

A Prudent Wife

by Wayne Goff

“Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, But a prudent wife is from the LORD” (Proverbs 19:14).

The Hebrew word translated **“prudent”** means “wise, knowing, prosperous, understanding.” Thus a “prudent wife” is one who is hard-working, industrious, thrifty and prosperous. What a wonderful compliment from both God and Solomon!

Prudent

Perhaps we think of prudent today as old-fashioned, out of step, and cranky! After all a “prude” is one who is viewed as a moral “goody-two-shoes,” or a killjoy! Nobody wants to be called a prude, but this is not the meaning of prudence.

Of God’s eternal scheme of redemption, Paul wrote: *“In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace which He made to abound toward us in all wisdom and **prudence**,”* (Eph. 1:7-8). Prudence here is the attribute of wisdom, and has to do with its practical applications. God has the answers to life and He reveals them to us in the gospel. We can have God’s redemption, and be recipients of all wisdom and prudence when we are transformed in our minds by the power of His word (Rom. 12:1-2).

Solomon also wrote, *“...the prudent considers well his steps”* (Prov. 14:15). And again, *“...he who receives correction is prudent”* (Prov. 15:5). *“The wise in heart will be called prudent,...”* Prov. 16:21).

Negatively Speaking

There is a negative side to the word, but only because of the context. Isaiah wrote *“Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight”* (5:21). Human wisdom, in contrast to Divine wisdom, will come to nothing. *“For it is written: ‘I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent’”* (1 Cor. 1:19). God loves the humble man who seeks to know God’s wisdom and understanding. That man shall be blessed by the Lord, but he will never be full of himself!

Are You Prudent?

We would all like to believe that we are prudent — wise, understanding, careful spenders of time and money. But the reality of it is that not many people are like that today. The opposite qualities are more obvious around us — loud mouths, quick, biting tongues, leap-before-you-look mindless folks, gullible and impulsive. If any of these qualities describe you, then let me suggest that you go to the Word of God, read it, meditate upon it, and let it curb your excesses and bless you with true wisdom and understanding. Remember — reading without meditating is like eating without digesting! Be sure that you take time to be holy.

“Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways,’ says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall My word be that goes forth from My mouth; it shall not return to Me void, but it shall accomplish what I please, and it shall prosper in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:7-11).

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