

QUESTIONS FOR INTERMEDIATE SCHOLARS.

1. Verses 15-21.

15. How was the heart regarded by Hebrew writers? When do teachers rejoice?

17. What should we not envy that sinners have? How can we be kept from coveting wrong things?

18. For what do the righteous look forward?

19. Why should we be careful about the way we choose?

20. What does the habit of drinking involve?

21. Name the three evils that ruin character. What other vices are we to avoid?

2. Verses 22-25.

22. What does a father stand for? To whom should we hearken? What kind of spirit should young people cultivate? Why should a mother always be respected?

23. What must we pay for the blessings of temperance? How much is truth worth? Should we part with it?

24, 25. How do parents sacrifice for their children? What causes the deepest sorrow to a parent? Who are the happiest parents? Who the happiest children?

Teachings of the Lesson.

If we knew the end of sinful prosperity we would not envy its possessor. Looking to the end will

help us to bear trial bravely. Poverty, disease, and trouble follow the use of strong drink. Our respect and tenderness for parents should increase as age creeps over them.

QUESTIONS FOR YOUNGER SCHOLARS.

What great evil is in our land?

Is it a new thing?

Who told Solomon to write about it? **The Lord.**

What two kinds of intemperance are spoken of here?

When is a man a drunkard?

When is he a glutton?

What is the road to drunkenness?

Whom should we not be among?

What is the only safe way?

How may we hear God's warning voice?

Through his word.

Who will obey it?

Who come to poverty?

When is poverty something to be ashamed of?

What is the very best thing we can do?

How to Please God.

Take very good care of your body.

Find what God thinks, and try to do it.

Think how much greater the soul is than the body.

LESSON OUTLINE.

Traits that will make Parents Happy.

I. A WISE HEART.

If thine heart be wise. v. 15, 16.

Wise son glad father. Prov. 10, 1.

Open thou mine eyes. Psalm 119, 18.

II. A CONTENTED MIND.

Let not thine heart envy. v. 17, 18.

Fret not thyself. Psalm 37, 1-6.

I was envious until. Psalm 73, 3, 17.

III. A TEMPERATE LIFE.

Be not among winebibbers. v. 19-21.

Walk honestly. Rom. 13, 13, 14.

Be not drunk with wine. Eph. 5, 18.

IV. FILIAL OBEDIENCE.

Hearken unto thy father. v. 22.

Honor thy father. Exod. 20, 12.

Commandment with promise. Eph. 6, 1, 2.

V. A LOVE FOR TRUTH.

Buy the truth. v. 23-26.

Seeking goodly pearls. Matt. 13, 45, 46.

The truth shall make you free. John 8, 31, 32.

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

General Statement.

The book from which our lesson comes takes its general title from the words with which in the Hebrew it opens—"the Proverbs of Solomon." But it professes itself to be composed by at least three authors, Solomon, Agur, and Lemuel; besides which there are two appendixes containing "The Words of the Wise," which seem to be compilations of sayings of many forgotten sages. One important section was copied by Hezekiah's friends between two and three hundred years after Solomon's day, and if we may venture to attach a Jewish tradition to the record of 2 Kings 18, 18, the men who gathered and perhaps remodeled these words of wisdom were Isaiah, the prophet; Joah son of Asaph, the chronicler; and Shebna, the secretary. A careful comparison of these various sections shows that they were made in widely differing environments, and that the controlling ideals of practical wisdom, or pious shrewdness, differed somewhat when the different compilations were made. So that the Book of Proverbs is of very composite character. From the first of the two appendixes which we have mentioned (Prov. 22, 17, to 24, 22) our lesson is taken. It has been well entitled by the Lesson Committee "Cautions against Intemperance." While its verses, like all the verses from the section from which they have been selected, are written with