

CONTAGIOUS JOY - BIBLE STUDY #9

“Women of Faith Ministry Authors (9)

“Rejoice With Me”



Times: Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. to 12:00

Address: 346 Private Road 4703-Castroville, Tx. 78009 – Directions from 90 and Bill Millers. Go 471 North about 1.5 miles to PR4703 Creekside Subdivision. Turn into subdivision and follow road to the end (cul-de-sac) White Dodge pickup in driveway. WELCOME!

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You don’t even have to purchase a book and don’t worry if you miss some of the lessons, come on when you are able. If you want you can purchase the “E-BOOK” for only \$1.99 at Christianbook.com and or purchase the small book for only \$5.00. The study is very simple and life applicable for spiritual growth, encouragement, joy, and knowledge. We are excited about making new friends and have great fellowship!

Chapter Table of Contents

1. Joyless Living
2. Turning Sorrow to Joy
3. A Reason for Rejoicing
4. Our Hearts Rejoice in Him
5. Sing for Joy of Heart
6. Resounding Joy
7. Joy Mingled
8. Count It All Joy
9. **Rejoice with Me**
10. Joy Is My Strength
11. Radiant Joy
12. Entering Joy



“Rejoice With Me”

Contagious Joy Bible Study (9)

(Copied from our Contagious Study Book in Chapter Nine)

How can we love God with everything and our neighbor as ourselves if we do not sacrificially give of ourselves with joy? In looking for the big opportunities to “perform” as a Christian, how many small God-given opportunities to love with depth do we miss? **Shelia Walsh**

I’m a part of a caring little community. We’re from all over the place, yet we all consider ourselves friends. Not a day goes by that we don’t check in with each other. We’re a chatty bunch on the whole. We crack jokes and laugh together. We ask questions that pose riddles to get one another thinking. We’re unstinting in our compliments, shameless in our flattery, generous to a fault. We love to use our creativity to surprise each other. We keep each other’s mailboxes filled with little delights. We encourage one another, inspire one another, trust one another, and rejoice with each other.

This is a good picture of what the Lord wants for Christians to experience within the Church. We’re to form a strong community caring, encouraging, trusting. Have you formed a circle of friends from within your congregation—a Sunday school class, Bible study group, ministry team? Do you find excuses to surprise and encourage one another regularly? It’s amazing how joy can flourish when joy is shared?

Marily Meberg



Study Questions Chapter Nine

1. What does Paul say would give him great joy in Romans 15:32?
2. What does Philemon 1:20 say accompanies the joy Paul derives from his friends?
3. Fellow believers and friends can be a source of great cheer. What does Psalms 133:1-3 have to say about this kind of refreshment?
4. What is the promise of Proverbs 11:25?

5. Paul gave his life in the service for others. What did Paul call his ministry team in 2 Corinthians 1:24? Why did Paul say he would remain with the new believers in Philippians 1:25? According to 1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, what is Paul's joy?

6. You will need the book for this one, it will be matching verses, if you don't have book we can research them in our class.

7. What tool do we have that can spread the most joy to those around us, according to Proverbs 15:23 and Proverbs 18:4?

8. What is Paul's prayer for all believers in Romans 15:5-6?

9. There's no denying that it can be difficult to live in harmony with other people. We're all so different, and those differences can sometimes stir up feelings of jealousy, resentment, dislike, disgruntlement, and the like. That's why Paul urged Christians to strive for harmony. What list of admonitions does he give in 2 Corinthians 13:11?

Digging Deeper: When we're sharing our joy with others, it might be wise to bear in mind the wise words of Solomon in Proverbs 27:14 – especially before our morning coffee!

Trinkets to Treasure: As we're finding ways to rejoice with one another this week, our trinket simply must be a bolster pillow. Plump it up and plunk it down somewhere you'll see it often. It'll remind you that we're all part of a community that God put together to bolster one another's faith and to rejoice together with Him.

Summarized Before and After Verses for our study guide #9

Bfc Before and After verses for our bible study # 9

Romans 1:1-32

15 We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."^[a] ⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the Jews^[b] on behalf of God's truth, so that the promises made to the patriarchs might be confirmed⁹and, moreover, that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written:

"Therefore I will praise you among the Gentiles; I will sing the praises of your name."^[c]¹⁰Again, it says, "Rejoice, you Gentiles, with his people."^[d]

¹¹And again, "Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles; let all the peoples extol him."^[e]¹²And again, Isaiah says, "The Root of Jesse will spring up, one who will arise to rule over the nations; in him the Gentiles will hope."^[f]¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Paul the Minister to the Gentiles

¹⁴I myself am convinced, my brothers and sisters, that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with knowledge and competent to instruct one another. ¹⁵Yet I have written you quite boldly on some points to remind you of them again, because of the grace God gave me ¹⁶to be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles. He gave me the priestly duty of proclaiming the gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

¹⁷Therefore I glory in Christ Jesus in my service to God. ¹⁸I will not venture to speak of anything except what Christ has accomplished through me in leading the Gentiles to obey God by what I have said and done— ¹⁹by the power of signs and wonders, through the power of the Spirit of God. So from Jerusalem all the way around to Illyricum, I have fully proclaimed the gospel of Christ. ²⁰It has always been my ambition to preach the gospel where Christ was not known, so that I would not be building on someone else's foundation. ²¹Rather, as it is written: "Those who were not told about him will see, and those who have not heard will understand."^[9]²²This is why I have often been hindered from coming to you.

Paul's Plan to Visit Rome

²³But now that there is no more place for me to work in these regions, and since I have been longing for many years to visit you, ²⁴I plan to do so when I go to Spain. I hope to see you while passing through and to have you assist me on my journey there, after I have enjoyed your company for a while. ²⁵Now, however, I am on my way to Jerusalem in the service of the Lord's people there. ²⁶For Macedonia and Achaia were pleased to make a contribution for the poor among the Lord's people in Jerusalem. ²⁷They were pleased to do it, and indeed they owe it to them. For if the Gentiles have shared in the Jews' spiritual blessings, they owe it to the Jews to share with them their material blessings. ²⁸So after I have completed this task and have made sure that they have received this contribution, I will go to Spain and visit you on the way. ²⁹I know that when I come to you, I will come in the full measure of the blessing of Christ.

³⁰I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in my struggle by praying to God for me. ³¹Pray that I may be kept safe from the unbelievers in Judea and that the contribution I take to Jerusalem may be favorably received by the Lord's people there, ³²so that I may come to you with joy, by God's will, and in your company be refreshed. ³³The God of peace be with you all. Amen.

Philemon 1:1-21 -¹Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To Philemon our dear friend and fellow worker— ²also to Apphia our sister and Archippus our fellow soldier—and to the church that meets in your home:³Grace and peace to you^[a] from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

⁴I always thank my God as I remember you in my prayers, ⁵because I hear about your love for all his holy people and your faith in the Lord Jesus. ⁶I pray that your partnership with us in the faith may be effective in deepening your understanding of every good thing we share for the sake of Christ. ⁷Your love has given me great joy and encouragement, because you, brother, have refreshed the hearts of the Lord's people.

Paul's Plea for Onesimus

⁸Therefore, although in Christ I could be bold and order you to do what you ought to do, ⁹yet I prefer to appeal to you on the basis of love. It is as none other than Paul—an old man and now also a prisoner of Christ Jesus— ¹⁰that I appeal to you for my son Onesimus,^[b] who became my son while I was in chains. ¹¹Formerly he was useless to you, but now he has become useful both to you and to me.

¹²I am sending him—who is my very heart—back to you. ¹³I would have liked to keep him with me so that he could take your place in helping me while I am in chains for the gospel. ¹⁴But I did not want to do anything without your consent, so that any favor you do would not seem forced but would be voluntary.

¹⁵Perhaps the reason he was separated from you for a little while was that you might have him back forever— ¹⁶no longer as a slave, but better than a slave, as a dear brother. He is very dear to me but even dearer to you, both as a fellow man and as a brother in the Lord.

¹⁷So if you consider me a partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. ¹⁸If he has done you any wrong or owes you anything, charge it to me. ¹⁹I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand. I will pay it back—not to mention that you owe me your very self. ²⁰I do wish, brother, that I may have some benefit from you in the Lord; refresh my heart in Christ. ²¹Confident of your obedience, I write to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

Psalms 133:1-3- A song of ascents. Of David.

¹How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!²It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe.³It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. Or there the LORD bestows his blessing, even life forevermore.

Proverbs 11:1-26

11 The LORD detests dishonest scales, but accurate weights find favor with him.²When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.³The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.⁴Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

⁵The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.⁶The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.

⁷Hopes placed in mortals die with them; all the promise of^[a] their power comes to nothing.⁸The righteous person is rescued from trouble, and it falls on the wicked instead.

⁹With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors, but through knowledge the righteous escape.¹⁰When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.¹¹Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.

¹²Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense, but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.¹³A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.¹⁴For lack of guidance a nation falls, but victory is won through many advisers.

¹⁵Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer, but whoever refuses to shake hands in pledge is safe.¹⁶A kindhearted woman gains honor, but ruthless men gain only wealth.¹⁷Those who are kind benefit themselves, but the cruel bring ruin on themselves.

¹⁸A wicked person earns deceptive wages, but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.¹⁹Truly the righteous attain life, but whoever pursues evil finds death.²⁰The LORD detests those whose hearts are perverse, but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

²¹Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free.²²Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.²³The desire of the righteous ends only in good, but the hope of the wicked only in wrath.²⁴One person gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

²⁵A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.²⁶People curse the one who hoards grain, but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell.

THE NEXT THREE RED SCRIPTURE REFERENCES BELONG TO QUESTION #5

2 Corinthians 1:1 - 25 - Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, To the church of God in Corinth, together with all his holy people throughout Achaia:²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Praise to the God of All Comfort

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, ⁴who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. ⁵For just as we share abundantly in the sufferings of Christ, so also our comfort abounds through Christ. ⁶If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. ⁷And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

⁸We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters,^[a] about the troubles we experienced in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired of life itself. ⁹Indeed, we felt we had received the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. ¹⁰He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us again. On him we have set our hope that he will continue to deliver us, ¹¹as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.

Paul's Change of Plans

¹²Now this is our boast: Our conscience testifies that we have conducted ourselves in the world, and especially in our relations with you, with integrity^[b]and godly sincerity. We have done so, relying not on worldly wisdom but on God's grace. ¹³For we do not write you anything you cannot read or understand. And I hope that, ¹⁴as you have understood us in part, you will come to understand fully that you can boast of us just as we will boast of you in the day of the Lord Jesus.

¹⁵Because I was confident of this, I wanted to visit you first so that you might benefit twice. ¹⁶I wanted to visit you on my way to Macedonia and to come back to you from Macedonia, and then to have you send me on my way to Judea.¹⁷Was I fickle when I intended to do this? Or do I make my plans in a worldly manner so that in the same breath I say both “Yes, yes” and “No, no”?

¹⁸But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not “Yes” and “No.” ¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us—by me and Silas^[a] and Timothy—was not “Yes” and “No,” but in him it has always been “Yes.”²⁰For no matter how many promises God has made, they are “Yes” in Christ. And so through him the “Amen” is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²²set his seal of ownership on us, and put his Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

²³I call God as my witness—and I stake my life on it—that it was in order to spare you that I did not return to Corinth. ²⁴Not that we lord it over your faith, but we work with you for your joy, because it is by faith you stand firm.

[Philippians 1:1-25](#)- Paul and Timothy, servants of Christ Jesus, To all God’s holy people in Christ Jesus at Philippi, together with the overseers and deacons^[a];²Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thanksgiving and Prayer

³I thank my God every time I remember you. ⁴In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy ⁵because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, ⁶being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

⁷It is right for me to feel this way about all of you, since I have you in my heart and, whether I am in chains or defending and confirming the gospel, all of you share in God’s grace with me. ⁸God can testify how I long for all of you with the affection of Christ Jesus.

⁹And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

Paul's Chains Advance the Gospel

¹²Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters,^[b] that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel. ¹³As a result, it has become clear throughout the whole palace guard^[c] and to everyone else that I am in chains for Christ. ¹⁴And because of my chains, most of the brothers and sisters have become confident in the Lord and dare all the more to proclaim the gospel without fear.

¹⁵It is true that some preach Christ out of envy and rivalry, but others out of goodwill. ¹⁶The latter do so out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. ¹⁷The former preach Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely, supposing that they can stir up trouble for me while I am in chains.¹⁸But what does it matter? The important thing is that in every way, whether from false motives or true, Christ is preached. And because of this I rejoice.

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, ¹⁹for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.^[d] ²⁰I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. ²¹For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith,

1 Thessalonians 2:1-21- You know, brothers and sisters, that our visit to you was not without results.²We had previously suffered and been treated outrageously in Philippi, as you know, but with the help of our God we dared to tell you his gospel in the face of strong opposition. ³For the appeal we make does not spring from error or impure motives, nor are we trying to trick you. ⁴On the contrary, we speak as those approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel. We are not trying to please people but God, who tests our hearts. ⁵You know we never used flattery, nor did we put on a mask to cover up greed—God is our witness. ⁶We were not looking for praise from people, not from you or anyone else, even though as apostles of Christ we could have asserted our authority. ⁷Instead, we were like young children^[a] among you.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children, ⁸so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well. ⁹Surely you remember, brothers and sisters, our toil and hardship; we worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while we preached the gospel of God to you. ¹⁰You are witnesses, and so is God, of how holy, righteous and blameless we were among you who believed. ¹¹For you know that we dealt with each of you as a father deals with his own children,¹²encouraging, comforting and urging you to live lives worthy of God, who calls you into his kingdom and glory.

¹³And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe. ¹⁴For you, brothers and sisters, became imitators of God's churches in Judea, which are in Christ Jesus: You suffered from your own people the same things those churches suffered from the Jews ¹⁵who killed the Lord Jesus and the prophets and also drove us out. They displease God and are hostile to everyone ¹⁶in their effort to keep us from speaking to the Gentiles so that they may be saved. In this way they always heap up their sins to the limit. The wrath of God has come upon them at last.^[b]

Paul's Longing to See the Thessalonians

¹⁷But, brothers and sisters, when we were orphaned by being separated from you for a short time (in person, not in thought), out of our intense longing we made every effort to see you. ¹⁸For we wanted to come to you—certainly I, Paul, did, again and again—but Satan blocked our way. ¹⁹For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you? ²⁰Indeed, you are our glory and joy.

THE NEXT TWO RED VERSES BELONG TO QUESTION # 6

Proverbs 15:1-24 - A gentle answer turns away wrath,

but a harsh word stirs up anger.²The tongue of the wise adorns knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly.³The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.⁴The soothing tongue is a tree of life, but a perverse tongue crushes the spirit.

⁵A fool spurns a parent's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence.

⁶The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings ruin.⁷The lips of the wise spread knowledge, but the hearts of fools are not upright.⁸The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him.⁹The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

¹⁰Stern discipline awaits anyone who leaves the path; the one who hates correction will die.¹¹Death and Destruction^[a] lie open before the LORD—how much more do human hearts!¹²Mockers resent correction, so they avoid the wise.¹³A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit.¹⁴The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly.

¹⁵All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast.¹⁶Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.¹⁷Better a small serving of vegetables with love than a fattened calf with hatred.¹⁸A hot-tempered person stirs up conflict, but the one who is patient calms a quarrel.

¹⁹The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.²⁰A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother.²¹Folly brings joy to one who has no sense, but whoever has understanding keeps a straight course.²²Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed.²³A person finds joy in giving an apt reply— and how good is a timely word!²⁴The path of life leads upward for the prudent to keep them from going down to the realm of the dead.

Proverbs 18:1-5- An unfriendly person pursues selfish ends and against all sound judgment starts quarrels.²Fools find no pleasure in understanding but delight in airing their own opinions.³When wickedness comes, so does contempt, and with shame comes reproach.⁴The words of the mouth are deep waters, but the fountain of wisdom is a rushing stream.⁵It is not good to be partial to the wicked and so deprive the innocent of justice.

THE NEXT VERSE ARE THE LAST THREE QUESTIONS.

Romans 15:1-7 - We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak and not to please ourselves. ²Each of us should please our neighbors for their good, to build them up. ³For even Christ did not please himself but, as it is written: "The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me."^[a] ⁴For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

⁵May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, ⁶so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.⁷Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.

2 Corinthians 13:1-12- This will be my third visit to you. "Every matter must be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses."^[a] ²I already gave you a warning when I was with you the second time. I now repeat it while absent: On my return I will not spare those who sinned earlier or any of the others, ³since you are demanding proof that Christ is speaking through me. He is not weak in dealing with you, but is powerful among you. ⁴For to be sure, he was crucified in weakness, yet he lives by God's power. Likewise, we are weak in him, yet by God's power we will live with him in our dealing with you.

⁵Examine yourselves to see whether you are in the faith; test yourselves. Do you not realize that Christ Jesus is in you—unless, of course, you fail the test? ⁶And I trust that you will discover that we have not failed the test. ⁷Now we pray to God that you will not do anything wrong—not so that people will see that we have stood the test but so that you will do what is right even though we may seem to have failed. ⁸For we cannot do anything against the truth, but only for the truth.⁹We are glad whenever we are weak but you are strong; and our prayer is that you may be fully restored. ¹⁰This is why I write these things when I am absent, that when I come I may not have to be harsh in my use of authority—the authority the Lord gave me for building you up, not for tearing you down.

Final Greetings

¹¹Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, encourage one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you.¹²Greet one another with a holy kiss.

Proverbs 27:1-15- Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.²Let someone else praise you, and not your own mouth; an outsider, and not your own lips.³Stone is heavy and sand a burden, but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.⁴Anger is cruel and fury overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?⁵Better is open rebuke than hidden love.⁶Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

⁷One who is full loathes honey from the comb, but to the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet.⁸Like a bird that flees its nest is anyone who flees from home.⁹Perfume and incense bring joy to the heart, and the pleasantness of a friend springs from their heartfelt advice.¹⁰Do not forsake your friend or a friend of your family, and do not go to your relative's house when disaster strikes you— better a neighbor nearby than a relative far away.

¹¹Be wise, my son, and bring joy to my heart; then I can answer anyone who treats me with contempt.¹²The prudent see danger and take refuge, but the simple keep going and pay the penalty.¹³Take the garment of one who puts up security for a stranger; hold it in pledge if it is done for an outsider.

¹⁴If anyone loudly blesses their neighbor early in the morning, it will be taken as a curse.¹⁵A quarrelsome wife is like the dripping of a leaky roof in a rainstorm;