Number 1 & number 7 pillar are easiest to see in ANOTHER of Solomon’s books:

Eccl 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: FEAR GOD, and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: for this is the whole duty of man.

If you AT LEAST obey pillars 1 & 7, you will have SOME stability in your life.

Let’s look at pillar #1 a little CLOSER:

#1) FEAR GOD

Prov 1:7 The FEAR OF THE LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov 9:10 THE FEAR OF THE LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

What is the FEAR OF THE LORD? The Amplified Bible calls it the “Awesome, reverential fear of the Lord”. YES, we fear and respect His power, causing us to OBEY Him, then we learn to LOVE Him :)

#2 & #6 pillars are similar, but distinctly different in function.

#2) KEEP AWAY FROM SIN ... #6) KEEP AWAY FROM SEXUAL SIN.

Keeping away from sin is BEST described in chapter 1:

Prov 1:10-19 (NIV) My son, if sinners entice you, do not give in to them. 11 If they say, "Come along with us; let's lie in wait for someone's blood, let's waylay some harmless soul; 12 let's swallow them alive, like the grave, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; 13 we will get all sorts of valuable things and fill our houses with plunder; 14 throw in your lot with us, and we will share a common purse"-- 15 my son, do not go along with them, do not set foot on their paths; 16 for their feet rush into sin, they are swift to shed blood. 17 How useless to spread a net in full view of all the birds! 18 These men lie in wait for their own blood; they waylay only themselves! 19 Such is the end of all who go after ill-gotten gain; IT TAKES AWAY THE LIVES of those who get it.

If you SIN, you KICK OUT a pillar in your life and you are NOT STABLE and are in DANGER of RUINING YOUR LIFE !!!

THANK GOD there is something you can DO if you sin:

1 John 1:8-10 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

#3) THE PARENT/CHILD RELATIONSHIP

(Which can be SO GOOD or SO BAD depending on if we obey the precepts laid out in Proverbs). For example, to the CHILD, Wisdom says:

Prov 6:20-29 (NIV) 20 My son, keep your father's commands and do not forsake your mother's teaching. 21 Bind them upon your heart forever; fasten them around your neck. 22 When you walk, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; when you awake, they will speak to you. 23 For these commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life, 24 keeping you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of the wayward wife. 25 Do not lust in your heart after her beauty or let her captivate you with her eyes, 26 for the prostitute reduces you to a loaf of bread, and the adulteress preys upon your very life. 27 Can a man scoop fire into his lap without his clothes being burned? 28 Can a man walk on hot

coals without his feet being scorched? 29 So is he who sleeps with another man's wife; no one who touches her will go unpunished.

To the parent, Wisdom teaches us to DISCIPLINE:

Prov 29:15 (NKJ) The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Wisdom teaches us to: Prov 22:6 (NIV) Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

PARENTS, as a matter of fact, your child DID come with a book of instructions ... study Proverbs and HIGHLIGHT everything having to do with the parent/child relationship!

#4) THE TONGUE

(Right in the middle, holding up much of our life is the tongue - Proverbs teaches us how to USE it.)

Prov 18:21 (NIV) The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

Prov 10:19-21 (NIV) When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. 20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value. 21 The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment.

Prov 12:18-19 (NIV) Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. 19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.

Matt 12:34-37 (KJV) O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. 35 A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. 36 But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. 37 For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned.

EVEN SALVATION is received through the use of the tongue:

Rom 10:9-10 (NIV) That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10 For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.

Go through Proverbs and HIGHLIGHT anything that says MOUTH or TONGUE or anything having to do with WORDS, then you will begin to understand how to STOP GETTING YOURSELF in TROUBLE with your tongue!

#5) WORK / REST

If you are working 7 days a week and not resting one day, you are OUT of God's will, and you WILL break down !!

Even God rested on the seventh day after He created all things - if God rested, who are YOU ?? The Apostle Paul brings some more light on the subject when he says. let no man judge you concerning Sabbath days .. in other words take A Sabbath day, but he doesn't nail down WHICH day:

Col 2:16-17 (NIV) Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink, or with regard to a religious festival, a New Moon celebration or A SABBATH DAY. 17 These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ.

On the other side of the coin, there are those who don't work - to those folks God says:

II Th 3:10 (NIV) For even when we were with you, we gave you this rule: "If a man will not work, HE SHALL NOT EAT."

Many students that came down to the Hunter's school of ministry while I was working there said, "God will supply my needs", yet they wouldn't get a job. The school was only from 9 a.m. to noon, so that students COULD work. Guess which students lasted the entire year?? Of course, the ones that OBEYED GOD and worked. The others dropped out by the first or second semester when the money ran out !!

#6) TURN AWAY FROM SEXUAL SIN

This is talked about MANY TIMES in Proverbs chapters 2 and chapters 5 - 7:

Prov 7:6-27 (NKJ) For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice, 7 And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, a young man devoid of understanding, 8 Passing along the street near her corner; and he took the path to her house 9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night. 10 And there a woman met him, with the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. 11 She was loud and rebellious, her feet would not stay at home. 12 At times she was outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner. 13 So she caught him and kissed him; with an impudent face she said to him: 14 "I have peace offerings with me; today I have paid my vows. 15 So I came out to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you. 16 I have spread my bed with tapestry, Colored coverings of Egyptian linen. 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; let us delight ourselves with love. 19 For my husband is not at home; he has gone on a long journey; 20 He has taken a bag of money with him, and will come home on the appointed day." 21 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, with her flattering lips she seduced him. 22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, 23 Till an arrow struck his liver.

As a bird hastens to the snare, he did not know it would cost his life. 24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children; pay attention to the words of my mouth: 25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, do not stray into her paths; 26 For she has cast down many wounded, and all who were slain by her were strong men. 27 Her house is the way to hell, descending to the chambers of death.

#7) KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

John 14:15-16 (KJV) If ye love me, keep my commandments.16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;

John 14:23-24 (KJV) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.24 He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me.

1 John 5:3 (KJV) For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Ecc1 12:13 (KJV) Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

These 7 pillars of wisdom form the perfect Old Testament foundation for today's New Testament Christian!!