

Pastor Paul's Bible Study Notes on
Proverbs 2:12-22
For Faith Lutheran Sunday Adult Bible Study

Prov. 2:12-15—“*Wisdom will save you...*” Here in verses 12-15 Solomon is warning us to stay away from “wicked men.”

Q: How are the wicked described here in Prov. 2:12-15?

A: *Their words are perverse*, (see Prov 8:13)
leave straight paths to walk in dark ways, (see John 3:19-21)
delight in doing wrong and rejoice in the perverseness of evil (see opposite of this in 1 Cor. 13:6),
whose paths are crooked (see Isaiah 59:7-8),
who are devious in their ways (Prov. 21:8)

Prov. 2:16-19—“*[Wisdom will save you] also from the adulteress...*” Here in verses 16-19 Solomon’s warning personifies evil/foolishness as an Adulteress.

Q: What are the characteristics of the “Adulteress” and what do they signify spiritually?

A: Like a “*wayward wife*”—literally in the Hebrew this means, “stranger” or “foreigner” because sleeping with another man’s wife was like worshipping an idol (idolatry = spiritual adultery), See 1 Kings 11:1, 4.

“*who left the partner of her youth*”—examples of this are seen in David, who left his wife/wives for Bathsheba (2 Sam. 11), or Hosea’s wife, Gomer who left him for other men (Hosea 2:5).

“*ignored the covenant she made before God*”—this could mean breaking one’s marriage vows or breaking the 6th commandment against committing adultery.

“*For her house leads down to death...*”—adultery (like idolatry) leads to eternal condemnation (see Prov. 7:27 and 1 Cor. 6:9).

“*None who go to her return...*”—Solomon also warned of the dangers of foolishness/sin in Ecclesiastes 7:26

Prov. 2:20-22—“*Thus you will walk in the ways of good men...*” Here in verses 20-22 Solomon gives the positive results of following Wisdom.

Q: What are the blessings of following wisdom and what do they signify spiritually?

A: v. 21, “*live in the land*”—faithfulness resulted in the physical gift of the Promised Land to Abraham in Gen. 17:8 and Israel after the 40 yrs in the wilderness (Dt 4:1).

Q: Read Matt 5:5—What does Jesus mean by, the “meek” will inherit the “earth” [Hebrew can also mean, “land”]?

A: He was quoting Psalm 37:9, 11 which refers to how believers will rule over the world after the coming of the Messiah (Judgment Day).

Thus, spiritually we inherit is Heaven and rule with Christ over the world (see Dan. 7:27).

Q: In Prov. 2:22, it says “*the wicked will be cut off from the land...*” Read Exodus 31:14—What does it mean to be “cut off”?

A: It means to be excluded from the fellowship of believers, to be prohibited from the worship life of God’s people. So spiritually, sin “cuts” one off from heaven.