

“Two Things”

Prov. 30:7-9

Introduction

- I. The book of Proverbs is filled with useful information concerning every day life.
- II. In particular, chapter thirty list a couple of things that the writer wanted in his life.

Discussion

- I. “Remove far from me vanity and lies” (Prov. 30:8).
 - A. Vanity- “things of no real value”
 1. Solomon understood that vanity is rampant in this world, and that it is not what we should seek (Eccl. 12:8, 13).
 2. Too much emphasis and time is wasted on things of vanity.
 - B. Lies- “deceptive untruths”
 1. Tool of false teachers (1 Tim. 4:1-2; Eph. 4:14).
 2. Tool of false friends (Prov. 14:20; 19:4).
 3. Seen often in the time of Isaiah (Isa. 59:4).
 4. The Christian is not to be a liar (Eph. 4:25; Col. 3:9-10; cf. Rev. 21:8).
- II. “Give me neither poverty nor riches” (Prov. 30:8).
 - A. The writer explained why he wanted neither (Prov. 30:9).
 - B. Riches- “accumulation of wealth” “things considered valuable”
 1. With an abundance, there may be the tendency to forget God (Deut. 6:10-12; cf. Jer. 2:32).
 2. Greediness and despair can be a product of riches (Eccl. 5:10-17; 1 Tim. 6:9-10).
 3. Entrance into the kingdom can be hard for those with riches (Matt. 19:23-24).
 - C. Poverty- “having very little” “the lack of things needed”
 1. With a lack, there may be a temptation to steal (Mark 10:19; cf. 1 Cor. 6:9-11).
 2. The Christian is to be content with whatever he has, and should abstain from thievery (Eph. 4:28; 1 Tim. 6:6-8; Phil. 4:11; Heb. 13:5).
 - D. Here is a reminder to Americans from a president of the past: “
“We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of heaven. We have been preserved, the many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious hand which preserved us in peace and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own. Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self- sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to God that made us! It behooves us, then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins, and to pray for clemency and forgiveness.” -President Abraham Lincoln, April 30, 1863

Conclusion

- I. It is good to be reminded of how great a life a Christian has.
- II. May we learn from Proverbs how important “two things” can be (Rom. 15:4).