**Living Wisely – Pr. 20**

**Focal truth: Man’s life is determined by God – 20:24**

*A man’s steps are decided by the Lord, what does a man know about his own*

*way? Aramaic* 20:24

**Life Truths - living in the world**

1. Wine, kings & strife – 20:1 -3, 8,26,28

*20:1 - Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, whoever is intoxicated by it is not wise*

20:3 – *keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, any fool will quarrel*

20:3 – *it is honorable for a man to desist from strife, but every fool becomes embroiled Aramaic*

1. Plowing, plans & integrity – 20:4 -8, 18

20:4 *In winter the lazy man does not plow; at harvesttime he seeks and finds nothing Aramaic*

20:5 – a plan in the heart of a man is like deep water, but a man of understanding draws it out

20:18 – *plans laid in council will succeed; wage war with stratagems Aramaic*

 **Consider the man of understanding**

Pr. 1:5 – He will acquire wise counsel

 Pr. 11:5 – He controls his words

 Pr. 15:21 – He lives by wisdom

 Pr. 17:27 – He has a calm spirit

1. Lies & truthfulness – 20:10 -12,14,17

20:11 - *It is by his deeds that a lad distinguishes himself if his conducts is pure & right*

20:14 – *bad, bad, says the buyer, but having moved off, he congratulates himself Aramaic*

20:17 – *bread gained by fraud may be tasty to a man, but later his mouth will be filled with gravel Aramaic*

1. Dishonor & wasteful spending – 20:20 -22

20:20 – *He who curses his father or his mother, His lamp will go out in time of darkness*

20:20 – *one who reviles his father or mother, light will fail him when darkness comes Aramaic*

20:21 – *An inheritance gained hurriedly at the beginning will not be blessed in the end*

20:21 – *An estate acquired in haste at the outset will not be blessed in the end Aramaic*

1. Dishonesty & carelessness – 20:23, 25

20:25 – *it is a trap for a man to say rashly, it is holy! And after the vows to make inquiry*

20:25 – *it is a snare for a man to pledge a sacred gift rashly, and to give thought to his vows only after they have been made*

**Consider your vows – commitments to God**

Ps. 76:11 – *make vows to the Lord your God and fulfill them*

Eccl. 5:4 – 5 - *when you make a vow to God, do not be late in paying it; for He takes no delight in fools. Pay what you vow! It is better that you should not vow than that you should vow and not pay*

1. Aging & discipline – 20:29 -30

20:29 - *the glory of young men is their strength, and the honor of old men is their gray hair*

20:29 – *the glory of youths is their strength; the majesty of old men is their gray hair Aramaic*

**Life Conduct – living in the fear of the Lord**

1. Do not claim to be sinless – 20:9

*Who can say, I have cleansed my heart, I am purged of my sin? Aramaic*

1. Do not love sleep – 20:13

*Do not love sleep lest you be impoverished; keep your eyes open and you will have plenty of food Aramaic*

1. Words of knowledge are precious riches – 20:15

*Wise speech is a precious object Aramaic*

1. Make plans with advisors – 20:18
2. Do not associate with a gossip – 20:19
3. Do not retaliate – 20:22

Rom 12:9 – *never take your own revenge, beloved, leave room for the wrath of God, for it is written, Vengeance is Mine, I will repay, says the Lord*

1. Pay attention to your conscience – 20:27

*The lifebreath of man is the lamp of the Lord revealing all his inmost parts Aramaic*

Rom. 2:14 -15 – *for the Gentiles who do not the Law do instinctively the things of the Law, these, not having the Law, are a law to themselves, in that they show the work of the Law written in their hearts, their conscience bearing witness and their thoughts alternately accusing or else defending them…*

**Things to Remember**

1. God hates dishonesty – 20:10
2. God has made our ear to hear & our eyes to see – 20:12
3. God saves – so wait for Him – 20:22
4. God determines our life - we can’t understand it – 20:24
5. God made the conscience to show us our real desires & motives – 20:27

**To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!**