



# APPNOTES

**Date:** January 21-25, 2019

**Series:** Street Smarts

**Proverbs 21:2** Here we are at the fresh start of a new year. Many of us have committed to change certain habits. Whether our resolution is to eat healthier, spend more time with family, go to the gym, or get more sleep, the benefit is to better our own lives. We live in a “me first” society that encourages us to always be true to ourselves. If it feels right, it must be right. With this mind set, we can rationalize almost any behavior. But God’s word warns of the consequence of such thinking. Proverbs 21:2 states, “A person may think their own ways are right, but the Lord weighs the heart.” We need to turn away from being true to ourselves and turn our attention to doing what is right in the eyes of God. To do that, we must spend time with Him. Study His word, meditate in prayer, fellowship with His people, and sing praises to His glory! We need to stop leaning on our own understanding. Let's resolve to find God’s righteousness and His wisdom.

**Proverbs 22:2** God does not judge according to race, color, geographic location, or financial demographics. Every human is created and loved equally. This is evident in Proverbs 22:2 which states, “Rich and poor have this in common, the Lord is maker of them all.” So why do we continue to look at people and make assumptions based on their physical appearance, actions, and bank account? We live in a world that emphasizes a certain standard of acceptability. But these are not God’s standards. The gift of Heaven is free to **anyone** who seeks it. When we judge others, we lose sight of the mercy showered upon us. Our mission is to humble ourselves and become servants as Christ did. Let’s resolve to find God’s mercy for others in Jesus’ actions.

**Proverbs 23:4-5** More, more, more! Our society has acquired this insatiable love of money. Success is measured by what we own. Somehow, we believe riches translate into power, confidence, happiness, and security. Satan rejoices in our preoccupation with Earthly wealth! It keeps us from concentrating on our true purpose. It hinders our relationship with Christ and blinds us with a sense of false security. In Proverbs 23:4-5, God warns us not to obsess over the accumulation of wealth. Instead, He calls us to be content, live within our means, and be thankful for what He has provided. The amount of physical wealth we acquire

means nothing in the long run; we can't take it with us! Let's resolve to find contentment in His blessings.

**Proverbs 24:29** Our first instinct when someone wrongs us is to wrong them back. We justify this reasoning based on the thinking of today's society. There is the encouragement of self-preservation and entitlement. But that mind set is counterintuitive to God's word. In Proverbs 24:29, it states we are to back away from this behavior and thought process. Revenge is not the answer! This directive is also found in Luke 27:31. In verse 31 Jesus says, "do to others as you would have them do to you". When our hearts are right with God, the nature of our thoughts and actions change. Imagine what the world could be like if we all followed Christ's "Golden Rule". Let's resolve to find God's love for our enemies in His sacrifice for us.

**Proverbs 25:21** The responsibilities of life are overwhelming! We are so busy with work, school, parenting, household chores, paying bills, and organizing the family schedule. It is so easy to go through the motions of life without ever realizing or acknowledging the needs of others. After all, we have our own mouths to feed. But once we tune out the needs of those around us, we ignore God's command for our lives. We also miss out on amazing blessings. In Proverbs 25:21, God encourages us to address the hardship we witness. Especially the hardship endured by our enemies. This may go against our logical thinking and feelings, but we have to look at giving through God's eyes. We need to step out of our own four walls, reach out, and act! Let's resolve to find God's generosity by sharing the gifts He has bestowed upon us.

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