

A. Some of the Provocations of Life in our setting

1. Children who "fail" or whatever you want to call it.
Note Proverbs 15:20; 10:1; 17:25; 19:26

This is a tough one for most of us have the greatest hopes and sometimes have the greatest disappointments. Note in the Bible passages how the failing child affects the parents. Study some of the biblical families to see what the records show. And remember that the children's teeth are not set on edge because the parents ate a sour grape.

2. Personal failures. Proverbs 16:25

This is an indicative text and not one of specification. But as such it highlights the thrust of our discussion...we think we see a way and fail in it...or come to some form of grief in it...especially in the family setting.

3. Frustrations in desire...19:21

We may apply it to the family although it goes well beyond that. Our ambitions are often beyond the will of God. Compare this with 16:1, 9 and 20:24, etc.

4. And without particular reference I note:

--loss of esteem
--loss of affection
--loss of direction...

all of which are general but easily in the grip of the items mentioned in 6:16 ff...the things the Lord Hates.

B. Handling these provocations (Divided section)

1. What is the thrust and meaning of Proverbs 3:5-6 in this regard?
2. How do the lessons of 30:11-33 give us some practical instruction?
3. With regard to the children, what do we learn from the exhortations such as those of 7:1-5, etc?
4. How can we establish sound practices of discipline and guidance (13:24; 19:18; 22:6; 23:13; 29:17, 21) and work towards the goal of 22:6?
5. With regard to all of these items, what is the difference in the way of a "fool" and that of a "wise person"?
6. How does it appear that the oversight of the Lord conditions and aids in all our response?

VI. Conclusion to our Study: By His Word and Salvation the Lord has given us the material for domestic blessing. Let us take what He has given and build in accord with His will.