

*Anthology of the Most
Important Principles of Life*
THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

The five books of Moses (Pentateuch) teach us God's laws, Christ magnified these laws in the New Testament, teaching us to keep God's laws (in love), but the book of Proverbs teaches how to keep God's laws: Taught as a loving parent would teach a child; to prevent them from wasting their lives, making them count for something, preparing them to take a mature, contributing role in the family.

2 Corinthians 6:18 *“And I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” [expressed as El Shadai—which means He has the power to make it so]*

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SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

Today there are thousands of magazines and self help books published, raking in millions, to help us find the better life. Most reflect only fads, are elementary, or untrue, not addressing the real sources of our problems. The critical factor they always leave out is of course God. But the *“one true self help book”* can be purchased from the American Bible Society for a dollar—the Bible. It not only answers many questions about life, addresses the potential for mankind, but it also shows how to live a better life and avoid many problems. Many business people have studied the book of Proverbs for these reasons alone.

Before understanding what the book of Proverbs is, we should understand what the book of Proverbs is not. It is not a book to be taken for granted, or skimmed through as you read an opinionated self help book—with only limited impact on our lives. It is not a book reflecting the ideas of secular men, their organizations, the broad way to destruction, the wisdom and philosophies of man's secular or religious ideas. The book of Proverbs is not Jewish theology. It is not secular in any manner, for everything of man is flawed. Man's belief system from beginning to end is wrong. God doesn't want us to confuse the two.

Just as man's way can be proven wrong because it does not work, so the wisdom of God is justified of her children because the results add quality to our lives—in the here and now. It does not require blind faith to understand the value of this book.

First and foremost to properly understand the book of Proverbs we must read it through the eyes of faith, the meaning must be unlocked through the holy spirit, as bread is digested—the spiritual bread we are given each day must be digested. We must be willing

to rightly divide the word of God, without time or constraints, not attempting to reshape the word of God into something we can accept—neither adding or diminishing from what God shows us. Reading it then meditating it.

The book of Proverbs is a divine revelation, granted to us through grace, providing us with an understanding to face the challenges of life, according to our created purpose.

1 Peter 1:2 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.”

What is the book of Proverbs? Considerations of the age; the sum of all virtues; eternal principles of life conveyed in words and sentences; epithets, parables; wisdom that was hidden when man was cast out of the Garden of Eden— which is revealed through grace; an omnibus, anthology of lessons of the sages (our spiritual forefathers)—regarding life, character, conduct; summaries about the nature of man. It is their legacy that speaks to each generation. The foundation for the gospel message and the Kingdom of God. They speak not arbitrarily or with blind faith but on the authority of the happiness and fulfillment you will find in this life with greater promises for the future.

The greatest part of this book is what God will reveal to you through the holy spirit—if you have faith. If you give yourself to this book without time limitations or constraint, then you have given yourself to God. John 13:20 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth Me ; and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me.”

The book of Proverbs is consistent with the rest of the Bible: to teach the simple mind of man great spiritual truths. This is the Bible’s intent.

When we read the Bible there is something God wants us to learn and take away from it. The book of Proverbs was a familiar literary form in all ancient cultures; as the basis for a lasting civilized society. Its lessons were meant to be studied, meditated, understood, and lived transforming our character. Faith without works is dead.

The Apostle Paul studied this book. Proverbs 3:7 “Never let yourself think that you are wiser than you are; simply obey the LORD and refuse to do wrong.” The Apostle Paul wrote, Romans 12:16 “Have the same concern for everyone. Do not be proud, but accept humble duties. Do not think of yourselves as wise.”

The book of Proverbs expresses what man cannot find: it is *simple, practical, pragmatic*. Man searches for spiritual truths in the mystical and Babylonian mysteries.

God reveals the deep spiritual things through the simplicity that is in Christ—2 Corinthians 11:3.

Romans 8:26-28 “And in the same way — by our faith — the Holy Spirit helps us with our daily problems and in our praying. For we don't even know what we should pray for nor

how to pray as we should, but the Holy Spirit prays for us with such feeling that it cannot be expressed in words. 27 And the Father who knows all hearts knows, of course, what the Spirit is saying as he pleads for us in harmony with God's own will. 28 And we know that all that happens to us is working for our good if we love God and are fitting into his plans.”

The Book of Proverbs are sayings that use natural and normal illustrations and poems to show comparisons to moral, social or religious principles—that are true. It asserts based upon the results, God’s way of life is the only practical approach to life. We don’t have to have blind faith to know whether it is right, we will know by the results in our lives—just as Jesus admonished us to judge based upon the fruits.

This book was not read in the synagogues because they applied it to every day life and the person in the street.

The book of Proverbs is consistent with God’s purpose revealing to us what life is and what life is not and how to live life and how not to live. Subject matter ranges from how to choose the right kind of friends, the perils of adultery, the value of hard work, dealing justly with others in business, the dangers of strong drink, treating the poor with compassion, the values of strong family ties, the folly of pride and anger, and the characteristics of genuine friendship. It teaches us how to apply or live by God’s laws.

WHO WROTE THE BOOK OF PROVERBS— OUR SPIRITUAL FOREFATHERS LEAVING US A LASTING LEGACY

Solomon is quoted in the book of Proverbs, but surprisingly did not write it. It was however written by our spiritually minded ancestors, left as a legacy for God’s people through out all time, to provide concise teachings to help us find true happiness. In one sense this book is a book on child rearing—addressing many fundamentals youth have yet to discover about life. In another sense it is a road map back to the Garden of Eden, to a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God, and the Kingdom of God.

Contrary to popular belief, Solomon did not write the book of Proverbs, but is only quoted in it. The book is a collection of different writings. This book is a compilation or anthology from the greatest spiritual minds through the age and was thought to have be published by King Hezekiah. Of those mentioned were the sons of Zerah (who was the son of Judah): Ethan, Heman, Chalcol, and Darda (1 Kings 4:31). These four “wise men” (or ancient philosophers) lived in Egypt at the time Joseph was in power (Genesis 41), which also includes the patriarch Joseph himself, things taught to him by Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham.

They are not so much the wisdom of the ages, but the observations of humble men commenting on the things they learned through their relationship with God

Solomon who gets the credit for the book is said to have written three thousand proverbs, only some of which were included in the book of Proverbs. 1 Kings 4:29-34 “And God gave Solomon wisdom and understanding beyond measure, and largeness of mind like the sand on the seashore, so that Solomon's wisdom surpassed the wisdom of all the people of the

east, and all the wisdom of Egypt. *[See note below]* For he (Solomon) was wiser than all other men, wiser than Ethan the Ez'rahite, and Heman, Calcol, and Darda, the sons of Mahol; and his fame was in all the nations round about. He also uttered three thousand proverbs; and his songs were a thousand and five. He spoke of trees, from the cedar that is in Lebanon to the hyssop that grows out of the wall; he spoke also of beasts, and of birds, and of reptiles, and of fish. And men came from all peoples to hear the wisdom of Solomon, and from all the kings of the earth, who had heard of his wisdom.”

Many other kings knew of Solomon. The Proverbs written by Amenemope of Egypt, [dated between 1000 and 600 B.C.] closely resembles the book of Proverbs.

For instance the Samaritans wrote their own book of the law, writing in their own names to replace the Patriarchs. On the return from the Exile, the Jews refused the Samaritans participation with them in the worship at Jerusalem, and they built a temple for themselves on Mount Gerizim. This Then a system of worship was instituted similar to that of the temple at Jerusalem. It was founded on the Law, copies of which had been multiplied in Israel as well as in Judah. Thus the Pentateuch was preserved among the Samaritans, although they never called it by this name, but always "the Law," which they read as one book. There was only portion of the Old Testament which was accepted by the Samaritans as of divine authority.

Just as God gave great strength to Samson, He gave great wisdom to other spiritual leaders for the edification of the body of Christ. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 “There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them. There are different ways of serving, but the same Lord is served. There are different abilities to perform service, but the same God gives ability to all for their particular service.”

More than 200 years after Solomon’s death it is believed King Hezekiah, sanctioned men such as Isaiah, Micah, Shebna, and Joah to compile them in a book of Proverbs, adding some of Solomon’s writings, along with others.

Agur son of Jakeh, son of queen Masse in Arabia or Median wrote chapter 30. The name ‘*aghur*, has Arabic roots, which means "hireling," or "collector," "gatherer." Could be the descendants of Ishmael of the Arabian dessert toward Babylon.

Lemuel wrote the chapter 31. Lemuel is elder brother to Agur, king of an Arab tribe in Massa, on the borders of Palestine. The character of his mother was the model of the portrait of the "virtuous woman."

The book survives today because it was canonized by the Levitical priests, confirming God placed His approval on it.

Today we have family crests and heralds proclaiming a family motto. This is the same thing they have left to us through the book of Proverbs, as a lasting legacy—so we don’t forget who we are.

The book of Proverbs is a work comprised of many of God's people. Hebrews 12:1-2 "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, 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."

PROVERBS
INTRODUCTION (CHAPTERS 1-9);
New King James Bible

- The Inscription; and the Preface, illustrate the design of the book is to give instruction in wisdom. The basis of recognizing its value is the fear (respect) of the Lord. Rightly dividing the word of God, this is achieved by loving and appreciating God. It is given within a fatherly context to the young to hear the instruction of godly parents, elders, and pastors. The young due to immaturity do not inherently understand what life is and what life is not. With such an understanding we are less likely to be enticed by sinners, whose ways lead to destruction. Wisdom's appeal is the quality it will add to one's life, if they become our values we live by.
- Educational aspect of this book it is what we should be teaching our children.

PROVERBS 1—THE VALUE OF PROVERBS

1:1 The Beginning of Knowledge: The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel: 2 To know wisdom and instruction, To perceive the words of understanding, 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, judgment, and equity;

- [Wisdom] The fundamental truth all other truth is built on. Milk of the word. 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."
- [Instruction] discipline or training. 2 Timothy 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:"
- [Understanding] The end result of caring, mediation, thinking about divine revelation. 2 Timothy 2:7 "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things." 1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." 613 laws of the OT are society's solution for every problem.
- [justice] Rather, righteousness imputed through grace. James 3:18 "And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace."

- [Judgment] Make the right choices based upon the power of the holy spirit. Philippians 1:9-10 “And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.”

1:4 To give prudence to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion — 5 A wise man will hear and increase learning, And a man of understanding will attain wise counsel, 6 To understand a proverb and an enigma, The words of the wise and their riddles. NKJV

- [The simple]" literally the "open," the open-hearted, the minds ready to receive
- [The "young] who need both knowledge and discipline—not prepared to make critical life decisions.
- But it is not for the young only that he writes to. The "man of understanding" may gain "wise counsels," literally, the power to "steer" his course rightly on the dangerous seas of life. The goal to be perfect as our Father in heaven. To properly resolve every difficulty presented with. To live by every word of God it has to be digested and assimilated

ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN

1:7 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.

- If you do not come to appreciate God and develop a relationship then wisdom will have no place in your life.

1:8 Shun Evil Counsel. My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother; 9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, And chains about your neck.

- Puts it on a physical plane of comparison because that is where most people’s minds are.
- The best source of information is family information. God is the Author of family life, because God is a family.
- God will have you as a son or daughter and nothing else.
- 2 Corinthians 6:18 “And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters saith the Lord Almighty.”
- God thinks of His people as family. Luke 8:21 “And he answered and said unto them, My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it.”

1:10 My son, if sinners entice you, Do not consent. 11 If they say, "Come with us, Let us lie in wait to shed blood; Let us lurk secretly for the innocent without cause; 12 Let us swallow them alive like Sheol, And whole, like those who go down to the Pit; 13 We shall find all

kinds of precious possessions, We shall fill our houses with spoil; 14 Cast in your lot among us, Let us all have one purse" — 15 My son, do not walk in the way with them, Keep your foot from their path; 16 For their feet run to evil, And they make haste to shed blood. 17 Surely, in vain the net is spread In the sight of any bird; 18 But they lie in wait for their own blood, They lurk secretly for their own lives. 19 So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners.

- **There is no honor among thieves, the last person they victimize will be you. There are no shortcuts to get ahead. What you think you will find you won't.**

WISDOM CALLS

1:20 Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares. 21 She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words:

- **Every aspect of this physical life was designed to prepare us for spiritual life.**
- **Everything testifies if we want to find happiness God's way is the only right way.**

1:22'How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge. 23 Turn at my rebuke; Surely I will pour out my spirit on you; I will make my words known to you. 24 Because I have called and you refused, I have stretched out my hand and no one regarded, 25 Because you disdain all my counsel, And would have none of my rebuke, 26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your terror comes, 27 When your terror comes like a storm, And your destruction comes like a whirlwind, When distress and anguish come upon you.

- **This society disqualifies God but it has no alternative but hide their miserable in darkness, lies, and hypocrisy.**
- **Psalms 14:1-4 "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD."**

1:28 Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me. 29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the LORD, 30 They would have none of my counsel And despised my every rebuke. 31 Therefore they shall eat the fruit of their own way, And be filled to the full with their own fancies. 32 For the turning away of the simple will slay them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them; 33 But whoever listens to me will dwell safely, and will be secure, without fear of evil.

- **If you don't love God or appreciate everything He has given you don't expect anything else your on your own. That is having a realistic appraisal of life.**

- **Luke 8:18 “Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.”**
- **If sometime during your life you do not come to have a relationship with God your out.**

PROVERBS 2—THE REWARDS OF WISDOM

2:1 My son, if you receive my words, And treasure my commands within you,

- **Father to a son. There is an aspect of love, of discipline, the desire that you hold those values as your father has.**

2:2 So that you incline your ear to wisdom, And apply your heart to understanding; 3 Yes, if you cry out for discernment, And lift up your voice for understanding,

- **Trying to give them the right attitude.**
- **Understand what I am telling you and place a great value on it and don't be deceived by the immaturity of youth. Appreciate it to such an extent you'd be willing get on your knees and beg for it, it is that important.**
- **With a proper father son relationship they will listen to their father. But a rebellious child toward his family will be rebellious toward God.**

2:4 If you seek her as silver, And search for her as for hidden treasures;

- **God abundantly blesses us, but sometimes He withholds it because He doesn't think you appreciate the grace He offers. Show Him, He is wrong, show Him how much you care for it and search for it as Abraham searched for the city whose maker was God.**

2:5 Then you will understand the fear of the LORD, And find the knowledge of God.

- **In spite of your sins, if God sees you care, and you appreciate Him and respect who He is, then God will reveal more and more through a genuine relationship. You will learn no more or less than what God sanctions.**

2:6 For the LORD gives wisdom; From His mouth come knowledge and understanding;

- **Your response to God will be an open door for Him to finish you as a creation. He cleanses us from sin, makes us part of the body of Christ, instructs us, teaches us, corrects us, empowers us, blesses us through Christ who dwells with us.**
- **If we don't have growing relationship with God you will be given nothing.**
- **If we love and respect God with all our hearts and minds and soul, God's response will be a spiritual awakening.**
- **Knowledge for the sake of knowledge is worthless.**

2:7 He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk uprightly;

- **No longer subject to time and chance, as Jesus warned when the tower fell and killed many who were in the wrong place.**
- **Psalms 91:6-7 “Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.”**

2:8 He guards the paths of justice, And preserves the way of His saints.

- **Two great laws loving God with all your heart, mind and soul. The second great law is to love others as we love ourselves.**
- **Matthew 25:39-40 “The King will reply, 'I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me!’”**

2:9 Then you will understand righteousness and justice, Equity and every good path.

- **Judgment**
- **Your not going to learn what is right in this world. If you need a model to pattern your life after then listen to God. The world’s values are based on selfishness, lust, coveting, hatred, and murder. God values are based on judgment, mercy, and faith.**

2:10 When wisdom enters your heart, And knowledge is pleasant to your soul,

- **God’s way is not only right, but it is the only way of life that leads to happiness and peace.**
- **Psalms 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”**
- **The happiness God gives is a basis for part of our faith (relationship with God).**

2:11 Discretion will preserve you; Understanding will keep you,

- **You’re life is aligned with God, and the longer God allows you to live this physical life He knows the more we will become Christ-like & His Father in heaven. We are using this life for its intended purpose.**

2:12 To deliver you from the way of evil, From the man who speaks perverse things, 13 From those who leave the paths of uprightness To walk in the ways of darkness; 14 Who rejoice in doing evil, And delight in the perversity of the wicked; 15 Whose ways are crooked, And who are devious in their paths;

- **Ill company corrupts good manners. Sin is contagious because we all have human nature. No matter how strong you think you are if you hang around the wrong**

influences your going to be doing the same things. You will never bring the world up—it will bring you down.

- **The wicked live disingenuous lives, hypocritically pretending to be something they aren't, secretly committed to a way of life that is destroying them.**

2:16 To deliver you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words,

- **To be forewarned is to be forearmed. Some sins are easy to recognize but others are not. The beauty, femininity, and desirability can take a man captive. She can unrealistically make him think he is more than he is.**

2:17 Who forsakes the companion of her youth, And forgets the covenant of her God.

- **Such women seductively wrap you around their finger, with flattery and sweet nothings, and promises of eternal love. Yet how many others has she said this to and yet never honored the pledge of love to her own husband. It is foolish to think she will honor it with you.**

2:18 For her house leads down to death, And her paths to the dead; 19 None who go to her return, Nor do they regain the paths of life.

- **If you are foolish enough to be taken in by all of this, a jealous husband will have no mercy on you. She will live to do this to others, completely vindicated but you won't.**

2:20 So you may walk in the way of goodness, And keep to the paths of righteousness. 21 For the upright will dwell in the land, And the blameless will remain in it;

- **Keep your feet rooted in reality, within the boundaries of God's laws. A stable part of society and role model.**

2:22 But the wicked will be cut off from the earth, And the unfaithful will be uprooted from it.

- **Those who live wicked & rebellious lives have no lasting place in society. The very presence is offense to the blessings God grants to His people.**
- **The wicked's days are numbered.**
- **Matthew 13:30 "...I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn."**
- **Jude 12 "...whose fruit withereth, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots."**

PROVERBS 3—ADVICE TO YOUNG MEN

3:1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands; 2 For length of days and long life And peace they will add to you. 3 Let not mercy and truth forsake you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart, 4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

- **Be a loyal family member and hold to family values and it will keep you in good stead.**
- **Proper family values are really godly values, proclaiming your loyalty to you spiritual family and Father in heaven. This is what a righteous father is trying to teach you as children. He is thinking about your future.**

3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and depart from evil.

- **Don't trust what society teaches you. Don't act like people your own age act. Don't doubt the family values you have been given. Don't think you know better or that there is alternative way of life and you can live any way you want.**
- **Proverbs 16:25 "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."**
- **Don't believe what you hear or see in this life. Life is complex. Walk by faith.**
- **Emphasizes not church government but family government.**
- **Psalms 131:2 "Surely I have behaved and quieted myself, as a child that is weaned of his mother: my soul is even as a weaned child."**

3:8 It will be health to your flesh, And strength to your bones. 9 Honor the LORD with your possessions, And with the first-fruits of all your increase; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.

- **Don't ever let anyone ever convince you obedience to God is blind faith.**
- **When you do it God's way you get blessed because He loves you and through the blessing He is telling you, you are my child. Showing what His kingdom will be like.**
- **2 Corinthians 6:17-18 "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters , saith the Lord Almighty."**

3:11 My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor detest His correction; 12 For whom the LORD loves He corrects, ust as a father the son in whom he delights.

- **Some times being punished is for our own good. He is not afraid to punish us for the greater good.**

- A loving parent will discipline a child. A weak minded parent teaches their children nothing, afraid of hurting their feelings, giving them every indulgence, while watching them descend into destruction.
- Discipline is not bad it is good.
- Were talking about correction of children but adults to—for parents to correct.

3:13 Happy is the man who finds wisdom, And the man who gains understanding; 14 For her proceeds are better than the profits of silver, And her gain than fine gold. 15 She is more precious than rubies, And all the things you may desire cannot compare with her. 16 Length of days is in her right hand, n her left hand riches and honor. 17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, And all her paths are peace. 18 She is a tree of life to those who take hold of her, And happy are all who retain her.

- Wisdom is when we understand the knowledge, doctrines, the will of God. When we learn the truth. Understanding is when we experience the blessings obedience affords. This is what strengthens our faith beyond knowledge—to experience the happiness and joy God fills our life with.
- Before Adam & Eve were cast out of the garden they lived in a literal utopia.
- Psalms 36:7-9 “How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light.”
- Psalms 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”

3:19 The LORD by wisdom founded the earth; By understanding He established the heavens; 20 By His knowledge the depths were broken up, And clouds drop down the dew.

- God is the Creator and He knows best how to take care of us. He knows how and He knows when.

3:21 My son, let them not depart from your eyes — Keep sound wisdom and discretion; 22 So they will be life to your soul And grace to your neck. 23 Then you will walk safely in your way, And your foot will not stumble. 24 When you lie down, you will not be afraid; Yes, you will lie down and your sleep will be sweet. 25 Do not be afraid of sudden terror, Nor of trouble from the wicked when it comes; 26 For the LORD will be your confidence, And will keep your foot from being caught.

- If you let down you can find yourself slipping back into your former life. Don't let this happen. Make sure you're on your guard there are many pitfalls in this life. God will allow them to test you, to prove you.
- Exodus 20:20 “God is come to prove you, and that His fear [respect] may be before your faces, that ye sin not.”
- Know what you're doing and why you're doing it.

3:27 Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, When it is in the power of your hand to do so. 28 Do not say to your neighbor, "Go, and come back, And tomorrow I will give it," When you have it with you. 29 Do not devise evil against your neighbor, For he dwells by you for safety's sake. 30 Do not strive with a man without cause, If he has done you no harm. 31 Do not envy the oppressor, And choose none of his ways; 32 For the perverse person is an abomination to the LORD, But His secret counsel is with the upright. 33 The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, But He blesses the home of the just. 34 Surely He scorns the scornful, But gives grace to the humble. 35 The wise shall inherit glory, But shame shall be the legacy of fools.

- You must not only be concerned for yourself only but also concerned about the lives of others. That is one of the purposes you were created for is to love others. This world exploits and destroys the masses for their own selfish ends. God has a place in His family for every member of the human race. If He sees them as His children you should see them as your brothers and sisters. Some one you don't even know, a beggar, an elderly woman, the handicapped you should see as an intimate member of your family. Granted the same grace that was afforded to you. In the eyes of God there is no difference there is no between you. If you try to hurt others it will come back on your own head, because you have failed the purpose for your life. Who is your brother and sister? Everyone you meet.
- 1 John 4:20-21 "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also."

PROVERBS 4—THE BENEFITS OF WISDOM

4:1 Hear, my children, the instruction of a father, And give attention to know understanding; 2 For I give you good doctrine: Do not forsake my law. 3 When I was my father's son, Tender and the only one in the sight of my mother, 4 He also taught me, and said to me:"Let your heart retain my words; Keep my commands, and live.

- A parent has only one intent to provide for their children.
- The prodigal son captures the lesson of where a foolish child ends up far from his parents prosperity.
- God includes honoring our parents as one of commandments because they have learned from life and you have not. Before you foolishly rush out and make bad decisions, weigh their counsel.
- You are not bound to love your parents as you love others equal to your self, if you wish to find God's favor, you will honor them above yourself. The relationship is not equal: they gave you life you did not give them life.

4:5 Get wisdom! Get understanding! Do not forget, nor turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will preserve you; Love her, and she will keep you. 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; Therefore get wisdom. And in all your getting, get understanding. 8 Exalt her, and she will promote you; She will bring you honor, when you embrace her. 9 She will place on your head an ornament of grace; A crown of glory she will deliver to you."

- **Faith speaks to us from every aspect of life.**
- **Wisdom: to be wise, application of knowledge and understanding to live a successful life and avoid the common pitfalls.**
- **From broader view it is to live the kind of life God wants you to.**
- **Psalms 107:36-38 "And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they may prepare a city for habitation; And sow the fields, and plant vineyards, which may yield fruits of increase. He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease."**
- **Matthew 7:17 "Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit."**

4:10 Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. 11 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, And when you run, you will not stumble. 13 Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.

- **Godliness guides us to live productive lives, promotes sober habits, and controls evil passions, and harmonizes our lives with God; and thus, by preventing many diseases, prolonging life.**
- **A long life is also a gift of grace, if we are using this physical life striving to be perfect as our Father in heaven. God cuts short the life which destroying their character and searing their conscience.**

4:14 Do not enter the path of the wicked, And do not walk in the way of evil. 15 Avoid it, do not travel on it; Turn away from it and pass on. 16 For they do not sleep unless they have done evil; And their sleep is taken away unless they make someone fall. 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, And drink the wine of violence.

- **Hurting others comes natural for the wicked mind. God is not a destroyer but a Creator. We were created to experience life on the highest plane.**
- **When we inflict pain on others we forget that we are temporal as well.**
- **If we desire mercy should we not grant mercy.**

4:18 But the path of the just is like the shining sun, That shines ever brighter unto the perfect day.

- **When you live a godly life it is healthy life—mentally and physically. It is also enlightening meaning you find a greater purpose for life over time.**

4:19 The way of the wicked is like darkness; They do not know what makes them stumble.

- **For the wicked in the end everything goes wrong. Not only does it go wrong they have no idea why it went wrong and learn nothing from life, but live life like a beast with out purpose or direction.**

4:20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings. 21 Do not let them depart from your eyes; Keep them in the midst of your heart; 22 For they are life to those who find them, And health to all their flesh.

- **Trying to create the right sense of urgency to get his children to listen.**
- **Like God saying something twice, verily verily, Amen, Selah.**

4:23 Keep your heart with all diligence, For out of it spring the issues of life.

- **Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**
- **Sin begins in our mind.**
- **Mark 7:20-23 “And he said, That which cometh out of the man, that defileth the man. For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders. Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”**
- **Matthew 12:35 “A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things.”**
- **What you think in your matters because that is truly who you are.**

4:24 Put away from you a deceitful mouth, And put perverse lips far from you.

- **Learn to tell the truth. Lying produces nothing, because a liar is known by the first word out of their mouth and they are known by reputation.**

4:25 Let your eyes look straight ahead, And your eyelids look right before you. 26 Ponder the path of your feet, And let all your ways be established. 27 Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil.

- **Hebrews 12:1 “Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”**

PROVERBS 5—WARNING AGAINST ADULTERY

5:1 My son, pay attention to my wisdom; Lend your ear to my understanding, 2 That you may preserve discretion, And your lips may keep knowledge. 3 For the lips of an immoral woman drip honey, And her mouth is smoother than oil; 4 But in the end she is bitter as wormwood, Sharp as a two-edged sword. 5 Her feet go down to death, Her steps lay hold of hell. 6 Lest you ponder her path of life — Her ways are unstable; You do not know them.

- There is a natural attraction between men and women as God intended but this is a perversion for she has already made a commitment to her husband with the same words.
- The truth is she doesn't love her husband or you but is exploiting her own desires. There is something she is after and will say whatever she has to attain it. This is not godly love and God will never bless it or sanction it. The longer you hold to this woman the more damage she will do.
- Her words are sweet as honey to try make something wrong look right. If they weren't wrong then you won't need flattery. Flattery is manipulative deceit playing on the weaknesses of others.

5:7 Therefore hear me now, my children, And do not depart from the words of my mouth. 8 Remove your way far from her, And do not go near the door of her house, 9 Lest you give your honor to others, And your years to the cruel one; 10 Lest aliens be filled with your wealth, And your labors go to the house of a foreigner; 11 And you mourn at last, When your flesh and your body are consumed, 12 And say:"How I have hated instruction, And my heart despised correction! 13 I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, Nor inclined my ear to those who instructed me! 14 I was on the verge of total ruin, In the midst of the assembly and congregation." NKJV

- If you don't listen you'll be sorry, the fruits will bear this out.

5:15 Drink water from your own cistern, And running water from your own well.

- The relationship between a man and woman is holy and it represents a relationship between the church and Jesus Christ—Song of Solomon.
- King David made the mistake once.

5:16 Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, Streams of water in the streets? 17 Let them be only your own, And not for strangers with you.

- What bond will you have with another woman's children.

5:18 Let your fountain be blessed, And rejoice with the wife of your youth. 19 As a loving deer and a graceful doe, Let her breasts satisfy you at all times; And always be enraptured

with her love. 20 For why should you, my son, be enraptured by an immoral woman, And be embraced in the arms of a seductress?

- God gives a life time for a woman and man to grow together and form a bond of eternal love. If you fail to do it is your own fault. Jumping into another relationship bringing all the same problems will not make you happy.

5:21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, And He ponders all his paths. 22 His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. 23 He shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

- God is watching and it is our choice.

PROVERBS 6—MORE WARNINGS

6:1 My son, if you become surety for your friend, If you have shaken hands in pledge for a stranger, 2 You are snared by the words of your mouth; You are taken by the words of your mouth. 3 So do this, my son, and deliver yourself; For you have come into the hand of your friend: Go and humble yourself; Plead with your friend. 4 Give no sleep to your eyes, Nor slumber to your eyelids. 5 Deliver yourself like a gazelle from the hand of the hunter, And like a bird from the hand of the fowler.

- Getting involved in other people's misguided financial problems is not wise.

6:6 Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise, 7 Which, having no captain, overseer or ruler, 8 Provides her supplies in the summer, And gathers her food in the harvest. 9 How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep — 11 So shall your poverty come on you like a prowler, And your need like an armed man.

- Why is it asked when will the lazy man get up, because at some point he should be realizing he has nothing.
- Be proactive. Don't wait for someone else to tell you what to do, get up and get moving.

6:12 A worthless person, a wicked man, Walks with a perverse mouth; 13 He winks with his eyes, He shuffles his feet, He points with his fingers; 14 Perversity is in his heart, He devises evil continually, He sows discord. 15 Therefore his calamity shall come suddenly; Suddenly he shall be broken without remedy.

- There are people who premeditatedly lie to you to take advantage of you.

6:16 These six things the LORD hates, Yes, seven are an abomination to Him: 17 A proud look, A lying tongue, Hands that shed innocent blood, 18 A heart that devises wicked plans,

Feet that are swift in running to evil, 19 A false witness who speaks lies, And one who sows discord among brethren.

- God is very merciful and loving but there are things He hates.

WARNING AGAINST ADULTERY

6:20 My son, keep your father's command, And do not forsake the law of your mother. 21 Bind them continually upon your heart; Tie them around your neck. 22 When you roam, they will lead you; When you sleep, they will keep you; And when you awake, they will speak with you. 23 For the commandment is a lamp, And the law a light; Reproofs of instruction are the way of life, 24 To keep you from the evil woman, From the flattering tongue of a seductress. 25 Do not lust after her beauty in your heart, Nor let her allure you with her eyelids. 26 For by means of a harlot A man is reduced to a crust of bread; And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life.

- This is major snare in life. With such women it is better that your name never come up.

6:27 Can a man take fire to his bosom, And his clothes not be burned? 28 Can one walk on hot coals, And his feet not be seared? 29 So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife; Whoever touches her shall not be innocent. 30 People do not despise a thief If he steals to satisfy himself when he is starving. 31 Yet when he is found, he must restore sevenfold; He may have to give up all the substance of his house. 32 Whoever commits adultery with a woman lacks understanding; He who does so destroys his own soul. 33 Wounds and dishonor he will get, And his reproach will not be wiped away. 34 For jealousy is a husband's fury; Therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance. 35 He will accept no recompense, Nor will he be appeased though you give many gifts.

- Intercourse when unmarried is fornication. When they are both married it is adultery.
- Idolatry, covetousness, and apostasy are spoken of as adultery spiritually (Jeremiah 3:6,8,9; Ezekiel 16:32; Hosea 1:1:2:3; Revelation 2:22).
- Part of the sin is you made a proper covenant with life and then forsook it.
- Divorce is not in God's vocabulary but under extreme circumstances.
- Regarding Abraham's wife, the conduct of Pharaoh and Abimelech (Genesis 12; 20) implies the same reverence for the sacredness of marriage. Death by fire was the penalty of unchastity (Genesis 38:24).
- Numbers 5:12-31 "The LORD commanded Moses to give the Israelites the following instructions. It may happen that a man becomes suspicious that his wife is unfaithful to him and has defiled herself by having intercourse with another man. But the husband may not be certain, for his wife may have kept it secret — there was no witness, and she was not caught in the act. Or it may happen that a husband becomes suspicious of his wife, even though she has not been unfaithful. In either

case the man shall take his wife to the priest. He shall also take the required offering of two pounds of barley flour, but he shall not pour any olive oil on it or put any incense on it, because it is an offering from a suspicious husband, made to bring the truth to light. The priest shall bring the woman forward and have her stand in front of the altar. He shall pour some holy water into a clay bowl and take some of the earth that is on the floor of the Tent of the LORD's presence and put it in the water to make it bitter. Then he shall loosen the woman's hair and put the offering of flour in her hands. In his hands the priest shall hold the bowl containing the bitter water that brings a curse. Then the priest shall make the woman agree to this oath spoken by the priest: "If you have not committed adultery, you will not be harmed by the curse that this water brings. But if you have committed adultery, may the LORD make your name a curse among your people. May he cause your genital organs to shrink and your stomach to swell up. May this water enter your stomach and cause it to swell up and your genital organs to shrink." The woman shall respond, "I agree; may the LORD do so." Then the priest shall write this curse down and wash the writing off into the bowl of bitter water. Before he makes the woman drink the water, which may then cause her bitter pain, the priest shall take the offering of flour out of the woman's hands, hold it out in dedication to the LORD, and present it on the altar. Then he shall take a handful of it as a token offering and burn it on the altar. Finally, he shall make the woman drink the water. If she has committed adultery, the water will cause bitter pain; her stomach will swell up and her genital organs will shrink. Her name will become a curse among her people. But if she is innocent, she will not be harmed and will be able to bear children. This is the law in cases where a man is jealous and becomes suspicious that his wife has committed adultery. The woman shall be made to stand in front of the altar, and the priest shall perform this ritual. The husband shall be free of guilt, but the woman, if guilty, must suffer the consequences."

PROVERBS 7-- THE IMMORAL WOMAN

7:1 My son, keep my words, And treasure my commands within you. 2 Keep my commands and live, And my law as the apple of your eye. 3 Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart. 4 Say to wisdom, "You are my sister," And call understanding your nearest kin, 5 That they may keep you from the immoral woman, From the seductress who flatters with her words.

- Married=adultery; Unmarried=fornication
- Do what I say, I am older than you, I have seen it from the beginning to the end.
- You're my son and adult confronted with adult decisions you consider the value of my words. Listen to what I say, as you should protect your eyes—flee fornicator. There are choices we can make each day, we do not have to impulsively follow the decadence of this society.
- Respect God's wisdom as you would a family member or friend you love. Pick the person you loved the most in your life would you listen to their advice.
- Your sister's virtue is the opposite of the evil woman's seductions.
- What is not addressed here is the sanctity of marriage.

- Hebrews 13:4 “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled : but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge.”
- Song of Solomon 6:9 “My dove, my undefiled is but one; she is the only one of her mother, she is the choice one of her that bare her. The daughters saw her, and blessed her; yea, the queens and the concubines, and they praised her.” Adored and admired.
- Remember Solomon. 1 Kings 11:4 “For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father.”
- 1 Kings 11:1 “But king Solomon loved many strange women...” Strange women worship strange gods. They relate to the opposite sex being alluring, with smooth words, flattery, flaunting their body. Not the basis of a relationship.
- 1 Timothy 2:9-10 “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.”
- Isaiah 3:16 “Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:”
- Can you really fall in love with such women? Yes. It is possible to love evil. But remember from every perspective this is a mistake. Literal and through metaphors. Even logically why would you allow yourself to fall in love with someone like this when they are already looking for their next lover.

7:6 For at the window of my house I looked through my lattice, 7 And saw among the simple, I perceived among the youths, A young man devoid of understanding, 8 Passing along the street near her corner; And he took the path to her house.

- The first mistake is going anywhere near her where she can take you with her eyes.
- 2 Timothy 2:22 “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.”
- 1 Corinthians 6:18 “Flee fornication. Every sin that a man doeth is without the body; but he that committeth fornication sinneth against his own body.”
- The first mistake was entertaining the thoughts and fantasies.

7:9 In the twilight, in the evening, In the black and dark night. 10 And there a woman met him, With the attire of a harlot, and a crafty heart. 11 She was loud and rebellious, Her feet would not stay at home. 12 At times she was outside, at times in the open square, Lurking at every corner.

- Behave in these ways secretly not wanting anyone to see how truly evil they are.

7:13 So she caught him and kissed him; With an impudent face she said to him: 14 "I have peace offerings with me; Today I have paid my vows. 15 So I came out to meet you, Diligently to seek your face, And I have found you.

- **Pretending to be one of God's people with a portion of the peace offering to cook. Makes it sound good.**
- **She pretends to be godly and even praying for her prey, as if God sanctifies what she is doing. She proclaims a companionship more intimate than anyone he has ever experienced in his lives.**
- **And she just happened to run into him.**

7:16 I have spread my bed with tapestry, Colored coverings of Egyptian linen. 17 I have perfumed my bed With myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until morning; Let us delight ourselves with love.

- **Their love for each other is so real and passionate it can't be wrong. The fact both might be married and have given their vows is inconsequential. The fact family members and even children will be hurt doesn't matter. He is falsely led to believe they have attained the highest plane of love.**
- **Once he wades in up to his neck she begins to reveal more of who she really is.**

7:19 For my husband is not at home; He has gone on a long journey; 20 He has taken a bag of money with him, And will come home on the appointed day." 21 With her enticing speech she caused him to yield, With her flattering lips she seduced him. 22 Immediately he went after her, as an ox goes to the slaughter, Or as a fool to the correction of the stocks, 23 Till an arrow struck his liver. As a bird hastens to the snare, He did not know it would cost his life.

- **Trashing her husband. He is not an important part of her life. In her mind he is gone and selfishly has all the money and left me none.**
- **One danger is to be completely adored one moment and then when she does get what she wants she trashes him mercilessly.**
- **What she presents is accepted as the only reality he wants (though it be false) until true reality sets in. When price has to be paid he realizes how wrong it was. He has chosen to become a dishonorable person, despised by all, incurring the wrath of an angry husband who holds you fully to blame. And when you have lost everything she will be gone and all her promises will be understood for what they were.**

7:24 Now therefore, listen to me, my children; Pay attention to the words of my mouth: 25 Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways, Do not stray into her paths; 26 For she has cast down many wounded, And all who were slain by her were strong men. 27 Her house is the way to hell, Descending to the chambers of death.

- **Don't let a woman like her come and seduce you nor go looking for her. All of her words you think are so special, unique to you, they are not. She has said the same things to many others many times.**
- **Remember concerning Samson's end, unlike the movies Delilah could have cared less. She was a high class prostitute hired by the Philistines to bring Him to**

destruction. She sold him for 1,100 pieces of silver from each Philistine nobleman as surely as Judas sold Jesus life away. The name Delilah meant *languishing with lusty desire*. She was not Hedy Lamar. She was no better than a contract killer who seduced him with sex.

- No biblical evidence supports the popular belief that Delilah was deeply repentant over her actions or that she truly loved Samson or that she died with Him to express her love. She even may have been one of the 3,000 Philistines buried beneath the temple of Dagon which Samson destroyed when his God-given strength returned.

PROVERBS 8—IN PRAISE OF WISDOM

8:1 Does not wisdom cry out, And understanding lift up her voice? 2 She takes her stand on the top of the high hill, Beside the way, where the paths meet. 3 She cries out by the gates, at the entry of the city, At the entrance of the doors:

- Does not life itself prove what I ma saying is true, look around you.

8:4 "To you, O men, I call, And my voice is to the sons of men. 5 O you simple ones, understand prudence, And you fools, be of an understanding heart. 6 Listen, for I will speak of excellent things, And from the opening of my lips will come right things; 7 For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips. 8 All the words of my mouth are with righteousness; Nothing crooked or perverse is in them. 9 They are all plain to him who understands, And right to those who find knowledge. 10 Receive my instruction, and not silver, And knowledge rather than choice gold;

- Metaphor: wisdom personified
- Wisdom or doing what God wants you to do is not arbitrary or inconsequential. It makes all the difference in the world—regarding whether you will live a happy life with greater promises. What God commands you will only make you a happy person. In the naked light of truth the way of life God offers us more valuable than fine gold.
- A choice between Bible study and twenty dollar gold pieces which would you choose.

8:11 For wisdom is better than rubies, And all the things one may desire cannot be compared with her. 12 "I, wisdom, dwell with prudence, And find out knowledge and discretion.

- Poetically speaking through a metaphor.

8:13 The fear of the LORD is to hate evil; Pride and arrogance and the evil way And the perverse mouth I hate.

- Choosing to not live this way is synonymous with loving God. Would you turn your back on loving family relationships for some questionable worldly relationship.

- **Example of choosing obedience: Following God (who gave us everything a father could) and warns in advance to be vigilant vs. Serpent (who never gave you a thing and calls God a liar).**

8:14 Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom; I am understanding, I have strength. 15 By me kings reign, And rulers decree justice. 16 By me princes rule, and nobles, All the judges of the earth. 17 I love those who love me, And those who seek me diligently will find me. 18 Riches and honor are with me, Enduring riches and righteousness.

- **Metaphor personifying God's truth—Jesus Christ.**
- **God is not only God our Creator or Lord who wants to have a relationship with us, but He is our Sovereign as well. He knows how to build up and preserve societies.**
- **Looking this issue from a broader perspective.**

8:19 My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver. 20 I traverse the way of righteousness, In the midst of the paths of justice, 21 That I may cause those who love me to inherit wealth, That I may fill their treasuries.

- **God's way is not supported by on things to come in the sweet by and by but listening to God will add to the quality of our lives now.**

8:22 "The LORD possessed me at the beginning of His way, Before His works of old. 23 I have been established from everlasting, From the beginning, before there was ever an earth. 24 When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water. 25 Before the mountains were settled, Before the hills, I was brought forth; 26 While as yet He had not made the earth or the fields, Or the primal dust of the world. 27 When He prepared the heavens, I was there, When He drew a circle on the face of the deep, 28 When He established the clouds above, When He strengthened the fountains of the deep, 29 When He assigned to the sea its limit, So that the waters would not transgress His command, When He marked out the foundations of the earth, 30 Then I was beside Him as a master craftsman; And I was daily His delight, Rejoicing always before Him, 31 Rejoicing in His inhabited world, And my delight was with the sons of men.

- **Looks at these issues from even a broader perspective. Part of the perspective is knowing what to avoid as well as what to embrace.**
- **The lesson is God way of life existed long before the physical creation was made. Existing between God the Father and Jesus Christ and the faithful holy angels. The pattern of behavior or laws governing their behavior is based upon the fruits of the holy spirit.**
- **Galatians 5:19-26 "But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, 20 idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group-and there will be wrong doctrine, 21 envy, murder, drunkenness, wild**

parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God. 22 But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives it will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control; and here there is no conflict with laws. 24 Those who belong to Christ have nailed their natural evil desires to his cross and crucified them there. 25 If we are living now by the Holy Spirit's power, let us follow the Holy Spirit's leading in every part of our lives. 26 Then we won't need to look for honors and popularity, which lead to jealousy and hard feelings."

8:32 "Now therefore, listen to me, my children, For blessed are those who keep my ways. 33 Hear instruction and be wise, And do not disdain it. 34 Blessed is the man who listens to me, Watching daily at my gates, Waiting at the posts of my doors. 35 For whoever finds me finds life, And obtains favor from the LORD; 36 But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul; All those who hate me love death."

- Don't rationalize just listen. Don't follow the pulls of human nature which is in all of us that only lead to destruction.
- Galatians 5:19-21 "But when you follow your own wrong inclinations, your lives will produce these evil results: impure thoughts, eagerness for lustful pleasure, 20 idolatry, spiritism (that is, encouraging the activity of demons), hatred and fighting, jealousy and anger, constant effort to get the best for yourself, complaints and criticisms, the feeling that everyone else is wrong except those in your own little group-and there will be wrong doctrine, 21 envy, murder, drunkenness, wild parties, and all that sort of thing. Let me tell you again, as I have before, that anyone living that sort of life will not inherit the Kingdom of God."
- One of the lies in this life we have been lead to falsely to believe there are no consequences. Satan Adam & Eve though shalt not surely die.
- The truth is you'll not only waste your life but you have nothing to look forward to, things will only go from bad to worse. Physical death. Eternal death.
- God has created us to be His sons and daughters and for no other purpose. 2 Corinthians 6:18 "And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters , saith the Lord Almighty." The emphasis on El Shadai shows God will make it so.
- It is not acceptable to Him that we choose to become the children of the devil.
- 1 John 3:10-12 "In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil : whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother. 11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. 12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous."
- Just as in the garden of Eden we are not offered that option. That is not an option, and though God may grant us time to change, He rather see us dead for eternity and

our memory blotted out if we choose not to become a loving member of God's family.

- Through Jesus Christ all men and women are offered forgiveness of sins and to be raised in Christ filled with the holy spirit to begin developing a relationship with the Father and Christ. But if we don't care or listen then God has nothing left to offer us.
- Hebrews 10:26-27 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, 27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation , which shall devour the adversaries."

PROVERBS 9—WISDOM AND STUPIDITY

9:1 Wisdom has built her house, She has hewn out her seven pillars;

- Wisdom represents itself as a perfect work of God, according to counsels proceeding from an infinite understanding. She raises a house reflecting a heritage and great family unlike the rest of the world. Church means the heritage of God.
- Seven columns it is never going to come down. Matthew 16:18 "I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
- 1 Peter 4:17 "For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"
- Revelation 3:12 "As for the one who conquers, I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God; he will be secure and will go out no more; and I will write my God's Name on him, and he will be a citizen in the city of my God-the New Jerusalem, coming down from heaven from my God; and he will have my new Name inscribed upon him."

9:2 She has slaughtered her meat, She has mixed her wine, She has also furnished her table.

- God is making the preparations for a great feast and Jesus Christ blood and broken body are on the menu.
- Luke 14:15-18 "And when one of them that sat at meat with him heard these things, he said unto him, Blessed is he that shall eat bread in the kingdom of God. Then said he unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: And sent his servant at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. And they all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused."
- Luke 14:19-20 "And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen, and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. And another said, I have married a wife, and therefore I cannot come."

9:3 She has sent out her maidens, She cries out from the highest places of the city, 4 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!" As for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, 5 "Come, eat of my bread And drink of the wine I have mixed. 6 Forsake foolishness and live, And go in the way of understanding.

- Who are the ignorant?
- Luke 14:21-24 "So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind. And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel them to come in, that my house may be filled. For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."
- The bride has made herself ready.

9:7 "He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself. 8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

- Did Jesus disturb spiritual darkness. God does not disturb free moral agency.
- The greatest fool is the one who remains a fool and cannot ever learn from their mistakes.
- People can have great problems listening because they don't want to change.
- Their close minded deceiving themselves everything is going right when everything is coming down around their ears.
- Being able to listen is a spiritual quality.
- Like Frank Sinatra we can't do it our way.
- Deuteronomy 1:39-45 "Moreover your little ones and your children, who you say will be victims, who today have no knowledge of good and evil, they shall go in there; to them I will give it, and they shall possess it. 40 But as for you, turn and take your journey into the wilderness by the Way of the Red Sea.' "Then you answered and said to me, 'We have sinned against the LORD; we will go up and fight, just as the LORD our God commanded us.' And when everyone of you had girded on his weapons of war, you were ready to go up into the mountain." And the LORD said to me, "Tell them, 'Do not go up nor fight, for I am not among you; lest you be defeated before your enemies.'" 43 So I spoke to you; yet you would not listen, but rebelled against the command of the LORD, and presumptuously went up into the mountain. 44 And the Amorites who dwelt in that mountain came out against you and chased you as bees do, and drove you back from Seir to Hormah. 45 Then you returned and wept before the LORD, but the LORD would not listen to your voice nor give ear to you."
- Many did not listen to Jesus Christ John 10:19-20 "Therefore there was a division again among the Jews because of these sayings. 20 And many of them said, 'He has a demon and is mad. Why do you listen to Him?'"

- Just as it is popular today for wives and children to disrespect the head of the house there to protect and provide for them—diminishing the family structure.
- Though God says to all wives, Genesis 3:16 “Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”
- Ephesians 6:1-3 “ Children , obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 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.”
- But that is not our way. Human being destroy their own happiness and the happiness of their children because they don’t have the humility to listen and take correction.
- When your dealing with people like this God says leave them alone.
- 1 Corinthians 7:15-16 “...if the one who is not a believer wishes to leave the Christian partner, let it be so. In such cases the Christian partner, whether husband or wife, is free to act. God has called you to live in peace.”
- There is a time to speak up and there is a time to shut up. Proverbs 26:4 “Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.”

9:9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.

- The wise man knows he has short comings because he has humility and knows the bar has been set high for him by God.
- Matthew 5:48 “Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.”
- Anyone who can help him reach his goal he takes advantage of it. That is the correct wise thing to do. So the right approach in this life is any time we get corrected instead of becoming angry and defensive we should stop ask is it true. Sometimes it might not be but stop and think don’t be prideful and react.
- If someone flatters you and tells you smooth, flattering things about yourself it is probably not true, and if you let affect your self image, it will probably place you at odds with God.
- Proverbs 27:6 “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.”
- If a person is righteous it is not inherent. There are none righteous, so the correct understanding is righteousness has been imputed to him through the blood of Jesus Christ and grace.
- Ephesians 4:12-13 “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:”

9:10 "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

- **You can't get around it you have to have a relationship with God. God has to speak to you and you have to speak to God.**
- **The more we see and understand how God has intervened in our lives the more we should come to appreciate, have respect, admire, worship, be awe of, be astonished by, amazed by God.**
- **You will increase in understanding as He finishes you as a creation. But get off your high horse and step down.**

9:11 For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you. 12 If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone."

- **God adds years to this physical life when are using them as an investment for the kingdom of God.**
- **1 Corinthians 5:5 "... for the destruction of the flesh , that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus."**

9:13 A foolish woman is clamorous; She is simple, and knows nothing. 14 For she sits at the door of her house, On a seat by the highest places of the city, 15 To call to those who pass by, Who go straight on their way: 16 "Whoever is simple, let him turn in here";And as for him who lacks understanding, she says to him, 17 "Stolen water is sweet, And bread eaten in secret is pleasant." 18 But he does not know that the dead are there, That her guests are in the depths of hell.

- **Beware of women who talk to much. 1 Peter 3:1-4 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden person of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit , which is in the sight of God of great price."**
- **Beware being ruled by your senses, sexual drives, or physical beauty. Beware of Hedonistic philosophies—if it feels go do it. Just because something is socially accepted doesn't make it right. Just because everybody else is doing it doesn't mean there is safety in numbers.**
- **Give great thought to your actions and take responsibility for your life.**

PROVERBS 10
THE FIRST COLLECTION OF "THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON," PROPERLY SO
CALLED, WITH ITS APPENDICES (CHAPTERS10-24)

Proverbs chapters 10-24 are the proverbs of Solomon. Considering the purpose and focus there is a different writing style in these chapters vs. the previous ones.

Chapters 1 through 9 was addressed to the youthful mind (as a parent to a child) in an attempt to teach fundamental lessons of life—with detailed explanations. The next section of this book is addressed to the adult mind, with concise bullet like statements.

Solomon gives it to us from diametrically opposite points of view, showing us what life is and what life is not.

10:1 A wise son makes a glad father, But a foolish son is the grief of his mother.

- Men are generally more pragmatic and not so likely to be easily satisfied as the mother. So if a father is proud of his son there is substance in it. The woman can fall prey loving their children unconditionally, to the point of enabling them. What role did Eve play in Cain's decline. What was he taught? Was he corrected? Was it nipped in the bud at a young age.
- A child can sink so low not only will he disappoint his father, but in time even his mother is faced with reality she can love him no longer unconditionally as he presents a danger to the entire family. The bottom line is sooner or later everybody has to step up.

10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing, But righteousness delivers from death.

- Money from the hand of God is not wrong but money acquired through dishonest means destroys your character. Worshipping money as a god is a poor substitute.
- All the profit that Ahab got out of Naboth's vineyard was the curse of God (1 Kings 21:19-24). Judas' thirty pieces of silver, gained by betraying the Lord, were the source of despair and remorse, ending in suicide and eternal perdition. Gehazi's two talents and two changes of raiment, obtained by fraud from Naaman, brought on him Naaman's leprosy (2 Kings 5:20-27).
- If you worship money you are outside of grace.

10:3 The LORD will not allow the righteous soul to famish, But He casts away the desire of the wicked.

- The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish - (Psalms 37:25-26)
- God who fed Elijah by the ministration of ravens, at the Brook Cherith, does not let His people be without food for the body (1 Kings 17:4-6).
- Jesus did the miracle of the fish and loaves twice.
- When it comes to your livelihood worrying does no good.

- **Matthew 6:25-32** “Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature? And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin: And yet I say unto you, That even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which to day is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall he not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith? Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.”
- **In times of uncertainty God wants you to literally come to Him.**

10:4 He who has a slack hand becomes poor, But the hand of the diligent makes rich.

- **These Proverbs are written with a double lesson. We are shown the end results for obedience and disobedience.**
- **God shows if a man will not work then they shall not eat. In other words you don't want to work starve. God always blesses the work of the industrious man.**
- **When you expect somebody else to pay your bills that is extremely bad character for which God has no respect.**
- **God doesn't say work 2 – 3 days a week and then hoard the money for yourself. Ecclesiastes 9:10 “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.”**
- **When your working hard for your family you are learning spiritual lessons.**
- **Principle of indenturing if you cannot govern yourself.**

10:5 He who gathers in summer is a wise son; He who sleeps in harvest is a son who causes shame.

- **The "summer" or "harvest" time (as the second clause explains it) here represents the seasonable time for providing for ourselves—and protecting our father and mother. Hard farm work is a young man's game.**

10:6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

- **A good man has had righteousness imputed to him, the words in his heart are Christ's. A wicked man hides what he really thinks because he knows it is wrong.**

10:7 The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot.

- **The work of Christian has an impact on all.**
- **If you don't have it right with God then you don't have right anywhere. This life offers no advantage. Remember the promises of the tree of knowledge and of good and evil are a lie.**
- **God's creative purpose is raising family of sons and daughters. If your not interested then there is nothing else on the agenda. If you hold this position then God is going to get rid of you, to make room for another who wants to be part of His family.**

10:8 The wise in heart will receive commands, But a prating fool will fall.

- **God's people are granted the solutions, those who do not have a relationship with God their advice is worthless.**

10:9 He who walks with integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will become known.

- **God's people under the blood of Christ are forgiven of their sins, the dishonest are not, so the only normalcy of life they seek are lies. A liar is found.**

10:10 He who winks with the eye causes trouble, But a prating fool will fall.

- **When you hold back the truth you're not looking for solutions. A person who is working for changes looks at it from every angle. A person who doesn't want to change for the better doesn't want to talk about it.**

10:11 The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.

- **The reason the good man's words are so valuable: filled with wisdom and grace is because they are God's word's. What he says in his relationships with others is edifying. But the wicked hide behind false pretense, but his heart is not with you. In fact he doesn't want you to know how despicable he is.**

10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all sins.

- **Well poisoners are always looking for some else to blame for the mess they have made of their lives.**
- **But a loving personal cares more about God's plans for his life and the lives of others, including his enemies. Because he is focused on God over all plan that none perish.**
- **Think of our witness & commitment to the gospel. Romans 12:17-21 "Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible,**

as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.”

10:13 Wisdom is found on the lips of him who has understanding, But a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.

- **Intelligent how? Harvard graduates—no. Wise in the Lord as Solomon was given those gifts by God.**
- **The words of the wise attest of him, as the scars on the back of stupid people.**
- **When Jesus was on trial for His life Pilate found no fault in Him.**

10:14 Wise people store up knowledge, But the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

- **Wise are trying make it better, the fools private affairs become worse and worse**

10:15 The rich man's wealth is his strong city; The destruction of the poor is their poverty.

- **Contrasts two very divergent lifestyles.**

10:16 The labor of the righteous leads to life, The wages of the wicked to sin.

- **Nothing in life is static, your either getting better or getting worse.**

10:17 He who keeps instruction is in the way of life, But he who refuses correction goes astray.

- **If your willing to change God will grant you grace, but if not time and chance applies to your lifestyle.**
- **Luke 13:2-5 “And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”**

10:18 Whoever hides hatred has lying lips, And whoever spreads slander is a fool.

- **Hypocrisy is a hidden liar. Gossip is sneaky back biter.**
- **Full of resentment, and deadly hatred, meditating revenge and cruelty, and sometimes even murder such as the prophets. Thus lying lips covered the malevolence of a wicked heart.**

10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise.

- **If you talk to much your going to get into trouble. Stop and think and say something truthful, gracious, full of grace, edifying, or loving.**

10:20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; The heart of the wicked is worth little.

- **The values of listening to the righteous is being edified.**
- **Ephesians 5:6 “Let no man deceive you with vain words : for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.”**

10:21 The lips of the righteous feed many, But fools die for lack of wisdom.

- **Good people have good things to say, saying the wrong thing can get you hung.**
- **James 3:5-6 “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 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.”**

10:22 The blessing of the LORD makes one rich, And He adds no sorrow with it.

- **God will give you money if you spiritually use it.**
- **Hard work doesn’t get you anything—because most of the works of man are the wrong works or wrongly motivated. Selfishly motivated.**
- **Fundamental issue of life is faith through grace. Wealth isn’t wrong if it if from the hand of God and conveys the lesson God created all men to prosper. Blessings and the gospel go hand in hand.**

10:23 To do evil is like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom.

- **Don’t take pleasure in the wrong thing because it reinforces wrong behavior. What you enjoy you will do, so cultivate right habits.**
- **A wise person understands doing anything outside of your created purpose is going to end badly.**
- **Getting involved with the wrong kind of woman is going to hurt you. Proverbs 6:26-27 “And an adulteress will prey upon his precious life. Can a man take fire to his bosom , And his clothes not be burned?”**

10:24 The fear of the wicked will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted.

- **We get in life based upon our attitude, good people in the end see their dreams fulfilled, the wicked get their worst fears.**
- **Psalms 37:25 “I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread .”**

10:25 When the whirlwind passes by, the wicked is no more, But the righteous has an everlasting foundation.

- **Matthew 7:24-27** “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: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”
- **Ezekiel 9:3-7** “Now the glory of the God of Israel had gone up from the cherub, where it had been, to the threshold of the temple. And He called to the man clothed with linen, who had the writer's inkhorn at his side; 4 and the LORD said to him, "Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and put a mark on the foreheads of the men who sigh and cry over all the abominations that are done within it. To the others He said in my hearing, "Go after him through the city and kill; do not let your eye spare, nor have any pity. 6 Utterly slay old and young men, maidens and little children and women; but do not come near anyone on whom is the mark; and begin at My sanctuary." So they began with the elders who were before the temple. 7 Then He said to them, "Defile the temple, and fill the courts with the slain. Go out!" And they went out and killed in the city.”

10:26 As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, So is the lazy man to those who send him.

- **Becareful who you get involved with. Don't rely on untrustworthy people.**

10: 27 The fear of the LORD prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

- **God grants you life because your making it count for the greatest good.**
- **The wicked become so sick of their own ways they live unfulfilled & unhappy lives.**
- **Matthew 6:22-23** “The light of the body is the eye : if therefore thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light. But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”

10:28 The hope of the righteous will be gladness, But the expectation of the wicked will perish.

- **For those who get it they learn what life is, for the wicked there are learning what life is not. The blessings of this life become part of the righteous' faith knowing something better is coming. Experiencing God now is part of faith—which gives you hope.**
- **The wicked know they will die and therefore this life means nothing.**

10:29 The way of the LORD is strength for the upright, But destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

- **Not a theory or philosophy it is a fact.**
- **If your honest God protects you, if not the quality of your life will take a downward slide.**
- **Those to whom righteousness is imputed God protects them.**
- **Psalms 91:7 “A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.”**
- **The wicked are subject to time and chance.**
- **Luke 13:2-5 “And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”**

10:30 The righteous will never be removed, But the wicked will not inhabit the earth.

- **Survival is based upon grace. Opposing God’s plan for your life, gives you no reason for life and God is at liberty to take it any time He sees fit.**
- **Perishing in your land means not even in a state of captivity even during peace you’ll come to an untimely end.**

10:31 The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, But the perverse tongue will be cut out.

- **Righteous people understand the big picture. He will have an edifying effect on others.**
- **1 Peter 3:10-13 “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil. And who is he that will harm you, if ye be followers of that which is good?”**
- **The tongue of the wicked with great swelling, lying, murderous words, will come back on him threefold. He speaks as he does because he is an enemy of his Creator.**
- **Psalms 58:3-9 “The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies. Their poison is like the poison of a serpent: they are like the deaf adder that stoppeth her ear; Which will not hearken to the voice of charmers, charming never so wisely. Break their teeth, O God, in their mouth: break out the great teeth of the young lions, O LORD. Let them melt away as waters which run continually: when he bendeth his bow to shoot his arrows, let them be as**

cut in pieces. As a snail which melteth, let every one of them pass away: like the untimely birth of a woman, that they may not see the sun. Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath.”

10:32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, But the mouth of the wicked what is perverse.

- **Righteous people know how to say the right thing. But the wicked are always tripping over their tongue.**
- **James 3:5-8 “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 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. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.”**
- **Psalms 119:171-173 “My lips shall utter praise, when thou hast taught me thy statutes. My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments are righteousness. Let thine hand help me; for I have chosen thy precepts.”**

PROVERBS 11

11:1 Dishonest scales are an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.

- **Who is it an abomination to, to everybody.**
- **He might fool is customers initially but he never fools God and he is more concerned with doing what is right. Merchants with bad reputations after a quick buck in the end hurt themselves. In the end you can’t hide anything from anybody.**
- **Mark 4:22 “For there is nothing hid, which shall not be manifested; neither was any thing kept secret, but that it should come abroad.”**
- **Matthew 7:17-18 “Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit ; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit , neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.”**
- **In nature animals know instantly who we are.**
- **The larger picture is God views the entire human race as His potential family and we should be working things out. Stealing from a family member is about as low as you can go.**
- **Also God hates dishonesty, lying, and hypocrisy.**
- **Micah 6:9-11 “The LORD's voice crieth unto the city, and the man of wisdom shall see thy name: hear ye the rod, and who hath appointed it. Are there yet the treasures of wickedness in the house of the wicked, and the scant measure that is abominable? Shall I count them pure with the wicked balances , and with the bag of deceitful weights?”**

- Do you get wealthy by taking advantage of other people. God is not going to let you get away with it.
- **John 2:13-17** “Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. 14 And He found in the temple those who sold oxen and sheep and doves, and the money changers doing business. 15 When He had made a whip of cords, He drove them all out of the temple, with the sheep and the oxen, and poured out the changers' money and overturned the tables. 16 And He said to those who sold doves, "Take these things away! Do not make My Father's house a house of merchandise!" 17 Then His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for Your house has eaten Me up."

11:2 When pride comes, then comes shame; But with the humble is wisdom.

- Showing positive principle and the reverse negative.
- The world says having pride in yourself is good, Christ said it is sin.
- **Mark 7:21-23** “For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.”
- Fundamental law of life, people who are prideful embarrass easily.
- More than that God will bring down the feet of the proud. Being prideful is not realistic. Were in too much spiritual trouble to be high and lofty about anything. There is sanctuary only in the grace of Christ. You want to be proud about something be proud about God.
- People who are proud don't learn and continue to make the same stupid mistakes. If you are modest and get your emotions out of the way then you can rationally learn.
- People who are prideful have trouble loving others because their too focused on themselves.
- A selfish prideful person should give it up, and want to do it God's way because they are only helping themselves. They are also in the best position to see how wrong they are.

11:3 The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the unfaithful will destroy them.

- We don't need pride God shows we need integrity, which means were honest with ourselves. The value we see in ourselves is the value God shows us to become a son or daughter of God. The upright are those who have had righteousness imputed to them.
- The motivation for being honest should be you are keeping your name clean because you are God's son or daughter. You don't bring disgrace on the family.
- This is part of your witness for the gospel.
- Ungotten gain has no lasting value because dishonesty removes us from the God's greater blessings.
- **Philippians 3:18-19** “(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is

destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame , who mind earthly things.)”

11:4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.

- **In essence you can't buy back your life with money but you can with Christ's blood, to have the righteousness of Christ imputed to us.**
- **Being poor and being humble walking before your God, God will shield you with His angels.**
- **You could be a millionaire with five minutes to live. Why would you accumulate through dishonest means what you won't live long enough to use. That will rub out the purpose of this life and any hope for the future.**

11:5 The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way aright, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

- **It is more desirable and a happier life to live the way God wants you to because things turn out right.**
- **King Saul was a self made man maybe 7 feet tall who was Israel's champion but his own foolishness brought him down. He rose to the rank of being king but never knew anything but war and his life ended with suicide.**

11:6 The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the unfaithful will be caught by their lust.

- **Faithful to your calling vs. unfaithful to grave.**
- **If your honest and can be trusted God will not desert you and you will be blessed by others that admire you.**
- **But the wicked as time goes burns every bridge with God and man until he is alone.**
- **If Christ's blood is not cleansing his sins then he must pay the cost ultimately with his own life.**

11:7 When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes.

- **His end will prove he is wrong—all his schemes will never come to fruition.**
- **What a wicked man lives for is not part of God's created purpose and will be destroyed in the lake of fire.**

11:8 The righteous is delivered from trouble, And it comes to the wicked instead.

- **Those to whom God has imputed righteousness are part of the body of Jesus Christ and are being finished as a creation. God grants them by grace physical life because they are making it count for the greatest good, counting for a spiritual purpose.**

- God will punish the wicked such as Haman, who was hung on his own gallows, as a witness to all.
- Anything you do in life whether good or bad it will come back to you.

11:9 The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

- Be careful who you listen to and take advice from. If you accept one sent by God you accept God. Any bad advice will harm our relationship with God, no matter where it comes from. If they speak not according to thy word.
- John 5:43-47 "I have come in My Father's name, and you do not receive Me; if another comes in his own name, him you will receive. 44 How can you believe, who receive honor from one another, and do not seek the honor that comes from the only God? 45 Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father; there is one who accuses you — Moses, in whom you trust. 46 For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me. 47 But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?"

11:10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; And when the wicked perish, there is jubilation.

- God told Abraham concerning his children—Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."
- Regarding Jehoram—2 Chronicles 21:20 "He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one's sorrow, departed."
- Revelation 21:2-3 "And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."
- Isaiah 35:8 "A highway shall be there, and a road, And it shall be called the Highway of Holiness The unclean shall not pass over it."

11:11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, But it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

- A righteous person can bring blessings on others, and a wicked person can bring curses on others as well.
- But of bad leaders— Matthew 23:15 "Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much a son of hell as you are."
- Of Abraham: Genesis 12:3 "I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

11:12 He who is devoid of wisdom despises his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his peace.

- **An example to magnify this is James and John the sons of thunder wanting call lightning down from heaven**
- **We are all sinners, when we condemn others we are guilty of the same things. By putting somebody else down we are falsely trying to put ourselves up. But it won't work.**
- **Grant the grace to others you are looking for receiving from God yourself.**
- **God has granted grace to all of us to give us time to become members of his family.**
- **1 Corinthians 4:5 "Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God."**
- **The Bible indirectly teaches hate the sin not the sinner, God is hoping he will change. If you write him off, God sees you do not have a realistic understanding of who you are.**

11:13 A talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is of a faithful spirit conceals a matter.

- **Learn to protect yourself from the wicked and don't tell them your business.**
- **A person who trashes others, tomorrow will be trashing you behind your back.**
- **A person who keeps your trust has your best interests at heart. The person behind feigned lips has a murderous heart who is waiting to see you fall.**
- **The bottom line is be careful who you trust, with God you can never go wrong.**

11:14 Where there is no counsel, the people fall; But in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

- **Evil leaders can bring a nation to ruins. Totalitarian governments will destroy the people while the counsel of many will prevent any one person from gain to much power and generally do what is right fro the people.**
- **Ancient Rome under emperors vs. SPQR—the senate, people of a Republic.**
- **Before you make a big decision give time and get different perspectives. Don't listen to people who are reputable for bad advice.**

11:15 He who is surety for a stranger will suffer, but one who hates being surety is secure.

- **Stay out of other people's financial problems. By letting them off the hook, you are squandering God's blessings He wanted spent else where (the question is why didn't God give them those blessings); your enabling them from learning what they need to learn; last your getting yourself into trouble with God. Let them learn to turn to God in faith as their benefactor. He has enough for them too.**

11:16 A gracious woman retains honor, But ruthless (strong men) men retain riches.

- **A person who loves money will hold on to it, like a gracious lady will hold to her honor.**
- **What is a gracious lady”?**
- **Titus 2:3-5 “The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.”**

11:17 The merciful man does good for his own soul, but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.

- **It is in your interest to be kind because it will come back to you. When you good to others your good to yourself.**
- **Faith is not believing in something in the sweet by and by, but living faith is seeing God’s way of life works in this life with larger implications. Faith is of things not seen but the source is not seen. You know God’s plan and purpose for your life works though you don’t see God with your physical senses.**
- **God says (give it time) you’ll see the tangible results of wrong behavior. For instance a person who sees themselves as superior to others because of money, power or looks, or some other false idol, frequently have very broad mood swings and suffer great despair.**
- **Any relation to God’s laws? The world says no, it diagnoses these problems—such as being bi-polar.**
- **Prov 26:2 God says the curse causeless does not come.**

11:18 The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.

- **In grace, in faith, with imputed righteousness, God has a work for us to do.**
- **It is in your interest. Faith is not believing in something in the sweet by and by, but living faith is seeing God’s way of life works in this life with larger implications.**
- **Be honest and above board don’t be trying to look good while being deceptive.**
- **Sapphira died three hours after her husband Ananias for pretending to be big shots in the church (Acts 5:1,7-10).**

11:19 As righteousness leads to life, So he who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.

- **It is in your interest. Faith is not believing in something in the sweet by and by, but living faith is seeing God’s way of life works in this life with larger implications.**
- **The fruit you work for is the fruit you will harvest and will eat, whether good or bitter.**

11:20 Those who are of a perverse heart are an abomination to the LORD, But the blameless in their ways are His delight.

- **Perverse heart. Twisted thinking contrary to God’s design and purpose.**
- **Abomination God strongly dislikes this and will compromise with it.**
- **God has perfect hatred for anything which harms His people, He always has the good of all in mind. And is prepared to stamp out wickedness where it is harming His people.**
- **Matthew 18:6-7 “But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea. Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!”**

11:21 Though they join forces, the wicked will not go unpunished; But the posterity of the righteous will be delivered.

- **Why will the righteous escape because they have had righteousness imputed to them and have taken the bread and the wine.**
- **Don’t be worry about what they are planning to do. Isaiah 8:11-13 “For the LORD spake thus to me with a strong hand, and instructed me that I should not walk in the way of this people, saying, Say ye not, A confederacy , to all them to whom this people shall say, A confederacy ; neither fear ye their fear, nor be afraid. Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.”**
- **There is never safety in numbers.**

11:22 As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, So is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.

- **A woman without discretion says the wrong thing at the wrong time. Her desire should be to her husband in a dignified way.**
- **1 Timothy 4:7 “But refuse profane and old wives ' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.”**
- **Positive example like the Shulamite woman in Song of Solomon.**
- **A beautiful woman is compared to the church.**

11:23 The desire of the righteous is only good, But the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

- **A righteous person hopes for good things by God’s standards. God sees the intent of his heart.**
- **The desires of the wicked upset everything.**

11:24 There is one who scatters, yet increases more; And there is one who withholds more than is right, but it leads to poverty.

- **People who are generous God blesses. Who lends to the poor lends to God.**

11:25 The generous soul will be made rich, And he who waters will also be watered himself.

- **Fundamental law of life God has His watchful eye on the kind and the generous, you cannot out give God. Blessings is God's way of life.**
- **Those blessings should linked to the gospel to show them what kind of kingdom it will be.**

11: 26 The people will curse him who withholds grain, But blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.

- **People who are cheap no one speaks highly of.**
- **A smart person will never withhold a single offering or tithe of God, unless you worship money as your god, but money of itself is a poor blessing.**

11:27 He who earnestly seeks good finds favor, But trouble will come to him who seeks evil.

- **We all make mistakes but what is being spoken of here is intent.**
- **If you live for the right thing people see, even your enemies.**
- **But if you're a trouble making, well poisoning, lying, two bit misfit they will see that too, and there is always somebody worse to take you down.**

11:28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like foliage.

- **If money is your god, God is in the business of destroying idols. At Mt. Ebel Jel Lawz God made them grind up the gold idol and put it in the water and made the people drink it.**
- **The wicked are compared to trees in winter that produce nothing.**
- **The righteous are compared to trees blossoming with fruit that everybody partakes of.**

11:29 He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind, And the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

- **The wicked destroy everything they touch and in the end even their own family.**
- **Their only hope is to be indentured to the righteous to learn.**
- **In the world tomorrow all of God's people will indenture the entire world.**

11:30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who wins souls is wise.

- **Jesus Christ is the Tree of Life. John 15:1-2 "I am the true vine, and My Father is the husbandman. Every branch in Me that beareth not fruit He taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, He purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit."**
- **Revelation 22:2 "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life , which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."**

- Revelation 22:14 “Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life , and may enter in through the gates into the city.”
- Being an instrument of the gospel, with our feet shod in the gospel, with our words carefully spoken we preach the gospel. But we more effectively preach the gospel our example.
- Its important part of the righteousness and faith He has given us to care about others.
- God wants us all to come back to the Garden of Eden and the Tree of Life.

11:31 If the righteous will be recompensed on the earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner.

- Time will run out. The magnitude of your blessings will be great, the magnitude of punishment for the wicked will also be great.
- Faith is not a far away concept in some hazy future you can develop a loving relationship with God right now, based upon the blessings of life God grants.
- 1 Peter 4:17-18 “For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God : and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?”

PROVERBS 12

12:1 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge, But he who hates correction is stupid.

- Who wants to do something intentionally wrong? Rebels do. People who cannot discern the good from the bad. People who are anti-establishment.
- You should have a deep love for the truth no matter what side you end up on. If your confirmed your doing the right thing that is good. If not at least you know what you need to do. The truth is a way out of our problems.
- 2 Timothy 3:6-7 “For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.”
- Acts 13:40-41 “Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you.”
- Of the last days, 2 Timothy 3:2-4 “For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God.”

12:2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD, But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.

- The word “*Good*” in the Hebrew has the context of agreeable. To act correct, to do wisely. Does it mean sin is not present? No. One of the other contexts is “to be better,” striving for a higher nature. It also takes on the context of this individuals relationship with God: positive, pleasant, loving. It also takes on the context of how God sees this individual under grace, positively, delightful. Why? Because God looks on the heart.
- Hebrews 11:1 “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” We cannot see God, but the proof of God is all around us. That is if you care.

12:3 A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.

- No man is righteous, it is imputed to us through grace. Only Jesus is righteous.
- Of Abraham, Romans 4:20-24 “He staggered not at the promise of God through unbelief; but was strong in faith, giving glory to God; And being fully persuaded that, what he had promised, he was able also to perform. And therefore it was imputed to him for righteousness. Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on Him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead.”
- What is “*Imputed*” *logizomai* is a judgment God makes concerning us.
- Abraham was granted grace because of his love for God. 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.”
- The roots of righteousness is in Jesus Christ that provides spiritual nourishment till we grow like a mighty oak that can’t be uprooted. A wicked man has no roots and is like a tumble weed blown by the wind.
- James 1:6-8 “For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

12:4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.

- When women get into trouble they forget the basics governing their lives and happiness. Always they should want to make God proud of them. Monogamy and marriage was established by God Himself as a fundamental part of your happiness. Because they were made more emotional to counterbalance the man, yet God told them to listen to their husbands. Because it is better to know your right, then to feel your right. The woman under law have many rights according to God’s laws. She

was created to bring out the best in her husband and to love her family, that is why independent thinking conflicts with God's plan.

- **1 Peter 3:1-6** “Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price. For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”

12:5 The thoughts of the righteous are right, But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful. 6 The words of the wicked are, "Lie in wait for blood," But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.

- The counsels of the righteous are based upon truth & life and the counsels of the wicked are based upon lies & shedding blood.
- Wickedness is used in many contexts: of mental disregard for justice, righteousness, truth, honor, virtue; evil in thought and life; depravity; sinfulness; criminality.
- A wicked person is not just a sinner, as we all are, a wicked person premeditatedly, purposely hates God. He works to block and obstruct the plan and purposes of God in his life and in the lives of others.

12:7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.

- God will not grant eternal life to someone who is not His child, anymore than you would leave an inheritance to anyone who hates your guts, if they were your family or not. The fewer resources they have the less harm they can cause someone.

12:8 A man will be commended according to his wisdom, But he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.

- People know who you are. Proverbs 29:2 “When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”
-

12:9 Better is the one who is slighted but has a servant, Than he who honors himself but lacks bread.

- Proverbs 12:9 “It is better to get your hands dirty-and eat, than to be too proud to work-and starve.” TLB
- Proverbs 12:9 “Better is he who is lightly esteemed but works for his own support than he who assumes honor for himself and lacks bread.” Amplified

12:10 A righteous man regards the life of his animal, But the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

- **A trait of the righteous (christlike) is they have respect for animal life. The greatest quality of the wicked is no quality at all, it is cruelty: regarding man or beast.**

12:11 He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, But he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.

- **He who farms the ground he has been given, will learn each year to be a better farmer and he will live. But a person who is frivolous never learns anything but to talk. He doesn't know because he doesn't do.**

12:12 The wicked covet the catch of evil men, But the root of the righteous yields fruit.

- **Wickedness always covets what other evil people have. But the righteous work for what they have, they haven't time to be standing around coveting.**

12:13 The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, But the righteous will come through trouble.

- **A liar will always be found out to be a liar. Every evil thing they are accused of is true. The testimony of the righteous will vindicate him of all false accusations. He is free of the entanglements of this world as God's laws intend so He is free to pursue his relationship with God.**

12:14 A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.

- **Your reward depends on what you say and what you do; you will get what you deserve.**

12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

- **A fool trusts in his own judgment for all the wrong reasons, but a wise person who wants to learn and do what is right, has the humility to know he doesn't know everything so will ask a lot of questions of qualified sources.**

12:16 A fool's wrath is known at once, But a prudent man covers shame.

- **When a fool is annoyed, he quickly lets it be known—blows his top. Smart people will ignore an insult—and remain quiet. A prudent person knows how to do the right thing at the right time.**

- Some of the principles regarding the tongue: You should know when to shut up but you should know when to speak up. Say only things that edify. Stop and think before you speak. When your mad count to ten before speaking. Never try to get even or justify yourself.

12:17 He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.

- The church as the future bride of Christ honors her husband and speaks the truth about Him as the gospel. The world promotes false religion, false christ, and counterfeit gospels.

12:18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.

- Words in the mouth of the wicked can hurt.
- James 1:26 “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain.”
- The righteous always edify.
- James 3:5-14 “Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! 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. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter? Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh. Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.”

12:19 The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment.

- What is true will always be true. Every lie will perish in the lake of fire.
- Lies cause great harm. “Thou shalt not surely die!”
- Revelation 12:9 “And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.”

12:20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy.

- **People who have no idea what they are talking about, teach things that will only bring harm to others. But a godly counselor will not only teach the way to peace but they confirmed by their fruits in joy.**

12:21 No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, But the wicked shall be filled with evil.

- **The righteous not are only pursuing a way of peace but God's blessing of protection ensures it. The wicked store up for themselves things that are evil.**

12:22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.

- **A person who lies to gain unfair advantage, covering their true intentions, is destable, disgusting to God because He is nothing like this.**

12:23 A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

- **Part of edifying is not telling things to people when they can't handle it. Like Paul showed regarding the individual that was a vegetarian. A wise person conducts himself properly and the wicked are always spouting nonsense.**

12:24 The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.

- **Being diligent one acquires leadership qualities. But a lazy person is good for only being told what to do.**
- **Indentured servant.**
- **Parable of the talents?**
- **Is that a godly trait?**
- **Revelation 21:7-8 "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. "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."**
- **Your not going to sit in the back row forever, God has big plans for you.**

12:25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.

- **Being negative causes depression worrying about what may never happen and being positive promotes a positive outlook.**
- **You are what you think and feel. You shouldn't allow yourself to be manipulated by evil and become negative—when you do that you are not spiritually growing.**

12:26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.

- **Friends are an asset or liability—choose them carefully. Certain people you shouldn't fellowship with. Jonathan was warlike and a bad influence on David.**
- **2 Timothy 3:1-5 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”**

12:27 The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession.

- **A lazy person doesn't benefit from the little labor he does because that would require effort.**
- **Being diligent is man's most precious possession because he will make the most out of everything he has. He lets nothing go to waste.**
- **Mark 8:19 “When I brake the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve.”**

12:28 In the way of righteousness is life, And in its pathway there is no death.

- **Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”**
- **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.”**

PROVERBS 13

- ***Wring the truth out of God's word - like making fine wine, with the best grapes. What are the depths of everyone of God's instructions. Read them, then weigh them, then God will manifest them. The truth will set you free.***

13:1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

- **A wise person learns from and listens to the more experienced members of their family. Why? Because you can learn from their right as well as wrong choices.**
- **Recognizing the need for correction, confirms you have a contrite heart.**
- **What kind of a person do want to be and for what purpose? Identify your goals and then give yourself to them.**

- 1 Corinthians 13:11 “When I was a child , I spake as a child , I understood as a child , I thought as a child : but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”
- With learning there are two issues: (1) mastering the discipline; doing the right things, (2) there must be a willingness to learn.
- Galatians 4:1 “Now I say, That the heir, as long as he is a child, differeth nothing from a servant, though he be lord of all.”
- Without respect of persons listen and learn what is right—everybody can teach you something.
- You care about the truth when you want to do it right. When you don’t you will ridicule the truth.
- Luke 18:17 “Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child shall in no wise enter therein.”
- Matthew 10:17,21 “But beware of men: for they will deliver you up to the councils, and they will scourge you in their synagogues ...And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child : and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death.”
- You’ll listen to your family if you if you want to be part of their legacy, if you are intent on being a reprobate you won’t.
- Not listening is the same as not repenting.
- Not listening is the same as not loving.
- If you have no respect for your parents you have no respect for God.
- Being headstrong is blind pride that will lead you from one ditch to another.
- An obstinate child will never obtain their ambitions.
- The only way for an obstinate child to find happiness is to deceive themselves and lie to others.
- A rebellious child listens to and has given their loyalty to every dark whisper.
- There are no short cuts to happiness.
- The impatience of youth, is the sorrow of old age.

13:2 A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, but the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.

- Alluding to two distinct ways of life. Farmers, ranchers, craftsman, tradesman, and rural people living off of the land by hard work. Man’s punishment.
- Genesis 3:17-19 “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”
- Adam & Eve formerly formerly lived in a utopian society—Garden of Eden.

- The other way of life is under the curse of Cain. City dwellers that produce nothing by hard work and make a living exploiting others by crime, drugs, murder, and every form of evil.
- Genesis 4:10-13 “And he said, what hast thou done? The voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground. And now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; When thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.”
- Genesis 4:16-17 “And Cain went out from the presence of the LORD, and dwelt in the land of Nod, on the east of Eden. And Cain knew his wife; and she conceived, and bare Enoch: and he builded a city, and called the name of the city, after the name of his son, Enoch.”
- City life is not God's way of life—it disconnects the people from the lessons of God's growing seasons, they are places of depravity, they are able to ruled by tyrannical government such as Babylon. You can't over tax somebody living in the Canadian woods.
- Isaiah 5:8 “Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place, that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth!”
- The earliest mention of city-building is that of Enoch, which was built by Cain (Genesis 4:17). After the confusion of tongues, the descendants of Nimrod founded several cities (10:10-12). Next, we have a record of the cities of the Canaanites, Sidon, Gaza, Sodom, etc. (10:12,19; 11:3,9; 36:31-39). The earliest description of a city is that of Sodom (19:1-22). Damascus is said to be the oldest existing city in the world. Before the time of Abraham there were cities in Egypt (Numbers 13:22). The Israelites in Egypt were employed in building the "treasure cities" of Pithom and Raamses (Exodus 1:11); but lived a rural life in Goshen with agriculture and livestock (Genesis 46:34; 47:1-11). In the kingdom of Og in Bashan there were sixty "great cities with walls," and twenty-three cities in Gilead partly rebuilt by the tribes on the east of Jordan (Numbers 21:21,32,33,35; 32:1-3,34-42; Deuteronomy 3:4,5,14; 1 Kings 4:13). On the west of Jordan were thirty-one "royal cities" (Joshua 12), besides many others spoken of in the history of Israel.
- Cities were places of great sieges and battles where empires were raised and fell.
- Lot had a nice condo in Sodom and it all went up in flames.
- Habakkuk 2:12 “Woe to him that buildeth a town with blood, and stablisheth a city by iniquity!”
- Nahum 3:1 “Woe to the bloody city! it is all full of lies and robbery; the prey departeth not.”

13:3 He who guards his mouth preserves his life, but he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.

- KJV Proverbs 13:3 “Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.”

- Despising the word of God means you have thrown in the towel and failed God's created purpose for your life, so there is no more reason for God to allow you to live.
- Luke 14:24 "For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper."
- A person who is not talking is thinking and meditating.
- Excessive talking is selfish trait.
- Talking to much is a sin. Loose lips sink ships.
- Say what you mean and mean what you say.

13:4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; but the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.

- Hard work is part of God's plan and purpose for the rest of eternity.
- If your willing to work hard for something then you really want it, which means your attitude is right.
- Matthew 13:44-46 "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. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it."
- If you want it, sweat for it, that is part of God's plan to make man appreciate what He is offering him. That which you don't suffer for you will not appreciate.
- Psalms 107:11-15 "Because they rebelled against the words of God, and contemned the counsel of the most High: Therefore he brought down their heart with labour; they fell down, and there was none to help. Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and he saved them out of their distresses. He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of death, and brake their bands in sunder. Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men!"
- It is why God makes the oceans rough, bad weather, drought, winter, famine and every other human deprivation.

13:5 A righteous man hates lying, but a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.

- Lying is not only contrary to his spiritual Father but it is a great obstacle to his life. A person who lies is mentally ill.
- He hates lying because he knows it is an enemy of the integrity of his personal growth.
- What is false is worthless.
- There is nothing people hate more than a liar.
- It shows who your father is.
- 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."

13:6 Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

- **Protected under grace, under the righteousness of Jesus Christ imputed to him.**
- **Of Abraham: Romans 4:23-24 “Now it was not written for his sake alone, that it was imputed to him; But for us also, to whom it shall be imputed, if we believe on him that raised up Jesus our Lord from the dead.”**

13:7 There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; and one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.

- **Money comes one of two ways. The world’s way by hook or by crook because it is their god.**
- **Proverbs 10:15 “The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.”**
- **Proverbs 11:28 “He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.”**
- **We should be interested in spiritual wealth not physical wealth.**
- **Revelation 21:7 “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”**
- **Interesting the number one cause of divorce is over money.**
- **God challenges us with the principal, financial prosperity comes to the individual who will not worship money, be generous to the poor, and will provide for the family’s physical needs, but will never worship it or begin to trust in it but will always look to God as His benefactor.**
- **Psalms 18:2 The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”**
- **God wants us to use the money He gives to undergird the gospel so they will know what kind of a kingdom is coming.**
- **Ecclesiastes 11:1-2 “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, and also to eight; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth.”**
- **Invest your money with God not in stock markets, where men plan to steal your life time earnings so there is nothing left for your wife or children.**
- **Proverbs 8:14-19 “Counsel is mine, and sound wisdom: I am understanding; I have strength. By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth. I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me. Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness. My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.”**
- **Do you believe this? Is this part of your faith?**

13:8 The ransom of a man's life is his riches, but the poor does not hear rebuke.

- **In a corrupt society the evil leader's goal is not to protect the people but to steal the wealth of the upper classes. Those who have riches have as much trouble keeping their wealth as they did making it. In such societies, once a rich man's wealth is taken he is reduced to the lower classes, where he is ruled with an iron hand.**
- **Regarding the poor nobody cares about the poor, they have nothing the leaders want but to fight their wars.**

13:9 The light of the righteous rejoices, but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

- **John 1:1-5 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made. In him was life; and the life was the light of men. And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not."**

13:10 By pride comes nothing but strife, but with the well-advised is wisdom.

- **Prideful people radiate nothing but strife and confusion as a way of life. To those who understand this and are wise avoid it and will not take part in it.**
- **No touch, no talk, no look.**
- **What a terrible way to live. Jesus is the greatest example of humility and peace.**
- **Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

13:11 Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, but he who gathers by labor will increase.

- **What is spoken of here is godly labor, a godly approach to the way you do your job remembering the Lord's admonitions.**
- **Deuteronomy 8:10-17 "When thou hast eaten and art full, then thou shalt bless the LORD thy God for the good land which he hath given thee. Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest when thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied; Then thine heart be lifted up, and thou forget the LORD thy God, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; Who led thee through that great and terrible wilderness, wherein were fiery serpents, and scorpions, and drought, where there was no water; who brought thee forth water out of the rock of flint; Who fed thee in the wilderness with manna, which thy fathers knew not, that he might humble thee, and that he might prove thee, to do**

thee good at thy latter end; And thou say in thine heart, My power and the might of mine hand hath gotten me this wealth.”

13:12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when the desire comes, it is a tree of life.

- **No greater feeling than to know everything you hoped for is lost forever.**
- **John 14:1-4 “ Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions : if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.”**
- **The tree of life not only grants you eternal life but the fulfillment of every hope and dream.**
- **Psalms 37:4 “Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart.**
- **John 10:10 “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”**

13:13 He who despises the word will be destroyed, but he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.

- **If your life is not aligned to God at some point your future is eternal death. But if we respect God’s will and purpose for our lives God will make it right in the end.**
- **Daniel 12:2-3 “And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.”**

13:14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death.

- **Is that just figurative poetry?**
- **A person of faith is wise and provides wisdom to give people the right information for the right choices—which leads them to eternal life.**
- **Revelation 22:1-2 “And he shewed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life , which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.”**

13:15 Good understanding gains favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.

- **Favor = grace because you want to learn, because you want to change. God is not talking about intellectual, esoteric, Gnosticism. Learning what in your life has to change. Understanding life and how to help others.**

- It takes more effort to do it wrong than to do it right, along with a lot more headaches and worry.
- A godly life helps you to make the most of this physical life for the benefit of yourself and your family, all in honor to God.

13:16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool lays open his folly.

- Prudence means doing the right thing at the right time. He understands the big issues of life, he understands human nature. He knows when to speak and when to be quite, when to do and when to do nothing—always with his focus on God’s will.
- Amos 5:13 “Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.”
- But a fool makes a mess of everything.

13:17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a faithful ambassador brings health.

- Beware bringing ill tidings with a secret agenda because the pit you dig God will see you fall in.
- Alluding to false gospel misdirecting a needful world away from the truth. Exploiting the people to establish their own power and wealth.
- Ephesians 6:20-24 “For which I am an ambassador in bonds: that therein I may speak boldly, as I ought to speak. But that ye also may know my affairs, and how I do, Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord, shall make known to you all things: Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that ye might know our affairs, and that he might comfort your hearts. Peace be to the brethren, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. Grace be with all them that love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity. Amen.”

13:18 Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, but he who regards a rebuke will be honored.

- No employer wants a worker who can’t be taught to do their job better. No wife wants a husband that will never grow with her. A person who wants to remain where they are is a bum.
- What meaningful relationship are they capable of.

13:19 A desire accomplished is sweet to the soul, but it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil.

- As human beings we have animalistic appetites, cravings and, desires which we want to satisfy. It seems stupid to reject these desires. If it feels good do it.
- It is the way we are made.
- Romans 8:20 “For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope.”
- The idea of denying our pleasures seems ridiculous.

- **1 John 2:16-17** “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. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

13:20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed.

- You are known by the company you keep.
- The people you hang around determines your social level and standards.
- **1 Corinthians 5:9-12** “I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators: Yet not altogether with the fornicators of this world, or with the covetous, or extortioners, or with idolaters; for then must ye needs go out of the world. But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within?”

13:21 Evil pursues sinners, but to the righteous, good shall be repaid.

- **Ecclesiastes 8:11-13** “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.”

13:22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.

- To the righteous there is a healthy rhythm and pattern to life so that he is able to leave a legacy to his children and grandchildren the way God intended.
- **Revelation 21:7** “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”

13:23 Much food is in the fallow ground of the poor, and for lack of justice there is waste.

- **Proverbs 13:23** “A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away.” NIV
- **Proverbs 13:23** “Unused fields could yield plenty of food for the poor, but unjust men keep them from being farmed.” TEV

13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

- Proverbs 13:24 “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” KJV
- Many times
- Promoting child abuse? Context?
- Is there a time to spank your child? Yes. By the neglect of early correction the desires (passions) obtain ascendancy—translations bad habits become instilled, contrary to family values.
- Applies more to fathers because this a very hard thing for mothers to do because of the way they are made. However the Bible states if the kid is not corrected once he grow to maturity she will realize he is no longer her son.
- When a child is being corrected by the man the woman should never interfere if she loves her child.
- The amount of force used should be based on the degree of sin and response. For striking a parent the punishment was death. Use whatever force to bring about a state of humility and a return to family values.
- Hebrews 12:6-11 “For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 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. 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? 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. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of right”
- Never punish out of uncontrolled anger, frustration, bitterness, or hatred. Chasten as the Lord chastens us and for the same reasons and in the same way. Sometimes let kids fall flat on their face as reproof.

13:25 The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul, but the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.

- God always provides for his people? All of the rest of the extras are just that extras that we don’t need nor will we ever want. If we have God and each other we have everything.

PROVERBS 14

14:1 The wise woman builds her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.

- What is this talking about? There are no inconsequential actions. Every idle word will come back to us.
- It is making a simple truthful statement, a righteous woman will fulfill her role as a wife and mother. Proverbs 31. Rebecca tore down her house through deceiving her husband.

- The time and circumstances of her death are not recorded, but it is said that she was buried in the cave of Machpelah (Genesis 49:31).
- A wise woman acknowledges, God defines her role as a woman, not this society or the example in her family, or her own human nature or pride. Her primary job of service is to make her husband a more godly man and teacher for her children.
- She was created as a spiritual aide, a spiritual co-heir with her husband offered eternal life, as a literal member of God's family. Her relationship with her husband is intended to teach him about what his relationship with God should be. The church is pictured as a woman in her relationship with Christ.
- A man's initial introduction to love is through the woman to be transferred to his relationship with God. A woman who is independent of her husband seriously handicaps him, as well as denies her created purpose. The Bible is filled with examples of righteous women to instruct as well as unrighteous women as a warning.
- By fulfilling her spiritual role does that make her second class citizen? She is given the gift of beauty, tenderness, courtesy, intelligence, and grace—being the glory of the man. Which means she is his motivation to care for, love, and protect. She holds in her hands the meaning of spiritual love.
- Society will teach her the road to fulfillment lies down a road of independent accomplishment, when in fact there is no greater service than that to her family.
- The Bible teaches, much of human civilization has tried to obstruct this godly potential relationship through from the extreme of celibacy to marrying multiple wives, prostitution, sexual impurity. Sin, both in man and woman, has been universally the cause of woman's degradation. All history must be interpreted in the light of man's consequent mistaken estimate of her endowments, worth and rightful place.
- Woman in the Hebrew means "of man." She is not to rule man—by God's direct command.
- Marriage comes from Greek and Hebrew words meaning to be "master"; to "take," that is, a wife; to "magnify" or "lift up" a woman; to "contract"; to "dwell together"; to "perform the duty of a brother"; to "become," that is, the wife of one.
- 1 Peter 3:1-4 "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your chaste conversation coupled with fear. Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."
- Through a sinful society concubinage and polygamy became common.
- Or if she is an ungodly woman everything she works for will end in the destruction of her entire household, including her marriage, as well as children.
- The self willed woman stands independent of her husband and children. What she wants come before the good of the family.
- Virtuous vs. self willed.

- There is only one way the relationship works correctly and it is up to each family member to uphold their responsibilities, as outlined by God at the very creation of man and woman. Marriage, as God outlines it, is part God's laws.
- She is to provide faithful support to her husband helping him to attain salvation, she is a co heir with her husband, she is to strengthen her family through her intelligence, beauty and fervor of religious devotion.
- Matthew 19:3-6 "The Pharisees also came unto him, tempting him, and saying unto him, Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause? And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female, And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh? Wherefore they are no more twain , but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."
- It is meant to be a holy relationship instructing us of greater truths. An example of the gospel.
- The marriage relation is used to represent the union between God and his people.
- Isaiah 54:5 "For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou wast refused, saith thy God."
- In the New Testament the same figure is employed in representing the love of Christ to his saints.
- Ephesians 5:25 "Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it."
- The Church of the redeemed is the "Bride, the Lamb's wife" Revelation 19:7-9
- How important is a woman's responsibility. The marriage feast of seven days is correlated to the spring and fall holy days and God's overall plan.
- 1 Timothy 4:7 "But refuse profane and old wives ' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."
- 1 Timothy 3:11 "Even so must their wives be grave, not slanderers, sober, faithful in all things."

14:2 He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, But he who is perverse in his ways despises Him.

- The antithesis of "despising" is not fear but respect, appreciating the qualities of another.
- 1 John 4:18 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."
- The critical issue to our calling is not that we are sinners. We are all sinners. Romans 3:23 "For all have sinned , and come short of the glory of God."
- The critical issue is our attitude of humility, repentance, dependency, and love for God, while we are yet sinners.
- Luke 7:47 "Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven ; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven , the same loveth little."

- Even while we are coming out of sin God wants a loving relationship with each of us.
- Respect for God or hate for Him will depend upon the manner in which we live our lives.
- Matthew 6:24 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one , and love the other; or else he will hold to the one , and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.”
- How credible is it to hate God, hating someone who has done more for us than anyone else, makes us evil.

14:3 In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, But the lips of the wise will preserve them.

- A fool is full of themselves and speaks great swelling words about himself which are lies.
- 1 Peter 3:10-12 “For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”

14:4 Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; But much increase comes by the strength of an ox.

- Oxen was one of the peace offerings because they represent an aspect of Christ character of service. Numbers 7:17 “And for a sacrifice of peace offerings, two oxen , five rams, five he goats, five lambs of the first year: this was the offering of Nahshon the son of Amminadab.”
- Acquiring an ox was a necessity as a farmer. You have to spend money to make money. Make wise investments.
- It might be added, an ox doesn’t need to be trained. In all large farms oxen are greatly to be preferred to horses. They are not temperamental and have greater strength.

14:5 A faithful witness does not lie, But a false witness will utter lies.

- A person of integrity who cares what God thinks tells the truth. A person who is self serving will never be blessed by God so he becomes a person of pretense, he lies about all the good things he is and that come his way. And because he is a liar he can be turned easily for a bribe.

14:6 A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, But knowledge is easy to him who understands.

- Aspect of grace that is offered.

- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 “Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”
- Blessing through grace granted understanding.
- Exodus 31:3 “...with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship.”

14:7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, When you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge.

- Don't trust the judgment of the ungodly fool, lest your character become polluted and unsettled by wrong influences.
- You don't have to criticize him, or condemn him, but the godly judgment you are to make is to stay away from him.
- 2 Timothy 2:16 “But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.”
- 2 Timothy 3:5 “Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”

14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, But the folly of fools is deceit.

- A prudent person thinks deeply about the choices in life he has to make.
- The fool claims to be in the know but it is all a lie.
- Deuteronomy 33:29 “Happy art thou, O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the LORD, the shield of thy help, and who is the sword of thy excellency! and thine enemies shall be found liars unto thee; and thou shalt tread upon their high places.”

14:9 Fools mock at sin, But among the upright there is favor.

- They don't believe sins exists.
- *In the tents of the foolish is destruction, in the house of the upright there is God's favor.*
- Fools don't care, the upright do (people not sinless but honest with God and themselves and others) God grants atonement through Christ's sacrifice and they are raised with Christ through His spirit granted to them.

14:10 The heart knows its own bitterness, And a stranger does not share its joy.

- This is antithesis that God does share every aspect of your life—good and bad.
- This is a loveless world don't expect much. In your trials few will care. In your joy few will share them.

- This should give you the incentive to look to God.
- Hebrews 11:37-40 “They were stoned, they were sawn asunder, were tempted, were slain with the sword: they wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins; being destitute, afflicted, tormented; (Of whom the world was not worthy:) they wandered in deserts, and in mountains, and in dens and caves of the earth. And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect.”
- Psalms 5:11-12 “But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because thou defendest them: let them also that love thy name be joyful in thee. For thou, LORD, wilt bless the righteous; with favour wilt thou compass him as with a shield.”

14:11 The house of the wicked will be overthrown, But the tent of the upright will flourish.

- What could be worse than to have temporary wealth.
- Remaining within God’s purpose He will finish us as a creation, if we reject God’s purpose then we despise God. God will grant time for repentance but there is no long term help or acceptance.

14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

- Such is the path to the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- When you don’t live by faith you live by Satan’s deception.

14:13 Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, And the end of mirth may be grief.

- Laughing on the outside crying on the inside. We might find momentary pleasure in this life but if we are outside of God’s purpose there is a deep sorrow we carry within us.
- Why? The unanswered questions at the end of the day are still unanswered. Remember Solomon’s state of mind of frustration.
- Luke 11:34-36 “The light of the body is the eye: therefore when thine eye is single, thy whole body also is full of light; but when thine eye is evil, thy body also is full of darkness. Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness. If thy whole body therefore be full of light, having no part dark, the whole shall be full of light, as when the bright shining of a candle doth give thee light.”

14:14 The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways, But a good man will be satisfied from above.

- If we regress, we cease to do things God’s ways and we’ll start to look to ourselves. To the good man he is provided for because he looks to God.

14:15 The simple believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps.

- The naïve are gullible, and are easily taken advantage of but the prudent are careful in their dealings with others.

14:16 A wise man fears and departs from evil, But a fool rages and is self-confident.

- Wise man doesn't get into foolish arguments, the fool fights with conviction over things that don't matter.

14:17 A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, And a man of wicked intentions is hated.

- Loose your temper and you'll do the wrong thing. People with the wrong intentions, everybody hates you.

14:18 The simple inherit folly, But the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

- Folly is the only reward for the simple. The prudent are rewarded with the knowledge of God's intentions to make them His children.

14:19 The evil will bow before the good, And the wicked at the gates of the righteous.

- Revelation 3:9 "Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

14:20 The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, But the rich has many friends.

- Few of us are loved for who we are.
- A poor man can provide us with nothing and rich man can provide us with everything but he won't
- James 2:5-6 "Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats?"

14:21 He who despises his neighbor sins; But he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.

- Hating someone does not fit God's plan and purpose.
- 1 John 2:7-11 "Brethren, I write no new commandment unto you, but an old commandment which ye had from the beginning. The old commandment is the word which ye have heard from the beginning. Again, a new commandment I write unto you, which thing is true in him and in you: because the darkness is past, and the true light now shineth. He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. But he that hateth his brother is in darkness,

and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.”

14:22 Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.

- **People who are trying to make this life count for the greatest good are outgoing, loving people.**

14:23 In all labor there is profit, But idle chatter leads only to poverty.

- **Even an apprentice draws a wage if he works hard. Nobody pays you for talking.**

14:24 The crown of the wise is their riches, But the foolishness of fools is folly.

- **Righteous people can become wealthy through hard work and wise investments. But a fool gets paid the wages of a fool.**
- **1 Corinthians 1:26-29 “For ye see your calling , brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence.”**

14:25 A true witness delivers souls, But a deceitful witness speaks lies.

- **A person who speaks the truth will save the falsely accused, a deceitful witness, will cause the punishment of the innocent.**
- **Matthew 23:23 “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment , mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”**

14:26 In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, And His children will have a place of refuge.

- **Having a deep respect for God is the right approach for life which will be proven to be true.**
- **Psalms 91:1-7 “He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust. Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence. He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler. Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day; Nor**

for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday. A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.”

14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.

- **Respect for God will become a fountain of life because He will impute righteousness and grace to those who love Him.**
- **Death is the alternative to living as a son or daughter of God for the rest of eternity.**

14:28 In a multitude of people is a king's honor, But in the lack of people is the downfall of a prince.

- **For a king to be great he has to be respected by his people. But when the people despise you'll never make it to be king.**

14:29 He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, But he who is impulsive exalts folly.

- **Loose your head loose your ass. In moments of great anger some of the stupidest decisions have been made.**

14:30 A sound heart is life to the body, But envy is rottenness to the bones.

- **To be content with what God has given you; will give you a very positive view of life. Being envious and covetous of those who have more than you will make you negative to the very center of your being.**

14:31 He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.

- **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.”**
- **Our love for others is connected to our love for God.**
- **Matthew 25:40 “And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.”**
- **God is one family, none are expendable as men's worldly organizations which are hierarchal. With men's governments and organizations there is no love, so massive losses are acceptable.**

14:32 The wicked is banished in his wickedness, But the righteous has a refuge in his death.

- **The wicked are eventually banished to eternal death.**

- **John 11:25-26** “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live : And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die.

14:33 Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding, But what is in the heart of fools is made known.

- Those who have godly understanding can provide good counsel, when they are asked. But the fool blurts out everything he knows, most of which is wrong.
- **1 Peter 3:15-16** “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: Having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”

14:34 Righteousness exalts a nation, But sin is a reproach to any people.

- Entire societies can be sinful.
- Sodom and Gomorrah, Tyre, the Amalekites are some negative examples.
- In Jonah, Nineveh repented and was granted grace.
- **Jonah 4:11** “And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?”

14:35 The king's favor is toward a wise servant, But his wrath is against him who causes shame.

- A good leader is not going to put up with sinful counsel.
- **Luke 11:52** “Woe unto you, lawyers! for ye have taken away the key of knowledge: ye entered not in yourselves, and them that were entering in ye hindered.”
- **Luke 11:43** “Woe unto you, Pharisees! for ye love the uppermost seats in the synagogues, and greetings in the markets.”
- **Mark 12:28-34** “And one of the scribes came, and having heard them reasoning together, and perceiving that he had answered them well, asked him, Which is the first commandment of all? And Jesus answered him, The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord: And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. And the scribe said unto him, Well, Master, thou hast said the truth: for there is one God; and there is none other but he: And to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the soul, and with all the strength, and to love his neighbour as himself, is more than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices. And when Jesus saw that he answered discreetly, he

said unto him, Thou art not far from the kingdom of God. And no man after that durst ask him any question.”

PROVERBS 15

15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

- Thoughtless things you say only makes life more difficult for everyone. If you have to criticize there is way to do it thinking of the good of another.
- With the tongue we share with others who we are. With it we can espouse lies, hate, courage, words of comfort and healing. The tongue reveals what is in our heart. And what we say will impact on relationship with others for good or bad.
- One of requirements of prayer is say what you mean and mean what you say. When we transfer this to God we see every word of God has value Matt4:4.
- Proverbs 15:23 “A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season , how good is it!”
- Tongue should have moral qualities and be an instrument of love. You should not speak impulsively, or every thought that comes to your head. The qualifying condition even if it is criticism is will it be edifying to the hearer.
- Gossip is obviously wrong—its malicious.
- Alcohol and the tongue do not mix.
- 1 John 3:18 “Little children, let us not love [merely] in theory or in speech but in deed and in truth (in practice and in sincerity).”
- In Job 20:12, "Though wickedness be sweet in his mouth, though he hide it under his tongue." The figure is that of an uncultured man rolling a choice morsel around in his mouth so as to extract the utmost flavor. Enjoying vindictiveness or woman being caddy, getting the last word in.
- In Psalms 10:7; 66:17 however "under the tongue" means "in readiness to utter," while in Song of Solomon 4:11, "Honey and milk are under thy tongue," the pleasure of a caress is described.

- How should we talk to one another in marriage. God intended marriage to be a blessing and for you to jointly enjoy life together. Proverbs 5:18 “Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.”
- Proverbs 19:14 “House and riches are the inheritance of fathers and a prudent wife is from the LORD.” Your father may give you his wealth but prudent wife is from the Lord.
- Proverbs 25:24 “It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.”
- Stop talking with a nagging woman who will waste seconds, minutes, hours, days, years of your life. Time wasted which should have been used on focusing to prepare to become a son or daughter of God. A battle for control is a lost issue because God already answered this question.

- God gives you these guidelines for speaking and listening to the words of others.

- **Ephesians 4:29-32** “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. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

- The tongue of the wise is a gift of grace that uses God truth wisely.
- The antithesis: The mouth of a fool speaks foolishness. Things which aren't true. Things outside of God's plan and purpose for your life.
- Foolish *nabal* means senseless; 'eviyil hates the truth, hides the truth; loves to argue and fight; arrogant; a person who isn't learning and places his trust in things which will destroy him; values only sensual pleasures.
- If you want to know if a person is stupid just listen to them.
- **Jude 16-17** “These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ.”
- **Psalms 75:8** “For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup, and the wine is red; it is full of mixture; and he poureth out of the same: but the dregs thereof, all the wicked of the earth shall wring them out, and drink them.”
- God sees the distinction, He cares about oppression of the poor and the cruelty of the wicked, it is not part of His nature to stand idly by. The names of God, El Shadai, Lord show God's focus is man on the spiritual work he is doing. God shows He is omniscient, omnipresent, omnipotent.

15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

- **Job** learned God had not gone away and was unconcerned with the lives of His creation.
- **1 Peter 3:12** “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.”
- God is not an absentee, slum landlord.
- **Psalms 33:14** “From the place of his habitation he looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth.”
- **Psalms 47:2** “For the LORD Most High is terrible; He is a great King over all the earth.”

15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

- **Tree of life is eternal life.**
- **God knows a lot about you by what comes out of your mouth. With the mouth we can discern the truths of God, meditate on His name, solve the spiritual problems of our brothers and sisters, proclaim the gospel of grace.**
- **When it is perverse it disconnects from God's spirit. For instance God doesn't tell dirty jokes.**
- **Malachi 3:16 "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."**
- **They think about, talk about things that matter.**
- **1 Timothy 4:7 "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness."**
- **Take your mind to higher purpose. When we are connected to God we are always thinking in young terms.**
- **Living for this life only, the older we grow a sense of hopelessness and sadness begins to fill us with worldly sorrow.**

15:5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.

- **Only a fool despises the advice of those who are far wiser and dedicated to your happiness. It always goes back to whether an individual loves or hates God.**
- **Isaiah 41:26 "Who hath declared from the beginning, that we may know? and beforetime, that we may say, He is righteous? yea, there is none that sheweth, yea, there is none that declareth, yea, there is none that heareth your words."**

15:6 In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.

- **The kind of wealth the wicked amass is founded on the suffering and sacrifice of others. A good example having babies out of wedlock to get welfare checks.**
- **Matthew 6:19-21 "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: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also."**
- **The antithesis is the righteous have a proper relationship with money seeing it is from the hand of God and are content in times as the apostle Paul who knew how to be exalted and how to be abased. The righteous don't live for money or any physical thing in this life because it isn't going to last. Their wealth and every hope is God.**
- **We are warned. "My power and the might of my hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember Lord thy God, for it is He that giveth thee power to get wealth" (Deuteronomy 8:17-18).**

15:7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so.

- **In a leadership position in family, in church, over a business you bring honor and glory to the Father and Christ.**
- **1 Peter 3:15 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”**

15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight.

- **God actually delights in you every time you behave like a considerate son or daughter. When you come to Him asking for help, understanding His nature in faith because of your growing relationship. God loves when we see Him as a literal Father.**
- **God is telling us to beware orthodox worldly religions of men. Where the wicked pretend to be religious it serves only themselves.**
- **Titus 1:14 “Not giving heed to Jewish fables , and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.”**
- **Matthew 23:28-33 “Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets , and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous, And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets. Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers. Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?”**

15:9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness.

- **Living for God’s plan and purpose vs. living selfishly for your own wants and hedonistic desires.**

15:10 Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die.

- **Obstinate people have had many things go wrong in their lives so they have a higher threshold of pain and need more intense punishment to get them to recognize their approach to life isn’t working.**
- **The ultimate punishment is eternal death for all time. It is one thing to die physically it is another to be dead for all eternity—like the blackness of the heavens.**
- **2 Chronicles 33:21-23 “ (king) Amon was two and twenty years old when he began to reign, and reigned two years in Jerusalem. But he did that which was evil in the sight of the LORD, as did Manasseh his father: for Amon sacrificed unto all the**

carved images which Manasseh his father had made, and served them; And humbled not himself before the LORD, as Manasseh his father had humbled himself; but Amon trespassed more and more.”

15:11 Hell and Destruction are before the LORD; so how much more the hearts of the sons of men.

- **The place of the grave is distinguished from the place of eternal judgment.**
- **Proverbs 15:11 Sheol (the place of the dead) and Abaddon (the abyss, the final place of the accuser Satan) are both before the Lord — how much more, then, the hearts of the children of men?”AMP**
- **Judgment is assured. How much more for the carnal person whom God can even read his every thought (hearts).**
- **If you don't make it He has no more relationship to you than a defective product on an assembly line, a rusted out car crushed for scrap, a cracked pot discarded.**
- **When a stranger dies vs a family member dies, and why should God grieve over us when we never gave He anything but disrespect.**

15:12 A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.

- **An unspiritually minded person can't take correction, can't listen, is a know it all, and when everything blows up in his face is to prideful to seek genuine help.**
- **They are pretentious, putting on a show, filled with pride, and thoroughly unqualified for service to God.**
- **What is it they don't see? It is all going to happen again. Their life will never be any better.**
- **Can tell from a person's face what their spiritual state is as a dog's tail tells you what is going on.**

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

- **As God's creation, we were meant to live happy, balanced lives, evident by the expressions on our face. But if God's purpose is not fulfilled in our lives along with it goes our happiness.**

15:14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

- **The knowledge being spoken of here is God's knowledge, the truth of God's intended plan and purpose. Once we get a taste of God's goodness it is normal to urgently want more. What a wonderful thing to know how much God loves us and will forgive us and what He has in store for us is not easily comprehended. What is not to love about God?**

- Revelation 21:7 “He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”
- The fool will not feed on the word of God but will go down every broad approach of life trying to unsuccessfully find the meaning of life. Christians as the weak base, have already learned what life is not.
- 2 Corinthians 7:10-11 “For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter.”

15:15 All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.

- The feast days of God picture the overall plan and purpose for why we were created.
- Leviticus 23:40 “And ye shall take you on the first day the boughs of goodly trees, branches of palm trees, and the boughs of thick trees, and willows of the brook; and ye shall rejoice before the LORD your God seven days.”
- Through the holy days we see how weak and frail we are but the antithesis is how great and wonderful God, filled with grace and mercy, if we will only come to Him. He will care for us like a father for a little child, far better than any family member we have ever had, as a shepherd will risk their lives to find a sheep lost in storm or attacked by a lion or a bear.
- Revelation 19:7 “Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready.”

15:16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with trouble.

- God knows what resources we need to make this life count for the greatest good.
- We can go out tomorrow and rob a bank but we are going to be in trouble with God because that doesn't represent His way of life.
- The amount of money doesn't produce happiness.
- Proverbs 23:4 “Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.”

15:17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred.

- Love is the main item on the menu.
- 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.”

15:18 A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention.

- Proverbs 15:18 “ A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger appeases contention. AMP
- Contentious people cause continual problems everybody gets tired of. Being slow to anger is one of the character attributes God wants us to develop and person like this brings peace by helping people solve their problems.
- Purpose behind the 613 laws of Israel to protect the citizens of Israel so they were free to focus on the relationship with God.

15:19 The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.

- A lazy person is an ungodly trait and is going no where in his life and has neither the respect of God or man, or his family. His dreams are unfounded lies of things he wish were true but aren't.
- But a hard working person is on an endless road to fulfill everyone of his family's dreams. He is not talking about them—he doing them. Because he is on the right road, working as God wants him to, he doesn't have time nor the desire waste his time on the foolish things he formerly did.

15:20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.

- A father can deal more realistically evaluating a child's progress to become a man and take over the family business. The woman is more emotional and will over look his many faults, but in the end though she is in denial and spoils him that child disrespects her, she will loose the very thing she wants—the love of that child. That is why she should never stray far from her husband's judgment—if she truly loves her children.
- And now for the scripture modern women hate.
- The woman's relationship as a helpmate to her husband was redefined by God, and she was to teach to her daughters. Genesis 3:16 “Unto the woman He said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.”
- Children will cause you pain and your husband will provide and protect you so listen to him. Women who rule the house is a perversion of marriage as God instituted it and then the fruits will prove it was wrong, primarily through the children.

15:21 Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, but a man of understanding walks uprightly.

- If you can run from the truth and get away with it it makes you feel good. The problem is you can't get away with it.
- It is part of man's nature to want to rejoice but the question what are we rejoicing in.

- Psalms 16:11 “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy ; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.”
- God is not an Ascetic, Gnostic, Catholic, Mormon Puritan, Amish...
- When prospering and rejoicing why is this important it goes along with the gospel message—what kind of kingdom it will be like.
- Why should we be upright? As God’s children we should be in our Father’s image and likeness. Psalms 25:8 “Good and upright is the LORD: therefore will he teach sinners in the way.”

15:22 Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.

- Things go wrong when there is no plan—like having a budget and spending plan. When everybody gives input the focus sharpens because God provides gifts to everyone. Also God thinks within a family context. He wants everybody involved, contributing, growing, learning from their mistakes, learning, doing it better.
- That is why a husband and wife should talk and work together as co-heirs.

15:23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!

- We speak wisely when we speak according to God’s truth, according what people need to hear not what they want to hear. Each season brings its new problems—that needs a advice of godly counsellors.
- Isaiah 1:25-27 “ And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin: And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city. Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.”
- Isaiah 30:20-21 “And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”

15:24 The way of life winds upward for the wise, that he may turn away from hell below.

- If we are changing we have eternal life within us through God’s spirit.
- John 11:25-26 “Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die . Believest thou this?”
- 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. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear

what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

15:25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.

- **When we are proud we cannot learn anything but to refortify our own stupidity.**
- **To be of a contrite heart is a place of an honest beginnings for our relationship with God.**
- **Psalms 34:18 “The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.”**
- **Jesus died for us while we were yet sinners and God cares more about our attitude that the technicality of our sins.**
- **He wants repentance so we can grow closer to God in love and forgiveness, but remember all men no matter who you are, where you are, how self righteous you are, we are all sinners. If it wasn't for Jesus Christ everyone us would be dead.**

15:26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but the words of the pure are pleasant.

- **God hates even the thoughts of the wicked let alone what comes out of his mouth.**

15:27 He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.

- **When you love money you are capable of cutting your own family's throats.**
- **A righteous person wants nothing to do with organized crime. To take a bribe means your going to be a liar.**

15:28 The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

- **Listen to someone and you can tell if they are spiritually or unspiritual minded.**

15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous.

- **God cuts off the wicked because they are not their children but when we pray to God as His children.**
- **Those under grace have become the children of God whether gentile, Greek, Jew or Israelite.**
- **Luke 13:5 “I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”**

15:30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and a good report makes the bones healthy.

- **The countenance of a righteous man radiates.**

- If your doing it God's way your going to be healthy physically and spiritually.
- Bones fat—the marrow supplies blood that nourishes every part of the body.

15:31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise.

- **Taking accurate positive correction is the only way to make substantial changes in your life. Abiding among the wise are those made wise through grace. Compatibly fitting in with the rest of God's family.**

15:32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.

- **If you don't want to do it better you must hate yourself.**
- **The lesson is God wants us to understand is everybody is wrong at one time or another so address the problems, make the corrections, develop new habits and live a better life.**

15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.

- **"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (cf. Proverbs 1:7).**
- **And before honour is humility.**
- **Does God wants us terrified of Him?**
- **1 John 4:18-19 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us."**
- **Matthew 11:29-30 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**
- **The word "fear" in the Bible has a wide application of meaning. It depends upon your reference to God. It means fear, terrified, reverence, respect, awe, love.**
- **As you grow closer to God your fear is converted to spiritual fear from worldly fear.**
- **For the enemies of God in the end they loose and have every reason to be terrified.**
- **Hebrews 10:31 "It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."**
- **Revelation 21:7-8 "He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. 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 16

16:1 The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

- **God expects us to make the effort and planning how we are going to live this life but the substance or quality of our response is from God.**
- **Joshua told Israel, Joshua 22:5 “But take diligent heed to do the commandment and the law, which Moses the servant of the LORD charged you, to love the LORD your God, and to walk in all his ways, and to keep his commandments, and to cleave unto him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul.”**
- **The way they were to keep God’s laws as national constitution regulating every aspect of society.**
- **God is not going to do it all. 2 Peter 3:14 “Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, be diligent that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot, and blameless.”**
- **Galatians 5:1 “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.”**

16:2 All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.

- **Human nature is utterly deceitful and cannot be trusted.**
- **Jeremiah 17:9 “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?”**
- **1 Corinthians 10:12 “Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.”**
- **The best approach is to never trust yourself, assume you are wrong , and always look to God first, in all things.**
- **God uses the fact we are initially blind for His purpose. Even though we are wrong in many areas of our lives God weighs our motives. God examines our attitude.**

16:3 Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.

- **Never do anything independent of God. Bring your relationship with God into every area of your life, into all relationships, into every decision you have to make.**

16:4 The LORD has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

- **God created all things, for His purpose, for a greater good. You don’t have the right to do anything outside of God’s purpose.**
- **Genesis 1:31 “And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good.”**
- **God doesn’t want to destroy the wicked but He will at the same time using them as admonition for the righteous to save others.**

16:5 Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; though they join forces, none will go unpunished.

- **The fundamental attitude God requires before He will grant grace is humility. We may have it wrong but if our heart is right He will help us make it right.**
- **Leviticus 26:14-16 “But if ye will not hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments; And if ye shall despise my statutes, or if your soul abhor my judgments, so that ye will not do all my commandments, but that ye break my covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague, that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it.”**
- **A prideful heart is repulsive to God because it is independent of God and grace—neither asking for forgiveness nor appreciating forgiveness has been granted, it has neither love for God, or their fellow man. It is committed to the way of sin completely and is the enemy of God. Prideful heart is the nature of the Devil.**
- **The wicked may martial their forces against God but it will do them no good.**
- **Revelation 20:9 “And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them.”**

16:6 In mercy and truth Atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.

- **God shows when we sincerely desire forgiveness / He will sincerely grant us grace. According to the heart—(Inner desires).**
- **When we respect and revere God we then recognize He holds all the answers. That becomes our motive.**
- **1 John 4:18-19 “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us.”**

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

- **When we are the path that God wants us on—to make this life count for the greatest good, it diminishes the need for trials.**
- **Generally God uses trials get us to acknowledge areas we need to change in. If were on target then He focuses on the more positive spiritual parts of His training.**
- **Jude had to correct the church. Jude 3 “Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.”**
- **Jude 2 “Mercy unto you, and peace, and love, be multiplied.”**

16:8 Better is a little with righteousness, than vast revenues without justice.

- **God is not against you being blessed. Money from the hand of God isn't wrong.**
- **God only gives you enough to keep you coming back to Him. No so much you turn your back on Him. He knows our weaknesses.**
- **Gain without love means nothing. Gain without a future and hope means nothing. All the money in the world and you're filled with fear and doubt.**
- **God doesn't want you being tied to this world. That is why you should never be envious of the wealthy.**
- **Wealth obtained through unrighteous means you are asking to be punished by God.**
- **God blesses those who bless God's people and curse those who curse God's people.**

16:9 A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

- **Man proposes God disposes.**
- **Man may have an idea of what he wants to accomplish but it is God who will show him how to accomplish it.**
- **In every area of life God wants a personal relationship with us. He has seen to much stubborn independence already, He wants us to behave like a little child.**

16:10 Divination is on the lips of the king; his mouth must not transgress in judgment.

- **Though God has given leaders the spiritual responsibility to rule and make judgments for the people, he must at the same time understand he has not been given the responsibility to do anything he wants and he had better treat everybody fairly and not have his hand stained with bribes or be on his own prideful power trip.**
- **1 Corinthians 12:6-9 "And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. For to one is given by the Spirit the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; To another faith by the same Spirit; to another the gifts of healing by the same Spirit."**
- **God gives us spiritual gifts for what reason for the edification and service of all.**

16:11 Honest weights and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are His work.

- **In our dealing we must be honest and not take advantage of others. We have one standard of ethics, in dealing with everybody, referring to all the weights in the bag.**
- **Important principal is God wants us to emulate Him in our relationships with others**

16:12 It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness.

- **Wicked, self focused rulers of any kind are a disgrace to God. Anything good you are supposed to represent you bring shame on.**
- **Deuteronomy 17:18-20 “And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.”**

16:13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings, and they love him who speaks what is right.

- **A righteous king places great value on righteous counsel to help him in his responsibilities. He has the wisdom to recognize such people as an asset.**
- **A good leader is not going to sit around and listen to senseless negativism.**

16:14 As messengers of death is the king's wrath, but a wise man will appease it.

- **Through out history it is true, when a king becomes angry people die. But a wise, righteous person can even get a sentence of death (appeased) overturned.**
- **Why in his words are words of mercy and truth.**

16:15 In the light of the king's face is life, and his favor is like a cloud of the latter rain.

- **It doesn't pay to disrespect the king because you're just going to needlessly get yourself into trouble. He is used by God to do a lot really good things for you.**
- **Ultimately speaking of Jesus Christ.**
- **Romans 13:3-5 “For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake.”**
- **We should do it because it is right but we should also do it because were going to get into trouble.**

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

- **Money in the hands of a fool will only hasten his destruction. Money guarantees you nothing that is lasting.**

16:17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; he who keeps his way preserves his soul.

- **A person who has received grace knows that God has forgiven them countless times, they have experienced the peaceable fruit of righteousness but they know there are many areas of life they need to change. As long as you are on the right road God's grace encompasses you.**

16:18 Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.

- **If you want to go through life prideful and arrogant you're going to fall.**

16:19 Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

- **Take less, take the back seat, and God will bless you and don't feel you are entitled to your share with the wicked.**
- **God showing you if you want my love I love a person who is humble, submissive, that doesn't talk to much.**

16:20 He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

- **Learning from God's word and living by them, with the proper motivation,**
- **If you do it God's way in the end it will all turn out right. That is strong basis to increase in faith.**
- **In this relationship is how it is going forward to where God will never have to say, I don't know you.**

16:21 The wise in heart will be called prudent, and sweetness of the lips increases learning.

- **The wise know what to say at the right time. The sweetness of their lips teaches others they are receptive.**
- **What is so good they are teaching? The truth about God this world is devoid of. Jesus example He healed all.**
- **The teachers are gracious showing God's love and what kind of a kingdom is coming.**
- **Matthew 11:29-30 "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."**

16:22 Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it, but the correction of fools is folly.

- **The understanding of the righteous speaks of all good things leading to eternal life. The corrections of the wicked serve only themselves and anything direction they give leads no where.**

16:23 The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.

- **Teaches his mouth: means maketh intelligent through studying God's word. The more he tries to help others the more God enhances his spirit gifts.**
- **When you teach right things you're something this world desperately needs.**

16:24 Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

- **Understanding God's truth and to understand the depth of His love and mercy towards us is the most beautiful thing in life. To know God is to love Him even though we are imperfect.**
- **Psalms 103:8-17 "The LORD is merciful and gracious , slow to anger, and plenteous in mercy. He will not always chide: neither will he keep his anger for ever. He hath not dealt with us after our sins; nor rewarded us according to our iniquities. For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him. As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us. Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust. As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more. But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children;"**

16:25 There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

- **Previously discussed: "I think" is a dangerous statement.**

16:26 The person who labors, labors for himself, for his hungry mouth drives him on.

- **Active and proactive.**
- **Physical and spiritual application. When you're on the right track and you know it, you'll labor intensively to obtain your goal.**
- **If we labor we reap.**
- **2 Corinthians 9:6 "But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully."**

16:27 An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire.

- **The wicked take this approach because they do not see the importance of grace because they are outside of it.**
- **Mercy is greater judgment.**

16:28 A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.

- **A person who has a warped personality enjoys destroying the peace and unity of others.**
- **Best means authority, chief, like leader, husband. If they get rid of all authority then they can do even greater evil.**

16:29 A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good.

- **Good people, God's people, can be misled to do wrong things if they listen to the wrong authorities and influences. It sounds so right but the greatest loss is one's relationship with God unless one repents.**

16:30 He winks his eye to devise perverse things; he purses his lips and brings about evil.

- **Closes his eyes to what is right, so his conscience does not convict him. The he begins to speak in silent mediation the evil he will do.**

16:31 The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness.

- **The aged represent God the ancient of days, to who we should show respect. The wicked often don't live out half of their days. If you see an old person they did something right.**
- **If old people be found in the way of righteousness, their age will be their honour. Old age, as such, is honourable, and commands respect (Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, Leviticus 19:32);**

16:32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.

- **The greatest control is self control and to restrain the tongue.**
- **James 3:6-8 "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. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."**
- **Like with Job when it started come out it all came out.**
- **Times Christ stood silent.**

16:33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.

- What ever happens to man is not by chance. Lap means like putting numbers in a hat.
- Not a conventional lottery system but a way of letting God make His will known.
- They did it this way because they knew God would make plain his judgment which man had no way of knowing. They were used in dividing inheritances, in electing a king, and subsequently an apostle, in detecting the guilty one among a multitude, etc.

PROVERBS 17

17:1 “Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.

- God doesn't want strife and confusion. If we are focused on these things we cannot be focused on the things of God. Eating a slice of dry bread meditating God name vs. eating a five star restaurant where God is no where in the picture.
- We can't spiritually grow in an ungodly environment and such relationships do not reflect what it is that God wants.
- In essence God is expressing it is better to experience a spiritual banquet than to physically banquet.
- The whole thing isn't the meal it is who gave you the meal seeing it in thankfulness.
- The fruits of strife are anger, at times willful ignorance, pride and an unwillingness to yield, selfishly rejecting the proper focus, placing self over the collective good, rejection of godly leadership.
- Proverbs 25:24 “It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.”
- 1 Corinthians 7:14-16 “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband; otherwise your children would be unclean, but now they are holy. But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart ; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace. For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?”
- 1 Timothy 6:3-5 “If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, 4 he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife , reviling, evil suspicions, 5 useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.”
- Proverbs 10:12 “Hatred stirs up strife , But love covers all sins.”
- Solution: Romans 13:13-14 “Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering and wantonness, not in strife and envying. But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”

- Strife caused by a desire to have something God hasn't given you. Some woman want to be men.
- Strife is where we are odds with God over an issue we don't want to conform to, such as Lucifer striving with God.
- James 3:16-18 "For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work. 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."
- People who try to get their way through strife will not be in God's kingdom.

17:2 A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame, and will share an inheritance among the brothers.

- Being a biological son doesn't make you a son. John the Baptist said,
- Matthew 3:9 "And think not to say within yourselves, we have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."
- Real family loves you as family.
- No body made Esau sell his birthright for a bowl of stew, but he had that little regard for his father's name and his family.
- Matthew 10:21 "...children shall rise up against their parents , and cause them to be put to death."
- Who was Christ's family, Matthew 12:48-50 "Who is My mother and who are My brothers?" 49 And He stretched out His hand toward His disciples and said, "Here are My mother and My brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of My Father in heaven is My brother and sister and mother."
- Gentiles called to salvations to become adopted sons and daughters and some Israelites left out.
- Matthew 22:1-10 "And Jesus answered and spoke to them again by parables and said: 2 "The kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who arranged a marriage for his son, 3 and sent out his servants to call those who were invited to the wedding; and they were not willing to come. 4 Again, he sent out other servants, saying, 'Tell those who are invited, "See, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and fatted cattle are killed, and all things are ready. Come to the wedding.'" 5 But they made light of it and went their ways, one to his own farm, another to his business. 6 And the rest seized his servants, treated them spitefully, and killed them. 7 But when the king heard about it, he was furious. And he sent out his armies, destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. 8 Then he said to his servants, 'The wedding is ready, but those who were invited were not worthy. 9 Therefore go into the highways , and as many as you find, invite to the wedding.' 10 So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all whom they found, both bad and good. And the wedding hall was filled with guests. "

17:3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the hearts.

- **Things of great value you try increase their value. You want the purest silver and gold but it can only be obtained through crucible.**
- **Christian attitude, Psalms 26:2 “Examine me, O LORD, and prove me ; Try my mind and my heart.**
- **We develop character when we our values are challenged.**
- **James 1:2-5 “My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, 3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. 4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.”**
- **We will learn God’s way is right, this world is wrong, God is bigger than any trial.**
- **There comes a time when parents should stay out of their children’s lives allowing them to learn from life and to learn what life is not. Saving them from the penalty will ensure they will never learn.**

17:4 An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.

- **Were looking at bad character—character assassination is the spirit of murder. They want to believe the worse in someone. Some people love to wade into all the dirty details.**
- **Why is that wrong. What do you mean liar? All of us are guilty and need to be forgiven of sin, so the least God expects us to do cover the sins others as we want our sins covered by the blood of Christ.**
- **Matthew 18:23-34 “Therefore is the kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. But forasmuch as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat , saying, Pay me that thou owest. And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him.”**
- **Philippians 4:8-9 “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure , whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy — meditate on these things. 9 The things which you learned**

and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.”

17:5 He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

- **Mocking means you look down on someone, are class conscience, you love cliques. You think you are above other people. When you mock them you are mocking God.**
- **When you rejoice when bad things happen to others, your trying God’s patience and instead of being longsuffering giving a person a chance to change God will punish you.**
- **God sees the entire human race as His potential family. God wants us to be used to edify or be an example of the gospel to the give them a basis to change.**
- **When we write them off before God writes them off we are wrong.**
- **If somebody does you wrong part of God turning them around He may make them severely correct them to help them repent but you should always want things to work out right. So let everything be their problem not your problem.**
- **Go to your brother nothing wrong with addressing problems.**
- **Stand back from problems. Never let discouragement define your problems climb up on a mountain ridge get God’s perspective then you have genuine solutions.**
- **Turn cheek and not give place to wrath—take the loss.**
- **God’s plan of salvation begins with the poor and when God sees us trash the poor were asking for it.**
- **James 2:5-7 “Listen, my beloved brethren: Has God not chosen the poor of this world to be rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom which He promised to those who love Him? 6 But you have dishonored the poor man. Do not the rich oppress you and drag you into the courts? 7 Do they not blaspheme that noble name by which you are called?”**

17:6 Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.

- **In a happy, healthy family a man knows he was not a failure when he looks at his grandchildren. A father should be a child’s hero and role model. But that is not the way it is, is it.**
- **Before he passes on everything he has learned he is to pass on to his children—that is the final purpose of his life.**
- **This society has no use for the elderly. You mean nothing to them.**
- **Isaiah 3:10-12 “Say ye to the righteous, that it shall be well with him: for they shall eat the fruit of their doings. Woe unto the wicked! it shall be ill with him: for the reward of his hands shall be given him. As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths.”**
- **Gentile belief from Nimrod’s mother Ishtar—women controlling the family setting goals and teachings, all contrary to God. It all ends badly.**

- We should be appreciative if we have a family. It is a copy of the highest and most perfect union, that of the Church with Christ its head.
- Misappropriating the family structure is a sin of the highest level, unto death, just like any other sin. How God will deal with it will determine if it is a sin of ignorance or deliberate.

17:7 Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, much less lying lips to a prince.

- A fool thoughtlessly speaks and doesn't care.
- A person who knows what we say is important, reflecting our heart, doesn't want to tell lies and say offensive things—because he knows his reputation will be mud.
- 1 Corinthians 12:3 “Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost.”

17:8 A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; wherever he turns, he prospers.

- The grace we have been given is like a many faceted sparkling gem sparkling in bright light.
- Romans 4:8 “Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.”
- A righteous person is to be a light every where they go the people should see flashes of God as the facets of a jewel.
- Matthew 5:14-16 "You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.”

17:9 He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.

- Gossiping and having a big mouth is a terrible sin—it defines you as an ungodly, unloving person.
- The apostle Paul described some members in the church as "not only idle but gossips [tattlers, KJV] and busybodies" (1 Timothy 5:13). Jesus said, "For every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36).
- Human nature loves trashing people, its fun. But our mouth can destroy relationships it took years to build. It creates an atmosphere of revenge, bitterness, mistrust, defusing the holy spirit working in the individuals involved. That is why God tells us to close our mouths.

17:10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.

- **Grace must be afforded to all human beings to find life, so it is a pretty good assumption that in all of us there is a lot in our lives that needs to be forgiven. God can deal with this but what God cannot accept is having an attitude where we refuse to acknowledge our sins.**
- **Refusing correction means we think there is nothing wrong with us, and there is nothing in our lives Christ's blood needs to be applied to. Very dangerous approach to life.**
- **God knows we were not perfect but He will work with us all long as we are willing to acknowledge there are many things we need to change. When we won't change God will not violate our free moral agency, and we will never be finished as a creation by God.**
- **People who have the right attitude listen because they want to do it better. They see the advantage of constructive criticism.**
- **Pride and ignorance isolates a person in their own foolishness.**
- **A fool cannot learn from the hard knocks of life, it takes severe punishment to get through to.**
- **The measure of a fool is His inability to listen.**

17:11 An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

- **If you seek rebellion in your own land, in your own family, God will send a cruel ambassador to declare war against you.**
- **Deuteronomy 28:49-51 "The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the earth, as swift as the eagle flieth; a nation whose tongue thou shalt not understand; A nation of fierce countenance, which shall not regard the person of the old, nor shew favour to the young: And he shall eat the fruit of thy cattle, and the fruit of thy land, until thou be destroyed: which also shall not leave thee either corn, wine, or oil, or the increase of thy kine, or flocks of thy sheep, until he have destroyed thee."**
- **For Israel it was the Assyrians, for the Jews it was the Babylonians.**

17:12 Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly.

- **A fool lost in his only folly is more dangerous than a she bear with cubs.**
- **A she bear has a reason to attack you the fool does not and does not fit in with any of the laws God has set in motion.**
- **You don't want to get between a bear and their cubs or a fool and his folly.**
- **Philippians 3:17-21 " Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.) For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our**

vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”

17:13 Whoever rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.

- Leaving an inheritance to the most unworthy member of your family while denying those you truly relied upon.
- God hates injustice and nobody gets away with anything, if they are to be able to move toward spiritual life.
- Psalms 73:2-17 “But as for me, my feet were almost gone; my steps had well nigh slipped. For I was envious at the foolish, when I saw the prosperity of the wicked. For there are no bands in their death: but their strength is firm. They are not in trouble as other men; neither are they plagued like other men. Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: they have more than heart could wish. They are corrupt, and speak wickedly concerning oppression: they speak loftily. They set their mouth against the heavens, and their tongue walketh through the earth. Therefore his people return hither: and waters of a full cup are wrung out to them. And they say, How doth God know? and is there knowledge in the most High? Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. 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.”
- Part of faith is believing God will protect you and deliver you from the oppressor.
- The 613 laws of Israel ensured each person was not oppressed so they would be free to pursue their relationship with God.

17:14 The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.

- Same in the animal kingdom as with unconverted people. Once the excitement level starts rising it goes to the red zone. Then it is too late. Catch it in the early stages, the key is to see the warning signs and walk away—no touch, no talk, no look.
- Ecclesiastes 3:19 “...a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.”
- The bottom line is God doesn’t want us behaving like this. There is a time God wants us to flee, hit the high road, get out of there, vamoose.
- Proverbs 22:3 “A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.”

17:15 He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.

- **When you stick up for the wicked and leave the just high and dry God intensely doesn't like this. God is generally very merciful but in conditions like that you are provoking God to take action and you are not going to like it.**
- **1 Kings 11:7-8 "Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods."**
- **Abomination: Object of disgust, polluted, unpure, worthless. It means defiled and God is not going to consider calling you in this state. So your outside of grace until something gives. Not a good state to be in.**
- **Pagan belief system leading to every deviate way of life: besides infant and human sacrifice, sexual practices, cannibal comes from the priests of Baal that practiced cannibalism. It is such a dark subject God tells us from the scriptures not even to learn about their practices.**

17:16 Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it?

- **Proverbs 17:16 "It is senseless to pay tuition to educate a rebel who has no heart for truth."**
- **Don't waste the substance of everything you have worked for to be squandered by a fool.**
- **Give such a man a pick and shovel and let him learn hard lessons in life what life is not.**

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

- **Not fair weather friends, that have all the right words and leave you high and dry when you need them most. Most people are self serving and will never stick their necks out for you. And some times the people who stick up for you are the ones who most surprise you.**
- **Jesus Christ is the greatest friend we have whether we recognize it or not. Not in words which so many foolish people fill our ears with but in His actions He proves His worth. By the fruits in our lives.**
- **John 15:13-16 "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down one's life for his friends . 14 You are My friends if you do whatever I command you. 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends , for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you."**

17:18 A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge, and becomes surety for his friend.

- **With a righteous man his word is his bond. You don't need it in writing. But he makes the mistake of making agreements with the wrong people where it should be in writing, to make him keep his promises.**
- **God can be trusted and places it in writing. Genesis 9:9 "And I, behold, I establish my covenant with you, and with your seed after you;"**
- **With the wicked it is a different story, God shows don't even put it in writing. Exodus 23:32 "Thou shalt make no covenant with them, nor with their gods."**

17:19 He who loves transgression loves strife, and he who exalts his gate seeks destruction.

- **God gives you a very simple formula, a person who likes to fight loves sin. How much they think they are exalting themselves, they are seeking their own destruction. So don't let yourself be drawn into it.**
- **If a person is full of themselves all you have to do is listen to them.**
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6 "Now we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye withdraw yourselves from every brother that walketh disorderly, and not after the tradition which he received of us."**

17:20 He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.

- **If you have to lie and fabricate things it means the world you live in is an unhappy place, ugly, and perverse and on this road your world is going to grow darker.**
- **Luke 11:34-35 "But when your eye is bad, your body also is full of darkness. 35 Therefore take heed that the light which is in you is not darkness."**
- **John 3:19-21 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."**

17:21 He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.

- **Having a son who veers off the road of life brings a father great sorrow. Just the way God feels about all of us. After you give somebody your best and patiently give them time to wake up and they never respond it is discouraging.**
- **But God shows ultimately all this sorrow will come back on their own head.**
- **Romans 9:1-3 "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:"**

17:22 A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.

- **Being perpetually negative is not the way God designed us.**
- **A promise and challenge of faith. We have to become like a little child.**
- **Proverbs 3:7-8 “Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD and depart from evil. It will be health to your flesh, and strength to your bones.”**
- **In another words living God’s way of life helps us in the here and now to live a healthier life.**

17:23 A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice.

- **Taking a bribe destroys your character, lets the wicked escape and does harm to the innocent.**

17:24 Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.

- **Wisdom is to be growing in grace and fulfilling God’s intended purpose for their lives, the fool mismanages everything in his life and thinks unrealistically of far away places.**

17:25 A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.

- **A foolish son is a reprobates (failure to the family and no way represents his predecessors) and choose a lifestyle that will bring shame and heartache to the family. He has failed every hope his father had for him, and in the end the mother is sorry she ever bore him, it would have been better if he had never been born. The love and patience was there for perhaps for years, but in the end whatever he has done he has done to himself.**

17:26 Also, to punish the righteous is not good, nor to strike princes for their uprightness.

- **Respect other peoples consciences.**
- **It is not good to punish someone doing what they think is right.**
- **He who knows and doesn’t do it is a sin. Paul said it would for a vegetarian to eat meat.**
- **Romans 14:23 “And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”**

17:27 He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

- **True knowledge is the way God wants us to live whether we are abased or abound.**
- **Philippians 4:12-13 “ I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound : every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both**

to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

- A spiritually balanced person is like a submissive dog, they don't bark too much and they are calm and content.
- Monkeys: no see, no hear, no talk

17:28 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.

- God shows you others will give you credit for being mature when you just shut up.
- Silence is golden.

PROVERBS 18

- Something recently learned when we read a scripture in the Bible let the holy spirit take all over the Bible to explore the subject from every angle—from instruction to examples, from positive to antithesis.

18:1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment.

- A hard headed, impenetrable heart is not going to benefit from valuable information because they are content to remain in ignorance and thinking about a very small view—theirs. The only purpose they serve is their own purpose.
- Pharaoh is a perfect example—he disregarded all the evidence going on around him because he didn't want to believe it. Jezebel is another example.
- Such are content to live a lie. The problem with this focus is sooner or later you're going to run into a confrontation with God. You may tell others to take a hike but you're not going to tell God to take a hike. The only reason God doesn't immediately punish them is because He is merciful and hopes they will change. The ultimate fate for this attitude, gnashing of teeth, is the lake of fire.
- It is paramount to God we have a willing heart which is tender and responsive. It is the only way we come under Christ's shed blood and have God begin to perfect our character.
- You can't reason with somebody who isn't going to listen, when you see animosity walk away. Jesus never disturbed spiritual ignorance.

18:2 A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart.

- A fool doesn't want to learn about life or what is true they only want give their opinion most of which is wrong.
- A fool is known by a multitude of words most of which have no meaning, in an attempt to lie to the self. When we don't know something God says just shut up.
- A fool is resistant to constructive criticism and is content to live a life which is unfulfilled.
- There is no fool like a fool that wants to remain a fool.

- **18:3 When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; and with dishonor comes reproach.**
- **Human nature is ignorant, selfish, unmannerly, and offensive—never expect anything but the worst.**
- **The tongue was meant to be gracious, praise God, and preach the gospel, not slander, severing even the best of friends, promoting self agendas, playing politics.**
- **When wickedness is present the response of others will be contempt. All wars begin with words.**
- **Of King Jehoahaz—2 Chronicles 21:20 “He was thirty-two years old when he became king. He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one's sorrow, departed.”**
- **People in this world know the difference between the beauty of holiness and the hypocrisy of this world.**
- **Mark 1:22 “And they were astonished at His doctrine: for He taught them as one that had authority, and not as the scribes.”**
- **If you say the wrong thing in front a gentile King like Pharaoh, Cyrus, Ahasuerus, or Nebuchadnezzar he will take your head off.**
- **Daniel 2:12-13 “For this reason the king was angry and very furious, and gave the command to destroy all the wise men of Babylon. So the decree went out, and they began killing the wise men; and they sought Daniel and his companions, to kill them.”**
- **The wise of this world can proclaim there is no God but God says what do you have as an alternative? Nothing. Psalms 14:1 “The fool has said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good.”**

18:4 The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.

- **This is God’s perspective, listening to us He understands who we truly are beneath our words.**
- **But words are meant to convey the deep spiritual things God reveals to us. Just as cold clear water quenches our thirst on a hot summer day, the words of God’s deep wisdom are more satisfying pointing us toward eternal life.**
- **Word’s can have a profound meaning.**
- **1 Peter 3:15-16 “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear: having a good conscience; that, whereas they speak evil of you, as of evildoers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.”**

18:5 It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

- **In God's family He has a very simple system the people who need to get corrected do, and the those who are innocent are free from guilt, and those who do the right things get rewarded. That is the only way we can learn or be motivated.**
- **Matthew 23:23 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone."**
- **God doesn't play favorites or politics, and is not a respecter of people.**
- **Be a person of integrity, don't make impartial judgments. Do what is right. Being impartial makes you a liar, in the end no one will have respect for your judgment and you will disgrace your family's name.**

18:6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows.

- **A fool always says the wrong thing to bring out the worst in people. They can make people so angry they will hit them**
- **But even when things start go wrong they still cannot read the warning signs and continually things escalate.**
- **Proverbs 12:13 "The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble."**
- **Good example Haman.**
- **If what you're saying is causing trouble that trouble will come back on your own head.**
- **Ill gotten words reflect the character that lies beneath them.**

18:7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

- **Psalms 5:9 "For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness; their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue."**
- **They know how to say the absolute worst thing at the wrong time.**
- **A fool's mouth brings destruction back on his own head, as surely as a bird is trapped in a snare.**
- **Proverbs 11:16 "A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches."**

18:8 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.

- **The misfortunes of others gives some such great joy as if they were eating gourmet meal—it is to savored. It is good to know the dirt.**

- We give no thought to how embarrassed a person might be or their reputation has been destroyed, even though every one of those sins have come under the blood of Christ.
- But remember you are going to fall to the same circumstances because there is plenty of dirt in everyone of our lives.
- John 8:6-9 "...Jesus stooped down, and with His finger wrote on the ground, as though He heard them not. So when they continued asking Him, He lifted up Himself, and said unto them, he that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. And again He stooped down, and wrote on the ground. And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst."

18:9 He who is slothful in his work Is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.

- Metaphor of two brothers from the same family of losers, one brother lazy, the other a great destroyer, both of them accomplish the same ungodly thing.
- We should be hard working. Romans 12:11 "Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord."
- The greatest way to be lazy is to let down concerning God's calling. The guy who buried his talent Christ called him slothful.
- Hebrews 6:11-12 "And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: that ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises."

18:10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.

- A strong tower is where we have high ground and the distinct advantage when attacked. God uses this metaphor to get us to understand God not only loves us but promises us protection from harm—an aspect of Him revealing Himself as the Almighty.
- Psalms 61:2-4 "From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For thou hast been a shelter for me, and a strong tower from the enemy. I will abide in thy tabernacle for ever: I will trust in the covert of thy wings. Selah."
- A Person who comes to know God, they know where to go in times of trouble, without any haste. God looks forward to when we literally depend upon Him. He doesn't want us to go it alone.
- Men will always let you down at least that is the attitude Christ had when the crowds praised Him.

18:11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his own esteem.

- **A rich man has no faith in God He trusts in his own wealth as a testament to himself, not God. But a man's wealth does not answer the big issues of life as Solomon learned. Money makes a very poor god.**
- **Money can be a false god, an obstacle in answering the calling of God, and if acquired dishonestly now the sins begin to mount up.**
- **Render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's and to God the things that are God's.**
- **God warns the ministry about filthy "lucre."**
- **Micah 3:11 "The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money : yet will they lean upon the LORD, and say, Is not the LORD among us? none evil can come upon us."**

18:12 Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility.

- **God promises a prideful person with a big mouth will meet his destruction.**
- **A person who humbles themselves God will exalt.**
- **One of the purposes in this life and living in this world is to learn what life is not—which should lead to true humility. If we are learning this then God can work with us.**
- **If we are haughty and proud then we are happy with ourselves and this life and that is not acceptable to God. In this state He cannot call us or work with us moving us toward what life is. God then will make things more difficult to get us to come to the reality of the truth as Job did.**
- **God gives a very clear principle to stay out of trouble or at least minimize the amount of difficulty we face.**
- **Mark 10:31 "But many that are first shall be last; and the last first."**

18:13 He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.

- **Nothing stupider than a person that doesn't even know the question before they start trying to give the answer.**
- **God gives us a very simple system (1) be quiet, (2) listen, (3) then speak.**
- **Ecclesiastes 12:14 "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man."**

18:14 The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?

- **A man's courage can sustain his broken body, but when courage dies, what hope is left?**
- **We can endure physical infirmities but a broken heart can destroy us.**
- **Psalms 34:18-19 "The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart ; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all."**
- **Matthew 5:4 "Blessed are they that mourn : for they shall be comforted."**

18:15 The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

- **Smart, prudent, wise people are godly people (having righteousness imputed to them) and they want to learn because they want to do things right and please God.**

18:16 A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.

- **In life there is a protocol and good manners, giving a gift as long as it is not a bribe is not wrong.**
- **A gift does wonders; it will bring you before men of importance! Because they are full of vanity and greed and need to be given things of value before they will render a judgment.**
- **Luke 16:9 “And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness ; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.”**

18:17 The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.

- **When making judgments get both sides. Any story sounds true until someone tells the other side.**
- **People who want to win distort the circumstances and arguments—kind of like today’s legal system. People can state their case with passion but not with justice.**
- **We must therefore remember that we have two ears, to hear both sides before we give judgment.**
- **A proper expression of godly love. The first duty of a judge was to execute absolute justice, showing the same impartiality to rich and poor, to Jew and foreigner. He was forbidden to accept bribes or to wrest the judgment of the poor (Exodus 23:6-8; Deuteronomy 16:19). He must not let himself be swayed by popular opinion, or unduly favor the poor (Exodus 23:2-3).**

18:18 Casting lots causes contentions to cease, and keeps the mighty apart.

- **A coin toss ends arguments and settles disputes between powerful opponents.**
- **The lot was always resorted to by the Hebrews with strictest reference to the interposition of God, and as a method of ascertaining the divine will.**
- **Leviticus 16:7-8 “And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat.”**
- **Men of themselves cannot resolve any difficulty because their word and judgment is no good.**

18:19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.

- **When your brother is offended he will be hard to reconcile or be able to reach because he is hurt, being he loved you he expected more from you. The issue is larger a disagreement there is feeling betrayal.**
- **Of his father in law Ahithopel, David grieved, Psalms 55:12-113 “For it was not an enemy that reproached me; then I could have borne it: neither was it he that hated me that did magnify himself against me; then I would have hid myself from him: But it was thou, a man mine equal, my guide, and mine acquaintance. We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company.”**

18:20 A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; from the produce of his lips he shall be filled.

- **A person who is honest and works hard enjoys the fruit of his labor implying the dishonest who have more do not.**
- **Stolen waters are not sweet.**
- **Isaiah 5:20 “ Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter !”**

18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- **Those who love to talk will suffer the consequences. Men have died for saying the wrong thing!**
- ***Those who love it*, means those who are good speakers or teachers will be judged not on how well they speak but on the substance of what they say.**
- **How many thousands died because of lying Indians treaties expressed in the most eloquent terms. They were told to “endeavor to persevere,” while secretly the government believed the only good Indian was a dead Indian.**

18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the Lord.

- **The man who finds a godly wife finds a good thing; she is a blessing to him from the Lord.**
- **The woman was meant to be a spiritual gift to help man learn the lessons of love and family, he is not going to learn from self serving, women of the world.**
- **God distinguishes between godly and ungodly women. Genesis 6:1-2 “Now it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born to them, that the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful; and they took wives for themselves of all whom they chose.”**
- **We know where this ended up.**
- **Judge not the outward beauty but the inward character.**
- **1 Peter 3:5 “For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands:”**

18:23 The poor man uses entreaties, but the rich answers roughly.

- **The poor man says please, is courteous, and understands the importance of good manners, to gain favor, the rich need favor from no one and can get away with bad manners. Or so they think.**
- **Intreaty has a feminine quality basis for the word, meaning asking a favor.**
- **But speaking to someone softly and friendly is the right way because that is the way God does things. When we do this we are emulating God. He always gives us freedom of choice.**
- **Proverbs 15:1 “A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.”**

18:24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

- **To have friends you have to be a friend. Unfriendly people will hold you at arms length.**
- **A real friend will be closer to you than a brother, but that friendship must cultivated with friendliness. The Bible is showing there are different degrees of friendship and what you put into is what you get out of it.**
- **It gives us an understanding how our relationship grows. It can deepen, grow more intense. There is no end to how close we can grow in our relationship with God.**
- **2 Peter 3:18 “But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”**

Note: In our lives how much of our time is wasted on empty foolish chatter? God doesn't want us to waste our lives and the precious time we have been given: being taught false traditions and customs, being subject to negative influences, listening to gossip, listening to false teaching about God and our purpose for our lives, people appealing to our vanity, or enticements to do evil or even dribble—mindless chatter. This even encompasses watching countless TV shows that shape our thinking. Nor does God wants us conveying these things to others. God wants this entire world system to die—every vestige of it. Physically the connection between speaking and hearing was intended for us to learn things that matter, to teach us things of lasting importance. In one sense it does not matter whether they come directly from the mouth of God, if they are conveyed by a servant, or written down thousands of years ago—it only matters that the words are spiritually pure. It matters that they are credible and not only teach us the truth but challenge our approach to life.

Ephesians 5:19-21 “Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ; Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God.”

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.”
World’s dialogue.**

PROVERBS 19

19:1 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

- **Contrasting two divergent approaches to life—that end up in two different places.**
- **Good people walk honestly, evil people talk perversely. Perverse means to turn aside, to pervert, corrupt from God’s focus—through what ever way they can, chiefly through deceit and hypocrisy or violence if need be. They not only hate God but exploit the poor and then want to be remembered as great men, while God blots out their memory.**
- **God in the end summarizes their life as being foolish, because they have accomplished nothing in this life. They have failed life’s purpose, all their wealth and power will be taken from them, and they will be known for what they were.**
- **The poor are more likely to understand what life is not and everything God gives them they are more likely to appreciate. God gives them what they need, not what human nature covets. They begin as indentured servants slowly building their lives to where God wants it and in the end they will inherit all things. The lesson of the 50 year Jubilee**
- **A Christian under grace can have integrity. It means honestly, simply, without ulterior motive, without pretense.**
- **Philips criticism of Christ, Israelite in who there is no guile. Psalm 32:2.**
- **Yes their sinners, yes their under grace, yes they have a contrite heart, but they honestly love God. Those who are perishing have no integrity and not even worthy of being remembered.**
- **Even if there are differences God shows come let us reason together.**

19:2 Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he sins who hastens with his feet.

- **Desire without knowledge is not good, and to be overhasty is to sin and miss the mark.**
- **To miss the mark is to miss God’s purpose for our lives.**
- **Enthusiasm without knowledge is not good; impatience will get you into trouble.**
- **Fools go where angels fear to tread.**
- **The road to hell is paved with good intentions.**
- **The bottom line before you make any decision find out what God’s position is on it. If you don’t know don’t get involved.**
- **Learn to regulate your social interactions.**
- **1 Thessalonians 3:11-13 “Now God Himself and our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ, direct our way unto you. And the Lord make you to increase and abound in love one toward another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you: to the end**

He may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints.”

19:3 The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the LORD.

- **The foolishness of man twists; ruins their affairs, taking them further and further away from God until there is no way back and their conscious is seared. Then in the end they blame God for everything that has happened to them. But even in this they have told themselves lies.**
- **Why does this world suffer so many tragedies, because they severed themselves from God and follow Satan that is dedicated to their destruction.**

19:4 Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.

- **People who don't think in terms of right and wrong show preferential treatment to people who can do something for them or to people they would like to be. They don't consider God sees them as failures.**
- **God unlike man has an affinity for the poor, the weak, the homeless, the destitute, the orphan and widow. But most of us don't want to associate with people like this that don't serve our pocket books, our vanity and pride.**
- **If you ever want a friend Jesus said the poor you always have with you. If you lonely go out make a friendship God will bless.**

19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.

- **If you're a liar and a sneak God promises you won't get away with it. Especially if you try to hurt God's people. If you cause others pain and suffering it will come back on your own head.**
- **Example Haman**

19:6 Many entreat the favor of the nobility, and every man is a friend to one who gives gifts.

- **Negatively expressed. God hates deception, politics, hypocrisy, and deceit.**
- **God clearly saw the *modus operandi* of the Pharisees, Sadducees, and scribes.**
- **They did not understand God's purpose for life neither were they able to teach it to others.**

19:7 All the brothers of the poor hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him.

- **Human nature has very limited vision. If they even write a letter they won't answer it.**

- **James 2:5-7 “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which He hath promised to them that love Him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?”**
- **Example of the state of Job, even his wife told him to curse God and die. Servants he bestowed many kindnesses on now wanted nothing to do with him.**

19:8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good.

- **Understanding is the object of knowledge, given considerable thought to. Determining God’s focus for the purpose for this life. He makes this his reference for life. Why because you intend to use your knowledge and understanding living by it.**
- **To be "foolish" is to be godless in an empty meaningless life.**
- **Living the way God wants us to strengthens our own future.**

19:9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish.

- **A false witness has ulterior motives, the hope of personal gain, instead of looking to God to provide for him. As you intended to destroy the lives of the innocent it is your life that will be destroyed. God will see to it. That is God’s promise.**
- **Principle God gave through Abraham, He will bless those who bless us and curse those who curse us.**
- **Our motivation can be based upon our conscience—on personal values or practicality of looking out for our own hide. But the fact is still the same. Don’t get involved with liars, thieves, murderers, crooks, and low life’s.**
- **It makes them an accessory to a crime or else they wouldn’t be lying as a witness.**
- **If this is your approach, as secretive as you might be in the end you are only going to hurt yourself.**
- **Our witness should be in accordance with the gospel as benefit for all men.**

19:10 Luxury is not fitting for a fool, much less for a servant to rule over princes.

- **Wealth isn’t wrong—abundance of possessions or resources. During the times of the Patriarchs, wealth was measured largely in livestock-sheep, goats, cattle, donkeys, and camels. It is not God’s will be destitute.**
- **3 John 2 “Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.”**
- **It can be a blessing so we can provide for our families, give to the poor, use our substance to honor God.**
- **Remember one of the reasons God wants us to struggle in poverty is to learn what life is not and to truly appreciate God so He is turn can bless us.**
- **Psalms 107:5-9 “Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried out to the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. And He**

led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city for a dwelling place. Oh, that men would give thanks to the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! For He satisfies the longing soul, and fills the hungry soul with goodness.”

- **Wealth becomes sin when we make the pursuit of money our life’s purpose. When it makes us think we are better than others.**
- **A fool and his money so go separate ways.**
- **He does not understand the purpose of money as a tool to be used to grant freedom for people not to be entangled with all the financial worries of this life. So they are free to pursue their relationship with God as Adam & Even in the garden.**
- **The more a fool has the less he has. The more he has the more trouble he gets into with God. Because of ill gotten gain now he thinks he free to sink in sin even deeper failing life’s purpose.**
- **Just as a servant cannot rule over a prince, a fool cannot rule over wealth.**

19:11 The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression.

- **Some times in human relationships things heat up when they ask if you put money in the register. Or have cameras on you. Chris said, in the world there are offenses many.**
- **When problems come up there is a right way to handle them. Discretion means thinking the problem our not emotionally exploding.**
- **We should learn the advantage of doing the right things and not behaving impulsively. Do it because God has revealed to us we will have a better outcome and avoid pitfalls the foolish fall into. A wise man sees trouble coming and hides.**
- **What good does do to argue with a fool.**
- **We don’t need to get our pound of flesh, win every argument, get in the last word.**

19:12 The king’s wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.

- **A lion’s roar is loud and frightening and the last thing you hear before it kills you.**
- **The dew of the field waters your field so you don’t have to irrigate it. A considerable blessing is you have 100 acres of crops.**
- **The king has the greatest power to bless you or curse you. Example of Joseph and Pharaoh’s relationship.**
- **This alluding to God as our Sovereign has within His hands the power of life and death over us. The greatest blessings bestowed through grace and outside of grace the greatest terrors.**
- **Psalms 72:5-7 “They shall fear You as long as the sun and moon endure, throughout all generations. He shall come down like rain upon the grass before mowing, like showers that water the earth. In His days the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace, until the moon is no more.”**

- **But God is no fool. Leviticus 26:15-17 “And if ye shall despise My statutes, or if your soul abhor My judgments, so that ye will not do all My commandments, but that ye break My covenant: I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague (probably malarial fever), that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of heart: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it. And I will set My face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you; and ye shall flee when none pursueth you.”**

19:13 A foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.

- **The most unsatisfying things in a husband or father’s life, after he has made a life commitment to his family is see his son will not listen to him and pursues a way of life that hurts himself and his children. The underlying motive is deep disrespect.**
- **But additionally a nagging wife who opposes and undermines her husband continually trying to take control of the role God has given the man, instead of giving him honor and respect. These conditions do not convey the lessons God wanted him to learn from family life.**
- **Proverbs 25:24 “It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.”**
- **Willful disobedience is the same as eating from the Tree Of Knowledge of Good and Evil.**
- **A woman who nags her husband is trying to wear him down to take control of the family.**
- **A woman who doesn’t fulfill her role as wife automatically fails as a mother too.**
- **Lot’s wife’s disrespect for her husband can be evidenced in the children who wouldn’t leave Sodom and perished. When we look at the fate of Job’s children and the wife’s behavior should come as no suprise.**
- **All married people should question does God see their marriage union as a mistake, unequally yoked, especially where there is fighting and contentions,.**
- **The Apostle Paul stated when faced with this it is better to be alone than to be joined to one who, instead of being a meet-help, is doing the very opposite and hindering you.**
- **God, no man set up the family structure to give it the greatest chance for success. If we fulfill our roles then everybody benefits.**
- **The duties of godly husbands and godly wives are distinctly set forth in the Bible—part of God’s plan.**
- **But God tells any in bad marriage not to despair. Mark 3:33-35 “And He (Christ) answered them, saying, Who is My mother, or My brethren? And He looked round about on them which sat about Him, and said, Behold My mother and My brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of God, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.”**

- If others choose to live contrary it is their decision and the end they will bring shame on themselves.
- 1 Corinthians 7:15 “But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.”

19:14 Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

- A man who thinks about the future and welfare of his children is a godly father, a prudent woman is a godly wife who takes her godly role seriously.
- A prudent woman has a good understanding of what God expects from her and seeks not only to be a good mother, a good wife, but more importantly to be a good Christianity pleasing God. She will study the scriptures which define the proper character and through through holy spirit she will begin to do what it is God wants her to do.
- To the chagrin of Ophra Winfrey and the modern day feminists, she will let God define her womanhood. Any other broad approach she recognizes is filled with snares. If she to make this life count for the greatest good she must follow the path God has given her.
- For the love of her family, her husband, children, to please God or from entire selfish point of view this is to her advantage to do what is right.
- Proverbs 31:30 “Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised.” Now and at the resurrection.
- 1 Peter 3:1-6 “Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. Do not let your adornment be merely outward — arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel — rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”
- We should study biblical principals the Bible outlines but how many woman really read them or think about them because they are doing what they want. The woman God defines, not only works hard and feeds her family, she is honest, loyal, she is feminine not a feminist, wears her hair for her husband, works to become his glory, dresses modestly, she knows how to be in charge but never undermines her husband, she makes sure her husband’s reputation is held up in the gates of the city, doesn’t talk to much, has a quiet submissive personality, is his conscience to help him to spiritually grow, is a coheir with her husband, is constantly learning to do things and developing things to be a greater asset to the family but never shame her husband.
- Just as a man should weigh the scriptures on how to be a proper father and husband so should a wife weigh the scriptures setting guidelines for being a mother

and wife. Failure to do so will impact on the quality of our relationships as well as harming relationships with God.

19:15 Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.

- **God is big on working and not on being lazy. It is poor character according to God to be content to collect unemployment checks, do nothing or abandon their family.**
- **Many people who retire and do nothing don't last 6 months. Were meant to work.**
- **Luke 12:16-20 "Then Jesus told them this parable: "There was once a rich man who had land which bore good crops. He began to think to himself, 'I don't have a place to keep all my crops. What can I do? This is what I will do,' he told himself; 'I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, where I will store the grain and all my other goods. Then I will say to myself, Lucky man! You have all the good things you need for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself!' But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night you will have to give up your life; then who will get all these things you have kept for yourself?' "**
- **Why is working so important because we are interrelating with other people, developing God given skills. But if we will not seek to provide for our wives and children then God sees us as a reprobate, untrustworthy, truly not loving our families as surely as the woman who fails to be the glory of her husband.**
- **God provided all the categories of the relationships in this life from family, friends, to the stranger in land. We don't get to pick and choose we only get to respond.**
- **If we don't want to fulfill the roles as God has outlined them then we are wasting our lives and have fail life itself.**

19:16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die.

- **We should always mediate the full intent of anything God tells us. If we love God we will.**
- **Matthew 6:21 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:"**
- **Never assume anything.**
- **Isaiah 26:8-9 "Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness."**
- **Being careless is being lukewarm. Every day of our lives we should be striving to become more spiritually minded. Consider this as a another holy season is upon us.**

19:17 He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.

- **This is one of the promises of God. It is challenge for any approach to life and nothing more needs to be said.**

19:18 Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.

- **No matter what mistakes you have made in the past take correction action to help your son now—while there is till time, no longer support any position of spiritual weakness. You may have given in, in the past but today it must change. Any emotional point of view we have God shows we haven't got a leg to stand on. If he won't listen then let him learn what life is not. You cannot support a willful irresponsible child in any manner: emotionally, physically, with money, or being involved in any family circumstance.**
- **A husband and wife that will not stand together should never have children.**

19:19 A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; for if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.

- **People who are impulsive and hot tempered are going to get themselves into trouble. Because they are always going to see things they don't like.**
- **If you keep bailing them out and not insisting they learn there will be no end to the problems.**
- **How many family members have been killed because of a violent argument that escalated.**
- **A person with a bad temper while they are level one anxiety tell them you are going to have nothing to do with them before they reach level ten.**

19:20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.

- **God gives us this physical life to learn and prepare us for spiritual life. He wants us to make this life count for the greatest good.**
- **2 Peter 3:9 "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."**

19:21 There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the LORD's counsel — that will stand.

- **Man proposes God disposes. Broad is the way which leads to destruction and narrow is the way to life. God has only one purpose for this life for all of humanity not the diverse views we endlessly pursue in vain.**

19:22 What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar.

- **A man's kindness is what makes him desirable,' and acceptable to all; or, 'A man's kindness is a desirable adornment to him.' The parallel clause accords with this, "A poor man (who is disposed to acts of kindness as far as his means extend) is better than a liar" - i.e than a rich man who lyingly withholds the riches which he hath, and with which he has promised to relieve the afflicted poor.**

19:23 The fear of the LORD leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil.

- **Fear of the Lord has a broad application from reverence to absolute fear and terror.**
- **Our initial fear of God at His calling goes through a process of change where we are in awe of Him.**
- **1 John 4:18-19 "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love. We love him, because he first loved us."**

19:24 A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, And will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

- **Falls asleep when eating. What else can you say.**
- **In doing it wrong there are extremes we can go to that shows just how far from God we are.**

19:25 Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge.

- **Arrogance should be punished, so that people who don't know any better can learn a lesson. If you are wise, you will learn when you are corrected.**
- **If you get corrected for something you need to get corrected for don't get upset take the loss. It already happened now learn from it.**

19:26 He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

- **The progression with child problems is first the battle begins with the father but as time goes on the mother who loved her son unconditionally has to face reality. In the end such a son even drives their mother away. A shameful state that discredits the entire family.**
- **Like reading your family name in the criminal section of the newspaper.**

19:27 Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.

- **We can't just learn what's right once, it has to be an on going part of our lives for the rest of our lives.**

19:28 A disreputable witness scorns justice, and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.

- **A disreputable witness makes a mockery of the entire system.**
- **There is no justice where a witness is determined to hurt someone. Wicked people love the taste of evil.**

19:29 Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

- **In the end no body gets way with anything. Goes around come around. Just as God can have a relationship with each of us, He knows the spiritual state of everybody.**
- **If were committed in our relationship with God, He will remove our sins as far as the east to the west.**
- **If we stand independent outside of grace, then every word out of our mouth we will give account for.**

Proverbs 20

20:1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.

- **Such scriptures such as this have caused Baptists to assume all alcohol is a sin. Wine or strong drink is not being criticized but the purpose it used.**
- **God created the fermentation process: wine and strong drink for our benefit—in moderation.**
- **Alcohol was to be used as a relaxant after your work is done. But every day is not a feast day. Going out drinking leaving your children home alone is not acceptable.**
- **Jesus Christ miraculously supplied wine at the marriage feast in Cana of Galilee (John 2:1-11).**
- **A drink-offering of wine was presented with the daily sacrifice (Exodus 29:40,41), and also with the offering of the first-fruits (Leviticus 23:13), and with various other sacrifices (Numbers 15:5,7,10). Wine was used at the celebration of the Passover. At the Feast of Tabernacles we told to drink strong drink.**
- **Just like they have on the bottle today, God is giving a warning. Alcohol carries with a warning as everything does in this life. Anything done to excess is wrong.**
- **Luke 21:34 “And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.” Means you haven't prepared for the return of Christ.**
- **Your desires for the good life exceed character.**
- **Ephesians 5:18 “And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit.”**

- **What is being spoken of using alcohol to escape your responsibilities.**
- **Excessive alcohol is not your friend, metaphorically it ridicules you—because it leads to your disgrace. That is another way of saying you have failed the purpose for your life.**
- **In the end what will happen. You go to a premature grave and there isn't anyone including your children that will have a good thing to say about you.**
- **The word is used figuratively, when men are spoken of as being drunk with sorrow, and with the wine of God's wrath (Isaiah 63:6; Jeremiah 51:57; Ezekiel 23:33).**

20:2 The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion; whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life.

- **Kind of leaders Christ criticized who have power over the people. Their word is law. God is very merciful and slow to wrath, but an earthly king you will not find so benevolent. When you are in the presence of such men for your own well being keep your tongue in your head. Show respect. Because they have the power to make impulsive decisions that could cost your life. Picking you battle.**

20:3 It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.

- **An honorable person, spiritually mature, a role model will not be provoked to strife. He knows when to depart. A fool's emotions are out of control.**

20:4 The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing.

- **A lazy person will not carry out God's appointed task to men to earn their bread in the thorns and thistles and dust of the earth. When he has not worked as other men, when he has nothing he thinks he should receive charity. He should receive from the efforts of other men who have worked hard.**

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

- **No limit to the capacity of the human mind. It is unexplored. Today they tell us we use 5% of the minds capacity. It is far beyond a computer. A spiritually minded person will attempt to explore its full potential—Abraham at 100 years of age. Thinking is the first step in accomplishing great tasks. How many people think at all? It can take in physical and spiritual information and discern it.**

20:6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?

- **Most people are righteous in their own eyes, just as Satan is. People see the other guy's faults not their own.**
- **Job's problem.**

- **But a faithful man who can find? - a man who in very deed performs the beneficence which he professes. Few, in acts of so-called charity, do them from sincere love to God and to their neighbour, without reference to their own gain or honour,**

20:7 The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.

- **The righteous has righteousness imputed to him.**
- **Integrity means not putting on a show but doing it as best as he can with out impure motives.**
- **With a clear conscience he behaves as God has shown him how to behave and he passes those blessings on to his children.**
- **His children admire his example and do not see him as a hypocrite with as many problems as they have.**

20:8 A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters all evil with his eyes.

- **Evil stays away from a king that will not compromise what is right. If he has a reputation for swift justice many will think before they do the crime. Capitol punishment as a deterrent.**

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

- **No one. Righteousness is imputed to us though the blood of Christ.**

20:10 Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an abomination to the LORD.

- **A planned approach to cheat others of what they rightfully work for. Something which is terribly wrong. God doesn't treat it like a misdemeanor but a felony.**

20:11 Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right.

- **Talk is cheap. Even a child's positive example benefits everybody.**

20:12 The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both.

- **Hearing the word of God and see its examples are ways we learn. God has eyes to see and ears to ears and because we are made in God's image & likeness we can communicate on the same plane.**

20:13 Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.

- Sleep is a metaphor for death. Being awake is a metaphor for life. But when we don't want to face life, sleep is a false place of refuge. But when you don't engage in life you have nothing to show for it.

20:14 "It is good for nothing," cries the buyer; but when he has gone his way, then he boasts.

- It shows to the degree that God watches us. Even when we shop. Are we dishonest.
- How apt are men to decry the goods they wish to purchase, in order that they may get them at a cheaper rate; and, when they have made their bargain and carried it off, boast to others at how much less than its value they have obtained it!
- Insight into God's character. God doesn't like dishonesty of any kind.
- The problem is they have lied for earthly gain, how much more for spiritual gain.

20:15 There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

- Gold and rubies are not true examples of wealth because evil men can own them. Real wealth is when your lips can pass on an understanding of God's plan and purpose for our lives.
- Jude 16-17 "These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaketh great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage. But, beloved, remember ye the words which were spoken before of the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ."

20:16 Take the garment of one who is surety for a stranger, and hold it as a pledge when it is for a strange woman.

- Don't discriminate against men or women.
- If a stranger or unknown person becomes surety in a case, greater caution should be used, and such security taken from this stranger as would prevent him from running away from his engagements.

20:17 Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.

- Does crime pay. Obtained through violence at the end He says you will perish by the sword.
- Stolen waters are sweet but God will not bless you and the moment of pleasure with sin will return as sorrow to a greater degree.
- God is always watching. In the end that ill gotten gain costs more than if you purchased it.
- God's laws of restitution. Twofold, fourfold, and even fivefold restitution of things stolen, and restitution of property unjustly retained, with twenty per cent. over and above. He who, by ignorance, should omit to give to the Temple what was appointed

by the law — for example, in the tithes or first-fruits — was obliged to restore it to the priests and to add a fifth part besides, over and above which he was bound to offer a ram for his expiation. Nehemiah prevailed with all those Israelites to make restitution who had taken interest of their brethren (Nehemiah 5:10,11), and Zacchaeus (Luke 19:8) promises a Fourfold restitution to ail from whom he had extorted in his office as a publican.

20:18 Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war.

- Anything worthwhile should be planned and designed from numerous perspectives.
- If you are impetuous nor listen to others your life will not be blessed.
- People are impatient and want to rush into things. God wants you to sleep on it.

20:19 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.

- Though there is need of "counsel," yet it is not safe to ask it from everyone, and to tell secrets to everyone; for many go about as "talebearers," 'revealing secrets' which they have elicited by 'flattery.' Pretending to be your friend.
- Don't tell people you can't trust anything.
- Ecclesiastes 5:3 "...a fool's voice is known by multitude of words."

20:20 Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness.

- Searing your conscience. How dark that darkness can be. In darkness your unhappy. No fruits of the holy spirit, again refilled with the spirit of this world.
- If you curse your loved ones you are renouncing them as unclean and defiled, then God knows how you feel about Him. He will place you in darkness to show you are the one who is unclean and defiled.

20:21 An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning will not be blessed at the end.

- You don't give immortal life to immature Christians. Adam & Eve were blessed to soon.
- That is why stewards are placed over the young.
- Proverbs 22:15 "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."
- Children need to be trained and brought correction.
- When you don't have the character, honor is not seemly to a fool.

20:22 Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

- You don't need to strike back God will deal with those who obstruct your spiritual growth.

20:23 Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, and dishonest scales are not good.

- **Premeditated sin, which hurts others God sees as a felony. What I hope to get away with in the end I won't. Looking at all the paraments this is stupid.**

20:24 A man's steps are of the LORD; how then can a man understand his own way?

- **Steps to true success are God's way. How can a man find true happiness you can't.**

20:25 It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, and afterward to reconsider his vows.

- **God doesn't like liars, inconsistent people who change their minds. Your word should be your bond. Don't make hasty commitments. As snare if you do, you are going to get into trouble with God.**

20:26 A wise king sifts out the wicked, and brings the threshing wheel over them.

- **In any problem a wise king finds out who is responsible and eliminates them.**

20:27 The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart.

- **Man is spiritual as well as physical. Inner depths of our heart is where the spirit in man resides, it defines who we really are.**
- **Christ was going to remove His lamp from church congregation.**
- **Job 32:8 "But there is a spirit in man : and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding."**

20:28 Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by loving kindness he upholds his throne.

- **This is how you get ahead. Does this have an bearing on us? We the church are preparing to be kings and priests.**

20:29 The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head.

- **This what people take pride in. The most striking thing about men.**
- **The best thing about God—everything—now and forever. God is all knowing and wise, all powerful, all loving and merciful.**
- **Psalms 49:16-20 "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. Though while he lived he blessed his soul: and men will praise thee, when thou doest well to thyself. He shall go to the generation of his fathers;**

they shall never see light. Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish.”

- You want to be glorified forever, then glory in the Lord let Him be your strength and wisdom.

20:30 Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.

- When were talking hypothetically about penalties we think how bad could it be. Just as Israel did before the Assyrian invasion.
- When you understand the full reality of sin then and only then are you going to listen to God.
- Pain teaches us pragmatically what life is not. It turns us to God no longer wanting to repeat the former manner of life to our destruction.
- When you go through one automobile accident that is enough..
- 1 Peter 4:1 “Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin.”
- That is why God kicked Adam & Eve out of the Garden of Eden, they had to good for to long. It was time to suffer, to appreciate what they had.

Proverbs 21

21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

- Physical fulfillment and spiritual fulfillment of this.
- God grants us free moral agency to choose, and He has allowed Satan to be prince of power of the Air, He allows societies in rebellion, but God is still Sovereign over all. God allows independence but not total independence.
- Isaiah 40:21-26 “Have ye not known? have ye not heard? hath it not been told you from the beginning? have ye not understood from the foundations of the earth? It is He that sitteth upon the circle of the earth, and the inhabitants thereof are as grasshoppers; that stretcheth out the heavens as a curtain, and spreadeth them out as a tent to dwell in: That bringeth the princes to nothing; He maketh the judges of the earth as vanity. Yea, they shall not be planted; yea, they shall not be sown: yea, their stock shall not take root in the earth: and He shall also blow upon them, and they shall wither, and the whirlwind shall take them away as stubble. To whom then will ye liken Me, or shall I be equal? saith the Holy One. Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: He calleth them all by names by the greatness of His might, for that He is strong in power; not one faileth.”
- The astronomical heavens are place we will never live long enough to explore, measured in light years, to God they are as small as the smallest house we can think of a tent.

- Daniel 4:32 "...the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever He will."
- What did Jesus tell Herod. John 19:11 " Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against Me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered Me unto thee hath the greater sin."
- When God casts Satan out of heaven forever he is gone forever.
- God is not only our Creator, Lord, but El Shaddai the Omnipotent (om-nip'-o-tens)
- Omnipotent means sovereignty along side power, refers to the all-encompassing power of God.
- God is still the boss, this is His creation.
- He speaks and His word is law, and it is done. He is the all-powerful Lord who has created all things and sustains them by the Word of His power (Genesis 1:1-3; Hebrews 1:3). He has millions of angels at His disposal.
- God not only has the might and power to rule but the wisdom and love to rule wisely. Habakkuk 1:12-13 "Art thou not from everlasting, O LORD my God, mine Holy One? we shall not die. O LORD, thou hast ordained them for judgment; and, O mighty God, thou hast established them for correction. Thou art of purer eyes than to behold evil, and canst not look on iniquity: wherefore lookest thou upon them that deal treacherously, and holdest thy tongue when the wicked devoureth the man that is more righteous than he?"
- Revelation 19:5-6 "And a voice came out of the throne , saying, Praise our God, all ye His servants, and ye that fear Him, both small and great. And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth."
- The full reality of who God is goes off of the rector scale but because He is merciful He has not dealt with according to our many offences to Him.
- The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes
- For His brethren He doesn't want to force us He wants us to respond to Him as children. He wants us to be part of the ruling family or heritage. He wants us freely to accept Him as our Sovereign.
- God has insured, the quality of the very life we live now is based upon us learning these principles. Everything in life is associated with things we need to learn.
- Deuteronomy 11:13-17 "And it shall come to pass, if ye shall hearken diligently unto My commandments which I command you this day, to love the LORD your God, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul, that I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the first rain and the latter rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn, and thy wine, and thine oil. And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full. Take heed to yourselves, that your heart be not deceived, and ye turn aside, and serve other gods, and worship them; and then the Lord's wrath be kindled against you, and He shut up the heaven, that there be no rain, and that the land yield not her fruit; and lest ye perish quickly from off the good land which the LORD giveth you."
- As with Job He minimized the trials.

- **1 Corinthians 10:13** “There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape , that ye may be able to bear it.”
- **Without God, Satan would have turned this world into a wailing snake pit.**
- **God the Father sits on a throne for a reason. God the Father rules over an angelic realm of multiple millions.**
- **All sin is directed against God. All sin is rebellion against God. Daniel 9:8-9** "O Lord, to us belongs shame of face, to our kings, our princes, and our fathers, because we have sinned against You . To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, though we have rebelled against Him.”
- **God is as moral, upright, and loving as He is all powerful.**
- **The bedrock of faith is to claim the promises to of God. He will always fulfill them, He cannot die, He cannot lie, no obstacle can stand in His way, and He has the merciful heart and will to do so.**

21:2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.

- **Every man thinks he is right but God decides is he right. God considers all of the choices we make. He weighs the hearts but really He weighs the motives.**
- **Psalms 33:13-15** “The LORD looketh from heaven; He beholdeth all the sons of men. From the place of His habitation He looketh upon all the inhabitants of the earth. He fashioneth their hearts alike; He considereth all their works.”

21:3 To do righteousness and justice Is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

- **God cares more about what we do with our beliefs than trying to appear righteous or putting on a big show.**
- **Matthew 23:23** “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithes of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment , mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.”

21:4 A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin.

- **Sin comes in many forms. What do they all have in common, they are all contrary to the created purpose God intends all of us to live according. Sin attempts to finish us as a creation and long term God will not permit this.**
- **It defines not only what we are but what we work for and the kind of child we raise up.**
- **He that has a high look and a proud heart, that carries himself insolently and scornfully towards both God and man, and that is always ploughing and plotting, designing and devising some mischief or other, is indeed a wicked man. The light of the wicked is sin. Sin is the pride, the ambition, the glory and joy, and the business of wicked men.**

21:5 The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

- **Being a thoughtful hard worker is a spiritual quality. Those who lack the patience will build on unsure foundations.**

21:6 Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.

- **The end does not justify the means. Honesty is a spiritual quality.**

21:7 The violence of the wicked will destroy them, because they refuse to do justice.

- **Violence begets violence.**
- **Crime doesn't pay, in the end you will not win because there is a God in heaven.**
- **Proverbs 1:11-18 "If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood. Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird. And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives."**

21:8 The way of a guilty man is perverse; but as for the pure, his work is right.

- **Doing it wrong destroys your character, doing right not only accomplishes the task but changes who you are and makes you a better man. You also growing in one facet of your relationship with God.**
- **Person with a right attitude, striving for spiritual quality.**
- **Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect."**

21:9 Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

- **Notice God doesn't call her a wife.**
- **Avoid her and minimize her impact on your outlook on life and faith. She is not living according to God's purpose for her life so you don't need to fight with her let God deal with her.**
- **(It is) better to dwell in a corner of the house-top (though exposed there to wind, rain, heat, and cold), than with a brawling woman (a woman of contentions) in a wide house (a house of community: i.e., a house shared with her). The flat roofs in Eastern houses are often used as places of retreat for meditation and prayer (Acts 10:9).**

21:10 The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

- **Being a bad, troublesome neighbor is an unspiritual quality.**

21:11 When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; but when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

- **The scoffer is a faithless person as the latter days.**
- **The lives of those who have had righteousness imputed to them and the wicked are going in different directions. For God will teach him how to be a better man.**

21:12 The righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked, overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness.

- **For the wicked God has no choice but to curse his house in hopes they will learn what life is not, give them a basis for repentance, so they are not destroyed in the lake of fire.**

21:13 Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.

- **It is a spiritual law or principle, goes around comes a round. Physically fulfilled but even to a greater extent spiritually fulfilled.**
- **Ecclesiastes 11:1 “Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.”**
- **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.**

21:14 A gift in secret pacifies anger, and a bribe behind the back, strong wrath.

- **Gifts to others discreetly given can help them see your point of view.**
- **Luke 16:9 “And I say unto you, Make to yourselves friends of the mammon of unrighteousness; that, when ye fail, they may receive you into everlasting habitations.”**
- **The principle is Christ blessed all to show them what kind of kingdom is coming.**
- **Doing it as a bribe is outside of God’s plan and purpose. Such a gift corrupts the giver and receiver.**

21:15 It is a joy for the just to do justice, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

- **Once we have a relationship with God we do what we do because we love God joyfully.**
- **If you do justice it will bring you joy, if you do evil it will bring you destruction.**

21:16 A man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead.

- **If you loose your head your dead. If you have no idea what you are doing death will claim you. While the children of God have a thousand year rest in the kingdom of God.**

21:17 He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

- **Living for hedonistic, physical pleasures are unspiritual qualities.**

21:18 The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the unfaithful for the upright.

- **God will rather leave many wicked people to be cut off than abandon His own people.**
- **Isaiah 43:3-4 “ For I am the LORD thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee. Since thou wast precious in my sight, thou hast been honourable, and I have loved thee: therefore will I give men for thee, and people for thy life.”**
- **In essence God will do what ever it takes to save us, even His Son paid as a ransom for us**

21:19 Better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.

- **God shows if a woman is not going fulfill her role as a helpmate don't retreat to the roof top but you'd be better to move into the wilderness.**
- **1 Corinthians 7:15 “But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.”**

21:20 There is desirable treasure, and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it.

- **A person who loves God understands the importance of blessings appreciates the blessings he is given. A fool proves he cannot be trusted because squanders them, never using them for their created purpose. They play no role in His spiritual development.**

21:21 He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness and honor.

- **Some of the promises of God. Made righteous in Jesus Christ under the mercy and love of God. Sanctified, justified, glorified.**
- **Righteousness is being spiritually made right through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. Their on the path to salvation being finished as a creation.**

- Everything in the Bible has to do with everything in the Bible, well everything has to do with everything.

21:22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and brings down the trusted stronghold.

- Spiritually speaking it is not talking about going out to become a mercenary.
- 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds ;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.”

21:23 Whoever guards his mouth and tongue Keeps his soul from troubles.

- Never underestimate the power of saying something stupid.
- Don't open your mouth for the sake of stupidity.
- What you say can turn people away from God.
- Proverbs 31:8-9 “Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction. Open thy mouth , judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.”
- God has many wonderful things to teach us.
- Song of Solomon 5:16 “His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem.”

21:24 A proud and haughty man — "Scoffer" is his name; he acts with arrogant pride.

- No greater state of dishonesty for a person to be full of themselves.
- 2 Peter 3:3-4 “Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers , walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.
- They would name themselves with great titles of kings. God names them for what they are.
- Scoffer has an unloving view towards others, indicates the manifestation of contempt by insulting words or actions; which comes forth from a murderous heart.
- Spiritual murder."Scorn" refers rather to an inner emotion based on a sense of superiority; "scoff," to the outward expression of this emotion.

21:25 The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

- A person by the laws of nature who won't work is a person who should starve.
- 2 Thessalonians 3:10 “For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat.”

21:26 He covets greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare.

- **A sinner who covets things that are not his, but the righteous gives to others abundantly and does not covet what is being given.**

21:27 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with wicked intent!

- **What is worse than a wicked offering, a wicked offering given with a wicked attitude. What pleasure would God get from this, considering it undermines every creative purpose He has.**

21:28 A false witness shall perish, but the man who hears him will speak endlessly.

- **“A false witness will perish, and whoever listens to him will be destroyed forever.”**

21:29 A wicked man hardens his face, but as for the upright, he establishes his way.

- **A wicked man puts on a big front but the righteous know what they are doing.**

21:30 There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the LORD.

- **No argument against God you can truthfully win.**
- **It does not require faith to believe in God, faith has to do with your relationships with God.**
- **Individuals which call God a hob goblin and Christianity is no more valuable than knitting, know better.**
- **Psalms 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God . They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”**
- **The facts bear what is true and there is nothing they can substitute for the truth.**
- **Romans 1:18-26 “For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up**

unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:"

- People can't say they don't know any better their not converted.
- Amos 1:3 "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Damascus, and for four , I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they have threshed Gilead with threshing instruments of iron."
- Amos 1:8 "And I will cut off the inhabitant from Ashdod, and him that holdeth the sceptre from Ashkelon, and I will turn mine hand against Ekron: and the remnant of the Philistines shall perish, saith the Lord GOD."
- Amos 1:9 "Thus saith the LORD; For three transgressions of Tyrus, and for four , I will not turn away the punishment thereof; because they delivered up the whole captivity to Edom, and remembered not the brotherly covenant:"

21:31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD.

- Statement of faith and promise of God.
- Psalms 146:3-4 "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish."
- Psalms 118:8 "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man."
- Psalms 20:7 "Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the LORD our God."
- When times get rough God is your best offense and defense.
- Christ's advice? Matthew 10:19-20 "But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you."
- Your security in this life and for all time should be in God the Father through Jesus Christ.
- Psalms 62:10-11 "Trust not in oppression, and become not vain in robbery: if riches increase, set not your heart upon them. God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God."

Proverbs 22

22:1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.

- What is in a name? Today not much.
- To a person of low character they drag their family name through the mud. To a liar a name means more than what it is. It can never be lived up to, such as royal titles. *Lord Of The Rifts, Defender Of The Faithful, Great And Proud One Who Stands Before The Mighty*, bla, bla, bla.

- In antiquity “name” pointed to your father was: (nam) (shem; *onoma*; Latin *nomen* (2 Esd 4:1); verbs *onomazo*; Latin *nomino* (2 Esd 5:26). The word for "name" in the Old Testament is *shem* (also the name of one of the sons of Noah). The etymology means "to set a mark." Associated with sanctification. Spiritual connotation since *Shem* is the branch of the family of man God laid the foundation of the Church through Abraham, Isaac, Jacob (Israel).
- In the broadest sense a name is equivalent to an entire nation or tribe of people.
- When you received your name you were set apart as a child of your mother and father from the rest of the children in the neighborhood. It gives you your place in the family and right of inheritance. It denotes a relationship and how you are known.
- It is an entitlement of ownership.
- A name reveals things about God He wants us to understand to have a relationship with us. By revealing His name we are called into a relationship.
- The names of God reveal they are a family—Father & Son, Christ was the Creator, they are all powerful, and God the Father desires to share His name with us as bride takes her husband’s name.
- Jehovah-jireh - This name is translated as "The-LORD-Will-Provide," commemorating the provision of the ram in place of Isaac for Abraham's sacrifice (Genesis 22:14).
- Jehovah-nissi - This name means "The-LORD-Is-My-Banner," in honor of God's defeat of the Amalekites (Exodus 17:15).
- Jehovah-shalom - This phrase means "The-LORD-Is-Peace," the name Gideon gave the altar which he built in Ophrah (Judges 6:24).
- Jehovah-shammah - This phrase expresses the truth that "The-LORD-Is-There," referring to the city which the prophet Ezekiel saw in his vision (Ezekiel 48:35).
- Jehovah-tsebaoth - This name, translated "The-LORD-of-hosts," was used in the days of David and the prophets, witnessing to God the Savior who is surrounded by His hosts of heavenly power (1 Samuel 1:3).
- Jehovah Elohe Israel - This name means "LORD-God-of-Israel," and it appears in Isaiah, Jeremiah, and the Psalms. Other names similar to this are Netsah Israel, "The Strength of Israel" (1 Samuel 15:29); and Abir Yisrael "The Mighty One of Israel" (Isaiah 1:24).
- El. Another important root name for God in the Old Testament is El. By itself it refers to a god in the most general sense. It was widely used in ancient eastern cultures whose languages are similar to Hebrew and therefore may refer either to the true God or to false gods. The highest Canaanite god was El whose son was Baal. In the Bible the word is often defined properly by a qualifier like Jehovah: "I, the LORD (Jehovah) your God (Elohim), am a jealous God (El)" (Deuteronomy 5:9).
- Elohim is the plural form of El, meaning Creator. Some scriptures point toward the Father and others to Christ, yet the Father and Christ are one, Christ is indentified as the only righteous Branch of the tree of mankind, He is King, Wisdom, Shepherd, and Servant, personified Word of God, and Glory.

- **A name means everything. It represents what you are. A name best describes an entire family. It is inclusive of all. You may have never thought about it but “God” is best compared to a surname. Our heavenly Father is God, but so is Jesus Christ, and so will we be.**
- **God wants you to care a great deal about the name you were given. People may speak evil of you but let it be lies.**
- **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.”**
- **You name should be associated with your witness of the gospel of Jesus Christ.**
- **In essence let your name be synonymous with God’s name, as a literal son or daughter.**
- **2 Thessalonians 1:12 “That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ.”**
- **1 John 3:23 “And this is His commandment, That we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment.”**
- **A name means everything. Philippians 2:9 “Wherefore God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name.”**
- **We should love even the sound of God’s name. Psalms 5:11 “But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: let them ever shout for joy, because You defend them: let them also that love Your Name be joyful in You.”**
- **It is not about our name it is about God’s name. That God will place on us in the kingdom of God. We will forget our father’s house Psalm 45.**
- **Rev. 2:17; 3:12 God will place upon us a new name, written on a white stone.**
- **The white stone is a glistening diamond, the Urim borne by the high priest within the choshen or breastplate of judgment, with the twelve tribes’ names on the twelve precious stones, next the heart. The word Urim means light, answering to white. None but the high priest knew the name written upon it: probably the incommunicable name, "Yahweh." The high priest consulted it in some divinely-appointed way for direction from God when needful. Thummim Deuteronomy 33:9.**

22:2 The rich and the poor have this in common, the LORD is the maker of them all.

- **All of mankind are equal in respect to creation and common nature, same problems, same path to salvation.**
- **In this world there should be no such thing as the poor.**
- **Causes of poverty is sin and why God allows it is for mankind to learn what life is not.**
- **But God wants us to remember there is spiritual as well as physical wealth. There are many wealthy people who go to the grave with no hope whatsoever for the future.**
- **From God’s perspective: The rich need the labour of the poor; the poor the money and educated intelligence of the rich. Therefore the poor are not to be despised, nor the rich to be envied.**

- Both are obligated to love one another. The purpose of indenturement was to help them to mature and be self sufficient, as well as the year of Jubilee. God looks down on no one.
- God has a special place in His heart for the poor. Third tithe.
- When God calls us we are all spiritually poor.

22:3 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.

- There is a time to duck. There is a time to be silent. When speaking is going to cause you only more pain. If he sees situations to drag him into sin.
- A fool cuts his finger off not once, twice, but three times and never learns.
- Proverbs 5:2 “That thou mayest regard discretion , and that thy lips may keep knowledge.” Speak only when you have something worth saying.
- Discretion means purposeful, it means in the best interest, avoiding talking to much, or saying stupid things. Bringing out the best in yourself and others.
- Proverbs 25:11-12 “A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprove upon an obedient ear.” Words have powerful spiritual meaning.
- God does not want us to bring out the worst in others, being tackless, insensitive, thoughtless, foolish, hurtful, ignoring the well being of others.
- I am not going anywhere there is not something spiritual to accomplish.
- A person who doesn’t think, is going to sink.

22:4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.

- First be spiritually rich then maybe God may make you physically rich. People who live for money have spent so much time pursuing this they have never developed in humanistic areas of learning to love and care for others.
- The rich think they make up the rules they don’t.
- What a shock it must be for the wealthy when they die.

22:5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; he who guards his soul will be far from them.

- People who are perverse make the way for themselves and others difficult like journeying off of trails through briars and thorn bushes. The journey can be pleasant or it can be extremely painful, so it is with this life.
- A perverted way of thinking is ungodly.
- Psalms 64:5-6 “They encourage themselves in an evil matter: they commune of laying snares privily; they say, Who shall see them? They search out iniquities; they accomplish a diligent search: both the inward thought of every one of them, and the heart, is deep.”
- Narrow is road to life. It I also easier to stay on a path than climbing over sticker bushes.

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

- **Training means both parents, having the same consistent focus, should give careful consideration how to properly raise their children in the loving admiration of the Lord.**
- **Mistakes that were made were believing this is our church and later the children will decide for themselves. Keeping them preoccupied with coloring books was wrong. They were prepared to become the next worldly generation. Yet God said our children were holy and He was waiting for them. We turned them over to the world.**
- **Witnessing the gospel not only in instruction but showing the blessings and desirability of God's way of life as Christ did.**

22:7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

- **The rich and lender will loan you their money but at a greater cost by iron clad control.**
- **Setting up controlling classes which God does not support of, as well as ruling over the laity.**
- **In a world devoid of love and respect for the individual life: sell not your liberty to gratify your luxury. Avoid needless borrowing, by honorable and independent hard work.**
- **Remember the rich have become rich by exploiting the poor. People hold their power by convincing you, you have none.**

22:8 He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, and the rod of his anger will fail.

- **When you become the enemy of the poor and defenseless, God becomes your enemy.**
- **Isaiah 14:5-7 "The LORD hath broken the staff of the wicked, and the sceptre of the rulers. He who smote the people in wrath with a continual stroke, he that ruled the nations in anger, is persecuted, and none hindereth. The whole earth is at rest, and is quiet: they break forth into singing."**

22:9 He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.

- **Having an outgoing, loving attitude toward people will take you far.**
- **2 Corinthians 9:7 "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."**
- **When you take joy in helping other people God takes joy in you. That is a clear positive approach to life that unifies everybody as the peace offering.**

22:10 Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; yes, strife and reproach will cease.

- Where people are having problems you have to find the cause. The responsibility of all good rulers is addressing cause and finding solutions for the good of all.
- Nothing worse than when a leader turns a blind eye were others are being hurt.
- Part of the responsibility of what God is teaching us as future kings and priests is to learn to help and serve others.
- Isaiah 30:21 “And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left.”
- Look for the person who is loudest with the greatest complaint.

22:11 He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend.

- Love purity of heart, that’s our goal.
- Grace on lips want to positively touch others lives, because you see they fit in with the plan of God, too.
- Greater intimacy between us and God.
- A person of purity of heart, speaking with grace God can use to a greater degree. Who can deny such counsel.
- Luke 19:16-17 “And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.”

22:12 The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, but He overthrows the words of the faithless.

- When a person speaks the truth God supports it and will provide evidence to all it is the truth. But those who have no love for God, he will in the end reveal to all they are fools.
- The scientific community are largely a community of fools.
- Psalms 14:1-3 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

22:13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!"

- People who don’t want to work, fabricate excuses. The slothful (man) saith, (Their is) a lion without - inventing imaginary dangers to excuse his indolence in staying at home, instead of going forth into active business. Lions do not roam at large "in the streets," but in wild forests.

22:14 The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit; he who is abhorred by the LORD will fall there.

- **Feminine charm used for evil can only be escaped by the power of God.**
- **The mouth of an immoral woman is like an open grave waiting for all, but God will deliver His people from her clutches.**
- **Through her softness and persuasive voice as a woman she will lead him to places he should not go, yet she will arrest all his fears with lies, enticing him to a kiss which will be just as deadly as a poisonous snake. Yet her purpose is not to love but to manipulate, because she has no love for God she does not even know what love is. When she has captured his heart she will cruelly destroy it and everything that goes with it.**

22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

- **It cannot be easily torn from him. It is not necessarily your rod of correction at some point that must stop but the rod of correction God provides, to learn what life is not. This is why He cast out of the Garden of Eden Adam & Eve, to learn what life is not.**
- **The god we have bowed to (Satan) and the world we have constructed is a very cruel place to learn a great many lessons the hard way.**
- **A lesson learned hard will be less likely to be forgotten.**
- **Psalms 107:4-7 “They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble, and He delivered them out of their distresses. And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.”**
- **But how did God discipline us? He let the world discipline us, just like Job, setting the boundary of degree, Father of Lights doesn’t tempt anybody.**

22:16 He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches, and he who gives to the rich, will surely come to poverty.

- **If you want to come to a swift end oppress the poor and weak and down trodden.**
- **People in this world acquire wealth by exploiting the poor.**
- **Psalms 37:14-17 “The wicked have drawn out the sword, and have bent their bow, to cast down the poor and needy, and to slay such as be of upright conversation. Their sword shall enter into their own heart, and their bows shall be broken. A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked. For the arms of the wicked shall be broken: but the LORD upholdeth the righteous.”**

22:17-21 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge; For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; let them all be fixed upon your lips, so that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you. Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge, That I may

make you know the certainty of the words of truth, that you may answer words of truth To those who send to you?

- **1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and His commandments are not grievous.”**
- **God wants us to come to an increasing understanding to see God in the beauty of holiness. He is so much more than our Creator, being All Power, or as our Lord.**
- **To, know Him is to love Him, what is not to love. He is everything this world is not nor ever could be.**
- **Psalms 27:4 “One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.”**

22:22 Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate.

- **It addressing our motives for doing wrong. Don’t do evil because you think you can get away from it. The strongest motivator is don’t do it because it is wrong. It is a lack of love to steal from your brother.**
- **Maybe no sees but God always does. The reason not to do it is because what you think you are getting away with, you in fact are accomplishing the opposite, God will remove from you everything you hoped to achieve.**
- **To an extreme there is no violent criminal that didn’t come to the same end.**

22: 23 For the LORD will plead their cause, and plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

- **The advocate, legal representation before the high throne of God, for the spiritually poor, is through Jesus Christ.**
- **1 John 2:1-2 “My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and He is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.”**

22:24-25 Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go. Lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.

- **Stay away from certain kinds of people.**
- **Ill company corrupts good manners.**

22:26-27 Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, one of those who is surety for debts. If you have nothing with which to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you?

- Unless you have the extra cash on hand, don't countersign a note. Why risk everything you own? They'll even take your bed! Misunderstanding your actions are love but are in reality stupidity.
- Be careful about any agreement or covenant you make with people. The reason some people want to make an agreement with you, is because they want what you have worked for, that they haven't. If they have been financially irresponsible in the past what makes you think they are going to be financially responsible in paying you back. Most important of all you are denying the greatest lesson God wants mankind to learn to sow in the dust of the earth so they can know what life is not. Removing them from the basis of their calling.
- The reason they want to irresponsibly take advantage of the generous, good hearted people of God? Because they know God's blessings are there, God's people are naïve and can be taken advantage of, and if you can't pay in the world they will take everything you have.
- Luke 16:8 "...for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light."

22:28 Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.

- Don't practice dishonesty trying to steal the property of your neighbors.
- Don't covet your neighbor's property.
- God restored all lands back on the year of Jubilee.
- We are told to indirectly respect the rights of others.
- In the end the only land your going to get is a burial plot.

22:29 Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men.

- A person who is diligent will stand before professionals—renown in their field.
- Persons such as Joseph, Nehemiah, Daniel , the Apostles, most importantly Jesus Christ.
- Admonition to be the best you can be. A person who can discipline himself to work hard can discipline him morally in all areas to be the best he can be.
- God uses such individuals carry His gospel message before Kings and princes.
- Credible witness
- Revelation 10:11 "And He said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."
- Daniel 2:48-49 "Then the king placed Daniel in a high position and lavished many gifts on him. He made him ruler over the entire province of Babylon and placed him in charge of all its wise men. Moreover, at Daniel's request the king appointed Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego administrators over the province of Babylon, while Daniel himself remained at the royal court."
- God wants us to be a faithful witness to every member of society we come in contact with and sometimes the results can be suprising.

- The ruler of a pagan ruling empire recorded for all time, Daniel 4:37 “Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and exalt and glorify the King of heaven, because everything He does is right and all His ways are just. And those who walk in pride He is able to humble.”

Proverbs 23

- *This chapter summarizes some of the things a father most wants his son to remember. But to a greater degree it is things God wants to protect us from because they are faith destroying and will destroy our relationship with our Heavenly Father. Remember anytime God washes His hands of us, it because we have already washed our hands of God. The relationship was dead with Adam & Eve long before God cast them out of the Garden of Eden, they hid from Him. A loving Father speaking to his children ...*

23:1-3 When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you; And put a knife to your throat If you are a man given to appetite. Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food.

- People in the church will let you down, learn how to handle yourself to keep your faith intact.
- Be careful who you call friend. God is showing us be careful of church relationships.
- They may summon you to a banquet of fine foods but they are not for you. Don't eat greedily, or boldly or taking it for granted, as if your at home
- God wants us to realistically deal with issues and not allow others to ridicule us. On such occasions it is easy to start talking to much, that is why God says take your eating utensil and put it to your own throat.
- Esther 5:9-12 “Then went Haman forth that day joyful and with a glad heart: but when Haman saw Mordecai in the king's gate, that he stood not up, nor moved for him, he was full of indignation against Mordecai. Nevertheless Haman refrained himself: and when he came home, he sent and called for his friends, and Zeresh his wife. And Haman told them of the glory of his riches, and the multitude of his children, and all the things wherein the king had promoted him, and how he had advanced him above the princes and servants of the king. Haman said moreover, Yea, Esther the queen did let no man come in with the king unto the banquet that she had prepared but myself; and to morrow am I invited unto her also with the king.”
- Were there is silence there is humility.
- Christ said take the lower seat in the synagogues.
- Keep your distance from the rich and powerful they care nothing for fellowshiping with you because they do not love you. If they fellowship with you it serves their purpose they want your life or your wife. Trying to have a meaningful relationship with them will cause you nothing but pain.
- But ask yourself why you want to be friends with the rich and powerful when there are so many poor you can befriend?

- **James 2:5-8** “Hearken, my beloved brethren, hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well.”
- **When it comes to be influenced by the wealthy be careful. 1 Timothy 6:9-11** “But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 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.”
- **You want to know where true wealth comes from? Romans 10:12** “For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him.” Without the discrimination and class consciencousness we have in the church. God through Christ offers us genuine fellowship, just as a father for a child.”

23:4-5 Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.

- **Don't make being rich your goal. The things of this world are things that are not.**
- **And ask yourself why do you want to be friends with the rich and powerful and ignore the poor. If you do you are deceived wanting to be one of them—because of your own desire for pride and vanity, but you will never be one of them, nor will they accept you. Even if they pledge their friendship it will not last. Even if they desire your beauty it is only for today until someone else comes along they will desire more. They cannot love you because they do not know how.**
- **Remember your roots and you can keep from having your faith shattered. 1 Corinthians 1:28-29** “And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: that no flesh should glory in His presence.”
- **Compared to God we are all trailer trash.**
- **In a state of humility and a contrite heart you can receive grace. Under grace God will teach you all things you need to protect ourselves from this world. To grow up to become truly the powerful and rich.**
- **God doesn't want you to be one of the wealthy in this world. People who rely on riches as their false god have an uncertain future. It is a foundation soon swept away by the winds and rains.**
- **If you are not spiritually rich you have no future. James 5:1-3** “Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are motheaten. Your gold and silver is cankered; and the rust of them shall be a witness against you, and shall eat your flesh as it were fire. Ye have heaped treasure together for the last days.”

- Ophra on being thankful.
- Never forget God is our Benefactor. 2 Corinthians 6:10 “As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.”
- God slowly exalts us. 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.”
- Our wealth is synonymous with the name of God.
- If we learn the lessons God wants us to one day He will one day make us spiritually rich. 1 Corinthians 4:8 “Now ye are full, now ye are rich, ye have reigned as kings without us: and I would to God ye did reign, that we also might reign with you.” One day we will be independent of the ministry.
- But our very concepts of wealth must change. Ephesians 2:4 “But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us.”
- The time will come. Revelation 21:6-7 “And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh *shall inherit all things*; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.”
- If you want lasting wealth then humble yourself now, for later the wealthy will be made poor and given shovels.
- Is this your future from the hand of God? Psalms 45:8-17 “Your robes are perfumed with myrrh, aloes, and cassia. In your palaces of inlaid ivory, lovely music is being played for your enjoyment. Kings' daughters are among your concubines. Standing beside you is the queen, wearing jewelry of finest gold from Ophir. "I advise you, O daughter, not to fret about your parents in your homeland far away. Your royal husband delights in your beauty. Reverence him, for he is your lord. The people of Tyre, the richest people of our day, will shower you with gifts and entreat your favors." The bride, a princess, waits within her chamber, robed in beautiful clothing woven with gold. Lovely she is, led beside her maids of honor to the king! What a joyful, glad procession as they enter in the palace gates! "Your sons will some day be kings like their father. They shall sit on thrones around the world! "I will cause your name to be honored in all generations; the nations of the earth will praise you forever."

23:6-8 Do not eat the bread of a miser, nor desire his delicacies; for as he thinks in his heart, so is he. "Eat and drink!" he says to you, but his heart is not with you. The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, and waste your pleasant words.

- Family will let you down, learn how to keep your faith intact.
- God said the worse enemies you have will be in your own family.
- Don't be deceived into thinking you have a relationship because you don't. The hospitality they are forced to show you keeps them awake all night long, weighing everything they have given you. If you understood the truth it would make you physically sick.

- Don't speak godly things to ungodly people. Casting your pearls before swine.

23:9 Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

- Your children can let you down, keep your faith intact.
- You can't convert anyone or proselyte, establish your witness by your example.
- Romans 13:8 "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."
- Romans 14:22 "Hast thou faith ? have it to thyself before God. Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth."
- To attain salvation, it really is between you and God.
- James 4:4 "...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."

23:10-11 Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless; For their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you.

- Take nothing that does not belong to you, especially if it is the property of the orphan, or someone you can easily take advantage of.
- God is the Redeemer of the poor.
- God is a merciful, forgiving God, as long as we are merciful and giving.
- In ancient Israel there was no punishment for victimizing the poor because God would take care of them.
- One aspect of God as El Shadia, or Almighty. Deuteronomy 10:17-20 "For the LORD your God is God of gods, and Lord of lords, a great God, a mighty, and a terrible, which regardeth not persons, nor taketh reward: He doth execute the judgment of the fatherless and widow, and loveth the stranger, in giving him food and raiment. Love ye therefore the stranger: for ye were strangers in the land of Egypt. Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God; Him shalt thou serve, and to Him shalt thou cleave, and swear by His name."
- Remember the parable of the sheep and goats.

23:12 Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge.

- We want a relationship because it enriches our lives and helps us grow. God shows the relationship is with Me.
- Learn as you live this life, and always be willing to learn through out your entire life.
- But don't learn as an agnostic for the sake of learning. But explore the depths of God's wisdom to live this life, making it count for the greatest good.
- 1 Corinthians 8:1 "...Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth."
- 2 Timothy 2:7 "Consider what I say; and the Lord give thee understanding in all things."

- Ephesians 4:13-14 "...till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ..."

23:13-14 Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

- Physical punishment even if severe might save them from something far worse. The intent of punishment is to teach them what life is not and to give them a ready heart.
- Hell means *sheol* the grave
- Luke 12:47-48 "And that servant, which knew his lord's will, and prepared not himself, neither did according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes."
- Sometimes punishment is the only answer.

23:15-16 My son (*daughter*), if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice — indeed, I myself; Yes, my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak right things.

- But God rather not punish us but have us respond to Him because we love Him and know it is right.
- This is how God feels about us. He doesn't want us to see Him now because He wants us to experience His love far beyond words.
- Does God want a real relationship with us? That is His full intent of our calling.

23:17 Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day.

- Sometimes the Lord may put us on a lean path, in such times we should not be looking back.
- One of Israel's sins was murmuring. Numbers 11:4-6 "And the mixt multitude that was among them fell a lusting: and the children of Israel also wept again, and said, Who shall give us flesh to eat? We remember the fish, which we did eat in Egypt freely; the cucumbers, and the melons, and the leeks, and the onions, and the garlick: But our soul is dried away: there is nothing at all, beside this manna, before our eyes."
- When God tests us give Him what He wants, show Him our love will never fail. We are never going to let anything come between us and God.
- The Apostle Paul that was persecuted and endured more trials than we can imagine could endure any state he was in. An isolated church member many times.
- Philippians 4:12-13 "I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

- **The Apostle Paul knew how to happy in any state because of his relationship with God.**
- **Many of the people of God never trusted him which is why he was sent to the gentiles.**
- **When were alone were not really alone.**

23:18 For surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off.

- **The fruits for our actions in this life whether good or bad is proof of God’s plan.**
- **But the main purpose of God’s plan is not for us to blessed in this life but through those blessings we might allow God to finish us a creation to the become the sons and daughters of God.**
- **Life is transitory moving to a plane beyond our comprehension. Where we might have thought it was a blessing to go on vacation, one day we may be moving beyond the rings of Saturn, standing in the presence of angels, kneeling before our Heavenly Father in all heaven.**
- **Psalms 37:37-39 “Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together: the end of the wicked shall be cut off. But the salvation of the righteous is of the LORD: He is their strength in the time of trouble.”**

23:19 Hear, my son, and be wise; and guide your heart in the way.

- **Don’t be careless in planning your future. Don’t surrender your future as Adam & Eve to falsity. Be sure you are on solid ground.**
- **Matthew 7:24-27 “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: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.”**

23:20 Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; For the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.

- **Living for physical pleasure will severe you from desiring spiritual fulfillment. I here for the party.**
- **Matthew 6:24-25 “No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon. Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment?”**

23:22 Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

- If they gave you life they have your best interests at heart. What parent wants to see a child destroyed? Honoring your mother and father enables you to benefit from the people who love you most in this life. By listening to them in the Lord, they can save you many years of heartache.
- One thing God is telling the relationship is not equal.
- They have much to teach you in the short time they are on this earth, if you are listening. But to benefit you must be humble and not impatient, or walking in pride and vanity, loving only yourself. There is no justified reason to rebel because all you need to do is look around, to see the truth from a negative as well positive perspective. Also by respecting and loving your parents it is preparing you in your relationship with your heavenly Father.

23:23 Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

- The truth is more precious than gold or silver. For in truth is eternity.
- What was Jesus Christ's perspective, Psalms 31:3-5 "For thou art my rock and my fortress; therefore for thy name's sake lead me, and guide me. Pull me out of the net that they have laid privily for me: for thou art my strength. Into thine hand I commit my spirit: thou hast redeemed me, O LORD God of truth."
- The purpose for Satan's lies is to obscure God's intended purpose for why we were created to be His children. To teach us we are nothing.
- How does God want us to see Him? In the most dearest terms—*abba* Father. *Abba* Mark 14:36; Romans 8:15; Galatians 4:6—we can have the same relationship Jesus Christ had) Greek equivalent, which is translated "*father*." It is a term expressing the deepest affection and solid relationship you can have.
- In this society that is hard to comprehend because we live in a loveless, empty, destructive society Christ is going put in an incinerator.
- It has no perfect equivalent in our language. It has passed into European languages as an ecclesiastical term, "*abbot*."
- If we want to stay on the path of drawing closer to God through His word, there is no limit to how close we can grow to God. King David was a man after God's heart. Abraham and Moses were the friends of God.

23:24-25 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him. Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice.

- This has a spiritual and physical application.
- Why did we look to all those other wrong relationships, what were expecting to get out of it. Something rewarding, positive, and edifying. Now that God has show us were not going to find it in this world now take those same desires and give God the same opportunity.
- It means when every body lives in loving unity, committed to the same plan and purpose, showing respect to the head of the family.

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

- **Spiritual and physical application.**
- **On the Last Great Day Jesus cried “let all those come to Me and out of your bowels will flow rivers of living water.”**
- **We get the benefit of seeing the entire life of David as He matured.**
- **When we left the church it was really a question of correct doctrine. Now it has matured to a relationship with God.**
- **King David wrote a man after God’s own heart, Psalms 9:1-2 I will praise thee, O LORD, with my whole heart ; I will shew forth all thy marvellous works. I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy name, O thou most High.”**
- **King David had very strong feeling for God.**

23:27-28 For a harlot is a deep pit, and a seductress is a narrow well. She also lies in wait as for a victim, and increases the unfaithful among men.

- **The softness of her voice and her beauty is filled with deceit and lies, not based upon any true love for you. Her weapons are her eyes and flattering words, she summons you to her love but what you are being summoned is to a pit you can’t get out of. Not just a pit but a deep pit. And there is chance the power she has over you, you may never break free and repent.**
- **Ecclesiastes 7:26-29 “And I find more bitter than death the woman, whose heart is snares and nets, and her hands as bands: whoso pleaseth God shall escape from her; but the sinner shall be taken by her. Behold, this have I found, saith the preacher, counting one by one, to find out the account: Which yet my soul seeketh, but I find not: one man among a thousand have I found; but a woman among all those have I not found. Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.”**
- **An harlot increases the faithlessness among men destroying the spiritual lessons he was meant to learn from the family that he abandoned.**

23:29 Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes?

- **All people are plagued with these problems, but we can repent. But the person who hates God will not repent.**
- **The wicked are always encompassed by problems and know not peace.**
- **Matthew 7:16-20 “Ye shall know them by their fruits . Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.”**
- **Isaiah 59:7-8 “Their feet run to evil, and they make haste to shed innocent blood: their thoughts are thoughts of iniquity; wasting and destruction are in their paths.**

The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goeth therein shall not know peace.”

23:30 Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine.

- **Cheap booze not fit to drink. How hard up can you be, because you can no longer even afford good liquor.**

23:31-35 Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; they have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"

- **Being an alcoholic can seem oh so right. Your perceptions of reality are distorted and shifted away from your daily problems, and you begin to believe things that are not true. Everything will be moving like being on a boat. And you feel no pain. Excessive drinking is a powerful, deceptive experience, with a negative outcome.**
- **They have forsaken Me for a bottle, because all the failed relationships in their lives, and nothing more can added.**

Proverbs 24

24:1 Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them

- **Humanly speaking we can be envious of people who have things we don't have. God says be careful. The wicked project an image of deceptive strength, self pride and being successful and it is easy to be taken in by this. You don't want them to be your role model. God wants you to see the spiritual issues and to realize they are not successful.**
- **The wicked have nothing we should want. Regardless of material gain, they have no future, and in this life will never know happiness and contentment.**
- **Covet: (kuv'-et) ('awah; zeloo, "to desire earnestly," "to set the heart and mind upon anything"): Used in two senses: good, simply to desire earnestly but legitimately. e.g. the King James Version 1 Corinthians 12:31; 14:39; bad, to desire unlawfully, or to secure illegitimately (batsa` ; epithumeo, Romans 7:7; 13:9, etc.); hence, called "lust" (Matthew 5:28; 1 Corinthians 10:6), "concupiscence" (the King James Version Romans 7:8; Colossians 3:5).**
- **Psalms 73:12-17 “Behold, these are the ungodly, who prosper in the world; they increase in riches. Verily I have cleansed my heart in vain, and washed my hands in innocency. For all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning. If I say, I will speak thus; behold, I should offend against the generation of thy children. 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.”**

24:2 For their heart devises violence, and their lips talk of troublemaking.

- **People who are trouble makers are unspiritually minded and they have no love for anyone except themselves. Because of their relationship with God they are filled with uncertainty and see the world as adversaries. Live by the natural order.**
- **Matthew 26:52 “Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.”**
- **Don’t make such men your role models, God offers something so much better.**

24:3-4 Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established; by knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

- **God is the source of all wisdom. Romans 16:27 “To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.”**
- **The highest knowledge is the knowledge of God, Job 11:7 “Canst thou by searching find out God? canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?”**
- **God alone provides understanding. Psalms 119:125 “I am thy servant; give me understanding, that I may know Thy testimonies.”**
- **When we live this life as God intended, to finish us as a creation, God blesses us with real wealth. This also emphasizes what kind of kingdom He is bringing.**
- **Romans 9:23 “And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory.”**
- **Ephesians 2:7-8 “That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God.”**
- **John 10:10 “I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”**
- **John 14:2 “In my Father's house are many *mansions*: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.”**
- ***Mansion* means live with God the father in His house. The translation of a Greek word *mansion* in John 14:2 which means "rooms." dwelling-places, within the one house with the intimacy of dwelling with the Father and all other believers "under one roof."**
- **Revelation 2:7 “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God.”**

24:5 A wise man is strong, yes, a man of knowledge increases strength

- **He is in control because his strength is the Lord. The more he learns about God the more his relationship grows, the spiritually stronger he becomes.**
- **2 Peter 1:4-8 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. And beside this, giving all diligence,**

add to your faith virtue ; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.

For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

- **2 Corinthians 12:9 “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”**

24:6 For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

- **Solve your own problems as long as God the Father and Jesus Christ are your Counselors. The greatest battle you have is with yourself.**
- **2 Corinthians 10:3-6 “For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds , casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, and being ready to punish all disobedience when your obedience is fulfilled.”**
- **1 Timothy 1:18 “This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare.”**

24:7 Wisdom is too lofty for a fool; he does not open his mouth in the gate.

- **Godly wisdom is over the head of the carnally minded.**
- **He has nothing to offer anyone else. He doesn’t understand the issues.**
- **But we are all fools.**
- **Psalms 53:1-3 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. Corrupt are they, and have done abominable iniquity: there is none that doeth good. God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”**
- **A fool in the Old Testament is not so much associated with ignorance but evil, wicked character, making God his enemy. Obstructing the plan and purposes of God.**
- **Isaiah 32:6-7 “For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the LORD, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail. The instruments also of the churl are evil: he deviseth wicked devices to destroy the poor with lying words, even when the needy speaketh right.”**

24:8-9 He who plots to do evil will be called a schemer. The devising of foolishness is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to men.

- **Though the wicked try to be sneaky—people see them for what they are. No one will ever grieve or remember such men.**
- **The effect they have on many, Psalms 31:12-13 “I am forgotten like a dead man, out of mind; I am like a broken vessel. For I hear the slander of many; fear is on every side; while they take counsel together against me, they scheme to take away my life.”**
- **All he knows is how to make this world a more unhappy place to fulfill his own selfish ambitions.**
- **Psalms 26:8-12 “LORD, I have loved the habitation of Your house, and the place where Your glory dwells. Do not gather my soul with sinners, nor my life with bloodthirsty men, in whose hands is a sinister scheme, and whose right hand is full of bribes. But as for me, I will walk in my integrity; redeem me and be merciful to me. My foot stands in an even place; in the congregations I will bless the LORD.”**

24:10 If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

- **The challenge of faith is trust God in any state we are in, in this life, trusting God’s will.**
- **Christ told the Apostle Paul, 2 Corinthians 12:9 “And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.”**
- **God allows trials for our spiritual good, but He doesn’t want us facing them alone.**
- **Psalms 94:12-14 “Blessed is the man whom thou chastenest, O LORD, and teachest him out of thy law; that thou mayest give him rest from the days of adversity, until the pit be digged for the wicked. For the LORD will not cast off his people, neither will he forsake His inheritance.**
- **God expects us to stand up for what is right but never independently. God is the source of our strength. The purpose for all trials is grow closer to God.**

24:11 Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.

- **If you can make a difference make it. We are our brother’s keepers.**
- **Matthew 5:9 “Blessed are the peacemakers : for they shall be called the children of God.”**
- **God is working for the same thing.**
- **Galatians 1:4 “Who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:”**
- **Psalms 25:22 “Redeem Israel, O God, out of all his troubles.”**

24:12 If you say, "Surely we did not know this," does not He who weighs the hearts consider it? He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?

- God always knows the truth and what resides in our hearts. That is why it is better to be honest and come to Christ's shed blood. God hates hypocrisy and evil dressed up as good.
- 2 Corinthians 11:13 "For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ."
- People are deceitful because they know they are wrong and try to hide it.
- Psalms 5:6 "...the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man."
- Revelation 20:12 "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

24:13-14 My son, eat honey because it is good, and the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste; so shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul; if you have found it, there is a prospect, and your hope will not be cut off.

- Honey is a metaphor for wisdom, and is the most nutritious sweetener.
- When we are instructed in the Lord you know it is right and beneficial, and subsequently you have hope.
- 1 John 5:3 "For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."
- Psalms 19:8 "The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes."
- Psalms 119:111 "Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage for ever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart."

24:15-16 Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; do not plunder his resting place; for a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity.

- If you plot against God's people, ultimately you can't win because your plotting against God. In the end it will be well for the people of God, but for the wicked that is another story.
- Psalms 94:2-4 "Lift up thyself, thou Judge of the earth: render a reward to the proud. LORD, how long shall the wicked, how long shall the wicked triumph? How long shall they utter and speak hard things? and all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?"
- Psalms 65:4 "Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth, and causeth to approach unto thee, that he may dwell in thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of thy house, even of thy holy temple."

- **The reason the righteous falls seven times it is for his perfection not for his destruction.**

24:17-18 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him.

- **We want deliverance from the wicked but we should not seek revenge. God wants even the wicked to repent, He hopes for the best, we shouldn't be giving up on others.**
- **His plan and purpose is for us is to set the proper example to offer them an alternative way to live, God's way.**
- **If we wash our hands of others we are saying they aren't worthy of God's forgiveness.**
- **Forgiveness is a fundamental Christian doctrine, beginning with God's forgiveness of you.**
- **Psalms 130:3-4 "If thou, LORD, shouldest mark iniquities, O Lord, who shall stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou mayest be feared."**
- **Matthew 6:12 "And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors."**

24:19 Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the wicked; For there will be no prospect for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

- **When evil men lie and plot don't be concerned.**
- **Worldly sorrow endures great torment because it does not see God.**
- **2 Corinthians 7:10 "For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death."**
- **Wicked men who will not repent—have no place in the kingdom of God.**
- **For the righteous (those having righteousness imputed to them) no matter how many difficulties in the end it is going to be all right.**
- **Revelation 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."**

24:21-22 My son, fear the LORD and the king; do not associate with those given to change; For their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?

- **God is a God of law and order, and will often allow even bad governments than to be no government at all. A rebel does not fit in this world or the next, modeled after Lucifer's fall.**
- **Don't provoke God or the civil authorities that can lead to your ruination.**
- **1 Samuel 15:23 "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king."**
- **Daniel 4:17 "...the living may know that the most High ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men."**

24:23-24 These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to show partiality in judgment. He who says to the wicked, "You are righteous, "Him the people will curse; nations will abhor him.

- **Partiality is showing wrong judgment and favorability, because of a bribe or fear, that hurts the innocent and rewards the wicked.**
- **1 Timothy 5:21 "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality."**
- **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."**

24:25 But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a good blessing will come upon them.

- **If you stand up to wickedness, to defend the poor and helpless, you will see the approval of God.**
- **God delivered you through grace, and we should lift the burdens of others when they can do nothing for us in return.**
- **2 Timothy 4:18 "And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen."**
- **A good blessing might even come on the wicked if they repent.**

24: 26 He who gives a right answer kisses the lips.

- **A right answer is like being kissed. When we kiss we are using our lips communicating love. When we speak the truth, likewise it is an expression of love.**
- **1 Thessalonians 5:26 "Greet all the brethren with an holy kiss."**
- **Song of Solomon 1:2 "Let him kiss me with the kisses of his mouth: for thy love is better than wine."**
- **Ephesians 4:15 "But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:"**
- **Christ spoke in love but also in power, Mark 1:21-22 "And they went into Capernaum; and straightway on the sabbath day he entered into the synagogue, and taught. And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority , and not as the scribes."**

24:27 Prepare your outside work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house.

- **Spiritually we are being taught first things first, do things in the right priority.**

- When we start a new homestead we plant the crops first, then build the house and barn.
- Generally the spiritual is more important and the secular is of lower priority: such as what you wear, and what you eat.
- God shows He wants us to do everything in this life right, to be learning and growing. Like the story of Mary and Martha elevate your mind to a higher priority.
- Luke 14:28-30 “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it? Lest haply, after he hath laid the foundation, and is not able to finish it, all that behold it begin to mock him, saying, This man began to build, and was not able to finish.”
- Luke 6:47-48 “Whosoever cometh to Me, and heareth My sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: he is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock.”
- There is a reason God wants us to tend and keep, take care of the animals, to work hard, learn a trade even if we had to be indentured for 7 years. The parable of the talents God show He gives each of us gifts He wants us to develop.
- King David began as shepherd protecting sheep, and became a shepherd King over Israel.
- Luke 16:10 “He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much: and he that is unjust in the least is unjust also in much.”
- Responsibly living this physical life indicates to God you can be trusted to live on a spiritual plane. But if you are thoughtless, a drunkard, lazy, irresponsible, with an inability to listen or learn what does that translate into spiritually. The kingdom of God will not be plagued with such problems.

24:28-29 Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, for would you deceive with your lips? Do not say, I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.

- Don't be a vindictive squealer trying to get even with someone that has hurt you. God shows that is a very immature way of behaving. You will only destroy the relationship, lose all respect, and he will still be your neighbor. In the end you won't hurt him but you will hurt yourself.
- Proverbs 11:13 “A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.”
- We should think in terms of solving problems not creating them.
- Prove to your neighbor you can be trusted and let God use you as a witness to summon him to salvation, too.
- Proverbs 16:20-21 “He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he. The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.”

24:30-34 I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding; And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down. When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction: A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to rest; So shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.

- This is describing a state of sin, typified by this age. Mark 14:7 “For ye have the poor with you always ...”
- This evil system has let the world fall into disrepair. The rulers and rich funnel all the wealth into their own pockets and leave the masses struggling.
- What do you think God as Creator thinks when He looks at this world?
- Isaiah 5:4-6 “What could have been done more to My vineyard, that I have not done in it? wherefore, when I looked that it should bring forth grapes, brought it forth wild grapes? And now go to; I will tell you what I will do to My vineyard: I will take away the hedge thereof, and it shall be eaten up; and break down the wall thereof, and it shall be trodden down: And I will lay it waste: it shall not be pruned, nor digged; but there shall come up briers and thorns: I will also command the clouds that they rain no rain upon it.”
- Lazy in these verses means spiritually lazy, and as a consequence has a very poor relationship with God because he doesn’t see it as worth the investment or effort, because he does not love God. The description above is a metaphor for the state of his relationship with God.
- And because there is no alternative way of life to the way God offers, the lazy person’s life and everything around him is in a shambles.
- When it says, “*I considered it well*” it shows God wants us to learn from others what life is not as well as learning how to be diligent and growing closer to God in our relationship.
- Laziness is an inordinate self love, which will produce the diametrically opposite results of we are looking for, which denies our creative purpose. We weren’t created to be slugs.
- Isaiah 1:7-9 “Your country is desolate , your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate , as overthrown by strangers. And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.”

Proverbs 25

25:1 These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied:

- “*Copied*” could mean from documenting traditional sayings.
- The remaining chapters contains proverbs which had been collected by the order of King Hezekiah, and were added to the preceding book as a sort of supplement,

having been collected from traditional sayings of Solomon, about two hundred and seventy years after the death of Solomon.

- *“Men of Hezekiah”* may mean Levitical priests, or Isaiah, Micah, Joah, Shebna, and other inspired men
- Of Solomon, 1 Kings 4:31-32 “ 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.”
- Heman wrote Psalm 89 and was a Levitical Priest. Chacol, Darda wise Jews; these were spiritual gifts granted by God.
- Yet Jesus is far wiser, John 21:25 “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.

- Who was King Hezekiah one of the few kings of Judah worth remembering.
- 2 Chronicles 29:1-10 Hezekiah began to reign when he was five and twenty years old, and he reigned nine and twenty years in Jerusalem. And his mother's name was Abijah, the daughter of Zechariah. And he did that which was right in the sight of the LORD, according to all that David his father had done. He in the first year of his reign, in the first month, opened the doors of the house of the LORD, and repaired them. *And he brought in the priests and the Levites, and gathered them together into the east street,* And said unto them, Hear me, ye Levites, sanctify now yourselves, and sanctify the house of the LORD God of your fathers, and carry forth the filthiness out of the holy place. For our fathers have trespassed, and done that which was evil in the eyes of the LORD our God, and have forsaken him, and have turned away their faces from the habitation of the LORD, and turned their backs. Also they have shut up the doors of the porch, and put out the lamps, and have not burned incense nor offered burnt offerings in the holy place unto the God of Israel. Wherefore the wrath of the LORD was upon Judah and Jerusalem, and he hath delivered them to trouble, to astonishment, and to hissing, as ye see with your eyes. For, lo, our fathers have fallen by the sword, and our sons and our daughters and our wives are in captivity for this. Now it is in mine heart to make a covenant with the LORD God of Israel, that his fierce wrath may turn away from us.”
- The history of this king is contained in 2 Kings 18:20; Isaiah 36:1-39:8, and 2 Chronicles 29-32. He is spoken of as a great and good king. In public life he followed the example of his great-grandfather Uzziah. He set himself to abolish idolatry from his kingdom, and among other things which he did for this end, he destroyed the "brazen serpent," which had been removed to Jerusalem, and had become an object of idolatrous worship (Numbers 21:9). A great reformation was wrought in the kingdom of Judah in his day (2 Kings 18:4; 2 Chronicles 29:3-36).
- King Hezekiah refused to pay tribute to Sennacherib of Assyria.
- Rabshaken from Assyria delivered a message Jerusalem. 2 Kings 19:11 “Thus shall ye speak to Hezekiah king of Judah, saying, Let not thy God in whom thou trustest deceive thee, saying, Jerusalem shall not be delivered into the hand of the king of Assyria.”
- Assyria had a scorched earth policy for resistance.

- **2 Kings 19:14-16** “And Hezekiah received the letter of the hand of the messengers, and read it: and Hezekiah went up into the house of the LORD, and spread it before the LORD. And Hezekiah prayed before the LORD, and said, O LORD God of Israel, which dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth. LORD, bow down thine ear, and hear: open, LORD, thine eyes, and see: and hear the words of Sennacherib, which hath sent him to reproach the living God.”
- **Jerusalem was terrified and held on by a thread by the faith of Hezekiah.**

25:2 It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

- **Romans 11:33-34** “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! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor?”
- **1 Timothy 3:16** “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”
- **We as future kings and priests should want an increased understanding of the Bible and God’s plan. Our zeal is a condition God requires for their to be spiritual growth.**
- **Isaiah 63:15** “Look down from heaven, and behold from the habitation of thy holiness and of thy glory: where is thy zeal and thy strength, the sounding of thy bowels and of thy mercies toward me? are they restrained?”
- **Expressed by Jesus Christ, Psalms 69:9** “For the zeal of thine house hath eaten me up; and the reproaches of them that reproached thee are fallen upon me.”

25:3 As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

- **The height of heavens points to God, the depths of earth common ordinary men. The king is influenced by deeper, more serious issues than common ordinary men.**
- **Those God trains to be kings have to become spiritually mature, to weigh all the issues, and make fair judgments. Even when the issues are complex, always weighing everything in light of God’s word.**

25:4-5 Take away the dross from silver, and it will go to the silversmith for jewelry. Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

- **Metaphor no silversmith will work with dross but only sterling silver. If labored to make something of such inferior materials the creation would be a fraud. For a king to reign in righteousness he cannot have wicked men in his cabinet detracting from his edicts.**

- Deuteronomy 17:18 “And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites.”
- Deuteronomy 17:19-20 “And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.”

25:6-7 Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great; for it is better that he say to you, "come up here," than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince, whom your eyes have seen.

- In life it is better to take the lower seat, instead of thinking you can carelessly take anything you want, because you can't. Or thinking your entitled to anything lifted up with pride because you aren't. Take the lower seat reflecting humility, the understanding you have received grace and it is God that will determined whether we are exalted or humbled.
- James 2:5 “Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?”
- Its not about completion, power, winning at all costs, that was Lucifer's mistake.

25:8-10 Do not go hastily to court; for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor has put you to shame? Debate your case with your neighbor, and do not disclose the secret to another; Lest he who hears it expose your shame, and your reputation be ruined.

- When you ask for a fair and equitable judgment be willing to understand anything you find you neighbor guilty of before the laws of God you are equally guilty.
- James 2:10 “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.”
- Condemning others is not our business. Romans 2:21 “Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself?”
- Matthew 5:24-25 “Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift . Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.”
- We shouldn't be looking to courts of this world for judgment nor should we be taking him before the judgment seat, we should be praying for him.
- 1 Corinthians 6:2 “Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world ? and if the world shall be judged by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters?”
- Saints will rule the world we should making those judgments ourselves and doing what is right without being forced to.

25:11-12 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold In settings of silver. Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold Is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

- **Speaking is an art. There is even a way to constructively criticizing someone where you will make sense and they will listen.**
- **What advantage do you speak from anger, self righteousness, a lack of compassion, selfish pride, ignorance, and insensitively.**
- **People don't like being to told what to do by people they know have no love for them. Or taking advice from people who do not understand the issues.**
- **Seasoned with grace to have the maximum effect.**
- **Never speak in severed terms.**
- **James 1:26 "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridled his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."**
- **James 3:6-8 "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. For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind: But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison."**

25:13 Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he refreshes the soul of his masters.

- **Metaphor, at the time of harvest was when they made wine, snows was used to chill the wine . The common method of cooling their wine, was by dipping a cloth in water, wrapping it round the bottle, and then hanging the bottle in the heat of the sun. The strong evaporation carries off the caloric from the wine, and the repetition of the wet cloth in the same exposure, makes the wine almost as cold as ice. There is nothing like a cold glass of wine.**
- **A faithful messenger is just as refreshing. Why? Because relays the gracious words of the Lord. Psalms 12:6 "The words of the LORD are pure words : as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times."**
- **Mark 1:22 "And they were astonished at his doctrine: for he taught them as one that had authority , and not as the scribes."**

25:14 Whoever falsely boasts of giving Is like clouds and wind without rain.

- **People who want to appear good who aren't good.**
- **People see such clouds come and wait for the rain but it doesn't come.**
- **Like most of our politicians they make many promises and never deliver.**
- **Matthew 21:28-31 "But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily**

I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you.”

25:15 By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, and a gentle tongue breaks a bone.

- **You can get more bees with honey than vinegar. If your point is right stay with it but give people room to make up their own minds. Why there cannot be hierarchal government in the church.**
- **Ephesians 4:14-15 “That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:”**
- **Gideon with a soft tongue pacified the Ephraimites and Abigail turned away David's wrath. Hard words, we say, break no bones, and therefore we should bear them patiently; but, it seems, soft words do, and therefore we should, on all occasions, give them prudently.**
- **Talk to people genuinely but respectfully.**

25:16 Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, lest you be filled with it and vomit.

- **To much a good thing is no good.**
- **If you have found a great blessing such as a store house of honey, it is not all for you. It should be shared.**
- **Take what you need not all that you want.**
- **2 Peter 1:5-8 “And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance ; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.”**

25:17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, lest he become weary of you and hate you.

- **Never invite yourself to another's house. Don't over stay your welcome when you are invited. There is a time to go home. Don't take advantage of your neighbor's graciousness.**
- **Many of God's 613 laws address showing respect to your neighbor.**
- **Any excessive or extreme or unbalanced behavior is wrong.**
- **Romans 13:10 “Love does no harm to a neighbor ; therefore love is the fulfillment of the law.”**

25:18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.

- **False slandering a person does his reputation great harm and others will repeat your lies.**
- **A club, a sword, an arrow does great harm, in fact they are lethal weapons.**
- **People love to talk.**
- **Psalms 120:2 “Deliver my soul, O LORD, from lying lips, and from a deceitful tongue.”**

25:19 Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.

- **Metaphor of a toothache, dislocated foot.**
- **Trusting in someone who is untrustworthy is going to cause you a lot of pain.**
- **The lesson don't expect much from people.**
- **John 2:24-25 “But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, because he knew all men, and needed not that any should testify of man: for he knew what was in man.”**

25:20 Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, and like vinegar on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

- **Learn to recognize genuine needs, give people what they need not what you want.**
- **Don't discount people suffering, sometimes people need to grieve to get it out. Don't ever thwart a person's emotions trying to get them to bottle them up.**
- **Daniel 6:18 “Then the king went to his palace, and passed the night fasting: neither were instruments of musick brought before him: and his sleep went from him.”**

25:21-22 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink; For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

- **This is very hard to do. Your enemy knows it's hard to do. So when we render good for evil that makes them think and question their values.**
- **God wants to use His people as a witness to show the world they don't have to live the way they have and to bring them to repentance.**
- **God hasn't given up on anyone and He wants all to change and be in His family, so should we. When we are done in justice God shows in stead of instinctively responding we should take a step back and look at the big picture.**

25:23 The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.

- **Just as a northeast wind brings a northeasterly, or a thunderhead creates super cells and tornadoes. So a presumptuous, insensitive, ignorant, big mouth is going to push everybody's buttons and produce anger.**

- Colossians 4:6 “Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.”
- Remember: Romans 12:2 “ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.” How skillful are you.

25:24 It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

- God doesn't use any metaphor here but directly lays it out. It is better to be alone than to be joined to one who, instead of being a meet-help, is a great hindrance to your spiritual calling.
- God wanted women to understand they hold the spiritual lives of the husbands in their hands. Behind every good man is a good woman. 1 Peter 3:5-6 “For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”
- 1 Corinthians 7:14-15 “For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace.”

25:25 As cold water to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country.

- When your hot and sweaty how important is a cold drink.
- Luke 2:10-11 “And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”
- Romans 10:15 “How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!”

25:26 A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well.

- The only inherently righteous person is Jesus Christ, we have righteousness imputed to us. And we have failed in sin many times.
- Just what Satan tried to do to Christ in the wilderness. If He sinned then He wouldn't be able to be a perfect sacrifice to blot out the sins of humanity.

25:27 It is not good to eat much honey; so to seek one's own glory is not glory.

- A self focus is not good to have, whether it be physically or spiritually.
- “...be humble when glory unsought comes to us, and to attribute all glory to God, is our wisdom.”

- **John 5:30-32 “I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me. If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true.”**

25:28 Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.

- **You loose your head you loose your ass. If you want to be a good leader you have to be able to take criticism.**
- **His excessive behavior doesn't protect him but leaves him vulnerable.**
- **James 1:20 “For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.”**
- **1 Timothy 2:8 “I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.”**
- **Ephesians 4:31 “Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:”**

Proverbs 26

26:1 As snow in summer and rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool.

- **God blessed the country with rain in due season, if God behaved as a fool, rain at the wrong time would destroy the agriculture. Thank God He sends the rain on the just and unjust.**
- **Considering it is man's purpose to be part of God's family, if we behave as a fool, it is a great calamity when bad and foolish men are appointed to posts of honour in Church and State. The damage they do is immeasurable—30 million people killed in WW 2 for what? The ambitions of a fool. Prior to become the leader of Germany it has been commented Hitler was such a creepy individual most people wouldn't give him a light.**
- **In the Old Testament a “fool” is synonymous with a wicked, shameless person. The word is used in Scripture with respect to moral more than to intellectual deficiencies. The "fool" is not so much one lacking in mental powers, but misuses them.**
- **Every thing he gets he squanders it, outside of God's purpose. .**
- **He rejects God and redefines life's purpose with a selfish focus—with limited focus on any relationship. Unless repented of he is a candidate for the lake of fire.**
- **Isaiah 32:6 “For the vile person will speak villany, and his heart will work iniquity, to practise hypocrisy, and to utter error against the LORD, to make empty the soul of the hungry, and he will cause the drink of the thirsty to fail.”**
- **Psalms 14:1 “The fool hath said in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.”**
- **When a fool is exalted it inflames their pride to behave even more foolish.**
- **Rehoboam the son of Solomon burdened the people with even higher taxes till the nation rebelled in civil war.**

- **Of Rehoboam, 1 Kings 12:8 “But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him:”**
- **The young men counseled him, 1 Kings 12:11 “And now whereas my father did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions.”**
- **Wicked leaders lead the nation to destruction.**
- **Matthew 23:15-16 “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves. Woe unto you, ye blind guides, which say, whosoever shall swear by the temple, it is nothing; but whosoever shall swear by the gold of the temple, he is a debtor!”**

26:2 Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, so a curse without cause shall not alight.

- **The evil intentions of others cannot come home to roost on us, unless we have placed ourselves outside of God’s protection.**
- **Those curses will fly away aimlessly, like harmless sparrows or swallows and will be gone.**
- **Revelation 12:10 “...the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.”**
- **How are we vindicated by the blood of Jesus Christ.**
- **Balaam understood there was no way he could curse Israel, Numbers 23:8 “How can I curse those God has not cursed? Or how can I [violently] denounce those the Lord has not denounced?”**
- **Everything happens for reasons. Time and chance does not happen to God’s people.**
- **Luke 13:2-3 “And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galilaeans were sinners above all the Galilaeans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.”**

26:3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the fool's back.

- **A fool has to learn the hard way by pain. He cannot learn by family, instruction, experience, or through any positive aspect of life.**
- **He doesn’t have a rational mind to think things out. Proverbs 4:23 “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”**
- **He is like a beast that has no moral qualities at all. Like a wild beasts they are ungovernable.**
- **God wants us to have an expanding view of faith understanding the big issues.**
- **Psalms 32:9 “Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.”**
- **Jude 10 “...what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.”**
- **Wicked men are compared to the horse and the ass, brutish, unreasonable, unruly, ungovernable, ruled neither by force or fear, hardened, and uncaring.**

- **Matthew 8:11-12** “And I say unto you, that many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”

26:4 Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.

- **Properly answering a fool requires godly wisdom.**
- **Matthew 7:6** “Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.”
- **Don’t get caught up in arguments where people are trying to push your buttons and really don’t care about what is right. There is a time to walk away.**
- **Matthew 10:14-15** “And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.”
- **Titus 3:9** “But avoid foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain.”

26:5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.

- **Properly answering a fool requires godly wisdom.**
- **In other cases, a wise man will use his wisdom for the conviction of a fool. To see him destroyed, no to give provide a witness and basis to change.**
- **1 Peter 3:15** “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:”

26:6 He who sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off his own feet and drinks violence.

- **If their not fit to be a member of your family then their not to be trusted. Cut off his own feet means he it did him no good to send the message at all. No covenant is reached and war is at the door step.**
- **Even if it is your son, never trust a fool. He will never represent the family name and bring disgrace upon you.**
- **Connected to those bringing a false gospel, not representing our Father or Jesus Christ.**

26:7 Like the legs of the lame that hang limp Is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

- **The legs of the lame man, and a parable that is in the mouth of fools: both are alike useless.**
- **Ephesians 6:15 “And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace;”**
- **A fool can use godly wisdom about as well as a crippled man can use his legs.**

26:8 Like one who binds a stone in a sling Is he who gives honor to a fool.

- **Praising someone who is stupid makes as much sense as tying a stone in a sling.**
- **Another commentary states it could mean praising a fool makes about as much sense as using a diamond or ruby in a sling.**

26:9 Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard Is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

- **A fool is committed to an immoral way of life, like being a drunkard, and the gospel message is not received joyfully but it is like a thorn in their hand.**
- **Proverb=gospel; fool=false prophet**
- **He wants it out of his life.**
- **Matthew 13:6 “And when the sun was up, they (God’s seed) were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away.”**

26:10 The great God who formed everything gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.

- **The wicked and unrighteous have a great deal to be thankful for whether they see it or not.**
- **That doesn’t make them credible, when they take God blessings but reject Him.**
- **God blesses the wicked, to give them time to see if they will change.**
- **“...for He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.”**
- **Everybody has to make up their own mind. Revelation 22:11 “He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.”**

26: 11 As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.

- **Ecclesiastes 8:11-12 “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil. Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before Him.”**
- **The habit of sin is hard to break.**
- **Romans 7:23-25 “But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? I**

thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.”

- All of us have the potential to be fools, so be careful.

26:12 Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

- 1 Corinthians 8:1-3 “...Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth anything, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. But if any man love God, the same is known of Him.”
- Romans 1:21-23 “Because that, when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, and changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things.
- Evolution worships the creature as its own creator.
- The Apostle Paul warned Timothy, 1 Timothy 6:20-21 “O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen.”
- Gnosticism, intellectualism falsely validates our lives and we foolishly think we don’t need grace.

26:13 The lazy man says, "There is a lion in the road! A fierce lion is in the streets!"

- A Lazy person wastes more energy coming up with excuses rather than using the same energy to just do the job.
- Man was to harvest thorns and thistles in dust of the earth to learn what life is not.
- Will not tend and keep, will not provide for family, will not learn or engage in life.
- Matthew 25:24-26 “Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed.”
- 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.”

26:14 As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed.

- A revolving door only goes around in circles and a lazy person turns in his bed.
- There is nothing in his life worth working at.
- Luke 12:16-21 “And He spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: And he thought within himself, saying, What

shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 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? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

26:15 The lazy man buries his hand in the bowl; It wearies him to bring it back to his mouth.

- To lazy to eat.
- Another translation say buries hand in bosom pretending it is paralyzed.
- Or he pretends to be handicapped so someone will
- God is talking about physically as well as spiritually the principles are the same.
- Even if we are handicapped he doesn't want us behaving like we are handicapped.
- Matthew 5:30 “And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.”

26:16 The lazy man is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

- Seven here only means perfection, abundance, or multitude—absolutely not refutable. He is wiser in his own eyes than a multitude of the wisest men.
- Unteachable
- This leads to social anarchy. Judges 17:6 “In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.”
- Doesn't care what is true only what he thinks.

26:17 He who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his own is like one who takes a dog by the ears.

- Common sense dictates not to get involved with arguments which are not your own. Mind your business. If you walked up to a strange dog and grabbed by the ears your going to get bit.
- Philippians 2:12 “Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.”

26:18-19 Like a madman who throws firebrands, arrows, and death, is the man who deceives his neighbor, and says, "I was only joking!"

- Firebrand is a torch.
- Makes a joke of his neighbor with big shot, class conscience humor. Ephesians 5:4 “Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient: but rather giving of thanks.”

- When his neighbor becomes offended then he says I was only joking. But he doesn't buy it

26:20 Where there is no wood, the fire goes out; and where there is no talebearer, strife ceases.

- If you don't want problems developed between people just stop talking. Every negative word will find its way back and lead only to a thousand more bad words.
- Words and slander led Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton to a duel in New Jersey.
- 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."
- Come across as very confident.

26:21 As charcoal is to burning coals, and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

- The reason you should stop talking is because there are plenty of people who are willing to throw wood on the fire and ignite it. When it all erupts keep yourself clear of it.
- Matthew 18:7 "Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes!"
- 1 Corinthians 10:31-33 "... whatever you do, do all to the glory of God. Give no offense , either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved."
- Strike a blow for hierarchal government.

26:22 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inner most body.

- Gossip is a tasty morsel just like eating gourmet food you enjoy all the way down to your stomach.
- An aspect of human nature of strife and confusion like an animal growling and expressing ill will toward you.
- Spiritual murder.
- Love is fighting and being.

26:23 Fervent lips with a wicked heart are like earthenware covered with silver dross.

- A person who is a great speaker and is evil is like plating a worthless vessel with silver. Both vessels are unclean.
- Pretty words may hide a wicked heart, just as a pretty glaze covers a common clay pot.
- God sees what it is.

26:24-26 He who hates, disguises it with his lips, and lays up deceit within himself; When he speaks kindly, do not believe him, for there are seven abominations in his heart; Though his hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness will be revealed before the assembly.

- **The most evil people practice guile, pretending they are not evil, with feigned words, they hide the full depth of evil residing within them.**
- **Joseph Goebbels propaganda minister**
- **Adolph Hitler deceived an entire nation with deceit but in the end he had no love for his nation and felt it should perish with him.**
- **He claimed to love the youth of Germany but in the end sent them to fight on the front lines against battle hardened the vengeful Russians—who showed them no mercy.**
- **But with 30 million dead “*he was revealed to the assembly*” everyone in the end had to face he was a monster. In the end all the major German cities were bombed out ruins, their nation including their economy lay in ruins, 5 million of their countrymen were dead, thousand of their mothers and daughters were raped, and many went into Russian gulags never to return.**

26:27 Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and he who rolls a stone will have it roll back on him.

- **Goes around comes around.**
- **And in the end the love you take is equal to the love you make.**
- **Matthew 26:52 “...for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.”**
- **Fate**
- **According to God laws those who do evil by the same laws punish themselves.**
- **Psalms 7:14-16 “Behold, he travaileth with iniquity, and hath conceived mischief, and brought forth falsehood. He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. His mischief shall return upon his own head, and his violent dealing shall come down upon his own pate.”**
- **Psalms 9:16 “The LORD is known by the judgment which he executeth: the wicked is snared in the work of his own hands. Higgsion. Selah.”**

26:28 A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, and a flattering mouth works ruin.

- **The reason you lie to someone is because you don't love them.**
- **The purpose of a lie is to avoid a penalty but in reality it bring complete destruction. When relationships and confidences are betrayed the penalty is high.**
- **'Forgiveness to the injured doth belong; He never pardons that hath done the wrong.'**

- After seducing his sister Tamar, 2 Samuel 13:15 “Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her. And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.”
- Best example.
- Genesis 3:4-5 “And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.
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Proverbs 27

27:1 My Son, Be Wise; do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.

- Cautions against boasting not forgetting we are protected and cared for by God’s grace.
- Matthew 6:34 “Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.”
- James 4:13-15 “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 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. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.”
- Zephaniah 2:1-3 “Gather yourselves together, yea, gather together, O nation not desired; Before the decree bring forth, before the day pass as the chaff, before the fierce anger of the LORD come upon you, before the day of the LORD's anger come upon you. Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD's anger.”
- Children can be lost in youth and not realize life is temporal, thinking this life is only for their pleasure. A wise parent tells his children don’t vainly, pridefully brag about what you will do tomorrow. Such an attitude does not reflect respect to God, nor His plans for you.
- Parents can see around corners children cannot. This is part of the blessings God has provided to children, in accordance with His plan. The years the parents have been Christians and have studied the Bible can be translated in to simple lessons to be passed on to the children. A tightly knit Christian family is moving steadily toward the kingdom of God.
- Children that rebel, sear their consciences, will not repent, live for the pleasures of this world, you will bury for the rest of eternity.
- There is varying degrees of guilt by all parties but ultimately we all have to individually choose. God speaks to us in many ways, it is not a matter of not knowing the truth, it is matter of hiding from the truth.
- Christ spoke to individuals that had the very same blood flowing through their veins from their father Judah. According to the fruits, 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.”

- For the good of all God must be involved in the picture.
- Malachi 4:5-6 “Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse .
- Of John the Baptist, Luke 1:17 “And He shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord.”
- If children allow themselves to be cut off from their parents, that is the same sin Adam & Eve committed listening to the serpent. It was to their detriment.
- Christ the alpha and omega, and the last Adam shows us the proper relationship with parents.
- John 5:19 “...Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever He doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.”
- John 8:28-29 “Then said Jesus unto them, When ye have lifted up the Son of man, then shall ye know that I am He, and that I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things. And He that sent Me is with Me: the Father hath not left Me alone; for I do always those things that please Him.”
- John 14:31 “But that the world may know that I love the Father ; and as the Father gave me commandment, even so I do.”
- John 17:25-26 “O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare it, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, and I in them.”
- There were no disappointments for our heavenly Father in Christ. Luke 3:22 “And the holy spirit descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven, which said, Thou art My beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased .

27:2 Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.

- Self-praise is no commendation.
- Our example not words shine before men and give glory to the Father of the house.
- Luke 17:7-10 “And which of you, having a servant plowing or tending sheep, will say to him when he has come in from the field, 'Come at once and sit down to eat'? But will he not rather say to him, 'Prepare something for my supper, and gird yourself and serve me till I have eaten and drunk, and afterward you will eat and drink'? Does he thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I think not. So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you

are commanded, say, 'We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.'"

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

- The words of a fool are hard to bear or listen to.
- Psalms 4:2 "How long , O you sons of men, will you turn my glory to shame? How long will you love worthlessness and seek falsehood?"
- Matthew 17:17-18 "Then Jesus answered and said, "O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I bear with you? Bring him here to Me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him; and the child was cured from that very hour."

27:4 Wrath is cruel and anger a torrent, but who is able to stand before jealousy?

- Wrath and anger can be appeased but jealousy has no limits for revenge.
- Proverbs 6:34-35 "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."
- Zechariah 1:14 "So the angel that communed with me said unto me, Cry thou, saying, Thus saith the LORD of hosts; I am jealous for Jerusalem and for Zion with a great jealousy."

27:5 Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed.

- No one likes to be corrected and loves to be flattered and told good things. Most people have a very difficult time accepting criticism. But accepting constructive criticism is a spiritual quality.
- A second set of eyes sees things you don't see, that is why God gave us a mate. If someone sees your problem, they see the solution, if we accept the criticism we will benefit from it and live a happier life.
- Being passive is a sin. To avoid an argument it is so easy to go along. It is easier to endure a fight than to endure a funeral.
- But if someone see your problem and because they love you they look the other way you have not shown love to your friend.
- We don't like confrontation but sometimes it is necessary. Matthew 18:15 "Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother."
- God's law: Leviticus 19:17 "You shall not hate your brother in your heart. You shall surely rebuke your neighbor, and not bear sin because of him."

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

- **If someone hurts you, you need to stop and think they may have saved you from a greater pain.**
- **The other maxim or admonition never surround yourself with people who agree with you or tell you what you want to hear, if they do, don't trust them, they have an ulterior motive. Judas' kiss.**

27:7 A satisfied soul loathes the honeycomb, but to a hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

- **If we have too much we will not appreciate the greatest blessings. If we have very little we will appreciate everything.**
- **God shows when we think we are rich we are poor.**
- **Revelation 3:17 "Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked:"**
- **But when we know we are destitute—we can hear Christ. Revelation 3:18-21 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me. To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne."**

27:8 Like a bird that wanders from its nest Is a man who wanders from his place.

- **When the bird wanders from her nest the eggs and young ones are neglected. Let every man therefore, in the calling wherein he is called, therein abide, therein abide with God. God the Providence over all appoints all things for His own reasons in His own time, where He has placed you He has a purpose to be worked out.**
- **1 Corinthians 7:24 "Brethren, let every man, wherein he is called, therein abide with God."**
- **When we leave Christ were in trouble.**

27:9 Ointment and perfume delight the heart, and the sweetness of a man's friend gives delight by hearty counsel.

- **In a dry and dusty land anointing the head, beard, and various parts of the body also sprinkling rose-water were a great blessings—some of which costs a years salary. Of the vessels to hold the ointment, they were inlaid with silver in the form of sprigs, leaves, etc.**

- These are metaphors to show through fellowship with Christ—through the holy spirit and the deep discussions with friends who are spiritually minded is precious and enriching.
- Today there are very few we can speak with. Looking back over ages the apostle Paul's words, as William Federer are as healing ointment.
- Understanding increases, a bond of love increased, faith strengthened.

27:10 Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend, nor go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity; better is a neighbor nearby than a brother far away.

- Never abandon a friend-either yours or your father's. Then you won't need to go to a distant relative for help in your time of need.
- There is nothing like accepting advice from people who don't have to suffer the consequences.
- Israel complained they were being heavily taxed. 1 Kings 12:6-11 "Rehoboam talked it over with the old men who had counseled his father Solomon." "What do you think I should do?" he asked them. And they replied, "If you give them a pleasant reply and agree to be good to them and serve them well, you can be their king forever." But Rehoboam refused the old men's counsel and called in the young men with whom he had grown up. "What do you think I should do?" he asked them. And the young men replied, "Tell them, 'If you think my father was hard on you, well, I'll be harder! Yes, my father was harsh, but I'll be even harsher! My father used whips on you, but I'll use scorpions!'"

27:11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him who reproaches me.

- The true test of your wisdom is not how you behave in the presence of friends but how you conduct yourself in the presence of your enemies.
- Matthew 5:46 "For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?"
- The best way to answer someone who is trying to make a fool out of you, is in love. Never let bitterness, evil speaking, anger, resentment fester in you.
- Romans 12:9-21 "Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is

**thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."
Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."**

27:12 A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; the simple pass on and are punished.

- **No human being of themselves is prudent.**
- **Examining the word "Prudence" the etymology it is linked to Providence. Therefore to be godly is to be prudent. A person under grace, with righteousness imputed to them, maturing in the holy spirit, walking with Christ,**
- **Matthew 11:25-27 "At that time Jesus answered and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and prudent and have revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight."**
- **The prudent man or man of providence, foreseeing the evil, knows what is going to happen, and is not going to get involved, but the simple are either so dull that they don't realize the problems they are heading into or so willful and slothful that they will take no care to avoid it.**
- **The lesson God is showing don't let other people's problems drag you down.**
- **Mark 9:30-32 "Then they departed from there and passed through Galilee, and He did not want anyone to know it. For He taught His disciples and said to them, "The Son of Man is being betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him. And after He is killed, He will rise the third day." But they did not understand this saying, and were afraid to ask Him.**

27:13 Take the garment of him who is surety for a stranger, and hold it in pledge when he is surety for a seductress.

- **When one becomes a surety for a strange woman by enticements and flatteries he is taken, and afterwards she will leave him high and dry, when she shows her costly favor to another. She has nothing else she can get from you.**

27:14 He who blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it will be counted a curse to him.

- **God tells us to be diligent rising early and not remaining asleep like most.**
- **Most people do not want to be awakened.**
- **Jeremiah 25:4 "And the LORD hath sent unto you all his servants the prophets, rising early and sending them; but ye have not hearkened, nor inclined your ear to hear."**
- **Proverbs 6:9-10 "How long will you slumber, O sluggard? When will you rise from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, A little folding of the hands to sleep — "**
- **Slow, stupid like a slug**

27:15-16 A continual dripping on a very rainy day And a contentious woman are alike; Whoever restrains her restrains the wind, and grasps oil with his right hand.

- **A contentious woman is not a godly woman because she is contending for control of the house.**
- **Genesis 3:16 "...Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."**
- **Proverbs 19:13 "...the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping."**
- **Proverbs 19:14 "... a prudent wife is from the LORD." A woman of providence.**
- **You can't get a contentious woman to shut up. She persistently pushes your buttons until you sin. Your response of sin gives her power over you.**
- **Instead of being a help mate, honoring the Lord, she will bring out the worst in you.**
- **Proverbs 26:21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious person to kindle strife."**
- **You can't stop her anymore than you can restrain the wind or grasp oil with your hand. God shows don't try and change her get away from her.**
- **Proverbs 21:19 "It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman."**
- **Proverbs 21:9 "It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house."**
- **Proverbs 25:24 "It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house."**
- **God doesn't want us to follow this path.**
- **Isaiah 3:12 "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths."**
- **God doesn't want us to stay married if it leads to our spiritual destruction.**

27:17 As iron sharpens iron, so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

- **Stimulating thought and discussion stimulates stimulating thought and discussion.**
- **Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 "Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone? And if one prevail against him, two shall withstand him; and a threefold cord is not quickly broken."**
- **Hebrews 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."**
- **God wants us through proper fellowship to fulfill the second great law and of bringing out the best in others.**
- **Malachi 3:16 "Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."**
- **Other people for good or bad can have a tremendous affect on us.**

27:18 Whoever keeps the fig tree will eat its fruit; so he who waits on his master will be honored.

- **Being an excellent servant is not without its benefits. Hard work is no disgrace, neither is taking orders. The disgrace is not doing your job well.**
- **Don't let willful disobedience and pride keep you from being everything you can be.**
- **Ecclesiastes 9:10 "Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going."**
- **John 12:26 "If any man serve Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall also my servant be: if any man serve Me, him will my Father honour."**
- **Being a servant is the way to being exalted in due season.**

27:19 As in water face reflects face, so a man's heart reveals the man.

- **We look in the water to see what we look like physically, God wants us to know what we look like spiritually.**
- **James 1:25 "But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed."**
- **"Surely, if each man saw another's heart. There would be no commerce; All would disperse, And live apart."**

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

- **People always want more even if it deprives others of life itself.**
- **All of the wars were fought over what? At the cost of millions of lives, entire generations of young men.**
- **James 4:1-3 "From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts."**

27:21 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, and a man is valued by what others say of him.

- **The crucible determines value of the gold or silver, just as others will determine how you touched their lives.**
- **2 Corinthians 10:18 "For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."**
- **1 Peter 1:6-7 "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ"**

27:22 Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his foolishness will not depart from him.

- According to God a fool is one that is evil, not diminished by mental capacities. What makes a fool according God's understanding, he is not going to give up foolish pleasures.
- Foolishness which is bound in the heart of a child may be driven out by the rod of correction, learning what life is not.
- Isaiah 1:3-7 "The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate, as overthrown by strangers."
- Still they will argue for sinful ways of life.

27:23 Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and attend to your herds;

- Tend and keep even the animals in our household. You should even know their state.
- Metaphor for a pastor and church congregation. We are all our brother's keepers.
- Ezekiel 34:1-6 "And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: "Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them."

27:24 For riches are not forever, nor does a crown endure to all generations.

- Money in this life is temporary to teach us spiritual lessons. God would never give real wealth to humanity.
- Isaiah 55:1-2 "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money ; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your

labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.”

27:25 When the hay is removed, and the tender grass shows itself, and the herbs of the mountains are gathered in,

- God is our greatest wealth. You need have no great toil in getting food for your flocks, because it grows spontaneously; and the pastures are open to all. Not only in the valleys, but also on "the mountains;" only you must gather it at the proper time.

27:26 The lambs will provide your clothing, and the goats the price of a field;

- All the livestock which multiplies enables us, when they are sold to buy even greater fields.

27:27 You shall have enough goats' milk for your food, for the food of your household, and the nourishment of your maidservants.

- We are nourished by the milk and clothed by the wool God provides for us when we think of Him as our true wealth.

Proverbs 28

28:1 The wicked flee when no one pursues, but the righteous are bold as a lion.

- **Courage:** Eric Holder stated we are a nation of cowards, which is less than a complementary view of this nation. Why is that so offensive? Because courage is important virtue and yet each of us have been afraid at times.
- Courage is a Christian virtue we often don't think about, being most of the time we think about subjects as grace, love, and forgiveness. But to endure to the end each of us need courage.
- Proverbs 24:10 "If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small."
- In the gospels we see the apostle Peter (like us) was filled with vain pride and a human courage. Peter like many of us saw himself able bodied, impetuous, self righteous, thought of himself as strong, physically orientated, and did not understand many spiritual principles about true strength. As shown from the Bible at the critical hour his courage failed on numerous occasions: such as walking on water during the storm or upon Jesus' arrest or even later afraid of what the Jews would think of his associations with gentile brethren.
- What spiritual courage isn't: God wants even our concept of courage to under go conversion, which raises the question what is the basis of spiritual courage or rather "godly courage vs. the courage among men." One immediate difference is godly courage is an expression or act of trust placed where it belongs—generally for the benefit of others, as opposed to the courage men exhibit for destructive purposes. Many men have placed their trust in vain causes and their leaders and have died

bravely for causes that never mattered. But dying for the wrong things is a waste of life.

- **Fools rush in where angels fear to tread.**
- **Why is having spiritual courage important? As the sons and daughters God wants us to recognize He not only creates in us the beauty of holiness, is our Lord filling us with love, but the third aspect of His nature that is revealed is God is a God of power and strength—El Shaddai. One important family trait is strength and courage**
- **God doesn't want us to passive lukewarm Christians. He wants us in the right way to be courageous and not cowards. 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."**
- **Spiritual courage places a great greater value on our spiritual lives than the physical lives we have now.**
- **Spiritual courage keeps us focused on preparing for eternal life.**
- **Hebrews 11:35-40 "Others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection. Still others had trial of mockings and scourgings, yes, and of chains and imprisonment. They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented —of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. And all these, having obtained a good testimony through faith, did not receive the promise, God having provided something better for us, that they should not be made perfect apart from us."**
- **Courage involves strength, knowing what is right, having audacity, being patience, and showing strong conviction—that is greater than our insecurities and fears. It is often in defense of the honor we show to God and love we have for our fellow man.**
- **Where do we get spiritual courage? Do we work it up, reach down within us for that little something extra. Like most of us the apostles they we largely simple men that fished and lived in small villages, suffice it to say it is not something inherent or is as acquired instantaneously.**
- **1 Corinthians 1:26-29 "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in His presence."**
- **The question how do the weak become empowered with true courage.**

- True courage is a spiritual gift. The first step to acquiring spiritual courage is to acknowledge we are devoid of it. Sorry to say but human beings are not a virtuous lot.
- It is part of faith granted through grace, through the holy spirit. It is part of the nature of God shares with us to help transform our character completely into His image and likeness.
- 2 Timothy 1:7 “For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”
- We cannot be courageous independent of God any more than we can be wise or loving.
- Courage is one aspect of faith. A strong conviction God places within us as an aspect of grace and imputed righteousness. Courage is one aspect of faith, hope, and love.
- It based upon implicit trust of our growing relationship with God.
- Claiming the promises of God: Deuteronomy 31:6 “Be strong and of a good courage , fear not, nor be afraid of them: for the LORD thy God, he it is that doth go with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”
- We have to do something with it. God shows a condition for Him to empower us with courage is we must be willing to use it for His glory. The expression of courage is in a very real sense a choice we have to make.
- God advises us, Psalms 31:24 “Be of good courage, and He shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the LORD.”
- It cannot be used to protect our own vanity or pride. It must always be used for the glory of our Heavenly Father, not in respect of men, our savior Jesus Christ, and in the love and defense of others.
- James 2:20 “But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?”
- Quite often in a state of adversity an expression of courage is an expression of love, an act of blessing God, an act of faith. It is an act of carrying out God’s will, plan, and purpose.
- Courage is needed because there is an opposite pull there go the other way, to take a soft approach, to take the fearful approach. We have to freely choose to express what God has placed within us through the holy spirit.
- Courage can wax and wane based upon our relationship with God. 2 Timothy 1:6 “Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands.”
- There is an aspect of empowerment. Psalms 27:14 “Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD.”
- It is an act of resolutely doing what is right—for God’s plan and purpose for our lives and others.
- Hebrew *chazaq*, "to show oneself strong, but in what? Our courage is not a dependency upon our strength so spiritual courage is an expression of a trust in God.

- **2 Chronicles 15:8** And when [king] Asa heard these words, and the prophecy of Oded the prophet, he took courage, and put away the abominable idols out of all the land of Judah and Benjamin, and out of the cities which he had taken from mount Ephraim, and renewed the altar of the LORD, that was before the porch of the LORD.”
- **1 Chronicles 19:13** “Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people, and for the cities of our God: and let the LORD do that which is good in His sight.”
- It is an expression of love based upon every right principle: **Isaiah 41:6** “They helped every one his neighbour; and every one said to his brother, Be of good courage.”
- Courage is a firm assurance in your relationship with God.

28:2 Because of the transgression of a land, many are its princes; but by a man of understanding and knowledge right will be prolonged.

- What is being addressed here is government that works and government that does not work.
- Where there are transgressions in the land, the nation is punished by the leaders God gives it, being corrupt, contending for wealth and power, dividing the people into many factions.
- Much as we see in the Church of God today.
- **1 Kings 16:8-10** “In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years. And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah. And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead.”
- **1 Kings 16:21** “Then were the people of Israel divided into two parts: half of the people followed Tibni the son of Ginath, to make him king; and half followed Omri.”
- King David a shepherd king brought a greater blessing on the people because he genuinely loved God, and gave his great wealth for the building of the temple. In his old age all he had left was just his God.
- Jesus Christ was born through the house of David.

28:3 A poor man who oppresses the poor is like a driving rain which leaves no food.

- The rain is intended help crops grow as the poor should have the compassion for the poor, not add to their misery.
- **Matthew 18:28** “But the same servant [who was forgiven 10,000 talents] went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, pay me that thou owest.”

- Didn't pass on blessings.
- If we can't forgive the few sins we see in another's life that offends us then God who sees all our sins cannot forgive us. As a sinner you should have tried to understand and forgive somebody who is a sinner. You should understand human weakness.

28:4 Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, but such as keep the law contend with them.

- Because of the factor of free moral agency, the environment we develop in creates different kinds of people. Some people who are moral and some that are immoral.
- Our values are where our heart is and what we identify with. A person who is a thief is going to have no problem accepting bribes but if you live within God's laws, praising God, you're going to find such an act offensive.
- God shows what kind of people we are can place us at odds with God, so give it some careful thought.
- Psalms 10:3 "For the wicked boasteth of his heart's desire, and blesseth the covetous, whom the LORD abhorreth." At odds with God.
- Why should think about your morals because you are hurting yourself. Repeating the errors of your parents.
- We've learned a nation is blessed only when its people look to Him.
- Part of our witness of the gospel. Ephesians 5:11 "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them."

28:5 Evil men do not understand justice, but those who seek the LORD understand all.

- 1 John 2:19-21 "They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us. But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth."
- God is preparing us to inherit all things, do you think there is any aspect of godliness, the beauty of holiness, creativity, having proper relationships, or God's power He is not going to share with us. Is the any aspect of His leadership He is going to share with us. That is why we have been given a physical life.
- 2 Peter 1:3-4 "According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."
- Why does He place them in darkness to give them a chance.

28:6 Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

- **Integrity is another way of saying you are what you are. You say what you mean and mean what you say.**
- **The perverse tell people what they want to hear—such as flattery. A person who does this and is rich God sees as poor.**
- **1 Peter 4:11 “If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.”**

28:7 Whoever keeps the law is a discerning son, but a companion of gluttons shames his father.

- **A godly son will make his father proud, and our heavenly Father even prouder.**
- **Bad company is a great hindrance to religion. Those that are companions of riotous men, that choose such for their companions and delight in their conversation, will certainly be drawn from keeping the law of God and drawn to transgress it. In essence God wants you to be careful who you hang around and call friend.**
- **Psalms 119:115 “Depart from me, ye evildoers: for I will keep the commandments of my God.”**
- **The emphasis is not as much on physical but spiritual and what we went through in the churches we had to leave, we couldn’t remain there and grow in faith.**
- **Revelation 3:17 “Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked.”**

28:8 One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor.

- **Getting ahead by taking advantage of others—supply and demand. Not content to make a reasonable profit. Don’t catch a right amount of fish catch all of them until species are extinct.**
- **The 1840’s the robber barons coincided with another event the establishment of evolution.**
- **In the end the last will be first and the first will be last.**
- **In God’s kingdom the robber barons like J. P. Morgan, Rockefellers, the Harriman’s’ will be understood not to be successful but people that exploited the poor.**
- **The future for God’s people?**
- **Revelation 21:7 “He that overcometh shall inherit all things ; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.”**

28:9 One who turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

- **God wants us to come to Him as a parent and us being a son or daughter. The purpose of the law is the family code of love.**
- **If anyone comes before Him asking anything, as people worship the gods of this world He is not going to answer.**
- **He will have us as His children or He will have us as nothing at all.**
- **To the Gnostics, Ascetics, Nicholaitans, Mystics, and other Trinitarians—Matthew 7:23 “And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you : depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”**

28:10 Whoever causes the upright to go astray in an evil way, he himself will fall into his own pit; but the blameless will inherit good.

- **If we cause others to perish because of our cold blooded hearts in the end no one will show you mercy not even God.**
- **The opposite lesson or promise those who love and wish well on others good things in time will come back to them.**
- **Strongly expressed—Matthew 23:14 “Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation.”**

28:11 The rich man is wise in his own eyes, but the poor who has understanding searches him out.

- **The wise think they know all things because they have no accountability. Executive privilege. They think their money shields them from all incrimination. God shows don't hold your breath.**
- **The poor who have no distractions searches for God from the sincerity of his heart.**
- **Luke 7:47 “Wherefore I say unto thee, Her sins, which are many, are forgiven; for she loved much: but to whom little is forgiven , the same loveth little.”**

28:12 When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory; but when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.

- **Esther 8:15-17 “And Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal apparel of blue and white, and with a great crown of gold, and with a garment of fine linen and purple: and the city of Shushan rejoiced and was glad. The Jews had light, and gladness, and joy, and honour. And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them.”**
- **Of king Jehoram: 2 Chronicles 21:20 “He was thirty-two years old when he became king. He reigned in Jerusalem eight years and, to no one's sorrow, departed.”**

- People criticize Christianity but what do they have to offer.
- Psalms 14:1-4 “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The LORD looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one. Have all the workers of iniquity no knowledge? who eat up my people as they eat bread, and call not upon the LORD.”
- Would you have liked be defeated by a Christian nations such as the U.S. or the Imperial Japanese Army or the Third Reich, which would you rather have.

28:13 He who covers his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and forsakes them will have mercy.

- Honesty is the best policy. This proverb proves God cares more about the attitude and the technicality of the sin. But when you refuse to face up to your sins, putting on a big show God is not forgiving your sins.
- Psalms 32:2-5 “Blessed is the man unto whom the LORD imputeth not iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no guile. When I kept silence, my bones waxed old through my roaring all the day long. For day and night thy hand was heavy upon me: my moisture is turned into the drought of summer. Selah. I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.”

28:14 Happy is the man who is always reverent, but he who hardens his heart will fall into calamity.

- God makes us a promise. Ezekiel 33:13 “When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be remembered; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it.”
- You can’t lie, bribe, or steal your way into God’s family.

28:15 Like a roaring lion and a charging bear Is a wicked ruler over poor people.

- How happy are people in a community to see to an attacking bear or lion walking down the street. When you see them you know it is going to cost you. With wicked rulers it is not different, they have an agenda of which you are not a part.
- No one cares a bout poor people, except God.
- Just the way King George tried to get the colonies to pay for his wars.
- In respect of his character. He is brutish, barbarous, and blood-thirsty; he is rather to be put among the beasts of prey, the wildest and most savage, than to be reckoned of that noble rank of beings whose glory is reason and humane.

28:16 A ruler who lacks understanding is a great oppressor, but he who hates covetousness will prolong his days.

- **God's laws address leadership.**
- **A weak prince will generally have wicked ministers, for his weakness prevents him from making a proper choice; and he is apt to prefer them who flatter him, and minister most to his pleasures. The quantum of the king's intellect may be always appreciated by the mildness or oppressiveness of his government.**
- **Exodus 18:21-22 "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens: And let them judge the people at all seasons: and it shall be, that every great matter they shall bring unto thee, but every small matter they shall judge: so shall it be easier for thyself, and they shall bear the burden with thee."**
- **Why is this addressed in Proverbs? God want you to ask yourself what kind of king will you be, that will depend upon your character strengths and deficiencies. This is why we are living a physical life.**

28:17 A man burdened with bloodshed will flee into a pit; let no one help him.

- **A murderer you cannot help he is solely in the hands of God. If you get involved you could be arrested as an accessory and sent to prison.**
- **Genesis 9:5-6 And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man."**
- **God will not accept an excuse for taking the life of another.**

28:18 Whoever walks blamelessly will be saved, but he who is perverse in his ways will suddenly fall.

- **Fall means no longer have an opportunity to be forgiven of sin and to be destroyed in the lake of fire.**
- **Revelation 14:4-5 "These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins. These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth. These were redeemed from among men, being the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. And in their mouth was found no guile: for they are without fault before the throne of God."**

28:19 He who tills his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows frivolity will have poverty enough!

- **The person who tills the land doesn't deserve the bread because it is God that gives the increase. He might even till his land right or the most effective way but he tries.**
- **Even food is a gift of conditional grace.**

- God shows hard work is a spiritually quality important in this life as well as the next.
- But a person who talks about planting all summer long, God will provide an increase based directly proportional on the effort they put in to it. How can He multiply what has been planted.

28:20 A faithful man will abound with blessings, but he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished.

- Faithful in living according to the plan and purpose of God. It is a long journey but he wants to be a part of God's family. Blessings not only shows him what is in store but what he is being transformed into.
- But if you take the short cuts you are going to have to break the laws of God, just as many of the politicians and wealthy have in this country,

28:21 To show partiality is not good, because for a piece of bread a man will transgress.

- Making wrong judgments for self gain is not good character because you are pretending to be something you are not: you are guilty of covetousness, lying, deceit, and dishonoring God. Deliberate error of justice.
- Matthew 23:27-28 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones , and of all uncleanness. Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity."

28:22 A man with an evil eye hastens after riches, and does not consider that poverty will come upon him.

- Getting something in the wrong way, in the end is going to cost you everything.
- Job 27:13-17 "This is the portion of a wicked man with God, and the heritage of oppressors, which they shall receive of the Almighty. If his children be multiplied, it is for the sword: and his offspring shall not be satisfied with bread. Those that remain of him shall be buried in death: and his widows shall not weep. Though he heap up silver as the dust, and prepare raiment as the clay; He may prepare it, but the just shall put it on, and the innocent shall divide the silver."

28:23 He who rebukes a man will find more favor afterward than he who flatters with the tongue.

- A person who gives constructive criticism cares about the quality of your life.
- Nothing worse than kissing someone's ass.
- All solid relationships are based on constructive criticism and the respect they show each other. Everybody knows a flatterer has an ulterior motive and there is no substance in anything they are saying.
- God hates flattery and evil speaking.

28:24 Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, "It is no transgression, "The same is companion to a destroyer.

- A child that steals from his mother and father is guilty of a capital crime before the eyes of God punishable by death.
- It irreprehensible to find and justification for such behavior.
- Deuteronomy 21:21 "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

28:25 He who is of a proud heart stirs up strife, but he who trusts in the LORD will be prospered.

- Habakkuk 2:5-6 "Yea also, because he transgresseth by wine, he is a proud man, neither keepeth at home, who enlargeth his desire as hell, and is as death, and cannot be satisfied, but gathereth unto him all nations, and heapeth unto him all people: Shall not all these take up a parable against him, and a taunting proverb against him, and say, Woe to him that increaseth that which is not his! how long? and to him that ladeth himself with thick clay!"
- If you live for any purpose other than God you are an empty headed fool.

28:26 He who trusts in his own heart is a fool, but whoever walks wisely will be delivered.

- The character of a fool: He trusts to his own heart, to his own wisdom and counsels, his own strength and sufficiency, his own merit and righteousness, and the good opinion he has of himself.
- Wisely means you see it God's way is the right way the facts support it. There is nothing up for debate except your own evil heart deceives you.

28:27 He who gives to the poor will not lack, but he who hides his eyes will have many curses.

- Every proverb is given as an antithesis to emphasize what life is and life is not. God makes it plain in every way from every angle His way is the only right way.
- John 3:18-21 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his

deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light , that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God."

28:28 When the wicked arise, men hide themselves; but when they perish, the righteous increase.

- **Bad leadership destroys a country. But when their gone the people there is a religious revival.**
- **A good example was King Hezekiah. He was the first good king since David.**
- **He brought about a religious reformation. 2 Kings 18:4-5 "He removed the high places, and brake the images, and cut down the groves, and brake in pieces the brasen serpent that Moses had made: for unto those days the children of Israel did burn incense to it: and he called it Nehushtan. He trusted in the LORD God of Israel; so that after him was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor any that were before him."**

Proverbs 29

29:1 He who is often rebuked, and hardens his neck, will suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

- **The more correction and nagging a person receives the more they will not listen. Their radar shuts down. No one can learn like this. A person who wants to help another has to do it in the right way. Not even God does it this way.**
- **1 Peter 3:15-17 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear ; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil."**
- **Parents and friends, by magistrates and ministers, or the providence of God each person has to come to see the truth according to their own consciences. They have to come to the realization there is a better way.**
- **God's way is not truthfully debatable but is discredited in the hands of evil and wicked men who hate God.**
- **The antithesis is, in spite of the facts if an individual doesn't listen to the voice of Providence and follows their human nature in the hands of the Devil, their lives will come to unhappiness and destruction.**
- **Luke 11:33-36 "Your eyes are like a lamp for the body. When your eyes are sound, your whole body is full of light; but when your eyes are no good, your whole body will be in darkness. Make certain, then, that the light in you is not darkness. If your whole body is full of light, with no part of it in darkness, it will be bright all over, as when a lamp shines on you with its brightness."**
- **2 Chronicles 36:15-16 "And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by His messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because He had compassion on His**

people, and on His dwelling place: but they mocked the messengers of God, and despised His words, and misused His prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against His people, till there was no remedy.”

- Christ prayed we would not be taken out of the world because there are lessons for us to learn in the time we are here. Whether negatively learning what life is not or learning the way of God leads to life abundantly.
- Contrarily we all have to make the choice to claim the promises of God, John 16:23-24 “Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in My name He will give Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full.”
- Always uncompromisingly stand for the truth. 1 John 4:4-6 “You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.”

29:2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when a wicked man rules, the people groan.

- For the unconverted minded one of the greatest witnesses and evidences of faith in God is through the character of His people.
- One of things we have to grow into to become righteous authority.
- Righteous authority makes a difference in the lives of others. Luke 12:42-44 “And the Lord said, ‘Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Of a truth I say unto you, that he will make him ruler over all that he hath.’”
- Antithesis: Counterfeit Christianity, Christ warned us about, about those who lord over others without love or affection—like in cults. Ezekiel 34:1-6 “And the word of the LORD came to me, saying, ‘Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD to the shepherds: Woe to the shepherds of Israel who feed themselves! Should not the shepherds feed the flocks? You eat the fat and clothe yourselves with the wool; you slaughter the fatlings, but you do not feed the flock. The weak you have not strengthened, nor have you healed those who were sick, nor bound up the broken, nor brought back what was driven away, nor sought what was lost; but with force and cruelty you have ruled them. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd; and they became food for all the beasts of the field when they were scattered. My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and on every high hill; yes, My flock was scattered over the whole face of the earth, and no one was seeking or searching for them.’”

29:3 Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice, but a companion of harlots wastes his wealth.

- Antithesis of what life is and life is not. Christianity is portrayed as a boring and outdated morality, being a hedonist (smoky pool halls, alcohol, partying, sex) is immediately pleasureable and gratifying. But that is a distorted view.

- A wise person balances all the aspects of his life and relationships, walking in his father's footsteps, honoring him. Working hard to build something over many years gives you something to be proud about. Looking for that one special woman.
- There is no honor with a woman who has no love for you or in the bottom of a whiskey bottle.
- A harlot is not concerned with working with you as wife to build a life, she will spend your substance and then move on. She makes a living using people, creating the illusion she loves you when she does not. Wouldn't it be better to hold out for a woman who is beautiful in a genuine way and faithfully loves you for the rest of your life, while being your helpmate being your moral compass. An evil woman will lead you into more evil.

29:4 The king establishes the land by justice, but he who receives bribes overthrows it.

- Antithesis of rulership is and what rulership is not.
- The basis of the Magna Carta and the U. S. Constitution a covenant with God to treat all men fairly.
- *This was notoriously the case in this kingdom, before the passing of the Magna Charta, or great charter of liberties. Hence, that article in it, Nulli vendemus justitiam; "We will not sell justice to any." I have met with cases in our ancient records where, in order to get his right, a man was obliged almost to ruin himself in presents to the king, queen, and their favourites, to get the case decided in his favour.*
- Look at our country today and thousands of lobbyists literally bribe Congressman and Senate and call it good government. They have bankrupted this country because they are not servants of the people.
- (*Receives bribes*) literally, 'a man of oblations.' Terumoth is elsewhere sacred oblations. So here, 'a man who wishes oblations to be offered him as if he were a priest or God himself. God will prove otherwise.

29:5 A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

- A healthy relationship is based upon honesty and outgoing concern. Someone who uses flattery is trying to manipulate another disregarding their will. A net for his feet means the flattered will direct his path according to his will, assuming it is a response of friendship rather than manipulation.
- Whose net is it, it is the net of the Devil. 2 Timothy 2:26 "And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will."
- One of the values of humility is to have a realistic appraisal of our lives. Beware of a flatterer; he does not flatter merely to please you, but to deceive you and profit himself.

29:6 By transgression an evil man is snared, but the righteous sings and rejoices.

- **Antithesis of enduring the penalty of sin vs. being freed through grace and having righteousness imputed to you through Christ, that your joy may be full.**
- **2 Peter 2:18-19 “For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”**
- **The end result of addiction is overdose, the end result of sexual sins is venereal disease or worse, the end result of alcoholism is cirrhosis of the liver, the end result of crime is going to jail, the end result of cheating is divorce, the end result of irresponsibility is being fired, do we need to go on.**

29:7 The righteous considers the cause of the poor, but the wicked does not understand such knowledge.

- **When we know God’s way we know to give is to get. The world thinks to give is to have less. But to give to the weak, the poor, widow, down trodden, and lift every burden is the will of the Lord. If you see a genuine need.**
- **God makes a promise. Proverbs 19:17 “He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.”**
- **One gives because it is the right thing inwardly you are strengthened and enriched in your own life.**
- **Others that are weak are not blessed and equated to sinners.**
- **Psalms 41:1-4 “Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble. The LORD will preserve him, and keep him alive; and he shall be blessed upon the earth: and thou wilt not deliver him unto the will of his enemies. The LORD will strengthen him upon the bed of languishing: thou wilt make all his bed in his sickness. I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.”**
- **The mercy you give to others becomes your mercy in your time of need. Because in reality we are all poor.**

29:8 Scoffers set a city aflame, but wise men turn away wrath.

- **Ungodly people are prone to violence the righteous are wise controlling their tempers because God is showing them wrath does not fulfill the plan of salvation; not in His relationship with us nor in our relationship with others.**
- **Even regarding our enemies (by their choice, we should have no enemies) we should love them, forgive them, because God hopes for the best and so should we.**
- **Ungodly, unconverted men suffer many obstacles in life so in such a world they violently take what they want because violence is the very basis of their culture.**
- **James 4:1-3 “From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? Ye lust, and have not: ye kill,**

and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.”

29:9 If a wise man contends with a foolish man, whether the fool rages or laughs, there is no peace.

- **The point is don't. Universal law of response: No touch, no talk, no speak.**

29:10 The bloodthirsty hate the blameless, but the upright seek his well-being.

- **Because they are easy prey and can't fight back. To those who have righteousness imputed pass on the same mercy to others in need as you have received.**
- **God shows a negative, cynical view toward people is wrong. Godly people love not only God but they love people to through the holy spirit.**

29:11 A fool vents all his feelings, but a wise man holds them back.

- **Don't tell everybody everything you know.**
- **The question is why is he doing this, because he is trying to justify themselves from a very selfish, narcissistic point of view.**
- **You can't be the advocate for yourself only Jesus Christ can do this.**
- **Secondly what do you think the world is going to give you.**

29:12 If a ruler pays attention to lies, all his servants become wicked.

- **Leadership has a powerful affect on the morality of the people. If a ruler surrounds himself with liars all of his subordinates will become liars to gain his favor.**
- **The greatest lie is to defame Christ.**
- **This our heavenly Father speaking, Psalms 2:2-6 “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD, and against His anointed, saying, let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us. He that sitteth in the heavens shall laugh: the Lord shall have them in derision. Then shall He speak unto them in His wrath, and vex them in His sore displeasure. Yet have I set My king upon My holy hill of Zion.”**
- **Revelation 18:3-5 “For all nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, and the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies. And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”**

29:13 The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: the LORD gives light to the eyes of both.

- **God created all things for one purpose.**
- **Ecclesiastes 3:19-21 “For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?”**
- **Light of the eyes has a physical context but a spiritual context too, to understand we were created to become the family, children, the son, the helpmate of Christ, the daughter, the heritage of God, and we should want it desperately because everything in this world is perishing.**

29:14 The king who judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever.

- **When you judge with truth you aren’t trying to destroy them, you have made the effort to search out the truth, so you can genuinely help them to escape from the pit they are in.**
- **Your job is to lead the poor to Christ, and Christ is to lead them to the Father, and the Father is to lead them to His family, through eternal life.**
- **Everything physical is moving, like shifting sands on a beach, changing, pointing toward a more lasting and greater day.**
- **Luke 19:17 “And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities.” Based upon the capacity to love those people. Shows you we are now being trained.**

29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

- **Pain is the great persuader. The lesson of fire is never more completely learned than by somebody that has been burned.**
- **Children subconsciously want to be corrected. Boundaries give them security, and when they are allowed to do what they want they misbehave because they are crying out to be punished.**
- **1 Peter 4:1-3 “Therefore, since Christ suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves also with the same mind, for he who has suffered in the flesh has ceased from sin, that he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh for the lusts of men, but for the will of God.”**

29:16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases; but the righteous will see their fall.

- **Ungodly men will always fail in the end. End of all the world empires and their leaders.**
- **Governments may fall but God can redeem the people.**
- **Revelation 18:4-5 “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues. For her sins have reached unto heaven, and God hath remembered her iniquities.”**
- **Psalms 37:34-37 “Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found. Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.”**

29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.

- **Don't be an enabling parent, give constructive criticism, frequently. *If you want my help you listen to my lessons.* Provide a godly culture so they have the fundamentals for success when they reach adulthood, and they are ready to begin their own journey. Correct means discipline, not hit with baseball bat, but discipline means is what a concert pianist must have, they have to have pressure and intensified training placed on their shoulders. Time cannot be wasted, objectives must be met.**
- **Psalms 45:15-17 “With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace. Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth. I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.”**

29:18 Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint; but happy is he who keeps the law.

- **Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.**
- **We have to have an understanding of how God wants us to live.**
- **2 Peter 2:20 “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”**

29:19 A servant will not be corrected by mere words; for though he understands, he will not respond.

- **It is impossible to understand the words that are spoken to you when they don't resonate within you. They don't think they apply to them.**
- **With stubborn people words often don't make a dent.**

- **John 3:19-21** “And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light , because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light , neither cometh to the light , lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light , that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.”
- **When they have tasted the bitter fruits of their own failures then they appreciate the gracious hand of God.**

29:20 Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

- **A person who talks to much you cannot discuss anything with. They love to talk to hear themselves for debate but not to reach resolution.**
- **Proverbs 12:19** “The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.”
- **Matthew 6:7** “But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.”

29:21 He who pampers his servant from childhood will have him as a son in the end.

- **It doesn't mean sissify.**
- **Proverbs 29:21** “He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.”
- **Providing all things needful, tools to help him make something out of himself, he will be indebted to you forever.**
- **If somebody works for you treat him like a son and take an active hand in providing for their well being. Like Great Expectations.**
- **They don't adopt the minimum wage mentality.**
- **Colossians 4:1** “Masters, give unto your servants that which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven.”

29:22 An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression.

- **People who do not have control of their emotions are sinners.**
- **A furious man aboundeth in transgression - Hebrew, pashang; daring and profane transgression, such as passionate oaths, taking God's name in vain**

29:23 A man's pride will bring him low, but the humble in spirit will retain honor.

- **In this world we are told pride is good but no pride is bad. We honestly have nothing to be proud about. To be placed in a state of grace we have to be humble, which means we are telling God we know that we are sinners.**
- **It is a way of telling God we appreciate everything He is doing for us, and through humiliation we understand we deserve nothing.**
- **It is a conditional state of mind required before He grants us grace. It is called repentance.**

- Isaiah 66:2 “...but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word.”

29:24 Whoever is a partner with a thief hates his own life; he swears to tell the truth, but reveals nothing.

- A man who assists a thief must really hate himself! For he knows the consequence but does it anyway.

29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD shall be safe.

- Getting involved with men it is going to always end badly, but with God you can't go wrong.
- “Fear of man is a dangerous trap, but to trust in God means safety.”
- Isaiah 33:15-17 “He that walketh righteously, and speaketh uprightly; he that despiseth the gain of oppressions, that shaketh his hands from holding of bribes, that stoppeth his ears from hearing of blood, and shutteth his eyes from seeing evil; He shall dwell on high: his place of defence shall be the munitions of rocks: bread shall be given him; his waters shall be sure. Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off.”

29:26 Many seek the ruler's favor, but justice for man comes from the LORD.

- John 7:12-13 “And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people. Howbeit no man spake openly of him for fear of the Jews.”
- It is natural desire to seek the favor of men and be well thought of them, but if you have the right perspective it is better to turn your attention to the Lord.
- Above all, your relationship with God is the first great law.
- God wants us to love others, but He does not want us to leave Him out.

29:27 An unjust man is an abomination to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is an abomination to the wicked.

- Never the twain shall meet, subsisted between the woman's seed and the serpent's seed
- The wicked are making a journey in life on a very short train ride, which they don't want to be confronted by.
- Psalms 139:20-23 “For they speak against thee wickedly, and thine enemies take thy name in vain. Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies. Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts.”

Proverbs 30

30:1 The Wisdom of Agur / The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, his utterance. This man declared to Ithiel — to Ithiel and Ucal:

- It may be Agur, Jakeh, Ithiel, and Ucal, were God's Saints in the Old Testament which we know nothing of, as there are no doubt thousands of Saints we will one day meet.
- The meaning of their names convey lessons of family and perhaps godly friendships or professional relationships dedicated to the Lord. Agur means *"gathered;"* Jaken means *"obedient;"* Ithiel means *"God is with me;"* Ucal means *"strongly consumed."* *The more we see of God the more desirable He is.*
- Utterance means prophecy.
- What is wisdom? Wisdom is a moral quality rather than an intellectual quality. It is an illustration of a way of life that works, produces the right results in happiness and fulfillment.
- Wisdom is not inherent within the fallen nature of mankind which is in darkness. It is a gift of grace. It grants the ability to judge correctly and to follow the best course of action, based on knowledge and understanding.
- 1 Corinthians 2:12-13 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."
- It is uncontestable and can only be disputed with lies by sinners on the road to death.
- Wisdom personified as a person is Jesus Christ.
- The apostle Paul declared that the message of the cross is foolishness to the Greeks and a stumbling block to the Jews. But to those who believe, said Paul, this "foolishness of God" is "the wisdom of God" (1 Corinthians 1:18-25).
- 1 Corinthians 1:24 "But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God."
- Jesus said in defense of those who are His sheep, and criticize the purpose of life, of which He has set our feet on this path, Matthew 11:19 "...But wisdom is justified of her children."

30:2 Surely I am more stupid than any man, and do not have the understanding of a man.

- A prerequisite for salvation? In cults you are taught your religious beliefs make you better. You look down on those who have not the same faith—examples of the Anglican Church and the Puritans. A wrong attitude is maintained within a hierarchal structure, which fills us with pride because of the fallen nature of man. Where there is hierarchal government your faith is defined through the fallen nature of man.

- **Was there hierarchal government in the Garden of Eden? No. God allowed mankind to freely choose. In the time of Moses and the receiving of the law were they ruled with iron clad church government, no God said in Deut 28 each person had to choose.**
- **The truth is what matters if we are to find the plan and purpose of God, because God always lives within the light of the truth. Where does this truth lead us to feel good about selves, to an active social life, people we can speak in front of?**
- **The first step on the road to salvation and accepting the mercies of God is to know you are in need of them. Not your unfortunate neighbor, you, because you are the unfortunate one. Repentance is more of a state of heart than words.**
- **Change means instead of unquestionably remaining on the path of your fallen nature, your first step is looking into the abyss of your own sins, realizing you have no right to judge anyone.**
- **1 Peter 4:3-12 “For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revelings, banquetings, and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead. For, for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen. Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you.”**

30:3 I neither learned wisdom nor have knowledge of the Holy One.

- This a reference to the Messiah to show the entire Bible in context has continuity, everything in the Bible has to do with everything in the Bible.
- Job 19:25-27 “For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that He shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: Whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me.”
- Messiah means anointed, sanctified, set apart by God for a special purpose, used 39 times in the Old Testament.
- Messiah in Hebrew is Christ in the Greek.
- John 1:16-17 “And of his fulness have all we received, and grace for grace. For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.”
- Daniel 9:25 “Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be

seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.”

- **John 5:38-42** “And ye have not His word abiding in you: for whom He hath sent, Him ye believe not. Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of Me. And ye will not come to Me, that ye might have life. I receive not honour from men. But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.”

30:4 Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know?

- Christians can answer these questions.
- **Hebrews 1:1-3** “God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom He hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds; who being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.”
- The full disclosure of the gospel is by grace, on a need to know basis. If your heart is not right God doesn't care if your ridicule him, just go your way. No one will be in His family if your don't want to be there.
- **John 8:21** “Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek Me, and shall die in your sins : whither I go, ye cannot come.”
- **Acts 2:33-34** “Therefore being by the right hand of God exalted, and having received of the Father the promise of the Holy Ghost, He hath shed forth this, which ye now see and hear. For David is not ascended into the heavens: but He saith himself, The LORD said unto My Lord, Sit thou on My right hand.”
- **Deuteronomy 30:11-15** “For this commandment which I command thee this day, it is not hidden from thee, neither is it far off. It is not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? Neither is it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? But the word is very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it. See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil.”

30:5 Every word of God is pure; He is a shield to those who put their trust in Him.

- A buckler is spear and shield—used offensively and defensively. God's word never returns to Him empty. Want to be on the winning side? What to be on the right side? What to be on the side of great blessings, health, and love? With God there is every possible advantage now and for eternity.
- **Hebrews 4:12-13** “For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword , piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. And there is no

creature hidden from His sight, but all things are naked and open to the eyes of Him to whom we must give account.”

- One of the reasons the book of Proverbs was written, His people have the faith to claim the promises of God, as the relationship grows in love and deep dependency.
- In any area of life, science, the arts, or theology God is magnified. God has revealed Himself through out history. He has blessed and lower nations.
- 2 Samuel 22:31 “As for God, His way is perfect; the word of the LORD is tried: He is a buckler to all them that trust in Him.”
- Isaiah 55:8-9 “For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways , saith the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways, and My thoughts than your thoughts.

30:6 Do not add to His words, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar.

- You have to study the word of God with a pure heart without an agenda to make it say what you want. That is why we have such different doctrines and denominations.
- Generally paganism has worked it s way in and synchronized with Christianity and where the scriptures identify it they are altered, such as with the apocrypha or Jerome’s Canon.
- If we attend a group with altered calendar the only way we can remain with the group is to blindly accept the teachings without making the Bible the centerpiece for our lives.
- Deuteronomy 4:2 “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”
- Deuteronomy 12:32 “What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it.”
- Revelation 22:19 “And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.”

30:7-9 Two things I request of You (Deprive me not before I die): Remove falsehood and lies far from me; give me neither poverty nor riches — Feed me with the food allotted to me; Lest I be full and deny You, and say, "Who is the LORD?"Or lest I be poor and steal, and profane the name of my God.

- A prayer to God recognizing the fallen nature of man within himself.
- That he may be preserved from idolatry, false appearances, all words of deception. .
- That he may put no confidence in any words but those pure words of God that never fail them that trust in Him.
- With no focus on physical wealth he asks that God would provide for him, but also fears physical wealth as he fears sin waiting to claim him.
- In essence help me to make this life count for the greatest good and protect me from being snared.

- **John 17:15-17** “I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

30:10 Do not malign a servant to his master, lest he curse you, and you be found guilty.

- **Exodus 22:22-24** “Ye shall not afflict any widow, or fatherless child. If thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto Me, I will surely hear their cry; and my wrath shall wax hot, and I will kill you with the sword; and your wives shall be widows, and your children fatherless.”

30:11 There is a generation that curses its father, and does not bless its mother.

- There is a great evil in each generation, especially at the end of the age. Children who abandon the faith of their parents also abandon their parents in all ways.
- One of the greatest examples of the fallen nature of man. The love of children for their parents is a natural thing but sin can burn it of your heart.
- There may be an immediate cost for following Christ.
- **Matthew 10:19-22** “But when they deliver you up, take no thought how or what ye shall speak: for it shall be given you in that same hour what ye shall speak. For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved.”

30:12 There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness.

- Generation means history in this age, in this world, pertaining to choices one generation may make.
- There is a potential for it to get worse.
- **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.”
- **1 Peter 2:9** “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”
- If you justify yourself in your own eyes Jesus cannot and in this state you are going to die for all eternity in the lake of fire.

30:13 There is a generation — oh, how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up.

- In this world, in this time there are people who sincerely think very high of themselves to the exclusion of all others, which is the cause of every social problem from divorce to crime.

30:14 There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, and whose fangs are like knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

- **In the 1850's evolution was a new doctrine being embraced that taught the strong survive and the weak perish. This was the justification for the robber barons who accumulated vast sums of wealth from exploiting the poor, allowing them to work in unsafe conditions, paying very low wages, or scripts that could only be cashed in their stores.**
- **Many of the great southern plantations were built on the blood, sweat, and tears of the poor.**
- **Jesus asks, 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?"**
- **Do we wonder in the Civil War why the south was almost burned to the ground.**

30:15 The leech has two daughters — Give and Give!

- **They never say, it is enough; they are never satisfied; they are never contented.**
- **Blood suckers, they have no idea what love means.**
- **Not content with having once "devoured the needy," they again, a second time, return to drain out all their substance, like the horse-leach.**
- **They unquestionably follow a way of life where God sees them as a parasite and in the end will give the mercy they has shown. The accumulated wealth for a life they haven't got. And when they are dead, they have left behind a record with God and men they have failed life's purpose.**

30:15 There are three things that are never satisfied, four never say, "Enough!"

- **When is enough and enough, it isn't. With sinners they always want more of what they have not worked for, have no right to, and are not entitled to.**
- **A Christian understands "enough is grace."**
- **The Apostle Paul was slowly going blind and he repeatedly asked God to heal him. 2 Corinthians 12:9 "And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me."**

30:16 The grave, the barren womb, the earth that is not satisfied with water — and the fire never says, "Enough!"

- **There is a way to death as surely are the road to a cemetery, Rachel's barrenness that led to her death, the earth soaking up rain, or a raging forest fire.**

- If this entire world wants to die there is room for all of them in the eternal blackness of death for all eternity.
- Malachi 4:2-3 “But unto you that fear My name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts.”
- They will be lower than the straw under your feet.

30:17 The eye that mocks his father, and scorns obedience to his mother, the ravens of the valley will pick it out, and the young eagles will eat it.

- This is a promise of God if a child disrespects and curses their father, neither are they showing love towards their mother, because a man and woman are one, and they will go to an early grave.
- If they disrespect their parents they disrespect God, there is no spiritual purpose for their lives. As they did to their parents so will vultures do to them.

30:18-19 There are three things which are too wonderful for me, yes, four which I do not understand: The way of an eagle in the air, the way of a serpent on a rock, the way of a ship in the midst of the sea, and the way of a man with a virgin.

- The focus shifts to positive observations about life.
- The author is reveling in the creative abilities of God. The way an eagles feathers give him lift, the way a serpent without legs or arms can move so quickly, the way a ship can navigate in a wide oceans, or the depth of love a man has for the woman he wants to marry. All these things are so because of God.
- James 1:17-18 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights , with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.”
- When He has finished creating us we will be the most amazing creation of all.

30:20 This is the way of an adulterous woman: she eats and wipes her mouth, and says, "I have done no wickedness."

- The antithesis of a righteous woman, virgin, someone you can love, a whore washes away the semen of her lover and removes the evidence and then pretends to be righteous because her conscience will never testify against her.
- 1 Timothy 4:1-2 “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron.”

30:21-23 For three things the earth is perturbed, yes, for four it cannot bear up: For a servant when he reigns, a fool when he is filled with food,

- **God doesn't not support socialized liberalism, where alcoholism is an illness rather than a sin.**
- **Both the servant and fool should not be elevated according to what they have contributed to life. If you enable your child—he rules over you and spends your wealth to satisfy his appetites, the worse thing of all he has learned nothing about life.**
- **The implication is let them starve, maybe it will wake them up. Your not going to rule over my household rule over your own household if you had one.**
- **2 Thessalonians 3:6-10 “And now, dear brothers and sisters, we give you this command with the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ: Stay away from any Christian who lives in idleness and doesn't follow the tradition of hard work we gave you. For you know that you ought to follow our example. We were never lazy when we were with you. We never accepted food from anyone without paying for it. We worked hard day and night so that we would not be a burden to any of you. It wasn't that we didn't have the right to ask you to feed us, but we wanted to give you an example to follow. Even while we were with you, we gave you this rule: ‘Whoever does not work should not eat.’”**

30:23 A hateful woman when she is married, and a maidservant who succeeds her mistress.

- **She will make a poor wife and a not very loyal servant if she thinks she should be served. The only way a servant girl will rule the house is to remove the present wife and marry her husband.**
- **A loving wife will find joy in being a helpmate, she will find happiness because she will find godliness, she will be a coheir with her husband as the children of God.**
- **Proverbs 6:23-31 “For (godly) advice is a beam of light directed into the dark corners of your mind to warn you of danger and to give you a good life. Such counsel will keep you far away from prostitutes, with all their flatteries, and unfaithful wives of other men. Don't lust for their beauty. Don't let their coyness seduce you. For a prostitute will bring a man to poverty, and an adulteress may cost him his very life. Can a man hold fire against his chest and not be burned? Can he walk on hot coals and not blister his feet? So it is with the man who commits adultery with another's wife. He shall not go unpunished for this sin.”**
- **1 Peter 3:5-6 “For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.**
- **1 Peter 3:4 “...a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price .”**

30:24-28 There are four things which are little on the earth, but they are exceedingly wise: The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their food in the summer; The rock badgers are a feeble folk, yet they make their homes in the crags; The locusts have no king, yet they all advance in ranks; The spider skillfully grasps with its hands, and it is in kings' palaces.

- **The smallest and the weakest isn't always. Things are not always as they appear. What is stronger, showing ingenuity, and hard work more than an ant. The badger for its size is the most ferocious animal. Locusts fly together hundreds of miles. A spider goes where it wants.**
- **Who put these traits in animals? God. Who can make you spiritually productive, tenacious, being able to work together in unity. Bringing you before kings. God.**
- **Zechariah 4:6 "Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts."**
- **If God is for you who can be against you.**

30:29-31 There are three things which are majestic in pace, yes, four which are stately in walk: A lion, which is mighty among beasts And does not turn away from any; A greyhound, a male goat also, and a king whose troops are with him.

- **God gives us a physical creation to learn spiritual lessons from. As a lion, greyhound, and sheep move gracefully in strength, or a military formation, we can move gracefully in strength. A lion's gate, the effortless flight, a male goat scaling rocky cliffs where no man can go. God can make it so in our own lives. God can do absolutely amazing things with you if you have the faith.**
- **We should move in grace and strength as our Creator.**
- **The Apostle Paul told the Greeks, Acts 17:27-28 "That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though he be not far from every one of us: For in Him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also His offspring."**
- **Psalms 147:9-11 "He giveth to the beast His food, and to the young ravens which cry. He delighteth not in the strength of the horse: He taketh not pleasure in the legs of a man. The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear Him, in those that hope in His mercy."**

30:32-33 If you have been foolish in exalting yourself, or if you have devised evil, put your hand on your mouth. For as the churning of milk produces butter, and wringing the nose produces blood, so the forcing of wrath produces strife.

- **If we work at sin like churning butter or twisting someone's nose the result is inevitable.**
- **Abstain from all excuses or defense of the past; and change from this day forth, silence your mouth from speaking and going on to do that evil which we so easily performed as our daily activities.**

- “If you have been a fool by being proud or plotting evil, don't brag about it — cover your mouth with your hand in shame. As the beating of cream yields butter, and a blow to the nose causes bleeding, so anger causes quarrels.”
- And the being you don't want to be arguing with is God.
- It is so easy to think we are right and thoughtlessly be used as a tool of the devil to ungodliness.
- Ephesians 5:14-16 “Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

Proverbs 31

31:1 The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him:

- Why a mother should never underestimate the power she has over her children. This righteous king is giving the credit to his mother. Nurture the man God wants or enable him with his fallen nature.
- The rabbis identified him with Solomon, Hezekiah, a minor Arab prince, or that he is a parable or story. Some believe he was the king (descendant of Ishmael) of Massaa (eastern Arabia).
- No one knows for sure who he could be, so may be God wanted us to write our name in this book, as future kings and priests.
- The important point is, it is what a mother taught her son on how to be a wise king.
- It is the duty of mothers, as well as fathers, to teach their children what is good, that they may do it, and what is evil, that they may avoid it; when they are young and tender they are most under the mother's eye, and she has then an opportunity of moulding and fashioning their minds well, which she ought not to let slip.
- *Lemuel means dedicated, consecrated to God—as Samson was.*
- Song of Solomon 3:4 “ It was but a little that I passed from them, but I found him whom my soul loveth: I held him, and would not let him go, until I had brought him into my mother's house, and into the chamber of her that conceived me.”
- Psalms 45:10-11 “Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou Him.”

31:2 What, my son? And what, son of my womb? And what, son of my vows?

- English translation: You are my own dear son, the answer to my prayers. What shall I tell you?
- Repetition strength of mother's feelings.
- He appears to have been the first-born of his mother: called here emphatically *bar biTniy*,
- This son had come by a lawful marriage: hence, *bar n^adaaraay*, the son of my vow, her matrimonial covenant.
- A mother who loves her child should teach them to passionately love God.

31:3 Do not give your strength to women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.

- **What it is that makes you who you are. Your name, reputation, your strength.**
- **Proverbs 5:8-11 “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.”**
- **A man and woman are one, when they become joined even in an unholy way she will have power over his life.**
- **1 Corinthians 6:15-17 “Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? Shall I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not! Or do you not know that he who is joined to a harlot is one body with her? For "the two," He says, "shall become one flesh." But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with Him.”**
- **1 Kings 11:4-6 “For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father.”**

31:4-5 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine, nor for princes intoxicating drink; lest they drink and forget the law, and pervert the justice of all the afflicted.

- **In a state of drunkenness you cannot teach, rule, or make godly judgment.**
- **1 Kings 16:8-10 “In the twenty and sixth year of Asa king of Judah began Elah the son of Baasha to reign over Israel in Tirzah, two years. And his servant Zimri, captain of half his chariots, conspired against him, as he was in Tirzah, drinking himself drunk in the house of Arza steward of his house in Tirzah. And Zimri went in and smote him, and killed him, in the twenty and seventh year of Asa king of Judah, and reigned in his stead.”**
- **Isaiah 28:7-8 “But they also have erred through wine, and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink, they are swallowed up of wine, they are out of the way through strong drink; they err in vision, they stumble in judgment. For all tables are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean.”**

31:6-7 Give strong drink to him who is perishing, and wine to those who are bitter of heart. Let him drink and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

- **Inebriating drinks were mercifully given to condemned criminals, to render them less sensible of the torture they endured in dying. This is what was offered to our Lord; but he refused it.**

- A person who is committed his life to failure, is usually an alcoholic to drown the pain.

31:8-9 Open your mouth for the speechless, in the cause of all who are appointed to die. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

- This is what Jesus Christ did redeeming us.
- People described here?[Such as are appointed to destruction] literally, "children of bereavement," with the sense, either, as in the text, of those "destined to be bereaved of life or goods," or of "bereaved or fatherless children."
- *(Summary in this chapter so far): Stay away from wine, woman, and song, (chapter subject changes) you need the proper helpmate to live a responsible life. Things can go right or things can go wrong in your life.*

31:10 Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.

- Where are the majority of woman.
- Not talking about the women of this age that promote a sexual image. Their intent is for you to desire them sexually first. Character is a secondary issue.
- Isaiah 3:16-17 “Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet: Therefore the LORD will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.”
- 1 Timothy 2:9-11 “In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection.”

31:11 The heart of her husband safely trusts her; so he will have no lack of gain.

- She is going to be working hard for the same goals he has. He can trust her with money and they can work together as a team.
- Song of Solomon 1:6 “Look not upon me, because I am black, because the sun hath looked upon me: my mother's children were angry with me; they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept.”

31:12 She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.

- She may not understand everything about how to be a good wife but it is never her intentions to demean him, or drag his name through the mud. Her intentions are always good.
- Antithesis she makes a fool of him and her marriage. She lives as if she is still single and cannot refuse the advances of other men.

31:13 She seeks wool and flax, and willingly works with her hands.

- **She is not just a stay at home mom, but she develops skills of her own to add to the quality of her home.**
- **Antithesis she does things that only benefit what she wants.**

31:14 She is like the merchant ships, she brings her food from afar.

- **She is always looking for benefits, financial opportunities, and ways to bless her home.**
- **She strives to give her family the best, spending her husband's salary wisely and on quality. Her primary concern is not just herself.**
- **Antithesis she does it the fast easy way or doesn't even care if her family has a meal on the table.**

31:15 She also rises while it is yet night, and provides food for her household, and a portion for her maidservants.

- **She jump starts the house in the morning and makes sure breakfast is on. Her families needs always come first.**

31:16 She considers a field and buys it; from her profits she plants a vineyard.

- **She makes money and is knowledgeable and increases the families security with out dipping into the family budget.**

31:17 She girds herself with strength, and strengthens her arms.

- **She takes care of her own health and strength, not only by means of useful labour, but by healthy exercise. She avoids what might enervate her body, or soften her mind-she is ever active, her loins are firm, and her arms strong.**
- **Antithesis lets her physical appearance deteriorate.**

31:18 She perceives that her merchandise is good, and her lamp does not go out by night.

- **She makes things while her family is asleep, late into the night she is working.**
- **Antithesis she does the bare minimum for her family.**

31:19-20 She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hand holds the spindle. She extends her hand to the poor, yes, she reaches out her hands to the needy.

- **She sews for the poor and generously helps those in need.**
- **Antithesis she has only concern for herself so she disregards the needs of the poor.**

31:21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household is clothed with scarlet.

- **She is good at thinking ahead and planning and is prepared for winter. The scarlet colour suggests the idea of warmth as well as beauty, in contrast to the cold snow.**
- **Antithesis expects somebody else to dress her family because she doesn't have any money.**

31:22 She makes tapestry for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

- **She not only provides for her home but she also makes it a place of beauty and warm—addressing aesthetics.**
- **Antithesis She doesn't care if the house even clean let alone how it is decorated.**

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

- **By the manner she lives her life she brings honor to her husband. He receives honor because many men wish they could have a wife like her.**
- **Antithesis the entire town hears your wife was hanging on other men drunk.**

31:24 She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies sashes for the merchants.

- **She makes clothes out of the finest material with such quality the could be sold by merchants.**
- **Antithesis she has no talents and never finishes anything she starts.**

31:25 Strength and honor are her clothing; she shall rejoice in time to come.

- **By the way she lives her life she is laying the foundation for eternity. It is so much bigger than the here and now. If she is loyal to her husband she will be loyal to the Lord.**
- **1 Peter 3:5-6 “For after this manner in the old time the holy women also, who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands: Even as Sara obeyed Abraham, calling him lord: whose daughters ye are, as long as ye do well, and are not afraid with any amazement.”**
- **Antithesis she has wasted this entire life on taking the easy way out.**

31:26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness.

- **She understands and is growing in her relationship with God. She knows God's purpose and focus, that the focus is on the law is kindness and love. She is spiritually growing making this life count for the greatest good. In God's sight she represents the most distinguishing excellence of a woman.**
- **Antithesis 1 Timothy 5:12-13 “Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith. And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house;**

and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.”

31:27 She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

- She is balanced in all ways. She does this spiritually and physically. She understands there is a time for work and there is a time to be sanctified by the Lord in worship. She has her priorities straight, and her life is not a never ending list of physical activities.
- Luke 10:40-42 “But Martha was cumbered about much serving, and came to him, and said, Lord, dost thou not care that my sister hath left me to serve alone? bid her therefore that she help me. And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things: But one thing is needful : and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”
- Antithesis she has not the love of God in her so she is incapable of truly loving anyone but herself.

31:28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

- Her entire family take the opportunity to praise her when ever they can because of the balanced qualities of her life. Her years of faithful service are not forgotten or unappreciated.
- God says, 2 Corinthians 6:17-18 “...I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters , saith the Lord Almighty.” Expressed as El Shadi meaning it will be so.
- Psalms 45:7-17 “Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. All thy garments smell of myrrh, and aloes, and cassia, out of the ivory palaces, whereby they have made thee glad. Kings' daughters were among thy honourable women: upon thy right hand did stand the queen in gold of Ophir. Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house; So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for he is thy Lord; and worship thou him. And the daughter of Tyre shall be there with a gift; even the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour. The king's daughter is all glorious within: her clothing is of wrought gold. She shall be brought unto the king in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions that follow her shall be brought unto thee. With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the king's palace. Instead of thy fathers shall be thy children, whom thou mayest make princes in all the earth. I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations: therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.
- Antithesis has no future.

31:29 "Many daughters have done well, but you excel them all."

- **Godly woman will go far.**
- **2 Peter 1:5-8 "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness ; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ."**
- **Antithesis they will proclaim in that day we were Christians we always supported you.**
- **Of them Christ says, Luke 13:26-27 "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."**

31:30 Charm is deceitful and beauty is passing, but a woman who fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

- **A woman can lay out her feminine way to fool men. She cannot fool God.**
- **Proverbs 31:30 "Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain : but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."**
- **Beauty and modesty need to be coupled.**
- **1 Corinthians 11:15 "But if a woman have long hair, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."**
- **A sign of godly submission.**

31:31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her own works praise her in the gates.

- **She can stand in grace on her own merit and before God's throne she will be praised. God knows every aspect of her life from the time she was born. All of her tireless deeds are not lost or forgotten because He remembers everyone of them. Not a single thing is lost.**
- **Matthew 25:34-40 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."**