

Proverbs 17:1

Introduction:

1. The book of Proverbs contains the inspired words and wisdom of history's smartest king!
2. Here you have fabulous wisdom, and it is a free gift for any that will read and apply it.
3. Here is wonderful devotional material for teaching your children how to live godly lives.
4. Here is the practical application of God's will to the practical aspects of our daily lives.
5. Here is a way to introduce our church and pastor to your friends, for it has no "big pills."
6. Hopefully the women were provoked and taught by the wisdom of 14:1 a few days ago.
7. A website allows us a witty invention to communicate a daily commentary on a proverb.
8. Our webmaster has done much to make reading Proverbs and our comments an easy task.
9. What a practical book! It deals with marriage, the strange woman, and business ethics.
10. We will try to make a spiritual application of each proverb with a view of Jesus Christ.
11. Reading the daily proverb and the attached commentary will help you interpret Scripture.
12. After what our Lord did for us on the cross, what can we do to live holy lives for Him?
13. And by keeping the words of this proverb, you will benefit directly as well. It's win-win!
14. God has established priorities for our lives, so we don't have to wonder about His will.
15. Here is a priority by the use of the word "better." There are many of these in Proverbs.
16. In a day of great marital and family dysfunction, there is a priority that we must restore.
17. Women can do much to make their houses quiet or contentious. Submission is essential.
18. But the man is the leader of the home and responsible to make it a godly and quiet place.
19. Righteous relationships are necessary to walk with God (Mal 4:5-6; Luke 1:17; I Pet 3:7).
20. If God says it is "better," then we ought to give great diligence to making it a reality!

**Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full
of sacrifices with strife.**

What could the wisest man on earth charge per hour for specific advice for your life? \$500 an hour? \$5,000 an hour? But here is God's inspired wisdom by King Solomon free of charge! What a glorious blessing, if we will consider and learn from this proverb.

As in many proverbs, the parallelism contrasts two things – the right against the wrong. A dry morsel could be saltine crackers and a house full of sacrifices a filet mignon dinner with all the trappings. Since some sacrifices, the best of their flocks and herds, were eaten by the people, we are describing the very best food in great and free abundance.

Quietness is not noise level, but rather lack of trouble, fighting, travail, and vexation. It is contrasted with strife. It is a state of calm, peace, rest, and security (1:33; Judges 18:7; II Chr 20:30; Job 3:13; 21:23; 34:9; Ps 107:28-30; Eccl 4:6; Ezek 16:42; etc.). In a sister proverb, the contrast is between love and hatred, which helps our understanding (15:17).

The Preacher tells us that saltine crackers in a calm and peaceful home are superior to a filet mignon dinner with a tense and unhappy family. Here is wisdom to direct our priorities. More emphasis, time, effort, money, and value should be placed on peace and love in a family than the securing of food and things for the family. But this choice runs totally contrary to our carnal, covetous, greedy, and materialistic generation.

Profane Americans say, “He who dies with the most toys wins.” But our Creator tells us, “He who lives a godly life content with what he has wins” (I Tim 6:6; Heb 13:5). Here is a choice – do we follow the profane American to hell or God to heaven? Do we live the life of vanity and vexation of spirit our society promotes? Or do we choose the wise man’s priority, knowing he had already tested both ways by divine providence?

Two people in love can be happy, peaceful, and contented sharing peanut butter crackers, as dating couples know; and two people can be miserable in the middle of luxury when differences and bitterness have been allowed to creep in. Lord, save us from ourselves!

What causes tension, stress, and trouble in a home? An overbearing woman is one of the greatest culprits (Pr 7:11; 9:13; 12:4; 19:13; 21:9,19; 25:24; 27:15-16; 30:21-23). She talks too much, criticizes too much, corrects too much, argues too much, suggests too much, and all in all turns life into hell. Every godly woman must hate these tendencies in herself and others; and every husband must rule and train his wife to be free of them.

Scorners will ruin a home’s peace (16:19,28; 22:10; 26:20-21). What is a scorner? A haughty fool who arrogantly despises correction and disrespects authority. They should be corrected with the rod and reproof or removed from the home (26:3; 22:10; 24:9).

A fool in a home will ruin its peace, because that filet mignon meal will only fuel his foolish thinking and talking (31:21-23; Eccl 10:12-15). How many parents have had their peace stolen by foolish children (10:1; 17:25)? Foolishness is bound in the heart of every child, but the rod and reproof will surely and always correct it (22:15; 29:15,17).

An angry person who presses issues will ruin the peace of a home (15:18; 26:21; 29:22; 30:33). So the rule of ending all wrath before sunset must be followed and enforced (Eph 4:26). Let every man and woman be slow to anger (14:29; 15:18; 16:32; James 1:19).

Bitterness will ruin a home’s tranquility, for it is from hell and the source of confusion and every evil work (James 3:14-16). The commandment is clear – put away all bitterness, especially husbands (Eph 4:31-32; Col 3:19). For the wisdom from heaven is peaceable, gentle, easy to be intreated, and loves to make peace (James 3:17-18).

Discontentment creates perpetual frustration, so that even a filet mignon dinner cannot bring peace and calm. The covetous and greedy man is always looking for more, and he is in a constant state of agitation thinking about it (Eccl 5:10; II Sam 13:1-2). And even if he were to get more, he would still wish and grieve for yet more in just minutes!

A family with a moody parent (or worse yet, two of them) is doomed; for such weak and wicked people set the tone in the house and at dinner by whatever foolish mood they have allowed to overwhelm their soul (25:28). Joy is a commandment (Phil 4:4; I Thess 5:16)!

A good man can destroy all these enemies of a peaceful home; for he will be a godly example of peace and joy, and he will enforce them on the rest of the family. What a blessing for a wife and children to have such a man ruling their home! May the Lord raise up such men in this effeminate and frustrated generation!

Paul gave an excellent summary of the love and peace that ought to characterize the lives of saints, and he gives the means to obtain them (Col 3:12-15). With such peace and joy as the basis, life can be a perpetual feast, regardless of what is on the table (15:15).

We must remember success is not more things, but contentment with the things we have (I Tim 6:6). Save yourselves from a generation deceived by the lie that gain is godliness and happiness. We can learn to be content regardless of the fare at dinner (Phil 4:11-12).

Where will you put your emphasis, time, effort, money, and value? On things? Or on godliness and contentment regardless of things? Now train your children to do the same!

Our proverb applies as well to the church of Jesus Christ. For a church at peace, regardless of circumstances, is superior to a church with strife, though basking in luxury. It is our duty as saints to endeavor to maintain our unity in the bond of peace (Eph 4:3).