## Proverbs 22:17-29 Wise Counsel and Advice

## Sayings of the Wise

17 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, And apply your heart to my knowledge; 18 For *it is* a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; Let them all be fixed upon your lips, 19 So that your trust may be in Yahweh (the LORD); I have instructed you today, even you.

<sup>20</sup> Have I not written to you excellent things
Of counsels and knowledge,
<sup>21</sup> That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth,
That you may answer words of truth
To those who send to you?

<sup>22</sup> Do not rob the poor because he *is* poor,
Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate;
<sup>23</sup> For Yahweh (the LORD) will plead their cause,
And plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

And with a furious man do not go,
Lest you learn his ways
And set a snare for your soul.

Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge,
One of those who is surety for debts;
If you have nothing with which to pay,
Why should he take away your bed from under you?

<sup>28</sup> Do not remove the ancient landmark Which your fathers have set.

<sup>29</sup> Do you see a man *who* excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown *men*.

NKJV

## Facts Revealed:

Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise,
 And apply your heart to my knowledge;
 For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you;

Let them all be fixed upon your lips,

So that your trust may be in Yahweh (the LORD);

I have instructed you today, even you. [Proverbs 22:17-19]

- ♦ Counsel to listen carefully to the instructions of the wise.
- ♦ Take the advise to heart so they become part of you.
- ♦ Good counsel will encourage you trust in Yahweh.
- ★ Have I not written to you excellent things Of counsels and knowledge,
  That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth,

That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you? [Proverbs 22:20-21]

- ♦ The purpose of godly instruction is to prepare you with knowledge so you can discern the certainty in words of truth.
- ♦ To prepare you to properly answer those who ask you.
- ☼ Do not rob the poor because he is poor, Nor oppress the afflicted at the gate; For Yahweh (the LORD) will plead their cause, And plunder the soul of those who plunder them. [Proverbs 22:22-23]
  - ❖ Yahweh knows all you do and will punish those who mistreat the poor and afflicted.
- ☆ Make no friendship with an angry man, And with a furious man do not go,
  Lest you learn his ways And set a snare for your soul. [Proverbs 22:24-25]
  - ❖ To go in the way of angry and furious people may entice you to follow their way to the detriment of your own soul.
- ☼ Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, One of those who is surety for debts;

If you have nothing with which to pay,

Why should he take away your bed from under you? [Proverbs 22:26-27]

- ♦ Becoming surety for the debt of another makes you responsible to pay the debt.
- ♦ If you do not have the ability to pay the debt it may cost you great loss equal to the debt.
- ♦ It is foolish to make yourself responsible for another's debt.
- Do not remove the ancient landmark Which your fathers have set. [Proverbs 22:28]
  - ♦ This is one of the commandments of the Law of Yahweh. [Deuteronomy 19:14, 27:17]
- □ Do you see a man who excels in his work?

He will stand before kings;

He will not stand before unknown men. [Proverbs 22:29]

- ♦ A man who excels in his work will be welcome in the presence of kings.
- ♦ Common men will not seek his advice.