

Proverbs

Sermons Preached

by Dave Lueloff

Introduction to Proverbs

Proverbs is a poetical book within the context of the entire Bible.

66 Books of Bible 39 in O.T. / 27 Books in N.T.
39 in O.T. = 17 Historical / **5 Poetical** / 17 Prophetical

The 5 poetical books show us the progression of Christian growth.

Romans 5:3-5 And not only so, but we glory in **tribulations** also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And **patience**, experience; and **experience**, hope: And **hope** maketh not ashamed; because the **love of God** is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

Job	/ Psalms	/ Proverbs	/ Ecclesiastes	/ Song of Solomon	5 Poetical Books
Tribulation	/ Patience	/ Experience	/ Hope	/ Love of God	(Rom. 5:3-5)

The poetical books were not written for doctrine. Neither are they written as promises of God. Proverbs are wise sayings that when generally applied are generally true. The following are not promises of God:

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

Written by Solomon (Prov. 1:1)

1 Kings 4:30-34 “And Solomon's wisdom excelled the wisdom of all the children of the east country, and all the wisdom of Egypt. For he was wiser than all men; than Ethan the Ezrahite, and Heman, and Chalcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol: and his fame was in all nations round about.

And he spake three thousand proverbs: and his songs were a thousand and five. And **he spake of trees**, from the cedar tree that *is* in Lebanon even unto the hyssop that springeth out of the wall: he **spake also of beasts, and of fowl, and of creeping things, and of fishes.**

And there **came of all people to hear the wisdom of Solomon**, from all kings of the earth, which had heard of his wisdom.”

Deuteronomy 4:39 Know therefore this day, and **consider** *it* in thine heart, that the LORD he *is* God in heaven above, and upon the earth beneath: *there is* none else.

Psalms 8:3 When I **consider** thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained;

Luke 12:24 Consider the ravens: for they neither sow nor reap; which neither have storehouse nor barn; and God feedeth them: how much more are ye better than the fowls?

Luke 12:27 Consider the lilies how they grow: they toil not, they spin not; and yet I say unto you, that Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these.

Study: Scriptures Theology Universe Doctrine Yourself

Written often to: "My Son..." Prov. 1:8, 1:10, 1:15, 2:1, 3:1, 3:11, 3:21, 4:10, 4:20, 5:1, 5:20, 6:1, 6:3, 6:20, 7:1, 19:27, 23:15, 23:19, 23:26, 24:13, 24:21, 27:11, 31:2

Solomon's son: Rehoboam – was a foolish king – 1 KI 12:1-15 and the kingdom was split in two.

I.	Instructions of wisdom – Given by Solomon	Ch. 1-9
II.	Proverbs of Solomon	Ch. 10 - 20
III.	Warnings and Instructions	Ch. 20-29
IV.	Proverbs of Solomon by men of Hezekiah	Ch. 25-26
V.	The words of Agur	Ch 30
VI.	The words of King Lemuel	Ch. 31

There are 31 chapters – can read one chapter per day = reading Proverbs once a month.

The moral teachings will tell of our duty to God; duty to ourselves; duty to our fellow man; duty to our neighbors; duty at home; and duty in society.

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom...

God & Wisdom

1 Cor. 1:27-29 ...**God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise**; and...the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty...**That no flesh should glory in his presence.**

Romans 11:33 O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable *are* his judgments, and his ways past finding out!

1 Cor. 1:17-18 ...to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words...For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.

Colossians 2:2-3 ...of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.

Man & Wisdom

Wisdom in salvation – Parable of 5 wise virgins in Matt. 25

Matthew 7:24 Therefore whosoever **heareth** these sayings of mine, **and doeth** them, I will liken him unto a **wise man**, which built his house upon a rock:

1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 3:10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, **as a wise masterbuilder**...

James 3:17 But the **wisdom that is from above** is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. **** JAMES 3:13-17****

Proverbs 1:1-6

Who wrote Proverbs “The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel...”

Why Proverbs was Written

Proverbs 1:2-4, 1:6

To know wisdom and instruction;

to perceive the words of understanding;

To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

To give subtilty to the simple,

to the young man knowledge and discretion.

To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.

What should be our Response

Proverbs 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Proverbs is given credibility because it is written by the wisest man on earth under the inspiration of God. If you will not take heed to it, then you are the opposite of a *wise man*. It could be easy to ignore the writings of an ignorant man, but to ignore the writings of the wisest man on earth is to show your foolishness. You do not have enough time on earth to learn all the lessons of life via experience.

To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion

Psalms 119:98-100 Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they *are* ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies *are* my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts.

Wisdom

It is a wholly different thing from cleverness and ingenuity. It inquires into causes and origins, into the ends and purposes of things; it seeks to solve the riddle of the universe. Perfect wisdom can, of course, only dwell with God (ver. 23). Man must be content with something much below this.

Proverbs 16:16 How much better *is it* to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

A wise person gets saved

2 Timothy 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

When we receive Christ, we have the Treasure for which philosophers and saints toiled and mined. He brings the Divine wisdom to the surface, to our very doors. If we would acquire wisdom, we have but to open our hearts to welcome Christ. PULPIT HELPS

Proverbs 11:30 The fruit of the righteous *is* a tree of life; and he that winneth souls *is* wise.

James 3:17-18 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, *and* easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

Wisdom lives for the next life. Wisdom knows how to balance living in this life and yet living for the next life. Wisdom seeks to major on the main things of life and minor on the insignificant events of life.

Instruction

Instruction is the discipline by which men are trained... Train up a child – instruction...same with you as a child of God – learning instruction from Word of God. It takes a lifetime to master a field of study. I.E. Astronomy, Psychology, Theology, Plumbing, Electrician, Parenthood.... We are to pass on our knowledge to the next generation via wisdom and instruction in hopes that they will have understanding and receive what is given.

Understanding

Understanding is to know how to apply wisdom to this life. It is not the imparting of knowledge that matters, but rather the reception of wisdom on the part of the learner. (Prov. 1:3a)

Our Response

Proverbs 1:3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;

Proverbs 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning...

Luke 19:24-26 ...**Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds.** (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, **That unto every one which hath shall be given;** and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him.

James 1:22 But be ye **doers of the word**, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Joshua 1:8 This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, **that thou mayest observe to do** according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

“The true disciple, say the rabbis, learns in order that he may do, not in order that he may merely know or teach.” JFB Commentary

James 1:23-24 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

A mirror exposes your blemishes and imperfections. When you leave a mirror, you forget those issues. A hearer of the Word and not a doer is one that God exposes their imperfections as he looks into the Word of God and then leaves “that mirror” and forgets about them. Rather one should see their imperfections and correct them – as a doer.

Proverbs 1:7-8

Proverbs are laws from heaven for life on earth; counsels from above for conduct here below and words of the wise on the ways of the world.

“The Bible may seem small against the imposing shelves of many a large library; yet with this one volume in our hand we may stand within the largest library on earth and truthfully say that all the tens of thousands of books contained therein cannot teach us more about the fundamental realities of the universe and of human life than we learn in the Scriptures.” J. Sidlow Baxter

Similarly, the genius of the proverbs lies in the condensed and concise writings of wisdom. One can read one chapter a day and finish Proverbs once a month. I.E. Read chapter 15 on the 15th of the month.

Methodology of Proverbs:

- Contrast

Prov. 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- Completing

Prov. 16:3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

- Comparative

Prov. 16:8 Better *is* a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

Prov. 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *but* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

Prov. 9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom...

Job 28:28 And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that *is* wisdom...

Psalms 111:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom...

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this *is* the whole *duty* of man.

Fear: Reverential fear. It is compatible with love. A child in a healthy relationship with his father will fear and love his father. This will motivate the child to obey, trust, love and be grateful. We can love God and fear God at the same time. In fact, to not fear God tends to foolishness.

Why we should fear God?

Creator	Creature	Infinite	Finite
Holy Nature	Sinful Nature	Judge	Steward (gives an account)

The fear of the Lord is the beginning... the starting point. The place to build upon as a foundation.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 1:8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother...

Proverbs 8:1-5 Doth not **wisdom cry?** and understanding put forth her voice?

She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.

She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.

Unto you, **O men, I call**; and my voice *is* to the sons of man.

O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, **ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.** (THE MESSAGE)

Proverbs 9:1-5 **Wisdom** hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars: She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table. She hath sent forth her maidens: **she crieth** upon the highest places of the city, **Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither:** *as for* him that **wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Come, eat of my bread,** and drink of the wine *which* I have mingled.

Proverbs 9:13-18 A foolish woman *is* clamorous: *she is simple, and knoweth nothing.*

For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,

To call passengers who go right on their ways:

Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,

Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant. (THE MESSAGE)

But he knoweth not that the dead *are* there; *and that* her guests *are* in the depths of hell.

The young man hears the call of wisdom and the call of the foolish woman. Wisdom / Foolishness;

Reproach of Christ / Treasures of Egypt; Church / World; World to Come / This Life

There are always things of this earth that give you an inner struggle. When you feed the flesh, it can turn into a 'monster.' When you give in to the world, it can control you. Compromise always starts in the mind and come out of the mouth and then translates into action. Be sure your sin will find you out.

Galatians 5:16-17 *This* I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.

1 John 2:16 For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

Biblical victory is found in overcoming, not battling against. The battles will never cease until our breathe ceases.

Rom. 8:2 For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

1 John 5:4 ...and this is the victory that overcometh the world, *even* our faith.

Emphasize ultimate victory and reward instead of immediate pleasure

1 John 2:17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

“The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge:
but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” Prov. 1:7

Proverbs 1:10 - 2:5

- **Proverbs 1:10** My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.
- **Proverbs 1:15** My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:

The power of saying “No.” Sin is contagious. Sinners desire to bring others into their fold.

Sin is made to be attractive; and it is most important for all of us to know that there are pleasures in sin, in order that we may not be surprised at the discovery of them. The fruit is palatable, though, like apples of Sodom, it soon turns to ashes. If it were not so, who would run the risk of tasting it? If stolen waters were not sweet, who would choose to wear the brand of a thief on his conscience? Herein is the great power of temptation. By slow degrees and soft inducements the evil is wrought. The subtle serpent succeeds where the roaring lion fails. Delilah conquers the man whom no Philistine warrior could overthrow. PULPIT COMMENTARY

Daring exploits (vs. 11-12); offers gain and satisfaction (vs. 13&19); misery loves company (vs. 14).

Sin brings ruin to others and is the supreme mistake (vs. 16 &19).

Proverbs 1:17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.

The meaning of the proverb here used then is, "to no purpose is the net spread before birds," *i.e.* though they see the net spread before them, they nevertheless fly into it. Even so, sinners “fly” into their own destruction.

- **Proverbs 1:20** Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

Wisdom preaches in five places (vs. 20-21). The choice is given – sin or wisdom. Wisdom seems boring and sin is alluring.

Proverbs 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

Wisdom must be sought after while sin comes by our nature. Much effort must be put forth to live a life of wisdom. Our nature does not gravitate to wise thinking and action.

Proverbs 1:23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

It is not enough to hear, we must answer; and to answer is to obey, for the call is an invitation; and to obey is to turn and repent, for the gospel of the holy Christ must be a reproof to sinners. This gospel can be of no avail to us until we come to ourselves, turn our backs on our old life, and arise and go to our Father. PULPIT COMMENTARY

Wisdom Rejected

Proverbs 1:25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

set at naught--rejected as of no value / *would none of*--literally, "were not willing or inclined to it."

Proverbs 1:26-27 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

The terrific nature of the punishment of the wicked is marked by a succession of terms all of terrible import—calamity, fear, desolation, destruction, distress, and anguish. When these come upon them, then Wisdom will laugh and have them in derision. The verbs "laugh" and "mock" are the same as in: "**Psalms 2:4** He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision" where they are rendered "to mock" and "have in derision." PULPIT COMMENTARY

Prov. 1:26-27: The time to repent is too late. The door to the ark has been shut.

Luke 13:24-28 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets. But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you *yourselves* thrust out.

Matthew 25:10-13 And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.

Wisdom Sought Out

Proverbs 1:33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Wisdom - a beautiful picture of the real security and peace of the righteous, as contrasted with the false security of the wicked. As on the one side rejection of her counsels, her warnings, and invitations, carries with it punishment and irretrievable ruin; so, on the other, the hearkening to her words, and loving obedience, are rewarded by her with the choicest blessings.

"Quiet from fear of evil." It is not only evil, in its substantial form, as calamity, they are to be free from, but even the fear of it. The tranquility will be supreme. PULPIT COMMENTARY

Wisdom must be sought out – it is found in the Word of God.

- **Proverbs 2:1** My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;
- **Proverbs 2:5** Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

The end result of seeking wisdom in the Word is to understand the fear of the Lord. **Read Prov. 1:7**

Proverbs 2:1-9

The Word of God must be Received

Proverbs 2:1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;

Luke 8:11 & 8:15 Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God... But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience.

The soil in the parable of the sower is the heart of man. The heart can *receive* the Word of God. The Word takes root in the heart. Two people can be in same situation and have different results:

Luke 23:39-43 And **one of the malefactors** which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the **other answering rebuked him**, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.

Receptivity... Prov. 2:2 ... incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;

A receptive faith – receptive toward the Creator at a young age / sensitive to a guilty conscience / open to the gospel when presented.

The Word of God must be Sought to be Found

Proverbs 2:2-4 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding; Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, *and* liftest up thy voice for understanding; If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

John 3:2 The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.

Luke 19:2-4 And, behold, *there was* a man named Zacchaeus, which was the chief among the publicans, and he was rich. And he sought to see Jesus who he was; and could not for the press, because he was little of stature. And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that *way*.

Isaiah 55:6 Seek ye the LORD while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near:

Jeremiah 29:13 And ye shall seek me, and find *me*, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

Wealth of Wisdom

Proverbs 2:4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as *for* hid treasures;

Proverbs 3:13-14 Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

Proverbs 16:16 How much better *is it* to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

Psalms 19:7 & 19:10 The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple... More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold: sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Psalms 119:14 I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as *much as* in all riches.

Psalms 119:72 The law of thy mouth *is* better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

Psalms 119:127 Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold.

Matthew 13:44 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.

True Searching Will be Rewarded

Proverbs 2:5-6 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God. For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth *cometh* knowledge and understanding.

James 1:5 If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all *men* liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him.

Wisdom / a life lived with wisdom does not come by accident. It starts in the heart – it is a seeking heart.

Truth Worth Meditation Upon – The Pathway to...

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge...

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of wisdom...

Proverbs 2:5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.

Proverbs 2:1-4 My son, if thou wilt **receive my words**, and **hide my commandments** with thee; So that thou **incline thine ear** unto wisdom, *and* **apply thine heart** to understanding; Yea, if thou **criest after knowledge**, *and* **liftest up thy voice for understanding**; If thou **seekest her** as silver, and **searchest for** her as *for* hid treasures...

Proverbs 2:10-22

What will wisdom do for you / what help will it give you

It will give you discretion & understanding (2:11). Discretion = prudence and discernment.

Understanding – 1:2, 1:5, 2:2, 2:3, 2:6, 2:11, 3:4, 3:5, 3:13, 3:19, 4:1, 4:5, 4:7

Proverbs 2:10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;

Inner wisdom shows up in outward life. Wisdom, discretion and understanding are the root, deliverance from sin of the evil man and the strange woman are the fruit. The fruit is always a direct result of the root. Don't listen to the words, watch the life. Children know who are real!

Rom. 11:16 For if the firstfruit *be* holy, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the root *be* holy, so *are* the branches.

Proverbs 12:12 The wicked desireth the net of evil *men*: but the root of the righteous yieldeth *fruit*.

Discretion is the fruit – the outward life of the inner wisdom. Dr. Jon Clifton: "You cannot fake wisdom."

Prov. 2:12 To **deliver thee from the way of the evil *man***, from the man that speaketh froward things;

Prov. 2:16 To **deliver thee from the strange woman**, *even* from the stranger *which* flattereth with her words;

Prov. 2:20 That thou mayest **walk in the way of good *men***, and keep the paths of the righteous.

Written to my son – deliver you from evil man / from strange woman. The remedy for temptation must be in the form a positive good. Overcome going to tavern with going to church... Your love for things of God must be real.

Proverbs 2:10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and **knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul**;

Welcomed as a pleasant guest -- What do you really love? --the Lord; the Bible; church; preaching... A person can love church – wouldn't miss it – and yet not love the Lord.

➤ Evil Man Prov. 2:12-15

His talk / habits... His way – conduct. To overcome worldliness – to not allow the evil man to influence your life...

2:13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness

Leave light to live in darkness – they know what is right, but that which their heart loves, they follow...

2:14 Who rejoice to do evil, *and* delight in the frowardness of the wicked

What one rejoices in is what one loves.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

They rejoice to do evil – ever hear people brag on how drunk they got; brag on their gambling; brag on their wasted condition of drugs; brag on their illicit relationships... there is pleasure in sin – for a season.

Hebrews 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;

2 Corinthians 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory;

Proverbs 2:15 Whose ways *are* crooked, and *they* froward in their paths:

Crooked ways are deceitful, short-sighted and fatal. It all started with a lack of wisdom. Wisdom will keep you from the evil man and his ways and his end. It will also keep you from the:

➤ Strange Woman Prov. 2:16-19

Her talk / habits

Dangerous and deadly.

Wisdom produces the fear of the Lord and delivers you from a life of regret.

The greatest of men are brought low via strange women.

1 Kings 11:1-3 But king Solomon loved many strange women...And he had seven hundred wives, princesses, and three hundred concubines: and his wives turned away his heart.

King David's life was scarred by lust. Sin must be addressed early.

James 1:14-15 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when **lust hath conceived**, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

Conception – no visible sign of life / conception of lust – no sign of sin. However, we know that conception always produces life.

Proverbs 2:18 For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.

Proverbs 7:27 Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Much will be discussed about this in the following chapters. Choice – choose wisely in life

➤ Walk in Way of Good Men vs. End Result of the Wicked Prov. 2:20-22

Wisdom leads to a positive life – of the “good life.” Anyone can live a life of sin. Something rare is valuable. A godly life is a rare valuable commodity (Ps. 12:1). It always has been and always will be rare. The end result of a godly life – Ps. 1:1-6. One day, you will give an account. Get wisdom – for that day. You will not regret living a life of wisdom.

Proverbs 3:1-10

Proverbs – Bible principles that when generally applied are generally true.

Heavenly wisdom for life on earth:

Dr. Clifton: “You cannot fake wisdom.”

➤ What we get from obeying the Bible

Pr 3:1 ¶ My son, forget not my law; but **let thine heart keep** my commandments:

Pr 3:2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.

Pr 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

Pr 3:4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Long life, peace and favour with God and man are the result of obeying the Bible.

Ephesians 6:2-3 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Luke 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

➤ What we get from trusting the Lord

Pr 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and **lean not unto thine own understanding**.

Pr 3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

The Lord will direct your steps – you walk with God and He will walk with you!

➤ What we get by fearing the Lord

Pr 3:7 ¶ Be not wise in thine own eyes: **fear the LORD, and depart from evil**.

Pr 3:8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

Your physical health will be the best it can be within the arena of the health you have been given.

Navel – total sustenance from the mom to fetus / Marrow – innermost health of the bones.

➤ What we get by giving

Pr 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and **with the firstfruits of all** thine increase:

Pr 3:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine.

Blessing – in O.T. it was a literal physical, financial blessing. In the N.T., it is inner spiritual blessing.

Malachi 3:8-10 Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye *are* cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, *even* this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and **prove me now**

herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it.*

Tithing – God made this simple. 10% - even a 11 year can understand \$130 = \$13 tithe.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ:

Acts 20:35 remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive

➤ **What we get by living for self**

Peace? / Contentment? / Purpose? / Joy? / Regret? / Eternal Destiny?

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

John 10:10 ... I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.

Matthew 6:19-20 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

Matthew 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

N.T. verses that reflect the teaching of Prov. 3:1-10

Matthew 16:24-25 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any *man* will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.

The Bible teaches us how to have the best life – on this earth and how to have the best life in the life hereafter.

The best life – is not best from an outward stand-point, but rather best from having love, joy and peace on the inside and purpose and contentment as a driving force for your life.

Paul suffered greatly yet he had a great life. He lived a life with little regret. Live a life that will matter when you are on your death bed. One may say, “Oh, that is a long way off.”

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

Luke 12:19-20 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, *and* be merry. But God said unto him, *Thou* fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?

Proverbs 3:11-35

1. Attitude Toward Chastening 3:11-12

Proverbs 3:11-12 My son, **despise not the chastening of the LORD**; neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

Hebrews 12:5 And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, **despise not** thou the chastening of the Lord, **nor faint** when thou art rebuked of him:

Proverbs 6:23 For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; and **reproofs of instruction are the way of life:**

Proverbs 10:17 He *is in* the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.

Learn to be flexible – in your heart – to the Lord. We ARE sinners / rebels / prideful

- **God only chastens His children.** Can you sin and rebel and God not deal with you?

Hebrews 12:7-8 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, **whereof all are partakers**, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

- **God Chastens out of Love**

Hebrews 12:6 For **whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth**, and **scourgeth** every son whom he receiveth.

Revelation 3:19 As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent.

God, the Father chastens you out of love just like a father chastens his son – for the good of the child.

Hebrews 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?

Chastening ought to cause us to fear the Lord and to change our behavior / actions.

Whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and **scourgeth...** scourging = to flog; to cause great suffering...

- **We avoid chastening by confessing sin** 1 John 1:9

1 Corinthians 11:31-32 For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.

- **We should be thankful for Chastening**

Job 5:17 Behold, happy *is* the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty:

Psalms 94:12 Blessed *is* the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law;

➤ **End Result of Chastening**

Hebrews 12:10 For they verily for a few days chastened *us* after their own pleasure; but he **for our profit**, that *we* might be **partakers of his holiness**.

Hebrews 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the **peaceable fruit of righteousness** unto them which are exercised thereby.

It truly is for our own good.

Hebrews 12:12-13 Wherefore **lift up the hands** which hang down, and the **feeble knees**; And make **straight paths for your feet**, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.

Psalms 63:4 Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will **lift up my hands** in thy name.

Isaiah 40:31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall **renew their strength**; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; *and* they shall walk, and not faint.

Proverbs 4:26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.

Proverbs 4:14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil *men*.

2. Attitude Toward Wisdom 3:13-26

Proverbs 3:13 Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding.

Better that Earthly Wealth

Proverbs 3:14-15 For the merchandise of it *is* better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold. She *is* more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Proverbs 3:35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

3. Attitude Toward Neighbor 3:27-35

Be Giving – Not Niggardly

Prov 3:27-28 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do *it*. Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

Don't Have Strife

Prov 3:30 Strive not with a man without cause, if he have done thee no harm.

Prov 3:33 The curse of the LORD *is* in the house of the wicked: but **he blesseth the habitation of the just**

One-Woman Man

- ❖ **Proverbs 5:3-21** “For the lips of a strange woman drop *as* an honeycomb, and her mouth *is* smoother than oil: But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.

Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, *that* thou canst not know *them*. Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth. **Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:**

Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours *be* in the house of a stranger;

And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;

And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me! I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.

Conclusion

Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, *and* rivers of waters in the streets. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. *Let her be as* the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love. And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.”

- **Proverbs 6:24-35** “To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids. For by means of a whorish woman *a man is brought* to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.

Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?

Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?

So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent. *Men* do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry; But *if* he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he *that* doeth it destroyeth his own soul. A wound and dishonour shall he get; and **his reproach shall not be wiped away**. For jealousy

is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.”

- **Proverbs 7:6-27** “For at the window of my house I looked through my casement, And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding, Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,

(This is a story of immorality: Wrong place / Dark of night / Got what he was looking for Jer. 17:9)

In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night: And, behold, there met him a woman *with* the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart. (She *is* loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house: Now *is she* without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.) So she caught him, and kissed him, *and* with an impudent face said unto him, *I have* peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee. I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved *works*, with fine linen of Egypt. I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves. For the goodman *is* not at home, he is gone a long journey: He hath taken a bag of money with him, *and* will come home at the day appointed. With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks; Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it *is* for his life.

Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth. Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths. For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong *men* have been slain by her. Her house *is* the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.”

Proverbs 9:13-18 “A foolish woman *is* clamorous: *she is* simple, and knoweth nothing. For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city, To call passengers who go right on their ways: Whoso *is* simple, let him turn in hither: and *as for* him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him, Stolen waters are sweet, and bread *eaten* in secret is pleasant. But he knoweth not that the dead *are* there; *and that* her guests *are* in the depths of hell.”

Adultery scars a life. All sin is not the same. Some sins leave scars that cannot be removed.

Proverbs 7 is a story of a young man – living on the edge. The edge – in his heart, he is seeking for an affair. Sin must be dealt with in early stages or it will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay and cost you more than you want to pay.

No one is above the sin of the lust of the flesh. Lust is no respecter of persons. You will not outlive the lust of the flesh. It is only fully eradicated through death.

How does one deal with the lust of the flesh? Death.

Memorize, meditate & internalize: *Gal. 2:20 / Romans Ch. 6-8 / Rom. 13:14 / 1 Cor. 9:24-27*

Wisdom

Proverbs 4:7 Wisdom *is* the principal thing; *therefore* get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.

Wise / Fools

➤ **True Wealth in Wisdom**

Proverbs 14:24 The crown of the wise *is* their riches: *but* the foolishness of fools *is* folly.

Proverbs 3:35 The wise shall inherit glory: but shame shall be the promotion of fools.

Proverbs 11:29 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool *shall be* servant to the wise of heart.

➤ **Wisdom & Their Inner Circle**

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 13:20 He that walketh with wise *men* shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

➤ **Wisdom & Righteousness**

Proverbs 14:16 A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

Proverbs 17:10 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

➤ **Wisdom & Speaking - to know when to speak up and when to shut up**

Proverbs 15:2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.

Proverbs 17:28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: *and* he that shutteth his lips *is esteemed* a man of understanding.

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise *man* keepeth it in till afterwards.

Scorners

Scorner: scoffer; one who makes a mock; mocker

➤ **Scorners Find What They are Looking For**

Proverbs 14:6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and *findeth it* not: but knowledge *is* easy unto him that understandeth.

➤ **They are Proud & Delight in Scorning**

Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorners delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

Proverbs 21:24 Proud *and* haughty scorner *is* his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace...God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

➤ **Waste of Time to Rebuke Scorners**

Proverbs 9:7-8 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked *man getteth* himself a blot. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Proverbs 13:1 A wise son *heareth* his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

Proverbs 15:12 A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.

➤ **One Scorer Will Harm Many**

Proverbs 22:10 Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

Proverbs 24:9 The thought of foolishness *is* sin: and the scorner *is* an abomination to men.

➤ **Leave Scorners to the Lord**

Proverbs 3:33-34 The curse of the LORD *is* in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just. Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly.

James 4:6 But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Proverbs 19:29 Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

➤ **Wise People Learn from God's Dealing with Scorners**

Proverbs 21:11 When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

Anger

Anger is associated with foolish people

Proverbs 12:16 A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent *man* covereth shame.

Proverbs 14:16 A wise *man* feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.

Proverbs 14:17 *He that is* soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.

Proverbs 27:3 A stone *is* heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath *is* heavier than them both.

Proverbs 27:4 Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy?

Proverbs 19:19 A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver *him*, yet thou must do it again.

Anger is associated with strife

Proverbs 15:18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but *he that is* slow to anger appeaseth strife.

Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

Proverbs 30:33 Surely the churning of milk bringeth forth butter, and the wringing of the nose bringeth forth blood: so the forcing of wrath bringeth forth strife.

Wise People & Wrath

Proverbs 14:29 *He that is* slow to wrath *is* of great understanding: but *he that is* hasty of spirit exalteth folly.

Proverbs 16:32 *He that is* slow to anger *is* better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.

Proverbs 21:19 *It is* better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

Proverbs 29:8 Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise *men* turn away wrath.

Proverbs 22:24-25 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go: Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

How to Deal with Anger

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

Proverbs 21:14 A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

Proverbs 19:11 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and *it is* his glory to pass over a transgression.

Deferreth = delay or postpone

“That he does not show it immediately; but takes time to consider of the offence given him, and makes use of a proper time to resent what is fit should be resented; he is a wise and discreet man that is slow to anger. He is most like to God, who is "longsuffering, abundant in goodness and truth", and it is to the honour of his "name" that he "defers *his* anger", and "refrains from" cutting off those that offend him.”
GILL

N.T. Dealing with Anger

- Okay to be angry as long as 1) for the right reason and 2) under control:

Ephesians 4:26-27 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath: Neither give place to the devil.

- Put anger away

Ephesians 4:31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

Colossians 3:8 But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

- Have a place for anger

Romans 12:19 Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but *rather* give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance *is* mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.

To *give place*, then, is to leave it for God to come in and execute wrath or vengeance on the enemy. Do not execute wrath; leave it to God; commit all to him; leave yourself and your enemy in his hands, assured that he will vindicate you and punish him. BARNES

Give place unto means - leave room for wrath.

- Fruit of the Spirit

Galatians 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, **longsuffering, gentleness, goodness...**

The Heart / Self-Control

➤ The Heart

Proverbs 3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:

Proverbs 3:5 Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

An Evil Heart

Proverbs 10:20 The tongue of the just *is as* choice silver: the heart of the wicked *is* little worth.

Proverbs 12:20 Deceit *is* in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace *is* joy.

The Lord & The Heart

Proverbs 15:11 Hell and destruction *are* before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

Proverbs 20:9 Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

Proverbs 21:2 Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Proverbs 17:3 The fining pot *is* for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts.

Proverbs 21:2 Every way of a man *is* right in his own eyes: but the LORD pondereth the hearts.

Father & Son

Proverbs 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways.

The Heart & Inner Emotions

Proverbs 14:10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

Proverbs 14:13 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth *is* heaviness.

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

➤ **Self-Control**

Proverbs 16:32 *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

Proverbs 25:28 *He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.*

Eating

Proverbs 23:1-3 *When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee: And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.*

Proverbs 25:16 *Hast thou found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for thee, lest thou be filled therewith, and vomit it.*

Drinking / Drugs

Proverbs 20:1 *Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.*

Proverbs 21:17 *He that loveth pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich.*

Proverbs 23:20 *Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:*

Proverbs 23:21 *For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.*

Proverbs 23:29-35 *Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things. Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast. They have stricken me, shalt thou say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.*

Proverbs 26:9 *As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.*

Proverbs 31:4-6 *It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink: Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted. Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.*

Friend(s)

➤ Friend of God

Proverbs 18:24 A man *that hath* friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend *that* sticketh closer than a brother.

James 2:23 And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God.

Psalms 25:14 The secret of the LORD *is* with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

John 15:14 Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.

John 15:15 Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you.

2 Chronicles 16:9 For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.

James 4:4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

➤ Friends

Proverbs 17:17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

Proverbs 18:16 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.

Proverbs 22:11 He that loveth pureness of heart, *for* the grace of his lips the king *shall be* his friend.

Proverbs 27:6 Faithful *are* the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy *are* deceitful.

Proverbs 27:9-10 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel. Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: *for* better *is* a neighbour *that is* near than a brother far off.

Keep a Friend / Lose a Friend

Proverbs 17:9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth *very* friends.

Heart to Heart

Proverbs 27:19 As in water face *answereth* to face, so the heart of man to man.

Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron; so a man sharpeneth the countenance of his friend.

➤ **Fake Friends**

Proverbs 14:20 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich *hath* many friends.

Proverbs 19:4 Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

Proverbs 19:6-7 Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man *is* a friend to him that giveth gifts. All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth *them with words, yet they are wanting to him.*

➤ **Lose a Friend**

Proverbs 27:14 He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

Proverbs 25:17 Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and *so* hate thee.

Proverbs 18:19 A brother offended *is harder to be won* than a strong city: and *their contentions are* like the bars of a castle.

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Proverbs 17:9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth *very* friends.

➤ **Love Thy Neighbor**

Proverbs 3:28 Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.

Proverbs 3:29 Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.

Proverbs 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy *is* he.

➤ **Conclusion**

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Proverbs 16:7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.

Generosity

Jesus / Judas

Mark 10:45 For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to **give his life** a ransom for many. (*Life = Psyche* – He gave His all)

1 Timothy 6:10 For the **love of money is the root of all evil**: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

Christians ought to be giving people. We must be wise to not be taken advantage of and also to wisely invest our finances into that which will withstand the fires of the Judgment Seat of Christ.

We need money – it is a reality. We must avoid the love of money. Each one decides his / her level of frugality, giving, saving, hoarding....

Give to Salvation Army – feed a life / Give to church – save a soul / Invest in Missions – start a church

Your money does not belong to you – you are a steward and thus accountable as to what you do with your pocketbook.

Luke 16:2 And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? **give an account of thy stewardship**; for thou mayest be no longer steward.

As a steward, we give account of the use of our money, but also our time, our desires in life, our mind, our words, deeds....

Acts 20:35 I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the **words of the Lord Jesus**, how he said, **It is more blessed to give than to receive**.

Jesus Gave

2 Corinthians 8:9 For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich.

2 Corinthians 9:15 Thanks *be* unto God for his unspeakable gift.

We should give – not required, but encouraged – prove God that He will bless you with 90%

Malachi 3:8 **Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me**. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings.

Malachi 3:10 Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and **prove me now herewith, saith the LORD** of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that *there shall not be room enough to receive it*.

➤ **Principle of Generosity**

Proverbs 11:24-25 There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and *there is* that withholdeth more than is meet, but *it tendeth* to poverty. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.

Proverbs 22:9 He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

➤ **Giving & the Lord**

Proverbs 3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

➤ **Love Thy Neighbor**

Proverbs 3:27 Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do *it*.

Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Proverbs 21:13 Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Proverbs 28:8 He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

Proverbs 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.

Proverbs 30:14 *There is* a generation, whose teeth *are as* swords, and their jaw teeth *as* knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from *among* men.

➤ **Love of Money**

Proverbs 15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.

Proverbs 21:26 He coveteth greedily all the day long: but the righteous giveth and spareth not.

Insatiable Greed:

Proverbs 30:14 *There is* a generation, whose teeth *are as* swords, and their jaw teeth *as* knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from *among* men.

Proverbs 30:15-16 The horseleach hath two daughters, *crying*, Give, give. There are three *things that are* never satisfied, *yea*, four *things say not*, *It is* enough: The grave; and the barren womb; the earth *that is* not filled with water; and the fire *that saith not*, *It is* enough.

Horseleach – leeches / blood suckers... give give – it is never enough!

Speech

Your personal testimony as a Christian should be one above reproach. Your speech reveals your heart.

Character in Speech

Proverbs 16:6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD *men* depart from evil.

Proverbs 17:7 Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

Proverbs 19:28 An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

Proverbs 20:28 Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.

Proverbs 24:26 *Every man* shall kiss *his* lips that giveth a right answer.

Truthful / Lying

Proverbs 8:7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness *is* an abomination to my lips.

Proverbs 12:17 *He that* speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

Proverbs 12:19 The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue *is* but for a moment.

Proverbs 12:22 Lying lips *are* abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly *are* his delight.

Proverbs 14:5 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.

Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh *them* shall have mercy.

Truthfulness in Speech

Truthfulness is Christ-like as He is 'the truth:' Thy word is truth / the Spirit of truth...

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 17:17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

Proverbs 13:5 A righteous *man* hateth lying: but a wicked *man* is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

Proverbs 30:8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

Lying in Speech

Lying is Satan-like as he is the father of all lies:

John 8:44 Ye are of *your* father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and **abode not in the truth**, because there **is no truth in him**. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar, and the father of it**.

Revelation 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and **all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone**: which is the second death.

Proverbs 17:4 A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; *and* a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.

Proverbs 19:5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall not escape.

Proverbs 19:9 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that* speaketh lies shall perish.

Proverbs 19:22 The desire of a man *is* his kindness: and a poor man *is* better than a liar.

Proverbs 21:6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue *is* a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

Proverbs 21:28 A false witness shall perish: but the man that heareth speaketh constantly.

Proverbs 25:18 A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour *is* a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

Proverbs 26:28 A lying tongue hateth *those that are* afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Deceitfulness in Speech

Deceitfulness is like Judas. Jesus knows how deceitful you are:

Luke 22:47-48 And while he yet spake, behold a multitude, and he that was called **Judas**, one of the twelve, went before them, and **drew near unto Jesus to kiss him**. But Jesus said unto him, **Judas, betrayest thou the Son of man with a kiss?**

Jeremiah 17:9 The **heart is deceitful** above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Matthew 12:34 O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for **out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh**.

Proverbs 12:20 Deceit *is* in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace *is* joy.

Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent *is* to understand his way: but the folly of fools *is* deceit.

Proverbs 14:25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful *witness* speaketh lies.

Proverbs 15:4 A wholesome tongue *is* a tree of life: but perverseness therein *is* a breach in the spirit.

Proverbs 20:17 Bread of deceit *is* sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

Proverbs 17:20 He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.

Prov 19:1 Better *is* the poor that walketh in his integrity, than *he that is* perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

Proverbs 24:28 Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive *not* with thy lips.

Proverbs 25:18 A man that beareth false witness against his neighbour *is* a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

Worst Use of Speech

Revelation 12:10 ...**the accuser of our brethren** is cast down, which accused them before our God...

Proverbs 6:16-19 These six *things* doth the LORD hate: yea, seven *are* an **abomination** unto him...
A false witness *that* speaketh lies, and **he that soweth discord among brethren**.

Conclusion

James 3:2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same *is* a perfect man, *and* able also to bridle the whole body.

James 1:26 If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion *is* vain.

James 3:5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

James 3:6 And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

James 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; *it is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Colossians 4:6 Let your speech *be* always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.

Happiness

Happiness is like a butterfly: the more you chase it, the more it will elude you, but if you turn your attention to other things, it will come and sit softly on your shoulder. Henry David Thoreau?

Proverbs 14:10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.

Proverbs 14:13 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth *is* heaviness.

Proverbs 15:13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

Prov. 15:15 All the days of the afflicted *are* evil: but he that is of a merry heart *hath* a continual feast.

Proverbs 17:22 A merry heart doeth good *like* a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.

Family

Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son *is* the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 15:20 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

Proverbs 23:24-25 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise *child* shall have joy of him. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

Encouragement

Proverbs 12:25 Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

Proverbs 15:23 ... a word *spoken* in due season, how good *is it!*

Proverbs 23:15-16 ... Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

Prov. 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy *is* he.

Ephesians 4:29 Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

Right Living

Proverbs 29:18 Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

Prov. 28:14 Happy *is* the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.

Proverbs 16:20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy *is* he.

Proverbs 12:20 Deceit *is* in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace *is* joy.

Prov. 24:17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

Psalms 1:1-3 Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.

Serving the Lord

Proverbs 3:13 Happy *is* the man *that* findeth wisdom, and the man *that* getteth understanding.

Proverbs 3:18 She *is* a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy *is every one* that retaineth her. (She = wisdom)

Acts 20:24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus...

1 Peter 4:14 If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy *are ye*; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified.

Acts 13:50-52 But the Jews stirred up the devout and honourable women, and the chief men of the city, and raised persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them out of their coasts. But they shook off the dust of their feet against them, and came unto Iconium. And the disciples were filled with joy, and with the Holy Ghost.

John 13:14-17 If I then, *your* Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you. Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.

Romans 14:17 For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

2 Corinthians 8:2 How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality.

1 Thessalonians 1:6 And ye became followers of us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with joy of the Holy Ghost:

3 John 1:4 I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth.

1 Peter 1:8 Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see *him* not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:

Heb. 12:2 Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Focus on Next Life

Proverbs 10:28 The hope of the righteous *shall be* gladness...

Matthew 6:33 But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness...

Titus 2:13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;

Diligence / Sloth

DILIGENCE, n. *L., to love earnestly; to choose.* (1828 Webster's Dictionary)

1. Steady application in business of any kind; constant effort to accomplish what is undertaken; exertion of body or mind without unnecessary delay or sloth; due attention; industry; assiduity.
2. Care; heed; heedfulness. Keep thy heart with all diligence. Proverbs 4.

Diligence is the philosophers stone that turns every thing to gold.
Brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure. 2 Peter 1

SLOTH'FUL, Inactive; sluggish; lazy; indolent; idle. He that is slothful in his work, is brother to him that is a great waster. Prov. 18. (1828 Webster's Dictionary)

Diligence

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life.

Proverbs 6:6-8 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, *and* gathereth her food in the harvest.

Proverbs 12:11 He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain *persons* is void of understanding.

Proverbs 14:23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips *tendeth* only to penury.

Proverbs 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean *men*.

Proverbs 27:23 Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, *and* look well to thy herds.

Laziness

Proverbs 10:4-5 He becometh poor that dealeth *with* a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich. He that gathereth in summer *is* a wise son: *but* he that sleepeth in harvest *is* a son that causeth shame.

Proverbs 24:30-34 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, *and* nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down. Then I saw, *and* considered *it* well: I looked upon *it*, *and* received instruction. *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: So shall thy poverty come *as* one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

Proverbs 22:13 The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

Proverbs 26:13-15 The slothful *man* saith, *There is* a lion in the way; a lion *is* in the streets. As the door turneth upon his hinges, so *doth* the slothful upon his bed. The slothful hideth his hand in *his* bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

Proverbs 6:9-10 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? *Yet* a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

Proverbs 19:15 Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

Proverbs 20:13 Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, *and* thou shalt be satisfied with bread.

Proverbs 19:24 A slothful *man* hideth his hand in *his* bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

Proverbs 23:21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe *a man* with rags.

Frustrating dealing with lazy people

Proverbs 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so *is* the sluggard to them that send him.

Proverbs 18:9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

Proverbs 20:4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; *therefore* shall he beg in harvest, and *have* nothing.

Proverbs 12:27 The slothful *man* roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man *is* precious.

Proverbs 21:25 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

Compare

Proverbs 12:24 The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

Proverbs 13:4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and *hath* nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

Proverbs 21:25 The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

Proverbs 28:19 He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain *persons* shall have poverty enough.

Conclusion

Proverbs 26:16 The sluggard *is* wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

Envy & Covetousness

We must be careful with our view of this world and all it has to offer. We must be thankful for what we have; not what we do not have. There will always be others that have more and there will always be others that have less.

Praising the Lord centers around the throne of God, as He is central to all that happens in life. Thankfulness is rooted in the love for the Lord and realizing that you are not owed anything. The only thing I deserve is an eternal hell for all my sins.

➤ **Envy & Covetousness Can Ruin You**

Proverbs 6:34 For jealousy *is* the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

Proverbs 14:30 A sound heart *is* the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Proverbs 27:4 Wrath *is* cruel, and anger *is* outrageous; but who *is* able to stand before envy?

Proverbs 23:17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but *be thou* in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Psalms 119:95 The wicked have waited for me to destroy me: *but* I will consider thy testimonies.

Romans 12:15 Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

➤ **What Others Have**

Proverbs 3:31 Envy thou not the oppressor, and choose none of his ways.

Proverbs 24:19 Fret not thyself because of evil *men*, neither be thou envious at the wicked;

Proverbs 28:16 The prince that wanteth understanding *is* also a great oppressor: *but* he that hateth covetousness shall prolong *his* days.

Psalms 73:12 Behold, these *are* the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase *in* riches.

Psalms 49:6-17 They that trust in their wealth, and boast themselves in the multitude of their riches; None *of them* can by any means redeem his brother, nor give to God a ransom for him: (For the redemption of their soul *is* precious, and it ceaseth for ever:) That he should still live for ever, *and* not see corruption. For he seeth *that* wise men die, likewise the fool and the brutish person perish, and leave their wealth to others. Their inward thought *is*, *that* their houses *shall continue* for ever, *and* their dwelling places to all generations; they call *their* lands after their own names. Nevertheless man *being* in honour abideth not: he is like the beasts *that* perish.

This their way *is* their folly: yet their posterity approve their sayings. Selah. Like sheep they are laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; and the upright shall have dominion over them in the morning; and their beauty shall consume in the grave from their dwelling.

But God will redeem my soul from the power of the grave: for he shall receive me. Selah.

Be not thou afraid when one is made rich, when the glory of his house is increased; For when he dieth he shall carry nothing away: his glory shall not descend after him.

1 Timothy 6:5-6 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. But godliness with contentment is great gain.

Colossians 3:5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:

➤ **What Others Are**

Proverbs 23:17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but *be thou* in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Proverbs 24:1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

Hebrews 11:24-26 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.

Psalms 73:12, & 16-18 Behold, these *are* the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase *in* riches... When I thought to know this, it *was* too painful for me; Until I went into the sanctuary of God; *then* understood I their end. Surely thou didst set them in slippery places: thou castedst them down into destruction.

Psalms 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, *and* all the nations that forget God.

➤ **What I Am**

1 John 3:1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.

1 Timothy 6:10-12 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

I am saved forever, eternally secure, forgiven, redeemed, sanctified, bound for heaven, my home.

Why should I be discouraged, why should the shadows come, Why should my heart be lonely, And long for heaven my home? When Jesus is my portion, My constant friend is He; His eye is on the sparrow, And I know He watches me!

Counsel / Hatred

Counsel

➤ Attitude

Proverbs 1:5 A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

Proverbs 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Proverbs 27:9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so *doth* the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

➤ Counsel Between Oneself & the Lord

Proverbs 1:25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

Proverbs 1:30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.

Proverbs 8:14 Counsel *is* mine, and sound wisdom: I *am* understanding; I have strength.

Counsel from the Lord can be accepted or rejected.

Acts 28:24 And some believed the things which were spoken, and some believed not.

➤ Wise People

Proverbs 11:14 Where no counsel *is*, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors *there is* safety.

Proverbs 12:15 The way of a fool *is* right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel *is* wise.

Proverbs 12:20 Deceit *is* in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace *is* joy.

Proverbs 20:5 Counsel in the heart of man *is like* deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

➤ Bad Counsel

Proverbs 12:5 The thoughts of the righteous *are* right: *but* the counsels of the wicked *are* deceit.

Proverbs 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

Hatred

➤ Hatred will eat at you and can destroy you

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Prov. 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy *is* he.

Proverbs 15:17 Better *is* a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

Proverbs 26:24 He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;

But the verb here used bears the meaning "to make one's self unknown," as well as "to make one's self known," and hence "to make one's self unrecognizable" by dress or change of countenance. This is much more appropriate in the present connection than the other explanation. The man cloaks his hatred with honeyed words. **1Ki 14:5** ...when she cometh in, that she shall **feign herself to be** another woman.

Proverbs 26:25 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for *there are* seven abominations in his heart.

Proverbs 26:25-26 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for *there are* seven abominations in his heart. *Whose* hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the *whole* congregation.

➤ You can be hated

Prov. 25:17 Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee.

Proverbs 29:10 The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

Proverbs 10:18 He that hideth hatred *with* lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, *is* a fool.

1 John 3:13 Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.

Revelation 6:9 And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:

Revelation 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God...

The opposite of hatred is love – it is the crowning characteristic of the Christian:

1 Cor. 13:13 And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these *is* charity.

Romans 13:8 Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law.

Matthew 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

The Home

➤ Children

○ Good Son

Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son *is* the heaviness of his mother.

Proverbs 15:20 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

Proverbs 23:24 The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise *child* shall have joy of him.

Proverbs 20:11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

○ Not –So-Good Son

Proverbs 17:2 A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.

Proverbs 17:25 A foolish son *is* a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

Proverbs 19:13 A foolish son *is* the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife *are* a continual dropping.

Proverbs 19:26 He that wasteth *his* father, *and* chaseth away *his* mother, *is* a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

Proverbs 20:20 Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

○ Chastisement

Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Proverbs 13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

Proverbs 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

Proverbs 29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

➤ **Husbands**

- Husbands need to Praise their Spouse

Proverbs 31:28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband *also*, and he praiseth her.

Other than the above verse, husbands are not mentioned in Proverbs, except in response to the wife – a man needs a good woman. She will make or break him:

Proverbs 12:4 A virtuous woman *is* a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed *is* as rottenness in his bones.

Proverbs 14:1 Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.

Proverbs 31:11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

Proverbs 31:23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.

➤ **Wives**

- A Good Wife

Proverbs 11:16 A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong *men* retain riches.

Proverbs 18:22 *Whoso* findeth a wife findeth a good *thing*, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.

Proverbs 19:14 House and riches *are* the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife *is* from the LORD.

- A Not-So-Good Wife

Proverbs 11:22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, *so is* a fair woman which is without discretion.

Proverbs 19:13 A foolish son *is* the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife *are* a continual dropping.

Proverbs 21:9 *It is* better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

Proverbs 21:19 *It is* better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

Proverbs 25:24 *It is* better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

- And of course, the Virtuous Woman – Prov. 31:10-31

Proverbs 31:10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price *is* far above rubies.

Eyes & Ears

Proverbs 20:12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD hath made even both of them.

2 Peter 2:8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in **seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;**) **(Biblical Account of Lot)**

- **Eyes & Ears are gates to the soul – they work with your heart.** Use them for a spiritual benefit

Proverbs 22:17 Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.

Proverbs 23:9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of thy words.

Proverbs 4:20-21 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

Proverbs 2:2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, *and* apply thine heart to understanding;

Proverbs 5:1 My son, attend unto my wisdom, *and* bow thine ear to my understanding;

Proverbs 23:12 Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge.

Proverbs 5:13 And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

Proverbs 7:2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

God uses reading His word & Hearing preaching to speak to your heart. What is your response?

Prov. 15:31 The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.

Prov. 18:15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.

Prov. 25:12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, *so is* a wise reprover upon an obedient ear.

- **As the eyes & the heart of man work together, so the mind & the spirit work together**

Romans 2:14-15 For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their **hearts**, their **conscience** also bearing witness, and *their thoughts* the mean while **accusing or else excusing** one another;)

Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few *stripes*. For **unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required:** and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

All that you know of the Bible / all your eyes and ears have heard – you will be held accountable for it.

- **Be purposeful with your eyes**

Proverbs 4:23-25 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it *are* the issues of life... Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.

Proverbs 22:9 He that hath a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he giveth of his bread to the poor.

- **Using eyes wrongly**

Proverbs 6:13 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;

Proverbs 10:10 He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.

Winketh – a form of deceit, wickedness of some sort...

Proverbs 16:30 He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.

Lust of the eyes – covetousness - love of money - love of things...

Proverbs 23:5 Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for *riches* certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Proverbs 30:12-13 *There is* a generation *that are* pure in their own eyes, and *yet* is not washed from their filthiness. *There is* a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

Proverbs 27:20 Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

Drunkenness & immorality

Proverbs 23:29-33 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, *when* it moveth itself aright. At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder. Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

- **Using ears wrongly**

Proverbs 17:4 A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; *and* a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.

Proverbs 21:13 Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

Proverbs 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer *shall be* abomination.

- **God's eyes sees all**

Proverbs 5:21 For the ways of man *are* before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.

Proverbs 15:3 The eyes of the LORD *are* in every place, beholding the evil and the good.