

Personal/ Small Group Sermon Study

Week of May 22, 2022 A.D.

Be As Shrewd As A Snake

(Note: For every question which appears in this study, always give the reasoning and/or the explanation for each of your answers.)

Read Proverbs 1:1-3

A proverb is: a general truth; a fundamental principle; or, a rule of conduct.

1. How important is a strict adherence to “truth” when it comes to having civility, love, joy, and peace within and among the people of any culture and/or society?
2. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “Truth is an objective standard by which reality is measured. Truth is God’s point of view on any subject.”
3. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: “When a person says that he does not believe in God, he is not saying that he believes in nothing. Rather, instead, he is saying that he will believe in almost anything.”
4. Refer to verse 3. Is it better for a person to live a disciplined life or an undisciplined life? Do cultures and/or societies, in general, expect their citizens to live disciplined lives? Can a culture, family, or a people who share a common belief system and/or a common faith maintain its existence over time without having rules of discipline?
5. Prudent is defined as: “marked by wisdom; shrewd in the management of practical affairs.” Do you agree that followers of Christ should be (a) wise? and/or (b) shrewd? Was and/or is Jesus (a) wise? and/or (b) shrewd?

Read John 2: 23-25

6. Do these verses indicate that Jesus was shrewd? Is the typical American Christian shrewd or foolish when it comes to (a) making political decisions? (b) managing money? (c) disciplining their children? and/or (d) following Jesus as their Savior and Lord?

Read Matthew 10:11-16

7. What, if anything, can the American church and/or the followers of Christ in America learn from these verses on the issue of (a) community evangelism? and/or (b) one-on-one evangelism with people whom you know?

Read Luke 16:1-15

8. Refer to verses 13-15. Please analyze, critique, and discuss this statement: "A majority of self-proclaimed American Christians love and serve money more than they love and serve God."
9. Refer to verses 8-9. When it comes to the ownership of (a) cars, (b) houses, (c) personal possessions, and/or (d) financial assets, is there a noticeable difference in behavior between American Christians and American non-Christians? According to these verses, should such a distinction be obvious?
10. Refer to verses 10-12. Do you agree with verse 10? Is it "dishonest" for a Christian to accumulate wealth for (a) a rainy day? (b) retirement? and/or (c) any other purpose or reason?
11. Refer to verses 11-12. Is it trustworthy for the American Church to (a) allow people to do without food, clothing, shelter, clean water, and/or medical care in third world countries? (b) expect, support, and accept government welfare? (c) expect the government to meet our needs? and/or (d) store up treasures on earth apart from a clear direction from God to do so?
12. Refer to verse 12. What should American Christians be doing to demonstrate to the world that we sincerely believe that Christians have been commanded by Jesus to be prudent, marked by wisdom, and shrewd in the handling of worldly wealth to and for the glory of Christ and his kingdom?

Consider: The citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven should be the rock stars in the arena of eternal wealth management. We are privileged to use the worthless trinkets of this world to purchase the silver and gold of eternity. "You think about that." Amen.