Violence - Proverbs 3:31-32

**Do not envy a violent person, And do not choose any of his ways. 32 For the devious are an abomination to the Lord; But He is intimate with the upright.**

Those of us in this room have a hard time understanding this to be honest. Why on earth would someone be envious of a violent person? Who would really want to have anything to do with an openly violent individual? I agree, there are some people who actively look for violence and will have other like minded people doing as such, but the vast majority of people would refrain from it. The problem, as with most verses when read individually is the context is missing.

The context is found in the previous passages. It shows us what we are to act like and what we are to stay away from. The ending of verse 32 states “But He (being the Lord) is intimate with the upright (righteous). God said in Deuteronomy and in Romans that “Vengeance is mine” we are not to seek out violence and are to be a people of peace. This does not mean that we are to be walked all over but in most things we are to simply walk away.

I know it is hard to do as we say in certain situations, but constantly be in a place of prayer with God and the Holy Spirit will direct you in these times. In today’s society violence against Christians is more verbal but a time is coming when it will be outward. In other parts of the world Christians are physically persecuted as well as verbally. We in this country are not at that point yet, but I am sure if we continue to stand on biblical principles we will eventually be there.

As Christians we are to act opposite of the world. We are to not be jealous, not give in to violence, and not rely on our own knowledge or understanding. We are to stand firmly to the Word of God, we are to be peacemakers, we are to be joyful and we are to be like Christ in every way. It is getting harder and harder to be a Christian in this wicked world. It was always hard but the influences are all around us now, and they are continuing to ruin not only our peace but the peace of the next generation of Christians.

Remember this week to say in your Words, pray to your Father and be thankful for all things that we are given and be thankful for those who are in our lives.

Classes may take their place.