

HOPE SABBATH SCHOOL

Proverbs - Part 13

Wise counsel about women and wine

Welcome to Hope Sabbath School--an in-depth interactive study of the Word of God. We are continuing a series of studies on Proverbs. Our topic today: Wise Counsel about Women and Wine

Scripture Theme Song: "Listen to Counsel" – Proverbs 19:20

- 1) The author of Proverbs 31
 - a) King Lemuel? His mother? The Holy Spirit (2 Peter 1:19-21)
 - b) Proverbs begins with the teachings of a father and ends with the teachings of a mother.
 - c) Why include these proverbs from King Lemuel's mother? Haven't we heard enough?
- 2) Warning against destructive behaviors
 - a) Proverbs 31:3-7
 - b) What destructive behaviors are identified here?
 - i) Inappropriate relationships? v. 3 Proverbs 5:1-9
 - ii) Inappropriate behaviors – v.3b Examples?
 - iii) Inappropriate use of alcohol – v. 4-7 (see also Proverbs 23:30-35)
 - (1) Some suggest that a moderate use of alcohol is permissible as long as there is no alcohol abuse. How would you respond?

- (2) Is alcohol acceptable for medicinal purposes?
1 Timothy 5:23
- 3) Affirming the gift of a virtuous spouse
 - a) Proverbs 31:10-31
 - b) This poem is an acrostic--each verse begins with a different letter of the Hebrew alphabet (like Ps 119)
 - c) Parallels between Proverbs 31 and Proverbs 8.
 - i) Proverbs 31:10; Proverbs 8:11
 - ii) Proverbs 31:17; Proverbs 8:14
 - iii) Is the virtuous woman in Proverbs 31 a literal spouse or Wisdom personified?
 - d) Proverbs 31:15, 18 – a model or a hyperbole?
 - i) Many women are exhausted, especially young mothers who are working both at home and outside of the home. Doesn't this description of the ever-active super spouse hurt rather than help?
 - e) King Lemuel affirms the virtuous spouse. What are some ways that we can affirm a virtuous spouse, whether our own spouse or someone we know?
 - i) Words of affirmation
 - ii) Acts of Service
 - iii) Receiving Gifts
 - iv) Quality time
 - v) Physical touch (from Gary Chapman, The Five Love Languages)
- 4) Discussion question: What is the most important take away lesson that you have learned from our study of the Proverbs?