The Footings for Living Well

Tony Mauck · Proverbs 13:20

INTRODUCTION

- Young people, there are some thoughts here for you to consider as you begin another year and live among your peers, which can be a very challenging thing.
- What the Proverbs do for us is give us the foundation or the footings of a life well lived.

1 Two Ways in the Choices of Our Life

Proverbs 12:18–21; Proverbs 12:28; Psalm 73

- There are two options. And you cannot sit back and say, well, I'm just not going to choose. The choice to not choose is to choose the wrong path.
- There is one who speaks rashly, like the thrust of a sword. That's one option. But the tongue of the wise brings healing.
- Truthful lips will be established forever. But a lying tongue is only for a moment.
- Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil. But counselors of peace have joy.
- The one who adopts the righteous course generally steers himself or herself away from trouble.
- You put yourself in harm's way, and the odds of trouble coming your way increase.

2 The Fruits of Your Conduct

Proverbs 13:19–25; 1 Corinthians 15:33

- Whatever course you choose, there are certain results that will likely accompany those choices.
- He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools suffers harm.
- Be not deceived. Bad company corrupts good morals.
- Adversity pursues sinners. But the righteous will be rewarded with prosperity.
- The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, but the stomach of the wicked is in want.

3 Choose Well

Proverbs 14:16–30; Matthew 15:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:21

- Choosing pleasing behavior to the Lord is always good. It's always best.
- Don't be led along by others without questioning. Examine everything carefully. Hold fast to that which is good.
- A wise man is cautious and turns away from evil. But a fool is arrogant and careless.
- He who is slow to anger has great understanding. But he who is quick tempered exalts folly.
- A tranquil heart is life to the body, but passion is rottenness to the bones.

4 Watch the Tone in Which You Say Things

Proverbs 15:1–32; 1 Corinthians 13:1–3

- A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. Put the filter in place before you speak. Is this gentle?
- The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord. But the prayer of the upright is his delight.
- The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer. But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil things.
- We need to give consideration about the words that we speak and consider the impact of what we're saying, because people can be very fragile.
- He who neglects discipline despises himself. But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.

5 Trust in the Lord With All Your Heart

Proverbs 3:5–8

- It is the wisest thing to listen to God. His instruction is what is right. It is what is best.
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding.
- In all your ways, acknowledge him. And he will direct your steps. Do not be wise in your own eyes. Fear the Lord and turn away from evil.

THE CHALLENGE

It enriches my life. Let us listen to him.

MY NOTES