

Sermon Text Discussion 3/19/17

Proverbs 6 – “How Wisdom Keeps You From Ruining Your Life” by Drew Hunter

Overview

Proverbs 1-4 views life as a journey along one of two paths. One path is wisdom. The other is foolishness. In Proverbs 5-7, the father warns of various pitfalls along the way. There are a few things that can ruin our lives. They may look appealing, but, long-term they can destroy a person. Proverbs outlines four specific dangers that violate these four positive values:

- 1) Financial Responsibility (v.1-5) Christians are to be generous but not impulsive or foolish in regards to debt.
- 2) Vocational Diligence (v.6--11) Rather than being lazy we are to be self-directed, forward-thinking, and diligent like the ant.
- 3) Relational Unity (v.12-19) God hates when one sows discords among brothers and He loves humble eyes, truthful speech, and eagerness to do good.
- 4) Sexual Integrity (v.20-35) The path to sexual impurity begins with one's heart and desires. Those first steps of lust gain momentum and end up causing great destruction.

Quotations

“How then does wisdom counsel us, when we men notice a beautiful woman who is not our wife? Wisdom says, Don't even go there in your thoughts: “Do not desire her beauty in your heart” (verse 25). When a wise man sees a beautiful woman who is not his wife, here is how he thinks: “She's beautiful. So? Nothing to do with me. Beautiful and irrelevant. I am so outta here mentally.” And that wise man keeps going straight on ahead, for Christ, into a destiny of greatness. But a fool doesn't even have those categories”

-Ray Ortlund,

Understanding & Application

- 1) It is a good thing when someone lovingly warns us about a danger. Think of a time when someone wisely warned you. How did you respond at the time?
- 2) When are you tempted to be thoughtlessly impulsive with money? What has the Lord taught you about being generous with your financial resources?
- 3) Both the sluggard and the workaholic say to themselves, “Just a few more hours”. The sluggard wants just a little more sleep while the workaholic chooses just a little more work. Both are escaping their more important responsibilities. What is lost when someone hides behind sleep or work?
- 4) If the Lord hates the things listed in verses 16-19, what must He love? How is your heart moving to love what He loves?
- 5) The son is warned about the tempting charms of an immoral woman. In verse 25 he is told, “Do not desire her beauty in her heart”. Whether you are a man or woman, what does this mean? How does the pervasively destructive nature of adultery keep you from being unfaithful or leading someone else to unfaithfulness?