

Lesson, Proverbs 4: 10-19. Read the Chapter. Commit vs. 14, 15.

10. Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.

11. I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.

12. When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.

13. Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.

14. Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.

15. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.

16. For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.

17. For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.

18. But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.

19. The way of the wicked is as darkness; they know not at what they stumble.

GOLDEN TEXT.

"My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."—Prov.

1: 10.

LESSON PLAN

1. Counsels, vs. 10-13.

2. Warnings, 14-17.

3. A Contrast, 18-19.

DAILY READINGS.

M. Temperance lesson, Prov. 4: 10-19.

T. Companionship, Prov. 13: 5-20.

W. The mocker, Prov. 20: 1-7.

T. The way of sinners, Prov. 1: 7-19.

F. A path of woe, Isaiah 5: 11-23.

S. Bad and good fruit, Gal. 5: 16-26.

S. The two ways, Psalm 1.

CATECHISM.

Q. 46. What is required in the first commandment?

A. The first commandment requireth us to know and acknowledge God to be the only true God, and our God; and to worship and glorify him accordingly.

LESSON HYMNS.

Nos. 63, 1-3 (Ps.) 127, 260, 53.

Our study this week is in the Book of Proverbs. Its general title is "The Proverbs of Solomon" or simply "Proverbs."

It was also called "The Book of Wisdom," or simply "Wisdom" and sometimes "All virtuous wisdom." Wisdom rather than Proverbs would better describe the book as a whole. A proverb is a short pithy statement of "the wisdom of many in the wit of one."

The Hebrew word translated proverb is of much wider signification than our real proverb. It is applied to the prophecy of Balaam Num. 22: 7, to Job's poem, Job. 27: 1, to the parables in Ezekiel 17: 2, and 20: 49.

It means a comparison, a similitude, and has the wide signification of any truth converged under a figure or metaphor. It is used also of a dark saying, a riddle on hard questions, such as men of the east delighted in proposing to each other. Jud. 14: 12, I Kings 10: 1.

Sometimes the things compared or contrasted are merely set side by side and the reader draws his own comparison.

The book is a collection of wisdom from different sources and at different periods. The following is a general plan of the book.

Chap. 1: 1-7. Introduction.

Chap. 1: 7-9: 18. Discourses showing the excellence of wisdom and contrasting with it the folly of evil.

Chap. 10: 22-16. The first great collection of Solomonian proverbs. They cover a wide

variety of subjects, social, political, moral and religious.

Chap. 22: 17; 24: 34. Words of the wise.

Chap. 25-29. Proverbs of Solomon copied out by the men of Hezekiah, probably Isaiah, Hosea, and Micah.

Chap. 30. Words of Agur.

Chap. 31: 1-9. Words of King Lemuel.

Chap. 31: 10-31. An acrostic. Verse 10 begins with the first letter, verse 11 with the second letter of the Hebrew alphabet, and so on to the end.

The section sets forth the praises of a virtuous woman and has been called "The golden A B C for women."

The book is in poetic form.

Solomon is said to have spoken three thousand proverbs. In this book there are only a few culled from them.

Wisdom is the subject of the Book. It includes the knowledge of all that can be known, and that knowledge applied to life. It has its true starting point in the fear of the Lord. It teaches practical religion, how God would have man behave in every relation of life. Wisdom is spoken of as an essential attribute of the Almighty, which is revealed in his works, and which he communicates to man in his word.

So it easily lends itself to the idea that it is a representation of him who is called the Word; and so an anticipation of the incarnation of our Lord Jesus Christ.