

## Sabbath School Lesson #5 – Wise Words for Families – 27 April-3 May 2019

**C**hrist inspired Solomon to write these wise words for families and for all: “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). In matters of truth, it is not enough to be independent of others, one needs to be independent of one’s self. “The way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps” (Jeremiah 10:23). In all, there is nothing so simple but that it needs the wisdom of God to understand it thoroughly; nothing so small but that God’s own power is needed in order that it be done properly. Some may say, ‘I thought that we were to learn by experience, so that we could know how to do things right ourselves. What is the use of our experience, if we are never to apply it.’ Ah, the trouble is that we so often misapply it. We do not learn by experience. Take the experiences of the children of Israel. What do they teach us? – Simply this, that when they trusted the Lord it went well with them, and that when they assumed that they knew how to do things themselves they made pitiable mistakes. That which all our experience should teach us is that “power belongeth unto God” (Psalm 62:11), and that we have real success only as we trust Him. We are to learn by experience to trust the Lord. The fact that we go on trusting in ourselves, trying to do things, and failing, shows that we do not profit by experience. “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool” (Proverbs 28:26). “As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts” (Isaiah 55:9), saith the Lord. Better is the ways of the man who trusts in the Lord than of one who counts himself wise. It is impossible to imagine the advantage that the man has who allows the Lord to think for him. Only such a man is in the truest sense a thinker.

Sunday: Love the Right Woman – It is sad that there are men professing to be Christians even among Adventists who go around committing adultery and there are loose women who give in. “The coy, complying disposition of women or girls to the advances and familiarity of men, married men, leads them to be easily entrapped. The man who should watch for souls in order to save them, watches for opportunities and occasions to ruin them. There are so many who have little fixedness of principle, who come into contact with the men who preach the truth; and some of these educate and refine iniquity before them, clothing it in angel robes, and as their own hearts are not garrisoned with fixed, unswerving principles, the work of ruin is speedily accomplished” {TSB 205.4}. “The sacred is brought down and so interwoven with lust and impure, unholy practices that the victim is confused, and the soul temple becomes a sink of iniquity. At first the unsuspecting only listen; they receive the liberties of preference shown them; then the education goes on until ‘as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks’ (Proverbs 7:22), they follow in the steps of the tempter and go fully as far as he would lead them.” Letter 82, 1886 {TSB 206.1}.

Monday: A Call to Fathers – A call to fathers in a family is to be faithful to, and love, their wives. “Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth” (Proverbs 5:18). When by the grace of God the father is faithful to his wife and continues to love her, then will it follow that “her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her” (Proverbs 31:28). The best thing a father can do for his children is to love their mother.

Tuesday: Correction With Love – Let parents do their duty to correct their children. Once upon a time there was a mother who, in her mistaken idea of love for her boy, allowed him to have his own way in everything, never correcting him for any fault. The result was that as he grew older he manifested no regard for her or her wishes, but made himself intolerable, not only to strangers, but even to his own mother, who had fancied that she loved him. Too late she began to be interested in his salvation, and called in a minister to try to make up for her neglect; but as might be expected, the youth would not listen to a word of counsel or reproof. And then the mother with that spirit of weakness which many mistake for pious resignation, said, ‘Well, I can do nothing but trust in the promises of God.’ But there was no promise in which she could trust. The promise that “train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it” (Proverbs 22:6), she had ignored. The only word that fit the case, was one in which there was no comfort, namely, “A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” (Proverbs 29:15). So her supposed trust was nothing but presumption.

When parents ask God to save them, while refusing to listen to His word, they are asking Him to break His word. But it is written, "Thou shall not tempt the Lord thy God" (Luke 4:12).

Solomon knew what he was talking about when he said: "He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes" (Proverbs 13:24). The term "rod," as used here by Solomon in speaking of the training of children, is a comprehensive one, embracing all methods designed to correct and restrain. It is a grave error to suppose that Solomon advocated continual beating of children; but that he did advocate the judicious use of the literal rod is true, and he thereby showed true wisdom. The child who is chastened "betimes" will not need to be continually corrected. There is such a thing as a child getting in the habit of obeying, and this is the end to be sought in all training of children. When this sort of training is done in the home the child may not appear in police cells for public disorder crime. The parents of trained up children will experience the truth of the proverb: "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul" (Proverbs 29:17).

Wednesday: Is Life Better on a Rooftop? – It is unhealthy! Rather than blame each other, wishing to live on the rooftop than in a house with each other, we should allow Christ in our lives to dispel sin, that we may have health, for sin cripples our health. In John 5:14, Jesus said the paralytic was paralyzed because of his sin. David was depressed, anxious and burnt out because of his unconfessed sexual sins (Psalm 32:1-5 Proverbs 28:13). Miriam was struck with leprosy because of the sin of jealousy (Numbers 12:1-10). The saints in Corinthians got sick and died because they took the communion service with prejudicial and partial attitudes (1 Corinthians 11:19-32). In Genesis 3:7-14, because Adam and Eve sinned against God they developed the intrapersonal illness of shame, guilt and fear which created interpersonal problems for them. They began blaming each other for their problem. Their sin created jealousy among their children to the extent that Cain killed Able. Therefore, health is more than absence of disease; it harmonizes the functioning of the body, mind, emotional and spirit of person. Feeling that you are not sick does not mean that you are healthy, if you feel sad and worried then you are not healthy. "Sadness deadens the circulation in the blood vessels and nerves and also retards the action of the liver. It hinders the process of digestion and of nutrition, and has a tendency to dry up the marrow (interior substance) of the whole system" (*Mind Character and Personality*, p. 458). "A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones." "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad" (Proverbs 17:22; 12:25). Anxiety brings depression.

Thursday: A Truly Wealthy Wife – On this matter, notice these inspired words by Ellen White: "Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil" Proverbs 31:10, 11. "The happiness of the family depends much upon the wife and mother." "Let a young man seek one to stand by his side who is fitted to bear her share of life's burdens, one whose influence will ennoble and refine him, and who will make him happy in her love." "Married life is not all romance; it has its real difficulties and its homely details. The wife must not consider herself a doll, to be tended, but a woman; one to put her shoulder under real, not imaginary, burdens, and live an understanding, thoughtful life, considering that there are other things to be thought of than herself." "A knowledge of domestic duties is beyond price to every woman. There are families without number whose happiness is wrecked by the inefficiency of the wife and mother." "Every girl should learn to take charge of the domestic affairs of home, should be a cook, a housekeeper, a seamstress. She should understand all those things which it is necessary that the mistress of a house should know." "If need be, a young woman can dispense with a knowledge of French and algebra, or even of the piano; but it is indispensable that she learn to make good bread, to fashion neatly fitting garments, and to perform efficiently the many duties that pertain to homemaking." "A prudent wife is from the Lord" Proverbs 19:14. 'The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her....' 'She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her,' saying, 'Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.' Proverbs 31:11, 12, 26-29. He who gains such a wife 'findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.'" {FLB 256.1 to FLB 256.8}.