

## 21<sup>ST</sup> CENTURY WISDOM Part 4

### The Word of God is the Filter

#### PROVERBS 4:20-23

Strong Statement: The COURSE of your life will be DETERMINED by how VIGILANTLY you GUARD your HEART.

→ *Do you agree? What are the other factors we often think are determining the 'course?' Why is the state of your heart so crucial?*

\* Life EMANATES from a HEALTHY WELLSPRING.

\* If we allow POISON to get in there, the ISSUE will be BITTER.

→ *What poison do people sometimes let in? If you're honest, what poison have you, in the past, tended to let in? What are the consequences if you do?*

#### HOW do you 'Guard Your Heart?' (v23)

\* It doesn't mean putting up all sorts of WALLS & BARRIERS.

→ *What sorts of guards do people tend to put up, wittingly or otherwise? Do they have the effect of guarding your heart or do they actually do something else?*

\* It means having a strong FILTER in place to guard & keep your HEART.

\* Everything we hear, read or think must pass through the FILTER of GOD'S WORD.

\* If the fear of the Lord is the foundation; the WORD of GOD is the FILTER (2 Cor 10:4-5, Phil 4:8).

→ *How does the Word of God operate like a filter?*

→ *What can we glean from 2 Cor 10:4-5 & Phil 4:8?*

Practical 'Word Filters' → Eph 6:1-3, Rom 13:1-2, Matt 7:1-2, Matt 18:21-22, Prov 3:9-10, Matt 6:33, 1 Cor 6:18.

\* Moral of the Story: If it directly CONTRADICTS the imperative of scripture, REJECT it.

→ *Did any of those scriptural filters stand out to you? What other similar Word of truth filters would you say were particularly important?*

→ *"I'm sure no Bible-believing Christian is going to take issue with the idea that the Word of God must be the filter for everything. The flesh might not like it at times, but we know the principle to be true." Why do we sometimes ignore that filter? How does the flesh tend to get in the way?*

#### THE PROBLEMS & RISKS

i) When that filter starts to SLIP.

ii) If we don't KNOW the Word.

iii) If HOLES start appearing in our filter.

→ *How are your filters? Are they strong and secure? Are they complete? Are there any holes? Why does the enemy attempt to rip holes in the fabric of your filters? How does the enemy attempt to rip holes in the fabric of your filters? How do you stop him?*

#### MEDITATING THE WORD (v20-22)

##### 1. HIGHLIGHTING

→ *Have you ever highlighted a Bible? Would you consider doing so? What headings would you use?*

##### 2. Using different Bible TRANSLATIONS

→ *Which Bible versions do you like and why?*

##### 3. WORD STUDIES & SEARCHES

→ *Have you ever used biblegateway.com, biblestudytools.com or the You Version Bible App? What functions have proved helpful?*

##### 4. Read the BOOKS of those who've studied the BOOK

→ *Any book recommendations for your group? Are you aware of theBarn's recommended reading list online? Have you read any of those?*

##### 5. MEMORISATION

→ *How are you at memorising scripture? How do you go about it? What are the pivotal ones you can remember? What choruses can you remember what are filled with pure scripture? What verses or passages would you like to memorise?*