



The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,  
**Luke 4:18**

Dr. Anthony Fusco, director

Phone: 610-620-5833

## **Appetites that Destroy**

### **Proverbs 23:1-8**

- 1 When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:
- 2 And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.
- 3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.
- 4 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.
- 5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.
- 6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:
- 7 For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee.
- 8 The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

The book of proverbs is a book of instructions and warnings. This passage in particular is a warning to those who face an allurements opportunity, which is not ordained of God.

Although we do not have dealings with kings or rulers in this day, a king could be considered any person who could offer you opportunity. For us, a king could be any authority figure ranging from a judge, to a boss or even a lending agency. It is important to understand that people in these positions use other people to accomplish their gains and Satan also uses people for the same purpose.

When an opportunity comes, we are warned to consider what is really before us (vs. 1), because opportunity can blind us. In Proverbs 16:25, the Bible says, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." We, as sinners, are more easily deceived in the area of our appetites or needs (vs. 2). As it has been with mankind for the last six thousand years, he continually tries to meet his own needs or appetites. He makes decisions based on what he thinks will make him happy (Gen. 3:6). As always, what man's fallen nature thinks it wants or needs never come within his grasp, because they never really exists (vs. 3-5).

How many people have been destroyed because they took a wrong job chasing after the hope of great advancement? How many girls have lost their most precious possession in an attempt to gain the winged dove of romance? How many have been destroyed by chasing after fame or recognition? In this day, there are countless numbers of people who are in massive credit card debt because they used them to chase after alluring rainbows. Today, the pornographic industry is booming because men are chasing after that perfect woman who doesn't really exist. Even the people displayed in those publications don't look as they appear in print. The consequences to these decisions are inescapable. The scriptures are clear in telling us that those who fall to this temptation will recognize their error and endure the consequences (vs. 8).

Not only do the scriptures warn us of these dangers, but they also show us how to live so as never to fall into their trap. Col. 3:1-2 says, "If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where

Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. A walk with the Lord Jesus Christ is the most satisfying of all experiences. Song of Solomon 3:4 says it this way, "...but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go." Why not consider seeking him?