A SHINING REPUTATION

Wisdom From Proverbs About Your Testimony

INTRODUCTION:

***Realize the importance of a good reputation! Have a shining testimony!**

I. A Good Reputation is more valuable than _____ _____ (Prov. 22:1)
(The value of a good testimony)

II. A Good Reputation is gained by Godly _____ (20:11) and _____ (31:23)
(The keys to a good testimony)

III. A Good Reputation can be ruined by just a _____ _____ (Eccl. 10:1)
(The ruin of a good testimony)

IV. A Good Reputation is vital to an (Titus 2:5, 8, 10, 11-15)
(The reason for a good testimony)

V. A Good Reputation will result in lasting _____ _____ (Prov. 10:7)
(The remembrance of a good testimony)

A SHINING REPUTATION

Wisdom From Proverbs About Your Testimony

INTRODUCTION:

***Realize the importance of a good reputation! Have a shining testimony!**

I. A Good Reputation is more valuable than <u>Great Riches</u> (Prov. 22:1)
(The <u>value</u> of a good testimony)

II. A Good Reputation is gained by Godly <u>Actions</u> (20:11) and <u>Associations</u> (31:23)
(The <u>keys</u> to a good testimony)

III. A Good Reputation can be ruined by just a <u>little folly</u> (Eccl. 10:1)
(The <u>ruin</u> of a good testimony)

IV. A Good Reputation is vital to an <u>effective witness</u> (Titus 2:5, 8, 10, 11-15)
(The <u>reason</u> for a good testimony)

V. A Good Reputation will result in lasting <u>sweet memories</u> (Prov. 10:7)
(The <u>remembrance</u> of a good testimony)

CONCLUSION:

A SHINING REPUTATION

Wisdom From Proverbs About Your Testimony

INTRODUCTION:

Proverbs 10:7 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Jonathan Edwards was a well-educated theologian and Congregationalist minister from Northampton, Massachusetts, who came from Puritan and Calvinist roots. He has long been considered one of the foremost theologians of all time, reaching the lofty position of President of Princeton University in 1758. It has been reported that Jonathan Edwards who married Sarah Pierrepont in 1727 had descended 12 college presidents, 65 college professors, 60 physicians, 60 authors, 30 judges, 80 state governors, 100 lawyers, 100 clergymen, 265 college graduates, 3 congressmen, 2 U.S. senators and one U.S. Vice President.

When I mention the name Paul (what comes to your mind?); Abraham? Moses? Daniel? Joseph?
What about the name – Jezebel? Judas? Adolf Hitler?

Hebrews 11:4
By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it **he being dead yet speaketh.**

"A more excellent sacrifice" - A far better sacrifice.

Although Abel offered a blood sacrifice and Cain a grain sacrifice, it wasn't the type of sacrifice (EX: blood vs. grain) that gave it its worth; rather, it was the quality of the sacrifice that made Abel's "excellent" (*"the fat"* - Gen. 4:4) and Cain's bad (Cain had the opportunity to give his best - Gen. 4:7).

"He obtained witness that he was righteous" - His sacrifice testified of his righteousness. Note: Abel's sacrifice did not made him righteous; rather, it revealed him to be righteous.

Works do not produce righteousness; they show it (James 2).

"God testifying of his gifts" - God gave us a written record of the gifts (sacrifices) Abel offered in Genesis 4:4-5.

"Being dead yet speaketh" - Because of Abel's faith, his life and testimony (as brief as it was) still speaks today!

What will your life speak when you are gone? What legacy will you leave?

It does matter what people think of you!

You are a representative for Christ! (II Cor. 5:20)

It is not merely for our sake but for the sake (cause) of Jesus Christ that we must guard our lives! It is for the sake of others!

God is concerned about His holy reputation (Ezek. 20:9, 14, 22, 39, 44; 36:23)

***Realize the importance of a good reputation! Have a shining testimony!**

I. A Good Reputation is more valuable than <u>Great Riches</u> (Prov. 22:1)
(The <u>value</u> of a good testimony)

Proverbs 22:1
A *good* name *is* rather to be chosen than great riches, *and* loving favour rather than silver and gold.

Money can buy almost anything in this world, except a good reputation.

Eccles. 7:1 - "A good name is better than precious ointment."

No perfume can cover up ungodly character.

II. A Good Reputation is gained by Godly <u>Actions</u> (20:11) and <u>Associations</u> (31:23)
(The <u>keys</u> to a good testimony)

Proverbs 20:11
Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

Proverbs 31:23
Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

III. A Good Reputation can be ruined by just a <u>little folly</u> (Eccl. 10:1)
(The <u>ruin</u> of a good testimony)

Ecclesiastes 10:1
Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

This is why pastors must be "blameless" (I Tim. 3; Titus 1)

EX: Jimmy Swaggert

Christians do live in a glass house before the watching eyes of the world.

The world is watching, looking for flaws, cracks, inconsistencies, hypocrisy, skeletons, etc.

I believe some are saddened when they do see the downfall of a Christian, because they are looking to see if <u>real change</u> is possible.

IV. A Good Reputation is vital to an <u>effective witness</u> (Titus 2:5, 8, 10, 11-15)
(The <u>reason</u> for a good testimony)

Titus 2:11-15 - Because the grace of God is available to all men, we are responsible to adorn the grace of God!

How? By being responsible in 3 areas of our life:

1. An <u>Inward Purity</u> (v. 12a)

2. An <u>Outward Duty</u> (v. 12b, 14)

3. An <u>Upward Expectancy</u> (v. 13)

V. A Good Reputation will result in lasting <u>sweet memories</u> (Prov. 10:7)
(The <u>remembrance</u> of a good testimony)

Proverbs 10:7
The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Every day we touch the lives of others; many of whom we will never ever rub shoulders with again. What mark do you make on their lives?

How will your children remember you?

How will you be remembered when you are gone? I want the Devil to be glad.

What epitaph will be written on your tombstone?

***Realize the importance of a good reputation! Have a shining testimony!**

I. **A Good Reputation is more valuable than Great Riches (Prov. 22:1)**
(The value of a good testimony)

II. **A Good Reputation is gained by Godly Actions (20:11) and Associations (31:23)**
(The keys to a good testimony)

III. **A Good Reputation can be ruined by just a little folly (Eccl. 10:1)**
(The ruin of a good testimony)

IV. **A Good Reputation is vital to an effective witness (Titus 2:5, 8, 10, 11-15)**
(The reason for a good testimony)

V. **A Good Reputation will result in lasting sweet memories (Prov. 10:7)**
(The remembrance of a good testimony)

***Realize the importance of a good reputation! Have a shining testimony!**

I. A Good Reputation is more valuable than <u>Great Riches</u> (Prov. 22:1)

(The <u>value</u> of a good testimony)

Proverbs 22:1
A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

II. A Good Reputation is gained by Godly <u>Actions</u> (20:11) and <u>Associations</u> (31:23)

(The <u>keys</u> to a good testimony)

Proverbs 20:11
Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

Proverbs 31:23
Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

III. A Good Reputation can be ruined by just a <u>little folly</u> (Eccl. 10:1)

(The <u>ruin</u> of a good testimony)

Eccles. 10:1

Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour.

IV. A Good Reputation is vital to an <u>effective witness</u> (Titus 2:5, 8, 10, 11-15)

(The <u>reason</u> for a good testimony)

Titus 2:5

To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Titus 2:8

Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you.

Titus 2:10

Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things.

V. A Good Reputation will result in lasting <u>sweet memories</u> (Prov. 10:7)

(The <u>remembrance</u> of a good testimony)

Proverbs 10:7

The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.