

May 12, 2019

Session 3 – The Proverbs Connection

There are 5 components in Proverbs 2:6-8. These five components match up with the 5 probing questions of Romans 8:31-35.

Here are the 5 components in Proverbs:

- Proverbs 2:6 matches with Romans 8:31
- Proverbs 2:7a matches with Romans 8:32
- Proverbs 2:7b matches with Romans 8:33
- Proverbs 2:8a matches with Romans 8:34
- Proverbs 2:8b matches with Romans 8:35

The one we are most interested in is #3.

Proverbs 2:7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: ***he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.***

Remember what we are comparing this to; God has designed our justification so that our failures are not a fatal blow to our sonship life.

First of all, a buckler is a kind of shield but buckler and shield do NOT mean the same thing; that is, buckler isn't just another way of saying "a shield." In numerous passages God uses both buckler and shield together, but note just two passages:

1 Chronicles 12:8 And of the Gadites there separated themselves unto David into the hold to the wilderness men of might, *and* men of war *fit* for the battle, **that could handle shield and buckler**, whose faces *were like* the faces of lions, and *were* as swift as the roes upon the mountains;

Psalms 35:2 **Take hold of shield and buckler**, and stand up for mine help.

A buckler is actually a particular kind of shield; not designed to do what a full body-shield does. Unlike the shield, a buckler is used in hand-to-hand combat against another soldier!

The proper use of the buckler was not to hold it in your hand, but to have it actually laced on to your arm with leather straps—and then the soldiers would put water on the leather to shrink it and tighten it up on the arm so it couldn't turn on the arm—and so it would always be facing out toward the enemy and the buckler would be made of some kind of metal plate with another piece of metal attached to it that stuck out or had a point on it so it could produce a glancing blow from the enemy's sword.

But the part we are after is that the buckler is the shield or weapon that the soldier never puts down! It's usually strapped on to his arm; it can't come off, he can't lose it.

When we are dealing with sin in our members, we have a “buckler;” it is God that justifieth! Sin always rears its head when we are walking uprightly. It’s when we’re walking after the Spirit that the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh.

When we yield to sin and we stop walking uprightly, there’s particular information that God has built into the curriculum that He wants us to operate upon when this kind of opposition gets the best of us which is designed to recover ourselves and go on.

It’s like you’re the soldier with your buckler on and you get knocked down; what do you do now? Well, the buckler actually gives you the capacity to get back up again (the reason for its design and purpose is that it gives the soldier the capacity to get back up again). This piece of his armament allows for him to put it to use in order to regain his footing and stand back up and get back into the fight! It’s an ingenious defensive implement of war!

And when the soldier was down on the ground he could put his left arm up with the buckler on it and he would be able to deflect the blows from his enemy with that buckler just long enough for him to put his hand (that had his sword in it) down on the ground and be able to push himself back up. And that’s why it had the shape that it had and was small enough for maneuverability.

And that is the concept in connection with us walking uprightly. When we fail by yielding to sin in our members as we’re walking uprightly, that buckler does the very thing that’s described in our epistles (especially in Romans 6, 7, and 8); it allows us to get up and get back in the fight.

Probing Question #4

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

The condemnation issue here is different from the charge being laid against us (the issue of vs. 33). This is not the kind of condemnation that a son can bring upon himself because of failures in his walk (like sinful behavior would be), but vs. 34 is referring to another kind of failure.

This condemnation is about failures in the sense of not wanting to (or not being willing to) respond positively and properly to issues in our sonship curriculum and in our sonship lives. We have every legal right given to us as a son to say “no” to, if we want to, but we’re also told by our Father that it is foolish for us to do that.

Session Four: The Remedy for Question Four

The condemnation has to do with the predicament we get ourselves into by making some bad sonship choices. Perhaps those choices have interfered with the getting of our education. Perhaps our decisions have not been in our sonship life’s best interest. Perhaps there is something we are hanging onto that we just do not want to let go of and now the curriculum is asking you to let it go and move forward.

God is not going to come along and ‘whack’ us or anything along those lines. He’s dealing with us as adult sons and if we choose to ‘opt out’ then we also choose the consequences that go along with that. What we are really talking about here is any circumstance by which we end up quitting our sonship life; either by stopping on purpose, stopping as a result of bad decisions, or stopping because of unwillingness to follow the curriculum.

What are the consequences? The consequences are the loss of reward; the loss of our joint-heir inheritance. We will still be saved and we will still get a glorified body and we will still be part of the body of Christ in the creature. But, we will not occupy a position of governmental authority in the heavenly places. We will not receive the “reward of the inheritance.”

Colossians 3:23 And whatsoever ye do, do *it* heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

There really are only 2 main ways in which a son can fail his Father:

- One is by the legal offences of participating in outright sinful, course-of-the-world behavior (as if he didn’t care at all that he was a justified/sanctified son)
- The other is to opt out of participating in the edification doctrines of his sonship

Both will produce grief and godly sorrow in a son (if he’s sensitive to his failures). But when it comes to failures in connection with having opted out of the sonship graces, the resulting condemnation can make us think there is no use in continuing our sonship life. This results in discouragement so severe we want to quit.

The consequence for balking at or rejecting the sonship doctrines are related to the loss of our joint-heir inheritance.

And this is the condition the Corinthians were in where Paul described them as being “straitened in your own bowels.” This is how we get ourselves in that same condition.

So is there a remedy? Yes! So, what is the remedy?

Romans 8:34 Who *is* he that condemneth? ***It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.***

Before we begin to examine the godly remedy for the problem raised by the condemnation of verse 34, there is an important point I need to make with you. It is not enough to know that the answer to the question is “no one.” It is also not enough to just think that God does not mean for you to feel guilty or be discouraged about a time in the future when you will mess up to the extent that are thinking about quitting.

But the question is, “If I balked at doing this the first time, what will make it so I won’t balk the next time?” And that is the remedy contained in vs. 34. Your Father does not mean for you to get your remedy anywhere else.

In view of this, verse 34 contains the remedy for getting yourself into a “condemned” situation. We will now turn our attention to that remedy so we can understand how the obstacle of verse 34 is overcome by what Christ has done/is doing.

Romans 8:34 Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Before we break this down, let me put it all in a quick nutshell.

- The remedy is to go back to where you veered off track and get yourself on track again.
- The remedy is to do that thing which you balked at doing in the first place.
- The remedy is to reverse, as best you can, a bad sonship decision.
- The remedy is to make sonship the priority it is supposed to be from this point forward.

Probing Question #5

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? 36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. ³⁷ Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

The fifth question addresses the Adversary’s attempts to make us quit our sonship life. Those seven categories begin at the mildest and proceed to the most severe, in keeping with our advancement in the sonship curriculum.

You can go back to your notes: SE3 (25-26), if you want to look at the details again. But for now, I only want to remind you of the bottom line for these five questions. For question five, the confidence we are supposed to have in the curriculum is that it has the power to take the attacks of the Adversary (which are designed to make us quit) and instead, we are made stronger (more than conquerors) by the endurance of those attacks.

The bottom line: Do not lose confidence in the curriculum when faced with the attacks of Satan. The fact that we are not being delivered from the attacks is not a sign that God does not love us, but rather that He does. It is the love of Christ and the love of God which make it so that we are not overcome by Satan’s attacks. It is the love of Christ by which we are refined in our sonship life by the godly endurance of the attacks against us. And, we will need to love God for designing it this way. It is the life of Christ in us that enables us to withstand the attacks and we should love our Father for that design too. And how do we get the life of Jesus being lived in us? It is by the working of God’s word in our inner man.

Romans 8:38 For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, 39 Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Paul's confidence is the confidence we should have. God has done everything necessary to ensure our success. There is nothing in heaven or earth, situation or person, which has the power to stop a son from being successful unless we let it.

It may be hard to understand it all now, but God has designed specific forms of doctrine which will produce the patient endurance of all the things which are against us and in turn, bring us unto perfection.

Now, you may walk away from it, you may not want it, you may ignore it, but it is still there and nothing can block it out. Question five is asking: who shall separate us from what God's love has accomplished for us AS SONS? The answer is: no one!

Once this has done its effectual work in your inner man, you will begin to value and esteem what Christ has done for you the way He does. You will think about it like He does; in that **there is no legitimate reason for failing as a son.**

Christ has done all the heavy lifting and He provides it to you in such a way that no one could ever separate you from it. You can walk away from it. You can ignore it. You can fail to apply it. But even you cannot do away with it. It is still there, assessable to you all the time.

Well, think of this the same way. **He has made/will make provisions for you to succeed as a son that you cannot be separated from, no matter what happens.** Satan can huff and puff all he wants but he will never blow this house down.

Satan may bring tribulations into your life for the purpose getting you to quit, but he cannot separate you from the loving provisions of Christ that enable you to bear it. Satan may bring persecution or personal loss to you, but the provisions made by Christ enable you to handle them to the glory of your Father.

The only thing Satan can do is turn up the heat and get you focused on the attack instead of the provision of Christ's love and thereby succeed in getting you to choose, of your own volition, to throw in the towel.

It is with this in mind that we now turn our attention to Romans 12.