



APPNOTES

Date: January 28- February 1, 2019

Series: Street Smarts

Proverbs 28 Work is part of God’s will for our lives. Maybe your work is acing a history exam, mothering a passel of children, teaching a class of rowdy eighth graders, or delivering mail. Whatever our work, we are called to do it well—as if God Himself were our employer! He has delineated our job responsibility, “Do everything heartily for Me.” Heartily infers enthusiasm, skill, effectiveness, and tenacity. When we work like this, God receives attention and honor in the workplace. When we work for God, there is no room for carelessness, complaining, or less than our best, despite what everyone else on the job may say or do. Our culture has its share of uncommitted, lazy workers, but God reminds us to consider the ants. They do their work even when no one is telling them what to do or checking up on them. Work well—for your good and God’s glory!

Proverbs 29 The way we speak to each other is of great concern to God. He doesn’t mince words when He calls our tongues a spark that can light a fire, a restless evil, a deadly poison. The tongue is particularly dangerous in the mouth of one who lets *anything* he *thinks* flow out or in the mouth of one who *doesn’t think at all* before he speaks. Speaking in haste and, worse yet, speaking in anger set the scene for conflict and trouble. If that is how we respond to others, there is more hope for a fool! When uncontrolled, this tiny toxic body part will set your world ablaze. So what’s the remedy for such a malady bent on destruction? Asking for God’s help, filling your mind and heart with God’s Word, and submitting them to His control. Your tongue *can* be transformed and tamed. If not, beware. There’s trouble ahead.

Proverbs 30 Mr. Agur could teach us some things about a right attitude. He authored today’s prayer in Proverbs 30. Agur doesn’t lay out before God a list of prayer requests for his life, covering everything from A to Z. He asked for only two things, but a close examination reveals that both requests focus on only one thing—“Don’t let me do anything to offend you, Lord!” His greatest desire is to please God. He prays, “Keep me from lies as they insult Your goodness, and don’t give me too much or too little wealth,

for I don't trust my human desires." Here is a simple, clear cut pattern for living—don't do anything offensive to God or even desire anything that may draw you away from Him. Lord, give us only what we need to call attention to Your goodness in our lives. Thanks, Mr. Agur, for modeling a godly heart life.

Proverbs 31 A woman (or man) who fears God is to be praised! But fear has several motivations. We can fear God because we've done some really awful things. Since God hates sin, we fear His powerful wrath and want to flee from Him. In that case, we should start running pretty fast to avoid His anger. Good luck with that, for we can never outrun God. The fear to be praised drives us *to, not away from*, God. Instead of running scared, STOP! Turn around and throw your arms around Him for mercy and grace. He will never push us away, no matter what. There, in the security of His unconditional love, wrapped in His forgiveness, we are safe, hidden and shielded. A truly beautiful woman, whether she's 25 or 85, knows the only place to be is under God's wings, in fellowship with her Savior where she doesn't have to be afraid.

Proverbs 1 Wisdom is a wild woman when faced with our ignorance. Frustrated over our lack of desire to seek wisdom and our disregard of the most important thing in life, she stands on the walls of our lives and at the gateway to our minds and hearts screaming, "Open your eyes and see! Do you want wisdom and *real* life? Then don't ignore me!" Wisely, she makes it exceedingly simple for us simpletons to understand. She encourages us to do the most important thing—REPENT. "This is where your wisdom will begin," she cries in an attempt to get our full attention. Wisdom comes when we are afraid for our lives and afraid of judgement for our sin. She declares, "Do the only rational thing: acknowledge your sin to God and seek His forgiveness." The wild woman on the wall will become our guide to understanding. Heed Wisdom today—Repent.

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