Daily Devotion #155

**Unbalanced Scales**

**Proverbs 11:1 (NASB)** *“A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight*.”

Most adults today remember or at least have seen the old movies where a store owner used a balance system to measure the weight of goods purchased. If not, many people will remember the scales in the doctor’s office that you stand on and the nurse or medical aid slides the weights to the left or right depending on the person’s body to determine their weight.

The picture the Lord gives us is that of these kinds of scales. In the Biblical days the way a person was charged for their purchase was for the merchant to use a set of scales. On one side was the item being purchased and on the other a series of weights were used to balance with the weight of the item. But because man is sinful, a dishonest merchant would often use some measurement that would tip the scale in his favor and cheat the purchaser.

Because that system was so prevalent in the day of this writing in Proverbs, God uses it to make a point and as a way to expose the heart, specifically the heart of deception or dishonesty. The Lord is very clear that He hates it when people tip the scale in their favor.

We see this kind of deception and dishonesty all the time. Today, for example, we have commodities that are packaged to make it look like the purchaser is getting a great deal, but all the while the actual item only fills half of the package. Often consumable goods’ ingredients are masked, or the items are replete with fillers and the consumer is being deceived. When it comes to things like warranties or insurance policies, the companies who sell those packages have determined what is in their favor, making believe that they are making a really good deal. Sometimes it is true. There are good deals and honest companies, but all too often that is not the case. Anyone who has ever purchased a used car or sold a used car knows that even the terminology has changed to make the car sound better than it is. Advertising has gone from “used” to “preowned”. Some have sold a vehicle and didn’t tell the whole truth about what they knew was wrong with the vehicle.

God cannot tolerate and will not tolerate forever actions from the manufacturer or individual that are dishonest and intended to gain the upper hand.

God did just the opposite of dishonest work. You and I have been bought with a price of incomparable value. He gave everything He had for us to be made complete in Him, to be rescued. And He hates it when His people take advantage of others, because they are supposed to represent Him. They are to be the reflectors of Him. His character, His integrity, His love and care for others. But when we seek to use methods or take actions or even use words that put us on top, God detests that.

Is there anything in your life right now that God could point to and justifiably conclude that you have been dishonest? God’s Word tells us that He knows what we think even before we think it. (Psalm 139:4) So it would behoove us to make sure we are not doing or saying anything that the Lord would consider dishonest. He knows everything about us and what is going on in us. He wants to bless us. He is a loving heavenly Father, but righteous as well. So, check the scales of your heart, of your mouth, of your actions, and of your intentions, and make sure you are always using the correct measurement. Be an honest person. Don’t use unbalanced scales.