



**MONDAY, June 29, 2009:** *"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence, regardless of their chosen field of endeavor."* – Vince Lombardi, Green Bay Packers Coach

**Proverbs 22:29** Do you see a man *who* excels in his work? He will stand before kings; He will not stand before unknown *men*.

Today I would like to share with you a statement that changed my life, (ready?) – here it is: "Everyone is self-employed." I know that may not sound too profound at first but the ramifications are huge.

When you truly understand this, then you will understand that no matter who signs your paycheck, designs your job description and determines your daily responsibilities – at the end of the day you are really "working for yourself." Long-term, it is you – not a company – boss or colleague, that will determine your level of success in life.

Each day, it is your reputation that is on the line not the company you work for. In reality, the buck stops with you – not your "boss." For when you pass responsibility to others you are giving up a piece of your own freedom and character. When you "just get by," "do the minimal," or settle for just "meeting expectations," it really is costing you by compromising your integrity and robbing you of learning opportunities for future growth.

You've heard me say it before but it is worth repeating: If each day you will work like you own the company, then one day you will or something even better!

**SCRIPTURE:** Genesis 37:26-28; 39:1-6, 20-23; 41:39-44

**TUESDAY June 30, 2009:** *"Our condition in the next life is inseparable from our character in this life."* \_J. Sidlow Baxter, God So Loved

**Proverbs 22:11** He who loves purity of heart *and has* grace on his lips, the king *will be* his friend.

Today's proverb is about being the kind of person that people want to be around.

Let me introduce a very important principle: **You can tell the kind of person you are by the kind of friends you attract.** Your friends are mirrors to your soul. If you want to change your environment and your friends, then concentrate on changing you – that will drive away some friends, some friends will change with you and soon you will also attract new friends.

Trust me on this, we pretty much deserve the kind of friends we have – they are a reflection of who we are. As a side note, this principle works at home as well. The day you take responsibility for the "climate" of your home will be the day that you can begin to change it for the better (by changing you!). This proverb shows us how to do that.

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 27:17, John 15:13-14

**WEDNESDAY, July 1, 2009:** *"We often make people pay dearly for what we think we give them."* \_Comtesse Diane, 1829-1899

**Proverbs 22:9** He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.

This proverb describes the kind of person I want to be and the kind of person I want you to be. The person I am talking about is "the person who sees with a heart to give." It is amazing how blind we can be sometimes. We can walk by people in need everyday and not even notice.

There are a lot of kind hearted people that if you were to stop them and get their attention they would be happy to help; but they are a little better than the cold-hearted people that will not help. Then there's the "almost" people. They see needs and almost do something about it but never quiet get around to it.

But the person with a generous eye is one who is on the hunt (intentional) for needs so that they can give; giving is a lifestyle to them, it is one of the reasons they live. That is the kind of person I want us to be.

One more thing, remember, there are many types of bread: food for the body, emotions and soul. Let's be on the hunt with a "generous eye" today – the promise is that we will then be blessed ourselves.

**SCRIPTURE:** Isaiah 58:10, Luke 6:38

**THURSDAY, July 2, 2009:** *"It puzzles me that some Christians who accept the regularity of natural laws in other areas resist them when it comes to health."* \_Philip Yancey, Prayer

**RE: Proverbs 3:8** (See below)

God wants you to be healthy. Yet, isn't it amazing how we take our health for granted until it's gone? However, the Bible is clear that our bodies are very important. Matter of fact, you will have a body always – even in eternity (II Corinthians 5:1-5; I John 3:2).

Our bodies are given to us as a "tent" to live in (imagine what the "house" will be like – see II Corinthians 5:1-5!) Furthermore, our bodies are given to us as a "temple" for the Holy Spirit to live in! (I Corinthians 3:16-17; 6:19). Finally, our bodies are a "tool" that God has given us in order to worship and work (Romans 6:13, 12:1).

Since God has endowed us with a body to serve as a "tent," "temple," and "tool" we will one day be held accountable with how we treated that endowment. In other words, we are to be stewards of our bodies.

It is so easy to hinder the contribution we could make to heaven and earth simply because we don't take care of our bodies. Think of the missed opportunities to serve, love, laugh, pray, play, worship and joyfully live because people shorten their lives with unhealthy and reckless lifestyles.

Please! Today take a moment and do an inventory of your body (see it as an investment that could give great returns). You can't go back and relive your life; but you can begin to make good choices today. The Bible teaches that if you live wisely "*it will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.*" (*Proverbs 3:8*) Take God at his word and begin to live a balanced and temperate life. Give a good account of the strength you have left. Who knows, like the king of old (Isaiah 38:5), maybe God will extend your days and if not, at the very least the days you have left will be better and will better declare the glory of the Lord.

**SCRIPTURE:** Proverbs 4:20-22