

PROVERBS LESSON 1

The book of proverbs has been known as the book of wisdom from the very beginning. Most of the writing of Proverbs has been credited to the pen of Solomon. God has given Solomon the wisdom to rule his people fairly. Proverbs is actually a book of instructions on how to live a life pleasing to God and how to be more peaceful with all of mankind. It is a wonderful book for people of all ages to study how to live moral, peaceful lives. The purpose of the book is for moral instructions on everyday living.

The main topic is the fear of the Lord. In fact the "Fear of the Lord" is mentioned fourteen times. Solomon's instructions were very good. He would have been better off if he had heeded his own instructions. Solomon, in his later life strayed from his own teaching.

A "proverb" is a wise saying. It is similar to a parable in fact it bears a hidden message.

Proverbs 1:1 "The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;"

We see that these wise sayings are of Solomon, who is the second son of David and Bathsheba. David and Solomon were each king of Israel for forty years.

Proverbs 1:2 "To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;" Proverbs 1:3 "To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;" Proverbs 1:4 "To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion."

"Wisdom" is the ultimate goal, so we see it mentioned here. "Instruction" can flow out from the greatest teacher of all time and till we will be no more the wiser. The point made here is to receive the instruction into your being and in so doing become the wiser. We have to receive the instructions for it to help us. We must open up "perceive" our understanding. The "equity", "judgement", and "justice" are the fruits of wisdom. A wise man will be just, etc. To give "subtilty to the simple" just means a knowing of surroundings so as not to be tricked into anything. This "knowledge" and "discretion" has to do with teaching a youth to weigh out right from wrong. To make a proper decision after thinking it over, would be an even simpler way of saying this.

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

Be quick to listen and slow to speak is a very good way of learning. A man of understanding will want to be counseled by older, wiser men. They will be quick to be instructed by someone who has already experienced the same thing. These wise counsels can save many mistakes.

Proverbs 1:6 "To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings."

Jesus said that now we look through a dark glass. We cannot understand the secrets of proverbs and parables now. We understand them to the extent

that the Holy Spirit reveals them to us. Even the disciples had Jesus interpret his parables. The Holy Spirit, working as a teacher, helps us interpret the hidden meanings.

Proverbs 1:7 "The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of knowledge: [but] fools despise wisdom and instruction.

There is very little left to say about this statement. We know the fear of anything other than God is lack of faith. This type of fear of God would cause reverent worship of him. In James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." A fool does not even realize that instruction and wisdom will benefit him. He goes away ignorant as before, because he will not let anyone instruct him.

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

The two people in the world who want you to have the best of everything are your mother and father. The instructions they are trying to get you to heed are to save you headache and troubles. They have your welfare at heart. Accept their instructions so that you can gain from their experience and not have to make the same mistakes they have already made. They wish you only good, not evil.

Proverbs 1:9 "For they [shall be] an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck."

The greatest gift a parent can give to a child is the gift of good moral teaching. This "grace" above, I believe, is just that. These parents have set high moral standards and passed them on to their children. This "grace on the head" just means the crown of life they will receive if they stay with these high morals.

Proverbs 1:10 "My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not."

You see, we are a free moral agent. We decide whether we will sin or not. Just because the crowd is sinning, is no reason to get involved. Use your own free will and say "no" to sin, even if it is inviting. In the long run, we are responsible for our own decisions.

Proverbs 1:11 "If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:" Proverbs 1:12 "Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:" Proverbs 1:13 "We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:" Proverbs 1:14 "Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:" Proverbs 1:15 "My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: Proverbs 1:16 "For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood."

This is warning not to keep evil company. There is guilt by association. You may not be guilty of their sins; but if you are caught with them, you will pay the terrible penalty with them. Many a youngster has gotten into serious trouble because he wanted to be part of the gang. Children's favorite saying to parents is, "everyone is doing it". Sometimes peer pressure causes a youngster to join a gang. He probably has no idea

they are stealing or killing when he joins; but the longer he stays, the more deeply involved he becomes. The only way to avoid this is just what the Scripture advises. Don't go with them in the first place. The time to say "no" is before you get in deep.

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

As a bird flies into a net and is caught, so will the sinner get caught if he goes head long into sin. We know the net is there, but get into it anyway.

Proverbs 1:18 "And they lay wait for their [own] blood; they lurk privily for their [own] lives."

A person laying in wait to kill someone else is actually sealing their own doom.

Proverbs 1:19 "So [are] the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; [which] taketh away the life of the owners thereof."

Greed for things that do not belong to you is certainly the cause of most sin toward your fellow man.

Proverbs 1:20 "Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:" Proverbs 1:21 "She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, [saying]," Proverbs 1:22 "How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?"

An idle mind brings on sin. Wisdom is a gift from God, and we must pray to receive it. Knowledge is accumulated learning that we study and acquire by effort upon our part. Only a fool will turn away from the knowledge and wisdom of God.

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

God is telling the people to learn by His reproof. God is offering to pour out His Spirit. God the Holy Spirit will reveal the meaning of the word to us if we will accept His Spirit into us.

Proverbs 1:24 "Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;" Proverbs 1:25 "But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:" Proverbs 1:26 "I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;" Proverbs 1:27 "When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you."

Those who refuse the call of Jesus Christ as Savior or those who have not reached out to receive the Lord have nothing good to look for. In their time of trouble, they have no one to turn to. The Lord will have no sympathy for those who have rejected His salvation.

Proverbs 1:28 "Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:"

There is a time when the Lord will turn his back on us if we totally reject the Lord. When that time comes, The Lord will not hear our plea any more.

Proverbs 1:29 "For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:" Proverbs 1:30 "They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof."

This shows that they had totally rejected everything that the Lord had offered them. They did not want to learn the ways of the Lord.

Proverbs 1:31 "Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices." Proverbs 1:32 "For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them."

This is just another way of saying: If you reject the Lord, you will reap whatever you sow. Having your eyes and desires set on things of this world can do nothing but destroy you. There is no eternity in earthly desires.

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

This is a beautiful description of the security and peace that comes when we are hidden in the Lord Jesus. Fear will not be a part of our vocabulary, because it is the opposite of faith. If we have faith in the Lord, there is no fear.

Proverbs 1 Questions

1. What is the book of Proverbs known as the book of?
2. Who penned the book?
3. Proverbs is actually a book of _____ on how to _____
_____?
4. How many times is the "Fear of the Lord" mentioned in proverbs?
5. What is a proverb?
6. How is a proverb and a parable alike?
7. Who was Solomon's father and mother?
8. How long did Solomon reign?
9. What does "perceive" mean?
10. What three things here are fruits of wisdom?
11. A wise man will hear and _____.
12. Be quick to _____ and slow to _____.
13. Who helps us to understand the hidden meaning of Scriptures?
14. What is the beginning of Knowledge?
15. Who despise wisdom and instruction?
16. Fear is _____.
17. In James 1:5 we read how to receive wisdom. How do we receive it?
18. "...hear the instructions of thy _____, and forsake not the law of thy _____."
19. What is the greatest gift a parent can give a child?
20. This "grace on the head" in V-9, means what?
21. In V-10 we are told not to be enticed to sin. How is that our decision to make?
22. V-11 through V-16 is warning us against what?
23. What gets many innocent young people involved in sin today?
24. As a bird flies into a net and is caught, so the sinner _____.
25. What causes many people to sin against their neighbor?
26. An idle mind brings on what?
27. What is knowledge?
28. In verse 23, God is telling us to do what?
29. Those who reject the Lord will find the Lord doing what at His calamity?
30. In contrast, V-33 is a beautiful description of what?

We will began this lesson in Proverbs 2:1 "My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;" Proverbs 2:2 "So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, [and] apply thine heart to understanding;" Proverbs 2:3 "Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, [and] liftest up thy voice for understanding;" Proverbs 2:4 "If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as [for] hid treasures;" Proverbs 2:5 "Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God."

This is like a prayer. In fact, it is what we should all pray. For a person to really be able to live a Godly life, you must first know what God expects. This first sentence says "receive my words". The heart is the place for the commandments and the Word of God to be hidden. If we receive into our being the wisdom of God and apply it to our heart we will do the things that are right in God's sight. Romans 10:10 "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

If we would spend even half the time learning the Word of God as we spend searching for worldly wealth, we would find the treasures of God. Knowledge has to be accumulated by learning. Wisdom is a gift from God. As we uncover the secrets of the Bible, We will have reverent fear of God and be filled with His knowledge.

Proverbs 2:6 "For the LORD giveth wisdom: out of his mouth [cometh] knowledge and understanding."

"Wisdon" is a gift from God, as we said. We read in James 1:5 "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all [men] liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him." Not out of our mouth cometh knowledge, but out of His. The knowledge is in His Word.

Proverbs 2:7 "He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: [he is] a buckler to them that walk uprightly."

God is the source of all wisdom. His kind of wisdom brings peace. You see, we are to be wise unto salvation. If we are righteous it is because we have taken on the righteousness of Christ and that is the greatest wisdom we can acquire. The Christian actually takes on the mind of Christ. I Corinthians 2:16 "For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ." The Lord is our Protector (buckler) if we walk uprightly in our salvation day by day.

Proverbs 2:8 "He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints."

This, to me, is speaking of those who walk in the way of the Lord. Those who are justified by the Lord and walk justly. For the justified who follow in his "judgements" (law), He "preserves" (saves) our way. The "saints" (we Christians) are eager to follow in the teachings of the Lord. Jesus is the way.

Proverbs 2:9 "Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; [yea], every good path."

This, in V-9, is connected with V-8. This is speaking of the saints. The saints shall "understand righteousness, and judgements, and equity (straightness) and every good path", Narrow is the path to righteousness. Jesus is that path. In fact, He is our righteousness. He is the righteous Judge.

Proverbs 2:10 "When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;" Proverbs 2:11 "Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:"

Wisdom is an advantage to the one who possesses it. Wisdom with Knowledge gives a person tremendous advantage. This understanding and discretion is not of the worldly, but of the Lord and His Word. A really good working knowledge of God's Word can keep you from making mistakes. The answers to all of life's problems can be found in the Word of God. The heart controls the conscious and subconscious actions of man. If the heart of man is stayed on the Lord, there is no way that man can be defeated.

Proverbs 2:12 "To deliver thee from the way of the evil [man], from the man that speaketh froward things;" Proverbs 2:13 "Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;"

Knowledge of the Word of God will keep you away from the ways of the evil man. You see, the righteous (believers in Christ) walk in the light and have no fellowship with darkness. In First John chapter one we read who walk in darkness and who walk in light.

I John 1:5 "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all." I John 1:6 "If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:" I John 1:7 "But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."

Proverbs 2:14 "Who rejoice to do evil, [and] delight in the frowardness of the wicked;" Proverbs 2:15 "Whose ways [are] crooked, and [they] froward in their paths:"

It seems in our society today television, movies, and radio try to make it appear that to live in sin is fun. Truly this is a terrible lie. It brings heartache and troubles in this life and an eternity in hell. The ways of the world will lead to destruction, not life. Drunkenness, drugs, immorality, lying, cheating, and stealing are part of the "froward wicked life". Not one of these things make for a happy ending.

Proverbs 2:16 "To deliver thee from the strange woman, [even] from the stranger [which] flattereth with her words;"

Today those who are involved with strange women (women of the world) can look forward to diseases that cannot be cured by medicine now available. in V-17 and V-18 you see the fate of those who live unholy lives. The terrible disease AIDS is just one of the many modern incurable diseases that are associated with sex outside of marriage.

Proverbs 2:17 "Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God." Proverbs 2:18 "For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead."

God's covenant with man kind (men and women) is two fold. We must keep His laws to receive His blessing. God punishes sin. When we deliberately break God's laws, we can expect death, not life. God says in His law that men and women are to save themselves for the marriage bed. Notice in V-19, that those who follow this sinful way of life find death.

Proverbs 2:19 "None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life."

There are only two paths to take. The path of sin leads to death and destruction. The path of righteousness leads to life everlasting.

Proverbs 2:20 "That thou mayest walk in the way of good [men], and keep the paths of the righteous."

The word "mayest" in this verse lets us know that it is our choice. It is our decision to live the way of the world or to live for the Lord Jesus. Our free will determines which. This is a decision no one else can make for you. You must decide: life or death.

Proverbs 2:21 "For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it." Proverbs 2:22 "But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it."

In Psalms 37:29 we read, "The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever." We have seen over and over how the wicked will be driven off the land. Canaan became the land of Israel because the wicked were driven out. The Christians shall reign 1000 years with Jesus.

Revelation 20:6 "Blessed and holy [is] he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years."

Proverbs 2 Questions

1. V-1 through V-5 is like a_____.
2. What is necessary for us to live a godly life?
3. Where is the place to hide God's Word?
4. What does Romans 10:10 tell us about the heart?
5. What should we be seeking more than worldly wealth?
6. How do we get Knowledge?
7. Wisdom is a _____ of _____.
8. As we uncover the secret of God we will have _____ of God?
9. Who gives us wisdom?
10. Out of whose mouth comes knowledge and understanding?
11. How can we find Scriptures that tell us how to find wisdom?
12. Where can we find the Scriptures to tell where to get wisdom?
13. Who does God lay up sound wisdom for?
14. What does "buckler" mean?
15. God's kind of wisdom brings what?
16. We are to be wise unto _____.
17. How can we be righteous?
18. In Cor. 2:16, what do we learn about the mind of Christ?
19. Who preserves the way of the saints?
20. _____ is the way.
21. When wisdom entereth into thine heart, what shall keep thee?
22. What can keep you from making mistakes?
23. Who are the children of light?
24. If we say we have fellowship with him and walk in darkness we _____.
25. What do television and movies appear to tell us about sin?
26. What can those who get involved with strange women have to look forward to?
27. God's covenant with man is _____.
28. God will bless us if we do what?
29. When we deliberately breaks God's law we can expect what?
30. The path of righteousness leads where?
31. What has God given us that determines our destiny?
32. In Psalms 37:27, we read that the righteous will inherit what?
33. In Revelation 20:6 how long does it say the Christians will reign with Jesus?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 3:1 "My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments:" Proverbs 3:2 "For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee."

"My son" tells us who this message is to. It is not to the world in general, but to the followers of God. God reminds us to not forget His teachings, but hide them away in our hearts. God also reminds us to walk in His ways. His "commandments" here are talking about all of His ways. Just as the commandment to honour father and mother promises that our days may be long upon the earth, we see the promises of length of days here if we follow in His ways. When you know that you have done the right things, it does bring peace. Sin brings fear of punishment, but obedience brings peace.

Proverbs 3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:" Proverbs 3:4 "So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man."

The Bible says the "merciful shall obtain mercy". Matthew 5:7, "Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy." "Mercy" shows love to the utmost, for God and for man.

"Truth" cannot be underestimated. It is beyond compromise. A truthful person is a person whose character cannot and will not be questioned by anyone. One of the highest compliments that can be paid a man is to say that he is a man of truth.

If a person could have the two most important strengths of character, it would be mercy and truth. This "binding them about the neck", I believe, just means to treasure them highly and don't lose them somewhere along the way. "Write them upon the tables of thine heart" has to do with the heart dictating a person's actions. God will write His laws upon the heart of His people, if we will allow Him to. I believe that is the message here. God says if you have these two, mercy and truth, you have His laws on your heart. In V-4 we find if we practice these two, we will be able to get along with not only the men around us, but God as well.

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

This verse 5 here applies to all believers, but even more to those who are in the service to God. God never chose any man or woman to work for Him because of their training and ability within themselves. God chooses people like Jeremiah, who was just a lad with no formal training; and God put the words in Jeremiah's mouth to give to the people. You may read all about it in chapter 1 of Jeremiah. When we depend upon our own ability, we fall very short. For a minister of God to be effective, it must be God speaking through him.

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

Here, again, we get into the will of man. Man has to be willing to accept God's help and to give God the credit for the job well done. A

Christian must first of all not start anything that the Lord is not in, then we must praise Him in everything. Hebrews 13:15 tells us when we should praise the Lord. Hebrews 13:15, "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name." If He directs our path, we shall walk in the light and not stumble and fall. In St. John 11:9-10, we see how important this is. John 11:9 "Jesus answered, Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any man walk in the day, he stumbleth not, because he seeth the light of this world." John 11:10 "But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth, because there is no light in him."

Proverbs 3:7 "Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil."

The most dangerous thing, if you are trying to succeed in the world, is to get satisfied with yourself. A person cannot grow when he gets this attitude. When we rely upon our self, we are always disappointed. No one likes a know-it-all or a conceited person. We must remain humble. What little knowledge that we do have is because of God's generosity towards us. Fear of the Lord will take away all arrogance and pride. In the first few verses of Proverbs, we learned that the fear of the Lord is true wisdom. Fear here could be looked at again as reverence or high praise. Give God the glory for it all.

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

Many illnesses are brought on by sins as we said before, not all illness, but some. Good clean living seems to assist in good health. For sure, good clean living brings a clear conscience and no regrets. When the spirit of man is healthy, it helps with the physical health, as well. Exodus 15:26, "And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee."

Proverbs 3:9 "Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:" Proverbs 3:10 "So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

Honoring the Lord goes much further than just attending church and stating that we are a believer. Our heart is where our pocket book is. There is a difference in a tithe and first fruits. The tithe (1/10) is paid after the money is made. The first fruits is paid in anticipation of what will come. First fruits will be a faith offering. God's promise throughout the Bible is that if we give to His work, we will be blessed 10 fold or more. Luke 6:38 "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." We can see from Jesus' own words here, that if we plan to prosper, we must give. Malachi 3:10 tells it all. Malachi 3:10 "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that [there shall] not [be room] enough [to receive it]."

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

In Romans chapter 5, we read why chastening and trials must come. Romans 5:3 "And not only [so], but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;" Romans 5:4 "And patience, experience; and experience, hope:" Romans 5:5 "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."

You see, the only way a baby learns right from wrong is correction of parents. Sometimes a little paddling makes the lesson easier to remember. This is sometimes true with baby Christians, as well. When we do not obey God, He has to give us a spanking so that we will remember to obey next time. Just as an earthly parent corrects a child to help him grow in the knowledge of the truth, so does a heavenly Father. If He cared not what becomes of us, He wouldn't bother to correct us. Read chapter 3 of Ephesians beginning with the 13th verse. It will thrill you that you have been tried. I will give one more Scripture here to show that God loves us in our tribulations and then go on. II Thessalonians 1:4 "So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:" II Thessalonians 1:5 "[Which is] a manifest token of the righteous judgment of God, that ye may be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which ye also suffer:" If God loves us, He corrects us; and we take on His worthiness.

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

One of the most wonderful gifts that God can give to man is wisdom and understanding. Solomon was no fool when he asked God for wisdom. Wisdom will bring prosperity of body, soul, and spirit. A wise man chooses God's ways and therefore cannot fail. If you have silver and gold, you can spend all of it and have nothing, but wisdom cannot be taken away; and with wisdom you can acquire silver and gold and any other thing that you might ever have need of.

Proverbs 3 Questions

1. In verse 1, God addresses the man as whom?
2. What is the man not to forget?
3. Where shall he keep the commandments?
4. If these commandments are kept, what are the blessings received by doing so?
5. The words "my son" indicate who?
6. What are these commandments really referring to?
7. Sin brings fear of what?
8. Right living brings what?
9. In verse 3, we are instructed not to let 2 things forsake us. What are they?
10. Where are we to carry them?
11. In Matthew 5:7, we see that who shall obtain mercy?
12. What in a person builds character that will not be questioned?
13. Whose understanding can we not lean upon?
14. How does God choose someone to work for Him? What must his credentials be?
15. What Old Testament character is a typical example of God choosing someone who thinks they are not capable of doing the job?
16. If we acknowledge Him, He will _____our _____.
17. Hebrews 13:15, tells us when we should praise the Lord. When is in?
18. In St. John 11, we learn that we must walk where?
19. What is the most dangerous thing for a person to do if we are to succeed?
20. What happens when we rely upon ourselves?
21. What is true wisdom?
22. Fear, in verse 7, can be described as what?
23. In Exodus 15:16, we find that we can be assured of not taking worldly diseases, if we do what?
24. What is the difference in first fruits and tithes?
25. What will guarantee us of full barns?
26. In Malachi 3:10, we read how we can get God to open up the windows of heaven and pour us out a blessing, what do we do?
27. For whom the Lord loveth he _____.
28. How are we to react to tribulations?
29. _____ is the man that findeth wisdom.
30. What is wisdom better than?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 3:15 "She [is] more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her."

We will have to look back at the last lesson to see what the "she" is here. Wisdom is the she. In fact, this whole third chapter of Proverbs is all about wisdom. Material things of this world, regardless of how valuable they are, are not anything to compare with wisdom.

Proverbs 3:16 "Length of days [is] in her right hand; [and] in her left hand riches and honour."

The right hand blessing is always the best blessing. Length of days is spoken of here as being more wonderful to possess than riches and honour. If a man has no time left to spend his riches and fame, most would trade all of that to extend life a little longer. Even this blessing of extended days is still far short of the blessing of wisdom.

Proverbs 3:17 "Her ways [are] ways of pleasantness, and all her paths [are] peace."

Again here the "her" is wisdom. Wisdom is pleasant and brings peace.

Proverbs 3:18 "She [is] a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her: and happy [is every one] that retaineth her."

Wisdom is an extender of life. Not only length of life, but quality of life, as well.

Proverbs 3:19 "The LORD by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens." Proverbs 3:20 "By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew."

The wisdom of God so far surpasses anything we might know of. God actually, through His great wisdom and knowledge, placed the stars, sun, and moon in the open sky. The earth was hung in open air, as well. Not only did God hang them in the atmosphere in perfect orbit, but He also made all of this, as well. Not only did God make all of this, but it is all subject to His will. God causes the sunshine and the rain. He controls the whole universe. St. John chapter 1 describes it all. John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Proverbs 3:21 "My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:" Proverbs 3:22 "So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck."

True wisdom belongs to God. God will give us wisdom if we seek it prayerfully. The grace that Jesus has provided for us has to be held in high esteem, even to the saving of our soul. We must remain in that wisdom.

Proverbs 3:23 "Then shalt thou walk in thy way safely, and thy foot shall not stumble."

If we remain in the wisdom that God hath provided for us in His Son, Jesus Christ, we shall be able to walk in His way and not stumble.

Proverbs 3:24 "When thou liest down, thou shalt not be afraid: yea, thou shalt lie down, and thy sleep shall be sweet."

Here, again, if we remain in the wisdom that the Lord has given us, there is no fear of death. Death of the body would just transform us into that heavenly place with Jesus. There is no fear for the Christian with faith. So many times in these lessons we have made the statement that fear is the opposite of faith. Sleep is sweet for those wise unto salvation. No regrets haunt us. We have gotten forgiveness and are living just as if we had never sinned: justified by Jesus. Sleep is sweet when everything is alright with you and God.

Proverbs 3:25 "Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh." Proverbs 3:26 "For the LORD shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken."

We see many instances in the New Testament when the demon spirits are afraid of Jesus, because they know that He is the Judge of the world and that they have a terrible fate awaiting them. In Matthew 8:29, "And, behold, they cried out, saying, What have we to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of God? art thou come hither to torment us before the time?" You see, sudden fear gripped them, because of the terrible fate they know they have awaiting them. If you know that you are saved and safe with the Lord, you have no sudden fear. The only fear permitted to those who trust in the Lord is Godly fear. You see, trust in the Lord brings confidence, a knowing that all is well.

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

As opportunity arises, we must help anyone and everyone that is within our power to help. It seems those full of wisdom seem to be better off financially. We see in I Timothy 6:17-18, that having a little more than those around you carries responsibility with it. I Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" I Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;"

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

This is saying, do not put your neighbour off until to-morrow if you have the ability to help them today. Their need is now. We should be eager to help those less fortunate. Only God has seen fit for us to be the better off.

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

One of the two most important things God wants us to do is love thy neighbor as thyself. We would not figure up evil against ourselves, so we must not against the neighbor, either.

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

We should not live in strife and fussing, but should learn to live peaceably with all men. If we live for the Lord, we are promised that even our enemies will be at peace with us. This does not say that there is never a time for strife. If your enemy attacks you, you may defend yourself; but you must not start strife nor keep it going.

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

We must never choose the way of the oppressor. Bullies as children are not to be looked up to. We must not even fellowship with those who choose to oppress others. The worldly wealth that some acquire with their oppression of others should never be envied or desired. Evil and good are like oil and water. They cannot mix.

Proverbs 3:32 "For the froward [is] abomination to the LORD: but his secret [is] with the righteous."

"Froward" means perverted or wicked. The wicked will not know the secret, because they will not see; and hearing, they will not hear. They (the wicked) will not understand the things of God. The secret that the righteous know is that Jesus Christ is their Saviour. God reveals Himself to those who love Him.

Proverbs 3:33 "The curse of the LORD [is] in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just."

From Genesis throughout the Bible, God promises blessings to those who follow in God's commandments and curses to those who do not follow in the ways of God.

Proverbs 3:34 "Surely he scorneth the scorners: but he giveth grace unto the lowly."

Those who reject the teachings of the Lord are rejected themselves by Him. The scribes and Pharisees are a typical example of this. They thought too highly of themselves and turned the Lord of glory down. The lowly of the world were willing to receive and were granted grace of the Lord. Psalms 138:6, "Though the LORD be high, yet hath he respect unto the lowly: but the proud he knoweth afar off."

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

The wise seek God. Those who seek God inherit glory. The glory of the only begotten Son is shared with those who live for God. This is a shared inheritance. Fools live worldly lives for the here and now. Worldly, selfish lives bring shame.

Proverbs 4 Questions

1. Material things of this world cannot compare with what?
2. In verse 16, what is in wisdom's right hand?
3. Which hand has always been the best blessing?
4. The Lord by _____ hath founded the earth.
5. Who does St. John 1:3 say created all things ?
6. By His _____ the depths are broken up.
7. True wisdom belongs to whom?
8. How must we seek wisdom to receive it?
9. What description is given of the sleep of the wise?
10. If we remain in the wisdom that the Lord has given us, there is no fear of _____.
11. Who shall be thy confidence?
12. Why were the demon spirits afraid of Jesus?
13. What is the only fear permitted to believers in the Lord?
14. In I Timothy, chapter 6, we see what about those who are wealthy?
15. When someone asks your help and you have the ability to help, when should you help him?
16. In verse 29, we are warned not to do what to our neighbor ?
17. Strive not with a man _____ .
18. What are we told about the oppressor?
19. Evil and good are like _____ and _____. They cannot mix.
20. The froward is an _____ to the Lord.
21. What does froward mean?
22. What is in the house of the wicked?
23. Who does God give grace to?
24. Psalms 138:6 says God has respect for the _____ .

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 4:1 "Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding." Proverbs 4:2 "For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law." Proverbs 4:3 "For I was my father's son, tender and only [beloved] in the sight of my mother."

This message that Solomon penned undoubtedly is not only written by him to all young men for instruction, but is also what David had taught Solomon, as well. Sometimes in the Proverbs, it seems as if we are covering the same ground all over again. Whether this is to drive home a lesson, or whether we are picking up extra fragments of truth and that is the reason for repetition is not clear. As we said in previous lessons, wisdom is the subject. We see here, also, that a doctrine (belief) has been established. Instructions in God's law came from father to son in these times. It was very important not to leave out even minor details in that law. We are told again here to remember in detail the law of God and to live by it (do not forsake it). In fact, to make it our doctrine (way of life), as well. Solomon gets a little sentimental here speaking of his mother. Bathsheba had lost her first son by David, and truly Solomon was her only beloved at that time.

Proverbs 4:4 "He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live."

There is much written in Chronicles and Kings about Solomon. David even gives Solomon detailed information about the temple to be built in Jerusalem. You may read more about all of this in those respective books. The point I am trying to make here, about this, is that Solomon was instructed of David; and Solomon is now conveying to us how important it is to keep the commandments. The promise is life and life everlasting, at that.

Proverbs 4:5 "Get wisdom, get understanding: forget [it] not; neither decline from the words of my mouth." Proverbs 4:6 "Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee." Proverbs 4:7 "Wisdom [is] the principal thing; [therefore] get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding."

Solomon, as you can see here, thought that wisdom was the most important thing to have. Worldly wisdom is not what Solomon had in mind, here. Solomon, being taught of David and being gifted with the gift of wisdom which God had given him, realized that wisdom and knowledge of the things of God should bring a person even closer to God; and therefore, keep him from failure. He speaks of wisdom as if it is a person. Wisdom is spirit.

Proverbs 4:8 "Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her."

Wisdom does bring honour instead of shame. A foolish son or daughter brings shame to their parents, but children filled with godly wisdom bring honour to their parents.

Proverbs 4:9 "She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee." Proverbs 4:10 "Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many."

Crowns of glory have to do with heavenly rewards. The Lord Jesus earned our crowns of glory for us, but we would have to be wise enough to receive Him to obtain those crowns. Verse ten, here, has to do with honoring father and mother that thy days may be long upon the earth.

Proverbs 4:11 "I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths." Proverbs 4:12 "When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble."

We see, again, that some of this has come to Solomon from David. David walked uprightly before the Lord. Even the name "David" means beloved of God. God directed David's walk. David taught his son; and now Solomon is saying to all who read this book of Proverbs, hear and understand. Pray for wisdom of God and walk in that wisdom, and you shall not stumble and fall. You can run the race well and not stumble along the way as long as the wisdom of God directs you.

Proverbs 4:13 "Take fast hold of instruction; let [her] not go: keep her; for she [is] thy life."

When we stop learning, we are dead. There is always something else to learn. We read in II Timothy 3:16 the type of instruction that is the most profitable to man. II Timothy 3:16 "All scripture [is] given by inspiration of God, and [is] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:" II Timothy 3:17 "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Proverbs 4:14 "Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil [men]." Proverbs 4:15 "Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away."

The wicked are following a wide path that leads to destruction, but the people of the Lord have chosen to walk the narrow path. The way the Lord has provided for us leads us to everlasting life. Matthew 7:13 -14 tell of the path we must choose. We must turn from the path of sin, in fact, don't even get on the path the world takes in the first place. Choose God's way. Matthew 7:13 "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:" Matthew 7:14 "Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Proverbs 4:16 "For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause [some] to fall." Proverbs 4:17 "For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence."

We see in these 2 verses a person who has chosen a sinful way of life. They are not satisfied to ruin their own lives but are trying to drag others into their sin. Misery loves company. Isn't it strange that many violent crimes seem to be committed by gangs. These people, in the verses above, do not hold down a regular job and eat from that. They commit crimes against others and live by that. They eventually wind up in jail or worse, and then do not have anything to look forward to for all of eternity.

Proverbs 4:18 "But the path of the just [is] as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."

This is in total contrast. Those who are justified because they have made a decision to walk in the path of righteousness are walking in the Light as He is in the Light. That perfect day is the day when all these struggles of this life are over, and we can be in the presence of the Light for that eternal day.

Proverbs 4:19 "The way of the wicked [is] as darkness: they know not at what they stumble."

The wicked in darkness cannot and will not repent and come to the light. We see, as we read in St. John, the Light shineth in darkness and the darkness comprehended it not.

Proverbs 4:20 "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings." Proverbs 4:21 "Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart." Proverbs 4:22 "For they [are] life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh."

How many times have we told our children over and over, please listen and heed the message. Don't get out in the world and forget what I have been saying. Don't stop looking at the messages in front of your eyes. Hide the things I have said down deep in your heart, and don't let the cares of the world make you forget. They are life and health to you. Every parent has said things similar to these to their children, and we have all heard them say: "You have told me over and over, now I won't forget. It isn't necessary to say it anymore".

Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it [are] the issues of life." Proverbs 4:24 "Put away from thee a forward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee."

The heart is the very center of our being. We can either have a pure heart or it can be desperately wicked. It will be one or the other. God will judge our heart. The heart controls the moral structure of our lives. A pure heart brings pure words. Forward mouths and perverse (evil) words come from an evil heart. Out of the abundance of our heart our mouth speaketh. It speaks life or death.

Proverbs 4:25 "Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee."

I have always said that our eyes reveal what is inside of us. They are little windows that you may look into the soul. Shifty eyes that cannot look at you, ordinarily indicate the person has something they are covering up. Eyes that look straight at you say, "I am telling the truth". Wandering eyes of any kind can bring heartache.

Proverbs 4:26 "Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established." Proverbs 4:27 "Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil."

In verse 26, the word "ponder" means think about the path you are launching out on. Make sure that the path you are heading out on leads to righteousness. Don't despair of the path you have chosen. Make your path straight. Things of the world must not attract you off of this path. Stay on the straight path that will lead you to heaven.

Proverbs 5 Questions

1. In verse 2, we read to forsake not the law for it is good _____.
2. Solomon describes himself as what to his mother?
3. Besides Solomon giving us these instructions, what can we assume they are?
4. What is the subject of the Proverbs?
5. What is a doctrine?
6. How did the law of commandments not get lost?
7. Who was Solomon 's mother?
8. In verse 4, we read keep my commandments and _____.
9. What are 2 more Old Testament books that speak much about Solomon?
10. What did Solomon say was the principal thing?
11. Wisdom and knowledge of God can do what for a person?
12. If sin brings shame, what brings honor?
13. What do crowns of glory have to do with?
14. David means what?
15. What good could be said of David?
16. If the wisdom of God directs your path, you will not _____ and _____.
17. What kind of instruction is most important to man?
18. Where does Scripture come from?
19. What path must we avoid at all cost?
20. What is the difference in the path of the world and the path of the believer?
21. The evil eat of the bread of _____ .
22. What is the path of the just compared to?
23. Out of what are the issues of life?
24. In verse 24, what is to be put away?
25. How are we to keep our eyes?
26. Shifting eyes usually indicate what?
27. What does the author think reveals what is inside of us?
28. Eyes that look straight at you, usually are saying what?
29. Ponder means what?

We will begin this lesson with Proverbs 5:1 "My son, attend unto my wisdom, [and] bow thine ear to my understanding:" Proverbs 5:2 "That thou mayest regard discretion, and [that] thy lips may keep knowledge."

We see here, again, instructions to stay wise to the things of God. We will see in this chapter the path we should take. Marriage will be spoken of as honorable and adultery of all kinds will be condemned.

Proverbs 5:3 "For the lips of a strange woman drop [as] an honeycomb, and her mouth [is] smoother than oil:" Proverbs 5:4 "But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword." Proverbs 5:5 "Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell."

Possibly a word we might understand a little better than "strange" woman would be a loose, sinful woman. This woman is forbidden fruit making her more mysterious and inviting to the young man. Prostitutes are out to allure the young men and sometimes the older, as well. They are dressed with very few clothes so as to reveal their bodies. Their lips are painted and they are trained to allure the weak men of the world. A woman like this has no future. Bitterness, sickness, early death, and then hell is what she has to look forward to. The two edged sword is the Bible she should have heeded. "Wormwood" means bad water.

Proverbs 5:6 "Lest thou shouldst ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, [that] thou canst not know [them]."

This woman is unstable in all her ways. Don't get involved with her, she will not be faithful to you. In most cities, her profession is against the law.

Proverbs 5:7 "Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth." Proverbs 5:8 "Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:" Proverbs 5:9 "Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:"

Here, again, the penman is saying take special heed to this, ye young men. Stay away from evil women like this. Don't even go near her house. She will bring nothing but disappointment. Stay honorable. If you were to get involved with her, you would lead an unhappy life. There is no lasting happiness to be found with this type of woman.

Proverbs 5:10 "Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours [be] in the house of a stranger;" Proverbs 5:11 "And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,"

This is speaking of spending hard earned money on a prostitute and then getting some terrible disease in the process. In our time, people are dying everywhere from diseases caused by adultery. In many cases, there is no cure.

Proverbs 5:12 "And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;" Proverbs 5:13 "And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!"

Now that it is too late to turn back, we see regret that he did not take heed to the warning given. We see regret by this man that he rebelled against instruction. He did not let his teacher instruct him, so he had the cruel teacher of experience. He now knows that he made a terrible mistake not listening.

Proverbs 5:14 "I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly."

Even though training and instruction in righteousness had been offered this individual, he had rejected it. One sin leads to another, and we see this person falling into more and worse sins until their last state is one of total inability to stop sinning. He had no conscience.

Proverbs 5:15 "Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well." Proverbs 5:16 "Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, [and] rivers of waters in the streets." Proverbs 5:17 "Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee."

Stay at home and enjoy the things that God has provided for you and your family. Don't go looking for greener grass.

Proverbs 5:18 "Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth."

These fountains of living waters in verses 16, 17, and 18 are speaking of families which are produced by married couples who are happy with each other, always. Verse 18 says take another look at the wife of your youth. You loved her then, love her now. The two of you are one flesh.

Proverbs 5:19 "[Let her be as] the loving hind and pleasant roe; let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love."

There has been a terrible cancer of sin in our society the last few years. People living together without the benefit of marriage. This is not only sin, but sin that involves the temple of the Holy Ghost of God. We are the temple of the Holy Ghost. Some way God will stop this. This is not His plan for man and woman. God made one man for one woman, and they two become one flesh; not for a few days but for a lifetime together on this earth. The family on earth is a type and shadow of the eternal family in heaven. Jesus is the groom, and all believers are the bride of Christ. In heaven, there is a heavenly Father. For marriage to work here on the earth, there has to be a heavenly Father who we center our marriage around. God can give you a special love for your wife or husband, even if you have been married over 50 years. Teach us to love our mate, Dear Lord. Show us the difference in love and lust. Love is of the spirit, but lust is of the flesh. Our prayer should be, "Lord, build our marriage on the solid Rock that cannot crumble when the storms of life come."

Proverbs 5:20 "And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?"

The answer to that is, lust of the flesh.

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

You cannot hide from God. He knows every move you make. He even knows the desires of your heart. God thinks about (ponders) all the ways of man. There is a song called "The All Seeing Eye". God is that all seeing eye. You cannot keep any secrets from Him. There is a record being kept, and someday the books will be opened. If we have lived in sin, we shall be ashamed to stand before God.

Proverbs 5:22 "His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins."

We see, here, that sin gets worse as time goes on. A person caught up in this type of life will tie their own selves up in this sin. Adultery seems to be especially bad to the Lord. This sin of adultery, which also includes homosexual and lesbian acts, carries its own special punishment with it. Verse 23 tells the awful end of this type of person.

Proverbs 5:23 "He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray."

Unless this type of sin is repented of and turned away from totally, the end of this person is such it would have been better had they never lived. Destruction lies ahead.

Proverbs 6 Questions

1. What is condemned in this lesson?
2. The lips of a _____ drop as honeycomb.
3. The bitter end of this woman is compared to what?
4. What does it mean?
5. Where is her destination?
6. What makes this woman inviting to the young men?
7. What tells us this woman is unstable?
8. Why is it so important to move thyself away from her door?
9. What will happen to your wealth if you follow this type of woman?
10. In verse 12, he is feeling what about his life?
11. In this case, what is the cruel teacher?
12. What does verse 14 mean about being in all evil?
13. What does the fact that he was in the congregation tell us?
14. Drink waters where?
15. Who is the man to rejoice with?
16. Whose love should he be ravished with?
17. What is one cancer of sin in our society today?
18. When we are involved in body sin, who do we include in our sin?
19. Love is of the _____.
20. Lust is of the _____.
21. Who knows every sin we commit, even if we feel we are hidden?
22. If we have sinned and not repented, what shall we feel when we stand before God?
23. What terrible end comes to this sinner in verse 23?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 6:1 "My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, [if] thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger," Proverbs 6:2 "Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth."

This is very good advice about to be given in verses 3 through 5; get off the note. This is just saying you are responsible for the note this other person has made. Young people, many times, do not realize that they could have to pay the whole debt for something they did not receive by just signing an innocent looking piece of paper. When this chapter of Proverbs was written, a hand shake was just as binding as notarized notes are today. Our society has gone debt crazy. We buy things on time that we should not have bought at all, because we do not have the money to pay for it. The #1 cause of divorce in America is debt.

Proverbs 6:3 "Do this now, my son, and deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend." Proverbs 6:4 "Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids." Proverbs 6:5 "Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand [of the hunter], and as a bird from the hand of the fowler."

This is just saying, don't even wait until tomorrow, go today and beg your friend to let you off of this note. Just as a deer escapes from the hunter or a bird from a net, you will be free and not responsible for someone else's note.

We are seeing in these parables just good rules for living successful business lives. These parables are to help us prosper in all that we do.

Proverbs 6:6 "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:" Proverbs 6:7 "Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler," Proverbs 6:8 "Provideth her meat in the summer, [and] gathereth her food in the harvest."

God does not like for us to be lazy (sluggard). The ant throughout history has shown great industry. It is wise to follow someone or something that teaches us good habits. The ant works without another ant over him and, yet, gets his work done and done well. The ant prepares ahead and is never short of food. We can learn a lesson from the ant. We should not have to be driven to work, but should do our work, because it needs to be done. We should work hard and prepare ahead for the winter.

Proverbs 6:9 "How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?" Proverbs 6:10 "[Yet] a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:" Proverbs 6:11 "So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man."

This lazy person (sluggard) loves to sleep late rather than to work. This lazy person uses every kind of excuse to avoid work. He says, "I have to sleep a little, I do not have time to work right now". Poverty will come upon a person who does not want to work. Money is earned by the sweat of the brow and with busy hands. People who do not like to work, receive no money. This is just a warning against being lazy and a sleepy head.

Proverbs 6:12 "A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth." Proverbs 6:13 "He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;" Proverbs 6:14 "Frowardness [is] in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord." Proverbs 6:15 "Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy."

This naughty, wicked man is an example of what none of us want to be. This man would not be a truthful person, but would be someone who lies to get his way or for evil gain. We see from this description and other descriptions of winking with the eye that it is used to trick people. This speaking with his feet shows that he is running to mischief. This talking with his fingers indicate evil gestures of the fingers. We have talked before about the mouth speaking from the issue of the heart. As the man thinketh in his heart, the mouth speaketh. Evil men, with evil hearts, speak evil words. This evil person is continually thinking up ways to do wickedness. This man is not a peace maker. He is continually causing fussing and fighting because he spreads strife. God will not always overlook this evil. There is a day of reckoning. When God decides that reckoning day is here, it comes suddenly as a thief in the night. When God says it is enough, there will be nowhere for him to turn to.

Proverbs 6:16 "These six [things] doth the LORD hate: yea, seven [are] an abomination unto him:"

We see here that there are some sins that God will just not tolerate. They are so terrible in His sight that He calls them an abomination. These 7 (spiritually complete) abominations to God just means that they cover all the abominations. Seven speaks of completeness and the number six has to do with man or mankind. Possibly, these seven sins that God hates probably fully describes the evil man above who may be guilty of one or all of these sins.

Proverbs 6:17 "A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,"

Haughtiness (a proud look) or you might say conceit is unacceptable unto God. Whatever we are, we have no reason for bragging about it, because God made us what we are; we had nothing to do with it. Even a king is a king because God planned it. You see, that leaves us no room to brag. The tongue is the most evil part of the body and to add lying to it really is terrible in God's sight. Jesus is the truth. Everything of God is based on truth, so you can see how awful it is to lie. The hands should be used as tools of mercy, not as instruments of death to the innocent. You can easily see why these three top the list of sins that God hates.

Proverbs 6:18 "An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,"

The heart is either desperately wicked or pure. God will judge our hearts, not our deeds. These wicked imaginations here are speaking of people who imagine evil things which cause trouble for other people. In the Scripture of the evil man, we learned that an evil person is eager to get into all kinds of mischief.

Proverbs 6:19 "A false witness [that] speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren."

In court, a false witness is said to purger himself. If the court finds that person has given a false witness, the court will prosecute him and he might even spend some time in jail. You see, giving a false testimony is a very serious crime. It can cause great pain and suffering to the individual the false witness is against. In the Sermon on the Mount, we see blessed is the peacemaker. One who sows discord is the opposite of a peacemaker. He is a troublemaker.

Proverbs 6:20 "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:"

All of the things (the 7 abominations) are in direct contrast to keeping the commandments of father and mother. Our parents teach us the correct way to live. We should never grow too old to live up to the teachings of our parents.

Proverbs 6:21 "Bind them continually upon thine heart, [and] tie them about thy neck." Proverbs 6:22 "When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and [when] thou awakest, it shall talk with thee." Proverbs 6:23 "For the commandment [is] a lamp; and the law [is] light; and reproofs of instruction [are] the way of life:"

In verse 21, here, we see that God is telling us to never lose sight of His laws (commandments). We read that God, Himself, will write His laws upon the fleshly parts of our heart. God's laws should be in our heart, not on a piece of paper. This hanging it on the neck just means to me that we are to ever keep His laws before our face. His laws shall lead us into paths of righteousness. When we are asleep, even our subconscious mind is stayed upon Him. The law is light. Those who live for the Lord walk in the light as He is in the Light. Godly people love instructions in righteousness.

Proverbs 6:24 "To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman." Proverbs 6:25 "Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids." Proverbs 6:26 "For by means of a whorish woman [a man is brought] to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life."

In Matthew 5:28 "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." Fluttering eyelids have been used by sinful women for centuries to draw men to them. Prostitution is as old as the Bible, itself. It has been condemned from Genesis to Revelation. The whole book of Hosea is about a whorish woman. The woman in the instance in Hosea is speaking of Israel being unfaithful to God. Adultery (either spiritual or physical) has always been condemned of God. These few verses here are warning against falling into this type of sin.

Proverbs 6:27 "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" Proverbs 6:28 "Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?" Proverbs 6:29 "So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent."

We already touched on the dangers of living in sex sin in a previous lesson, but we see here that a man who touches his neighbor's wife is in serious trouble with God. We spoke on the body being the temple of the Holy Ghost.

Proverbs 6:30 "[Men] do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;" Proverbs 6:31 "But [if] he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house."

In these verses, it is not saying that it is not a sin to steal. It is saying a person has sympathy for someone who is so hungry that he steals to feed himself. If he is caught, the person he stole from will be happy to not prosecute him, if he will pay back what he stole 7 times. The stealing here is not nearly as serious as the sin of adultery that we read of in the next few verses.

Proverbs 6:32 "[But] whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he [that] doeth it destroyeth his own soul." Proverbs 6:33 "A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away." Proverbs 6:34 "For jealousy [is] the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance." Proverbs 6:35 "He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts."

Adultery is a cruel crime. Love for each other is the most precious gift a man and woman have on this earth except for the gifts of God. There is something very special about a man and his wife being one. To invade on this privacy of a man and his wife is without excuse. There is no money or gift that can repay this type of sinful act. The marriage of a man and his wife is likened unto the marriage of the Lord and His church. Just as anyone coming between the Lord and His church will not be permitted, neither is anyone to come between a man and his wife. It is unforgivable.

Proverbs 7 Questions

1. Being surety for a friend means you have gone on his _____.
2. A handshake in these Bible times was like what in our day?
3. Our society has gone _____.
4. The #1 cause of divorce in America today is what?
5. What should you do if you have co-signed a note?
6. When should you do it?
7. What was getting off a note compared to? Two things.
8. These Proverbs in chapter 6 are for what purpose?
9. What is a sluggard?
10. What is the sluggard told to study and imitate?
11. Who is the ant's boss?
12. In verse 9, what question is asked the sluggard?
13. Sleep and folding of the hands brings to what?
14. How does money come to a person?
15. Who walks with a froward mouth?
16. Describe 3 other things he does.
17. What shall happen to him?
18. How will it come upon this evil one?
19. How many things does God especially hate?
20. Why does God call them abominations ?
21. Name the first 3 evils that are abominations.
22. What is something else a proud look could be called?
23. Why do we have absolutely no room to brag?
24. What is the most evil part of the body ?
25. Everything of God is based on _____.
26. What should the hands be used for?
27. How is an evil man's heart described?
28. What is false testifying in court called?
29. What is the penalty for false teaching?
30. Who is the opposite of a peacemaker?
31. What does it mean to bind the commandments on our heart?
32. The law is _____.
33. Who love instructions in righteousness?
34. In verse 25, we are told not to lust after a beautiful woman and not to let her take thee with what?
35. A man who seeks whorish women will be brought to _____.
36. What kind of a thief do men not despise?
37. If the thief is caught, how much shall he pay?
38. Whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh _____.
39. What is the rage of a man?
40. Marriage of a man and woman is symbolic of what?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 7:1 "My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee." Proverbs 7:2 "Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye."

Again, we see here the father's love for the son in teaching him the ways of righteousness. It is just as important to remember them as it is to learn them. Learning what we never use is of no use to us. Learning of commandments that keep us out of trouble will also save our life. An apple is a beautiful sight in the eye of the receiver. Those who live godly lives are also beautiful in the eyes of the Lord.

Proverbs 7:3 "Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart."

In Israel, it is not uncommon to write the ten commandments on tablets and wear them like rings on their fingers. The tables of our heart are the very place for all of God's laws to be. The world might do away with our Bibles, but they could not do away with the things we have hidden in our heart.

Proverbs 7:4 "Say unto wisdom, Thou [art] my sister; and call understanding [thy] kinswoman:"

Wisdom should become part of our very being. We have said before that wisdom is a gift of God to us and is in our inner most being. Understanding and wisdom go hand in hand. If we are wise, we have understanding.

Proverbs 7:5 "That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger [which] flattereth with her words."

This is a repeat of what we have been reading about the whorish woman. Perhaps the reason this is mentioned so many times is so that the young men will clearly remember these instructions.

Proverbs 7:6 "For at the window of my house I looked through my casement," Proverbs 7:7 "And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding," Proverbs 7:8 "Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house," Proverbs 7:9 "In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:"

We see a picture here of someone observing from their window a young man who is not filled with the wisdom that we have been reading about, but a man who has no wisdom and understanding. He is a foolish man, spoken of as a simple man here (perhaps unlearned). He has not heeded the warnings about the harlot woman and he goes into her house. Notice he believes that he is hidden by the darkness of the night. Many sins are committed in the dark and regretted in the light.

Proverbs 7:10 "And, behold, there met him a woman [with] the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart."

You ladies take note. There is a way to dress that would appear to be the dress of an harlot. This Scripture does not describe it for us, but most

of us know what it looks like. It is way too short, and very tight so that her form would show. The neck would be cut low as to show her bosom. Very little would be left to the imagination. She would be wearing way too much makeup and have flashy jewelry hanging all over her. A pretty good description, wouldn't you say? Now let us stop looking at her attire and look at her.

Proverbs 7:11 "(She [is] loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:" Proverbs 7:12 "Now [is she] without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)"

In other words she is a pick-up off the street.

Proverbs 7:13 "So she caught him, and kissed him, [and] with an impudent face said unto him," Proverbs 7:14 "[I have] peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows." Proverbs 7:15 "Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee."

We see here a very forward woman. This open display of her lust for him in kissing him in public is revolting. These peace offerings should not be involved in this type of rendezvous. Peace offerings were offered in the temple and a portion brought home to eat in a ceremonial supper, but not used as a bribe to get a man.

Proverbs 7:16 "I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved [works], with fine linen of Egypt." Proverbs 7:17 "I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon." Proverbs 7:18 "Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves."

We see here a woman who planned ahead to sin. She had already prepared her bed before she ever saw this young foolish man. This is a way of life with her. Her sleeping arrangements would have cost her a lot of money to prepare. This linen of Egypt symbolizes righteousness of the world which is filthy rags. Linen=righteousness. Egypt = world. This myrrh was expensive perfume which was ordinarily for the wedding bed. Love and lust have been exchanged here. No love exists, this is pure lust. The first thing that is wrong with this is that they are not married to each other.

Proverbs 7:19 "For the goodman [is] not at home, he is gone a long journey:" Proverbs 7:20 "He hath taken a bag of money with him, [and] will come home at the day appointed." Proverbs 7:21 "With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him."

In a previous lesson, the young men were warned about not listening to this kind of woman with her flattering lips. Now we see in detail how she flatters and then convinces this foolish young man to come in unto her. She first says, "I am here by myself; my husband has gone and won't be back till he spends all of that money he took with him". He finally gives in to her flattering and goes in unto her.

Proverbs 7:22 "He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;"

An ox has no idea that he is going to be killed, until it actually happens. This is the way of this foolish man here. He cannot see the destruction that lies ahead.

Proverbs 7:23 "Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it [is] for his life."

This has been the plot all along, to lure him as a bird is lured into a net and then killed. All the while he has no idea of the plot to kill him.

Proverbs 7:24 "Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth."

Here, again, is a warning not to go in unto a harlot.

Proverbs 7:25 "Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths."

A wise heart would not fall into this trap. This is just a warning to stay away from this evil woman. You would have to decline to get to her, for her place is in hell.

Proverbs 7:26 "For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong [men] have been slain by her." Proverbs 7:27 "Her house [is] the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death."

Paid adulteresses have ruined many lives. There are many men whose lives have been totally destroyed by visiting this type woman. There is no heavenly home for these women or the men they trick unless they repent and turn from their wicked ways. Death and destruction await her and her victims.

Proverbs 8 Questions

1. In verse 2, what is to be kept as the apple of his eye?
2. How can we see the father's love for the son?
3. What is this that is to be bound to the fingers?
4. Where is the most important place to put the commandments of God?
5. What are we to call understanding that shows how close it should be to us?
6. What is meant by strange woman?
7. What was seen through the window of his house?
8. This young man was void of what?
9. Why did the young man go, as it was getting dark, to this place?
10. What teaching has this young man forgotten?
11. Who met the young man?
12. How was she dressed?
13. Describe how you feel a harlot would be dressed.
14. Not her dress, but her own character gave a picture of her as well. Describe her.
15. What was the first thing she did when she saw him?
16. Tell what the fine linen and Egypt are symbolic of.
17. How do we know that this woman planned ahead to sin?
18. Where does she say her husband is?
19. How had she forced this young man to go into her home?
20. How is this young man compared to an ox?
21. What has been this evil woman's plot all along?
22. In verse 24 and 25, what warning is repeated?
23. Who have already been slain by her?
24. What 2 things await this evil woman and her victims?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 8:1 "Doth not wisdom cry? And understanding put forth her voice?" Proverbs 8:2 "She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths." Proverbs 8:3 "She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors." Proverbs 8:4 "Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice [is] to the sons of man."

Here, again, we are told that wisdom is available, but it will not just drop out of the sky and force itself upon us. We must want wisdom, and pray for it if we are to receive it. It is always there and always available. To get wisdom, we must activate our will to receive it. This wisdom is not hiding and coming out at night as the harlot and the foolish man. Just as Christianity is for all, so is wisdom and knowledge. That is what I believe is meant by the gates and the entering of the gates. Whosoever will is the cry. In verse 4, it is like a sermon crying out for the men to listen and heed.

Proverbs 8:5 O "ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart."

Have you ever noticed how the little old grandmothers with very little formal education can read and understand the Bible better than some college graduates. I believe it has to do with their desire to learn of God and their willingness to receive their wisdom from Him. I know a man who cannot read, but God has called him to the ministry and has filled him with the wisdom to fulfill the job.

Proverbs 8:6 "Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips [shall be] right things."

We see over and over in the Bible instructions for us to hear. This has to do with our receiving them down into our inner being. When we open our inner ears up to the things of God, we shall grow in understanding; for He is the truth.

Proverbs 8:7 "For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness [is] an abomination to my lips." Proverbs 8:8 "All the words of my mouth [are] in righteousness; [there is] nothing froward or perverse in them." Proverbs 8:9 "They [are] all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge."

We see, again, from this that wisdom is absolute truth. Those who are wise speak nothing but the absolute truth. Anything but truth is abomination (displeasing to God). "The words of my mouth"-- If you are a preacher, this is the sermon that proceeds from the mouth and must not be slanted, but straightforward. There should be no variance at all in the message, no watering down. Even words should be simple words (plain) not fancy or without understanding. Righteousness, we have said so many times before, means in right standing with God. It is better to have our mouth filled with words He has given us to say.

Proverbs 8:10 "Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold."

This is just saying how much better it is to go for wisdom than the silver of the world, and knowledge is better than searching for gold. We touched on this more fully in a previous lesson. Things of this world are not to be even compared with knowledge and wisdom of God.

Proverbs 8:11 "For wisdom [is] better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it."

This also is covered in the explanation above. The world and all its wealth, even its jewels, are not to be compared to the godly things.

Proverbs 8:12 "I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions."

This is an explanation that prudence and wisdom go hand in hand. This is saying that it is practical and applies to everything in life.

Proverbs 8:13 "The fear of the LORD [is] to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate."

We learned earlier that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Fear is reverence to the ultimate when speaking of God. God hates evil. If we are His, we hate what He hates. As we said in a previous lesson, pride and arrogancy have no place with us. We are no more than what God has allowed us to be. If we have pride, it should be pride in that we are His and not our own. We are either children of light following the Lord, or we are children of Satan and follow him. We must hate evil to please God. Turn from even the appearance of evil. It is better to listen than to speak, unless the words in our mouth are placed there by the Lord. Pride and arrogancy is the opposite of being humble. The Lord loves the humble. The evil way is the way of the devil. The froward mouth comes from an evil heart and speaks ungodly things.

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

Wisdom hates all the bad things we have been talking about and loves the things of the Lord. Now wisdom is saying what it is. We know that wisdom is strength. Think of Solomon. Of all the things that he could have asked God for (riches and fame being 2), he refused them and asked for wisdom. You see, wisdom brought to Solomon all of those side benefits. Wisdom (God) made him the richest man in the world and also brought him great fame, not only in his own country but in all the known world. Understanding is a side benefit of wisdom, as well. Wisdom is understanding. In Isaiah 11:2, we read, "And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD;" We should seek this Spirit of the Lord to have these things.

Proverbs 8:15 "By me kings reign, and princes decree justice." Proverbs 8:16 "By me princes rule, and nobles, [even] all the judges of the earth."

Solomon's desire from God was to have the wisdom to rule the people fairly. Kings are more in need of wisdom than the ordinary person, because their decisions cause hardships for the people when they do not make good decisions. In Romans 13:1 "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers.

For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God." Princes and kings are in office because God ordained it.

Proverbs 8:17 "I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me."

Matthew 7:7 "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:" Matthew 7:8 "For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." This in Matthew is in Jesus' own words. God is always reaching out to man. While we were yet in sin, God loved us so much that He sent His only begotten Son to die on the cross that we might live. He loves us, we need to love Him. St. John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

Proverbs 8:18 "Riches and honour [are] with me; [yea], durable riches and righteousness."

In Matthew 6:19 "Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:" Matthew 6:20 "But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:" Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Lasting riches are those that are stored in heaven.

Proverbs 9 Questions

1. Wisdom is available for all who _____.
2. Who usually understands more about the Bible than the extremely educated?
3. In verse 6, why should we hear?
4. Wisdom's mouth speaks what?
5. In verse 8, there is nothing _____ or _____ in them.
6. Wisdom is absolute _____.
7. What does abomination mean?
8. What does "the words of my mouth" mean if you are a preacher?
9. What kind of words should always be used?
10. Receive my instruction and not _____.
11. And knowledge rather than choice _____.
12. In verse 11, wisdom is better than _____.
13. The fear of the Lord is to _____.
14. What 4 things does He hate in verse 13?
15. Why can we not be proud or arrogant?
16. What must we hate to please God?
17. What 2 things are the opposite of humble?
18. The froward mouth comes from an _____.
19. What is strength in verse 14?
20. In Isaiah 11:2, when the Spirit of the Lord rests upon him, he received the spirit of wisdom, _____, _____, _____.
21. In Romans 13:1, we read that who causes someone to reign?
22. Who does God love?
23. If we seek God early, _____.
24. What scripture in Matthew goes into detail on this?
25. In verse 18, we read that durable riches are with Him. What does Jesus say this type of riches is?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 8:19 "My fruit [is] better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver."

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

Proverbs 8:20 "I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:" Proverbs 8:21 "That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures."

Isaiah chapter 30 verse 21 shows how the Lord will lead His people, 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." In Ezekiel 37:24 "And David my servant [shall be] king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd: they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them." In Romans chapter 8, we see that we are sons of God and heirs with Jesus if we love Him. Romans 8:14 "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God." In Romans 8:17 "And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and jointheirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with [him], that we may be also glorified together."

Just as the Lord throughout Scripture has not only protected, but prospered His people, that is the promise here, too. God protects and blesses His own, if they will walk in His path. There is a curse for those who do not walk in His ways.

Proverbs 8:22 "The LORD possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old."

In Psalms 148:5 "Let them praise the name of the LORD: for he commanded, and they were created." You see, we are His creation. We are also His because we have been purchased by His shed blood on the cross. We are not our own. He owns us. We are His possession, and we have been ever since He created us. So many believe that Wisdom is the second person of the trinity. Whether it is Him or whether He possesses all wisdom does not matter.

Proverbs 8:23 "I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was." Proverbs 8:24 "When [there were] no depths, I was brought forth; when [there were] no fountains abounding with water."

This is just saying that Wisdom was established even before the world began. By the wisdom of God, the universe was created. Just as the Word is Jesus, Wisdom in this sense is, too. This is the wisdom of God that we see here. This is wisdom far beyond our comprehension. In verse 24, it just goes in to detail saying that when all of the earth was created Wisdom already existed.

Proverbs 8:25 "Before the mountains were settled, before the hills were I brought forth:" Proverbs 8:26 "While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world."

The very same thing said of wisdom here is spoken of God in chapter 90 of Psalms verse 2, "Before the mountains were brought forth or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God." You see, wisdom and God seem to be overlapping. You see, elaborate descriptions of what had not been created when wisdom began just drive home the eternity of God and His wisdom.

Proverbs 8:27 "When he prepared the heavens, I [was] there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:" Proverbs 8:28 "When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:" Proverbs 8:29 "When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: when he appointed the foundations of the earth:" Proverbs 8:30 "Then I was by him, [as] one brought up [with him]: and I was daily [his] delight, rejoicing always before him;"

You read in Genesis 1:1 "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." You just somehow think of it as a mass without details. In these verses, we have been reading in detail the things that God has created. When you list each in detail the magnitude of God's mighty creation stands out very strongly. It is impossible, as I have said so many times before in this lesson, to separate God and His wisdom. It is part of Him and just as eternal. My favorite scripture in all the Bible does the best job of explaining this. Wisdom and the Word are eternal. John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made."

Proverbs 8:31 "Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights [were] with the sons of men."

This is the promise to all who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, that the wisdom of God is available to us, also. We must pray and ask God, and He will give us wisdom. Mankind is made in the likeness of God. God's desire is for us to live godly lives directed by His wisdom.

Proverbs 8:32 "Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: for blessed [are they that] keep my ways."

The blessed of the Lord are the ones who walk in His ways. God promises great blessing throughout the Bible to all who keep His commandments. There is a curse spoken against those who continuously walk in sin. Those filled with the wisdom of God are wise unto their own salvation. Those who refuse God and His wisdom are children of the evil one.

Proverbs 8:33 "Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not." Proverbs 8:34 "Blessed [is] the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors."

The walk of a Christian is one day at a time. Our commitment to the Lord is for a lifetime, but we must live it one day at a time. God's instructions for living are found in the Bible. It is impossible to live

pleasing lives in Him without knowing what His Word (Bible) says. Our prayer each day should be, "Lord, help me live pleasing to you today".

Proverbs 8:35 "For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD."

In St. John chapter 1 verse 4, it tells how there is life in the Word. As we said before; Word, Wisdom, and God are not possible to separate. John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men."

Proverbs 8:36 "But he that sinneth against me wrongeth his own soul: all they that hate me love death."

Here are a few Scriptures showing that the sinners, who do not repent, shall go to hell. Mark 16:16 "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."

We see quickly if we are unwise and continue in transgressing God's laws, we will be looking for death - not eternal life.

Proverbs 10 Questions

1. In James chapter 3 verse 17, we read that wisdom that is from above is first _____ then _____ and full of _____.
2. In verse 20, we see wisdom leading in what?
3. We see those that love wisdom inherit what?
4. Isaiah chapter 30 verse 21, shows what?
5. In Ezekial chapter 37 verse 24, what do we read about?
6. In chapter 8 of Romans, who are the sons of God?
7. Who did God prosper while he was living in captivity?
8. There are blessings for those who obey God, but what is the fate of those unwise who do not obey?
9. In chapter 148 of Psalms, why should we praise the Lord?
10. In verse 23, who is the "I"?
11. When was wisdom established?
12. Who is the Word?
13. What Scripture in Psalms is the same as V-25 here?
14. Why is wisdom eternal?
15. Who is the "He" in V-27?
16. When you list so many wonderful things He created, what does it make you more aware of?
17. In St. John chapter 1 verse 1, who is the Word?
18. God's desire for His sons of men is what?
19. Who are the blessed in V-32?
20. Those who refuse God and His wisdom are whose children?
21. Our commitment to the Lord is for a lifetime, but our walk is what?
22. For whoso findeth me findeth _____.
23. In him was life; and the life was the _____ of men .
24. He that sinneth against me wrongeth his own _____.
25. He that believeth not shall be _____.

In this lesson we will begin in Proverbs 9:1 "Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:"

The first thing we must look at here is the "house". The wise person (Christian) is building a house. This is a spiritual house that we read about in I Peter 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." We can read a great deal about the Christian being God's house in chapter 3 of Hebrews. It would be good to read from verse 1 through 6. I will just quote verse 6 here, Hebrews 3:6 "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end." In Revelation chapter 21 verse 3, we see that the tabernacle of God is with men. God is our house, and we are His. These "seven pillars" are similar to the seven pillars in the temple in Jerusalem. "Seven" means spiritually complete, and we see the perfection that God will build His house. We also see seven churches in Revelation which are symbolic of all Christendom. We also see the seven gifts of the Spirit which supports the church.

Proverbs 9:2 "She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table."

We see here in the "mingled wine" the wine that has been diluted with water for drinking in the temple. The table is well furnished with beasts and wine.

Proverbs 9:3 "She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,"

We see in this Scripture the "she", of course, is wisdom. "Maidens" in God's sight are the bride of Christ. In this case, these would be those who are going out with a wise message to invite people to the marriage supper of the Lamb. This then would be ministers who go everywhere and bring God's message calling them to be saved and to come to this supper.

Proverbs 9:4 "Whoso [is] simple, let him turn in hither: [as for] him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him," Proverbs 9:5 "Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine [which] I have mingled."

God sends to the lowly of the earth the invitation to come to Him. In fact, the invitation is to whosoever will. You see, ordinarily it is not the worldly wise who come humbly to God, but it is just ordinary people like you and I. The invitation here in verse 5 is the same Jesus gave the disciples. He broke the bread and said eat of His body and served the wine and said drink of His blood. Bread and wine are communion dishes. They are the communion of the saints with the Lord.

Proverbs 9:6 "Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."

Only a fool would say there is no God. We are to turn from our foolish ways (forsake) so that we might have everlasting life. To go in the way of understanding, is to accept the Lord Jesus as our Savior and Lord.

Proverbs 9:7 "He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked [man getteth] himself a blot."

When you witness to someone about the Scriptures trying to get them saved and they ridicule you for it and want to argue about it, it is best not to argue. Sometimes their guilt becomes so great, that they might tell lies and do you harm. This does not mean that we are to stop trying to help people come to the Lord; but it does mean if we see they are angered by our trying to help them, just go on and leave them alone.

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

We see here that some people will not accept your message if it corrects error in their life. Some people, if you remind them of sin in their life, will hate you. I have heard people say in church, if the preacher doesn't step on their toes pretty often, he is not a good preacher. These are the wise who want to be reminded of their sins so they can repent.

Proverbs 9:9 "Give [instruction] to a wise [man], and he will be yet wiser: teach a just [man], and he will increase in learning."

There is really no question about what this means. Those who are wise are eager to take instruction from someone who knows a little more about the subject. The only people who can increase in learning are the ones who want to learn.

Proverbs 9:10 "The fear of the LORD [is] the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy [is] understanding."

We touched on this earlier in Proverbs, but we will say here, fear of God is reverence of God. I Samuel chapter 12 verse 14 and 15 tells us about the advantages of those who fear the Lord over those who do not . I Samuel 12:14 "If ye will fear the LORD, and serve him, and obey his voice, and not rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall both ye and also the king that reigneth over you continue following the LORD your God:" I Samuel 12:15 "But if ye will not obey the voice of the LORD, but rebel against the commandment of the LORD, then shall the hand of the LORD be against you, as [it was] against your fathers." The holy here is God. So this is saying the knowledge of God is understanding.

Proverbs 9:11 "For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased."

This is not only speaking of our life being extended here on earth, but for all of eternity.

Proverbs 9:12 "If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but [if] thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear [it]."

We see here that it is our own responsibility to seek wisdom, and it is our own loss if we reject the Lord.

Proverbs 9:13 "A foolish woman [is] clamorous: [she is] simple, and knoweth nothing."

This has a literal meaning. A foolish woman is a woman who does not have godly ways. This describes a woman with poor morals. This also can be symbolic of the opposite of wisdom. Foolishness is rejection of God. Certainly this person would know nothing that is truly important.

Proverbs 9:14 "For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city," Proverbs 9:15 "To call passengers who go right on their ways:" Proverbs 9:16 "Whoso [is] simple, let him turn in hither: and [as for] him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,"

The literal of this woman would be that of the harlot woman who waits on the street corner and seduces her victims. The men who are not of God get involved in her sin. The spiritual, here, has to do with those who reject God and go the way of the world. In both cases, we would have to say that they are lacking in understanding.

Proverbs 9:17 "Stolen waters are sweet, and bread [eaten] in secret is pleasant." Proverbs 9:18 "But he knoweth not that the dead [are] there; [and that] her guests [are] in the depths of hell."

"Stolen waters" here is speaking of a man having an affair with a harlot. This is not his wife. Adultery, as we have said before, leads to hell and destruction. It is interesting that wisdom offered meat and wine to her guests and the foolish offers bread and water. It seems that the world wants only the forbidden fruit. But just as it led Adam and Eve to destruction, so will it bring the foolish down. Death and hell await the foolish who reject God.

Proverbs 11 Questions

1. In verse 1, how many pillars have been hewn?
2. What had seven pillars in the building?
3. Who is building a spiritual house?
4. What are the Christians called in I Peter chapter 2?
5. In Hebrews chapter 3 verse 6, we are God's house if we do what?
6. In Revelation chapter 21 verse 3, the tabernacle of God is where?
7. What other seven can be thought of as holding up the church?
8. What does "mingled wine" mean?
9. Maidens in God's sight are whom?
10. In this particular use of "maidens", it is probably who?
11. In V-4, calling of the simple is what?
12. In V-5, the bread and wine remind us of what?
13. Forsake the foolish and _____.
14. What does "forsake" mean?
15. In V-7, what does reproving a scorner mean?
16. If you reprove a scorner, he will _____.
17. Rebuke a wise man and he will _____.
18. The wise are eager for what in V-9?
19. The knowledge of the holy is _____.
20. Who is holy?
21. What is meant by fear of God?
22. By wisdom what can happen to your life?
23. Whose responsibility is it to receive wisdom?
24. What kind of woman is clamorous?
25. What is the literal meaning of this type of woman?
26. What lie does she tell them to seduce them?

In this lesson, we will begin in Proverbs 10:1 "The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son [is] the heaviness of his mother."

We see the joy or sorrow of parents. Most parents live the most part of their lives for their children. The children actually determine whether the parents are happy in their later years or not. There is not a more unhappy parent in the world than one who knows his or her child is caught up in sin and things of this world. There is no happier parent than one who knows that his or her offspring are all saved with their names written in the Lamb's book of life. Children who are living for Jesus are a joy to any parent.

Proverbs 10:2 "Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death."

You see, all the wealth we can accumulate here on this earth will all be left behind when our heavenly Father says it is time for us to die. Be sure everyone will die. Treasures gotten through evil ways will seal your doom for all of eternity if you do not repent and turn from your wicked ways. You cannot buy your way into heaven. You certainly cannot use this ill gotten wealth to purchase eternal life. The only thing that brings life eternal with Jesus our Lord is to be in right standing with Him. "Righteousness" is just that, being in right standing with our Lord. We put on the robe of His righteousness: white as snow, washed in His blood, when we accept Him as our Lord and Saviour.

Proverbs 10:3 "The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked."

In Psalms chapter 37 verse 22 we read, Psalms 37:22 "For [such as be] blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and [they that be] cursed of him shall be cut off." Psalms 37:23 "The steps of a [good] man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way." Psalms 37:24 "Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the LORD upholdeth [him with] his hand." Psalms 37:25 "I have been young, and [now] am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." Psalms 37:26 "[He is] ever merciful, and lendeth; and his seed [is] blessed." Psalms 37:27 "Depart from evil, and do good; and dwell for evermore." How could I even add to all of this? God takes care of His own. You may have a few problems to strengthen you; but you will not go hungry, and you will inherit eternal life.

Proverbs 10:4 "He becometh poor that dealeth [with] a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich."

Early to bed, and early to rise; maketh a man healthy, wealthy, and wise. How many times in our life have we all been told this by our parents, teachers, and friends? This "slack hand" above is speaking of a lazy person who will not work. You cannot have money unless you are willing to work to get it. Get your priorities straight and work hard, and God will bless you abundantly even in this life. Laziness will get you nowhere but to the poorhouse.

Proverbs 10:5 "He that gathereth in summer [is] a wise son: [but] he that sleepeth in harvest [is] a son that causeth shame."

Harvest time is a time when we work from sunup to sundown to get the crop in. A person may lie in bed a little longer when it is very cold and the ground is too hard to work, but come harvest we must reap. We see here a two fold message. This is speaking of literal crops, but it is also speaking of the harvest at the end of the world. Everyone who knows anything about the Lord should be working from sunup to sundown to get the harvest (wheat) of believers into the kingdom of God. If you can minister in any capacity, now is not the time to sit on the sideline. Get into the field and harvest the wheat (believers).

Proverbs 10:6 "Blessings [are] upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked."

We have just been reading how the blessings are on those who do justly. In James chapter 1 verse 17, we read that all good comes from God. James 1:17, "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."

This "violence" that covers the mouth of the wicked could mean that the people know that he is violent and will not listen to what he says, and so his mouth is covered. It, also, could mean that nothing but bad words come from this evil one's mouth. It, also, could mean that their ugly messages have been discovered to be a lie and they are silenced by that.

Proverbs 10:7 "The memory of the just [is] blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot."

Everytime you do something good for someone you feel good about yourself. The blessings of the Lord are for those who live uprightly. You never see monuments to the wicked. A good example of an evil one, who no one celebrates his birthday, is Hitler. No one wants to remember this evil one.

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

This "wise in heart" would be an humble person easy to teach, not a proud, highminded person. This "prating fool" is someone who is always bragging. The little meaning of prating is lip. This is someone who talks too much and lets his conversation trap him.

Proverbs 10:9 "He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known."

Romans chapter 6 verse 4, "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life." The upright walk is the walk we Christians walk following Jesus. We will not stumble and fall, because we have the light of Jesus at our feet to light our way. Those who walk in the dark are evil. Evil will be exposed. These are people who practice doing evil. Be sure your sins will find you out.

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

When we see winking eyes, the two involved are scheming to do you evil. This is ordinarily plotting to do evil.

Proverbs 10:11 "The mouth of a righteous [man is] a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked."

Bitter and sweet water does not come from the same well. Jesus (at the well) told the woman, if she drank of the water He provided, she would never thirst again. Life everlasting comes with the mouth. Romans chapter 10 verse 9, "That if thou shalt confess with the mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." The wicked is in direct contrast. Their way leads unto death.

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

In I Peter chapter 4 verse 8, we read that love covereth a multitude of sins, I Peter 4:8 "And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins." Hatred and murder are next of kin. Feuds throughout the ages have been caused by hatred. Sometimes a few generations after the original incident most of the haters do not even know why they hate. Forgiveness is a by-product of love. That is the way to stop all the hate, forgive them and love them.

Proverbs 10:13 "In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod [is] for the back of him that is void of understanding."

The wise man speaks good things. This is the same rod as the rod of correction we will read about later on in Proverbs. Children are sometimes difficult to train until the rod of correction is applied. They soon become wiser than they were before the rod was applied.

Proverbs 10:14 "Wise [men] lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish [is] near destruction."

The foolish always seem to want to talk about something they know nothing about. A wise man is quiet and listens and soaks up information.

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

Money can buy many things and acquire many creature comforts that the poor cannot possibly have. It seems the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. There really is nothing wrong with having money. It is how you feel about your wealth and what you do with it that might become sin. Whatever state you find yourself in, be content. If you are poor, work hard and try to work yourself up. In America, if you really try, you need not stay poor.

Proverbs 10:16 "The labour of the righteous [tendeth] to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin."

Men, who do not labor in this life, generally have too much time on their hands. They have plenty of time to get into trouble. People who like

to take shortcuts at making a living and do not labor to earn their living, wind up scheming against their neighbor to get what does not belong to them and wind up in sin. On the other hand, people who work hard and earn their living usually are honest. Law abiding citizens a great many times have deep spiritual convictions which bring eternal life.

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

Instruction is something we should be eager to receive. It keeps us on the right path and keeps us from making mistakes. Only a fool refuses correction. You have completely stopped growing when you will not accept correction.

Proverbs 12 Questions

1. What kind of son maketh a glad father?
2. A foolish son is the heaviness of whom?
3. What generally determines whether a parent is happy in old age or not?
4. What kind of treasure profiteth nothing?
5. What is righteousness?
6. Verse 3 tells us God will not allow the righteous to _____.
7. The steps of a good man are _____.
8. What happens to the man who deals with a slack hand?
9. What does "slack hand" mean?
10. Where will laziness get you?
11. A son that sleepeth in harvest _____.
12. What does "harvest time" mean spiritually?
13. Blessings are on the _____ of the just .
14. Who was an evil person that people do not care to remember?
15. Who are the wise in heart?
16. Who is a prating fool?
17. In Romans 6:4, we find that Christians should walk in _____.
18. Why will Christians not stumble and fall?
19. What are winking eyes usually a sign of?
20. The mouth of a righteous man is a _____.
21. Quote Romans 10:9.
22. In I Peter 4:8, we read that love covereth _____.
23. What is a by-product of love?
24. Who is the rod for?
25. What is a rich man's strong city?
26. If you find yourself with too much time, you might get into _____.
27. What will a person who is wise be eager to receive?
28. What is a person called who refuses instruction?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 10:18 "He that hideth hatred [with] lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, [is] a fool."

What really is a "fool"? Really, a fool is someone who has undeniable proof before them and still will not believe. They are not able to determine truth but will prefer to believe a lie. Once in the Canadian Rockies, we were in a spot surrounded on every side by the most fantastic snow covered mountains that I had ever seen. No two of them were alike in color or shape, and my brother said, "only a fool could look at this and say there is no God". You see, a fool has no understanding at all. Lying is having no understanding of why we must tell the truth. A person who tells something untrue about someone else and tears down their good name has no understanding and is therefore a fool.

Proverbs 10:19 "In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips [is] wise."

The person who listens learns. Talking too much leads to sin. A loose tongued person is boring and noisy and really not very likely to learn anything new. When you are talking, you cannot listen.

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

As we have said in all these studies, silver is symbolic of redemption. A person, (Christian) who is just and upright, uses his tongue to tell others about the salvation of Jesus. As we have said before, the source of all that we are, good or bad, is in the heart. A person with a wicked heart is continually doing evil.

Proverbs 10:21 "The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom."

The type of food that this is speaking of is spiritual food. In Matthew chapter 4 verse 4 we read in Jesus' own word, "It is written man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God". The word of God proceeding from the lips of the righteous feed them Spiritually. This is speaking of the salvation message. As we said, in the lesson above, a fool has no understanding and dosen't want any. He will die in sin.

Proverbs 10:22 "The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it."

Abraham was blessed of God because of his great faith. We see that God will pour out His blessings (not only spiritual, but physical as well) on those that love Him and walk in His ways. In our Genesis study, we saw this of Abraham. I will quote just one verse here to prove the point. Genesis chapter 13 verse 2, "and Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold." Abram (Abraham) had length of days, and a son in his old age (Isaac) because he had faith in God. He had no curse (sorrow) from God only blessings, because he walked uprightly before God.

Proverbs 10:23 "[It is] as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom."

A fool (someone who lacks understanding) finds pleasure in sin. He is not only happy in the sin, he does evil to others as well. This just contrasted to someone who understands there is a better way.

Proverbs 10:24 "The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted."

In James chapter 5 verse 16 We read that God answers the prayer of the righteous. James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." Fear is not of God, those who are continually wicked fear judgement and punishment, because they know they deserve to die.

Proverbs 10:25 "As the whirlwind passeth, so [is] the wicked no [more]: but the righteous [is] an everlasting foundation."

A "whirlwind" comes up in a hurry, and is gone in a hurry and that is the end of someone evil, as well. They may appear to prosper quickly, but it is soon gone. The righteous is solid as a rock. In fact, they are lively stones building the foundation of Christianity on the earth. We read in I Peter 2:4 "To whom coming, [as unto] a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, [and] precious," I Peter 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

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

If you send someone out to do a job, You do not want him lazying around (sluggard). If you have someone this lazy working for you, it is painful to you just like it is painful to put pure vinegar on your teeth. It makes them burn. Smoke in your eyes causes you to cry, and I believe that is what is meant here. Truly someone who is supposed to do a job and won't will bring you tears. You can imagine how God feels when He calls us to do a job for him and we are too lazy to carry it out.

Proverbs 10:27 "The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened."

In Ecclesiastes 7:17 "Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?" You see, good lives lived for God sometimes bring long life. One of the commandments to honor father and mother, promises long life. It is pretty easy to see how someone who lives the evil life is certainly in danger of early death. They visit places where killing and cheating is going on (such as beer parlors and gambling places). Fear of God keeps us walking a holy path.

Proverbs 10:28 "The hope of the righteous [shall be] gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish."

In 1 Thessalonians, we see the blessed hope of the believer which brings gladness, because we will live with Jesus; but the wicked have no hope of resurrection to eternal life. 1 Thessalonians chapter four verse 13

through 18 we read of the rapture. I Thessalonians 4:13 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." I Thessalonians 4:14 "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." I Thessalonians 4:15 "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." I Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the Voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" I Thessalonians 4:17 "Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." I Thessalonians 4:18 "Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

Proverbs 10:29 "The way of the LORD [is] strength to the upright: but destruction [shall be] to the workers of iniquity."

The blessings of God are for those who walk in the way of the Lord. Jesus calls himself the Way. The Way of the Lord is the path of the Light on which each Christian can walk uprightly and not stumble and fall. God's blessings are for those who obey him and walk in his commandments. The curses (destruction) are for those who work iniquity; who live after the flesh and not after the spirit.

Proverbs 10:30 "The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth."

In the "Sermon on the Mount", Jesus said in Matthew chapter 5, "Blessed are the meek for: they shall inherit the earth. those who are in right standing with God are to reign with Christ. The wicked not only cannot expect good things now but certainly have no future to look to. They are doomed to hell.

Proverbs 10:31 "The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out." Proverbs 10:32 "The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked [speaketh] frowardness."

We read in Romans chapter 3 of the evil mouth, tongues and throat. Romans 3:13 "Their throat [is] an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps [is] under their lips:" Romans 3:14 "Whose mouth [is] full of cursing and bitterness:" You see this is describing an evil mouth. This mouth is an opening where the issues of the heart come forth. This person has an evil heart. The message from the heart is in the mouth. We also read in Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." Romans 10:10 "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."

Proverbs Questions 13

1. How is a fool described in V-18?
2. What is a fool, really?
3. What is better than speaking a multitude of words?
4. The tongue of the just is as choice _____.
5. The source of all that we are good or bad is where?
6. What is meant by "the lips of the righteous feed many"?
7. What did Jesus tell us in Matthew 4:4 about food?
8. Why was Abraham blessed of God?
9. What three things was Abram rich in?
10. A fool thinks mischief is what?
11. Who is a fool?
12. What does James 5:16 tell us about the prayers of the righteous?
13. What do those who continually sin fear?
14. In V-25, the wicked are compared to what?
15. What are the righteous compared to?
16. Who is the cornerstone?
17. What is a sluggard?
18. What does V-26 mean when it says "as vinegar to the teeth"?
19. What is indicated by "smoke to the eyes"?
20. In V-27, what prolongs years?
21. Why would you expect the sinful man to die early?
22. What blessed hope in 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 do we see?
23. What is 1 Thessalonians chapter 4 verses 13 through 18 commonly called today?
24. The blessings of God is for whom?
25. Curses are for whom?
26. In the "Sermon on the mount" what are the meek promised?
27. Romans chapter 3 verse 13 tells us what about the evil mouth?
28. What does Romans chapter 10 verses 9 and 10 teach us about the mouth?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 11:1 "A false balance [is] abomination to the LORD: but a just weight [is] his delight."

God wants us to be honest in all our dealings. We read a request of God in Ezekiel 45:10 "Ye shall have just balances, and a just ephah, and a just bath." It is not only against man's law to weigh merchandise for sale, wrong, but it is against God's law as well. In fact, the Lord calls it an abomination (a very evil thing). God is delighted with us when we are honest with all our dealings which includes weighing.

Proverbs 11:2 "[When] pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly [is] wisdom."

In I Timothy 3:6, we read what happens when we are overcome with pride. I Timothy 3:6 "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he fall into the condemnation of the devil." It is very important not to be self centered and caught up in pride. We are what God has allowed us to be. In 11 Timothy 3, the wickedness in the last days lists pride as one of their sins. We must stay humble to please God. A wise person realizes that everything he or she is, is a gift from God and not of self.

Proverbs 11:3 "The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them."

Here, integrity means innocence. The upright are innocent of any wrong doing, but we see that the perverseness (evil doings) of the transgressors (those who sin continuously) will destroy them. They actually destroy themselves.

Proverbs 11:4 "Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death."

James 5:1 "Go to now, [ye] rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon [you]." James 5:2 "Your riches are corrupted, and your garments are moth-eaten." James 5:3 "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." You can easily see from all the riches in the world will not save you from the wrath of God. We must be washed in the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord, and then we will be in right standing with God. Jesus Christ brings us life, not death. The Christians will be saved from the wrath to come. In I Thessalonians 5:9 "For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ,"

Proverbs 11:5 "The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness."

We see here, that the man in right standing with God walks daily in salvation. Those who desire to please God walk uprightly before him in His blessed Light, which clearly lights his path. The wicked walk in the night. They are children of the night. They are blinded by sin and worldliness and are trapped by their own wickedness.

Proverbs 11:6 "The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in [their own] naughtiness."

In I Thessalonians 1:10 we read "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, [even] Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

Remember, this is Jesus' righteousness that we have taken on, and not our own that saves us. Transgressors (breakers of God's law), who do not repent will not be saved but caught in their evil doings and be judged guilty of their sins.

Proverbs 11:7 "When a wicked man dieth, [his] expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust [men] perisheth."

We see here, that to die in your wickedness leaves no hope at all. My own personal belief is: as long as there is breath in the body, man can repent and be saved. When he dies, not accepting Jesus as his Saviour, there is no second chance. He has no future to look forward to, only one to regret. Hell is awaiting him.

Proverbs 11:8 "The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead."

In this life, we all have tribulations and trials; but those in right standing with God will be delivered out of trouble. In Revelation 7:14 we read about those redeemed from the wrath of God that are in white robes in heaven. Revelation 7:14 "And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb." You can see in this that the righteous were brought out of great tribulation. At this time on earth, The wrath of God is falling and the wicked are on earth where all the horrors are.

Proverbs 11:9 "An hypocrite with [his] mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered."

We read about the lying tongued hypocrite in Jeremiah 9:4 "Take ye heed every one of his neighbour, and trust ye not in any brother: for every brother will utterly supplant, and every neighbour will walk with slanders." Jeremiah 9:5 "And they will deceive every one his neighbour, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, [and] weary themselves to commit iniquity."

We read in Romans 8 of the justified (just as if we had never sinned.) Romans 8:1 "[There is] therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

Proverbs 11:10 "When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, [there is] shouting."

We see, here, not a particular city, but cities in general. Sometimes a statement about a city could be talking about a church, as well. I believe this might be saying, it is of mutual benefit to everyone associated when one of their members has good happenings. A righteous person is loved by his

group. The wicked always cause trouble for others, and it is a relief to be rid of them.

Proverbs 11:11 "By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked."

The wonderful thing about the upright is that every thing they do builds and does not destroy. They pray for the city; they do only good and not evil. Anyone would be happy to have them as a member. The wicked always speak evil and tear down. Their mission is to destroy.

Proverbs 11:12 "He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace."

Jealousy, hate, and covetousness are all describing a person lacking in understanding. Those lacking in understanding are constantly comparing themselves with their neighbors. They want what does not belong to them. A person who understands, however, is content in whatever state he or she is in. They know that God has everything under control and is giving them as much as He can trust them with so they are at peace with their neighbor and with themselves and with God.

Proverbs 11:13 "A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter."

A talebearer creates strife. We must never reveal a confidence. Spreading tales can only do one thing, and it is not good. If it can't help someone, don't tell it.

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

An interesting thing about society is that the younger generation does not want to take instructions (counsel). A person who won't take counsel has to make all the mistakes for himself and is constantly falling. A person who is eager to listen and learn can be spared all this sorrow.

Proverbs 11:15 "He that is surety for a stranger shall smart [for it]: and he that hateth suretiship is sure."

We see here, that to sign on someone else's note, that you do not know, is not very wise. You have nothing to gain and all to lose to go on the note of someone you don't know. Usually you wind up having to pay it yourself and sacrifice your own income to do it. The smart thing to do is don't go on the note in the first place.

Proverbs 11:16 "A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong [men] retain riches."

This gracious woman, spoken of here, is probably one who loves people and is a very beautiful person. She would show honor to others and, in return, would be greatly honored herself. God has made man, not as a home-maker as He did the woman, but to provide well for his family. I don't believe this means strength of body, but rather strength of character. God blesses the upright man and gives him wisdom not to squander what he has worked for. A man of great character retains what he earns.

Proverbs Questions 14

1. What is a false balance in the sight of God?
2. A just weight is his _____?
3. What does God say to man in Ezekiel 45:10?
4. What is an abomination?
5. In verse 2, we read with pride comes what?
6. The wickedness of what days are spoken of in II Timothy 3?
7. What shall guide the upright?
8. What does this word mean?
9. Righteousness delivers from _____.
10. In Chapter 5 of James, what do we learn about riches?
11. What puts us in right standing with God?
12. What will the Christians be saved from at the end?
13. In 1 Thessalonians, we read that the Christians are not appointed to _____ but to obtain _____.
14. The author believes a person can be saved as long as what?
15. What kind of garment will the righteous wear in heaven?
16. A hypocrite destroys with what?
17. Who are the justified?
18. In chapter 8 of Romans, we learn that these walk not after the _____, but after the _____?
19. What type of person causes the city to rejoice?
20. In verse 12, we find that those void of wisdom do what?
21. Jealousy, hate, and covetousness describe whom?
22. Why should we be content with what we have?
23. In verse 13, we find that a _____ revealeth secrets.
24. In the multitude of counsels there is what?
25. What does "going surety" for someone mean?
26. A gracious woman does what?
27. Strong men retain what?
28. What strength of men is mentioned here.

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 11:17 "The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but [he that is] cruel troubleth his own flesh."

A merciful person who is always doing for others feel good about himself. A cruel person has no good memories. A cruel person has only regrets.

Proverbs 11:18 "The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness [shall be] a sure reward."

We have been reading before about the deceitfulness of riches. If a person works only for self gain, he is deceived and is wicked. The righteous seek to do good. The righteous may not be rewarded here on this earth, but will reap rewards on harvest day.

Proverbs 11:19 "As righteousness [tendeth] to life: so he that pursueth evil [pursueth it] to his own death."

Righteousness not only tends to life, but actually makes life more enjoyable here on this earth and brings life for all of eternity, as well. Evil, on the other hand, keeps you in trouble on the earth and brings death and hell for all of eternity?

Proverbs 11:20 "They that are of a froward heart [are] abomination to the LORD: but [such as are] upright in [their] way [are] his delight."

The word translated "froward" here means crooked, distorted, and false. Our heart will give away what we really are. God judges our heart more than He does our actions. What was our intent? to do evil or good? We are what our heart is. God loves a person with a pure heart. He even likes our giving to be from our heart.

Proverbs 11:21 "[Though] hand [join] in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered."

We see in verse 21 above that even if a number of evil people join together hand in hand, Their combined strength will not keep them from being punished. The seed of the righteous would be their children of their flesh and the children of their spirit. Just as all we Christians are seed of Abraham because of our faith and his. The Lord promises us when we are saved, that those of our household will be saved too. It does not mean that it is automatic, but that God the Holy Spirit will woo them till he gets them. He will try harder to get them because of your salvation. Acts 16:31 "And they said, believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

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

A woman with physical beauty can become even more beautiful to you if she lives the Christian life; but if she is a harlot or lives an evil life, that beauty seems to go away as you get to know her and she becomes a swine in your sight. The important beauty comes from within.

Proverbs 11:23 "The desire of the righteous [is] only good: [but] the expectation of the wicked [is] wrath."

Every Christian you ever meet has a desire in their heart to do good. They are seeking good and not evil. An evil person is continually negative. They know the wrath is coming and they expect it.

Proverbs 11:24 "There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and [there is] that withholdeth more than is meet, but [it tendeth] to poverty."

This is just saying, give and it will be given to you. I have a saying, "You can't out give God". If we are greedy and never give to others, we will find ourselves in poverty. There is a law that God gives to those who give to others. To get, you must give.

Proverbs 11:25 "The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

This is the very same thing as verse 24, just stated differently.

Proverbs 11:26 "He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing [shall be] upon the head of him that selleth [it]."

To have foodstuff that a neighbor needs and that you don't need for your own household, and not be willing to sell him some would be terrible. Not only would your neighbor curse you for that, but God will be displeased, as well. If you can help someone else, even by selling them something, God will see and bless you for it.

Proverbs 11:27 "He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him."

A person who is trying to do good is also seeking to do good for others as well, and is pleasing to God in the doing. The penalty of an evil life is that it comes back to you. Evil begets evil.

Proverbs 11:28 "He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch."

We read in I Timothy 6:17, that we must not trust in uncertain riches. I Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" I Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" I Timothy 6:19 "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." You see riches cannot get you to heaven. We must do good and not evil with what God has entrusted to us.

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

We see from this Scripture above that a man who causes trouble in his own house will not be able to build, but will be destroyed. Incest is a terrible problem in our society today. We read that 1 out of 4 children are molested by members out of their own family. You can easily see how this can

destroy the family. The person who lives like this will destroy them and himself. Someone who is wiser will have to take over his family and will rule over him, possibly even send him to jail.

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

The righteous are fruit bearers. You can tell what kind of Christian they are by the fruit they bear. Not only in their children of their flesh, but those they have led to the Lord, as well. Righteous trees produce righteous fruit. We have mentioned it before in these lessons, but the righteous are wise unto salvation.

Proverbs 11:31 "Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner."

Good morals bring good results, and bad morals brings bad results. Today, as never before, in our society we see people who have lived immoral lives feeling the brunt of punishment for their evil actions here on this earth in the disease - AIDS. There is an eternal punishment for the unrepentant sinner as well. We shall reap what we sow. God is a just God. God promised the diseases of the world (such as aids and venereal diseases) will not come on the people who love Him and follow His commandments. Some things we bring upon ourselves, because of our behavior. Those who live Christian lives, uprightly before God, will be watched over by Him. Some diseases come to all, but worldly caused by our own behavior are reserved for the evil children. A few people get aids without being evil, In that instance it would not be a worldly disease. A worldly disease I say one or more time, is one that we bring on ourselves by the sins in our life. We see Godly living leads to good health.

Proverbs Questions 15

1. Whose soul do the merciful help?
2. If you are always doing good for others, what does it make you think of yourself?
3. To him that soweth righteous shall be _____ .
4. If a person works only for himself, his is _____ .
5. He that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own _____ .
6. A person who is upright in God's sight are His _____ .
7. In verse 20 "Froward" means three things, what are they?
8. What does God judge more than our actions?
9. We are what our _____ is.
10. What does "hand in hand" in verse 21 probably mean?
11. Who are the seed of the righteous?
12. What chapter and verse in Acts tells us "thou shalt be saved and thy house".
13. What is a "fair woman without discretion" like?
14. Where does the beauty that counts, come from?
15. The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is _____ .
16. In verse 24, what does it mean about scattering and yet increasing?
17. What will happen to the person who waters?
18. How do the people feel about someone who withholds their corn?
19. A person who seeks mischief can expect what?
20. What happens to those who trust in their riches?
21. In I Timothy 6:17 we are told not to be _____ or trust in _____ .
22. What are we to trust in?
23. What should a wealthy person be ready to do?
24. He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the _____ .
25. Who shall the fool be servant to?
26. What is a terrible problem in our families that effects approximately 1 out of 4 children?
27. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of _____ .
28. You can tell what kind of a Christian a person is by what?
29. We know the righteous will go to heaven, but what will happen to them on the earth?
30. What are 2 diseases in our society today that are many times brought on by our own sin?
31. Godly living leads to what?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 12:1 "Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof [is] brutish."

A person who loves instruction grows into a very intelligent being. I believe part of the instruction meant here is instruction in right living. We are eager to learn God's ways, we quickly see sins in our life and repent. The greatest knowledge that we can have is to know God and his Word. "Brutish" means acting like a beast who does not accumulate knowledge. If we are not eager to learn of God, we are like a beast without a conscience.

Proverbs 12:2 "A good [man] obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn."

A good man is seeking to please God instead of himself. The Lord is pleased with this. A wicked man is always trying to figure out ways to do evil. God will not approve of evil in any fashion. God condemns evil every time.

Proverbs 12:3 "A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved."

When you see a righteous man, it is like looking at a giant oak tree with deep, deep roots. We will not be easily moved even though the winds of false doctrine be strong. Even in the parable of the sowing of the seed in the 8th chapter of Luke, Jesus tells us the seed that fell on good ground had good roots and brought forth much fruit. Read Luke 8 beginning with the 5th verse, through verse 18. You know the wicked man doesn't even bother to see the seed at all.

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

We see, here, how important it is for a woman to be upright. Not only for her own good and welfare, but so her family will not be ashamed of her. Her husband can be very proud of her, because she will not make him ashamed of her. It would crown him for her to be totally faithful to him. When we get in chapter 31, we will read extensively about the kind of woman she will be. In the spirit teaching on this verse, Jesus is coming back for a chaste virgin (the true believers) to be His bride. Nothing is worse than an unfaithful wife. She brings torment and shame to her husband, her family, and herself.

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

A righteous person thinks of things that are correct. His ways are the ways of God. His thoughts are truthful and fair. The wicked are deceivers, trying to convince others that lies are truth. Not only are they deceiving others, but the people who council them are deceivers, as well. They believe a lie and try to convince others to believe lies.

Proverbs 12:6 "The words of the wicked [are] to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them."

Wicked people lie in wait to destroy someone else for selfish gain. False accusations many times cause a person to kill someone who is totally innocent. The upright speak words of life not death.

Proverbs 12:7 "The wicked are overthrown, and [are] not: but the house of the righteous shall stand."

Tribulations comes to all; but the wicked cannot stand up to trials, because they have no source of strength (Jesus) to rely upon. A righteous person will stand firm in adversity knowing that God will see him through.

Proverbs 12:8 "A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised."

If you know not to sin and go ahead and sin anyway, you are more guilty than someone who sins not knowing that it is sin. Read Hebrews 6. I will give a small part here beginning with Hebrews 6:4 "For [it is] impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost," Hebrews 6:5 "And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come," Hebrews 6:6 "If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put [him] to an open shame."

My own personal belief is, we must walk in our salvation after we receive it. We must not go back into worldly sin, but must have the desire in our heart to walk uprightly before God. There has been much said in our society today about perversion. Perversion of any kind is terrible, but when it becomes a way of life with you, it is perversion of the heart. He, truly, who has a perverted heart will be despised. Perversion has to do with unnatural sex or extreme extent of sin.

Proverbs 12:9 "[He that is] despised, and hath a servant, [is] better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread."

This Scripture above, I believe, is speaking of someone of some means (enough to have a servant) who is not liked by people. The second person is someone who has nothing to be proud of, and yet is bragging about himself all the time. He is so down trodden that he can't even feed himself and yet he is a braggart. He constantly tells every one how wonderful he is. At least the first man was not dependant on someone else to provide for his food. As bad as the first man is, he is better off than the second.

Proverbs 12:10 "A righteous [man] regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked [are] cruel."

Show me a man who is cruel to animals, and I will show you a wicked man. God showed mercy to animals when He told the man to rest his animals on the sabbath, as well as resting himself. Man rules over the animals, and God made the animals to serve man; but an animal you feed well and care for, will work better for you. People who love God love people as well; and are kind to animals who are dependent on them. A wicked person does not love God, or man, and is cruel to animals who cannot help themselves.

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

Someone who works his fields with his hands shall not go hungry, but someone who does not want to work and is always looking for short cuts to take, really does not understand God's principles and may not eat. There are no short cuts. Those who work eat, and those who do not work, do without.

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

We see, in this Scripture above, the righteous produce fruit pleasing unto God. A workman who needeth not to be ashamed is a righteous person. It seems to me the wicked here are trying to set a trap to get something that they have not worked for. Ill gotten gain is soon gone.

Proverbs 12:13 "The wicked is snared by the transgression of [his] lips: but the just shall come out of trouble."

Transgression of the lips would be lies. When you tell a lie, it usually calls for another lie to cover up the first; and pretty soon, the liar is trapped because they cannot remember all the lies and keep them straight. The just person tells the truth. There is no problem for this person to remember. They just tells the facts and the truth wins out every time. The just have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous.

Proverbs 12:14 "A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of [his] mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him."

We see here, that speaking can produce fruit. A minister who tells others about Jesus can produce much fruit for God with words that come from the minister's mouth. I Corinthians 1:21 "For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe."

You see, preaching produces fruit for the kingdom. In the last part of this, we see recompense (rewards) comes from men working with their own hands.

Proverbs Questions 16

1. Whoso loveth instruction loveth _____.
2. He that hateth reproof is _____.
3. What kind of instruction is probably meant in verse 1?
4. What is the greatest knowledge we can have?
5. What does "Brutish" Mean?
6. A good man obtains favor of the Lord, but a man of wicked devises
_____.
7. What cannot establish a man?
8. What is meant by the root of the righteous?
9. What parable in the New Testament has to do with this root of
righteousness?
10. What is a virtuous woman to her husband in verse 4?
11. What is a shameful woman to her husband?
12. The counsel of the wicked are _____.
13. False accusations sometimes cause what?
14. The words of the upright bring _____, not _____.
15. Who does tribulation come to?
16. Why can a righteous man withstand problems better?
17. A man shall be condemned according to what?
18. What does a perverse heart mean?
19. What is perversion?
20. Who is better than someone who honors himself?
21. How will a righteous person treat animals?
22. The author says: show me a man who is _____ to animals and I
will show you an evil man.
23. Who shall be satisfied with bread?
24. A workman who needeth not to be ashamed is a _____.
25. What is meant by "the wicked desireth the net of evil men"?
26. What is transgression of the lips?
27. Who has an advocate with the Father?
28. What is meant by the fruit of his mouth?
29. What does I Corinthians 1:21 have to say about preaching?
30. What does recompence mean?

We will begin in this lesson in Proverbs 12:15 "The way of a fool [is] right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel [is] wise."

We discussed before that a fool is lacking in understanding. In second II Timothy 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," This is describing self centered people who will not listen to good counsel, but thinks the world revolves around them. We are told in II Timothy that this will be the condition of the people of the world in the end times. Lucifer had this attitude in heaven and God threw him out. Secular humanism and many modern teachings of even some of the churches are teaching that man can become God. To think too highly of ourselves makes us a fool. We must heed the counsel of God to be wise. His counsel is the Bible. Wise counsels teach the Bible ways.

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

This is commonly known as "loosing your temper". Someone lacking in understanding (fool) gets mad before he even knows what the problem is. We are warned in the Bible not to get angry without a cause and to not let the sun go down on our anger. A prudent man, or perhaps a careful man, thinks it out before he goes off head strong.

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

He That speaketh truth has truth in his heart. Jesus is the Truth. Someone (in right standing) righteous always speaks truth because it is in his heart. Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." You see, the truth is righteous and deceit is evil.

Proverbs 12:18 "There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise [is] health."

We see here, people hurt by piercings words. More people are hurt by their so called friends and family saying cutting things than by actual wounds inflicted. Their words cut your heart like a sword being pushed through you. The tongue is like a weapon. It can destroy or build up. I personally believe the tongue is the most evil part of the body until it is totally turned over to God, and then it can be like a healing balm. A wise person can use the tongue to build up a person.

Proverbs 12:19 "The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue [is] but for a moment." Proverbs 12:20 "Deceit [is] in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counselors of peace [is] joy."

Lies are soon found out and do not last. A runaway imagination is a very dangerous thing. Imagination is not truth but just like deceit it is a

lie. Joy and peace go hand in hand. Peace makers bring joy to themselves and everyone around them.

Proverbs 12:21 "There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief."

We see the mischief here as the evil that happens to the wicked as a result of their sin. The just person is not subject to the actions of the devil. The devil would have to get the Lord's permission (for some momentary trial) to afflict a Christian. We are not the devil's property, we are the Lord's. Everything that happens to a Christian has a purpose. The Lord sometimes allows a tribulation to come to make us stronger, but the devil cannot bring trouble on us without the Lord's permission. If we are Christians. Job is a very good example of this.

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

We see that lying is a terrible sin in the sight of God. In the second part of this statement, we see the truth is greatly loved by God. Not only is it important to speak truth, but also it is important to deal truthfully. It is not enough just to speak Christianity, but we must live it every day.

Proverbs 12:23 "A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness."

An intelligent, cautious man waits for the correct moment to reveal what he knows about a particular thing. He doesn't just tell everyone what he knows. Its always has been interesting to me how people love to talk about things they know nothing about. I believe that is what the fool is doing here. His lack of knowledge is not keeping him from talking, and he is talking of things he knows not of.

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

We see, here, again, that hard work will get you promoted and you will rule over those who are too lazy to work. Tribute is a little like taxes. We see again, that hard work pays off.

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

When a person is worried, they do have a tendency to hang their head low. In Matthew 26:37, we see that even Jesus was troubled facing the death on the cross. Matthew 26:37 "And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy."

When we are extremely sad or worried, we are said to have a heavy heart. We are also warned about too much worry. We are told to take no thought for what we are to say, that God will fill our ears and mouth with what we are to say. We are also taught that we should live one day at a time and not worry about tomorrow. Someone who says nice things to others makes them have a glad heart.

Proverbs 12:26 "The righteous [is] more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them."

A Christian is not only valuable to God, but is valuable to his community, as well. He is a good citizen who obeys the laws of the land. His brothers call him blessed, because he loves them as he loves himself; and he helps them every day he can. He even witnesses to his neighbors about the Lord and helps them to be Christians too. The wicked are not so. The wicked are constantly getting into all kinds of trouble. They want what the neighbors have. They also cause the neighbors great problems. They are not satisfied with going bad themselves but try to lead others into sin, as well. You can easily see the difference in these 2 very different ways of life. The Christian's way brings peace and joy, and the wicked's way brings hate and destruction.

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

My husband has always taught our sons and their sons that is alright to hunt and fish, but you must not kill anything you do not intend to eat. To kill for sport alone is evil. God made animals, birds, and fish for meat for man's table not to destroy for the fun of it. The second half of the verse above indicates that the substance a good man acquires is gotten honestly and fairly through hard work and is precious to him. He doesn't waste, he regards everything he acquires as a gift from God and is a good steward of what is entrusted to him.

Proverbs 12:28 "In the way of righteousness [is] life; and [in] the pathway [thereof there is] no death."

Being in right standing with God (having righteousness) does bring a fuller life here and brings life eternal with Jesus. The second death has no power on this person. The 22 chapter of Revelation gives us a beautiful picture of what it will be like where this type of person spends all of eternity. Revelation 22:1 "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." 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 22:3 "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:" Go ahead and read the rest of chapter 22. It is beautiful. No one would want to miss this glorious life in heaven with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Proverbs Questions 17

1. Does a fool feel that his ways are wrong?
2. Who is wise in verse 15?
3. In the end times, who do worldly men love?
4. Who was thrown out of heaven because he was self centered?
5. What is God's counsel to us?
6. What is a fool's wrath commonly called?
7. What are 2 warnings in the Bible about anger?
8. What is a dangerous teaching in many churches?
9. He that speaketh truth sheweth what?
10. A false witness shows what?
11. In chapter 6 verse 45 of Luke, a good man brings good from where?
12. What is speaking bad things compared to in verse 18?
13. What does the author believe is the most evil part of the body?
14. Kind words bring what in verse 18?
15. The lip of truth shall be established forever but a lying tongue is but for a _____.
16. People who imagine evil have what in their hearts?
17. In verse 21, we see the wicked are filled with what?
18. Who does the devil have to get permission from to attack a Christian?
19. What man is a good example of that in the Bible?
20. How does God feel about lying lips?
21. Who is God delighted in?
22. Fools proclaiming foolishness are like what?
23. In verse 24, we see that who rules?
24. What shall the slothful be?
25. What in the heart of man makes him stoop?
26. When we are extremely sad or worried, we are said to have what?
27. Who is a Christian valuable to besides God?
28. The Christian's way brings peace, but the wicked's way brings what?
29. What lesson about hunting has the author's husband taught their sons that is also taught in verse 27 here?
30. In the way of righteousness is _____.
31. What chapter in Revelation gives a beautiful view of heaven?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 13:1 "A wise son [heareth] his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke."

A wise son will take advantage of the knowledge his own father has already accumulated and will accept instruction from his father. A boy's father cares what happens to his son. He wants only the best for him. In fact, he wants his son to have a better life than he has had himself. If a son could learn this and take instruction from the father, he would be very wise indeed. In the Old Testament, a rebellious son was to be taken to the edge of the city and stoned to death. This was a drastic measure, but I believe we are to see in that lesson that a person who will not be instructed is headed for destruction. Loving parents rebuke their children when they are in error. If the child does not learn from the rebuke, they are headed for serious trouble. The rod of correction can drive rebellion far from a child.

Proverbs 13:2 "A man shall eat good by the fruit of [his] mouth: but the soul of the transgressors [shall eat] violence."

We see here, once more, a contrast between the people who live good wholesome lives and those who live worldly lives. In the "eating good by the fruit of his mouth" we see the words of a person can tell a whole lot about who and what they are.

Proverbs 13:3 "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: [but] he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction."

Many times the best thing to do is to just not say anything. It is much better to not say anything than it is to say something hurtful and then regret it forever. The tongue can be a deadly weapon.

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

The sluggard (lazy person) has plenty of time to sit around and wish for things that he or she is too lazy to work for and get. The diligent (worker who does not quit) will have the desires of his heart, because he will do enough work to acquire his needs.

Proverbs 13:5 "A righteous [man] hateth lying: but a wicked [man] is loathsome, and cometh to shame." Proverbs 13:6 "Righteousness keepeth [him that is] upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner."

This "righteous man" (in right standing with God) is against all evil actions. Lying, cheating, stealing, and dealing falsely are all pretty well associated. Usually if a person does one of these, he does all of these. People who are living for God despise all of these. This loathsome person brings shame on himself and all who associate with him. These two verses are very similar in meaning. In V-6, we see again that those who want to please God, walk uprightly before Him. Wickedness brings no honor, just problems. If a person continues in wickedness, he will wind up in jail; or worse, out of touch with God.

Proverbs 13:7 "There is that maketh himself rich, yet [hath] nothing: [there is] that maketh himself poor, yet [hath] great riches."

We see here someone who appears to be rich but is, in fact, poor and someone appearing to be poor who is rich. There are two ways to look at this. The first instance would be a man who really doesn't have anything putting up a front and pretending to be rich. He might be trying to impress someone for selfish gain. We all know people like that.

Another way to look at this is someone who really has great wealth in this world but is greedy and never does any good for anyone. We could call him very poor, because he has not stored up anything in heaven. The second man could be someone who is always pretending to have nothing and all the time he is very rich. We commonly call him someone who "poor mouths".

From the spiritual point we see here a man who is constantly giving what he has to those less fortunate and actually gives all that he has away. This man has stored great wealth in heaven.

Proverbs 13:8 "The ransom of a man's life [are] his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke."

I see in this Scripture that sometimes those who have worked hard and accumulated a little of this world's wealth are hated by jealous people. The poor are never spoken evil of because there is nothing to be jealous of. We could also see in this that riches can sometimes purchase a lawyer to help or can redeem us from some problem. Riches, if they are used in a godly way, can be a blessing to you and those around you. Sometimes a poor man would like to help, but doesn't have the money.

Proverbs 13:9 "The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out."

Here, I see that those living upright lives love the light. They are not ashamed of the life they live. They rejoice in the Lord. The wicked are ashamed and need the cover of darkness to hide in.

Proverbs 13:10 "Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised [is] wisdom."

"Contention" here means strife. Being too proud can cause us to take offense at what someone says when they really didn't mean any harm. Pride is not pleasing to God when it hurts someone else. People with pride are not teachable. On the other hand, we see that the wise are eager to learn and become wiser for it.

Proverbs 13:11 "Wealth [gotten] by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase."

We see, here, someone who quickly gains wealth by being crooked will not be able to keep his wealth, because God will not bless him in this. A modern saying of this is "easy come, easy go". We see this so much in our society today with the drug peddlers. They may make a lot of money, but it is very seldom you see one of them who is able to keep it. The best wealth is that which you work for and save a little here and a little there. You appreciate

it and will be able to keep some of it, if you work for it and are generous to give to those in need. God will bless you and prosper you even more.

Proverbs 13:12 "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but [when] the desire cometh, [it is] a tree of life."

We see, here, a person looking forward to something happening and it seems to be longer and longer in coming. This will cause you to be heart sick, because you feel it will never happen. Many of us have had this experience praying for people. We pray and pray and nothing happens. It seems our prayers have been futile. When the person does come to the Lord, we rejoice greatly.

When the desire of heart (whatever it is) comes about, it seems as though it gives us a brand new life.

Proverbs 13:13 "Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded."

The Word of God teaches us the way to have eternal life. Without the Word there is only death facing us. Jesus is the Word of God. We read in John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God," John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." John 1:4 "In him was life; and the life was the light of men." Really, to read about the Word bringing life, you could read all of chapter 1 of St. John. There is no question that God speaks to us in His Word. There is no question that there is Life in His Word. There is no question that without the Word leading and guiding our lives, there lies ahead only death.

Proverbs 18 Questions

1. A scorner heareth not _____.
2. What kind of life does a father want for his son?
3. In the Old Testament, a rebellious son was _____.
4. What can drive rebellion from a child?
5. What is meant by the fruit of his mouth?
6. What is meant by "transgressors shall eat violence"?
7. In verse 3, we are told that a person who opens his lips wide shall see what?
8. What part of the body can be a deadly weapon?
9. What is a sluggard?
10. What can the diligent worker expect of life?
11. A righteous man hates what?
12. What overthroweth the sinner?
13. What other sins generally accompany lying?
14. This loathsome person brings shame to whom ?
15. What is worse than being in jail?
16. In verse 7, who is the truly rich?
17. The ransom of a man's life is what?
18. Why are the poor not rebuked?
19. What will happen to the lamp of the wicked?
20. Why do the righteous love the light ?
21. What brings contention?
22. What does "contention" mean in verse 10?
23. What will happen to wealth gotten through vanity?
24. What two things are necessary for God to be pleased with your wealth?
25. What does hope deferred do to you?
26. When you receive the desire of your heart, what is it like to you?
27. What is a "hope deferred" that most Christians have experienced?
28. What happens to those who despise the Word?
29. Who will be rewarded in verse 13?
30. Who is the Word?
31. What does the Word bring us?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 13:14 "The law of the wise [is] a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."

We see that God's rules, that wise men live by, bring everlasting life. If we listen to God's instructions, not only are we promised life eternal, but it helps us live this life successfully, as well. Godly living keeps us away from drugs and excessive alcohol which destroys so many lives today.

Proverbs 13:15 "Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors [is] hard."

Good understanding gives us favour with God and man. We are told that God will cause even our enemies to live at peace with us if we live pleasing to God. We read this in Proverbs chapter 16 verse 7.

Proverbs 13:16 "Every prudent [man] dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open [his] folly."

This prudent man is speaking of a man who carefully considers a thing and makes his decision after having all the facts at hand. A man like this will not make many mistakes. The fool jumps in without considering the facts. He talks so much he exposes his position, and we see him making one mistake after the other.

Proverbs 13:17 "A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador [is] health."

We see in this someone who is called to do a job, and instead of delivering the message sent, carries a false message. He is headed for problems whether he is working for God or man. An ambassador is someone who represents someone else. A faithful ambassador is one who gives the exact message you would give yourself if you were there. This type of person does you good.

Proverbs 13:18 "Poverty and shame [shall be to] him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured."

Those who will not take instruction, will have to pay for their own mistakes and will wind up poor and ashamed at their failures. He that learns from others will be successful and that success will bring honour.

Proverbs 13:19 "The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but [it is] abomination to fools to depart from evil."

When a person strives morally and legally to fulfill his desires, the accomplishment is very sweet to him. The fool doesn't strive legally or morally. He enjoys the sinful life and has no desire to change. They do not care that what they are doing is sin. They are living to please the flesh. Living for worldly pleasure is the desire of fools.

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

We have a tendency to become like the people we associate with. If the people you are with are arrested for a crime, you will be arrested, as well. You will be called an accomplice to the crime because you are with the criminal. We see someone who is a companion of someone successful and that person will try hard, too. I have noticed that we try harder to do just as well as the person we are with. Competition creates success.

Proverbs 13:21 "Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed."

An evil person is constantly looking over his shoulder. He has a guilty conscience. He is constantly expecting punishment for the evil he has committed. There is no peace, only torment. The righteous are in direct contrast to this. They have a clear conscience, knowing they have done their best. The Bible teaches "give and it shall be given unto you". This is not just money, but good deeds, as well. If you are helping others every chance you get, you will always have help when you need it. You cannot out give God. Your reward awaiting in heaven is great, but there are rewards here, as well. Jesus said, In as much as ye have done it to unto the least of these, you have done it unto Me, also. Your good deeds are recorded in heaven.

Proverbs 13:22 "A good [man] leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner [is] laid up for the just."

The children of Israel receiving the land of Canaan from those who would not follow God's ways is a really good example of the last half of verse 22. For every blessing God promises to the just, there is a curse to those who will not follow God's ways. A good man is not an alcoholic, he does not practice incest, he is not a liar, he is not a thief. His eyes are stayed upon God. He walks straight forward, headed for heaven. He is honest and works hard for what he gets. He is a good steward of what God has entrusted to him; and instead of wasting what he makes on worldly things, he saves so that he can help his grandchildren get a start. The greatest heritage a grandparent can leave is to live uprightly and teach the grandchild to live uprightly. A Christian heritage is the greatest gift we can give our grandchildren. God looks kindly on the children and grandchildren of the Christians.

Proverbs 13:23 "Much food [is in] the tillage of the poor: but there is [that is] destroyed for want of judgment."

"Tillage" here means freshly ploughed ground. It appears here that a poor man can find the food that he needs by ploughing new ground. We see that lack of judgment causes destruction. If a person doesn't plough and plant, he cannot produce a crop.

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

We see in this Scripture that if we want our children to be successful in life, we must train them well when they are very young. If a parent intends to help their child, they must correct them when they are wrong. The best way for the lesson to be remembered is for the correction to be made accompanied with a spanking. If we love our children, we will spank them when they are wrong. We learn that God corrects His children that He loves,

as well. Hebrews 12:6 "For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Hebrews 12:7 "If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?" Hebrews 12:8 "But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons." You see, if God loves you, He will correct you when you are wrong.

Proverbs 13:25 "The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want."

In Psalms 37:25 "I have been young, and [now] am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." There seems to be special provision made for the righteous by God. In Luke 12-31 we see this in Jesus' own words, "But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you." God will bless those who follow Him. They will not hunger or thirst. There is no such provision made for the wicked. There is a curse that goes with wickedness. In the end, the wicked shall be in want.

Proverbs 19 Questions

1. In verse 14, what is a fountain of life?
2. What keeps the Christian away from drugs and alcohol?
3. In Proverbs chapter 16 verse 7, we are told that who will live at peace with us if we live godly?
4. In verse 16, what is the prudent man speaking of?
5. What is this foolish man doing?
6. Who is a wicked messenger?
7. Who is a faithful ambassador?
8. If a person refuseth instruction, what two things can he expect?
9. Someone who accepts instruction and learns from others shall be successful. What does success bring?
10. What two words describe how a Christian will strive?
11. A fool who has no desire to turn from sin is living for what?
12. Who should you walk with if you want to be wise?
13. Who are arrested as an accomplice to crime?
14. Why is the evil person constantly looking over his shoulder?
15. What did Jesus say about doing for others?
16. Who does a good man leave an inheritance to?
17. What will eventually happen to the wealth of the sinner?
18. What is the greatest heritage we can leave our children and grandchildren?
19. What does the word "tillage" mean in verse 23?
20. Who in verse 24 hates his son?
21. What is the best way for a child to remember a correction?
22. What will the Lord do to those He loves?
23. In Psalms chapter 37 verse 25 , what do we see about the righteous?
24. What are we to seek first?
25. What is the final fate of the wicked?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 14:1 "Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands."

We can see in this the husband builds the house and the wife makes it a home. Dad is the head of the family, but mother is the heart that glues it together. I believe a family's morals are directed by the mother. The mother spends a great deal more time with the children than the dad does. Mother can make it a happy home or a sad home. We will read a great deal more about this when we get to chapter 31 of Proverbs. I will say just one thing more here and then go on. In our churches today, there are several times as many women in attendance as there are men. This should not be so, but we cannot deny the facts. Mothers of America, lead your family to church with you.

Proverbs 14:2 "He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but [he that is] perverse in his ways despiseth him."

In Nehemiah 5:9, we see that our walk is not only important to us but is important to the heathen, as well. "Also I said, It [is] not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?" You see, it is very important that we walk in our salvation after we receive it. There is someone watching you to see if you live the way you preach or teach. The very best sermon you can preach is to walk uprightly before God and man. The perverted person actually is totally opposed to God and His ways. Perversion is unnatural sin. God tells us to walk the narrow, straight way to Him. The perverse way is crooked and leads to destruction. Perversion is an abomination before God. It is doing all sorts of unnatural things the Bible strictly forbids.

Proverbs 14:3 "In the mouth of the foolish [is] a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them."

In 1 Samuel 2:3, we read: "Talk no more so exceeding proudly; let [not] arrogancy come out of your mouth: for the LORD [is] a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed." You see, arrogancy and pride try to force our opinions on others and this is wrong. In Matthew 12:37 we see "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned." We see that our good words save us.

Proverbs 14:4 "Where no oxen [are], the crib [is] clean: but much increase [is] by the strength of the ox."

This is the very same saying as "a clean stable means you have no horses". We all know where animals are, there is evidence of their being there. We see here, also, that even though the animal leaves a mess, it is very important to have him to work. Without the ox to pull the plough, there would be no crops. No crops lead to poverty.

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

In court, a false witness can be tried themselves for perjury. There is nothing worse to a neighbor than someone who tells lies about them.

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

We see that wisdom is for the humble who are eager to be taught. A scorner is not humble and cannot receive instruction in wisdom. We see in the second part of this a teachable person who understands can accumulate more and more knowledge. The main thing is to remain humble enough to be taught.

Proverbs 14:7 "Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not [in him] the lips of knowledge."

This is just saying to listen to the words coming out of your friend's mouth, if they are not godly words and are lacking in knowledge, don't have him for a companion. You will become like the person you have for a close friend. The minute to leave is the first moment you see that he used bad language.

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

We see here in the wise person, one who carefully considers the options and takes the best way for him. The fool is deceived and just rushed off into something without considering the consequences. Their way is to cheat every way they can. Be sure your sins will find you out.

Proverbs 14:9 "Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous [there is] favour."

We see this in our society today. Anything goes is the motto. Sin is being made to look as if it is the best thing to do. Movies of all kinds (X-rated, R-rated, PG-13, and PG) are all full of sin. If you are a Christian, you should not watch any of the above. You see only a fool would practice sin. Those in right standing with God (righteous) make better choices and in doing so they are in good favour with God.

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

We see in this Scripture that the feelings of our own heart are private. It is difficult for someone else to feel grief that is in your heart. If the grief is personal in nature, your grief is deeper than the onlooker's. The same thing is true with joy. You can share joy with a friend, but it is impossible to feel the greatness of it if it is not happening to you.

Proverbs 14:11 "The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish."

The wicked are only interested in building big, fine homes here. They are not thinking of the future at all. This life is one that leads to destruction. Things we accumulate here on the earth we leave behind when we die. We came into the world naked and our going out will be without earthly goods. The Christian on the other hand knows that his true home is in heaven. Abraham knew this when he gave up his home in Ur of the Chaldees and dwelt in tents. He was looking for a city whose builder was God. We Christians should be looking to the heavenly city (New Jerusalem).

Proverbs 14:12 "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death."

The problem with the chosen children of God in their journey was that they did what was right in their own sight. We must not listen to fleshly desire which leads to sin and death. This new teaching (new age movement) tells us if it feels good, do it. That is very dangerous. The flesh (feel good) walk will lead, as I said, to sin and death.

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

Sometimes a person is laughing on the outside, but crying on the inside. The laughter is a cover up to keep from crying. The world's laughter will bring grief. We, also, can see in this that worldly fun (drinking, etc.) makes you appear to be happy for the moment, but come tomorrow is the hang-over and grief.

Proverbs 14:14 "The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man [shall be satisfied] from himself."

Backsliding is listening to the lust of our own flesh. We are in a battle. The flesh against the spirit. To walk before God in a pleasing way and be satisfied with our own walk, we must put the flesh under the rule of the spirit.

Proverbs 14:15 "The simple believeth every word: but the prudent [man] looketh well to his going."

We see here that a person should not believe every word someone says. We should check it out and find out whether it is truth or not before we believe it. We are told in I John 4:1 "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

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

This verse is a carry-over from the one before. This wise man here fears getting involved with the sins of the world and examines everything he is about to do to see whether it would be pleasing to God or not. The fool has confidence in himself and not in God. His self-confidence encourages him to do things against God's law and man's law and gets him into trouble.

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

A hot tempered person flies off before all the facts are in and winds up doing foolish things. In the last of these above, we see this evil person is not just hot tempered and impulsive but actually plans to do evil. The second person commits premeditated sin. He is more guilty than the one who sins in anger.

Proverbs 14:18 "The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge."

The simple are the unlearned whether by choice or by birth. They inherit folly or foolishness because they do not separate good from evil very well. They don't make good decisions and are led away into sin. The prudent, however, (as we have said before) checks everything out and judges from his accumulated knowledge what is good. He is thought of by others (crowned) to be very intelligent: crowned with knowledge.

Proverbs 20 Questions

1. What does every wise woman do in verse 1?
2. What does the foolish woman do?
3. What is the difference in the call of a husband and wife in the home?
4. Which is larger in attendance in our churches today, men or women?
5. In verse 2, who is said to fear the Lord?
6. A perverse person actually _____ God .
7. Who is our walk important to besides ourself?
8. What is the best sermon you can give?
9. What is perversion?
10. What is meant by rod of pride?
11. In I Samuel 2:3, we are warned against what?
12. In Matthew 12:37, we read that we are justified by what?
13. What is the condition of the crib where there are no oxen?
14. A clean stable means what?
15. What would happen to a farmer with no animals?
16. What kind of witness does not lie?
17. In court, what is lying under oath called?
18. Wisdom is for whom?
19. Who is a scorner?
20. What should you do when you find your friend is foolish lacking in knowledge?
21. The wisdom of the prudent is to _____ his way.
22. What is going on in our society today that fills the meaning of "fools make a mock at sin"?
23. What knows a man's own bitterness?
24. What will happen to the house of the wicked?
25. What home are the Christians looking forward to?
26. Why did Abraham dwell in tents?
27. What is wrong with the "new age" movement?
28. What does "even in laughter the heart is sorrowful" mean ?
29. What causes a person to backslide?
30. What does the simple believe?
31. In I John 4:1, what are we warned to do?
32. A person who is soon angry deals _____.
33. Which is worse, quick temper sin or premeditated sin?
34. What are the prudent crowned with?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 14:19 "The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous."

This may not be true now, but is certainly the last state of the Christian and the evil. The believers in Christ shall reign with Jesus for 1,000 years, and they will rule over the wicked.

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

We see here a selfish situation. One of the best illustrations of this in the Bible is the story of the Prodigal son. When he had plenty of money and was partying every night, he had just worlds of friends; but when the money was gone, his friends left, too, and he found himself feeding pigs for a few pieces of bread to eat. This Scripture above is not speaking of true friends that stick closer than a brother, but is speaking of friends who are trying to get what they can out of you. A true friend loves you when you are poor as much as when you are rich. Jesus is the greatest friend a person could have.

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

We read in James 2:8 what the royal law is: "If ye fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:" We have used the Scripture before in these teachings, but it bears repeating again. The good that you do for others, the Lord counts as if you had done it for Him. In Jesus' own words He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40) The reward we get for doing for those who cannot repay us is in heaven when we stand before Jesus.

Proverbs 14:22 "Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth [shall be] to them that devise good."

A person who is constantly figuring up ways to do evil is getting further and further away from God all the time. Their heart is becoming harder and harder. It will be difficult for them to come to the Lord and find life eternal. Those who are seeking to do good God pours out His mercy upon, and they know the truth.

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

We can see in this that those who work, reap a reward. It may not be in money, sometimes it is in just the satisfaction of knowing that you have done your best. But the second person intended above is someone who always talks about work, but never actually gets around to doing anything. He never is rewarded in any way, because he doesn't do anything.

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

Sometimes we see the reward of the wise in riches. A person who uses wise judgement is better at business than a fool and sometimes is crowned with riches. Perhaps this is speaking more of godly wealth than earthly wealth, also. A fool and his foolish actions bring nothing but shame.

Proverbs 14:25 "A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful [witness] speaketh lies."

We can see in this someone who witnesses of the Truth (Jesus Christ), brings others to salvation. A true witness is never harmful, but does good. We Christians are to witness the truth to the whole world. That was the great commission Jesus gave us. Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. A deceitful witness destroys. The deceitful witness is of Satan himself. He is a liar and is son of the father of lies. Destruction is all he has to offer.

Proverbs 14:26 "In the fear of the LORD [is] strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge."

We Christians know on whom we believe and have confidence that He will save us from the wrath to come. We are persuaded that He is able to do all that He has promised. In Hebrews 6:18 "That by two immutable things, in which [it was] impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us:" Hebrews 6:19 Which [hope] we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil;" You see, Jesus has paid it all for us and made the way open unto God the Father for us. Jesus' shed blood is our protection and refuge. Our place of refuge is in Jesus.

Proverbs 14:27 "The fear of the LORD [is] a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death."

We read in Matthew 10, the only fear that is permissible is of God. Matthew 10:28 "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell." God is our source of life. Jesus is also the one who condemns to eternal death, as well. He is the only one to fear.

Proverbs 14:28 "In the multitude of people [is] the king's honour: but in the want of people [is] the destruction of the prince."

If you were king of a great number of people, there would be more honour than to be king over just a handful of people. The king over a small group could be easily overthrown. Jesus is the King of all kings.

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

The Bible says do not be angry without a cause and also says do not let the sun go down on your anger. Even Jesus got angry, but we must be careful what we get angry about. There has to be true justice involved. God is slow to wrath, but there is coming a day when the wrath of God will fall on those who have rejected Jesus. I believe this Scripture above is telling us not to get angry about every little thing. That shows that our relationship

with God is not what it should be. The Lord wants us to be forgiving and loving to even those who do not deserve it.

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

We know the person who has a healthy heart is usually in pretty good shape physically. I believe this goes further than the physical and is speaking of a heart in tune with God. One of the main things mentioned in Romans 10:9-10 to be saved is to believe in the heart. Envy and strife go hand in hand. Envy eats you up from within and will totally destroy you.

Proverbs 14:31 "He that oppressteth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor."

God is the one who makes us rich or poor. We have very little to do with it. In Psalms 10:2 we see, "The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devises that they have imagined." The whole meaning of this above is that if we love God, we will be good to the poor. But for the grace of God, the poor one would be us.

Proverbs 14:32 "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death."

In I Thessalonians 4:13, we read that there are people who have no hope. These are the wicked who are driven away from God by their wickedness. I Thessalonians 4:13 "But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope." You can see that there is no hope for the one who continues in his wickedness and never turns to Jesus and His righteousness. We see the righteous have hope of the resurrection. I Thessalonians 4:14 "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him." I Thessalonians 4:15 "For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive [and] remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep." I Thessalonians 4:16 "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:" I Thessalonians 4:17 "Then we which are alive [and] remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

Proverbs 14:33 "Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but [that which is] in the midst of fools is made known."

Wisdom is not something we go around bragging about. It is a gift from God. Wisdom is hidden deep within us. A fool goes around bragging and looks very foolish for it. A wise man is quiet and someone else notices his wisdom.

Proverbs 14:34 "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin [is] a reproach to any people."

The United States was exalted as a nation for many years because we were founded upon Biblical principles. God blessed America because of its rich Christian heritage. Our country in recent years has gotten very far away from godly teaching, and we are becoming a reproach. As a nation, we must

return to God quickly and God will help us. II Chronicles 7:14 tells us, "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Proverbs 14:35 "The king's favour [is] toward a wise servant: but his wrath is [against] him that causeth shame."

We see that many times the king will choose a godly man to take care of things in his country because of the wisdom God has given him. Joseph is a good example of this when he stored food and saved Egypt and his people, as well. Haman, in the book of Esther, was a good example of the king's wrath falling on someone who brings evil. Haman was hanged by the king when he tried to destroy the Jews. Read Esther chapter 3 through chapter 9 to get the whole story.

Proverbs 21 Questions

1. Who will bow before the other, the evil or the good?
2. How long will the Christians reign with Jesus?
3. The poor is hated of his _____ but the rich has _____.
4. What story in the Bible is a good example of the poor being hated?
5. What is the royal law in James 2:8?
6. What happens to a person's heart who is constantly devising evil?
7. In all _____ there is profit.
8. What is meant by the talk of the lips leading to penury?
9. The crown of the wise is their _____.
10. This witness that delivers souls is witnessing what?
11. What was the great commission Jesus gave to the believers?
12. A deceitful witness is of _____ himself.
13. Who shall have a place of refuge in God?
14. Who made the way open to the Father for us?
15. Who are we to fear?
16. The king's honour is great because of what?
17. Who is King of all kings?
18. The Bible says do not be _____ without a cause.
19. Who will God's wrath fall upon?
20. What is the life of the flesh in verse 30?
21. In Romans 10:9-10, what must we do to be saved?
22. What other sin goes hand in hand with envy?
23. In Psalms 10:2, who persecute the poor?
24. In verse 32, the righteous has hope in his _____.
25. In I Thessalonians 4:13-17, what is the blessed hope of?
26. Who goes around bragging all the time?
27. In II Chronicles 7:14, what does God promise our nation?
28. Why has America been so blessed?
29. Who is a good example of the king choosing a godly man to help him with his country?
30. Who is a good example of what happens to an evil man when his king finds him out?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 15:1 "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger."

It takes two people to have an argument. If we will look here, we see that we must answer softly. The worst thing we can do is pout and not talk. Perhaps, we should silently pray a few minutes and then answer quietly. Screaming never accomplishes anything. It just causes a fight. Angry words bring angry words in return. The first thing you know, there are problems difficult to settle, because everyone has said too much. The best way is to stay calm and talk quietly.

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

The tongue is a mighty weapon. The wise are very careful about what they say. They choose their words carefully. A fool blurts out whatever comes to mind. He takes no thought at all for what he says. He stays in trouble by the words that come pouring from his mouth.

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

In Revelation, we read about the symbolic meaning of eyes (which mean great wisdom). In this particular verse, I believe, this is speaking of the Lord being omnipresent (being every where all the time). He knows everything we do, even if it is done in cover of darkness. God is not out to get us. He sees all the good we do as well.

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

Words can destroy or words can heal. The wholesome tongue speaks beautiful words of hope. That tongue speaks life and not death. The wholesome tongue of the preacher brings the good news of the gospel, and if the message is heeded, it brings eternal life. This perverseness is probably lies being spoken that will do harm to others.

Proverbs 15:5 "A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent."

A fool will not accept instruction, especially from his father. He is a "know it all" has to make every mistake for himself instead of learning from others mistakes. A person who takes instructions well will be saved much pain and suffering. He learns from others' mistakes and doesn't have to pay for each mistake himself.

Proverbs 15:6 "In the house of the righteous [is] much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble."

In this, we see two ways of getting treasure. The righteous has much treasure, because he has earned it fairly and God has blessed him. The wicked earns theirs in an unlawful way. Ill gotten gain is soon lost.

Proverbs 15:7 "The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish [doeth] not so."

In Luke 6:45 we read of two different messages the lips bring. Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh." We see the heart is where the message originates.

Proverbs 15:8 "The sacrifice of the wicked [is] an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright [is] his delight."

We see one of the first offerings in the Bible being rejected by God. Cain's offering was unacceptable to God, Cain even killed his brother because of his jealousy. Prayer changes things. God listens to our prayers. We see all the Patriarchs praying to God. Great men of the Bible such as Moses, Joseph, and David all prayed often to God. Even Jesus prayed to the Father. God likes for us to pray. Prayer is a time for fellowshiping with God. We read in Philippians 4:6 "Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God."

Proverbs 15:9 "The way of the wicked [is] an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness."

This is speaking of a way of life. A pattern is set to either walk the broad way of wickedness which leads to destruction or to walk the straight and narrow path which pleases God. There are only two paths. We must go on one or the other. The path of righteousness is the path the Christian must take.

Proverbs 15:10 "Correction [is] grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: [and] he that hateth reproof shall die."

Forsaking the way of life is intended here. Jesus is the Way and to forsake Him brings death. Sin has to be repented of and corrected to get in the way which leads to life. Those who reject repentance and correction (in Jesus) shall die in their sins.

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

We see by this that hell and destruction are fully known of God. God, also, can see into the heart of man and knows what is in each person's heart. God even knows the desires of each person's heart. God even knows the desires of our heart before we pray. But he wants us to pray. He even knows how many hairs are upon your head.

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

This scorner is an arrogant, conceited person who dislikes anyone who tries to correct him. This possibly has to do with not wanting to be taught about God. The wise would be telling him about God.

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

I have said so many times that you can look into the eyes of a person and tell what is inside them. If your heart is merry, your eyes will sparkle and there will be a big smile on your face. When the heart is sorrowful, the eyes are dull, and a big frown is on the face. The spirit of man being broken goes along with the sorrow. Sorrow effects not only our outward look but effects the spirit in a negative way, as well.

Proverbs 15:14 "The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness."

We see that the heart's desire of the first person here is to seek even more knowledge. The fool is always hanging on to every foolish things he hears. He feeds on falsehoods.

Proverbs 15:15 "All the days of the afflicted [are] evil: but he that is of a merry heart [hath] a continual feast."

We see, that this affliction is not physical, but probably had to do with depression. We see a person whose depression is almost continuous. This person never sees anything good; he looks at the dark side of life. The contrast here is he of a merry heart sees everything from a positive attitude. Life to him is a continuous joy. The righteous always are at peace.

Proverbs 15:16 "Better [is] little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith."

We have said in an earlier lesson in Proverbs fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. Fear of the Lord brings a relationship with God that will get you to heaven. There is no treasure great enough that it would be worth trading eternity with God for. Wealth many times brings sorrow. Christians should be content with whatever state they are in. Wealth sometimes keeps people away from really close relationship with God. It would be much better to be poor and close to God.

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

This is telling us again, that pleasant company is far more important at a meal than the food on the table. The ox is speaking of some fairly expensive meat. Herbs here, is speaking of a meal of vegetables. I heard someone say that for many years they didn't have enough money to buy bacon and eggs for breakfast, and they just had gravy and bread. She said we were happy and didn't even realize we were missing anything. Happiness is what we are all looking for, not some special food.

Proverbs Questions 22

1. In verse 1, what turns away wrath?
2. What kind of words stir up anger?
3. What is the worst thing we can do in a discussion?
4. What does the mouth of a fool pour out?
5. Describe a wise tongue?
6. Where are the eyes of the Lord?
7. What does that tell us about the Lord?
8. What is the symbolic meaning of eyes?
9. What is the tree of life in verse 4?
10. What does the wholesome tongue of a preacher bring?
11. What is the difference in a wise man and a foolish man?
12. Where is the treasure found?
13. The lips of the wise disperse_____.
14. Where does the message that comes from the mouth originate?
15. When the wicked sacrifice to God, it is an _____ to Him?
16. How are we to let our requests be known to God?
17. What are the only two paths of life open to us?
18. Correction is grievous to whom?
19. What 2 bad things are before the Lord?
20. What lets us know how much God knows about each of us?
21. Who is the scorner in verse 12?
22. A merry heart makes what?
23. Describe the look of a person with a sorrowful heart.
24. What does a fool feed on?
25. All the days of the afflicted are _____.
26. What kind of affliction are we talking about, probably?
27. Better is little with fear of the Lord than what?
28. What reward will fear of the Lord get you?
29. Better is a dinner of herbs where _____ is than a stalled ox and hatred.
30. What is this telling us is more important than fine food?
31. What are we all looking for out of life here on this earth, other than God?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 15:18 "A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but [he that is] slow to anger appeaseth strife."

We see again, here the wrathful man is always trying to start a battle over just any little old thing, but the man slow to anger is a peacemaker and will go to almost any length to avoid an argument.

Proverbs 15:19 "The way of the slothful [man is] as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous [is] made plain."

Slothful means lazy, in fact, very lazy. A man who is this lazy will lie up in bed and let the thorn bushes grow up all around him. The righteous man speaks also of an industrious man who keeps his path clean and ready to go.

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

A wise son follows the instructions of his father and learns his lesson well. His father is proud of him, because he was an obedient son who was quick to learn and learned his lesson well. The foolish man despiseth his mother, because he does not want to learn anything from anyone else and especially from his mother. She wants to help him, and he is too arrogant to let her help.

Proverbs 15:21 "Folly [is] joy to [him that is] destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly."

Proverbs 16:25 says, "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death."

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

This is a very good saying about listening to advise from others and weighing to make the best decision possible. The old saying goes, "Two heads are better than one". It would be foolish indeed to not discuss something to be done and then take the best advise.

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

This verse 23 is actually connected to 22. We see here one of the counsellors who has given good advice and he rejoices in that his advise was taken. His message was given at just the right time.

Proverbs 15:24 "The way of life [is] above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath."

We see, that the wise choose the way that leads to heaven above. They are aware that hell exists beneath. They are on a higher plane. They seek the way of the Godly. Their home is in heaven; and they refuse the way of sin that leads to hell.

Proverbs 15:25 "The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow."

The proud don't think they need any help from anyone. God loves and helps the humble. We must reach out for his help before He will give it. God helps those who cannot help themselves. We really need Him, but some are too proud to admit they need Him.

Proverbs 15:26 "The thoughts of the wicked [are] an abomination to the LORD: but [the words] of the pure [are] pleasant words."

Jesus taught that sin occurs first in the heart and thought. In Matthew 5:27-28, We see the sin actually occurs in the heart and mind. Matthew 5:27 "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery:" Matthew 5:28 "But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." The thoughts of the sinner are evil and are an abomination to God. A pure person has pure thoughts and his words are pleasant.

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

A greedy person is not just greedy with outsiders, but with the members of his family as well. The number one cause of divorce in America today is debt. A greedy person is always accusing the other members of the family for the debt mess they are in and consequently arguments occur which leads to divorce. In some families, there is an unselfish person who enjoys giving to the rest more than receiving themselves. The person who loves to give and not get will prosper or live.

Proverbs 15:28 "The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things."

The person who is slow to speak says fewer things that they regret later. A righteous person will carefully choose the words they say so as not to hurt the feelings of the one they are speaking to. An evil person doesn't care about anyone else's feelings and just blurts out evil things.

Proverbs 15:29 "The LORD [is] far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous."

Sin separates us from God. Some have taken this Scripture to mean that God will not hear the prayer of the sinful man. I believe God does hear his prayers but will not answer until the sinful man repents. God is far from the wicked because the wicked has walked away from God, not the other way around. God does answer the righteous quicker as we see in the following Scripture. James 5:16 "Confess [your] faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

Proverbs 15:30 "The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: [and] a good report maketh the bones fat."

If we have Jesus in our heart, we have His Light shining within us. Others see in this person a joy unspeakable that radiates out to everyone they come in contact with. A good report maketh the bones fat is very

similar to the statement: Good news lifts you up. It makes your heart leap within you.

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

Over, and over again, in the book of Revelation, it is said, "He that hath an ear let him hear". This is talking about opening your ear of understanding to God. We are to be wise unto salvation.

Proverbs 15:32 "He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding."

A person who refuses to be taught is hurting himself more than anyone else. An unlearned person makes many mistakes. He has no facts to work with. The person who wants to understand will listen carefully to someone who knows more, and will even take correction from that person to learn.

Proverbs 15:33 "The fear of the LORD [is] the instruction of wisdom; and before honour [is] humility."

We have said before that humility is very important. We must walk humbly before God. The honor must come from God and not man. If we fear God, we will follow in His ways. We will study his Word and know what is His will in our life. If we fear Him, our desire will be to please him. This fear actually means we will love Him and respect him.

Proverbs Questions 23

1. In verse 18, who stirreth up strife?
2. A man slow to anger could be called a _____?
3. Who is a slothful man?
4. What kind of hedge is around a slothful man?
5. Who maketh a glad father?
6. Why does the foolish despise his mother?
7. How does a man of understanding walk?
8. A man destitute of wisdom walks in _____ _____ _____.
9. Without _____ purposes are disappointed.
10. Why is it good to listen to others' advise?
11. What is meant by, the way of life is above to the wise?
12. Where is the godlys' home?
13. The Lord destroys the house of the proud but establishes whose borders?
14. Where does sin first occur?
15. The thoughts of the wicked are an _____ to the Lord.
16. Describe a pure person.
17. Who is a greedy person greedy with?
18. What is the number one cause of divorce in America?
19. Who can bring peace to a family (besides God)?
20. What is the difference in the way the righteous answer and the evil?
21. In verse 29, the Lord hears whose prayers?
22. Why is the Lord far from the wicked?
23. In James 5:16, what kind of prayer availeth much?
24. The ear, in verse 31, is talking about what?
25. Who despises his own soul?
26. Why should we fear God?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 16:1 "The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, [is] from the LORD."

We see here a godly man. One whose heart is stayed upon the Lord. Jesus taught us in His own words in Luke 12:11-12 that the Holy Spirit would put in our mouth what we need to say. Luke 12:11 "And when they bring you unto the synagogues, and [unto] magistrates, and powers, take ye no thought how or what thing ye shall answer, or what ye shall say:" Luke 12:12 "For the Holy Ghost shall teach you in the same hour what ye ought to say." God does not want us for our worldly abilities. He wants us because we are willing to be molded into His image.

Proverbs 16:2 "All the ways of a man [are] clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weigheth the spirits."

We see here, again, that man's deeds are not always what the man really is. God looks into our heart and sees what our intents are. He judges the heart and not the deeds. The spirit of man is what we really are. This body is just a house we live in for a short time. Secular humanism teaches that we are the center of everything and that we should follow our own desires, but God says that leads to destruction. The flesh desires are what is right in our own sight. The spirit wants to please God and is truly the thing to do.

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

Every job we do should be done as unto the Lord. Jobs we do on our own are doomed to failure, but jobs done for Him are established forever. The thoughts that are established are the things the Holy Spirit of God has given you.

Proverbs 16:4 "The LORD hath made all [things] for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil."

God made everything good. God did not make evil. Man has a free will and some choose to be evil, but God did not predestinate them being evil. It is God's wish that all would come to the knowledge of God and be saved in Jesus Christ, but some will not accept salvation in Jesus and they will go bad. God's foreknowledge allowed Him to know who they would be. Revelation 4:11 "Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."

Proverbs 16:5 "Every one [that is] proud in heart [is] an abomination to the LORD: [though] hand [join] in hand, he shall not be unpunished."

God does not want us to be arrogant. Those who are proud of self, God turns away from. Pride is what caused Lucifer to lose out in heaven. He thought too highly of himself. He elevated himself in his own opinion up to the level of God the Father. This is the same mistake many Christians are making today. Some would have you believe that you will eventually be equal to God. This will never be. God will always be God, and we will be His servants. We will even be His adopted children, but we will never be God.

Pride cometh before a fall. Even if a great number band together hand in hand and believe that they will be God, it will never work. God will punish those who try to elevate themselves too highly (one at a time or a large group).

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

We see in this purging a step that Christians must take. We are all saved by faith in Jesus Christ, but we must walk in that saved condition. This purging is the doing away with the sins of the old life. God's mercy and truth teach us a better way of life. It is our obligation to walk in newness of life (the better way). We must destroy (purge) the old habits. If we truly love the Lord, we will have reverent fear of Him. We will be continually fearful of falling back into evil. This fear will not be because we are afraid of His punishment, but because we love Him and want to please Him.

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

A man who is pleasing the Lord is living a peaceable life. He is doing unto others as he would have them do unto him. He is loving his neighbor as himself. This type of life leaves no room for argument. It is hard to be at war with someone who loves you. We see, also, that those who love the Lord are blessed of Him.

Proverbs 16:8 "Better [is] a little with righteousness than great revenues without right."

I have seen so many people who have great wealth that they have acquired at the cost of their neighbors. These people are afraid to go to sleep at night. They have so many enemies that they have stepped on, to get to the top, that they are in constant fear of retaliation from some of them. Thank you, but I do not want any part of that kind of life. When you live a righteous life, you can go to bed at night and sleep in peace. You have no enemies. We read in verse seven that if you had any enemies, they would be at peace with you.

Proverbs 16:9 "A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps."

We see, here, that man plans what he wants to do, but God decides whether it will happen or not. One of the best examples of this in all the Bible is found in the 12th chapter of Luke where the rich fool was so selfish and would not do God's will with the abundance he had. He even tore his barns down and made greater barns to hold all his goods, but we will see what happened in Luke 12:20 "But God said unto him, [Thou] fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?"

Proverbs 16:10 "A divine sentence [is] in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment."

I believe we see here that the king was the final word in the kingdom. When the king said something, it was carried out as if it were the law.

Kings were supposed to judge fairly and in many cases did; but an evil king like Herod let the people worship him as if he were a god, and this is wrong.

Proverbs 16:11 "A just weight and balance [are] the LORD'S: all the weights of the bag [are] his work."

God will not permit false weights. In all of God's dealings, we will see an exactness; and He expects that from us, as well. God established weights and measures for His people, and He does not like for anyone to change them. Much more is taught on this in Exodus.

Proverbs 16:12 "[It is] an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness."

We know that a king is king because God allowed him to be in that position. There is a great responsibility to anyone in authority. They must live lives of dedication and sacrifice if they are to be a good king. They should set a good example for the rest of the people. When they don't, God will remove them. A king who follows after God's ways, will be king a long time; but an evil king will be overthrown.

Proverbs 16:13 "Righteous lips [are] the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right."

Everyone loves the truth. A king would especially love it. We learn in our Genesis study how Joseph was quickly elevated to the second in command in the land when he told the king of Egypt the truth about his dream.

Proverbs 16:14 "The wrath of a king [is as] messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it."

The king can speak death to someone he is ruling over if that person gets out of line. The best thing to do if you are subject to him is to please him if you can.

Proverbs 16:15 "In the light of the king's countenance [is] life; and his favour [is] as a cloud of the latter rain."

When the king is smiling and light hearted, you know there is not to be any executions. Life is in the king's smile. If you have pleased him, you will flourish in his kingdom, as the crops are more abundant when it rains at just the right time before harvest.

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

We discussed in a previous lesson how all the gold and silver in the world cannot buy you eternal life. We also talked about with wisdom and knowledge, you could acquire gold and silver.

Proverbs 24 Questions

1. The preparations of the heart in man and the answer of the tongue is from whom?
2. In Luke 12:11-12, what did Jesus tell us to take no thought of?
3. If God does not want us for our worldly abilities, what does He want us for?
4. Man thinks he is alright in his own eyes, but God searches what?
5. What teaches a false doctrine of man being the center of everything?
6. What should we do if we want our thoughts to be established?
7. Who did God make all things for?
8. Even the wicked for the evil day means what?
9. In Revelation 4:11, why was everything created?
10. Everyone that is proud in heart is what to God?
11. What caused Lucifer to fall?
12. Will we ever be God? Explain.
13. What is iniquity purged by?
14. What causes men to depart from evil?
15. It is an obligation of Christians to do what?
16. If we truly love the Lord, we will have _____ fear of Him.
17. If a man please the Lord, who will be at peace with him?
18. Better is a _____ with righteousness than _____ without right.
19. In chapter twelve of Luke, who does God call a fool?
20. Who has the final word in an earthly kingdom?
21. Who actually causes someone to be king?
22. Who established true weights and measures?
23. What is it an abomination for a king to do?
24. Who did we study about in Genesis that a king made second in command?
25. The wrath of a king is a messenger of _____.
26. A king's favour is as what?
27. What is better than gold?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 16:17 "The highway of the upright [is] to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul."

We read in the words of Jesus about the way that leads to life. Matthew 7:13 "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:" Matthew 7:14 "Because strait [is] the gate, and narrow [is] the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Proverbs 16:18 "Pride [goeth] before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall."

Malachi 4:1 "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch." Haughtiness leads to hell. A haughty person thinks too highly of himself.

Proverbs 16:19 "Better [it is to be] of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud."

We must throw in our lot either with God or Satan. The humble have thrown in their lot with God. The proud have chosen the ways of Satan. All of the wealth in the world would not even be a temptation to go the way of Satan and reject God.

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

A person who trusts in God has nothing to fear. He has no reason to be unhappy. An honest business person will not fail, because his customers can trust in him. An honest business and trust in God goes hand in hand. Those who love and fear the Lord will be honest in business. Trust in the Lord brings peace that passes understanding. Trust is one step beyond faith or faith to the utmost?

Proverbs 16:21 "The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning."

True wisdom (godly wisdom) is the subject above. Godly wisdom is recognized by others around you and they have respect for you because of the decisions you make. We see in the rest of verse twenty-one that people who speak nice things are listened to more readily. A person will listen and learn more from someone who speaks softly and kindly.

Proverbs 16:22 "Understanding [is] a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools [is] folly."

We are told often to hide the Scriptures away in our heart. This understanding that we have stored away will come forth as we need it. It will be like a well that we can draw from over and over. We are told that when we need it, the Holy Spirit will quicken Scriptures to our memory. I

believe that is what is meant by the wellspring here. A fool has no stored knowledge. He has no well to draw from.

Proverbs 16:23 "The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips."

In Matthew 12:35, we see in Jesus' own words that the lips speak what is in the heart. 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." The heart is the source of the words that the lips speak.

Proverbs 16:24 "Pleasant words [are as] an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones."

We know that pleasant words bring happiness to the listener. Happiness makes anyone feel better.

Proverbs 16:25 "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death."

One of the most dangerous things a man can do is try to do whatever feels good to him. This is the call of the flesh. The flesh life is a life of sin and destruction.

Proverbs 16:26 "He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him."

Most people work to buy food for their table. If a person gets hungry enough, some of the people who do not like to work will go to work just to eat.

Proverbs 16:27 "An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips [there is] as a burning fire."

This, if done by a woman, would be called malicious gossip. The evil this man is telling burns and destroys those he is talking about. He is a false witness, stirring up strife with just an evil tongue.

Proverbs 16:28 "A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends."

This wicked man twists the truth so that he can cause trouble. He whispers in a neighbor's ear falsehoods about his friends and is not satisfied until he turns them against each other.

Proverbs 16:29 "A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way [that is] not good."

Haven't you known someone just like this. He is probably a drunkard and looking for someone to get drunk with so he will not feel quite so guilty himself. He may even be an adulterer and encouraging his neighbor to commit adultery, too. Sometimes it is no more than talking you into getting into a quick scheme to swindle someone out of their money. The best thing to do is to stay away from this type of person. We learned earlier that when we fellowship with someone, we become like them.

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

We are still talking of this evil man of verse twenty-nine. This is saying: keep your eyes wide open, don't fall for his sales pitch. Moving his lips means he talks you into bringing the evil thing to pass.

Proverbs 16:31 "The hoary head [is] a crown of glory, [if] it be found in the way of righteousness."

We see the man with gray hair has lived this life and getting ready for his reward in heaven. Getting old is a blessing and a reward of a clean wholesome life. To me the hoary head is saying "you have run the race well, and you are on the last lap now".

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

Ephesians 4:31 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:" You see, not only are we to be slow to anger, but we are to put anger away from us. The spirit must rule over the body. The spirit ruled by the Lord has eternal life to look forward to. Taking a city is just for this earth.

Proverbs 16:33 "The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof [is] of the LORD."

This is just saying they could cast lots to settle a matter if they want to, but really God is the one who decides who does what.

Proverbs 25 Questions

1. What is the highway of the upright?
2. What gate leads to eternal life?
3. What goeth before destruction in verse 18?
4. In chapter 4 of Malachi, what happens to the proud?
5. It is better to be an humble spirit with the lowly than what?
6. The proud have chosen whose way?
7. Compare trust to faith.
8. The wise in heart shall be called what?
9. In verse 22, what is the wellspring?
10. What does Matthew 12:35 teach us?
11. In verse 24, what are pleasant words compared to?
12. There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end is _____.
13. What is one of the most dangerous things a man could do?
14. Why do most men labour?
15. The evil man who speaks evil is compared to what in the mouth?
16. A froward man soweth _____.
17. Whispers can do what to a friendship?
18. A violent man _____ his neighbor.
19. This violent man probably has what sins active in his life?
20. In verse 30, what does moving his lips mean?
21. What do we see in the man with the hoary head?
22. What is the hoary head saying to the author?
23. Someone slow to anger is better than whom?
24. What is meant by lot is cast in the lap?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 17:1 "Better [is] a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices [with] strife."

Part of the thank and peace offering was eaten by the family of the offerer. When these offerings were made, it would have been feast day in the home. This much beautiful food would have meant nothing if arguing and turmoil was in the home. Many people of that day sopped their bread in water before they ate it like our fathers ate bread softened by coffee in their day. This is just saying that peace in a family is more important than the food and drink. Our homes should be a place of peace to get away from the troubles of the world, not a battle ground.

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

We remember that the prodigal son who left his home and fell into terrible problems said, "the servants of my father have plenty to eat and more". He left this sinful life and came home to be a servant, because it was better than the life he was leading. A really good example of a slave who was elevated by his master was Abraham's slave who Abraham entrusted everything to. He even trusted him to choose a wife for his beloved Isaac. In Genesis 24:2, we see just what Abraham entrusted to this servant. Genesis 24:2 "And Abraham said unto his eldest servant of his house, that ruled over all that he had, Put, I pray thee, thy hand under my thigh:" This eldest servant was in charge of everything and now Abraham has him to swear to him that he will go and get Isaac a wife. We see, here, the value of trusted servants.

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

Silver and gold are made pure by melting them down with great heat. The impurities come to the top when they are melted and can be skimmed right off the top. I believe this is saying that we may go through fiery trials (to make us more pure in heart). The Lord burns all the impurities out of us and makes us pure before Him.

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

A wicked person travels with wicked people. Their understanding is so twisted that they cannot tell the difference between someone lying and telling the truth. They believe every word these liars are saying, because they want to believe it. They lie, too, and have gotten where they cannot determine the difference.

Proverbs 17:5 "Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: [and] he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished."

It is a terrible thing to look down on those less fortunate than yourself. The only reason you are not the poor one yourself is by the grace of God. We must take tender mercy for all the down trodden if we are to be like our Maker. I cannot imagine anyone being glad at calamities. This would

have to be a very cruel person who would enjoy seeing others suffer. God wants us to love our fellowman. "In as much as you have done it to the least of these you have done it unto me", is what Jesus said.

Proverbs 17:6 "Children's children [are] the crown of old men; and the glory of children [are] their fathers."

Children's children are grandchildren, and they named them correctly, grand. It seems we have more time for our grandchildren than we did for our children. For an old man to be with his grandson, it helps him remember his own youth; and he wants for him to have the things that he was never able to have. Perhaps, this is why we spoil them so. Children look to their fathers as an example of what they want to become. A truly good father brings joy to his family.

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

We know that a fool cannot speak excellently, because an excellent speaker (first of all) tells the truth in its entirety. We have been reading all through these Proverbs that the truth is not in a fool. A fool has no understanding, as well. Whatever comes of his mouth should not be heeded. You cannot depend upon what he says. Someone like a prince, whom God has put in authority, must be above reproach. As we said before, they must be an example for the rest of us. It is even more important that they speak truth. They directly effect the lives of so many who depend on their integrity.

Proverbs 17:8 "A gift [is as] a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth."

Gifts sometime can turn the head of the receiver. Whether this above is a bribe or just a gift to a friend is not known, but either way, a gift sometimes softens up the receiver to be more cooperative with you.

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

Here we see that we are not to pass on negative statements. If we hear something bad about someone, we should just let the story stop with us and not go any further. This shows that we love the person being talked about. If we spread the tale, all it can do is cause us to lose a friend.

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

We see here that a fool is so used to being punished that even an hundred stripes won't even effect him very much. A wise man who carefully considers everything before acting, is not used to even being scolded; and it is a great shock to him to be corrected. Just a word of correction hurts the wise man more than a whipping bothers the fool.

Proverbs 17:11 "An evil [man] seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him."

Rebellion is another form of witchcraft and is very evil. I 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." A person who rebels against God will miss heaven. A person who rebels against society will wind up in jail. A person who rebels against his family will find himself alone. A person who rebels against his teacher will find himself unlearned. You see, rebellion is very destructive. The cruel messenger here is probably coming to tell him of the punishment awaiting him for his rebellious act.

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

We all know that a bear whose cubs have been taken is a very dangerous animal. If you were to meet this mother bear, you would be in danger of great harm. This Scripture says that a fool who is trying to get you involved in his folly is even more dangerous to your well being than this frightened bear.

Proverbs 17:13 Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house."

Being unthankful for someone doing good is a certain way to make sure they will not be doing much good. The Lord rewarded His people for good behavior. He blesses those who follow His commandments.

Proverbs 17:14 "The beginning of strife [is as] when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with."

We see here that the time to stop strife is before it starts. This being compared to water reminds me of the little boy who had his finger in the hole in the dike holding back the flood. The minute he took his finger out and the water poured forth, the hole got bigger and a great flood came and destroyed the town he lived in. We must not open up and let angry words fly loose; if we do, someone will be destroyed and usually we are destroyed right along with the others. Leave off the strife before it starts.

Proverbs 26 Questions

1. What is a dry morsel better than?
2. What 2 offerings had part of the sacrifice eaten at home?
3. What does "sopped" mean?
4. Our homes should be what, instead of being filled with strife?
5. Who shall rule over a son who brings shame?
6. What story brings this to light for us in the Bible?
7. What had Abraham entrusted his oldest servant with?
8. What makes silver or gold pure?
9. Why do Christians go through fiery trials?
10. When we mock the poor, who are we reproaching?
11. What will happen to those who are glad at calamities?
12. Who are the crown of old men?
13. A truly good father brings _____ to a family.
14. Why should a prince be more careful not to lie than others?
15. What is a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it?
16. How can we show that we love someone who we hear something bad about?
17. What is harder on the wise than a hundred stripes to a fool?
18. Who seeks to be rebellious?
19. What is rebellion a form of?
20. A person who rebels against society will do what?
21. A person who rebels against God will miss what?
22. A person who rebels against family has what happen?
23. What condition will the one who rebels against his teacher find himself in?
24. What then can we assume about rebellion?
25. What attitude does a mother bear have when her cubs are stolen?
26. What is even more dangerous to you than a mother bear without her cubs?
27. Being unthankful for good actions causes what?
28. What is the beginning of strife compared to in verse 14?
29. What happened when the boy took his finger out of the dike?
30. When should we leave off strife?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 17:15 "He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both [are] abomination to the LORD."

We see, here, that judgement should be righteous. We should not overlook sin because we love the sinner, neither should we punish someone just because we do not like them. God wants us to deal fairly with everyone. He is displeased when we are prejudiced.

Proverbs 17:16 "Wherefore [is there] a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing [he hath] no heart [to it]?"

We see here a person who is trying to buy himself an education. This is really a good example of our society today. Many people cost their parents an awful lot of money trying to get them a degree from college. These same people will not put out any effort to learn and have no business going to college. It is a waste of time and money because they have no desire to learn, only to get the degree.

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

In Proverbs 18:24, we will read there is a friend who sticketh closer than a brother. A true friend will not leave you when you are in trouble but will stand beside you through it all. In Job, we read of Job's friends who give him all sort of bad news on top of the heartaches he has already endured. This type of friend, no one needs. In the end, Job has to pray and ask God to forgive them so that God will not punish them. Brothers may fight in the good times; but when a great tragedy occurs they are by your side to comfort you and help you. A truly good friend is like a brother in the fact that tragedy makes them love you even more.

Proverbs 17:18 "A man void of understanding striketh hands, [and] becometh surety in the presence of his friend."

We see, here, a man going on someone else's note and putting himself in danger. This is not a wise thing to do. You are actually obligating yourself to pay the full amount of the note when you sign someone else's note. If they don't pay, you have to. You see, it is very serious business to go on another's note.

Proverbs 17:19 "He loveth transgression that loveth strife: [and] he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction."

We see that a sinner enjoys causing heartache for others. Sin and strife walk hand in hand. We see, also, in this someone who builds a house that is real fancy from the outside so the neighbors will be envious of him. This can only bring destruction. Pride goeth before a fall.

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

A sinful heart brings forth sinful words. Ugly speaking, dirty jokes, and cursing bring even more sin. It is a never ending cycle that feeds upon itself and gets worse and worse. This person is not honest, and those who are trading with him cannot believe anything that he says. His deceit shows, and no one wants to trade with him. God will not bless him and destruction is what he is headed for.

Proverbs 17:21 "He that begetteth a fool [doeth it] to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy."

When a son or daughter does some terrible sin, it breaks the heart of the parent. There is nothing sadder than for a parent to realize that their child has done some terrible crime. We struggle trying to raise our children the best we can and it looks bad on us, as well as the children, when they go bad.

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

It is a medical fact that depression brings on many diseases such as arthritis. It is also a fact that being happy inside tends to bring good health. The spirit of man is the spark that keeps him alive. The breath of life that God breathed into man in Genesis, in my opinion, is the Spirit. We were just a glob of clay until God breathed life into us. A non-Christian is just a chunk of clay {very earthly} today, until God breathes His Spirit into us and gives us new life. We are dead bones in trespasses and sins until God gives us new life.

Proverbs 17:23 "A wicked [man] taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment."

This is not a gift at all, it is a bribe. He waits until no one is looking and sneaks a bribe so that he can sway your judgement toward him.

Proverbs 17:24 "Wisdom [is] before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool [are] in the ends of the earth."

This fool is never satisfied. He is always looking somewhere else to move to solve his problems. He needs to realize that the problem lies within himself. The wise person is aware that moving will not make problems go away. He looks straightforward and faces each problem as it comes. He never wavers. He stays on the path that leads to righteousness.

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

We see, here, something similar to verse 21. This grief he brings his father is in the fact that he did not take his father's instruction. Most people commonly think "like father, like son". You can see how this would be a grief to his father. This bitterness of the mother, I think, just speaks of her disappointment. Parents want their children to be even better than they were themselves.

Proverbs 17:26 "Also to punish the just [is] not good, [nor] to strike princes for equity."

The injustice of punishing those who have done no wrong is easily seen by everyone, and God will not tolerate it. This prince, here, is not speaking of title, but of someone who is honorable and fair. Only someone who was evil would strike out and punish the just or those with a princely nature. Many saints have been martyred for the Word of God, but God will judge harshly those who punish the just.

Proverbs 17:27 "He that hath knowledge spareth his words: [and] a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit."

Talking too much shows lack of knowledge; especially talking too much about things you know nothing about. If you listen, instead of talk, you can learn a lot more. This man of understanding, as we have said before, considers all the facts before he speaks. Have you ever noticed, that a man of few words, really has something special to say when he opens his mouth.

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."

It is a natural thing to like to hear your own voice, and people without understanding talk too much. People associate quietness with intelligence. If a man is quiet, then he is thought to be intelligent. If you are not real smart, just keep quiet and no one will know but you.

Proverbs 27 Questions

1. If you justify the wicked and condemn the just, how does God feel about you?
2. We see by this that judgement should be _____.
3. What is meant by a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom?
4. What injustice to parents have many children of our day done?
5. When does a true friend love?
6. When will a brother come to your rescue?
7. Who in the Bible had to pray for his friends for God to forgive them?
8. Who striketh hands and goes on others' notes?
9. What could happen to you if you go on a friend's note?
10. What 2 things go hand in hand that is not of God?
11. What is meant by exalting your gate?
12. Where do sinful words originate?
13. The mother who has a fool for a child has what in her life?
14. What doeth good like a medicine?
15. It is a medical fact that depression does what?
16. What does the author believe the breath of life that God breathed in man in Genesis is?
17. What does taketh a gift out of his bosom mean?
18. This gift in verse 23 is really what?
19. What is meant by the eyes of the fool being in the ends of the earth?
20. Who is a grief to his father?
21. What is bitterness of the mother?
22. Who has been martyred for the Word?
23. What will God do to those who came out against them?
24. If a fool doesn't talk too much, who is he thought to be?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 18:1 "Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh [and] intermeddled with all wisdom."

A man must desire to have wisdom before it comes to him. The Bible says if you want wisdom to pray and God will give you wisdom. We see here a man who has separated himself from the world. He is seeking wisdom, so he separates himself and prays. One problem with so many today in communicating with God is that we don't want to separate ourselves and think on the things of God and pray, but we will get answers for our prayers and we will receive wisdom in the process.

Proverbs 18:2 "A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself."

A fool is not interested in learning. He just is interested in his own thoughts. Today, in our society, the favorite statement is "I need to get off and find myself". This is foolish talk. In finding yourself, you are pleasing your own flesh. If this is a married person doing this, they usually find more than themselves. This type of activity breaks up families. We must somehow get our eyes off of ourselves and stop trying to please self. Only a fool pleases self. A wise person is interested in pleasing God. Go off and seek God.

Proverbs 18:3 "When the wicked cometh, [then] cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach."

"Ignominy" means reproach, confusion, dishonor, or shame. We see in this that the sinful man despises those that are good. II Timothy chapter 3 describes the sinful last days and lists as one of the descriptions of the people as "despisers of those that are good". This is saying these wicked try to condemn the good. The evil one is not only a fool, but full of shame and confusion and is dishonored by all.

Proverbs 18:4 "The words of a man's mouth [are as] deep waters, [and] the wellspring of wisdom [as] a flowing brook."

The man's words of his mouth, as we said before, springs from the well which is his heart. A person of wisdom has beautiful words springing forth and continuing as a beautiful brook. His words are not a strong river that will bowl you over, but a gentle brook which soothes.

Proverbs 18:5 "[It is] not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment."

We can learn from this that the wicked's testimony is not to be believed, especially when it is against the righteous. The wicked person has a selfish reason for his testimony and does not usually tell the truth. To judge a matter by what a wicked person says would be wrong.

Proverbs 18:6 "A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes."

We see here that the fool starts the argument, and then says, "Let's just settle this with our fists".

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

This is a continuation of verse 6. This fool gets into all kinds of trouble with what he says because his words are not guided by anything except his selfish desires. He is not controlled by the Lord, and is apt to use cutting remarks, and even cursing. The tongue is a mighty weapon and either brings death or life in its speaking. With the tongue, confession is made unto salvation. You may read this in Romans 10:9-10.

Proverbs 18:8 "The words of a talebearer [are] as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly."

The words of a talebearer are whisperings that they would not dare say in front of the person they are talking about. These tales have one purpose and that is to destroy. The people listening just love to hear something bad about someone else. The common way to say this is that the listener swallows this lie up (hook, line, and sinker). In other words, they think this is so good that they get it all down deep inside of them so they, too, can drag it out and do harm with it. The talebearer is not the only guilty one here, but the listener is equally guilty.

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

Neither the lazy nor the waster will have anything. One is too lazy to work and make anything, and the other throws away everything he makes.

Proverbs 18:10 "The name of the LORD [is] a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

Christians depend upon the name of Jesus Christ. His name is so powerful (the name of Jesus) that at His name all knees shall bow and every tongue confess that He is Lord. We even pray to the Father in the name of Jesus. He is our strong tower. Acts 17:28 "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." We see from this, without the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we would not even exist. Salvation is in the name of Jesus. In John, we see that if we are Christians, we are in Him and He is in us.

Proverbs 18:11 "The rich man's wealth [is] his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit."

Most rich people are very proud of their wealth; and if they are not careful, their conceit will build a wall around them that others do not care to climb over or go around. The rich man sometimes thinks his riches will save him from harm, but God will not be impressed by his riches. We dealt with this more thoroughly earlier in Proverbs.

Proverbs 18:12 "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour [is] humility."

We see here that a haughty heart (thinking too highly of self) will bring destruction. It turns all away from you. An humble man before God and man will be loved and honored by men on the earth, and God will have great love for him, as well.

Proverbs 18:13 "He that answereth a matter before he heareth [it], it [is] folly and shame unto him."

A person who answers a question before he hears the question is a fool. How can you answer before you hear the question? You just make yourself look very foolish.

Proverbs 18:14 "The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?"

I have heard doctors of medicine say that there is an element, other than the severity of the illness, and other than the medicine they have to give for a certain illness. It is called the will to live. A person who says in his spirit, "I will not die", heals faster and to the amazement of the doctors sometimes lives when all human hope is gone. On the other hand, you can give someone medicine that should cure them, and if they have no will to live, they will probably die. The spirit of man is his life. Many die from a broken heart soon after they have lost a loved one.

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

We see here someone eager to learn by doing and by listening.

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

We see that a gift sometimes softens the heart and makes the way easier. I think a very nice gesture is to carry flowers or candy to the host when you are invited to dinner. It is just a way of showing you appreciate the effort she has gone to to prepare the meal. Little gestures of friendship make everyone feel good.

Proverbs 18:17 "[He that is] first in his own cause [seemeth] just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him."

We see in this that the first man here is having an argument with his neighbor. When the first man tells his story, we have a tendency to believe his story is right and the neighbor is wrong, until we hear the other side of the argument. Then we get all the facts from both sides and can more effectively judge who is right.

Proverbs 18:18 "The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty."

If it is too difficult to decide who is right and who is wrong, the next best thing to do is to cast lots and let God decide. Whatever the outcome is, it is settled by the lot. They can go back to being friends. Strength of body has not settled this. The lot settled it.

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

We see that hurt feelings between physical brothers and between close friends are much harder to overcome than to go to war and take a city. They won't forget it. They have their guard up to any reconciliation you try to make. The Bible says that if we expect to be forgiven of God, we must forgive our brother. In fact, we are to forgive them as many times as they ask us. Over and over again, the Bible says 70 times 7. If your brother asks you to forgive, you must forgive.

Proverbs 18:20 "A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; [and] with the increase of his lips shall he be filled."

We have to accept whatever comes our way when it is the result of what we have said, good or bad. Some men make a living by talking. All men's wealth is affected by what they say.

Proverbs 18:21 "Death and life [are] in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

We have used the Scripture in Romans 10:9-10 so many times in this lesson. We learn in it that we must confess the Lord Jesus with our mouth to be saved. If we are ashamed of Jesus before men and do not confess Him, we are doomed to hell. If we do proclaim belief in Jesus with our mouth and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved.

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

God's plan is for one woman and one man to be married and become one flesh. They are to live together in peace and harmony and build a home for them and their children. In chapter 31 of Proverbs, we will go into the things that make a good wife. A wife should help her husband in everything and make him happy.

Proverbs 18:23 "The poor useth entreaties; but the rich answereth roughly."

We see in this that the poor man is humble and must speak softly, but the rich man who is very proud speaks harshly to those he feels superior to.

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

Some of the best advice I ever received in my life was: If you want to be loved, you must love the other fellow first. This is why you see one person with many friends and another with none. The humble person who goes out of their way to be friendly, will have more friends than they can count. The best friend you can have loves you, not because of what you have done, but in spite of what you have done. Their love has no conditions attached. This is the kind of love Jesus had for all of us when He came and died on the cross for us while we were yet in sin. He died for us and saved us, not because we were worthy, but because He loved us.

Proverbs 28 Questions

1. What is the first thing we must have to get wisdom?
2. How does the Bible say to get wisdom?
3. What is one reason many have problems hearing from God today?
4. In verse 2, what is wrong with the fool?
5. Why is it so dangerous to go off and find yourself?
6. What does "ignominy" mean?
7. In II Timothy 3. what do the evil think of the good people?
8. What are the words of a man's mouth compared to in verse 4?
9. What organ in our body is the wellspring speaking of?
10. Whose testimony cannot be believed?
11. A fool starts an argument and wants to settle it how?
12. What is the snare of a fool's soul?
13. What are a fool's words guided by?
14. Who are talebearers?
15. What is a talebearer's only purpose?
16. Who is guilty of sin besides the talebearer?
17. Who is brother to a great waster?
18. What of the Lord is as a strong tower?
19. At whose name will all knees bow?
20. In Acts 17:28. what do we find out about Jesus?
21. A rich man's conceit is as what?
22. What comes before destruction in a man?
23. To answer before you hear the question, is what?
24. What sustains a man in his infirmity?
25. A man's gift _____ .
26. Who will you ordinarily side with in an argument?
27. In an argument, what can you do to settle it, if both parties seem right?
28. What is harder to win over than a strong city?
29. Death and life are in what?
30. When a man findeth a wife, it is a good thing and he pleases who?
31. Who answers roughly?
32. How can a man have friends?
33. How did Jesus show us the kind of love we need to have for each other?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 19:1 "Better [is] the poor that walketh in his integrity, than [he that is] perverse in his lips, and is a fool."

We see in this poor man, someone who is poor in earthly goods only. He walks in his integrity; lets us know that he is not willing to gain the world's goods by any hook or crook. He is satisfied in the state that he has found himself in. He will follow Jesus whatever state he is in. In contrast to him, we see someone who tells lies (perverse lips) and will do most anything. The Scripture above does not state it but implies that the second is rich, because he has gotten that way in an evil process.

Proverbs 19:2 "Also, [that] the soul [be] without knowledge, [it is] not good; and he that hasteth with [his] feet sinneth."

We see here someone who is hurrying to get nowhere. He is without direction in his life. He is a foolish man who doesn't understand what he is doing and begins anyway.

Proverbs 19:3 "The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD."

It is man and his own foolish lust that causes sin in his life. He cannot blame anyone else. We see here that in this particular instance this man is complaining, blaming all his problems on God. Generally speaking, we bring our problems on ourselves.

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

We see that fleshly people who are not led by the Spirit run to those who have money to be their friend. Perhaps, they feel some of this will rub off on them. Since poor people have nothing they want, they don't visit them much. This is in direct opposition to what Jesus taught. People who do this are respecters of persons because of position and wealth.

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

We discussed this in a previous lesson. False witnessing is called perjury and is a crime. Even today in our society perjury is a crime punishable by imprisonment or fine. Even if a liar gets away with it here on earth, God know if you have lied and He will punish the guilty.

Proverbs 19:6 "Many will entreat the favour of the prince: and every man [is] a friend to him that giveth gifts."

We see here in both instances someone who loves to receive things that they have not worked to get. They think this prince may give them a position in government. In the second instance, every man means it is the world's way to enjoy free gifts.

Proverbs 19:7 "All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth [them with] words, [yet] they [are] wanting [to him]."

In verse 7, we see that they feel like since he is poor, there is no way to make anything off of him; and so they stop going around him thinking he might want something they have. He begs them to come back, but they don't listen, because they think if they do come back, they will have to help him. This is a sorry lot that will not help their brother.

Proverbs 19:8 "He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good."

A person who seeks wisdom, seeks God. We know that wisdom is a gift from God. Truly all Christians should pray to receive wisdom. In the second part of this, I see someone who looks for good. A person who understands is not always looking for the dark side of life.

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

Again, witnessing falsely is perjury and punishable by imprisonment or fine. Perhaps, this is not speaking of court. Even if the witness is between neighbors, when the truth comes out, there will be punishment even if it is just that neither neighbor will not have anything to do with you because they cannot believe a thing you say. No one likes a liar.

Proverbs 19:10 "Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes."

This is probably speaking of someone unwise who acquires sudden riches and fame and really is not equipped to handle the job at hand. Arrogance, conceit, and pride are a by-product of wealth and power thrust on someone who has not been prepared to handle it. The only way a person would be able to handle this situation would be to humble themselves before God and cry out for His help.

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

We see here a man slow to anger. This Scripture is just saying a Christian who can overlook little injustices done to them by others is putting more stones in his crown he will wear in heaven. When we are forgiving others, we are making sure God will forgive us. Forgive and ye shall be forgiven.

Proverbs 19:12 "The king's wrath [is] as the roaring of a lion; but his favour [is] as dew upon the grass."

The king frightens the people under him. He has the say over them as to whether they live or die (in this world). His favour is desired by all his subjects, because he can see to it that they prosper or fail.

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

We have gone into it before how a foolish son brings heartache and sorrow to the father. Now we see that a wife who is continually complaining is almost impossible to bear. This continual dropping is pure and simple nagging. Many women, that wonder why their husbands seem to stay away from home as much as possible, could check out and see if they are nagging when he is home. A person's home should be a pleasant refuge, not a place with no rest. In our day, the table here could be reversed. Men should not nag, either.

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

I believe this Scripture is saying that you may inherit great riches from your father and have a big home, but you cannot buy a good woman. For a man to receive a good Christian wife with wonderful principles is a gift from God. "Prudent" really goes into a lot of virtues. She would be industrious and intelligent, as well as being a Christian.

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

Laziness and sleeping long hours go together. No one will hire a lazy person to work, if they know they are lazy. If a person doesn't work, there is no money to buy food with; so we see hunger. Laziness for any length of time will affect your thinking, as well, and you will get to where you can't think clear thoughts. The doctors say now that a vigorous walk of 2 miles or more makes you think better.

Proverbs 29 Questions

1. In verse 1, we see it is not talking about just a poor man, but what kind of a poor man?
2. What is implied in verse 1 by the man of perverse lips?
3. A man that hasteth with his feet _____.
4. Whose heart fretteth against God?
5. Who is generally the cause of all of man's problems?
6. Wealth maketh many _____.
7. Who shall not go unpunished?
8. Every man is a friend of someone who does what?
9. Explain why verse 7 says a poor man's brothers hate him.
10. When you are seeking wisdom, you are seeking _____.
11. Who likes a liar?
12. In verse 10, who is it speaking of?
13. What is their attitude?
14. A man who defers anger, gets what when he overlooks a transgression?
15. What is the king's wrath compared to?
16. Who is the calamity of his father?
17. What is like a continual dropping in verse 13.
18. In verse 14, houses and riches are what?
19. Can he buy a good wife with all his riches? Explain.
20. What is slothfulness?
21. In verse 15, we find that an idle soul shall what?
22. What have doctors in recent years discovered that lets us know that activity makes us think better?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 19:16 "He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; [but] he that despiseth his ways shall die."

We have said this before, but it is worth saying again. Throughout the Bible, God's blessings are on those who keep His commandments, and His curse is upon those of disobedience. Even if self-preservation were the reason you were obeying, you would not be disappointed. God cannot, and will not, lie. If He promises blessings, you can depend upon them.

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."

One of the best Scriptures to verify this is found in I Timothy 6:17-19. I Timothy 6:17 "Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;" I Timothy 6:18 "That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;" I Timothy 6:19 "Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life." When you do good for anyone (especially the poor), you are doing that good deed to God. He will not forget, He will bless you for giving.

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

We see here that we are to whip (not abuse) our children. We are to teach them at a very early age, before they get too big to spank. We have pity on our own children and grandchildren; but if we want them to become responsible adults, we must teach them when they are very young to respect authority and obey. Even if they scream and cry, we must spank them hard enough that they will think twice before they commit that sin again. Sometimes God has to spank us hard to teach us a lesson. Even if we scream and cry for help, He lets us have the problem long enough to learn a lesson.

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

Probably, temper is the hardest thing for even a Christian to keep under control. When we are lacking in self-control (let the flesh control us), we act before we think and have to pay the consequences for our angry action. Temper is something God has to deliver a person from. An onlooker can try to help, but may just make the angry situation worse. Pray that God will help you to stop being angry. Pray that your spirit will control your body. The spirit walk is a walk of peace and quietness, living peaceably with your neighbor. Forgive them, even if they do not deserve it. You will be the better for it.

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

Christianity is a daily walk. The song "One Day at a Time" describes it perfectly. We are on a journey to our promised land. We should be getting

closer each day to being more like Jesus. The word "Christian" means Christ like. In the light of that, we would have to say that there are very few Christians. This Scripture above is saying each day receive instruction and grow in the Lord. When you are old, you will be wise unto salvation; because you have continually learned more and more about God. That is why daily Bible reading is so important. The more you read, the more you know of God's Word.

Proverbs 19:21 "[There are] many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand."

Man cannot always trust his own heart, but you can always trust the counsel of the Lord. Man must have a brand new heart engraved with the laws of God before his heart is trustworthy. The counsel of God is found in the Bible.

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

Here, again, it must mean a poor, honest man is better than a rich liar. God says He loves a cheerful giver. If a man desires to do good, he will be kind.

Proverbs 19:23 "The fear of the LORD [tendeth] to life: and [he that hath it] shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil."

If a person fears the Lord, he is conscious that there is a Lord. For us to be saved, we must first believe that there is a Lord. We must believe that He died for us, and we must believe that He rose again. If we believe all of the above, then we want to rise from death to life, also. The fear that is wise, is a fear that we might not make the resurrection; that we might not rise to new life in Him. If we are assured in our heart that we will live again with the Lord, we should be completely satisfied. As Paul said, we should be satisfied in whatever situation we find ourselves in on this earth, knowing there is a wonderful eternity with the Lord awaiting us. If we keep our minds on this, we will not even be tempted with evil. We will have overcome evil with good.

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

I see, here, a man who is too lazy to feed himself. This man depends on others to make a living for him, even though he is able-bodied and in good enough health to work himself.

Proverbs 19:25 "Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, [and] he will understand knowledge."

This scorner seems to be beyond talking to and trying to help. Perhaps, he doesn't even want help. The smiting of the scorner here seems to be more in punishment of an act already done than an act to teach the scorner. The only one, it appears, will learn from this punishment is the onlooker (simple one). This might even be said that this punishment is to teach the others what will happen to them if they act this way. The reproof here is probably verbal, but that is all it takes for an understanding person. The understanding one will learn and grow in knowledge for the reproof.

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

Perhaps, this Scripture here about the father indicates that he not only wastes what he gets himself, but talks his dad out of what he has, and wastes his dad's savings, also. However, a son can waste his father in more ways than money. A son that will not take advice from his father, has wasted all the stored up knowledge his father could share with him. For this son to chase away his mother has to be something very terrible. Mothers do not give up their sons easily. Whether this literally means chases him out of the home or whether it means his evil deeds have driven her affection away, is very bad. A mother's love is next to God's love. This son would certainly be a dishonor to his parents. Shame and reproach would certainly be the after effects of this life.

Proverbs 19:27 "Cease, my son, to hear the instruction [that causeth] to err from the words of knowledge."

You are taking instruction from the wrong people. Don't let the blind lead you is what I see in this.

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

This ungodly witness laughs at true judgement. He is not interested in justice. He laughs at the court and perjures himself to make whatever point he wants. He forgets that there is a righteous Judge (Jesus Christ) that he will have to stand before and account for this lie. The wicked swallows wickedness. This wicked one just gets worse and worse.

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

This Scripture is closely related to verse 28. This, to me, is speaking of those who scorn judgement here will face the Judge of all the world. The word "prepared" here, to me, indicates that this will happen in the future. Fools many times, break laws and are punished for their law breaking. I believe fools will face the eternal Judge and pay for their evil deeds. The only way to avoid that punishment would be for the fool to become wise and accept Jesus as his Savior.

Proverbs 30 Questions

1. Who receives blessings from God?
2. Who lendeth to the Lord?
3. Who will repay you for your good deeds?
4. What are the rich of this world charged to do in I Timothy 6:17-19?
5. When should you chasten your children?
6. If we want our children to become responsible citizens, what must we do?
7. What will happen to a man of great wrath?
8. What is one of the hardest things for a Christian to overcome in his own life?
9. We must let our _____ control us not our _____.
10. In verse 20, we are told to hear counsel and receive instruction and when will we be wise?
11. Where are the Christians journeying to?
12. What does the word "Christian" mean?
13. Who can we trust?
14. Where can you find the counsel of God?
15. When does man's heart become trustworthy?
16. In verse 22, what 2 types of people are intended?
17. What is a man conscious of, if he fears the Lord?
18. What should we fear?
19. With what can we overcome evil?
20. Who is a slothful man?
21. What is meant by him not bringing his hand to his mouth?
22. For whose learning was the scorner smote in verse 25?
23. What does reprove mean in verse 25?
24. What is meant by wasteth his father?
25. In verse 26, this son did what to his mother?
26. Why is the son in verse 27 to cease to hear this instruction?
27. What kind of witness scorneth judgement?
28. What is meant by the wicked devouring iniquity?
29. Judgements that are prepared for scorners are probably speaking of what?
30. Who are stripes saved for?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 20:1 "Wine [is] a mocker, strong drink [is] raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise."

One of the worse problems in our society today, many think, is the abuse of alcohol. My own personal opinion is that abuse of alcohol is a symptom of a much greater problem. The problem is sin or lack of God 's security in our lives. Most people who drink heavily, or in fact those who use drugs also, are running from reality. They feel that they cannot face their problems and they hide in alcohol and drugs. Sin brings torment. The only way to stop drug and alcohol abuse is to have a national revival. Turn to God, away from sin, and He will bring you peace. There will be no reason to hide, you will have Jesus Christ as your help. Only a fool would refuse Jesus and live in the torment of drugs and alcohol.

Proverbs 20:2 "The fear of a king [is] as the roaring of a lion: [whoso] provoketh him to anger sinneth [against] his own soul."

We discussed that fear of the king is fear of what he can do to you on this earth. If you provoke him to anger, you could lose your head or spend a lifetime in jail.

Proverbs 20:3 "[It is] an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling."

In our society today many believe that they should avenge all wrongs themselves. The Bible teaches to be good to your enemies. Bless them that curse you. A fool keeps a strife going. He does not try to stop trouble. He meddles in other's business and causes strife.

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

I see in this sluggard (lazy person) someone who looks for just any excuse not to work. In this particular case, fields need to be plowed when there is moisture in the ground to keep from breaking the plow. If you miss the plowing time, there will be no reaping time. The cold is just an excuse not to work. The sluggard says it is too hot to work in the summer. As I said, this is just an excuse not to work. He and his family will suffer for his laziness in harvest time. There will be no crop to gather.

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

This is the very reason, I believe, that it is so important to study your Bible every day. If some day we were not allowed to have a Bible we could hold in our hand, we that have studied regularly would still have the Bible hidden away in our heart. No one could take that Bible away from us. This "counsel in the heart" is that kind of counsel. I sing a song called "There is a River" and it speaks of a river from deep within that frees the soul from sin. This counsel flows from way down deep in the heart, from a pure heart, stayed upon God. The good things that we have stored in our heart can be drawn up whenever we need them. The Holy Spirit will quicken to us Scriptures that we have hidden in our heart as we need them.

Proverbs 20:6 "Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?"

We must be very careful not to go around bragging on ourselves. The way of the world is for a man to brag on his own good traits. These very same people who are continually telling how good they are, are sometimes found wanting when they are tested to see just how much faith they really have. Faith is not fact. Faith is believing when we cannot see with our physical eye. Just a few men in the Bible were listed among the faithful in the Old Testament. You can find a list of them in Hebrews 11.

Proverbs 20:7 "The just [man] walketh in his integrity: his children [are] blessed after him."

We see by this that a just man lives his Christianity. He walks in his salvation every day. He walks uprightly before the Lord. People have great respect for him because they know that he walks uprightly before God. Even his children are highly thought of by the community because of their father's walk before God. We see this blessing of children from their father's pleasing God in Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

Proverbs 20:8 "A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes."

We know that the King of kings (Jesus Christ) can see directly through those who would stand before Him and lie. There is nothing concealed that He does not know. An earthly king who was used to judging would be pretty well able to tell the truth from a lie, also. If they have been judging very long, every story in the world has already been tried on them. Their experience with people would tell them who is telling the truth. No one would dare do evil in his sight for fear that their punishment for their sin would be even greater. Just one look in the king's eyes and you would be compelled to tell the truth.

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

The answer is no one. Only Jesus can cleanse our heart from sin. Our heart must be washed in the blood of Jesus to make us free of sin. His blood doesn't just cover our sin, it does away with it entirely.

Proverbs 20:10 "Divers weights, [and] divers measures, both of them [are] alike abomination to the LORD."

God hates dishonesty. This sin does not just bring harm to the sinner, but to the person he has cheated by false weights and measurements, as well.

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

Children do not conceal what they are. At a very early age, character starts forming, and a child is known as a good child or a bad child by the things he does and says. Only the rod of correction and or God can change a bad child into a good child.

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

God truly made our eyes and our ears, because we are His creation. I believe this is intended to mean the spiritual ear that listens and receives and the spiritual eye, as well, that sees things everyone does not see. In Revelation, over and over we are told that they have eyes to see and they see not and ears to hear, but they hear not. These eyes, in verse 12, see and these ears hear. I believe this is saying that it is God that opens our understanding. We see spiritually and hear spiritually, because He opened our understanding to His secrets.

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

If you lie around sleeping all the time instead of working, you will not earn any money and you will be poor. If you work hard, you will have at least enough money to eat on.

Proverbs 20:14 "[It is] naught, [it is] naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth."

This is saying that it is wrong to run someone else's merchandise down just so you can buy it cheaper. The condition of the merchandise in this verse 14, suddenly changes to better when ownership is changed.

Proverbs 20:15 "There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge [are] a precious jewel."

Gold and rubies are very valuable, but it is possible to have them if you have enough money. If you have enough money, they can be found. I believe this Scripture is saying that a person who speaks in God's knowledge is very scarce and hard to find.

Proverbs 31 Questions

1. What is wine in verse 1?
2. Strong drink is what?
3. What do most people think our greatest problem is today?
4. What is it really?
5. Why do people hide in drugs and alcohol?
6. What does sin bring the sinner?
7. How does the author think is the only way to stop drug and alcohol abuse?
8. Who is the only person who would refuse salvation through Jesus?
9. It is an honor for a man to cease from _____.
10. Why will the sluggard not plow?
11. If he doesn't plow, what will he do in harvest?
12. Counsel in the heart of man is compared to what?
13. What is faith?
14. Where in Hebrews can you find a list of the faithful of the Old Testament?_____.
16. A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his _____.
17. Who is King of kings ?
18. Who can say, "I have made my heart clean"?
19. How is the only way to cleanse the heart from sin?
20. What kind of weights and measures are an abomination to God?
21. A child is known by his _____.
22. Who made the seeing eye?
23. If you love sleep, what shall you come to?
24. Trying to run a person's merchandise down to buy it, is what?
25. In verse 15, what is more precious than gold and rubies?

We will began this lesson in Proverbs 20:16 "Take his garment that is surety [for] a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman."

We see in this that this man has carelessly put up his garment for security on another's loan; and when the other man could not pay, they have taken his garment. His mistake was going on the note in the first place. It appears that he has learned a lesson the hard way, he lost his garment in the process. The word that was translated "strange" describing this woman means foreign, non-relative, and adulterous. We see from this that the pledge in the second part of verse 16 has to do with a woman other than his relative. Possibly, she is a woman of ill repute. There is a story in the 38th chapter of Genesis where Tamar took pledge of her father-in-law, Judah. Read the whole 38th chapter to get the story. I believe this last half of verse 16 is speaking of a pledge given to a harlot woman.

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

We see in this "bread of deceit" that he has nourished himself with the sins of the flesh. Hebrews 11:25 calls sin a pleasure for a season Hebrews 11:25 "Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;" Sin seems to be pleasure, but the end is sorrow and regret. This statement "His mouth shall be filled with gravel" means that this sin leaves a bad taste in his mouth. Gravel indicates grating of teeth.

Proverbs 20:18 "[Every] purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war."

We see here again, good counsel is a must. Only a terribly conceited person or a fool would refuse good counsel. War should certainly be gone into only after good consideration. War is serious business and to jump into war unadvisedly could mean disaster.

Proverbs 20:19 "He that goeth about [as] a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips."

If a person talks about someone else to you (talebearer), they will talk about you when you are out of sight to someone else. A talebearer is to be avoided. They reveal secrets and stir up strife.

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

We see in this Scripture the opposite of "honor thy father, and thy days will be long upon the earth". Our mother and father's love is probably more than anyone else's. To curse them is, in essence, to curse yourself.

Proverbs 20:21 "An inheritance [may be] gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed."

Usually, things that we do not earn don't last. It is the old saying, "easy come, easy go". An inheritance sometimes ruins the person receiving

it. I knew a family who were hard working people, and were just getting along fine. They received \$100,000 dollars unexpectedly and it ruined their lives. The husband quit his job and started drinking. In a year, all the money was gone; he had no job and his wife had left him. He lost his house to pay the taxes on the \$100,000. Their lives were ruined. Unexpected inheritance can ruin you. Instead of it being a blessing, it winds up a curse many times, because we are not prepared to handle it. God knows just how much He can trust you with. Be content with what you have.

Proverbs 20:22 "Say not thou, I will recompense evil; [but] wait on the LORD, and he shall save thee."

Vengeance is mine saith the Lord. The thing a fleshly man would do is go and get even, but if we are believers, we are not allowed this. We are to do good to those who persecute us. We must plead our case with the Lord, and He will see us through. The Lord is our shield and our defense.

Proverbs 20:23 "Divers weights [are] an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance [is] not good."

We dealt with this earlier in these lessons. The Lord hates dishonesty of any kind and especially dishonesty with trickery associated with it.

Proverbs 20:24 "Man's goings [are] of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?"

This first man is taken from a word that means mighty man, and man in the second part means human creature. We see, then, that the man of God's goings are of the Lord. How then can a human creature understand his own way? As we have said before, if Jesus is our Lord, everything that happens to us, good and bad, has to be okayed by Him. A man of the world does not understand his own way. A worldly man just gropes around trying one thing and another until he finds the Way, which is Jesus.

Proverbs 20:25 "[It is] a snare to the man [who] devoureth [that which is] holy, and after vows to make inquiry."

There are many varied opinions of the meaning of this Scripture, but I believe this is saying it is a sin for man to use up the things dedicated to the Lord and then pretend that they just disappeared without his knowledge. When we promise something to the Lord, it is very important to keep the promise. If you were not able to keep the promise, you shouldn't have made the promise in the first place.

Proverbs 20:26 "A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them."

We see in this that the wise king is separating the bad from the good. In the wheel coming over the wicked here, we see the king conquering or perhaps even destroying these wicked.

Proverbs 20:27 "The spirit of man [is] the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly."

The spirit of man is the breath that the Lord breathed into man that gave him life. You could even call it our conscience. The candlestick was in

the church shining to remove the shadows. The Light of Jesus shines within all believers and destroys darkness. It searches out all the hidden sins and brings them to light. We are told by Jesus in Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." God's Light shining within us separates us from the darkness of the world. The light that is within us is the Light of Jesus.

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

We see in this that if a king wants to continue to be a king he must not be cruel, he must be merciful. Just as we Americans say that George Washington was the father of our country, people living in countries that have kings, look on the king as the father of their country. A king that rules with mercy and truth will be king for a long time.

Proverbs 20:29 "The glory of young men [is] their strength: and the beauty of old men [is] the grey head."

This is a very true statement of young men. They are proud that they are strong. Young men will pump iron or exercise to make them even stronger. Paul warns about putting too much emphasis on the bodily exercise. I Timothy 4:7 "But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself [rather] unto godliness." I Timothy 4:8 "For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come."

The beautiful grey hair of an old man shows wisdom and experience. For a man to live long enough to have grey hair, God would have to have blessed him.

Proverbs 20:30 "The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so [do] stripes the inward parts of the belly."

These stripes in the belly indicate punishment that is felt with our inner most being. We are supposed to see in the bruises and in the stripes that correction has come for the sins in our lives.

Proverbs Questions 32

1. In verse 16, what has he put his garments up for?
2. What does the word that has been translated "strange" mean?
3. In the 38th chapter of Genesis, who took pledge of her father-in-law?
4. "Bread of deceit" means what?
5. What does "having my mouth full of gravel" mean?
6. Every purpose is established by what?
7. Who would refuse counsel?
8. What is a person that reveals secrets called?
9. What shall happen to a person who curses father and mother?
10. A hasty gotten inheritance sometimes ends how?
11. Sometimes sudden riches does what to a person?
12. If we are to recompense evil, what are we to do?
13. Who is our shield and defense?
14. The _____ _____ _____ goings are of the Lord.
15. It is a snare to a man that devoureth _____ _____ _____ _____.
16. In verse 26, a wise king scattereth the wicked, what else does he do?
17. In verse 27, what is the candle of the lord?
18. In Matthew 5:16, what are the Christians told to do?
19. What two things preserve the king?
20. What is the glory of young men?
21. What is the beauty of the old man?
22. Blueness of a wound cleanseth away what?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 21:1 "The king's heart [is] in the hand of the LORD, [as] the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will."

The Lord is the one, in the final analysis, who will be King. Just as the Lord through Moses ruled over the Pharaoh in Egypt and finally caused Pharaoh to let the people go. No one is so great (not even a King) that he is not under the rule of the Lord. Sometimes, God just places a thought in their head and rules them that way. For sure, kings and rulers are ruled over by; the Lord themselves. The Lord Jesus is King of all kings and Lord of all Lords. The rivers flow because God ordained it. In Colossians 1:16 we read, "For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [they be] thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:" Colossians 1:17 "And he is before all things, and by him all things consist."

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

This is speaking of a false security that man has. The evil the Israelites were guilty of over and over was doing what was right in their own sight. This, as we have said before, tends toward pleasing the flesh which is sin. God judges the intents of the heart. The heart is the center of our being, and actually controls what we are. It is either desperately wicked, or it is pure. There is no in between. God looks on the heart. The source of what we are.

Proverbs 21:3 "To do justice and judgment [is] more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice."

God wants us to love Him so much that we will do justly and judge righteously: not from being compelled to do so, but because we love Him. It was very important to keep the sacrifices until Jesus became the perfect Lamb sacrifice and did away with all sin, for all time, to those who would accept Him.

Proverbs 21:4 "An high look, and a proud heart, [and] the plowing of the wicked, [is] sin."

This is speaking of a conceited person so filled up with self that their heart is even stayed on themselves. Pride is a very bad sin. This plowing of the wicked, to me, means cultivating a friendship with wicked people. We have mentioned this before, but this is what Lucifer was tossed out of heaven for. His pride had gotten so great that he wanted to be God.

Proverbs 21:5 "The thoughts of the diligent [tend] only to plenteousness; but of every one [that is] hasty only to want."

This is speaking of a diligent worker who thinks constantly of working toward having plenty. People who do not consistently work and try to have something wind up with nothing but want.

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

We have been talking all through Proverbs about how bad a lying tongue is. When a lying tongue is coupled with cheating, we see a terrible sin. Whether they are seeking death or not, that is what they will get by living treacherous lives. All of this is caused by thinking too highly of self and feeling that the world owes you something. The Lord will save the humble.

Proverbs 21:7 "The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment."

Here, again, we see the robber wanting something that does not belong to him. Little does he know that the one he is destroying is himself. They have no intention of doing what is right (just). They are only thinking of self.

Proverbs 21:8 "The way of man [is] froward and strange: but [as for] the pure, his work [is] right."

We see that the evil man is crooked and perverse. He does not walk upright. He is pushy (froward). Strange has a meaning of being alien. In this instance, a stranger to God. The pure in heart does what he believes would be right in God's sight. "The way of man" means the way of the worldly man.

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

We discussed in an earlier lesson how our homes need to be a place of rest and a refuge from the problems of the world. If our only place of rest is a battleground, then we are constantly in a turmoil. It really doesn't matter how small the house is, if there is love there; but you cannot get a house big enough to be happy in, if there is continual fighting.

Proverbs 21:10 "The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes."

We see that the wicked have no mercy for anyone, not even their neighbor. They will destroy anyone or anything to get what they want. We see, here, that this evil one is evil through and through. His desires are all for self.

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

We talked in an earlier lesson how the scorner has gone so far that even punishment does not change his evil ways. His punishment is in payment of his evil doings. The only one helped by the scorner's punishment is the simple one here. He sees what could happen to him if he doesn't change, and he changes and becomes wise. The wise are eager to learn and receive more and more knowledge. You remember from an earlier lesson that knowledge is accumulated learning.

Proverbs 21:12 "The righteous [man] wisely considereth the house of the wicked: [but God] overthroweth the wicked for [their] wickedness."

We see the righteous man considers what the wicked is doing. The wise man has no desire to get involved in the wicked's life style. The wise man knows where the final place of the wicked will be. He knows that in the end, the wicked will be overthrown and sent to hell.

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

This is the reverse of "give and it shall be given unto you". If you do not have mercy, no mercy; will be shown you. In Luke 6:38 we read, "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

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

When you give anything, it should not be broadcast so that you can get a reward. This "reward in the bosom" means, to me, given from the heart. When you give a gift from the heart, it certainly will stop anger and hurt and wrath.

Proverbs 21:15 "[It is] joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction [shall be] to the workers of iniquity."

The person that does fairly by others (just) find pleasure in doing what is right. We see that the just (right doers) find real peace and satisfaction in knowing that they are pleasing God. Terror and torment face those who work iniquity. They are afraid someone will find out how evil they really are. They are headed for destruction. No reward awaits them, only destruction.

Proverbs 21:16 "The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead."

I see, here, a man who has been upright and walking in the path of righteousness. He has suddenly gotten off the straight and narrow path and is wandering. He understood, but now he is doubting. Faith keeps us on the path to heaven. Doubt brings eternal condemnation. It would have been better for him if he had never known God's ways, than to have known God's ways and turned from them.

Proverbs 33 Questions

1. The king's heart is in the hands of Whom?
2. The Lord (through Moses) ruled over what Egyptian?
3. Why and where do the rivers flow?
4. In Colossians 1:16, we find that all things were made by whom?
5. Every way of man is right where?
6. The Lord pondereth what?
7. What was the evil the Israelites were guilty of over and over?
8. What does God judge?
9. What is the source of what we are in our body?
10. What is more acceptable to God than sacrifice?
11. What other 2 things, besides a high look, are sin in verse 4?
12. What does plowing of the wicked mean?
13. The thoughts of the diligent tend only to _____.
14. Getting treasures by a lying tongue leads to what?
15. What shall the wicked do to destroy themselves in verse 7?
16. In verse 8, two words describe the way of fleshly man, what are they?
17. It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than with whom in a wide house?
18. What is our home supposed to be?
19. The soul of the wicked desireth_____.
20. When the scorner is punished, who is made wise?
21. What is knowledge?
22. If you stop your ears to the poor, what will happen to you?
23. A gift in secret does what?
24. What is meant by reward in the bosom?
25. What shall be to the workers of iniquity?
26. What is meant by wandering out of the way of understanding?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 21:17 "He that loveth pleasure [shall be] a poor man: he that loveth wine and oil shall not be rich."

Wine and oil are expensive. The cost of a bottle of wine is enough to feed a large family. Even worse than the cost of the wine is what the wine causes you to do. Your judgement is not as good after you have drunk wine and you would be a spendthrift with money needed for other things. Many people in our society today have expensive pleasures like golf, ball games, movies, etc. Not only are these hobbies very expensive, but they take a great deal of time, as well. Time we should be working to take care of our needs is many times wasted in worldly pleasures. We are warned in II Timothy 3 about caring about pleasures too much (lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God). The chapter says it happens in the end times.

Proverbs 21:18 "The wicked [shall be] a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright."

The only thing I see in this is that God has always had a sharp separation between the wicked and the righteous. It seems that the transgressor has a price to pay for his wickedness and God will not have the upright to pay. Their debt is paid in full through Jesus.

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

No one wants to dwell in a wilderness, but the comparison is made here to show how terrible it is to live with someone who is constantly finding fault. Moses fled to the wilderness for safety. Whether that is what this means that there is safety away from this evil woman or not, I do not know.

Proverbs 21:20 "[There is] treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up."

There really are two ways to look at this. A wise man is careful in what he uses his money for. He saves for a rainy day and so his needs are taken care of, but a foolish man spends everything he gets as soon as he gets it and many times even before he gets it. He borrows money often so he has to pay for what he buys plus the interest, and it keeps him continually broke. From a spiritual standpoint there is a treasure to be desired, eternal life. This oil in the dwelling place would be symbolic of the Holy Spirit. The spend-thrift (in the spirit) keeps saying wait until a more convenient time and loses his opportunity to be saved.

Proverbs 21:21 "He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour."

We have read over and over that righteousness is being in right standing with God. We also have read many times that it is Jesus' righteousness that we take on. We must accept Jesus as our Saviour and we have righteousness. But this speaks of a walk (followeth) in that righteousness and mercy. We are told to be merciful because Jesus was merciful to us first. Righteousness, mercy, and honour for us is a by-product of our salvation.

Proverbs 21:22 "A wise [man] scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof."

The first thing that comes to mind as I read this is the story of the Israelites searching out the promised land. The wise thing to do was not to question whether they could take the land or not. God said they could. Just do it and stop doubting. When they followed God's instructions exactly, the walls of Jericho fell down before them. We see in this that Godly wisdom is greater than body strength.

Proverbs 21:23 "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles."

Talking too much can get you into a great deal of trouble. Words spoken in haste are many times regretted at leisure.

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

We see in this someone who is unteachable. Someone who thinks he knows everything is headed for trouble. He dishes out harsh statements to those around him, speaking from an evil heart.

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

We see in verse 25 someone who will not work but wants everything he sees. First of all, he has too much idle time because he refuses to work. A person who does not stay busy has time to get into a lot of trouble. Idle time and desires for things you cannot acquire lead to crime, and crime leads to punishment and sometimes death.

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

This is a continuation of verse 25. In contrast to the evil, lazy person who has nothing and wants everything is the righteous who works hard and gives away a great deal of what he earns.

Proverbs 21:27 "The sacrifice of the wicked [is] abomination: how much more, [when] he bringeth it with a wicked mind?"

We found this to be true in the very first mention in the Bible of Cain and Abel. Cain's gift was unacceptable unto God. The worst thing of all was that he gave it knowing it was unacceptable. He wanted the easy way out. He gave earthly gifts rather than the offering God required. His gifts were earthly, not heavenly. Churches should not accept racketeer money.

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

To me this is saying that when the false witness is found out, no one will listen to him any longer. We see in this "man that heareth" (someone who understands) can speak many times and people will listen, because they know it is the truth.

Proverbs 21:29 "A wicked man hardeneth his face: but [as for] the upright, he directeth his way."

This hardened face means you can't change his opinion. He is not teachable. The Lord directeth the way of the upright, because the upright is doing it God's way. He is not so self-willed that you can't tell him anything.

Proverbs 21:30 "[There is] no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD."

Compared to the Lord's wisdom, we have no wisdom. We have no power at all when vented against God. God is the Creator, and we are His created. The Creator is always far superior to His creation in every way .

Proverbs 21:31 "The horse [is] prepared against the day of battle: but safety [is] of the LORD."

"Horse" indicates war or military power. We cannot depend on military power to save us. The Lord is the Saviour. He also is our very present help. Whether saving us from the wrath of God by transporting us to heaven, or protecting us while we are here on the earth, the Lord is our only true protection.

Proverbs 34 Questions

1. In verse 17, what can cause you to be poor?
2. In the same verse, if you like wine and oil, you won't be _____.
3. Name some expensive pleasures of our day.
4. In II Timothy 3, we are warned of loving pleasure more than loving _____.
5. What is meant by the "wicked being ransom for the righteous"?
6. Where is it better to live than with a contentious woman?
7. What comparison is intended in the "treasure of the wise" and "foolish man spendeth it"?
8. In verse 21, what is found in following righteousness and mercy?
9. What does followeth indicate?
10. In verse 22, "a wise man scaleth the city of the mighty" reminds the author of what?
11. What can talking too much do?
12. Who is the proud, haughty scorner?
13. Why does the desire of the slothful kill him?
14. Idle time, and desire for things you can't have, lead to what?
15. What contrast to the lazy, greedy person is made in verse 26?
16. The abomination of the sacrifice is worse when it is given how?
17. What happens to a false witness?
18. What does "hardeneth his face" mean?
19. Who can counsel against the Lord?
20. What does the "horse" indicate in verse 31?
21. Who is our only true help?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 22:1 "A [good] name [is] rather to be chosen than great riches, [and] loving favor rather than silver and gold."

Riches such as gold and silver are not permanent. They are nice to have, but are not nearly as valuable as more permanent things. The good name of a family will help their children and grandchildren for a very long time. This certainly has to do with God's loving favor, as well, which no earthly treasures can compare with.

Proverbs 22:2 "The rich and poor meet together: the LORD [is] the maker of them all."

We are all (rich and poor) of the family of God. I like what one commentator said about this Scripture. He said God made the poor to work to make the wealth of the rich, and that He made the rich to provide jobs for the poor so they could make a living. The poor should not envy the rich because great responsibility goes with wealth. The rich should not oppress the poor, because they have a master over them that is watching their behavior. The rich and poor should live in harmony as brothers and sisters in Christ.

Proverbs 22:3 "A prudent [man] foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished."

We see in this "prudent man" a person who is careful and plans ahead. If they see danger ahead, they withdraw until the danger passes. The simple who are more abundant in number, move without thinking ahead. They move with the crowd and many times right into destruction. The punishment can be inflicted by others or by themselves in their headlong pursuit into danger.

Proverbs 22:4 "By humility [and] the fear of the LORD [are] riches, and honour, and life."

In Matthew 5:3, we read of the humble and their reward. Matthew 5:3 "Blessed [are] the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." We read in Matthew 18:3 "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven." Matthew 18:4 "Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven." You see, being humble will get you eternal life in heaven. God's riches will be yours, also. You will be joint-heirs with Jesus. (Romans 8:17)

Proverbs 22:5 "Thorns [and] snares [are] in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them."

We see, again, here a comparison of someone who is snared in the trappings of earthly things and a person who is walking in the Light of Jesus on the straight path which leads to everlasting life. This evil person, here, not only sets traps for others, but has thorns and snares in his own way because he is disobedient to God. Those who have no regard for others find themselves on a path of problems. The person who keeps his

soul, walks in the path that the Lord has provided for him. It is well lit and is a straight path.

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

Children who are trained to go to church when they are young, will generally be church goers all of their lives. Many who survived being captured in recent wars tell that many times the thing that kept them from losing their mind was remembering Scriptures they had learned as children in Sunday school. Many parents have seen a child that was raised in church wander away from God for a period of time. I personally know of none who have not come back as they grew older and had families of their own. We have a Christian school here at Wildwood, and our children are memorizing Scriptures along with their lessons. These Scriptures can never be taken away from them. When they memorize them, they are theirs to draw on forever.

Proverbs 22:7 "The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower [is] servant to the lender."

We know that for every rich man there are numbers of poor. Jesus said, "the poor you will have with you always". In an earlier lesson, we learned that the rich provide jobs for the poor. The person who employs people also rules over them. In this case, the rich is the boss. In the second half of verse 7, we see not a contrast but a condition of the rich and poor. If you owe someone money, you are subject unto their wishes until you pay them. Your work you do, during the time you owe them, is used to pay them rather than to cover your own needs. In that sense, the borrower is servant to the lender.

Proverbs 22:8 "He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail."

Whatever you sow, you will reap. We see, here, that if you sow iniquity, you will not gain anything. We see in the second half of this that angry attacks will not prosper, in fact, they are sure to bring failure.

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

We see in this someone who sees the needs of those around and gives food to the hungry. This person not only sees his own needs, but the needs of others. He gives to the poor, and God blesses him for his generosity. Give and it shall be given unto you. The Lord said, "Inasmuch as you have done it unto the least of these you have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). You see, the rewards for those who see others' needs and gives to them are for this world and heaven, as well.

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

People who stir up problems are of no advantage to keep around. The sooner you get rid of them, the sooner your problems will go away. Those who

constantly criticize are tearing down, not building up. Cast them out and get on with the job at hand.

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

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:8 Jesus says, "Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God." We have discussed in previous lessons that the words that come from the mouth originate in the heart. We would see in this verse above that these words would be pure, because they come from the pure heart. Everyone loves a good report. This king is the friend of this person, because he is guided by the Lord. The king wants to hear the Lord's word.

Proverbs 22:12, "The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor."

We see the eyes of the Lord watching over and protecting those who are following in His ways. This person, as we have said, is knowledgeable unto salvation. In the second half of this, we see that the Lord does not help the sinner further his sins.

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

This lazy (slothful) man has really reached into the ridiculous for this excuse not to work. First of all, lions don't hang around town. They would be in the jungle, not in a city. As I said, this is the most feeble excuse he could give for not working.

Proverbs 22:14, "The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein."

We see all through these lessons that the strange woman is an adulteress. She says things with her mouth that flatters and causes men to follow her into her sin. Those who follow an adulteress will surely fall in the pit. Not only is adultery a very bad sin and might cause you to miss heaven, but now there are terrible diseases you might catch. There is punishment right here on the earth for this sin and if not repented of, an eternity in hell, as well.

Proverbs 35 Questions

1. What is a good name to be chosen over?
2. The _____ and _____ meet together, God is maker of both.
3. How do the poor help the rich?
4. How do the rich help the poor?
5. How should we live, both rich and poor?
6. A prudent man does what when he seeth the evil?
7. What happens to the simple who rush on without thought?
8. In verse 4, we find 3 things that come from humility and fear of the Lord. What are they?
9. In Matthew 5:3, we read the poor in spirit inherit what?
10. Who are we to be humble like?
11. In the way of the froward, there are what 2 things?
12. Finish this statement: "Train up a child in the way he should go _____".
13. Why is it so important to memorize Scripture?
14. Who rules over the poor ?
15. Who is the borrower servant to?
16. If you sow iniquity, you will reap what?
17. What is meant by having a bountiful eye?
18. If you cast out the scorner, what shall go away?
19. Why do pure words come from the righteous?
20. In the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are the pure _____".
21. Who shall the pure in heart see?
22. What is meant by the eyes of the Lord preserving knowledge?
23. What is the ridiculous excuse for not working, that the lazy man gives in verse 13?
24. What is meant by the "strange woman"?
25. What comes out of the strange woman's mouth?

We will began this lesson in Proverbs 22:15 "Foolishness [is] bound in the heart of a child; [but] the rod of correction shall drive it far from him."

Children are mischievous. The way children learn right from wrong is by their parents training them. A lesson is best learned by making mistakes and being punished by those mistakes. A good paddling along with correction drives the lesson home. The child, who is punished for doing things he has been told not to do, learns quicker than if he is just talked to. It is a natural tendency for a child to misbehave. A loving parent will spank him for bad behavior, and he will learn to do better.

Proverbs 22:16 "He that oppresseth the poor to increase his [riches, and] he that giveth to the rich, [shall] surely [come] to want."

First of all, it would be foolish to try to increase from the poor. They don't have anything. It would be like trying to extract blood from a turnip. It doesn't have any blood, so you can't get it. The rich do not need what you have. Either endeavor would lead to no gain at all.

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

We see here "bow down thine ear" means humble yourself enough that you will hear. Someone can talk all day, but if you do not receive it, you have done nothing. "Apply thine heart unto my knowledge" is speaking of the knowledge of God being applied to the heart.

Proverbs 22:18 "For [it is] a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips."

Verse 18 is an extention of verse 17. The knowledge of God applied to the heart is a pleasant thing. If you keep it hidden away in your heart forever, your words will be coming from a pure heart and you will be speaking pure words. The knowledge God has revealed to you should not be a shame to you, but a joy to speak.

Proverbs 22:19 "That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee."

We see, we are not to trust in ourselves or even the people around us, But in the Lord who will never let us down. God has revealed Himself to us. This last sentence in verse 19 is saying (believe it or not) I have revealed it unto you.

Proverbs 22:20 "Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,"

The previous counsels have been the same. He is just reminding them here that they already have been instructed in God's way.

Proverbs 22:21 "That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?"

I 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:" One of the reasons we learn the truth is so that we can pass it on to others after we have applied it to our lives. Not only are we to get saved by the truth of God, but we must minister truth everywhere we go.

Proverbs 22:22 "Rob not the poor, because he [is] poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:"

We see, here, a warning not to oppress those who cannot help themselves. It also is saying not to judge them guilty because they do not have money enough to plead their own case. In the gate is where the judgement took place. If they were rich, they might have been able to buy favor, but the warning is not to judge them harshly because of their poverty.

Proverbs 22:23 "For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them."

We read in Hebrews that we have an advocate with the Father. God always helps them who cannot help themselves.

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

We are told over and over throughout the Bible to be careful who we fellowship with. We are warned not to be unequally yoked with those of unbelief, as well. A man or woman becomes like the people they spend a great deal of time with. You pick up their bad habits. Angry men, and especially furious men, sometimes have murder in their hearts. If you are with them when they commit some of these crimes, you are guilty by association. The courts would call you an accomplice to the crime. If you are around people that use bad language, you will use bad language, too. You get used to hearing his, and it becomes a bad habit. Fellowship has a tendency to teach you the evil ways of the one you fellowship with.

Proverbs 22:26 "Be not thou [one] of them that strike hands, [or] of them that are sureties for debts." Proverbs 22:27 "If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?"

This again, is warning of the trouble you can get into by going on another's note. You can lose what you have worked hard to get, because the other fellow doesn't pay his debts. You can even lose the bed you sleep on to make someone else's note good. When you sign another's note, it is you taking on his debt; because if he doesn't pay it, you will have to. You have nothing to gain and everything to lose.

Proverbs 22:28 "Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set."

These boundaries were set by holy men of God on direct instructions from God. This is a terrible sin. One of my pet peeves in our real estate business here in the United States is to buy a piece of acreage 40 acres "more or less." If the more or less is a few feet, it is understandable; but if it winds up several acres short, I believe it is deliberate deceit. I am sure the Lord would frown on such dealings.

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

We see, in the first part of this, a man who puts out tremendous work in his business. He puts every skill he has to the task. He works long hours and many days to make his business prosper. Most young people today will not put out the effort that it takes to make a business a real success. They spend too much of their time doing other things and neglect their business. For the king to take notice of your business, it has to be very successful and the business community has to have great respect for your ability and dedication to duty. He will not be foreclosed upon or taken to court, because his dealings will be fair and upright. No mean men will judge him.

Proverbs Questions 36

1. What can drive the foolishness out of a child?
2. Who is a child's first teacher of right from wrong?
3. What two kinds of people in verse 16 shall surely come to want?
4. Why is it foolish to try get from the poor ?
5. What does "bow down thine ear" mean?
6. What are we to apply our hearts to?
7. The knowledge of God applied to the heart is a _____ _____?
8. What kind of words comes from a pure heart?
9. Where should our trust be?
10. God has written to us excellent things in what two ways?
11. What are we to do with the truth once we get it?
12. 1 Peter 3:15 tells us to be ready to do what?
13. Rob not the poor, neither oppress the _____.
14. What does this "in the gate" mean?
15. Who will plead the case of the poor and afflicted?
16. Who are we to make no friendship with?
17. Why?
18. What happens when you are with someone who commits a crime?
19. We are not to be one of those who strike hands or do what?
20. What might happen if you go on someone's note?
21. In verse 28, we are warned not to do what?
22. What is one of the author's pet peeves on real estate?
23. Describe someone diligent in business?
24. Who will the diligent man stand before?
25. What 2 attributes must the business man have to be recognized of the king?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 23:1 "When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what [is] before thee:" Proverbs 23:2 "And put a knife to thy throat, if thou [be] a man given to appetite." Proverbs 23:3 "Be not desirous of his dainties: for they [are] deceitful meat."

In the last lesson, we read about a business man who was honored and brought before the king. This is perhaps a continuation of that. This is telling him to have really good table manners. He is to regard the king more than he regards the food. He is told not to appear to be a glutton. It would be really easy for this person, who works hard to achieve, to be jealous and envious of the king. The grass always look greener on the other side of the fence. There is a great responsibility that goes with being king. We should be satisfied with whatever state we are in and not be desirous to be in someone else's position. It is not always as wonderful as it look from the outside.

Proverbs 23:4 "Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom." Proverbs 23:5 "Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for [riches] certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven."

Labor for purpose is much more rewarding than laboring to be rich. First of all, you may never be rich; but if you are, it is fleeting in nature. Usually a person who gains great riches and has never been rich before cannot hang on to it, and it is soon gone. The same chances that you took to get rich, you will still be taking to get richer (because one is never satisfied); and to get more, you endanger what you have. For sure when we die, we leave our earthly possessions behind. We came into this world naked, and we shall not take possessions with us when we leave. Riches are uncertain. Godliness is forever.

Proverbs 23:6 "Eat thou not the bread of [him that hath] an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:" Proverbs 23:7 "For as he thinketh in his heart, so [is] he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart [is] not with thee."

We see in this that a man with greed may invite you to eat with him, but he begrudges every bite you eat. He really has some motive for inviting you to eat that he hasn't told you about. This man is full of jealousy and even spite. He really cannot bear the sight of other's happiness and joy. Verse 8 is going right on with this, also.

Proverbs 23:8 "The morsel [which] thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words."

This is just saying in the company of this man, this food is no good. Food eaten under begrudging eyes never tastes good. Good fellowship is what is what makes food good. You will really wish you hadn't eaten it, and long to get rid of it to get this bitter taste out of your mouth. When you get this feeling at someone's table, it is hard to find nice things to say.

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

You are wasting your time and his, to speak to a fool. We have learned in lessons before this one that a fool is not interested in learning anything. He will think you are just trying to act smart, and instead of appreciating your talking to him, it will make him angry.

Proverbs 23:10 "Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:" Proverbs 23:11 "For their redeemer [is] mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee."

This is saying beware of trying to defraud someone, who cannot help himself, out of his land or property. God Himself will take up his cause and fight for him. You would be trying to defraud God. God will not hold him guiltless who tries to defraud the helpless.

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

This is saying let the desires of your heart be to learn, and in learning, accumulate knowledge. Listen to words of knowledge, turn on your understanding, and keep it in your heart.

Proverbs 23:13 "Withhold not correction from the child: for [if] thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die." Proverbs 23:14 "Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

We see here, that punishment should not be overlooked in training a child. If he cries, it is not because you are killing him. A lesson learned where punishment is involved is remembered better. In the Old Testament, a rebellious child was killed. Rebellion was associated with witchcraft. This is just saying, whip him and drive the rebellion out of him, before it gets too much hold on him. In the long run you will save him.

Proverbs 23:15 "My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine."

This has to be said by the person who is the instructor. The instructor rejoices more than the student when the student learns well. It is a good reflection on both. The instructor - because he has taught well, and the student - because he has learned well.

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

In Psalms 37:30 "The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment." We see, here, the reins of the teacher again. We know when righteous words come from the student's mouth, that righteousness is in his heart. For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.

Proverbs 23:17 "Let not thine heart envy sinners: but [be thou] in the fear of the LORD all the day long." Proverbs 23:18 "For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off."

We see, here, that sometimes sinners seem to be prospering in this world. We are not to envy them or their evil ways. Never look longingly at what they are doing. Their way is the way of destruction, eventually. We

must keep our eyes on the Lord and his teaching all the way. Never let your eyes off the path of righteousness. Righteous living sometimes in this life seems not to be noticed by anyone. There is an end. The end is heaven, if you stay on the path that leads to God.

Proverbs 23:19 "Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way." Proverbs 23:20 "Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:" Proverbs 23:21 "For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe [a man] with rags."

These are the things that a good teacher teaches. First, the student has to open his ears of his understanding so that his heart may receive. Winebibbers have to do with those who find every excuse in the world to drink wine. Many of these people are winos or wineheads. People who take in a great deal of wine or other strong drink find that their thinking is effected and they cannot think clearly. The "riotous eaters of flesh" are those who do not eat a balanced diet, but eat several pounds of meat at one sitting. Alcohol and terrible excesses of food are very expensive and will take all of the money one can muster to buy all of this. Even worse, is the fact that you cannot work drunk, and a glutton is so big he can't work. You can easily see, they would be poor. Laziness makes you poor.

Proverbs 23:22 "Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old." Proverbs 23:23 "Buy the truth, and sell [it] not; [also] wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." Proverbs 23:24 "The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise [child] shall have joy of him." Proverbs 23:25 "Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice."

We have discussed before that your father and your mother only want to help you. You are their own flesh, and they want even better for you than they had themselves. Be glad when God is good to you and lets your parents live a long time. Tell the truth at all cost. Whatever it takes of this world's goods to learn the truth, do it. This world will pass away, but the truth is eternal. This "buy" (speaking of knowledge and understanding) could have to do with paying for an education. Parents are very proud of their children who live a righteous life. The joy of the father and mother of a child, who God has blessed with wisdom, and who has increased in righteousness and knowledge, is even greater than the joy the child has.

Proverbs 23:26 "My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways." Proverbs 23:27 "For a whore [is] a deep ditch; and a strange woman [is] a narrow pit." Proverbs 23:28 "She also lieth in wait as [for] a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men."

We see some of the things of wisdom and understanding teaches in verses 26, 27, 28. The first verse is another warning to listen to. The word "whore" (prostitute) is a very emphatic word showing just how revolting this sin is. We have said before that devastating diseases are associated with whoredom and homosexuality today. A man or woman of wisdom will not get involved in this type of sin. This sin involves the body, and the body (if you are a Christian) is the TEMPLE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT. This sin, more than others, involves God in the sin; and this is an abomination to God. Don't let the desires of the flesh, draw you out of fellowship with God.

Proverbs 23:29 "Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes?"

A question drives home a lesson. This is what we see here. The teacher is asking these questions to get you to thinking seriously about what really does cause all of this; and then from verse 30 through 35, the teacher gives us the answer.

Proverbs 23:30 "They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine." Proverbs 23:31 "Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, [when] it moveth itself aright." Proverbs 23:32 "At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder." Proverbs 23:33 "Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things." Proverbs 23:34 "Yea, thou shalt be as he that lieth down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lieth upon the top of a mast." Proverbs 23:35 "They have stricken me, [shalt thou say, and] I was not sick; they have beaten me, [and] I felt [it] not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again."

This just talking about people who drink too much. Alcoholism, drunkenness, and drugs are a real problem today. The hangover from alcohol is like the serpent's bite the next day. The drunk cannot remember the terrible things he did under the influence of alcohol. One of the worst things now is driving while drunk. When the driver of a car is under the influence of drugs and alcohol, the car becomes a deadly weapon. Drugs can cause a hangover that lasts for literally years. Drug flashbacks can be devastating. We see above that even though the person who was drunk was beaten severely, he wasn't even aware of it at the time, because he was unconscious and didn't notice. That part of his life is a blank. He can't remember. He doesn't even know who he was with, So he doesn't know who beat him. This should surely convince you to leave drugs and alcohol alone.

Proverbs Questions 37

1. What should you do, if you are a man of appetite when you sit with a king?
2. What are the king's dainties called in verse 1?
3. What is the man to regard more than the food?
4. What reason should you not labor for?
5. What two natural feelings are we to avoid when we are comparing ourselves to others?
6. Riches make themselves _____ and fly away.
7. What kind of labor is more rewarding than riches?
8. Who should you eat with?
9. What is meant in verse 8 by the saying, "the morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit it up"?
10. What makes food good?
11. Why should you not speak wisdom in a fool's ear?
12. Who will fight the battles of the fatherless?
13. Apply thine heart unto _____, and thine ears to the words of ____.
14. What are we not to withhold from our children?
16. Rebellion is associated with what evil?
17. Who besides the one being taught, rejoices at the knowledge learned?
18. What is intended by "my reins shall rejoice"?
19. Let not thine heart envy whom?
20. In verse 19, he is warned not to be among whom?
21. What 2 shall come to poverty?
22. What lengths are we told to go to, to get the truth?
23. Which two want only the best for you in life besides God?
24. The world will pass away, but truth is _____.
25. What is a whore called?
26. What is another word for whore?
27. Why is sex sin worse than some other sins?
28. in verse 29, for what purpose are all these questions?
29. Who is meant by "they that tarry long at the wine"?
30. A hangover is compared to what in verse 32?
31. What does a car become in the hands of someone drunk on drugs or alcohol?
32. What should these last verses in this lesson convince you not to do?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 24:1 " Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them." Proverbs 24:2 "For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief."

We see, that we are not to want the way or the rewards of the evil man. We discussed before that fellowship with evil brings us guilt of their sin by association. Their ways are wicked ways. Their desires are to destroy someone else and build themselves up by the hurt of others. They speak slanders and lies. Stay away from them before you learn their evil ways.

Proverbs 24:3 "Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:" Proverbs 24:4 "And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches."

A family or home is built upon faith in God. A family with God as its center is established and is not easily shaken. Pleasant and precious riches are not necessarily money, but are the wealth of love, happiness, joy, and peace. The family that centers their lives on God has spiritual blessings in abundance. They may not have gold and silver in this world, but they are indeed rich.

Proverbs 24:5 "A wise man [is] strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength." Proverbs 24:6 "For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors [there is] safety."

Wisdom from God helps us in all circumstances. Wisdom (advice from God) would be especially useful in war. When the Israelites fought their wars, they won when the Lord led them in battle; but when they fought the battles in their own strength without his help, they failed and lost many lives. God must guide us in everything or we, too, will fail.

Proverbs 24:7 "Wisdom [is] too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate."

Wisdom is a gift from God. Wisdom and Godliness go hand in hand. A fool is so busy being foolish that he does not even pray and seek wisdom. The wise could even counsel the fool, and the fool would not realize that it was good counsel. The wise follow after God and his teaching, and the fool goes the way of the flesh.

Proverbs 24:8 "He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person."

A person who deviseth to do evil is a person who is planning some evil scheme to beat someone else. This evil person never tries to work and get ahead, he just figures up evil ways to trick others out of what they have worked for. In this, evil thoughts become evil deeds and show the mischievous ways of the evil one.

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

Jesus said to desire to sin in your heart is a sin just as if you had already committed the sin. The heart will be judged even more than the deeds of man. The rejecters of good Christian principles are themselves rejected of the righteous. Those who turn their backs on God are a terrible reproach (abomination) to the righteous.

Proverbs 24:10 "[If] thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength [is] small."

It is easy to talk about strength when all is well. Perhaps, if we were tested as Peter was when Jesus was crucified, we might be afraid and run away. When troubles and trials come, we need to be as Stephen and stand up for what is right. If our faith is not strong enough to stand through a few trials, I would ask, where is our faith? withstand the devil, and he will flee from you. Greater is He that is within me, than he that is in the world.

Proverbs 24:11 "If thou forbear to deliver [them that are] drawn unto death, and [those that are] ready to be slain;" Proverbs 24:12 "If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider [it]? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth [not] he know [it]? and shall [not] he render to [every] man according to his works?"

We see, here, someone who is in grave danger, and it is in your power to save them. You cannot say, "I don't know about it." You see, it is no good to tell a lie to God. God looks into your heart and knows that you have the opportunity to help. If it is in your power to help and you don't help someone in desperate need, God will not hold you blameless. God knows the intents of your heart. You will receive the same type of treatment from God that you have given your fellowman.

Proverbs 24:13 "My son, eat thou honey, because [it is] good; and the honeycomb, [which is] sweet to thy taste:"

We see in this "honey", one of the foods promised the children of Israel as a blessing. They were to be given a land of milk and honey. We see above, that honey seems to be good for you, in that he tells us to eat honey. It tastes good, is a health food, and is a promised blessing of God to man.

Proverbs 24:14 "So [shall] the knowledge of wisdom [be] unto thy soul: when thou hast found [it], then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off."

Wisdom from God and knowledge (accumulated learning) go hand in hand. A wise person seeks knowledge; and having found it, lives a better life. The reward is a fuller life here, making better decisions. A person who is wise and has accumulated knowledge can set goals for himself and carry them through. They are prepared with God's help to do mighty deeds. Their expectations are not cut off, because they have worked hard to achieve those goals.

Proverbs 24:15 "Lay not wait, O wicked [man], against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:"

We see, here, a plotting to destroy the dwelling place of the righteous and plotting this for evil gain. God warns against this type of endeavor. A man's home is his castle. A man fights harder to protect his home than anything else he has besides his God and his family. To attack a man at home is a dangerous thing to try.

Proverbs 24:16 "For a just [man] falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief."

This is just saying that men of God fall into problems many times, as well as the sinner. It rains on the just and the unjust. The difference in the just man is that when troubles and hardships come, he rises above them and just keeps trusting in God. The wicked gives up and starts trying to start shortcuts to get out of whatever mess he is in.

Proverbs 24:17 "Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:" Proverbs 24:18 "Lest the LORD see [it], and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him."

We are told over and over by Jesus to love our enemies and be good to those who spitefully use you. We should have love and compassion for anyone and everyone who are having problems, even if they proclaim to be our enemies. We are told also, to feed our enemies when they are hungry. We are not to get even when someone does us wrong. Vengeance is mine saith the Lord.

Proverbs Questions 38

1. Who in particular are we not to be envious of?
2. Evil men's hearts study destruction and their lips speak what?
3. Why should we not fellowship with evil men?
4. A family is built upon _____ .
5. What are pleasant and precious riches?
6. How can you be rich without money?
7. By what shalt thou make war?
8. Where is there safety in decision?
9. When did the Israelites win in battle?
10. What is too high for a fool?
11. The wise follow after God, and a fool follows after what?
12. Who shall be called a mischievous person?
13. The thought of foolishness is what?
14. Who is the scorner an abomination to, in verse 9?
15. If you faint in the day of adversity thy strength is _____.
16. What martyr would it be nice to be like in the time of trouble?
17. Who will know if you have an opportunity to save someone and do not?
18. What will the Lord render to us?
19. What food stuff is called good?
20. What three benefits do we get from this food?
21. Why can a wise person be more successful in carrying out their expectations?
22. In verse 15, the wicked is warned not to do what?
23. What is meant by "a just man falleth seven times and riseth up again ?
24. Compare the wicked and just in troublesome times?
25. How are we to feel when our enemy falls?
26. Who does vengeance belong to?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 24:19 "Fret not thyself because of evil [men], neither be thou envious at the wicked;" Proverbs 24:20 "For there shall be no reward to the evil [man]; the candle of the wicked shall be put out."

Many people do not understand the prosperity of the evil man on this earth. This Scripture is warning the righteous not to want what the evil has. There is no future at all for the evil one. His only pleasure will be right here on this earth. Their pleasure is but for a short while here on this earth. On resurrection day there will be a great reward awaiting the righteous in heaven. When we all stand before the Lord, the righteous will be given eternal life in heaven with our Lord, but the evil ones who rejected the Lord will be thrown into the lake of fire with the devil and his demons. There is no future at all worth having for the evil of the world.

Proverbs 24:21 "My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: [and] meddle not with them that are given to change:" Proverbs 24:22 "For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?"

Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, as we learned in a previous lesson. It is also, an intelligent thing to have respectful fear of anyone who is in authority over you. The sentence ("meddle not with them that are given to change") don't get involved with someone trying to overthrow the government; and for sure don't be involved in someone trying to change the Word of God. Overthrow of the government tries wind up with those who are involved being tried for treason and hung. The last few words in the Bible warn what will happen to those who change the wording of the Bible. Either one of these things could be disastrous.

Proverbs 24:23 "These [things] also [belong] to the wise. [It is] not good to have respect of persons in judgment."

In Acts 10:34 "Then Peter opened [his] mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:" James 2:1 "My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, [the Lord] of glory, with respect of persons." You should read all of James 2:1 thru 2:9 God is not a respecter of persons, as well. We should judge all the same with no prejudice because of wealth or prominence.

Proverbs 24:24 "He that saith unto the wicked, Thou [art] righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:"

There is nothing worse than an unjust judge. The people can tell when someone is playing favorites, and they don't like it. They demand justice. Fair play is not only wanted, but demanded by the people.

Proverbs 24:25 "But to them that rebuke [him] shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them."

The people want the guilty punished and the innocent to go free. The judge that does just that, without playing favorites, is respected and loved by the people and by the Lord, as well.

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

I don't believe this literally means to kiss someone who tells the truth. It possibly means that every one shows approval of right answers.

Proverbs 24:27 "Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house."

This is just saying for a man to build up whatever he is doing for a living, before he takes on a family, and before he builds a house to live in. It is saying, get your living established first and then go and build a house.

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

Gossip is spoken of badly in the Bible. I believe, here, that this is speaking of spreading untruths about the neighbors. If you were called to court to testify, you would have to tell the truth about the neighbors, but just telling things to get rumors started is bad. Deceiving with the lips, perhaps, means stretching the truth to harm someone.

Proverbs 24:29 "Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work."

The Bible teaches do unto others as you would have them do unto you. It is not our job to get even with him. Let God fight our battles with him. We read in II Chronicles 32:8 "With him [is] an arm of flesh; but with us [is] the LORD our God to help us, and to fight our battles. And the people rested themselves upon the words of Hezekiah king of Judah." You see, the Lord fights our battles for us, we do not need to fight them ourselves.

Proverbs 24:30 "I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;" Proverbs 24:31 "And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, [and] nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down."

We know slothful means lazy. In this case, a person who is so lazy that he will not take care of his own garden; A person who has never gone to the trouble to accumulate any learning on how to take care of his vineyard. He is so lazy that he has lain in the bed resting and let the whole place grow up with thorns and bushes; He has even let the fence get run down and now wild animals could come in and destroy the crops, that is, if wasn't to lazy to put a crop in. This year it looks like there will be no crop. The owner is too lazy to farm or run the vineyard.

Proverbs 24:32 "Then I saw, [and] considered [it] well: I looked upon [it, and] received instruction."

After looking over the situation, there was no question but to fully understand that the owner of this land was in plenty of trouble.

Proverbs 24:33 "[Yet] a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:" Proverbs 24:34 "So shall thy poverty come [as] one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man."

The old saying, "no work no eat" applies here. We see a person who is a sleepyhead. They lay up in the bed and sleep the day away. Even when they are awake, they spend time idly. A person like this cannot ever quite get around to working, even though there is plenty to do everywhere he looks. A person on a farm need not hunger. You can grow a crop. This poverty coming is a sure thing when a person is too lazy to work. An armed man robs because he wants what belongs to others. This person, who will not work, also wants what someone else has worked to produce. This is a very bad thing. It not only brings physical poverty but spiritual poverty, as well, and destroys ones self-respect.

Proverbs Questions 39

1. Who are we warned not to envy in verse 19?
2. What will happen to the candle of the wicked?
3. What 2 are we to fear?
4. What is meant by "meddle not with them that are given to change"?
5. What is the beginning of wisdom?
6. What are people ordinarily tried for, who try to overthrow the government?
7. In judgement, it is not good to do what?
8. What Scripture tells us that God is not a respecter of persons?
9. What are we commanded to do in James chapter 2?
10. When a judge says the guilty are innocent, how do the people feel about the judge?
11. What two things do the people want from the judge.
12. How do the people react to an impartial judge?
13. Who do you believe verse 26 means?
14. Which should a man build first, his business or his home?
15. Be not a witness against thy neighbor _____ .
16. What does "deceive not with thy lips" mean?
17. Who fights the Christian's battles?
18. What does "slothful" mean?
19. What had happened to the field and vineyard of the slothful man?
20. After he considered the situation of the slothful man, what conclusion did he come to?
21. What was the slothful man doing instead of working?
22. What will come from this?
23. What does an armed man rob?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 25:1 "These [are] also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out." Proverbs 25:2 "[It is] the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings [is] to search out a matter."

We know there is a secret of God that will not be revealed till the end of the world. We know that the Lord revealed himself in part to the disciples and to all believers in Christ. He reveals to each of us what He desires us to understand. We read a little of this in Romans 16:25 "Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began," Romans 16:26 "But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith:" You see, God is a mystery. Jesus revealed the mystery somewhat in coming to the earth and telling us about God. All will not be known until we live in heaven with Him. A king, on the other hand, tells us what he knows. It makes him appear smarter. A king has to get to the bottom of the facts so that he can judge a matter fairly.

Proverbs 25:3 "The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings [is] unsearchable."

A man can never search out all the heavens and cannot go to the center of the earth, neither can he really know what is in the heart of a king.

Proverbs 25:4 "Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer."

When extreme heat is applied to silver and it is melted down, the trash will come to the top and can be skimmed off and leave pure silver. This is very similar to a Christian. Sometimes God applies the heat (problems) to purify us. We are purged in the fire and made pure.

Proverbs 25:5 "Take away the wicked [from] before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness."

Verse 5 is associated with verse 4 above. Just as heat is applied to the silver and the silver is made pure, so is the kingdom made pure, so is the kingdom made righteous when the wicked are removed. The king has it in his power to remove whomever he will.

Proverbs 25:6 "Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great [men]:" Proverbs 25:7 "For better [it is] that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldst be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen."

Don't pretend to be great and try to take the best places with the highest seat near the king. If he sees you and you do not belong there, he will tell you to sit in a lower place and that would embarrass you. If you stand in the background and the prince calls you up closer, then you feel real good. This is just another way to say don't think too much of yourself.

Proverbs 25:8 "Go not forth hastily to strive, lest [thou know not] what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame."

Quick anger causes embarrassment. The end to quick anger is repentance for what is said.

Proverbs 25:9 "Debate thy cause with thy neighbour [himself]; and discover not a secret to another:"

This is telling us how to solve a problem with a neighbor. If you have a peeve, go and tell the neighbor. Have prayer with the neighbor, treat him as you would want to be treated yourself, and your argument will be over. Don't go gossiping to other neighbors. Settle it between just the one the argument is with and yourself. You will gain a closer friend.

Proverbs 25:10 "Lest he that heareth [it] put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away."

This is speaking of your being faithful in your witness. An unreasonable person who will not talk out his problems, winds up ashamed by all his neighbors because of his or her unreasonable attitude.

Proverbs 25:11 "A word fitly spoken [is like] apples of gold in pictures of silver."

These "words fitly spoken" mean that these words come from a pure heart. Apples are fruit much desired and gold has to do symbolically with the purity of God. We see, here, the fruit of these lips come from a heart filled with the pureness of God. These "pictures of silver" are beautiful in symbolism, as well. Silver symbolizes redemption. When we see a person who speaks beautiful Godly words, we see a person we know has been redeemed.

Proverbs 25:12 "[As] an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, [so is] a wise reprovewer upon an obedient ear."

We see, here, that the message this reprovewer brings is a pure message. We, also, see, here, the listener takes the good advise as part of his body, because an earring is attached to the body. This "ornament of fine gold" means that this pure message is ever before him. He has hung it around his neck.

Proverbs 25:13 "As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, [so is] a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters."

We see, here, a refreshing coolness which helps in the time of harvest. A heavy snow would bring disaster, but this is just a cooling off and refreshing. A faithful messenger is refreshing to his master. His master can depend on him to carry a true message.

Proverbs 25:14 "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift [is like] clouds and wind without rain."

Clouds and wind ordinarily bring rain. To expect rain and it not to come is very disappointing. We see that someone who promises a gift and then doesn't give it is disappointing, as well.

Proverbs 25:15 "By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone."

We see in this a person who remains calm and speaks without anger and prejudice, a king will listen to and be persuaded. Soft words will have more influence than force. You can break a person's bones and still not convince him, but a soft word is easy to listen to and will be more acceptable.

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

A certain amount of sweetness is wonderful, but after you are full, extra sweetness can make you sick.

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

We see in this that we are not to wear our welcome out with our neighbors. Close friends enjoy each other, but they also know when its time to go home.

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

He is a very destructive person who bears false witness against his neighbor. The sword show what his cutting words can do. The maul shows how it beats others down with words of falsehoods (maul), and then we see the piercing effect of sharp words as sharp arrows. A person who does these viscous things is more destructive than any of these weapons.

Proverbs 25:19 "Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble [is like] a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint."

We would be hard pressed to depend upon a foot that was out of joint to get you anywhere. When you was stepping on it, it would hurt so badly you would not be able to walk. You would not even be able to eat because of a broken tooth. It would be a painful situation to depend on someone who was unfaithful.

Proverbs 25:20 "[As] he that taketh away a garment in cold weather, [and as] vinegar upon nitre, so [is] he that singeth songs to an heavy heart."

When you have a heavy heart, you are in no mood to sing or have someone to sing to you. To take away someone's coat when it is cold, would be a cruel thing to do. Vinegar stings when applied wrongly. When our brothers and sisters are sad, it is cruel to rejoice in their sorrow.

Proverbs 25:21 "If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:" Proverbs 25:22 "For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward thee."

This is what Jesus taught that believers should do to their enemies. Be good to those who persecute you. Our rewards are not for this world, Jesus said over and over, "In as much as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" (Matthew 25:40). Jesus even taught

that if your enemy slaps you on the one cheek, turn to him the other also. Christians are to be Christ like. While Jesus was in great pain on the cross, He said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34). it is not the natural (fleshly) thing to do to be good to someone who is cursing you, but it is the way of the Spirit. Jesus fights our battles for us. Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord. The Lord will punish them, we do not have to.

Proverbs 25:23 "The north wind driveth away rain: so [doth] an angry countenance a backbiting tongue."

An angry look will sometimes stop a person from saying slanderous things about someone. The cold comes from the north and usually clears up the weather.

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

We see, here, that what makes a home is not the size of the house, but it is the peace and rest there. To live with an angry brawling (fighting) person (man or woman) is miserable.

Proverbs 25:25 "[As] cold waters to a thirsty soul, so [is] good news from a far country."

When you are hot and thirsty, there is no better drink that money can buy than a cool drink of water. To receive good news is always nice, but to hear from a distant land is even better.

Proverbs 25:26 "A righteous man falling down before the wicked [is as] a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring."

Christians are supposed to stand up for what is right. An attack on a Christian is actually an attack upon their Lord. For a Christian to be degraded by the wicked is like a beautiful spring of water that has been corrupted. Christians' words come from a pure heart which is sometimes spoken of as a river which never has an end. This river from within is pure, because it comes from God.

Proverbs 25:27 "[It is] not good to eat much honey: so [for men] to search their own glory [is not] glory."

A conceited person is not admired by anyone. In 2nd Timothy 3:2 we shall read of a person in the end times who does just that. II Timothy 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," This is sin. If you eat too much honey, you will get sick at your stomach. If you brag on yourself, others will get sick at their stomach.

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

A city without a wall is in peril. It has no protection. A man's spirit is what he is. If he loses control of the spirit, he has lost control of himself. The spirit of a man must control the flesh, or else, the man will go the way of the flesh which leads to hell.

Proverbs Questions 40

1. Whose men copied out some of Solomon's proverbs?
2. It is the glory of God to _____ a thing.
3. It is the honor of the kings to _____ a matter.
4. What does the Lord reveal to us?
5. How long has God's secret been kept?
6. Why does the king reveal what he knows?
7. What three things are unsearchable?
8. When the dross is removed from the silver, what does it make the silver?
9. How are the impurities removed from the silver?
10. Take away the wicked from before the king, and he shall be established in _____.
11. When you are in the king's presence, where is it better for you to stand until called?
12. Quick anger causes what?
13. What is the end of quick anger?
14. Who are you to discuss your neighbor's problems with?
15. A word fitly spoken is like _____ of gold in pictures of _____.
16. What is verse 11 really trying to say?
17. What is a wise reprovener upon an obedient ear compared to?
18. What is a faithful messenger compared to in verse 13?
19. When someone promises a gift and doesn't deliver it, what is it compared to?
20. A soft tongue breaketh the _____.
21. If you eat too much honey, what will happen?
22. What does it mean by a neighbor being weary of you?
23. A man who bears false witness is compared to what three instruments?
24. Confidence in an unfaithful man is compared to what 2 hurtful things?
25. When a person sings songs to someone with a heavy heart, what is it compared to?
26. What are we to do if our enemy is hungry?
27. What will God do to your enemies when you are good to them?
28. What drives away a biting tongue?
29. What is good news from a far country compared to?
30. A righteous man falling down before the wicked is compared to what?
31. What is a man called who glories himself?
32. Which should rule us, our spirit or our flesh?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 26:1 "As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool."

We know that snow in summer is completely out of place and rain in harvest can ruin the crop. We know that it is completely out of place for a fool to be honored.

Proverbs 26:2 "As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come."

We see, here, that a curse that is spoken without any foundation for the curse will not be harmful upon the one it is spoken. If any harm at all comes, it will be on the person who spoke it. The "bird" above has no particular place to go (wandering) and so is this curse without a cause.

Proverbs 26:3 "A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back."

In all cases, these are used to try to control. The whip controls the horse. The bridle controls the ass and makes it go where it should. The rod of correction is to control the behavior of the fool.

Proverbs 26:4 "Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him."

Have you ever heard someone say, "That doesn't deserve an answer"? That is about what this is saying here. the question is perhaps intended to trap you. At any rate, a foolish question does not become more wise by giving a foolish answer. You see, to answer his ridiculous question would be as if you are saying this is a worthwhile question.

Proverbs 26:5 "Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit."

This seems like a direct contrast to verse four, but on a closer look it is quite the opposite. You must be very careful how you answer. As we said above, whatever you do, you must not give the impression that this foolish question deserves an answer. The only reason to answer at all is to show him not to be conceited.

Proverbs 26:6 "He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, [and] drinketh damage."

A fool will not take the correct message that you sent, but will cause you so much pain with an incorrect message that you will wish you had never sent him. The damage he might do could be unrepairable. The "cut of the feet expression" just shows how useless it is to employ someone who is a fool to carry a message.

Proverbs 26:7 "The legs of the lame are not equal: so [is] a parable in the mouth of fools."

This is just re-emphasizing how slanted the message would be that a fool would bring. He would not be able to understand the parable and would bring a slanted message, leaning to one side or the other like a lame man.

Proverbs 26:8 "As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so [is] he that giveth honour to a fool."

If you bind the stone to the sling, the stone cannot be flung and will never reach the mark. Honor given to a fool is undeserved and is very fleeting in nature. A fool is soon found out, and it would bring shame on the fool and on the one who bestowed the honor because of his poor judgement. The fool somehow never is able to hit the mark.

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

A drunkard takes no care at all and injures himself without even knowing it. This is exactly what is being said of the fool explaining a parable. He injures himself severely in telling it and is so caught up in himself that he is not aware that he has injured himself. Just as the alcohol has dulled the pain of the thorn, pride has dulled the senses of the fool.

Proverbs 26:10 "The great [God] that formed all [things] both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors."

Jesus is the Judge of all, the just and the unjust (transgressors). We have mentioned so many times in all these lessons St. John chapter one that tells that the word (Jesus) created all things. So we know the rewarder is Jesus. The reward, here mentioned, is not a good one. The transgressor, unrepentant, is headed for an eternity in hell, and the fool who has turned down salvation is headed there, too. The reward of the righteous is eternal life.

Proverbs 26:11 "As a dog returneth to his vomit, [so] a fool returneth to his folly."

Just as a dog is never through with the food that he has expelled and goes back to it, a fool who has momentarily rejected sin in his life, will return to it, as well. A fool must become wise to get rid of sin and stay rid of the sin. A fool will be enticed to sin the same sin all over again as his flesh calls him, because he has not learned anything from the first sin.

Proverbs 26:12 "Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? [there is] more hope of a fool than of him."

The worst thing about someone wise in his own conceit is that he feels that he needs no improvement. He is in deep sin and is unaware of his need for help. At least a fool knows that things are not perfect with him. The fool, who realizes he is a fool, can be helped; but to feel you are perfect, leaves no room for improvement at all. This is a terrible situation: to get help from the Lord, we must repent, humble ourselves, and then the Lord will help us.

Proverbs 26:13 "The slothful [man] saith, [There is] a lion in the way; a lion [is] in the streets."

We touched on this before. It is a feeble excuse to get out of work. There are no lions in the streets. They are in the jungle.

Proverbs 26:14 "[As] the door turneth upon his hinges, so [doth] the slothful upon his bed."

The door is attached to the facing of the door and turns back and forth but goes nowhere. This is also what a lazy man does; he tosses and turns in bed, but doesn't get loose from the bed and go to work. He stays in the bed day and night and tosses and turns going nowhere.

Proverbs 26:15 "The slothful hideth his hand in [his] bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth."

The hand in the bosom just means he doesn't have the heart to work even if it is to provide for food for his own table.

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

This sluggard is so caught up in himself that he will not take advice from others. He doesn't feel he should work to learn more either. He thinks he has all the correct answers with no effort upon his part at all. Not only 7. but any amount of people with good advice would be rejected by him if they did not totally agree with him.

Proverbs 26:17 "He that passeth by, [and] meddleth with strife [belonging] not to him, [is like] one that taketh a dog by the ears."

Never, and I mean never, jump into someone else's quarrel. Especially a husband's and wife's quarrel with each other. Meddling tells you right off that this is of no concern to the passer-by. Meddling is interfering in something that is none of your business. If you pull a dog's ear, he will bark and maybe bite you. The same thing will happen if you interfere in someone else's problems. They will turn on you and injure you.

Proverbs 26:18 "As a mad [man] who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death," Proverbs 26:19 "So [is] the man [that] deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?"

To say that your ugly words were only teasing is just not enough. To hurt a neighbor is a really bad thing, but to them laugh and say it was a joke, after the damage is done is inexcusable. this type of behavior could cause the damaged person to harm, or perhaps even kill you.

Proverbs 26:20 "Where no wood is, [there] the fire goeth out: so where [there is] no talebearer, the strife ceaseth."

This is just saying, stop adding fuel to the fire and the fire will die down. A rumor cannot damage anyone until it is told, Gossip is like the wood. It causes widespread damage. To stop the damage, stop the gossip. This continues in the next verse.

Proverbs 26:21 "[As] coals [are] to burning coals, and wood to fire; so [is] a contentious man to kindle strife."

We see, there, a situation where the coals of gossip have just about gone out, but a contentious man who loves trouble will go in there and rekindle the mess all over again. To make coals re-ignite you blow on them and add a little kindling (gossip) to the fire. This makes an even hotter fire than you had in the first place. This evil man wants to keep the quarrel going so he stirs it up a little and gets it going full blast again.

Proverbs 26:22 "The words of a talebearer [are] as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly."

Bearing tales is a very bad sin. The tongue is the most evil part of the body. It cuts at the spirit of man and destroys his inner most being, while a real knife cuts at the flesh of man. Cutting words that cut into our inner most being are hard to heal.

Proverbs 26:23 "Burning lips and a wicked heart [are like] a potsherd covered with silver dross."

We see in this a worthless vessel (potsherd) covered with silver to make it seem from the outside to be very valuable. If you are looking at this from the spiritual standpoint, it makes it appear to be redeemed (silver). This person, mentioned here, has beautiful burning lips which seem to be affectionate. They are a deceit coming from a wicked heart.

Proverbs 26:24 "He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;" Proverbs 26:25 "When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for [there are] seven abominations in his heart."

These "seven abominations in his heart" just mean that he is completely consumed with an evil heart, This "dissembleth" means that he uses words to tear apart every one he sees. He is a very evil man. This man flatters you to try to destroy you. This is deceit to the utmost.

Proverbs 26:26 "[Whose] hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the [whole] congregation."

We see what modern society calls a two-faced man. He appears to be one thing and is, in fact, something entirely different. We see in this, that this person will be found out. Whether in this life or not, we cannot say, but when he stands before Jesus, all will be known. He cannot deceive the Lord.

Proverbs 26:27 "Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him."

This is just one more way of saying, what you sow you will reap. This just warns us that the fate we have planned for others comes home to us. Here, again, this result may not come on this earth, but it shall surely come. The Judge of the whole world knows everything you do.

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

This lying tongue goes along with deceit, Perhaps here we see this going even further to destroy someone. Undeserved flattery causes great

problems for the person receiving the flattery. This flattery is ordinarily used to try to con someone.

Proverbs 41 Questions

1. In verse 1, what is compared to honor for a fool?
2. What is meant by "a curse causeless shall not fall"?
3. What is used to tame a horse?
4. What controls the way of the ass?
5. What drives foolishness from a man?
6. If you answer a fool according to his folly, what does it make you?
7. What is a fool apt to be, if you don't answer him correctly?
8. He that sendeth a message by a fool is like doing what?
9. How are the legs of the lame described?
10. What is it compared to in verse 7?
11. What is meant by "bindeth a stone"?
12. How is the drunkard in verse 3 like a parable in a fool's mouth?
13. Who rewards the fool and transgressors?
14. Who is the judge of all?
15. Who is there more hope for than a man wise in his own conceit?
16. What is the worst problem with being wise in your own conceit?
17. What ridiculous excuse did the slothful man make in verse 13?
18. What is meant by a door turning on its hinges?
19. In the slothful who will not remove his hand from his bosom, what lesson are to learn?
20. Why will the sluggard refuse to take advise from the 7 just men?
21. What does the word "meddleth" mean?
22. What happens when you pick up a dog by his ears?
23. Cruel teasing of neighbors is likened to a mad man's what?
24. A talebearer brings what?
25. What is the contentious man in verse 21 attempting to do?
26. Do evil words destroy the body or the spirit? Explain.
27. In verse 23, the potsherd covered with silver indicates what?
28. How can you disassemble with your lips?
29. Hatred covered by deceit will be revealed to whom?
30. What does modern society call the man who covers his hatred by deceit?
31. What does undeserved flattery do to a person?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 27:1 "Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

The best Scripture in all the Bible to cover this is found in James 4:13-15. James 4:13 "Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:" James 4:14 "Whereas ye know not what [shall be] on the morrow. For what [is] your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:15 "For that ye [ought] to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that." You see, our life is not our own. the Lord purchased us with His shed blood and we are His. We live or die as He sees fit.

Proverbs 27:2 "Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips."

If we honor ourselves, it is more like conceit and the honor is not very valuable. If another begins to honor you then it is accepted because it comes from an impartial person. Bragging on yourself is very close, as I said, to conceit.

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

We see in this that a fool's anger is almost too heavy to bear. No physical weight in this world is as heavy as the weight of the load this angry fool has brought. This heaviness this fool brings on is heaviness of the heart, which is very difficult to bear. Have you ever heard someone say, when you told them good news, you took a load off my mind: This is the same thing.

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

Wrath and sudden anger are sometimes shown through a big fight, but when the anger goes away the fight is over. Many times those angered with each other make up, especially if it is husbands and wives. This envy in verse 4 seems, to me, to indicate jealousy. Jealousy lingers on and is seldom settled. Jealousy is usually unfounded. It primarily stems from a low self-esteem. Comparing ourselves with those around us is a dangerous thing to do because it brings on sins such as envy, strife, coveting, jealousy, hatred, etc. Be satisfied with where you are in life and you will be much happier.

Proverbs 27:5 "Open rebuke [is] better than secret love."

I see even in this "open rebuke", here, a sense that this is more constructive criticism than rebuke. A person who truly loves you will try to help you overcome problems in your personality. This "secret love", to me, seems to say I am not really interested in you at all. I care for you as long as no one but you and I know it. To me, this is not caring at all. A person who takes someone for granted that they love, will soon find themselves alone.

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

When a friend (a true friend) wounds you for the moment, it is to help you in the long run. As I said in the verse above, constructive criticism is good. It helps you to improve. An enemy that flatters you with his lips is trying to maneuver you to his advantage. He wants something; and he thinks by flattering you, you will give him whatever it is that he wants.

Proverbs 27:7 "The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet."

When you are over full, even chocolate cake is not inviting. I believe that is what is said here. If you are full, nothing sounds good to you. If a person who has not eaten for a few days has a chance at even a slice of bread, it is very sweet to him. To the hungry man, beans and bread are a feast.

Proverbs 27:8 "As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so [is] a man that wandereth from his place."

We see in the bird leaving the security of home, that out in the world there is great insecurity and uncertainty. At home, you at least know what you have. There is no uncertainty. The prodigal son discovered that this uncertainty of the world was not for him and, like many others who venture away, came crawling back home again. A bird in the hand is always better than 2 birds in the bush. The one you have is certain. The 2 are a big question mark.

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

The smell of perfume makes a person even more pleasant to be around. Good friends who bring you good counsel are always welcome, too. It is wonderful to have a good friend that you can trust their counsel. You have no fear of taking their advice, because you know they have your interest at heart. Everyone needs a friend that he can call on for advice.

Proverbs 27:10 "Thine own friend, and thy father's friend, forsake not; neither go into thy brother's house in the day of thy calamity: [for] better [is] a neighbour [that is] near than a brother far off."

We see, here, that long-time family, oriented friendships are to be held in high regard. We see that friendships built on mutual interest and belief are many times stronger than friendship with a blood relation who has no interest in what you are doing and is alien to your belief. Many times a friend will come to your rescue in a calamity quicker than a brother. Sometimes, the brother lives in another state and is not close enough to help immediately. There is a friend who sticketh closer than a brother. Solomon, perhaps, felt this more than usual because his half brothers wanted him killed.

Proverbs 27:11 "My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me."

We could see from this what Paul felt toward Timothy. Paul taught Timothy well, and he wanted to be glad about the activities of Timothy. A parent, in a sense, is given credit or blame for what our children become. We are their teacher and some of the blame or praise should be ours.

Proverbs 27:12 "A prudent [man] foreseeeth the evil, [and] hideth himself; [but] the simple pass on, [and] are punished."

"Prudent" here translated means cunning or crafty. We see a man then that is totally aware of the situation around him. The prudent man is not just going straight ahead with no thought of safety. If he sees danger, he hides and protects himself. In contrast to this, the simple man takes no thought of the direction of his life or even for the dangers which show up along the way. He is punished, because he takes no care at all in his walk. He steps in all the holes.

Proverbs 27:13 "Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman."

We went into this fully in a previous lesson, but we must touch on this again; because the fact that it is mentioned several times, shows us that it is a very important lesson for us to learn. We see how ridiculous it would be to offer to secure a note for someone you hardly know with the clothes on your back. You could wind up naked and cold. This "strange woman" (prostitute) charges for her affection and will leave him in the, same or worse, shape than the putting up security for a stranger.

Proverbs 42 Questions

1. Why should we not boast of tomorrow?
2. What Scripture does the author believe describes this best?
3. In this Scripture, we are warned not to promise what?
4. What should we say about tomorrow?
5. What does it appear to be if we praise ourselves?
6. Who should praise us?
7. What kind of weight is spoken of in the fool's wrath?
8. Wrath is _____ and anger _____.
9. What is even worse than wrath and anger?
10. What is better than secret love?
11. What is meant by faithful wounds of a friend?
12. The _____ of an enemy are deceitful.
13. The full soul loatheth what?
14. Why is everything sweet to the hungry?
15. When the bird leaves the nest, he leaves the _____ of home.
16. What effect does ointment and perfume have on us?
17. Why do you not fear the counsel of a friend?
18. Who are we not to forsake in verse 10?
19. Why would a father's son be made glad at a son's success?
20. What 2 New Testament characters bring a vivid picture of this?
21. When the prudent man sees evil, what does he do?
22. What does "prudent" mean in verse 12?
23. What could happen to the person who puts up the clothes on his back for security for a stranger?
24. Who is the "strange woman" in verse 13?

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

First of all, he should wait until later in the day. Perhaps his loud voice has awakened the person he is trying to bless. When he blesses in a loud voice instead of quietly indicates that he wants everyone around to know. This is probably because he wants something in return. This very offensive blessing is probably thought of as a curse instead of a blessing by the receiver. Probably this blessing is in word only.

Proverbs 27:15 "A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike." Proverbs 27:16 "Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, [which] bewrayeth [itself]."

This "continual dropping" can just drive you crazy, because it never stops. This contentious woman is the same. She never stops nagging, and she, too, will drive you crazy; because you can't get her stopped. I really don't believe you could stop her from complaining any more than you could stop the wind from blowing. the only thing that I can say about this ointment is that it probably smells good, and we know it is of a spiritual blessing because of the right hand. It appears spiritual blessings are withheld from her because of the word "bewrayeth".

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

In this, I see that iron couldn't be sharpened by aluminum or some softer metal. We see in this that friends should choose friends of their same or stronger moral stature. To run around with a fool would not improve you at all. Someone of like beliefs will build you up when you are down. Good friends keep you on your toes doing your best, because they expect the best of you.

Proverbs 27:18 "Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured."

We know that those who take really good care of their fig trees can expect a very good crop. We see the comparison here of the one who works hard for the master and does the masters' wishes shall also be honored. My desire, as the desire of many others who work for God, is that someday we will hear him say, "Well done thy good and faithful servant".

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

To look into a pool of clear water, man sees his reflection in the water. The feelings of our own heart are the feelings of other man's heart, as well. One thing television has done is to make us see that even people we classify as out enemies have the same desires of heart that we do, and they hurt the same as we do, as well. When we look into a man's heart, we see our heart, as well.

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

We see, here, that Satan never stops trying to cause men to sin. The lust of the eyes is what caused the sin in the garden of Eden, and it is still what causes sin. The Lord Jesus said to lust for a woman in your heart was committing adultery with her in your heart. Lust of the flesh causes sin. Unless you look with your eyes, you will not lust.

Proverbs 27:21 "[As] the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so [is] a man to his praise."

Great temperature melts silver in a pot, and fire melts gold, as well. We see in this that heat applied purifies, The trash in the precious metals comes to the top and is skimmed off. We are told that even under great pressure we are to praise God. Hebrews 13:15 "By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of [our] lips giving thanks to his name." God inhabits the praises of His people. Praise brings victory.

Proverbs 27:22 "Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, [yet] will not his foolishness depart from him."

"Bray" means butt or pound. I see in this that you can take a fool and force him to be in a group of Christians (wheat), yet he won't learn a thing. To be changed into a Christian, a person has to be willing. God will not force Himself on us. As we have said before, we must be wise unto salvation. The most foolish thing a person can do is reject the Lord.

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

Whatever type of work you do, you should do your very best. In fact. you should do it as unto the Lord. If you neglect your flock, you will not have a flock. If you take care of your flock, they will grow and make you wealthy. No one else will look after your things like you will.

Proverbs 27:24 "For riches [are] not for ever: and doth the crown [endure] to every generation?"

We see, here, that just because you have riches doesn't mean that you always will. If you do not take care of what God has entrusted you with, you will find one day that all your wealth has vanished. The crown endures as long as wise rulers stay aware of the needs of their people. People will overthrow rule if it is cruel or unfair.

Proverbs 27:25 "The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered."

The hay is grass that is seasoned and stored for the winter feeding, the grass springs forth again. At a different time, the herbs of the mountain are gathered. We see the farmer makes preparation to feed his animals year round.

Proverbs 27:26 "The lambs [are] for thy clothing, and the goats [are] the price of the field."

Lambs grow wool, and they are sheared to make clothing. It appears that the goats are more easily reproduced, and the owner can sell them and pay for the field. Believers are called sheep, and non-believers are called goats.

Proverbs 27:27 "And [thou shalt have] goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and [for] the maintenance for thy maidens."

It appears that goat's milk is the main stay of the meals there, like cow's milk is in the United States. The young maidens milked these goats. Goats were not eaten daily, but were cooked and eaten in some of the sacrifices.

Proverbs 43 Questions

1. If a person blesses someone loudly and early in the morning, it is counted as a _____.
2. What does it indicate when you bless in a loud voice?
3. In verse 15, what is a contentious woman like?
4. What type of blessings are right hand blessings?
5. What sharpens iron?
6. What type of friends does this indicate we should have?
7. What will happen if you take care of your fig tree?
8. What should a person do to receive honor from his master?
9. What is the desire of all Christians?
10. What is meant by "water face answereth to face"?
11. What lesson have we learned about out country's enemies on television?
12. Where are we told is never full in verse 20?
13. In verse 20, what sin is intended in "eyes of man"?
14. What was the cause of the problem in the garden of Eden?
15. What purifies silver and gold?
16. What kind of praise are we to offer in Hebrews 13:15?
17. What does "bray" mean?
18. What does the author see in verse 22?
19. What should a man be diligent about besides God?
20. Riches are not _____.
21. Why would a king be overthrown?
22. What is hay in verse 25?
23. Why is hay, grass, and herbs mentioned in verse 25?
24. Verse 26 tells us lambs are for _____.
25. What are goats?
26. Who are sheep and goats, spiritually?
27. Who milked the goats?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 28:1 "The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion."

A guilty conscience is a terrible thing. We can see in this that the wicked flee because they are guilty of sin and they know it, Their fear comes from being found out and punished for the things they have done. They are constantly looking over their shoulder, because they know punishment is coming. They just do not know when, or from where. Their worst fear is fear of death and hell. The righteous are such a drastic opposite. They have no fear of things of this earth because they are assured that greater is He that is within them than he that is in the world. God is on their side, and who can be against them. They have on fear of death, because they are promised eternal life. Death of the body on the earth to them is like stepping through a door into all of eternity.

Proverbs 28:2 "For the transgression of a land many [are] the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding [and] knowledge the state [thereof] shall be prolonged."

This is just saying that when evil prevails in a land, the rule will change real often. Good kings, such as David, reigned for many years. In fact, Saul, David, and Solomon each reigned 40 years. A king who was brutal to the people was quickly removed.

Proverbs 28:3 "A poor man that oppressteth the poor [is like] a sweeping rain which leaveth no food."

You would think the poor would be sympathetic to someone in the same predicament. Perhaps the selfishness of this poor has brought on his poverty. The Lord Jesus taught give and it shall be given unto you. Selfishness and greed bring poverty. This "sweeping rain" spoken of here, could be an unwanted heavy rain just as the seed is in the grain and washes away the chance for it to grow. At an rate, it does away with the prospect of food. Be sure the Lord will find you out. A selfish person, whether rich or poor, will not be blessed of God.

Proverbs 28:4 "They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them."

In Romans 1:32 we read, "Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them." We see not only a sinner, but a lover of sin, as well. There are only 2 sides you can be on. One side loves God and keeps His commandments. The other side loves the world and the wickedness it brings. The spirit (good) and the flesh (evil) are continually at war, and will be until Jesus returns.

Proverbs 28:5 "Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all [things]."

Evil men (as we said in the verse above) have chosen to follow Satan instead of God. Seeing, they will not see; and hearing, they will not hear; because God has closed off their understanding. Those who seek the Lord will

find Him. The Holy Spirit of God reveals the secrets of God to those who seek God. The Holy Spirit is our teacher and our guide. Understanding is for those who seek God.

Proverbs 28:6 "Better [is] the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than [he that is] perverse [in his] ways, though he [be] rich."

The poor man here is speaking of being poor in things of this world, but rich toward God. The things of this world are temporary. There is no lasting value connected with earthly wealth. We are cautioned to be rich in good works, storing up treasures in heaven where rust doth not decay the riches. Those who are rich in this world, that have accumulated by their evil dealings, have no rewards stored in heaven. If they did, someone else would have to use it because their home will be in hell.

Proverbs 28:7 "Whoso keepeth the law [is] a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous [men] shameth his father."

We see that a father of the wise is proud of his son and proud of the way he has raised him, as well. the keeper of God's law and man's law are usually one and the same. They respect authority. An evil man's parents are ashamed. Ashamed that their son has failed, and ashamed that they did not do a better job raising him. The pride of parents is all gone when the son goes bad.

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

Usury was interest on loans exacting too much interest. In fact, Israelites were not to charge each other interest at all. Usury in our day would be to charge 30% interest when interest rates are really 10%. Unfair interest is always usury. It is usually charged to the people who can least afford it. They must pay whatever someone asks, because their credit is no good. Unjust gain is any worth a man gets unfairly. Sometimes it is legal but not moral. Many times it is against the law, as well. God will not bless those who take advantage of others. In the long run, they will lose everything. God blesses those who help others. Give and it shall be given unto you.

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

God wants our obedience to His law. God's law is not grievous. It is actually to help us. God blesses those who keep His law. In Isaiah 1 :15, we see that God doesn't want to hear our prayers unless you are willing to stop sinning. Isaiah 1:15 "And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood." Verse 16 tells us what to do for Him to listen. Isaiah 1:16 "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; cease to do evil;"

Proverbs 28:10 "Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good [things] in possession."

In verse 10, we see those who are blinded to Biblical truth leading others who are blind in the same way and both falling into the pit. Those who are righteous (in right standing) should be doing the leading and should not be led astray. So many false teachers are getting into the churches today and are teaching things that people want to hear, not the truth. Many are led away not recognizing the lust of their own flesh causes them to sin. The good things the upright have are peace, joy, happiness, holiness, and many other spiritual gifts. They can rest at night having no fear of tomorrow. They have the best wealth there is: wisdom from God, a clear conscience, the grace of God, and the greatest possession of all-eternal life.

Proverbs 28:11 "The rich man [is] wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out."

We see many times the rich are self-centered. They have been told so many times how great they are, that they have come to believe it themselves. The rich man has a hard time coming to God, because he feels self-sufficient. To come to the Lord, we must humble ourselves, and that is very difficult for a conceited man to do. It is easy for him to fall into the "New Age" movement which teaches man is his own god. He thinks too highly of himself and this is very dangerous. Wisdom and godliness cannot be purchased with money or fame. The poor man many times can see right through the front the rich man puts up and can see that he is really wretched and poor in the spirit.

Proverbs 28:12 "When righteous [men] do rejoice, [there is] great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden."

This seems to be a victorious rejoicing. Everyone is thrilled when the righteous does well; but when the wicked take rule, every one feels like running and hiding because of the evil intents. This evil man who takes power would just want more power and wealth. No one would be safe. His rule would be one of terror.

Proverbs 44 Questions

1. Why do the wicked flee when no one pursues?
2. The righteous are bold as a _____.
3. What is meant by transgression of the land?
4. Who helps the land to last by rule?
5. A poor man who oppresses the poor is like what?
6. A heavy rain at seed time does what?
7. They that forsake the law praise whom?
8. What is worse than being a sinner?
9. What 2 things are in constant warfare?
10. Who understand all things?
11. Who have evil men chosen to follow?
12. Who reveals secrets of God to believers?
13. Who is better than the rich with perverse ways?
14. In verse 7, who is a wise son?
15. He that is companion of riotous men shameth whom?
16. What are 2 evil ways to gather money?
17. Who is their wealth stored for?
18. What is usury?
19. Who is always the one who has to pay usury?
20. Whose prayer shall be an abomination?
21. God's law is not grievous; it is actually for what?
22. In Isaiah 1:16, what does God tell us to do so He will hear our prayers?
23. What happens to those who cause the righteous to go astray?
24. Who should be leading?
25. Name some of the things the upright have.
26. The rich man is wise in his own _____.
27. Why does a rich man have trouble coming to God?
28. What happens when a good person rejoices?
29. What happens when an evil ruler takes over?
30. What one word describes the rule of the evil?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 28:13 "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh [them] shall have mercy."

In I John 1:8 we read, "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us." I John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." If we cover our sins, God will not forgive them. God has mercy on whom He will. He loves us and forgives us if we confess and ask forgiveness.

Proverbs 28:14 "Happy [is] the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief."

This is speaking of godly fear unto salvation. The only fear permissible is fear of the Lord. This is actually reverence, as we have said many times before. Just as Pharaoh of Egypt hardened his heart and had terrible consequences, hardening the heart causes us not to accept God; and that is disastrous. If we harden our heart to God, it opens the door to Satan and all of his evil.

Proverbs 28:15 "[As] a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; [so is] a wicked ruler over the poor people."

A roaring lion goes seeking whom he may devour. the poor have nothing to protect them and fall prey to this evil ruler. A ranging bear and a lion will destroy the helpless. You may be sure the evil king will do no less to the poor.

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

This first prince does not understand the needs of his people and would be an evil oppressor of his own people. The people would desire to overthrow this evil prince. His opposite would be a prince who realizes there is a God over him, and he would be seeking to help and not harm his people. They will shout, "Long live the prince".

Proverbs 28:17 "A man that doeth violence to the blood of [any] person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him."

We see in this verse, a cold blooded murderer. He has no peace at all: not of conscience or from the avenger. His guilt and guilty feelings shall follow him to his grave (pit). We are told here not to comfort or help him. He is a first degree murderer. He must pay for this terrible sin.

Proverbs 28:18 "Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but [he that is] perverse [in his] ways shall fall at once."

We have spoken many times in these lessons of how perverse sin is a sick sin. It generally has to do with unnatural sex. The walk of the upright is in the light, following in the path Jesus set before us. Perverse sin is so out of tune with God, that there is great punishment in this life, as

well as in the next, for this sin. In one instance, when they would not turn from their perversion, God said turn them over to a reprobate mind (Romans 1:28).

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

This reminds you again of the prodigal son who had plenty on his father's farm, but he tired of the farm life and went to town. He spent all the money of his inheritance and wound up hungry. Persons who are not afraid to work and grow a garden will always have plenty to eat, but vain living brings poverty.

Proverbs 28:20 "A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent."

Just as Abraham was rich in gold, silver, and cattle because he was blessed of God, God will bless you abundantly if you have the faith of Abraham. Abraham was saved and blessed by faith. We are blessed and saved by; faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Someone in a hurry to get rich is taking short cuts. His ways are not pleasing to God, because they are not honest. God will hold him responsible for the way he made his money. Wealth in itself is not evil. Our attitude toward the wealth can be very evil.

Proverbs 28:21 "To have respect of persons [is] not good: for for a piece of bread [that] man will transgress."

We see bribery associated with this. Some judges accept bribes and release someone just because of favors or because of who they are. God expects us to treat all men fairly.

Proverbs 28:22 "He that hasteth to be rich [hath] an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him."

We see in this man with the evil eye, a man who wants what belongs to others. He has no regard for how he gets what someone else has just as long as he gets it soon. Money or wealth gotten from evil ways and in a hurry has a way of leaving just as fast. Poverty is inevitable for this man, because God will not bless him.

Proverbs 28:23 "He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue."

We see in this a spiritual rebuke of a person who is slipping away from God. A backslider who is helped back to God will thank you for it later. Someone who flatters with the tongue and says everything is okay can do you great harm. Truth is the best rule.

Proverbs 28:24 "Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, [It is] no transgression; the same [is] the companion of a destroyer."

This man is not only a robber, but is a robber of his own flesh and blood. Thieves can think of good excuses, but there is no reason to rob. This person not only destroys his parents' living by taking their material goods, but breaks their hearts. as well. He is not a builder, he is a destroyer.

Proverbs 28:25 "He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat."

A proud heart has to do with being puffed up with self. He stirs up strife because he feels no one has an opinion worth hearing but his own. Trust goes farther than faith. It is when we rest in the Lord, knowing that all is well. When I say "rest", here, I do not mean we stop working. I mean we have complete confidence in the Lord.

Proverbs 28:26 "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered."

"Walketh" means continues to walk. We must trust in the living God. We cannot trust in ourselves. The wise in heart seek God. Our own thoughts must be under subjection to God's will in our life before we can trust in our heart. God's laws must be written on our heart for us to have a trustworthy heart.

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

God counts everything you give to the poor as if you were giving to Him. Everything you give to Him is multiplied and given right back to you. You cannot out give God. He that has to give and does not is cursed of God. God loves a cheerful giver.

Proverbs 28:28 "When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase."

Wicked rulers cause great trouble to their people when they are in power. We spoke earlier how the ungodly rulers will be overthrown by their people. The righteous shall rise and take their place.

Proverbs 45 Questions

1. What should we do with our sins?
2. Why is it important to forsake them?
3. When we confess, what is the Lord faithful to do?
4. Those who harden their heart fall into what?
5. Who in Egypt was a good example of hardening his heart?
6. In verse 14, what kind of fear is spoken of?
7. What 2 things is a wicked ruler over the poor compared to?
8. The prince that wanteth understanding is an _____.
9. What happens to the prince that hates coveting?
10. what is meant by fleeing to the pit?
11. A man that doeth violence to the blood is a _____.
12. In verse 18, who shall be saved?
13. What is perversion?
14. What do we read in Romans 1:28 about perversion?
15. Who shall have plenty of bread to eat?
16. What New Testament story does verse 19 bring to mind?
17. For a piece of _____ man will transgress?
18. What kind of an eye does a man who hastens to be rich have?
19. In verse 23, what kind of rebuke is meant?
20. If you rob your father and mother and make excuses for it, you are a what?
21. In verse 25, a proud heart stirs up _____.
22. A man who trusts in his own heart is a _____.

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 29:1 "He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth [his] neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy."

We see a man who has been corrected over and over. Every time he was corrected just made him more and more stubborn. "Hardeneth his neck" Just meant stiff necked. His destruction will come suddenly. "Without remedy" indicates that he is doomed, because he never changed. Stubborn self-will has destroyed him.

Proverbs 29:2 "When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn."

We see, here, that the welfare of the people is better served under the righteous than the wicked. A righteous man will rule justly. There will be no prejudice or bribing. The truth will be the rule when the righteous are in control. It will be fair to everyone. the poor, the widows, and the homeless will be cared for. On the other hand, when the wicked rule, the order of the day would be to make the wicked ruler richer. Every decision he made would have a selfish motive. He would have no regard for others' welfare, just his own.

Proverbs 29:3 "Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth [his] substance."

A man who keeps company with a harlot is an embarrassment to his entire family. His family cannot be proud of who their son is dating and certainly does not want a grandchild from this union. A harlot is one for pay, so the man will spend all of his money on this and wind up poor, as well as being looked down upon.

Proverbs 29:4 "The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it."

We see, here, the king (just king) brings proper judgement in the land. The whole country is healthy in the rule of a just king. This second half of verse 4 has to do with bribery. The bribe given this evil king determines how he judges. A government based on such selfishness as this can be easily overthrown.

Proverbs 29:5 "A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet."

We see in this flattery, a cover up of the real intentions of the one doing the flattering. There is a hidden motive behind the flattery. A common way of saying this is "whitewashing" it.

Proverbs 29:6 "In the transgression of an evil man [there is] a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice."

Sin (transgression) brings sorrow. Repeated sin becomes a habit, and bad habits destroy a man. the snare is the habit of sin we get into and then cannot shake; snared by our own actions and thoughts. The man free from sin

is not caught in a snare. He is set free from the clutches of death and knows he has eternal life. This knowledge brings peace and joy unspeakable.

Proverbs 29:7 "The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: [but] the wicked regardeth not to know [it]."

The righteous man is not a respecter of persons, and he realizes the plight of the poor and helps them whenever he can. The wicked cares for no one but himself. Everything the wicked does has a selfish purpose behind it.

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

Scornful men are never pleased with anyone or anything. These scornful create rebellion and riots and can cause a whole city to be blamed for it. Wise men are peacemakers.

Proverbs 29:9 "[If] a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, [there is] no rest."

"Contendeth" means judge or defend, or plead in this instance. This seems to be (whether in play or a legal problem) there is no way to ever get it settled completely. It is not possible to persuade this evil man to do what is right. He either gets mad, or laughs but does not accept the truth.

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

We see that the upright are hated by men who are murderers, thieves, and adulterers. The upright tries to help the bloodthirsty repent and be saved. The bloodthirsty feels terrible guilt when they compare themselves with the right, and they hate the upright. The bloodthirsty love no one but themselves, and they will stop at no lengths to get what they want, The just are always seeking to save a soul, even of this bloodthirsty one.

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

A fool talks all the time. He never has time to listen to anyone else and learn, because he never stops talking. He likes to hear himself. The wise man listens and considers everything. He never speaks until he has fully considered everything.

Proverbs 29:12 "If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants [are] wicked."

Whatever rules the ruler sets are rules for all the people. A wicked ruler who listens to lies can expect all of his people to lie, also.

Proverbs 29:13 "The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes."

We see, here, that if the poor and the deceitful come together and try to settle their differences, the Lord will open their eyes and let them see.

Proverbs 29:14 "The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever."

We see, here, a king who is not led astray by riches, but is fair to all of his subjects, Rich and poor alike. We see a king with such a good reputation with all of his subjects that his throne will pass on to the descendents. His people will be pleased with their government and will not want to overthrow it.

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

Sometimes a whipping with the correction makes a more lasting lesson. If a child is left to have his own way, he will wind up spoiled; and no one enjoys being around a child who knows no discipline. It shames his mother.

Proverbs 29:16 "When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall."

When the morals of most of the people are bad, sin increases rapidly. Leave them alone, and they will destroy each other. The righteous receive the blessings of God and watch the failures of the transgressors.

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

When you train a son correctly, you have nothing to fear from his behavior. A good son brings pleasure and good memories to his parents.

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

There are several ways to look at this. This could mean, if you are not looking ahead and planning on accomplishing a goal in your life. you have no life. A vision from God can be the will of God being revealed to you in a supernatural way. To lose sight of the will of God would certainly cause us to perish. The person who knows the will of God and is living in that will is very happy and contented, knowing they are pleasing God.

Proverbs 29:19 "A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer."

This is speaking of a servant who is disobedient. He can easily hear what you are saying, but words will not move him. He understands only rough treatment.

Proverbs 29:20 "Seest thou a man [that is] hasty in his words? [there is] more hope of a fool than of him."

This is speaking of a man that speaks before he thinks. He is always in trouble, because he speaks before he thinks. In James, we are told to be swift to hear and slow to speak. If you talk all the time, you cannot and will not take instruction, so you never improve. The fool perhaps will listen and finally understand.

Proverbs 29:21 "He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become [his] son at the length."

If the servant comes to you as a child and lives with you, he becomes like a member of the family. You become fond of him, and it is hard to think of him as a servant. He becomes a member of the family.

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

This is describing the angry, furious man we have discussed before. His fits of temper cause problems, not only for himself, but for all those around him. His anger causes him to sin because anger, hate, Jealousy, and murder are all related and all are sin.

Proverbs 29:23 "A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit."

God loves the humble. In fact, everyone loves the humble person, and others build the humble up. A man with pride is so self-centered that others are not fond of him; and, actually, his arrogance is what brings him low in the sight of others.

Proverbs 29:24 "Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth [it] not."

To be partner with a thief makes you a thief, also. Even if you did not steal, you would be guilty by association. We see, here, in the last part of this, it is speaking of knowing of a sin and not speaking out to reveal the sin. If you hide the sin, even if you did not commit the crime, you would be an accomplice and punished along with the criminal.

Proverbs 29:25 "The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe."

Fear is lack of faith. If we have faith in the Lord, we have nothing to fear. To fear man and what he can do to you is sin. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and He shall give you peace and rest.

Proverbs 29:26 "Many seek the ruler's favour; but [every] man's judgment [cometh] from the LORD."

We see by this that the only true and lasting Judge is the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the Judge of all the world and will Judge the ruler and the ruled alike. Many seek to get special treatment on the earth from a ruler by doing special things for him, but the Judge who decides our fate for all of eternity is the Lord.

Proverbs 29:27 "An unjust man [is] an abomination to the just: and [he that is] upright in the way [is] abomination to the wicked."

Christians, who are living upright before the Lord, are really disappointed with those who will not accept the ways of the Lord. The unjust's ways are not desirable at all to those who walk uprightly before the Lord. The unjust look at the upright and actually feel guilt for their

own lives. I believe they hate the ways of the upright, because their ways make them feel guilty of their sins.

1. One who is often reprov'd does what?
2. What will eventually happen to this person?
3. What does "without remedy" indicate?
4. When the righteous are in authority, the people _____.
5. When the wicked rule, the people _____.
6. How will a righteous man rule?
7. What happens to those who spend their time with harlots?
8. The king of judgement establishes the _____.
9. A man who flatters his neighbor is really doing what?
10. Sin or transgression brings what?
11. What is meant by a snare?
12. Scornful men bring a city into a _____.
13. What does "contendeth" mean in verse 9?
14. If a wise and a foolish man contend with each other, what is the outcome?
15. Who do the bloodthirsty hate?
16. What does "uttereth all his mind" mean?
17. What happens to the servants of a ruler who listens to lies?
18. What type of king establishes his rule forever?
19. What happens to the mother of a child who is never corrected?
20. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee _____.
21. Where there is no vision the people _____.
22. What can a vision of God reveal to you?
23. What type of servant is verse 19 talking about?
24. There is more hope for a fool than a man of _____ words.
25. A servant raised from a child in a home becomes a _____.
26. An angry and a furious man abound in _____.
27. Pride shall bring a man low. God loves the _____.
28. Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own _____.
29. If you hide a crime, what does that make you?
30. Fear is what?
31. Trust in the Lord and He will bring you what?
32. Who is the Judge of all the world?
33. Why do the unjust hate the just?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 30:1 "The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, [even] the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,"

No one knows for sure who these names are. Some believe they are a description of Solomon and David. "agur" means gathered (many believe this is fanciful name for Solomon). "Jakeh" means obey or obedient. Here, again, many believe this to be a symbolic name of Solomon. "Ithiel" means God has arrived. This, too, is believed not to be a person, but a symbolic name. "Ucal" means devoured. Here, again, this name has no history before or after this mention.

Proverbs 30:2 "Surely I [am] more brutish than [any] man, and have not the understanding of a man." Proverbs 30:3 "I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy."

This could be Solomon speaking, because it appears from this that the more he learned of God, the more aware he became of how little he knew. You do not learn wisdom. Wisdom is a gift from God. I think verse 2 and 3 above, is a sudden realization that no man truly knows God. In verse 2, he is saying that he is no more than a brutish beast in understanding. Only the very wise realize how little they know. This makes me think even more that this is Solomon speaking. No one except God. Jesus, and the Holy Spirit have knowledge of the holy.

Proverbs 30:4 "Who hath ascended up into heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what [is] his name, and what [is] his son's name, if thou canst tell?"

The answer, of course, is Almighty God, but I believe this is saying what mere man can know Him. For sure, someone bigger than you and I. Someone that mere man can only speculate about. If we were to think of all the names in the Bible for God and could accumulate them into one name. that would be the name of the personality that created all of this. This would be the unspeakable name of God. We know that power will be given in it, over it, and under it; and that at the name of Jesus all will bow.

Proverbs 30:5 "Every word of God [is] pure: he [is] a shield unto them that put their trust in him."

In John 1:1 we read. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God." John 1:2 "The same was in the beginning with God." John 1:3 "All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made." In Ephesians 6:16 "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked." Our shield is our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 30:6 "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

We are warned in the last book of Revelation not to add or take away from the Bible. Every man is a liar, but the Word of God is Truth.

Proverbs 30:7 "Two [things] have I required of thee; deny me [them] not before I die:" Proverbs 30:8 "Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:"

This seems to be a prayer to God asking only 2 things for the rest of his life. Vanity and lies are one. He ask to not lie and be vain, and that he not be overcome by wealth and poverty. That he might be satisfied with whatever food the Lord provides. This should certainly be our prayer, as well. Most sin comes because of vanity and lies and because of greed. God help us to walk in your ways and not our own.

Proverbs 30:9 "Lest I be full, and deny [thee], and say, Who [is] the LORD? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God [in vain]."

This is why he prayed to not be poor or rich. People find it easier to seek the Lord when they have needs in their life. Sometimes the wealthy feel so self-sufficient that they do not seek God. The very poor sometime turn their back on God, because they feel He doesn't love them; and they steal and curse to drag themselves out of poverty.

Proverbs 30:10 "Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty."

We see, here, that slandering a man's servant can backfire on you and bring a curse on you.

Proverbs 30:11 "[There is] a generation [that] curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother."

The generation they are talking about is in the end times. In 2nd Timothy 3, it speaks of being disobedient to parents. This is our time. Children have no respect for parents. The commandment of God says honor your mother and father, but our generation does not.

Proverbs 30:12 "[There is] a generation [that are] pure in their own eyes, and [yet] is not washed from their filthiness."

In this same third chapter of II Timothy describing the last days, it speaks of lovers of their own selves. Our generation is a rebellious generation which has a form of godliness, but denies the power thereof. Lust of the flesh is the sin of our day. In our generation, the churches are forgetting that to be truly clean and pure, we must be washed in the blood of the Lamb. they are trying to take the blood out of our church services. Only the blood of Jesus can wash us and make us white as snow.

Proverbs 30:13 "[There is] a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up."

This, too, is our generation. In II Timothy 3:2 we read. "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy," Some of our churches are even telling their people that they can become God. We are an evil generation. Lucifer was tossed out of heaven for these same thoughts. Prideful and arrogant people are not humble. We must be humble to have God in our lives.

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

In II Timothy, again, our generation is lacking in natural affection. We are so caught up in ourselves, that we do not bother with the needs of the less fortunate. The church has turned the poor over to the state. To truly be able to sympathize with the poor, we need to have walked in their shoes.

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

A leach or a blood sucker hangs on until torn from the flesh. The greed for these things are over-emphasized in this "horseleach". The grave always has room for more. As long as one person is alive, there is room for that one more. All women who have not been able to have a child are never satisfied. Many of them adopt because the desire for children is so great. the Hebrews thought it to be a curse. Most women feel cheated that they have not had children. The earth drinks in all the water that is rained upon it. The more wood that is put on the fire just makes it burn hotter. It will take all the wood you feed it.

Proverbs 47 Questions

1. What does "agur" mean?
2. What does "Jakeh" mean?
3. What does "Ithiel" mean?
4. What does "Ucal" mean?
5. Who do most believe these are symbolic of?
6. What is meant by "being more brutish than any man"?
7. Why did he say "I neither learned wisdom"?
8. What is suddenly realized in verse 2 and 3?
9. Who has the only true knowledge of the holy?
10. In verse 4. what questions are asked?
11. What name could we give in answer?
12. Every word of God is _____.
13. What is our shield?
14. Who created everything?
15. Why are we not to add to His words?
16. What did he pray for?
17. What does most sin come from?
18. What was he afraid of doing if he were poor?
19. Who should you not accuse to his mother?
20. In verse 11. the generation curses whom?
21. When will this generation be?
22. What is meant by being pure in your own eyes?
23. What is the only way to be really white as snow?
24. What 2 types of people are not humble?
25. What are the teeth of those who devour the poor like?
26. What is said to have two daughters crying, "Give, give"?
27. What 4 things are never satisfied?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 30:17 "The eye [that] mocketh at [his] father, and despiseth to obey [his] mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it."

We see here that the eye reveals what is in the heart of man. This person shall come to an untimely death, and his body will be left to the vultures. They peck the eyes of the dead out first before they eat the body.

Proverbs 30:18 "There be three [things which] are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not:"

He is just saying in this, that these four things are a wonderful mystery which man cannot begin to understand.

Proverbs 30:19 "The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid."

Men look at the eagle flying through the sky and wish that they might fly, as well. There is no trace from where they came, or where they go, or even how they can stay up there in mid-air. The amazing thing in this is how the snake slithers across a rock. A ship in a large body of water leaves a mystery as to how it floats and how it finds its way to port. The way of a man with a maid has been a mystery for all time. How two people destined of God to become one, can single each other out in all the mass of humanity, and find the mate so right for them that they will stay together until death do them part is one of the greatest mysteries to me. If we were to look at these four things from a spiritual standpoint, we would see in the eagle the symbol of God. In the serpent, we see the symbol of Satan. We would see in the ship, the symbol of the church or the Christian on the sea of life; and we would see in the man with the maid, Christ and his bride (the church).

Proverbs 30:20 "Such [is] the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness."

We see in this adulterous woman who covers her sin a deception not only deceiving others, but herself, as well. Her heart is so hardened that she feels no guilt and shame.

Proverbs 30:21 "For three [things] the earth is disquieted, and for four [which] it cannot bear:" Proverbs 30:22 "For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;" Proverbs 30:23 "For an odious [woman] when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress."

These four things make living very uncomfortable. They really are things which should not be. These four cause much pain to all parties involved. A servant is really not suited to be a ruler, and sudden power many times turns the head of the person elevated. This fool who suddenly has more than he needs, over-indulges and makes himself even more of a fool. this "odious woman" is an undesirable woman, perhaps because she is not attractive or has unattractive ways. If she does get married, she is ill-

tempered and possibly will drive her mate away. This handmaid who obtains the wealth of her mistress, whether by death of the mistress or some trickery, would certainly cause her to be arrogant and difficult to get along with.

Proverbs 30:24 "There be four [things which are] little upon the earth, but they [are] exceeding wise:" Proverbs 30:25 "The ants [are] a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;" Proverbs 30:26 "The conies [are but] a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;" Proverbs 30:27 "The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;" Proverbs 30:28 "The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces."

These four are little in stature, but not in accomplishments. The natural instincts of all four make them very wise. We could take a lesson from each of them. Ants live in communities and work together as a unit. They are the opposite of the sluggard or slothful man. They are very industrious. Man could take a lesson from them in that they store in summer for use in winter. These animals called conies live in the rocks for security. the locusts act as one body and work together. The spider works with its hands and winds up in palaces. The way to succeed is to work our way up.

Proverbs 30:29 "There be three [things] which go well, yea, four are comely in going:" Proverbs 30:30 "A lion [which is] strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;" Proverbs 30:31 "A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom [there is] no rising up."

We see in these four that they go with great poise and have no fear. The "lion" is the king of the beasts and fears nothing in the jungle. He is king of the forest. A "greyhound" is very graceful in running and has great speed so that no other animal can catch him. The "he goat" proudly leads the other goats. the "king against whom there is no rising up" is because he has the confidence of his people and they follow him willingly.

Proverbs 30:32 "If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, [lay] thine hand upon thy mouth."

We see here, that the proud, arrogant person will only make matters worse, if he begins to talk and is warned to guard the words of his mouth even to shutting his lips by putting his hand over them. The thoughts of the heart, if they are evil, must never be allowed to pass the lips, as well. The best advice in both cases is keep the mouth shut until you reconsider. Words can destroy you, if they are the wrong words.

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

In all three things above, pressure is being applied and bringing inevitable results in each case. Wrath or anger forces strife between the angered persons.

Proverbs 48 Questions

1. What shall happen to the eyes of one who mocketh his father?
2. What reveals what is in the heart of man?
3. What pecks the eyes out.
4. What 4 things are too wonderful to know?
5. What can we see symbolically in the eagle?
6. What do we see in the serpent?
7. What is the symbol of the ship on the sea?
8. What is the symbolic meaning of the man and maid?
9. What does the adulterous woman say when she thinks her sin is hidden?
10. What 4 things are hard to bear?
11. What 4 things are little, but exceedingly wise?
12. What 4 things are stately in their going?
13. If you have lifted yourself up too highly, what should you do?
14. The churning of milk brings forth _____.
15. The wringing of the nose brings _____.
16. The forcing of wrath brings what?

We will begin this lesson in Proverbs 31:1 "The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him."

The name "Lemuel" means unto God. There is no record of a king Lemuel other than here. Many believe this ,too, is from Solomon to God. So much of this has already been uttered by Solomon in previous lessons .

Proverbs 31:2 "What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? And what, the son of my vows?"

These 3 questions, as we stated before, make the person listening more attentive.

Proverbs 31:3 "Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings."

The prince, here, is reminded by his mother not to give his strength and power into the hands of a woman. She is reminding him that someday he will be king, and he must retain his power for the throne.

Proverbs 31:4 "[It is] not for kings, O Lemuel, [it is] not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:"

Kings and princes are called upon to make decisions that affect all of the kingdom. They must be sober and able to make clear headed decisions. Alcohol affects your ability to function properly. A drastic mistake could be made under the influence of strong drink.

Proverbs 31:5 "Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted."

A person under the influence of alcohol cannot think clearly and could not remember the laws of the land. A drastic injustice could be done.

Proverbs 31:6 "Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts."

Strong drink is to be reserved to kill pain. Those who are grieving need wine to help them forget. Strong drink as a medicine dulls the senses and helps to forget.

Proverbs 31:7 "Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more."

Just as in this verse here, drinking is for those who cannot face reality. Drinking is a symptom of a greater problem.

Proverbs 31:8 "Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction."

This is saying to speak up for those who, for one reason or another, cannot speak for themselves. Plead their case, if you will.

Proverbs 31:9 "Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy."

Don't just stand there and let them be punished, because they are unable to defend themselves. Speak up for the poor and needy. Tell the truth and get them set free.

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

This "virtuous woman" is a woman of high morals who is upright in all her ways. This is just saying that her worth cannot be measured in earthly things, such as rare stones (rubies).

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

This woman is totally faithful to her husband. He can have confidence in her, because she will not let him down. He will not need spoil from another, because his wife will always be faithful to him in every situation. She will not even give the appearance of evil.

Proverbs 31:12 "She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."

She is on his side. She is beside him helping in everything. She loves to please him. She respects him and builds him up when he is down. She does not tear him down, but instills confidence in him.

Proverbs 31:13 "She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands."

She is industrious and helps him produce for the family. She is not lazy. She works willingly, because she wants to help.

Proverbs 31:14 "She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar."

We see, here, that she goes forth wherever the food for her house is and brings it home.

Proverbs 31:15 "She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens."

She is not a sleepy-head. She gets up early and sees that her family and her maidens are fed. Her first concern is the welfare of her family.

Proverbs 31:16 "She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard."

I believe this is an indication that she is a business woman. She takes on responsibility in buying the land. She works outside the house when she plants the vineyard. She doesn't say to the husband that making the money for the family is his job. She helps him in this, too, when she can.

Proverbs 31:17 "She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms."

We see, here, that hard work makes her very strong.

Proverbs 31:18 "She perceiveth that her merchandise [is] good: her candle goeth not out by night."

She protects what is her own. She appreciates her husband and her family and works to keep them.

Proverbs 31:19 "She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff."

We see here, again, that she looks for useful work to do. She is not lazy, as we said before.

Proverbs 31:20 "She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy."

She is not selfish, but shares with the less fortunate. She is generous in helping the poor and needy. She has a big, giving heart.

Proverbs 31:21 "She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household [are] clothed with scarlet."

She has seen to it that her whole family have warm, comfortable garments, even for snowy weather.

Proverbs 31:22 "She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing [is] silk and purple."

She looks nice for her family. She takes care of herself, as we read earlier, and dresses nice so her husband will be proud to tell people that she is his wife.

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

She builds her husband up, and he has respect in the town. She never does things to make him ashamed.

Proverbs 31:24 "She maketh fine linen, and selleth [it]; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant."

Here, again, we see her making money away from the home to help her husband. "Fine linen", of course, means righteousness spiritually.

Proverbs 31:25 "Strength and honour [are] her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come."

This woman is upright in all of her ways, and the Lord will reward her. She will be among those who will hear Him say, "Well done thy good and faithful servant". She is well covered in the spiritual things of righteousness.

Proverbs 31:26 "She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue [is] the law of kindness."

Her speech conveys her wisdom and kindness. Her words build up and don't tear down. She is not a gossip or a slanderer. When she speaks, it is to help. Her wisdom instructs her children.

Proverbs 31:27 "She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness."

We said before, she is industrious; and her first thought is for the well being of the members of her own house.

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

Her husband and her children (who know her best) see her unselfishness, love, and care that she has for all of them. They are proud of her. She is a good mother and wife, and they let her know it.

Proverbs 31:29 "Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all."

This is saying that many women are faithful to their husbands, but fall short in some of these other areas; but she has done the best of all toward her family and God.

Proverbs 31:30 "Favour [is] deceitful, and beauty [is] vain: [but] a woman [that] feareth the LORD, she shall be praised."

Here, we see that doing favours can be good. To have a wife who is attractive to look at is nice, but the very best you can do is to have a wife who fears God and keeps His commandments; and she will have all of these other things as an extra. She is to be praised, because she has chosen the best: salvation through the Lord.

Proverbs 31:31 "Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates."

Her works speak for themselves. She has earned her praise. We see in this, the Lord is pleased with her, because she has done His will in her life.

Proverbs 49 Questions

1. What does "Lemuel" mean?
2. Who is he, probably?
3. Why are there 3 questions in verse 2?
4. Why was he warned against giving his strength to women?
5. Who were not to drink wine or strong drink?
6. When they drank, what were they likely to forget?
7. Who should strong drink be given to?
8. What is given to those of a heavy heart?
9. Drinking is for people who cannot do what?
10. Who are we to speak up for?
11. What is the price of a "virtuous woman"?
12. Her husband has no need of spoil. Why?
13. She will do him _____ and not _____.
14. How does she work?
15. What is meant by "bringing food from afar"?
16. When does she get up out of bed?
17. Who does she feed?
18. What Scripture indicates she is a business woman?
19. What is intended by her perceiving her merchandise is good?
20. How does she feel about the poor and needy?
21. What is her household clothed in?
22. What does she do to help her appearance?
23. What does she make and sell to the merchant?
24. What two things are her clothing?
25. In her tongue is the law of _____.
26. She is _____ not idle.
27. What do her husband and children call her?
28. Beauty is _____.
29. Who shall be praised?
30. What kind of works does she have?

*Thank you for taking the time to study these lessons in Proverbs.
I pray that something in this study has blessed you.*

Your friend in Jesus,

Louise

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