**PROVERBS 23 REFRAIN FROM WRONG APPETITES**

**Pro 23:1** As a young Baptist evangelist when you sit down to eat with an important MAN, keep in mind who he is.

Pro 23:2 If you have a big appetite, restrain yourself.

Pro 23:3 Don't be greedy for the fine food he serves; he may be trying to trick you.

Pro 23:4 Young Baptist worker be wise enough not to wear yourself out trying to get a lot of physical goods.

Pro 23:5 Your house can burn down, your car get smashed, your money can be gone in a flash, as if it had grown wings and flown away like an eagle.

Pro 23:6 Don't eat at the table of a stingy MAN or be greedy for the fine food he serves.

Pro 23:7 "Come on and have some more," he says, but he doesn't mean it. What he thinks is what he really is.

Pro 23:8 You will vomit up what you have eaten, and all your flattery will be wasted.

Pro 23:9 Don't try to evangelize a fool; he can't appreciate it.

Pro 23:10 Never infringe on other churches’ territory or take over property designated for orphans.

Pro 23:11 The Creator LORD is their powerful defender, and he will argue their case against you.

Pro 23:12 Pay attention to your spiritual guides and learn all you can.

Pro 23:13 Don't hesitate to discipline Baptist youth. A good spiritual punishment won't kill them.

Pro 23:14 As a matter of fact, it may save their souls.

Pro 23:15 My young Baptist worker, if you obtain Godly wisdom, I will be very happy.

Pro 23:16 I will be proud when I hear you speaking words of divine wisdom.

Pro 23:17 Don't be envious of sinful MEN; let reverence for the LORD, the Holy One of Abraham, be the concern of your whole life.

Pro 23:18 If it is, you have a bright future.

Pro 23:19 Listen, my young Baptist worker, be spiritually wise and give deep serious thought to the way you live your spiritual life.

Pro 23:20 Don't associate with MEN who drink too much wine or stuff themselves with food.

Pro 23:21 Drunkards and gluttons will be reduced to poverty. If all you do is eat and sleep instead of early morning devotions, you will soon be wearing spiritual rags.

Pro 23:22 Listen to your father; without him you would not exist. When your mother is old, show her your appreciation.

Pro 23:23 Divine Truth, Godly wisdom, Biblical learning, and good Holy Spirit inspired sense---these are worth paying for, but too valuable for you to sell.

Pro 23:24 The parents of a righteous young Baptist worker have good reason to be happy. You can take pride in a wise active young Baptist.

Pro 23:25 Let your father and mother be proud of you; give your mother that happiness.

Pro 23:26 Pay close attention, church planter, and let my life be your example.

Pro 23:27 Pornography and immoral women are a deadly trap.

Pro 23:28 These web sites wait for you like robbers and cause many young Baptist church planters to be unfaithful.

Pro 23:29 Show me MEN who drink too much, who have to try out fancy drinks, and I will show you MEN who are miserable and sorry for themselves, always causing trouble and always complaining. Their eyes are bloodshot, and they have bruises that could have been avoided.

Pro 23:30 *(SEE 23:29)*

Pro 23:31 Don't let wine tempt you, even though it is rich red, and it sparkles in the cup, and it goes down smoothly.

Pro 23:32 The next morning you will feel as if you had been bitten by a poisonous snake.

Pro 23:33 Weird sights will appear before your eyes, and you will not be able to think or speak clearly.

Pro 23:34 You will feel as if you were out on the ocean, seasick, swinging high up in the rigging of a tossing ship.

Pro 23:35 "I must have been hit," you will say; "I must have been beaten up, but I don't remember it. Why can't I wake up? I need another drink."