



WISDOM'S WARNINGS OF PITFALLS

6:1-35

The words “*my son*” occur in **verses 1, 3, 20** and express the concern in which the words are written. The chapter contains some warnings concerning specific dangers, dangers that all are faced with from time to time. These are words that will enable one to order their affairs with discretion and are for direction in common life.

I. A WARNING AGAINST FOOLISH FINANCIAL ENTANGLEMENTS [verses 1-5]

These verses warn against becoming a “*surety*” (guarantee or collateral) for another, that is, making oneself liable for someone else’s debt should that person be unable or unwilling to pay it. The warning here is, that for a person to secure another’s loan by means of his own estate and reputation can be both an encumbrance and a trap. Suretyship involves financial obligation, and there is always a risk in committing financial resources to another, for suretyship may end in suffering and disappointment [**Proverbs 11:15**]. It is therefore wise to carefully consider the circumstances of the one you are becoming “*surety*” for, and one’s own circumstances [**Proverbs 17:18**]. *Solomon* is warning against overextending ourselves and acting irresponsibly with our money. THE LESSON HERE IS TO ACT RESPONSIBLY WITH OUR FINANCIAL RESOURCES! This portion of **Proverbs** strongly advises the “*surety*” to as soon as possible get release from the financial arrangement, as a gazelle and bird would with all their power squirm free from their captors [**verse 5**].

II. WISDOM WARNS AGAINST THE PITFALL OF LAZINESS [verses 6-11]

1. The Sluggard Is Addressed [verse 6].

A “*sluggard*” is a term for “*a habitually lazy person*” and is identified throughout the book of **Proverbs**:

As One Who Loves Excessive Sleep [**6:9**]

As One Who Is A Procrastinator [**6:10; 24:33-34**]

As One Who Is Irritating To Others [**10:26; 24:33**]

As One Who Will Neglect The Basic Necessities To Take Care Of Self [**12:27**]

As Wishful Thinkers [**13:4; 24:34**]

As Those Who Bring Trouble Into Their Lives [**15:19; 19:15**]

As Great Wasters [**18:9**]

As Those Who Refuse To Work [**21:25**]

As Those Filled With Excuses [**20:4; 22:13; 26:13**]

As Those Void Of Understanding [**24:30**].

Paul speaks of the character of the “*sluggard*” in **I Timothy 5:8**, and the attitude that ought to be taken toward the “*sluggard*” in **II Thessalonians 3:10**.

2. Wisdom Points To The Ant As An Example [verses 6-8].

☞ *“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise”* [verse 6]. To “consider” is to “think about carefully, to regard and treat in an attentive way, to study or contemplate in order to arrive at a judgment or decision” Consider the ways of the “ant” for she is the most laborious of all insects!

☞ *“Which having no guide, overseer or ruler, provideth for meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest”* [verses 7-8]. The “ant” collects food in proper season, has keen forethought and foresight, works quietly without show, and works unweariedly until work is done. The “ant” works together in systems of organization to the best good of the whole community. Not one of them exists without a definite job to help the needs of the community. They carry out their work without being forced to do so by a guide, overseer, or ruler. The “ant” is a self-starter, and takes upon itself to do what is necessary for survival. THE LESSON OF THE ANT IS FORESIGHT, THE DUTY OF MAKING THE BEST OF OPPORTUNITIES! The “ant” is wise enough to prepare for both unpredictable and predictable circumstances. What we read in these verses is not contrary to what *Christ* taught in **Matthew 6:19**. *Christ* is not instructing us to avoid responsibility for the protection and care of our families, but not to trust in such treasures.

III. WISDOM WARNS AGAINST THE PITFALL OF THE WICKED PERSON [verses 12-15]

1. The One Described [verse 12].

The person being described in these verses is referred to as “a naughty person” meaning “someone who is disobedient, wayward, defiant, unruly, and insubordinate” and as “a wicked man” meaning “someone who is evil, sinful, immoral, corrupt, vile, foul and lawless”

2. The Characteristics Of Such A Person [verses 12-14].

Every member of this one’s body “mouth” “eyes” “feet” “fingers” is an active instrument of unrighteousness [Romans 6:13-19].

☞ *“walketh with a froward mouth”* [verse 12]. He speaks things that are perverse and contrary.

☞ *“He winketh with his eyes”* [verse 13]. This speaks of the fact that he is deceiving and what he does, he does with purpose and design.

☞ *“He speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers”* [verse 13]. He has sinister body language, and he signals certain messages to his fellow conspirators.

☞ *“Frowardness (that which is perverse and contrary) is in his heart”* [verse 14]. The “heart” is the source of evil, and herein is the root problem.

☞ *“He deviseth (thinks up, formulates, and designs) mischievousness”* [verse 14]. He is continually planning schemes to bring about disturbance and distress.

☞ *“He soweth discord”* [verse 14]. He seeks to stir up strife, conflict, friction, hostility, antagonism, bad feeling, and dissension.

3. The Fate Of Such An Individual [verse 15].

IV. WISDOM WARNS AGAINST THE PITFALL OF SIN [verses 16-19]

These verses reinforce the description of the *“naughty person”* and the *“wicked man”* [verses 12-14].

1. There Is The Warning That Sin Is Detestable In God’s Sight [verse 16].

☞ *“These six things doth the LORD hate”* The word *“hate”* conveys the idea of *“intense hostility, an aversion, a loathing”* GOD ABSOLUTELY HATES SIN!

☞ *“yea, seven are an abomination to him”* The word *“abomination”* means *“that which is detestable and disgusting, that which is an outrage and repugnant”* Notice some things that are said to be an *“abomination”* in the book of Proverbs:

- False Balance [11:1; 20:10]. This has reference to dishonesty and deceit in business dealings [Deuteronomy 25:13-16].
- Sacrifice Of The Wicked [15:8; 21:27]. The sacrifice that is out of mere formality [Isaiah 1:3; 29:13].
- The Way Of The Wicked [15:9].
- The Thoughts Of The Wicked [15:26].
- Justifying The Wicked [17:15]. The Scriptures warn against such [Proverbs 24:24; 28:4; Isaiah 5:20; Malachi 2:17; Romans 1:32].
- Condemning The Just [17:15]. When one justifies the wicked, they at the same time condemn the just.
- Refusing To Hear The Law [28:9].

2. Some Specific Sins Are Mentioned That Are Hateful And An Abomination To God [verses 17-19].

What is mentioned here is even more definitive regarding the *“naughty person”* and the *“wicked man”*

- ⊃ *“proud look”*
- ⊃ *“lying tongue”*
- ⊃ *“hands that shed innocent blood”*
- ⊃ *“a heart that deviseth wicked imaginations”*
- ⊃ *“feet that are swift in running to mischief”*
- ⊃ *“a false witness that speaketh lies”*
- ⊃ *“he that soweth discord among brethren”*

V. WISDOM WARNS AGAINST THE PITFALL OF SEXUAL IMMORALITY

[verses 24-35]

Again, a father is instructing his son and because it is a father instructing his son, the warning is about the *“evil woman”* [verse 24], the *“whorish woman”* [verse 26], but the principles stressed here apply to all kinds of sexual temptation, not just the young man’s temptation.

1. Some Commands Concerning Sexual Immorality [verse 25].

⊃ *“Lust not after her beauty in thine heart”* This is what *Christ* warned against [Matthew 5:27-28].

⊃ *“neither let (allow) her take thee with her eyelids”* Do not allow yourself to be deceived! Do not allow yourself to fall into her traps.

2. The Arguments That Solomon Uses To Enforce The Warning [verses 26-35].

It Is A Sin That Will Reduce One To Poverty [verse 26]

It Is A Sin That Will Bring Ruin To That Which Is Precious [verse 26]

It Is A Sin That Puts One In Great Danger [verses 27-29]

It Is A Sin That Shows A Great Lack Of Understanding [verse 32]

It Is A Sin Which Wounds [verse 33]

It Is A Sin That Brings Great Dishonor [verse 33]

It Is A Sin That Brings The Rage Of Man [verses 34-35].

VI. THE REMEDY AGAINST THESE PITFALLS [verses 20-23]

1. Four Commandments Concerning Instruction From God’s Word [verses 20-21].

☞ *“keep thy father’s commandments”* [verse 20]. The word *“keep”* means *“to observe, to honor, to retain, and to guard”*. It is assumed here, that the father’s commandment is in accordance with the Word of God.

☞ *“forsake not the law of thy mother”* [verse 20]. The word *“forsake”* means *“to renounce or turn away from”*

☞ *“Bind them* (the father’s commandment, and the mother’s law) *continually upon thine heart”* [verse 21]. The word *“bind”* conveys the idea of *“wrapping around”* THE WORD OF GOD NEEDS TO BE WRAPPED AROUND THE HEART, SQUEEZING THE HEART!

☞ *“tie them about thy neck”* [verse 21]. This has reference to the outward practice. First the inward-*“bind them continually upon thine heart”* and then the inward-*“tie them about thy neck”*

2. The Blessings Of Instruction From The Word Of God [verses 22-23].

☞ *“When thou goest it* (commandment and law, the truth) *shall lead thee”* [verse 22]. Instruction from God’s Word is an **advisor**, a **helper**, and a powerful **guide!**

- It Shall Guide Into Knowledge Of The Lord.
- It Shall Guide Into The Knowledge Of God’s Will.
- It Shall Guide Into Paths Of Righteousness.
- It Shall Guide Into Proper Discernment.
- It Shall Guide From And Lead Away From That Which Is Sinful And Destructive.

☞ *“When thou sleepest it shall keep thee”* [verse 22]. Instruction from God’s Word serves as a **guard** to the life! THE WORD OF GOD HAS A SHELTERING EFFECT!

☞ *“and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee”* [verse 22]. Instruction from God’s Word is a **companion** in life. THE WORD OF GOD ALWAYS HAS SOMETHING TO SAY ON ALL OCCASIONS! That the Word of God speaks implies that it is **living**, and that it is **personal** in its message!

☞ *“For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light”* [verse 23]. God’s Word serves as a **light** {Psalm 119:105, 130}.

☞ *“and reproofs of instruction are the way of life”* [verse 23]. The word *“reproof”* means *“correction”* and the Word of God is profitable for such [II Timothy 3:16; 4:2]. The word *“instruction”* means *“a direction calling for compliance”*. The *“reproofs”* and *“instruction”* of the

Word of God “*are the way of life*” they are the way to enjoy life! They are the way that leads to spiritual life, and the abundant life.

This chapter reveals that in light of the many potential pitfalls, it is wise to stay close to God’s Word in order that it may guide one’s life in a manner that will please God. The child of God who honors God by **reading**, **believing**, and **adhering** to God’s Word will walk in light with a clear and wise understanding of circumstances and events. Walking in accordance with God’s Word will protect the child of God from falling into one of Satan’s many pitfalls. This chapter reinforces the fact that only through continuous and dedicated study of God’s Word will a person be able to defend against Satan’s attacks.
