

**Faith for the Future**  
**Discussion Questions for Proverbs 23:17-18**

1. What did the author encourage the reader to do? (23:17–18)
2. Parents fear that their teaching will be undermined by peers and bad role models, and thus this text advises the son not to envy sinners. Verse 18 could be translated, “For if you maintain the fear of the Lord, you will have a future, and your hope will not be cut off.” What could parents do to assist their children to maintain a fear of the Lord?
3. Read Psalm 73. In what ways have you found yourself agreeing with Asaph’s observations in Psalm 73:1-15? How does verse 17 assist the Christian with these feelings toward the wicked?
4. What exactly is the fear of the Lord?
5. Many Christian teachers maintain that Fear of the Lord does not mean to possess a real scared fear of God. Do you agree with this view or disagree? Why?
6. Read Charles Spurgeon’s quote on the fear of the Lord: “But what is this fear of the Lord? It is that affectionate reverence; by which the child of God bends himself humbly and carefully to his Father’s law. His wrath is so bitter, and his love so sweet; that hence springs an earnest desire to please him, and—because of the danger of coming short from his own weakness and temptations—a holy watchfulness and fear, “that he might not sin against him” (Hebrews 12:28, 29). This enters into every exercise of the mind, every object of life (Hebrews 13:17).” Do you agree with Spurgeon’s definition or disagree? What do you like or not like about it?
7. Many believe that the future mentioned in this passage refers only to heaven. Others hold that it is speaking about a positive future here on earth. Which one do you believe?
8. David Gunderson says that, “Having an eternal perspective aids in present holiness.” How is this quote true?