**PROVERBS**

**Ch. 7**

**I. Keeping God’s word** Vs. 1-4

 A. Proverbs 7 begins with an emphasis on keeping and understanding God’s word and a father’s wisdom

 1. This is especially true in the area of sexual temptation

 2. The implication is not that Bible reading provides a magical protection against immorality.

 3. The keeping of these commands begins with knowing them, treasuring them, and meditating on them—**V. 3**

 B. Solomon counseled his son to have a living, breathing relationship with the word of God---**V. 4**

**II. The benefit of keeping God’s word and wisdom** V. 5

 A. From God’s word, we learn the deception and strategy of sin and temptation.

 B. We also see the end result of sin and the wonderful benefits of obedience.

 1. God’s word imparts the spiritual light and strength we need to obey God in this difficult area.

 2. Immorality has words to draw us into sin---We need God’s words to keep us from the sin---**V. 5**b

 C. An illustration personally witnessed by Solomon Vs. 6-21

 1. The term “Simple” doesn’t imply stupidity, but rather inexperience and gullibility---A lack of wisdom

 a. If he had listened to Gods word, he could have avoided what was coming--- **Psalm 119:9**

 b. He was an easy target for the immoral woman, and he did nothing to avoid her!---**Vs. 8-9**

 c. Wisdom would tell you to stay away from that place and at that time!

 2. Before he could actually reach her house, the immoral woman met him.

 a. She was dressed to tempt----Be careful you do not make others fall into temptations!

 b. She portrays herself as being right with God, even when she goes against His word---Vs. 13-18

 1) You don’t “Buy off” God with promises or pennies!---She wants a God that lets her do as she wants

 c. She appeals to his male ego as she flatters him and makes him think he’s very special to her---**V. 15**

 1) Probably been flirtations going on for some time at this point---Don’t let them start!

 3. The young man’s downfall Vs. 19-21

 a. It can be seen here that this is a case of adultry

 b. It is interesting that she refers to her husband in ways that would not awaken the conscience of her target

 1) She represents her husband by “the goodman”, not as “my husband” -----**V. 19**

 c. Finally, she claims that this was safe and would have no consequences---***Typical of many temptations!***

**III. The price of not listening** Vs. 22-23

 A. **V. 22**---He did not count on the cost involved or supposed that it would only cost if they were discovered.

**IV. Lessons to learn** **Vs. 24-27**

 A. The lesson had been presented, and needed a conclusion to reinforce the principle.

 1. Decide in your heart to not start down this path---**V. 25**

 2. Don’t believe that there is no danger----**V. 26**

 3. Things are not as they are often presented or perceived---**V. 27**