**Pride**

*Proverbs 16:18*

**Introduction**

1. Pride is an abomination before the Lord (**cf. Proverbs 6:16-17; 16:5**).
2. God’s distaste for pride is seen in His dealing with the proud.
3. As a rule, the product of pride is sure destruction.
4. There are far greater blessings bestowed upon the humble, and it is better to be of their number (**cf. Proverbs 16:19**).
5. God will always resist the proud **(cf. James 4:6)**.
6. Let us consider the destructive nature of pride.
7. Men of Pride
8. Nebuchadnezzar
   1. Despite what he learned of God in the salvation of Daniel’s 3 friends (**cf. Daniel 3:28-30**), Nebuchadnezzar grew in pride.
   2. He had yet another dream **(cf. Daniel 4:4-5**).
   3. Nobody could interpret it for him, so he asked Daniel, who had proved he could do so already (**cf. 4:9**).
   4. The dream (**cf. 4:10-17**).
   5. The interpretation:
      1. The tree is Nebuchadnezzar (**cf. 4:20, 22**).
      2. He would be made like a beast (**cf. 4:23-27**).
         1. Note: Until he learns that God rules!
         2. He was filled with pride, and thus blinded to this truth!
   6. The interpretation fulfilled – Nebuchadnezzar humbled (**cf. 4:28-33**).
   7. Kingdom returned, and lesson learned – (**cf. 4:37**).
9. Belshazzar
   1. Belshazzar is a descendant of Nebuchadnezzar.
   2. Desecrated vessels of the temple during a feast, and praised false gods (**cf. 5:1-4)**.
   3. Handwriting on the wall – **(cf. 5:5-6)**.
   4. Sent for men to interpret, but none could.
   5. Sent for Daniel.
      1. Reminded of Nebuchadnezzar (**cf. 5:18-21)**.
      2. Convicted Belshazzar of Pride (**cf. 5:22-23**).
      3. Gives interpretation (**cf. 5:24-28**).
   6. Interpretation fulfilled (**cf. 5:30**).

***“God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble” (James 4:6).***

***“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).***

1. What does pride do?
2. Exalts Self
   1. **Proverbs 27:2** – Praise is without worth unless it is from without, not within.
   2. **Luke 14:7-11** – Jesus in the house of a Pharisee **(v. 1).** Their conduct was prideful – they exalted themselves instead of letting others exalt them.
      1. Assuming a place of exaltation yourself can bring shame and embarrassment.
      2. It ultimately brings judgment from God.
3. Develops an Attitude of Superiority
   1. **Philippians 2:3-8** – It is not Christ like to act as if you are superior. Even Christ, who is certainly superior, humbled Himself.
   2. **1 Corinthians 12:20-25** – The Lord’s church was designed with this humility in mind. All are part of one body, thus all are needed – no superior member.
4. Leads to Self-Will
   1. **When one thinks so highly of himself that he assumes superiority he will not think himself incapable of self-leading.**
   2. **Proverbs 12:1; Jeremiah 10:23** – we need instruction, because our way of life cannot be found in ourselves.
5. Prevents Conversion
   1. **Conversion takes great humility. It is the understanding that you are in severe need, and cannot help yourself, so you look up in need.**
   2. **Matthew 5:3; 18:1-4** – Humility is a prerequisite to salvation, for salvation is found only in Christ, and one must accept his own insufficiency.
6. Prevents Repentance
   1. **Repentance is the recognition of wrong doing, and thus turning from that to God who can forgive and strengthen you. This cannot happen unless pride is swallowed.**
   2. **1 John 1:8-10** – We must be willing to confess failure before God. This is an act of humility.
7. Leads to Utter Destruction
   1. **The ultimate end of pride is rejection from God. Destruction comes to the prideful.**
   2. **1 Timothy 6:17; James 1:9-11** – The rich, who are notoriously prideful, trust in themselves. Salvation is only found in humble trust in God. Otherwise He will reject you.
   3. ***“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Proverbs 16:18).***

**Conclusion**

1. Pride is abhorrent to our God.
2. Pride has no place in the life of a Christian.
3. Only the humble will make it to heaven.