

Proverbs 10
The Wise Son & His Words

1 The proverbs of Solomon:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A. Wise Son vs. Foolish Son

a *wise son* (vs.) **foolish son**

b **false profit** (vs.) *true deliverance*

c *Lord's provision* (vs.) **wicked's emptiness**

b' **poverty** (vs.) *diligent wealth*

a' *wise son* (vs.) **foolish son**

B Good Memory & Walk vs. Bad Memory & Violence

a *righteous head* (vs.) **violent mouth**

b *good memory* (vs.) **no memory of wicked**

c *wise heart* (vs.) **fool prates**

b' *security* (vs.) **well-known of wicked**

c' **evil eye** (and) **fool prates**

a' *righteous mouth* (vs.) **violent mouth**

B' Hatred & Poverty vs. Love & Correction

a **hatred** (vs.) *love*

b *wisdom* (vs.) **discipline**

c *knowledge* (vs.) **destruction**

d *wealth* (vs.) **poverty**

c' *life* (vs.) **sin**

b' *instruction* (vs.) **correction**

a' **hatred** (and) **slander**

A' Wise Words & Desires vs. Foolish Words & Fears

a **many words** (vs.) *wise lips*

b *righteous blessed* (and) *no sorrow*

c **wicked fun** (vs.) *understanding man*

d **wicked fears** (vs.) *righteous desires*

e **wicked ends** (vs.) *righteous everlasting*

f ***Lazy Man***

e' *prolonged days* (vs.) **wicked short days**

d' *righteous hope* (vs.) **wicked's hope perishes**

c' *righteous strength* (vs.) **wicked destroyed**

b' *righteous unmovable* (vs.) **wicked removed**

a' *righteous mouth & lips* (vs.) **wicked tongue cut**

Proverbs 11

Civil Duties & Relations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9 The hypocrite with his mouth destroys **his neighbor**, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

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

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

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

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

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

15 He who is surety for a **stranger** will suffer, But one who hates being surety is secure.

16 A **gracious woman** retains honor, But ruthless men retain riches.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

A Balance of Scales

B Deliverance of the Righteous

a shame vs. *wisdom*

b *guidance* vs. destruction

c wrath vs. *deliverance*

d *direction* vs. falling

c' *deliverance* vs. being caught

b' expectations perish (and) hopes perish

a' *deliverance from trouble* vs. suffering trouble

C Citizens' Relations & Words

a hypocrite destroys neighbor vs. *deliverance*

b *city rejoices over righteous* vs. wicked

c *city is blessed* vs. curled

d bad neighbors vs. *good neighbors*

c' talkative neighbor vs. *trustworthy neighbor*

b' citizens fall vs. *citizen secure*

a' surety of stranger suffers vs. *security*

D Lady Wisdom & Lady Folly

a *gracious lady* vs. ruthless man

b *mercy* vs. cruelty

c deceptive work vs. *righteous work*

d *life* vs. death

c' abomination of God vs. *delight of God*

b' justice vs. *deliverance*

a' pig's nose ring (and) foolish lady

C' Citizens' Desires & Commerce

a *good desires* vs. wicked expectations

b scattering vs. *hoarding*

c *generosity and prosperity*

b' *hoarding* vs. providing

a' *seeking good* vs. seeking evil

B' Fruit of the Righteous

a riches fail vs. *flourishing plants*

b inheriting wind (vs.) *ruling over fools*

a' *fruit of righteousness* (and) *wisdom*

A' Balance of Justice

Proverbs 12

Finding Instruction in the Way of Righteousness

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

- a 2 A good man obtains favor from the LORD, But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.
- b 3 A man is not established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.
- a 4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.

- a 5 The thoughts of the righteous are right, But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.
- b 6 The words of the wicked are, "Lie in wait for blood," But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.
- c 7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, But the house of the righteous will stand.
- d 8 A man will be commended according to his wisdom, But he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.
- e 9 Better is the one who is slighted but has a servant, Than he who honors himself but lacks bread.
- f 10 A righteous man regards the life of his animal, But the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
- e' 11 He who tills his land will be satisfied with bread, But he who follows frivolity is devoid of understanding.
- d' 12 The wicked covet the catch of evil men, But the root of the righteous yields fruit.
- c' 13 The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, But the righteous will come through trouble.
- b' 14 A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth, And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.
- a' 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

- a 16 A fool's wrath is known at once, But a prudent man covers shame.
- b 17 He who speaks truth declares righteousness, But a false witness, deceit.
- c 18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword, But the tongue of the wise promotes health.
- d 19 The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but for a moment.
- d 20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy.
- c' 21 No grave trouble will overtake the righteous, But the wicked shall be filled with evil.
- b' 22 Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, But those who deal truthfully are His delight.
- a' 23 A prudent man conceals knowledge, But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.

- a 24 The hand of the diligent will rule, But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.
- b 25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression, But a good word makes it glad.
- b 26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully, For the way of the wicked leads them astray.
- a 27 The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting, But diligence is man's precious possession.

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

A. Responses to Instruction

lover of instruction (vs.) hater of correction

B. Sources of Instruction: Stable & Unstable Man

- a God's favor (vs.) God's condemnation
- b wicked unstable (vs.) righteous unmovable
- a God's gift: good wife (vs.) bad wife (Pr.18:22 wife: God's favor)

C. Substance of Righteous & Wicked Counselors

- a right thoughts (vs.) deceitful counsel
- b wicked words (vs.) mouth of deliverance
- c wicked overthrown (vs.) righteous stand
- d commendation received (vs.) perverse heart
- e man with helper (vs.) man without bread
- f compassion (vs.) cruelty
- e' worker with bread (vs.) empty of understanding
- d' wicked desires (vs.) righteous fruit
- c' wicked ensnared (vs.) righteous persevere
- b' fruit of mouth (and) recompense of hands
- a' "right" in fool's eyes (vs.) heeding counsel

C' Substance of Righteous & Wicked Counsel

- a fool's anger is produced (vs.) wise man covers shame
- b truth declares righteousness (vs.) falsehood declares deceit
- c foolish speech: painful (vs.) wise tongue: healthy
- d truthful lips (vs.) lying tongue fade away
- d deceitful heart (vs.) joyful counsel
- c' righteous not overthrown (vs.) wicked filled with evil
- b' lying: abomination of Lord (vs.) truth: delight of Lord
- a' wise man conceals knowledge (vs.) fool proclaims folly

B' Sources of Instruction: Lazy & Diligent Man

- a diligent hand (vs.) lazy man
- b worry & depression (vs.) word of gladness
- b' righteous friends (vs.) wicked ways
- a' lazy man (vs.) diligent man

A' Result of Good Instruction

life in righteousness (and) no death

Highlights of Lady Wisdom's Words Proverbs 13

A Summary and Substance of Chapters 10 – 12

Stubbornness & Laziness

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| <p>a 1 A <u>wise son heeds</u> his father's instruction, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.</p> <p>b 2 A man shall eat well by the fruit of his mouth, But the soul of the unfaithful feeds on violence.
3 He who guards his mouth preserves his life, But he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction.
c 4 The soul of a lazy man desires, and has nothing; But the soul of the diligent shall be made rich.</p> <p>b' 5 A righteous man hates lying, But a wicked man is loathsome and comes to shame.
6 Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless, But wickedness overthrows the sinner.</p> <p>a' 7 There is one who makes himself rich, yet has nothing; And one who makes himself poor, yet has great riches.
8 The ransom of a man's life is <u>his riches</u>, But the poor does not hear rebuke.</p> | <p>10:1-5 <i>heed instruction</i> (vs.) doesn't listen</p> <p>10:6-11 <i>fruit of words</i> (vs.) violence</p> <p>10:19-32 <i>guards mouth</i> (vs.) destruction</p> <p>10:12-18 has nothing (vs.) <i>riches</i></p> <p>10:12-18 <i>hate lying</i> (vs.) shame</p> <p>11:2-8 <i>guards way</i> (vs.) wickedness</p> <p>11:23-27 has nothing (vs.) <i>riches</i> (final section includes
beg. & mid. theme)</p> <p>11:23-27 <i>riches</i> (vs.) doesn't listen</p> |
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Light & Honesty

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| <p>a 9 The <u>light of the righteous rejoices</u>, But the lamp of the wicked will be put out.</p> <p>b 10 By pride comes nothing but strife, But with the well-advised is wisdom.</p> <p>a' 11 Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers <u>by labor will increase</u> goods</p> | <p>11:2-8 <i>rejoicing</i> (vs.) wicked put out</p> <p>11:2-8 strife (vs.) <i>wisdom</i></p> <p>11:23-27 dishonesty diminished (vs.) <i>increase of</i></p> |
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Life & Reward

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| <p>a 12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick, But when the desire comes, it is a <u>tree of life</u>.</p> <p>b 13 He who despises the word will be destroyed, But he who fears the commandment will be rewarded.</p> <p>a 14 The law of the wise is a <u>fountain of life</u>, To turn one away from the snare of death.</p> | <p>12:24-27 sick (vs.) <i>life</i></p> <p>12:1,28 destruction (vs.) <i>rewards</i></p> <p>12:28 <i>life</i> (vs.) death</p> |
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Honor & Health

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| <p>a 15 Good understanding <u>gains favor</u>, But the way of the unfaithful is hard.</p> <p>b 16 Every prudent man acts with knowledge, But a fool lays open his folly.</p> <p>b' 17 A wicked messenger falls into trouble, But a faithful ambassador brings health.</p> <p>a' 18 Poverty and shame will come to him who disdains correction, But he who regards a rebuke <u>will be honored</u>.</p> | <p>12:5-15 favor gained (vs.) <i>hard life</i></p> <p>12:16-23 good actions (vs.) <i>open folly</i></p> <p>12:16-23 <i>fall into trouble</i> (vs.) good health</p> <p>12:2-4 <i>shameful life</i> (vs.) honor received</p> |
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Discipline & Wealth

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| <p>a 19 A desire accomplished is <u>sweet to the soul</u>, But it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil.</p> <p>b 20 He who walks with wise men will be wise, But the companion of fools will be destroyed.</p> <p>c 21 Evil pursues sinners, But to the righteous, good shall be repaid.</p> <p>d 22 A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, But the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.</p> <p>c' 23 Much food is in the fallow ground of the poor, And for lack of justice there is waste.</p> <p>b' 24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.</p> <p>a' 25 The righteous eats to the <u>satisfying of his soul</u>, But the stomach of the wicked shall be in want.</p> | <p><i>sweet to the soul</i> (vs.) fools cling to evil</p> <p><i>wise friends</i> (vs.) foolish friends</p> <p>justice on sinners (vs.) <i>justice to righteous</i></p> <p><i>inheritance</i> (and) wealth</p> <p>lack of food (and) lack of justice</p> <p>no discipline (vs.) <i>loving discipline</i></p> <p><i>satisfying to the soul</i> (vs.) wicked in want</p> |
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I. 9th Commandment: House Construction & Destruction

Proverbs 14

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

9th commandment

II. Mockery & Favor: Ending of Results

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

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

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

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

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

Intentions & Endings

grieving end transitions to one's "own ways"

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

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

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

Steps of Confidence

fool's rage transitions to "quick-tempered man"

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

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

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

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

Rewards & Humiliation

neighbor who hates poor transitions to *sinful neighbor*

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

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

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

Helping Poor & Becoming Poor

the profit of labor transitions to the "riches" of the wise

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

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

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

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

Favor & Mockery

9th commandment

God's favor is manifested, Fools crowned w/ folly (mocked)

III. A King's Honor & Favor: Summarizing Points

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Summarizing Passages:

v. 16,17

v. 13,14

v. 20,21

v. 24,26

v. 10a,14a,17a,21a,24b

{*Structure for chapter 15 yet to be found*}

	<u>Themes:</u>
1 A soft answer turns away wrath , but a harsh word stirs up anger.	words
2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.	
3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.	eyes of Lord
4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.	words
5 A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent.	correction
6 In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.	
7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so.	tongue
8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD , but the prayer of the upright is His delight.	eyes of Lord
9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD , but He loves him who follows righteousness.	
10 Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction will die.	correction
11 Hell and Destruction are before the LORD ; so how much more the hearts of the sons of men.	eyes of Lord
12 A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.	correction
13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.	merry heart
14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.	words
15 All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.	merry heart
16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD , than great treasure with trouble.	Better
17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred.	
18 A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention.	words
19 The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.	lazy
20 A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother.	correction
21 Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, but a man of understanding walks uprightly.	
22 Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.	words
23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!	
24 The way of life winds upward for the wise, that he may turn away from hell below.	hell
25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.	house
26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD , but the words of the pure are pleasant.	eyes of the Lord
27 He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.	house

Proverbs 16

God's Providence

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

man's responsibility & God's providence

God's Judgment

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

a ways of men

b ³ Commit your works to the LORD, And your thoughts will be established.

b works unto the Lord

c ⁴ The LORD has made all for Himself, Yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.

c end of evil

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

d judgment upon evil

d' ⁶ In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; And by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil.

d' avoidance of evil

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

c' peace with evil men

b' ⁸ Better is a little with righteousness, Than vast revenues without justice.

b' revenues with righteousness

a' ⁹ A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

a' plans of men

King's Judgment

a ¹⁰ Divination is on the lips of the king; His mouth must not transgress in judgment.

a wicked judgment

b ¹¹ Honest weights and scales are the LORD's; All the weights in the bag are His work.

b good judgment

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

a' wicked judgment

b' ¹³ Righteous lips are the delight of kings, And they love him who speaks what is right.

b' good judgment

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

a'' judgment of death

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

b'' judgment of life

The Theme of Wisdom

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

getting wisdom & understanding

A. The Way of Pride vs. Humility

a ¹⁷ The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who keeps his way preserves his soul.

a departing from **evil**

b ¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before a fall.

b judgment upon pride

b' ¹⁹ Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

b' advantage of humility

a' ²⁰ He who heeds the word wisely will find good, And whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

a' finding **good**

B. The Wise in Heart & Lips

a' ²¹ The wise in heart will be called prudent, And sweetness of the lips increases learning.

a' **heart and lips** of prudence

b ²² Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly.

b understanding vs. folly

a' ²³ The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, And adds learning to his lips.

a' **heart and lips** of learning

²⁴ Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, Sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.

pleasant **words** give health

C. The Way of Death

²⁵ There is a way that seems right to a man, But **its end is the way of death.**

right way vs. death way

D. The Diligence of Laboring for Yourself

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

labor for self

C' The Way that is Not Good

²⁷ An **ungodly man** digs up evil, And it is on his lips like a burning fire.

digging for evil (lips)

²⁸ A **perverse man** sows strife, And a whisperer separates the best of friends.

spreading strife

²⁹ A **violent man** entices his neighbor, And **leads him in a way that is not good.**

leading in an evil way

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

eyes & lips lead to evil (lips)

B' The Glory of the Elderly

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

age with wisdom

A' The Way of Anger vs. Self-control

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

the strength of self-control

God's Providence

³³ The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

man's responsibility & God's providence

Riddles of Wisdom

Proverbs 17

- ¹ Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.
² A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame, and will share an inheritance among the brothers.
- ³ The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the hearts.
⁴ An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.
- ⁵ He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.
⁶ Children's children are the crown of old men, and the glory of children is their father.
- ⁷ Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, much less lying lips to a prince.
⁸ A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; wherever he turns, he prospers.
- ⁹ He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.
¹⁰ Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred blows on a fool.
- ¹¹ An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.
¹² Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly.
- ¹³ Whoever rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.
¹⁴ The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.
- ¹⁵ He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.
¹⁶ Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it?
- ¹⁷ A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.
¹⁸ A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge, and becomes surety for his friend.
- ¹⁹ He who loves transgression loves strife, and he who exalts his gate seeks destruction.
²⁰ He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.
- ²¹ He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.
²² A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.
- ²³ A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice.
²⁴ Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.
- ²⁵ A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.
²⁶ Also, to punish the righteous is not good, nor to strike princes for their uprightness.
- ²⁷ He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.
²⁸ Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.
- house
family within (how do servants obtain an inheritance?)
purifying the heart
evil lips need purifying (what will God do to our lips?)
reproaching Father God / Creator
fathers: glory of children (who is the glorious father?)
speech of a prince
precious stone & prosperity (how do princes prosper?)
keeping quiet
rebuking a wise man (who should you rebuke, or not?)
attack of a cruel messenger
meeting an anger bear (who is the cruel messenger?)
house full of evil
overflow of strife & quarreling (how do you stop quarrels?)
injustice
injustice: no desire of wisdom (which is worse?)
true friendship
friendship in jeopardy (how do you maintain a friendship?)
destruction upon transgressors
evil upon deceitful (how did he transgress?)
sorrowful father
happy heart (is the medicine a good son?)
perverted justice
good sight (is justice really blind?)
sorrow of parental injustice
civil injustice (is it good to discipline?)
a quiet wise man
a quiet fool (is he really a fool?)

Proverbs 18

A. The Wicked Man's Desire: Selfishness, Isolation

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

wicked man's own desire

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

wicked man's own heart

B. Results of the Wicked & the Wise: Offenses & Wisdom Produced

³ When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; and with dishonor comes reproach.

the results of the wicked

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

the results of the righteous

C. Fool's Destruction – Using His Mouth

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

Mr. Injustice or Destroyer

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

lips of contention

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

lips of the wicked are self-destruction

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

words of gossip

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

Mr. Slothfulness is brother to Mr. Destroyer

D. God's Tower vs. Rich Man's City

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

safety of the righteous – a tower (*notice the*

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

fragility of the wicked – a city *irony here*)

C' Fool's Destruction – No Use of His Ears, Only Mouth

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

fool is haughty

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

fool is shamed for not listening

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

fool's spirit is broken / destroyed

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

wise man listens, gaining knowledge

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

man with gifts is honored, brought before great men

B' Offenses to Overcome – Wisdom Needed (i.e. casting of lots)

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

offended person pleads his case

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

casting lots assists a judgment

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

offended brother is estranged

A' The Righteous Man's Desire: Friendship, Marriage

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

fullness from fruit of mouth and lips

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

power of the tongue

²² He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.

the good wife & Lady Wisdom (ch.31)

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

entreaty and request made by the poor

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

fruit of friendship and the Lord's presence

A World Of All Extremes – In Need Of All Wisdom

Proverbs 19

A. Liars, Sinners, and Fools in a World of the Rich and Poor

- ¹ Better is the poor who walks in his integrity, than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.
² Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he sins who hastens with his feet.
³ The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the LORD.
⁴ Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.

- A. Poor Man better than Perverse Lips
B. Soul without knowledge / sinner hastens with feet
B' Foolish twist his way / heart strives with God
A' Poor Man loses friends, Wealth makes friends

B. Curses & Blessings: The Liar and The Poor versus Gifts and Friends

- ⁵ A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape.
⁶ Many entreat the favor of the nobility, and every man is **a friend to one who gives gifts**.
⁷ All the brothers of the poor hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him!
He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him.
⁸ He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he **who keeps understanding will find good**.
⁹ A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish.

- A. False witness will be punished
B. Mr. Giver of Gifts has friends
C. Poor Man is hated; has no friends
C' Poor Man is abandoned by friends
B' Wise man finds good (i.e. he should give gifts)
A' False witness will be punished

C. The King: Approach Him With Discretion - As You Should With All of Life: Yourself, Children, Wife, and Riches

- ¹⁰ Luxury is not fitting for a fool, much less for a servant to rule over princes.
¹¹ The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to **overlook a transgression**.
¹² The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.
¹³ A foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the **contentions of a wife** are a continual dripping.
¹⁴ Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

- A. Inappropriateness: Luxury for fools & Servant over princes
B. Glorious Discretion: Slow to anger; Overlooking offenses
C. King's anger & King's favor
B' Destructive Indiscretion: Foolish son; Contentious wife
A' Blessedness: Riches from family & Prudent wife/helper

B' Judgments & Blessings: The Lazy, The Careless, The Wrathful versus The Listener and The Merciful

- ¹⁵ Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.
¹⁶ He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways **will die**.
¹⁷ He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.
¹⁸ Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set *your heart* on his destruction.
¹⁹ A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; for if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.
²⁰ Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days.
²¹ There are many plans in a *man's heart*, nevertheless the LORD's counsel—that will stand.
²² What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar.
²³ The fear of the LORD **leads to life**, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil.
²⁴ A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

- A. Lazy man will hunger
B. Death to the careless man
C. Lend to the poor, God will pay you back
D. Heart desires destruction - without discipline
E. Judgment on the wrathful (repeat offender)
E' Blessings on the listener (mature wisdom)
D' Heart of man has plans vs. God's counsel
C' Better to be poor, than a liar
B' Life to man who fears the LORD
A' Lazy man will not feed himself

A' Scoffers, Punishment, and Shamefulness in a World of Justice and Injustice

- ²⁵ Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary; rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge.
²⁶ He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is **a son who causes shame and brings reproach**.
²⁷ Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.
²⁸ A disreputable witness **scorns justice**, and the mouth of the wicked **devours iniquity**.
²⁹ Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

- A. Scoffer is beaten to warn the simple
B. Shame & reproach, by wicked son
C. Ceasing listening – become foolish
B' Injustice & iniquity, by wicked mouth
A' Scoffers are judged & Fools are beaten

Of Kings and Men
Proverbs 20

- 1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.
 2 The wrath of a **king** is like the roaring of a lion; whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life.
 3 It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.
 4 The **lazy man** will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing.
 5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a **man of understanding** will draw it out.
 6 Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a **faithful man**?
 7 The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him.
 8 A **king** who sits on the throne of judgment scatters all evil with his eyes.
 9 Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin"?
- a. Drunkard is mocked / consequences of sin
 b. King's wrath
 c. Honorable restraint / fools start fights
 d. Lazy Man will starve
 e. Understanding Man digs deep
 d' Faithful Man hard to find
 c' Righteous walk in integrity
 b' King sees all evil /scatters it
 a' All hearts need cleansing from sin

- a. **10 Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an abomination to the LORD.** a. Diverse weights: Abomination
- b. ¹¹ Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right. b. Man's deeds are known
- c. ¹² The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both. Work for your bread
¹³ Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.
- d. ¹⁴ "It is good for nothing," cries the buyer; but when he has gone his way, then he boasts. Bargain hard for knowledge
¹⁵ There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.
- e. ¹⁶ Take the garment of one who is surety for a stranger, and hold it as a pledge when it is for a seductress. Stupidity of Sureties & "Sweet deals"
¹⁷ Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.
- d' ¹⁸ Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war. Wise counsel/associates are needed
¹⁹ He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.
- c' ²⁰ Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness. Easy Money – be careful
²¹ An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning will not be blessed at the end.
- b' ²² Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; wait for the LORD, and He will save you. b' God repays evil deeds
- a' **23 Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, and dishonest scales are not good.** a' Diverse weights: Abomination

- a.i. ²⁴ A man's steps are of the LORD; how then can a man understand his own way? Man's steps are mysterious; of the Lord
 ii. ²⁵ It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, and afterward to reconsider his vows. Man's snare of dishonoring his vows
- b. ²⁶ A wise **king** sifts out the wicked, and brings the threshing wheel over them. King's justice is wise
 a' ²⁷ The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart. Man's spirit is Lord's searching light
 b. ²⁸ Mercy and truth preserve the **king**, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne. King's mercy is preservation
- a"i. ²⁹ The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head. Man's glorious strength & splendorous gray head
 ii. ³⁰ Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart. Cleansing from evil from "inner depths" (see v.9,27)

Proverbs 21

¹ The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.

² Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.

³ To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

⁴ A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin.

⁵ The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.

⁶ Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.

⁷ The violence of the wicked will destroy them, because they refuse to do justice.

⁸ The way of a guilty man is perverse; but as for the pure, his work is right.

⁹ Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a **contentious woman**.

¹⁰ The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

¹¹ When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; but when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

¹² The righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked, overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness.

¹³ Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.

¹⁴ A gift in secret pacifies anger, and a bribe behind the back, strong wrath.

¹⁵ It is a joy for the just to do justice, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity.

¹⁶ A man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead.

¹⁷ He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

¹⁸ The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the unfaithful for the upright.

¹⁹ Better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a **contentious and angry woman**.

²⁰ There is desirable treasure, and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it.

²¹ He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor.

²² A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and brings down the trusted stronghold.

²³ Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

²⁴ A proud and haughty man—"Scoffer" is his name; he acts with arrogant pride.

²⁵ The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor.

²⁶ He covets greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare.

²⁷ The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with wicked intent!

²⁸ A false witness shall perish, but the man who hears him will speak endlessly.

²⁹ A wicked man hardens his face, but as for the upright, he establishes his way.

³⁰ There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the LORD.

³¹ The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD.

A. Lord's Providence

B. Lord's Judgment

C. Doing Righteousness

D. Sin of Pride

E. Intentions of Diligent

F. a. Coveting: Lying to get it

b. Wicked's violence **destroys** him

G. Guilty: acts perversely

H. a. Contentious woman

b. Desire of the wicked

c. Instructing the wise

d. Overthrowing the wicked

e. Shut your ears; you'll cry

I. a. Gift pacifies

b. Joy of justice vs. iniquity

c. *Apostates With The Dead*

b. Love of pleasure vs. no riches

a' Ransom - wicked are give as

H. a. Contentious woman

b. Desirable treasure

c. Finding life, righteousness, honor

d. Bringing down the mighty

e. Guard your mouth; you're safe

G. Scoffer: acts with arrogance

b' Lazy Man's hands **kills** him

F' a' Coveting: Lazy Man's greed

E' Intentions of Wicked

D' Sin of False Witness

C' Upright One established

B' Lord's Counsel

A' Lord's Deliverance

Proverbs 22:1-16

One of the requirements of the ninth commandment taught in our Larger Catechism is the “love and care of our own good name.” Here in this section of Proverbs we will learn various instructions in “persevering and promoting” our own good name. Let’s notice some observations and implications about verse 1 before we examine how we are acquire a good name.

Pr. 22:1 *A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, loving favor rather than silver and gold.*

1. It is not sinful to desire a good name or reputation.
2. It is a false dichotomy if we are forced to choose between caring for own good name, or giving glory to God. We give God glory *by* having a love and care for our own good name. And we do not ascribe “the praise of any good we either are, have or can do, to fortune, idols, ourselves or another other creature. L.C. # 105

Example: Notice that the Larger Catechism teaches that one of the requirements of superiors to inferiors is that they are to live conduct themselves “by grave, wise, holy, and exemplary carriage, to procure glory to God, honour to themselves, and so to preserve that authority which God hath put upon them.” L.C. #129
Therefore a superior who preserves his good name is preserving that authority that God has put upon him. Giving God praise and caring for our good name is consistent.

3. A good name is priceless. Money can not buy a good name, and the love of money can destroy a good name (I Tim.6:10).
4. A good name is like having a good wife, though a man is responsible to preserve and protect them both, both are a gift from God (Pr.18:22).
5. A good name is like any other gift from God. It is to used rightly, and never to become an idol or a source of pride.
6. What people think about you is *important*. For this reason we are to stay away from appearances of evil, and even pursue the appearance of good. (L.C #99.6)
7. What people think about you is *important*, but does not determine whether your name is good. Some people may hate your name, simply because it *is* good.
8. Most people are more concerned with choosing or having great riches, rather than a good name. They will kill their name to have what will never replace a good name.
9. A good name is only good if it is identified with God’s Good Name. God’s Name is placed upon us in baptism, because all baptized persons “have given up their names unto Christ” (L.C.#167). Therefore, concerning God’s name, any baptized person who is “ashamed of it, or a shame to it” (L.C. #113) will not preserve or promoted their own good name.
10. Choosing a good name for ourselves because of The Name placed upon us is a summary the life of faith and repentance in Christ.

The next page contains the next several proverbs, though which we will consider how each advises us in choosing a lifestyle of procuring a good name. Also, notice who many of these proverbs concern money.

Verses:

² *The rich and the poor have this in common, the LORD is the maker of them all.*

Humility: God's providence has made some to be poor and some to be rich. Therefore the poor should not covet and the rich should not be proud. Both should be humble and pursue a good name

Themes:
rich & poor

³ *A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, but the simple pass on and are punished.*

Foresight: What path am I on? What seeds am I planting, of which fruit I will have to eat? What dues do I have to pay now to reap the fruits of righteousness later? The fool will never ask these questions

prudence

⁴ *By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches and honor and life.*

Rewards: Those who choose money over a good name may be rewarded with money. But those who choose humility and the fear of God, will be rewarded in more ways than one.

true riches

⁵ *Thorns and snares are in the way of the perverse; he who guards his soul will be far from them.*

On Guard: Persevering in the faith requires a guarding of one's own soul.

perverse pathway

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

Discipline: Receive it yourself, and hand it down when it is your turn to give it.

child training

a. ⁷ *The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.*

b. ⁸ *He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow, and the rod of his anger will fail.*

a' ⁹ *He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor.*

Money & Anger: Concern the myriad of ways these three proverbs relate to one another!

rich & poor: beware of borrowing
anger
rich & poor: be generous to the poor

¹⁰ *Cast out the scoffer, and contention will leave; yes, strife and reproach will cease.*

Not a friend: A scoffer is not your friend, period! And do not be-friend him. Pray for him, but do not claim him as a friend. Do you want your name to become "Scoffer"?

scoffer

¹¹ *He who loves purity of heart and has grace on his lips, the king will be his friend.*

¹² *The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, but He overthrows the words of the faithless.*

Speech: Desire purity and good words. Those of high regard will know your name.

king's friend
word of the faithless

¹³ *The lazy man says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!"*

No Excuses: Work hard at whatever you do. Excuses are for lazy irresponsible people.

lazy

¹⁴ *The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit; he who is abhorred by the LORD will fall there.*

Fear Judgment: Consider immorality, in and of itself, to be a judgment of God.

immorality

¹⁵ *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.*

¹⁶ *He who oppresses the poor to increase his riches, and he who gives to the rich, will surely come to poverty.*

No Favoritism: Never favor a person based on their financial condition.

discipline (see v.6)
rich & poor

Proverbs 22: 17 – 29

17 Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge;

¹⁸ For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you (*in your belly*); let them all be fixed upon your lips, b. *Eat words* on the wise

¹⁹ **So that your trust may be in the LORD; I have instructed you today, even you.** c. Trust in the Lord

²⁰ Have I not written to you excellent things of counsels and knowledge,

b' *Written words* of excellence

²¹ That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth,
that you may answer words of truth to those who send to you?

a' **Answer** with words of truth

v.17 “the words of the wise” speak of any wise person, then the last part of the verse focus on “my knowledge”

v.18 The phrase “within you” is literally “in your belly”. (See Ez. 3;1-3.) The words of the wise on to be “in your belly”, which implies that they are to be eaten. Notice they are to be “upon you lips”, which further illustrates the digestion of God’s word. What our belly has eaten with come out of our lips.

v.19 The structure of this passage suggest that this is the central verse, and it is very fitting. The essence of wisdom is to cause us to trust in the Lord.

v.20 The correlation between verses 18 & 20 (b. & b’) suggest that we are to keep the written word in our belly. This is teaching us to memorize and mediate upon the word of God.

v.21 Notice how the passage begins with *listening* and progresses to *answering*. The king’s son is instructed to listen that he will mature one day to answer with the words of truth.

1. **Robbing the Poor** (8th commandment)

²² Do not rob the poor because he is poor, nor oppress the afflicted at the gate;

²³ for the LORD will plead their cause, and plunder the soul of those who plunder them.

v. 22 – “the gate” was the place of court, or trial. The rich and powerful could easily pervert justice and oppress the poor in court and thus even robbing from them. But verse 23 threatens that the Lord will defend the poor, vindicate them, and destroy those who oppress the poor. See Ex. 22:25-27, Amos 2:6-8, Dt. 24:12-14, Lk. 18:1-8

2. **Befriending the Hothead** (6 commandment – “sinful anger” is forbidden; L.C. 136)

²⁴ Make no friendship with an angry man, and with a furious man do not go,

²⁵ lest you learn his ways and set a snare for your soul.

v. 24-25. Notice that anger is contagious (v.24) and lethal (v.25). By having a hotheaded friend, his ways are learned. The angry man molds a person into his own image. It is a contrast to being made in the image of God, who is patience and longsuffering. “By associating with the hothead, one becomes fatally involved even before he becomes aware of it himself. *For your life* shows that the trap is lethal. The metaphor is ironic. One avoids traps to save one’s life, not fetches them to kill oneself” (Bruce Waltke).

3. **Becoming a Surety, Especially If You Are Poor** (8th commandment – “avoiding suretiship” is required; L.C.141)

²⁶ Do not be one of those who shakes hands in a pledge, one of those who is surety for debts;

²⁷ If you have nothing with which to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you?

See Prov.6:1-5

4. Stealing Property / Moving Landmarks (8th commandment: “removing landmarks” is forbidden. L.C.142)

²⁸ Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.

Compare with 23:10. Fathers set boundary markers to mark out one’s inheritance of the land. Moving a boundary marker meant that you would steal someone else’s land of inheritance. (Dt. 19:14, 27:17; Job 24:2. See Pr.15:25 & 23:10 for the Lord boundary provision for the widow and orphan). See I Kings 21:4 and the words of Naboth to Ahab. Widows and orphans of the church are included in the inheritance of eternal life. Not caring for them is an act of disowning them as heirs of God’s kingdom. Thus the scripture mandates that the church should care for her widows and orphans (I Tim.5:3-8; James 1:27).

5. The Diligent Excel

²⁹ Do you see a man who excels in his work? He will stand before kings; he will not stand before unknown men.

Joseph, Daniel, Jeremiah, and David are all men who were faithful with a few things, even in the face of much opposition, and later were promoted to stand before kings; or to become a king like in the cases of Joseph and David. See Matt. 25:14-30. Those who are faithful with a few things became rulers over many things. Such is the story of the Lord’s church. We are called to be faithful in this life. Later we will be promoted to rule over angels. (I Cor. 6:2-3)

WARNING OF THINGS THAT ARE NOT AS THEY APPEAR

Food: Warning of being a Gluttonous Guest / He is not your friend

23:1 When you sit down to eat with a ruler, consider carefully what is before you; ² and put a knife to your throat if you are a man given to appetite. ³ Do not desire his delicacies, for they are deceptive food.

Riches: Warning; they fly away / Wealth is not a security

⁴ Do not overwork to be rich; because of your own understanding, cease! ⁵ Will you set your eyes on that which is not? For riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away like an eagle toward heaven.

Food: Warning of a Stingy Host / He is

⁶ Do not eat the bread of a miser, nor desire his delicacies; ⁷ for as he thinks in his heart, so is he. “Eat and drink!” he says to you, but his heart is not with you. ⁸ The morsel you have eaten, you will vomit up, and waste your pleasant words.

Offering Wisdom

⁹ Do not speak in the hearing of a fool, for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

Dishonoring The Fatherless

¹⁰ Do not remove the ancient landmark, nor enter the fields of the fatherless; ¹¹ for their Redeemer is mighty; He will plead their cause against you.

Your Heart

¹² Apply your heart to instruction, and your ears to words of knowledge.

Discipline

¹³ Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. ¹⁴ You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

Your Heart

¹⁵ My son, if your heart is wise, my heart will rejoice—indeed, I myself; ¹⁶ Yes, my inmost being will rejoice when your lips speak right things.

¹⁷ Do not let your heart envy sinners, but be zealous for the fear of the LORD all the day; ¹⁸ for surely there is a hereafter, and your hope will not be cut off. ¹⁹ Hear, my son, and be wise; and guide your heart in the way.

Food: Drunkard, Glutton

²⁰ Do not mix with winebibbers, or with gluttonous eaters of meat; ²¹ for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and drowsiness will clothe a man with rags.

Honoring Your Father

²² Listen to your father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Selling Truth

²³ Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding.

Happy Father

²⁴ The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise child will delight in him. ²⁵ Let your father and your mother be glad, and let her who bore you rejoice.

Your Heart

²⁶ My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. ²⁷ For a harlot is a deep pit, and a seductress is a narrow well. ²⁸ She also lies in wait as for a victim, and increases the unfaithful among men.

Wine: The Drunkard

²⁹ Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has complaints? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? ³⁰ Those who linger long at the wine, those who go in search of mixed wine. ³¹ Do not look on the wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it swirls around smoothly; ³² at the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like a viper. ³³ Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart will utter perverse things. ³⁴ Yes, you will be like one who lies down in the midst of the sea, or like one who lies at the top of the mast, saying: "They have struck me, but I was not hurt; They have beaten me, but I did not feel it. When shall I awake, that I may seek another drink?"

Proverbs 24

(Aleph) 1 Do not be envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them;

2 For their heart devises violence, and their lips talk of troublemaking.

(Beth) 3 Through wisdom a house is built, and by understanding it is established;

(Same with the world; 3:19, 8:22-31)

4 By knowledge the rooms are filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

a. (Gimel) 5 A wise man is strong, yes, a man of knowledge increases *strength*;

(v.5 strength for warfare)

b. 6 For by wise counsel you will wage your own war, and in a multitude of counselors there is safety.

(v.6 strategy for warfare)

c. 7 Wisdom is too lofty for a fool; he does not open his mouth in the gate.

(he “must not open his mouth” is probably more accurate; cf.17:28)

8 He who plots to do evil will be called a *schemer*.

(v.8,9 – reasons fool is to be silenced)

9 The *devising* of foolishness is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to men.

(“schemer” & “devising”, word-play in Hebrew)

a’ 10 If you faint in the day of adversity, your *strength* is small.

(“strength” – last word of verses 5 and 10) (strength needed)

b’ 11 Deliver those who are drawn toward death, and hold back those stumbling to the slaughter.

(purpose of one’s strength)

c’ 12 If you say, “Surely we did not know this,” does not He who weighs the hearts consider it?

(warning: God will not deliver you

He who keeps your soul, does He not know it? And will He not render to each man according to his deeds?

win you refuse to deliver)

13 My son, eat honey because it is good, and the honeycomb which is sweet to your taste;

good, sweet to your taste, and make you wise

14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be to your soul;

“good”... “pleasant”... “desirable to make one wise” (Gen.3:6)

if you have found it, there is a prospect, and your hope will not be cut off.

(compare with I Sam.14:24-30)

15 Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; do not plunder his resting place;

a. Wicked Will *Fall*

16 For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again, but the wicked shall fall by calamity.

17 Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles;

b. When Wicked Fall - Do Not Rejoice

18 Lest the LORD see it, and it displease Him, and He turn away His wrath from him.

19 Do not fret because of evildoers, nor be envious of the wicked;

a’ Wicked Will Be *Put Out*

20 For there will be no prospect for the evil man; the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

21 My son, fear the LORD and the king; do not associate with those given to change;

b’ God & King Can Bring Calamity

22 For their calamity will rise suddenly, and who knows the ruin those two can bring?

23 These things also belong to the wise: It is *not good* to show partiality in judgment.

24 He who says to the wicked, “You are righteous,” Him the people will curse; nations will abhor him. (what is “not good” in 23 becomes a “curse” in 24)

25 But those who rebuke the wicked will have delight, and a *good* blessing will come upon them.

(“good” is last word in 23 &25 in Hebrew)

26 He who gives a right answer kisses the lips.

27 Prepare your outside work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house.

(count the cost for home and family building)

28 Do not be a witness against your neighbor without cause, for would you deceive with your lips?

(don’t destroy your neighbor)

29 Do not say, “I will do to him just as he has done to me; I will render to the man according to his work.”

(contrast this with verse 12)

30 I went by the field of the lazy man, and by the vineyard of the man devoid of understanding;

(Warning of laziness)

31 And there it was, all overgrown with thorns; its surface was covered with nettles; its stone wall was broken down.

32 When I saw it, I considered it well; I looked on it and received instruction:

33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest;

34 So shall your poverty come like a prowler, and your need like an armed man.

Proverbs 25: 1-27 (Outline by Bruce Waltke)

¹ These also are proverbs of Solomon which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied:

A. Inquiry and Glory

² It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

³ As the heavens for height and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.

B. Conflict Between The Righteous vs. The Wicked

⁴ Take away the dross from silver, and it will go to the silversmith for jewelry.

⁵ Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.

A' Proverbs on Inquiry and Glory; especially in a court room

Admonitions for court behavior (6-10)

1. Humility

⁶ Do not exalt yourself in the presence of the king, and do not stand in the place of the great;

⁷ For it is better that he say to you, "Come up here," than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince.

2. Thorough Preparation

What your eyes have seen, ⁸ do not *bring* hastily to court; for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor has put you to shame?

3. Confidentiality

⁹ Debate your case with your neighbor, and do not disclose the secret to another; ¹⁰ lest he who hears it expose your shame, and your reputation be ruined.

Sayings for court behavior (11-15)

4. Appropriate Speech and Accepting Reproof

¹¹ A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

¹² Like an earring of gold and an ornament of fine gold is a wise rebuker to an obedient ear.

5. Reliability

¹³ Like the **cold of snow** in time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him, for he refreshes the soul of his masters. (*3rd proverb from end*)

¹⁴ Whoever falsely boasts of giving is like clouds and wind without rain.

6. Tactful Gentleness

¹⁵ By long forbearance a ruler is persuaded, and a gentle tongue breaks a bone. **unique proverb**

B' Proverbs On Conflicts Between The Righteous vs. The Wicked

I. Resolving Conflicts

1. ¹⁶ Have you found honey? Eat only as much as you need, lest you be filled with it and vomit.

¹⁷ Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house, lest he become weary of you and hate you.

2. ¹⁸ A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a club, a sword, and a sharp arrow.

¹⁹ Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth and a foot out of joint.

²⁰ Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather, and like vinegar on soda, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

3. ²¹ If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink;

²² For so you will heap coals of fire on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

II. Unexpected Conflicts

4. ²³ The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue an angry countenance.

5. ²⁴ It is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.

Summary

6. ²⁵ As **cold water** to a weary soul, so is good news from a far country. (*3rd proverb from end*)

7. ²⁶ A righteous man who falters before the wicked is like a murky spring and a polluted well. (**The Righteous vs. The Wicked**)

8. ²⁷ It is not good to eat much honey; so to seek one's own glory is not glory. **unique proverb** (**Inquiry and Glory**)

²⁸ Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.

The Fool

Proverbs 25:28 – 26:12

According to Bruce Waltke, commenting on Proverbs 25:28 – 26:28, there are “seven morally inferior types of people: the undisciplined (15:28), the fool (26:1-12), the sluggard (vv. 12-16), the busybody (v.17), the mischief maker (vv.18-19), the slanderer (vv. 20-22), and the son’s personal enemy (vv.23-28). Seven symbolizes completeness. If *midheh* (= “overthrown”) in 26:28 refers to the wall thrust down, the section is framed by an *inclusio* that pictures the ruin of the inferior types of people to the breached wall, escalated from loss of defense (see 25:28) to utter ruin (26:28).” p. 343 *The Book of Proverbs*

The Undisciplined (25:28)

25:28 *Whoever has no rule over his own spirit is like a city broken down, without walls.*

Though this proverb focuses on an undisciplined person, or one with no self-control, he is also identified as a fool in other proverbs (12:16). A city always needs a wall to defend itself. The one with no self-control destroys his own protective wall, thus destroying himself.

The Fool (26:1-12) Notice that the word “fool” occurs in each of the following verses except verse 2, which implies the fools curse.

1. What Is Fitting For A Fool ?

^{26:1} *As snow in summer and rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool.*

honor unfittingly given to a fool

² *Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, so a curse without cause shall not alight.*

curse unfittingly given to the innocent

³ *A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the fool’s back.*

rod fittingly given to a fool

2. How Do You Respond To A Fool ?

⁴ *Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.*

time for silence – so you do not contract his sin (anger, malice, greed)

⁵ *Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own eyes.*

time for rebuke – so you correct him (child discipline, some enemies)

3. What Does A Fool Communicate ?

⁶ *He who sends a message by the **hand** of a fool cuts off his own **feet** and drinks violence.*

Foolish messenger causes strife. Notice the “hand” & “feet”

⁷ *Like the **legs** of the lame that hang limp is a proverb in the **mouth** of fools.*

If a fool had wisdom, could he even speak it appropriately?

⁸ *Like one who binds a stone in a sling is he who gives honor to a fool.*

Honoring a fool invites violence, just like a stone in a sling.

4. Does A Fool Have An Awareness Of His Words ?

⁹ *Like a thorn that goes into the hand of a drunkard is a proverb in the mouth of fools.*

Drunkards are numb to their pain (23:25); the fool is numb to the pain of his great “proverbs”.

5. How Does God Honor A Fool ?

¹⁰ *The great God who formed everything gives the fool his hire and the transgressor his wages.* Providential consequences & Eternal retribution (Rm.6:23)

6. Does A Fool Repent ?

¹¹ *As a dog returns to his own vomit, so a fool repeats his folly.*

Unrepentance is the essence of all folly (II Pet.2:22). The “repeat”, or “relapsing after repentance” (L.C.#151), only increases the heinousness of one’s folly.

7. How Does Fool See Himself ?

¹² *Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him.*

Notice the blatant sarcasm here. It reads *as if* the man who is wise in his own eyes is distinct from the fool. However, he is the worst fool of all.