



Tonight's Message:

Lesson 15

Behavior: The Good and The Bad

September 18, 2019

INTRODUCTION: Text: Proverbs 11

Someone has said, "*Desires control destiny*". Solomon turns his attention in the next several chapters in Proverbs on behavior and the values of life connected with those desires. He describes values to be considered and those to be denied.

I. COMMERCIAL VALUES - 11:1

God looks at how we do _____ with others and blesses or punishes based upon how we conduct business. Solomon often writes about the ways a man accumulates wealth—he warns about becoming involved with "get rich quick" schemes in order to get ahead.

II. CONCEITED VALUES - 11:2

Miriam's venomous tongue soon infected Aaron. Before long, his heart burned with _____ towards Moses and his wife. God brought the situation to a head and brought them to the Tabernacle. There was no greater shame in the Old Testament than that of leprosy. *Numbers 12:13*

III. CONCRETE VALUES - 11:3-9

A. Joseph

Joseph was a man guided by _____ and values. He decided at a young age what was right and what was wrong and determined to live by what was right. ***What is the difference between convictions and standards?***

Conviction — *A Bible-based belief that I can not compromise on.*

Standard — *A strongly-held belief that keeps me in line with my convictions.*

The time to become victorious over temptation is not when you are being _____, but rather, long before you are tempted, by setting Biblical convictions to live by.

B. Ahithophel - 2 Samuel 23:34, 16:23

Ahithophel was one of the most brilliant minds in David's inner circle. He was the grandfather of Bathsheba and one of David's mighty men; yet, Ahithophel was David's Judas. He gave _____ to Absalom that encouraged him to get back at David. When his counsel was rejected and Absalom listened to Hushai instead, Ahithophel committed suicide (@ *Samuel 17:23*).

IV. THE RIGHTEOUS MAN'S GOODNESS - 11:4-7

God's wrath against sin and wrong doing is constant (*Rom. 1:18*). All Bible prophecy points to a day and time when God will step into the arena of human affairs and pour out His wrath on _____ men. There will come a time when it is too late to come to terms with God (*Gen. 6:3*).

Solomon contrasted the righteous man with the wicked man. A good man makes good _____ and does what is right. The wicked man is guided by his _____, passions and ambitions (*James 1:12-15*). *"It is never right to do wrong, in order to get a chance to do right."*

A Babylonian soothsayer was asked repeatedly to curse Israel—he wanted the money and prestige. When he did so, God would turn his cursing into blessing. He finally gave counsel that turned out to be true: *"If you cannot curse the Israelites or conquer them, then _____ them."* He counseled them to inter-marry and God would send His judgment. The plan worked and Balaam collected the "wages of death" (*2 Pet. 2:15*)— he was slain by invading soldiers.

V. THE RIGHTEOUS MAN'S GAIN - 11:8-9

If we live to _____ God by living with standards and convictions, God will make the wrongs right (*ex: Daniel 6:1-25*.)

CONCLUSION

It pays to live for God, both in this life and the one to come. Be a person of convictions and values and associate yourself with others that share your values and convictions.