



**METRO NEW YORK WORLD MINISTRY**  
ADULT SABBATH SCHOOL CONTRIBUTING NOTES  
For the week of February 21 – 27, 2015  
Lesson: **Book of Proverbs, Lesson 9**

## SABBATH - Words of Truth

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(Memory text) **Proverbs 22:20, 21** -- Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge, That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth...

There are many “excellent things” for us in the Bible.

There are many precious truths contained in the Word of God, but it is “*present truth*” that the flock needs now. (Early Writings, p. 63)

Prophecy is one of these “excellent things” God has given to build our faith and to believe the certainty of the Bible. Prophecy, when explained properly and with the power of God, is unanswerable. It is a powerful witnessing tool.

His [Paul] arguments from prophecy were so conclusive, and his efforts were so manifestly attended by the power of God, that the Jews were confounded and unable to answer him. (Acts of the Apostles, p. 123)

Our faith should be based on the sure word of prophecy.

With faith founded on the sure word of prophecy, Daniel pleaded with the Lord for the speedy fulfillment of these promises. (Prophets & Kings, p. 554)

The foundation of his [Paul] faith was the sure word of prophecy. (Acts of the Apostles, p. 125)

The burden of Christ’s preaching was, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent ye, and believe the gospel.” Thus the gospel message, as given by the Saviour Himself, was based on the prophecies. (The Desire of Ages, p. 232)

Ministers should present the sure word of prophecy as the foundation of the faith of Seventh-day Adventists. The prophecies of Daniel and the Revelation should be carefully studied, and in connection with them the words, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” (Evangelism, p. 196)



### SUNDAY – THE KNOWLEDGE OF TRUTH

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**Proverbs 22:17, 18** -- He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want. Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

It is not enough to have just a head-knowledge of facts about truth. We must also apply the truth spiritually to our lives and our hearts. Those who will be sealed at the shaking will not only know the truth intellectually but they will also allow the truth to sanctify them.

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth. (John 17:17)

Just as soon as the people of God are sealed in their foreheads—it is not any seal or mark that can be seen, but a settling into the truth, both intellectually and spiritually, so they cannot be moved—just as soon as God’s people are sealed and prepared for the shaking, it will come. (The Faith I Live By, p. 287)

**Proverbs 22:21** -- That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?

How certain are you of what you believe to be truth? Is your understanding of the teachings of the Bible superficial? Is it only a surface understanding? Would you be able to give an explanation for the hope that is in you?

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: (1 Peter 3:15)

You know not where you may be called upon to give your witness of truth. Many will have to stand in the legislative courts; some will have to stand before kings and before the learned of the earth, to answer for their faith. Those who have only a superficial understanding of truth will not be able clearly to expound the Scriptures, and give definite reasons for their faith. They will become confused, and will not be workmen that need not to be ashamed. Let no one imagine that he has no need to study, because he is not to preach in the sacred desk. You know not what God may require of you. (Maranatha, p. 253)

**Recommended reading:** Psalm 119:46, Luke 21:12-13, Maranatha, pp. 252-253, Review and Herald, July 17, 1888 (“The Value of Bible Study”)



### MONDAY – ROBBING THE POOR

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The lesson is about stealing. “Thou shalt not steal” is the eighth commandment. While literal stealing is no doubt a sin, is it possible that many of us are stealing spiritually from the spiritually poor?

There is an interesting description given of the church of Smyrna in Rev. 2:9:

I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich)...

How can the church of Smyrna be in poverty and rich at the same time? Smyrna was dirt poor in material things but they were rich in spiritual things.

The Bible says to be rich in good works:

Charge them that are rich in this world (very important phrase), that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy; That they do good, **that they be rich in good works**, ready to distribute, willing to communicate; Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)

And be rich in faith:

Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world **rich in faith**, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? (James 2:5)

In Luke 12 is the parable of the rich fool who kept building bigger barns. Verse 22 says that “he layeth up treasure for himself, and is **not rich toward God.**”

There are many out there in the world and many within the church who are dirt poor spiritually. They need not only comfort literally but spiritually. When we refuse to share the message for whatever reason, we are in a sense stealing from them. We are robbing people of an opportunity to know the truth. We are to be a light in the world and that light is to shine. Notice Matthew 5:

(15) Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

When we receive truth (light) do we hide it? Do we cover it up? The light is supposed to help others to see and be a comfort to them.

(16) Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

The light we receive from Jesus should shine forth so others can see the change the gospel of Christ has made in our lives. And the changes in our characters, because they are reflecting the life of Jesus, will bring glory to the Father. Our works should never bring glory to ourselves but point people to Jesus.



### TUESDAY – BEING JEALOUS OF THE WICKED

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Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (1 John 2:15, 16)

Why would we place our affections on the world? This world, as we know it now, will pass away (vs. 17). Verse 15 mentions the “lusts of the flesh” being in the world. What are these lusts of the flesh? Galatians 5 tells us:

16 This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. 17 For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. 18 But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. 19 Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, 20 Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, 21 Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like...

Paul says murderers, drunkards, adulterers, witches – all these shall not enter the kingdom of heaven. What about that word “emulations” in verse 20? What does it mean?

From dictionary.com: “effort or desire to equal or excel others; a jealous rivalry”

A synonym for emulations is “competition.” Competitive sports are unsuitable for the Christian experience, whether participating or watching on television.

Satan has devised a multitude of ways in which to keep men from serving God. He has invented sports and games, into which men enter with such intensity that one would suppose a crown of life was to reward the winner. At the horse races and football matches, which are attended by thousands and thousands of people, lives for which Christ shed His blood are thrown away. What will become of the souls of the men and boys whose lives are thus extinguished? Will they be counted worthy of the redemption which Christ died to secure for them? (Review and Herald, September 10, 1901, par. 5)

After Paul lists the lusts of the flesh in Galatians 5, he then gives us this warning in verse 21:

...of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.



### WEDNESDAY – WHAT WE PUT IN OUR MOUTHS

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Proverbs 23:1-8, 29-35 – Improper food and drink affect the way our bodies operate, therefore it much harder for heaven to communicate with us because our minds become clouded. Not only do we need good literal food but we need good spiritual nourishment.

Jesus is the living bread that came down from heaven. (Read John 6:31-58)

Just as the body needs daily nourishment from literal food, the Lord's Prayer says we need that daily dose of spiritual food – "Give us this day our daily bread (Matt. 6:11). How will our walk with the Lord be if we don't eat of the spiritual food on a constant, daily basis?

The First Angel says "Give **glory** to God..." (Rev. 14:7)

What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore **glorify God in your body**, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Cor. 6:19, 20)

What are one of the ways we can glorify God in our bodies?

Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the **glory** of God. (1 Cor. 10:31)

Does health have anything to do with giving glory to God? Does eating or drinking have anything to do with how we treat people? If we don't care for our bodies we will not be able to reflect the character of God in its fullness.

Again and again I have been shown that God is bringing His people back to His original design, that is, not to subsist upon the flesh of dead animals. He would have us teach people a better way. (Counsels on Diets and Foods, p. 82)

Tea and coffee drinking is a sin, an injurious indulgence, which, like other evils, injures the soul. (Counsels on Diets and Foods, p. 425)

The controlling power of appetite will prove the ruin of thousands, when, if they had conquered on this point, they would have had moral power to gain the victory over every other temptation of Satan. But those who are slaves to appetite will fail in perfecting Christian character. (Counsels on Diets and Foods, p. 59)



### THURSDAY – OUR RESPONSIBILITIES

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But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand. (Ezek. 33:6)

We have a grave responsibility to our fellow brethren when we find them running down a dangerous path. We become responsible for their sins if we fail to warn them and they are lost.

“...few know anything of the Spirit of God as a reprover...” (Testimonies, vol. 2, p. 128)

Thou shalt not hate thy brother in thine heart: thou shalt in any wise rebuke thy neighbour, and not suffer sin upon him. (Leviticus 19:17)

If we don't warn/counsel brethren who are falling into temptation it shows that we really don't love them and care for their souls. When our children disobey, don't we as parents punish them? We do this because we love them and we want to teach them the right thing.

“As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten.” (Rev. 3:19).

If a disobedient child goes uncorrected what can eventually happen to the child? We don't even want to imagine. Likewise, though, when sin is not reproofed and goes uncorrected in the church, the condition of the church changes not for the better.

If those who are placed in important positions never reproofed, never rebuked, there would soon be a demoralized condition of things that would greatly dishonor God. But how shall the reproof be given? Let the apostle answer: "With all long-suffering and doctrine." Principle should be brought to bear upon the one who needs reproof, but never should the wrongs of God's people be passed by indifferently. (Testimonies, Vol. 3, p. 359)

Reproof and correction should not be done with our own words (self), but should be carried out using the word of God. Elijah's stern rebukes to King Ahab were not his own but he used the word of God to do the cutting. Likewise, end-time Elijah (the church) will use the word of God to do the correcting, reproofing, and to give the warning.

We cannot remain silent.

Recommended reading: Ezekiel 33:1-20, Isa. 58:1, Rev. 3:19, Prophets and Kings (“The Voice of Stern Rebuke”) pp. 129-142.