

# *the WAY of WISDOM*

a series in Proverbs 9-31

## **ENOUGH IS ENOUGH: CRAVING, CONTENTMENT, AND SELF-CONTROL**

### **A. The Folly of Destructive Desires**

Sheol and Abaddon are never satisfied, and never satisfied are the eyes of man. (Pr. 27:20)

Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit. (Pr. 12:12)

A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot. (Pr. 14:30)

Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. (Pr. 23:17)

*See also 24:1-2, 27:4, 28:25, 30:15-16*

### **B. Wisdom's Way**

#### **1. Contentment**

Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God. (Pr. 30:7-9)

#### **2. Self-Control**

Precious treasure and oil are in a wise man's dwelling, but a foolish man devours it. (Pr. 21:20)

A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls. (Pr. 25:28)

#### **3. Patience**

Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way. (Pr. 19:2)

### **C. Battlefronts**

#### **1. Food**

If you have found honey, eat only enough for you, lest you have your fill of it and vomit it. (Pr. 25:16, see also 27:7)

When you sit down to eat with a ruler, observe carefully what is before you, and put a knife to your throat if you are given to appetite. Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food. (Pr. 23:1–3)

Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way. Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat, for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags. (Pr. 23:19–21; *see also 21:17 and 23:6-8*)

## **2. Alcohol**

Wine is a mocker, strong drink a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise. (Pr. 20:1)

Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has strife? Who has complaining? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? Those who tarry long over wine; those who go to try mixed wine.

Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things. You will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, like one who lies on the top of a mast. “They struck me,” you will say, “but I was not hurt; they beat me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake? I must have another drink.” (Pr. 23:29–35)

## **3. Money & Possessions**

Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it. Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life (Pr. 13:11–12)

The plans of the diligent lead surely to abundance, but everyone who is hasty comes only to poverty. (Pr. 21:5)

Do not toil to acquire wealth; be discerning enough to desist. When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven. (Pr. 23:4-5)

All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast. Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it. (15:15-17)

Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice. (Pr. 16:8)

Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife. (Pr. 17:1)

Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool. (Pr. 19:1)

A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold. (Pr. 22:1)

#### **4. Intimate Relationships**

My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. For a prostitute is a deep pit; an adulteress is a narrow well. She lies in wait like a robber and increases the traitors among mankind. (Pr. 23:26–28; *see also* 5:1-23, 6:20-7:27, 22:14)

#### **5. Our Temper**

Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly. (Pr. 14:29)

Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city. (Pr. 16:32)

Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense. (Pr. 19:11)

Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare. (Pr. 22:24–25)

A man of wrath stirs up strife, and one given to anger causes much transgression. (Pr. 29:22; *see also* 15:18, 22:24-25, 29:22, 30:32-33)

#### **6. Our Age**

Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life. (Pr. 16:31)

The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair. (Pr. 20:29)

### **D. The Good News**

But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law.

Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another. (Galatians 5:16–26)