

However, as time went on, they came to also be seen as a symbol of something deeper. The changing of traditions and Biblical traditions was viewed as a **“moving the ancient landmarks”**—a lack of **respect for the past** and Godly traditions.

JR 6.16-17 ~ *Thus says the Lord: “Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it, and find rest for your souls. But they said, ‘We will not walk in it.’ ¹⁷ I set watchmen over you, saying, ‘Pay attention to the sound of the trumpet!’ But they said, ‘We will not pay attention.’*

AP: This was more likely the concern that Solomon had: that his son would abandon the ancient ways and traditions and would lose the wisdom and righteousness associated with it. This same advise is one needed for people today—we often cast aside traditions and old ways of doing things without thought of who it was who started the tradition—or where it comes from. If the tradition is founded in the Word of God, we have no right to remove it—no more than the people did those **“ancient landmarks”** in the time of Solomon.

IS 5.20-21 ~ *Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! ²¹ Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and shrewd in their own sight!*

CONCLUSION

LITERATURE/John Steinbeck/Letter to Thom – Part 2

The words of this great American author are timeless today—wisdom that applies not only for this father to his son, but to all sons today. And similarly, the same is true for Solomon’s wise advice to his son. **Be wise and know God, be fair to those below you, be wise in your associations, be frugal in your spending, and be respectful of the past.** This wisdom still stands today: providing us millennia later with guidance not simply on how to live well, but how to live Godly.

Sadly, the opposite happened in the case of Rehoboam, Solomon’s son: rather than **being wise and knowing God**, showing **fairness to those below him**, and being **wise in his associations**, he showed the opposite:

1KN 12.8-11 ~ *But he forsook the counsel of the elders which they had given him, and consulted with the young men who grew up with him and served him. ⁹ So he said to them, “What counsel do you give that we may answer this people who have spoken to me, saying, ‘Lighten the yoke which your father put on us’?” ¹⁰ The young men who grew up with him spoke to him, saying, “Thus you shall say to this people who spoke to you, saying, ‘Your father made our yoke heavy, now you make it lighter for us!’ But you shall speak to them, ‘My little finger is thicker than my father’s loins! ¹¹ Whereas my father loaded you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke; my father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions.’”*

We have a choice today, Brethren: to seek the wisdom of the world, or the wisdom of the maker of the world. Will we follow Him and the advise presented by Solomon: **being wise and knowing God, being fair to those below us, and being wise in our associations, being frugal in your spending, and being respectful of the past.**

1CR 1.18-19 ~ *For the word of the cross is folly to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹ For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”*

INVITATION

#641 [EXP-OTW]
06/13/2025

From a Father to His Son: Part 1

PC __ Pchd _____

PV 22.17-28

QUESTION: What can we learn from the 30 sayings of Solomon to his son?

TRN TO PV 22

INTRODUCTION

LITERATURE/John Steinbeck/Summary of His Writings

Most of us are familiar with at least one of his writings—with many of us required to read some of his writings in High School. But one of his most powerful writings was never officially published: it was, written for an intended audience of one.

LITERATURE/John Steinbeck/Letter to Thom – Part 1

BACKGROUND – PV 22.17-20

ILL—Bound New Testaments (used to be a much more common thing before smart phones and apps became a thing; there were smaller and more “portable” by cutting out the Old Testament) Yet, for some reason, they would commonly include things outside of the New Testament: the Psalms and Proverbs.

Why these two books? They serve as comfort: providing words of praise and wisdom that can be easily read outside of their context and provide comfort and guidance to the Christian on the go. But sometimes, we forget just what these books are for.

PS is a book filled with inspired hymns—used by our Jewish forefathers and the early Christian to speak from the core of our emotions in truth. **But what about PV?** We sometimes think of **PV** as being little more than a collection of fortune-cookie statements. But it’s far more than that.

PV 1.8-9 ~ *Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction and do not forsake your mother’s teaching. ⁹ They are a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.*

As we find ourselves in **PV 22**, the writer has turned, again, back to his son. And as he does so, he seeks to provide him with some closing thoughts.

PV 22.17-20 ~ *Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge, ¹⁸ for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips. ¹⁹ That your trust may be in the Lord, I have made them known to you today, even to you. ²⁰ Have I not written for you thirty sayings of counsel and knowledge,*

For the next chapter, he provides a list of recommendations—wisdom that he hopes that, if they but follow, they’ll find a successful and Godly life. This Father’s Day, I’d like for us to start a series where we learn from the example of fathers like John Steinbeck and like Solomon. In the coming weeks, we’ll look at these 30 sayings: and as we do so, we’ll discover that despite the change of the society and culture around us, the wisdom in these teachings remain powerful even today!

BD1: Be Wise and Know God – PV 22.20-21

ILL—Getting into New Age Beliefs (when young, I found a new-age book I read on a family vacation; started to believe in the stuff—slowly, I started to drift away from trusting in Christ and the Bible) Solomon knew the same kind of thing: *For when Solomon was old, his wives turned his heart away after other gods; and his*

heart was not wholly devoted to the Lord his God, as the heart of David his father had been. (1KN 11.4) As he aged, however, this wisest of all men began to see the error of his ways, and he sought for his son to not make the mistakes he'd made:

PV 22.20-21 ~ *Have I not written for you thirty sayings of counsel and knowledge, ²¹ to make you know what is right and true, that you may give a true answer to those who sent you?*

EX: Solomon wanted to see in his son the kind of wisdom that mattered: he wanted him to **be wise and know God**—for he knew that, if he could have that wisdom, he could truly grow into the kind of King he desired him to be.

2TM 3.16-17 ~ *All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.*

AP: Much like Solomon, I find this advise as first and foundational principle in a wise life. A person can be smart with inter-personal relationships, politics, and finances—but if they don't **know God, does it really matter?** It's for that reason that the first focus of all wisdom must be knowing God—for all other areas find their home in this truth—in the fear of God!

PV 9.10 ~ *The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight.*

BD2: Be Fair to Those Below You – PV 22.22-23

ILL—Mother Used to Run an in-house Daycare (spent every day with kids of various ages; learned how to interact well with the young children) It taught me a valuable thing: you can learn more about a person from how they treat those they view as **“below them”** than those who are **“at their level”** or **“above them”**.

PV 22.22-23 ~ *Do not rob the poor, because he is poor, or crush the afflicted at the gate, ²³ for the Lord will plead their cause and rob of life those who rob them.*

EX: Who had more power than the king? But Solomon's point in his second statement was his son needed to treat those **“below him”** with respect. For you can tell a lot about a man by how he treats those he believes can do nothing for him! It was important that they **be fair those below them**.

1JN 3.16-18 ~ *By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers. ¹⁷ But if anyone has the world's goods and sees his brother in need, yet closes his heart against him, how does God's love abide in him? ¹⁸ Little children, let us not love in word or talk but in deed and in truth.*

AP: It's easy and tempting to be concerned about what we can get out of any relationship. But Solomon, and by extension, God doesn't focus on what we can get out of a relationship, but rather, what we can put into it. It's crucial that we are **fair to those below us**—in age, in wealth, in power, and in position. For ultimately, God will remember when we treat people wrong!

JM 1.27 ~ *Religion that is pure and undefiled before God the Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their affliction, and to keep oneself unstained from the world.*

BD3: Be Wise in Your Associations – PV 22.24-25

ILL—David and the Rocks (small rocks under our house; David and I would put the rocks on the a/c intake; ended up costing hundreds to repair it) I've often said: getting a large number of boys together results in their collective IQ falling a few dozen points! And Solomon was warning against something similar:

PV 22.24-25 ~ *Make no friendship with a man given to anger, nor go with a wrathful man, ²⁵ lest you learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare.*

EX: Specifically, Solomon warned against wrathful men—how they can destroy the character of good men. That's something we can see all over today—with young men and women led away by ungodly and unrighteous friends. And this can happen with us adults, too!

1CR 15.33-34 ~ *Do not be deceived: “Bad company ruins good morals.” ³⁴ Wake up from your drunken stupor, as is right, and do not go on sinning. For some have no knowledge of God. I say this to your shame.*

AP: Brethren, we need to be careful of the relationships we build—of their ability to pull us away from God. For our associations (at home, at work, and at play), can result in our faith taking a hit and us drifting away from God.

PV 13.20 ~ *Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.*

BD4: Be Frugal in Your Spending – PV 22.26-27

ILL—My First Credit Card (got my own mailing address; after the first few weeks, my mailbox was filled with credit card applications; thankfully, I was smart enough not to apply for all of them—just 3) Now, as a father, I only want one thing: for my children to be wiser than I am—to not make the same mistakes I made.

We don't often think of our financial decisions also being spiritual ones. But, in truth, the Bible is every bit as concerned with our fiscal decisions—viewing them as being an insight into our moral and spiritual decision making, as well!

PV 22.26-27 ~ *Be not one of those who give pledges, who put up security for debts. ²⁷ If you have nothing with which to pay, why should your bed be taken from under you?*

AP: Brethren, all sorts of immoralities and moral failings are built out of a person's poor financial decision-making. Here, Solomon is saying, simply, that if we extend ourselves beyond our ability—take on more debt than we can handle, it will result in a ruined life, which will result in immoral actions!

HB 13.5-6 ~ *Keep your life free from love of money, and be content with what you have, for he has said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you.” ⁶ So we can confidently say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”*

BD5: Be Respectful of the Past – PV 22.28

ILL—Old Fence (our old fence was originally connected to our neighbors; the problem was it was a bit older, and it didn't exactly match our ascetic; when the time came to replace it, we had to talk to the neighbors) When dealing with boundaries, it's important that you respect the border lines!

PV 22.28 ~ *Do not move the ancient landmark that your fathers have set.*

In ancient Israel, the land of the tribes would be marked by **“ancient landmarks”** that would mark the boundaries and property lines. One of the common problems that would arise is that people would **“move them”**—therefore, stealing from their neighbors, unjustly changing the landmarks their *fathers have set*.