

PROVERBS

THE LEGACY BIBLE OUTLINE SERIES

The Remnant Church



Bible Institute

THE LEGACY BIBLE OUTLINE SERIES

The Legacy Bible Outline Series is a study of the Bible using the text of the Bible itself. The series outlines books of the Bible in simple format, providing commentary only as needed to enhance understanding. Text-based questions are also included for every chapter.

We suggest you create a notebook for each book of the Bible. Insert the outlines in your notebooks and add your own study notes. Each time you study a book, you can easily append the outlines to continuously expand the materials.

The Legacy Bible Outline Series is designed so you can easily personalize it. The files for the series are in MS Word format to enable you to revise, input your own notes, change page numbers, and alter the layout as needed. You can also create your own outlines for other books of the Bible using this format

The text of the King James Version is included in *The Legacy Bible Outline Series* to enable you to underline and make notes in the actual text as part of your study. Unlike a Bible which will eventually wear out, you can photocopy worn pages if they need to be replaced--which means you won't lose your notes and underlining. Be sure to read the text in other versions of the Bible also, as different translations will greatly enhance your study.

You can print copies of the outlines for your students or--a more cost-effective method--copy the files to a CD ROM and let each student print out their own outlines. If you want students to have only the study questions and not the outlines, then copy the questions to a separate file and print them out for distribution.

For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line...
(Isaiah 28:10, KJV)

...His word burns in my heart like a fire. It's like a fire in my bones!...
(Jeremiah 20:9, NLT)

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INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

AUTHOR: Solomon, the son of King David, wrote most of the Proverbs. (*See Supplemental Study One for a biographical study of Solomon.*) It is recorded in 1 Kings 4:32 that Solomon "*spoke three thousand Proverbs*" under the inspiration of God. Some of these are preserved for us by the Holy Spirit in the book of Proverbs.

Two chapters in Proverbs are written by authors with another name: Agur wrote chapter 30 and Lemuel wrote chapter 31. Their exact identities are unknown.

The Proverbs have a specific order; they are not just a hodge-podge of sayings. Some of the Proverbs Solomon set in order which means he not only wrote them but also arranged them in the order in which they are presented. Other Proverbs of Solomon were put in order by men of King Hezekiah (chapters 25-29; see also Ecclesiastes 12:9).

PURPOSE: The purposes of this book are given in Proverbs 1:1-6 and 22:19-21. The reason for writing these brief sayings or "Proverbs" is to condense wisdom to help us remember profound spiritual truths easily.

The purpose of Proverbs is also explained in Ecclesiastes 12:9-11:

- 9 And moreover, because the preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he gave good heed, and sought out, and set in order many Proverbs.**
10 The preacher sought to find out acceptable words: and that which was written was upright, even words of truth.
11 The words of the wise are as goads, and as nails fastened by the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd.

The Living Bible phrases this as follows:

- 9 Because the Teacher was wise, he taught the people everything he knew. He collected Proverbs and classified them. 10 Indeed, the Teacher taught the plain truth, and he did so in an interesting way. 11 A wise teacher's words spur students to action and emphasize important truths. The collected sayings of the wise are like**

guidance from a shepherd. (NLT)

AUDIENCE: Israel initially, but these truths for practical living are applicable to all believers.

KEY VERSES:

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction. (Proverbs 1:7)

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

LIFE AND MINISTRY PRINCIPLE: The book is a manual on Godly conduct. It is a collection of wise principles given by God to man (vertical wisdom coming down from God) to govern living with others (horizontal). It is practical application of God's truth in our daily lives.

MAIN CHARACTERS:

- The authors, Solomon, King Lemuel, and Agur
- The woman apart from God, who is called the "strange woman".
- The virtuous woman described in Proverbs 31.
- Several types of fools.
- Those called wise because of their godly lifestyles.

BACKGROUND OF PROVERBS:

- The first appearance of the word proverb:

Wherefore they that speak in Proverbs say, Come into Heshbon, let the city of Sihon be built and prepared. (Numbers 21:27)

- First citation of a proverb:

And one of the same place answered and said, But who is their father? Therefore it became a proverb, Is Saul also among the prophets? (1 Samuel 10:12)

- A New Testament citation of a proverb:

But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire. (2 Peter 2:22)

CHARACTERISTICS OF PROVERBS:

- Proverbs are concise: They are brief.
- Proverbs are clear: They are clearly stated.

- Proverbs are complete: Each proverb is complete in itself, although it relates to others set in order around it.
- Proverbs are creative: They use various literary devices to emphasize a point.
- Proverbs are comparative: They compare and contrast to get a point across to the reader.

COMMON LITERARY DEVICES USED IN PROVERBS:

Antithetic parallelism: In these Proverbs, the second line strengthens the first by a contrast.

Example: Proverbs 13:9

The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

Synonymous parallelism: In these Proverbs, the second line restates the first in different way.

Example: Proverbs 19:29

Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

Emblematic parallelism: These Proverbs feature imagery, using word pictures to illustrate truth.

Example: Proverbs 26:27

Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.

Personification: Assigning personality to an inanimate thing.

Example: Proverbs 9:1

Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars.

Proverbs compares, contrasts, and complements:

- Contrasts the differences Key word is **But@**: Examples: 10:6; 15:25, 27
- Compares the similarities Key words are **as/so, better/than**: Examples: 10:26; 15:16, 17
- Complements by the second phrase Key word **And@**: Examples: 10:18; 15:23

KEYS TO INTERPRETING PROVERBS:

1. Realize these are instructions from God, not just secular sayings.
2. Learn to recognize the various literary devices used in Proverbs. For example, wisdom building a house is a personification of a truth and should be interpreted as such.
3. Remember that the Proverbs are set in order: Let surrounding verses help you understand and interpret what you are studying.
4. If a proverb is unclear in the King James Version, use other versions to help you understand it. (We use the King James Version because our materials are distributed internationally and it is the most readily available version.)
5. Proverbs can be studied by topics. For examples: Studying all the Proverbs that relate to wisdom, sin, the tongue, wealth, pride, idleness, love, pleasure, success, temperance, morals, etc.

APPLYING PROVERBS:

The most important aspect of a study of Proverbs is to apply the truths to your life. Ezra studied, practiced, and taught the Word:

For upon the first day of the first month began he to go up from Babylon, and on the first day of the fifth month came he to Jerusalem, according to the good hand of his God upon him. For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. (Ezra 7:9-10).

James declares:

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

23 For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass:

24 For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was.

25 But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed. (James 1:22-25)

KEY WORDS IN PROVERBS:

Study the meanings of nine key words used in Proverbs:

- Wisdom means skillfulness, the ability to use knowledge correctly.
- Instruction means to teach by discipline.
- Understanding conveys the idea of learning through experience.
- Justice refers to right behavior.
- Judgment means the ability to make good decisions.
- Equity refers to moral integrity.
- Subtilty means craftiness.
- Knowledge is sound information.
- Discretion means thoughtfulness.

A BRIEF OUTLINE:

The word "Proverbs" means "a brief saying instead of many words" or "to be like" meaning using comparisons to teach truths. Each verse in Proverbs is a concise summary of an important truth. It is difficult to make a general outline of the book because each chapter and sometimes each verse within the chapter deals with a different subject. A brief outline of the book is as follows:

- Chapters 1-2: Who the wise man is.
- Chapters 3-31: How the wise man lives.

Here is a more extended outline:

- I. Introduction: 1:1-6
- II. Lessons on wisdom: 1:7-9:18
 - A. The call of wisdom: 1:7-33
 - B. The rewards of wisdom: 2:1-7:27
 - C. In praise of wisdom: 8:1-9:18
- III. Miscellaneous Proverbs of Solomon he set in order: 10:1-22:16
(Chapters 20-25 are observations of Christian virtues and opposite sinful attitudes. There are approximately 375 short statements on various topics.)
- IV. Collections of Proverbs of wise men: 22:17-24:34
- V. Proverbs of Solomon set in order by Hezekiah's scribes: 25:1-29:27
 - A. Observations about leaders; avoiding quarrels, and relationships with others: 25:1-28
 - B. Comments on fools, sluggards (*lazy people*), and busybodies (*people who don't mind their own business*): 26:1-28
 - C. Self-love, true love; avoiding offenses; and thoughts on household care: 27:1-27
 - D. Contrasts of the wicked and righteous: 28:1-28
 - E. Proverbs about public government and private affairs: 29:1-27
- VI. A proverb of Agur: Confessions and instructions: 30:1-33
- VII. A proverb of Lemuel: A lesson in chastity, temperance, and in praise of a good wife: 31:1-31

QUESTIONS ON THE INTRODUCTION:

1. Who was the major author of Proverbs?
2. Who were the other authors?
3. Summarize Ecclesiastes 19:9-14 which is an introduction to the book of Proverbs.
4. Who is the audience for the Proverbs?
5. What are the key verses in Proverbs?
6. What are the purposes of Proverbs according to Chapter 1:1-6?
7. What is the life and ministry principle?
8. Who are the main characters of the book?
9. Where was the first use of the word A proverb@?
10. Where is the first citation of a proverb found in scripture?
11. Give one example of a New Testament proverb.
12. List five characteristics of Proverbs.
13. Define the following literary devices used in Proverbs and give an example of each. Use a different example than the one given in the introduction.
 - Antithetic parallelism.
 - Synonymous parallelism.
 - Emblematic parallelism.

-Personification.

14. List the keys for interpreting Proverbs.
15. What is the most important aspect of the study of Proverbs?
16. What does the word AProverbs@ mean?

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OUTLINE OF THE BOOK OF PROVERBS

Proverbs 1

- 1 The Proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;**
- 2 To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding;**
- 3 To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;**
- 4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.**
- 5 A wise man will hear, and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:**
- 6 To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the wise, and their dark sayings.**
- 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.**
- 8 My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother:**
- 9 For they shall be an ornament of grace unto thy head, and chains about thy neck.**
- 10 My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not.**
- 11 If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause:**
- 12 Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit:**
- 13 We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil:**
- 14 Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse:**
- 15 My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path:**
- 16 For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood.**
- 17 Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.**
- 18 And they lay wait for their own blood; they lurk privily for their own lives.**
- 19 So are the ways of every one that is greedy of gain; which taketh away the life of the owners thereof.**

20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:
21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, saying,
22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?
23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.
24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;
25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:
26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;
27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.
28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:
29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord:
30 They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof.
31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.
32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.
33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

Outline 1:

- I. The author of Proverbs: Solomon the son of David, king of Israel. (1)
- II. The purposes of Proverbs. (2-6)
 - A. To know wisdom and instruction.
 - B. To perceive the words of understanding.
 - D. To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, judgment, and equity.
 - E. To give subtilty to the simple.
 - F. To give knowledge and discretion to the young man.
 - G. To understand:
 1. A proverb.
 2. The interpretation.
 3. The words of the wise.
 4. Their dark sayings (*the depth of their meaning*).
- III. The recipients of Proverbs. (4-6)
 - A. The simple who will receive subtilty.
 - B. The young who will learn knowledge and discretion.
 - C. The wise man that will hear and increase learning.
 - D. The man of understanding who shall attain unto wise counsel.
- IV. The response of the wise and the foolish. (7)

- A. Wise men understand that the fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
(See Supplemental Study Two on The Fear Of The Lord.)
- B. Foolish men despise wisdom and instruction.
- V. The role of fathers and mothers. (8-9)
- A. Wise sons heed the instruction of godly fathers and will not forsake the law of godly mothers.
1. Their words will be an ornament of grace unto your head.
 2. Their words will be chains about your neck.
- VI. The appeal of sinners to err from the way of wisdom. If sinners entice you, don't consent: (10-19).
- A. They will say:
1. Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily (*privately*) for the innocent without cause. (*Their appeal is to hide, rob, and kill.*)
 2. Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit (*the place of the dead*).
 3. We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil.
 4. Cast in your lot among us; let us all have one purse.
- B. Don't walk in their way, refrain from their path because:
1. Their feet run to evil.
 2. They make haste to shed blood.
 3. Their plans are futile: Surely in vain the net is spread in the sight of any bird.
 4. They lay wait for their own blood. (*Blood is the source of life. Evil costs them, as it were, their own life's blood.*)
 5. They lurk privily for their own lives (*they entrap themselves and destroy their own lives. They ambush their own lives.*)
- C. These are the ways of all who are greedy of gain, who take away the lives of the owners.
- VII. The cry of wisdom. (20-21)
(Remember that Jesus is the Spirit of wisdom as you read this section: Isaiah 11:2.)
- A. Where she cries:
1. Without.
 2. In the streets.
 3. In chief places of concourse (*travel*).
 4. In the openings of the gates (*where matters are judged*).
 5. In the city.
- B. What she says. (22-23)
1. How long you simple ones love simplicity?
(*How long will you continue being fools?*)
 2. How long will the scorners delight in scorning?
 3. How long will fools hate knowledge?
(*How long will you scoff at God's wisdom?*)

4. Turn at my reproof and...
 - a. I will pour out my spirit unto you.
 - b. I will make known my words unto you.

VIII. The results of refusing. (24-32)

- A. The refusal:
 1. I have called, and you refused.
 2. I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded.
 3. You have set at naught (*ignored*) all my counsel.
 4. You would not heed my reproof.
- B. The response:
 1. I also will laugh at your calamity.
 2. I will mock when your fear comes.
 3. I will mock when your destruction comes as a whirlwind (*storm*).
 4. I will mock when distress and anguish comes upon you.
 5. You will call upon me, but I will not answer.
 6. You will seek me early, but shall not find me.
- C. The reason:
 1. They hated knowledge.
 2. They did not choose the fear of the Lord.
 3. They did not receive His counsel.
 4. They despised His reproof.
- D. The results:
 1. They shall eat of the fruit of their own way.
 2. They shall be filled with their own devices.
 3. The turning away of the simple shall slay them.
(*Because they refuse wisdom, they turn from life to death*).
 4. The prosperity of fools shall destroy them.
(*They are complacent because of their prosperity and don't realize their true condition*).

IX. The results of responding. (33)

- A. Whoever hearkens (*to wisdom*) shall dwell safely.
- B. They shall be quiet from fear of evil. (*They won't be afraid*).

Study questions on chapter 1:

1. Who is the main author of Proverbs? (1)
2. List the purposes of Proverbs. (2-6)
3. Why is the fear of the Lord important? Where does wisdom come from? (7)
4. How is the fear of the Lord demonstrated in the following references?
 - Exodus 20:18-21
 - Joshua 2:1-14
 - Job 1:1, 4-5

-Psalm 112:1; 128:1

5. What is the response of fools to wisdom and instruction? (7)
6. What is the responsibility of fathers and mothers in regards to instruction? What should be the response of children who have godly parents? (8-9)
7. What do you learn about sinners in verses 10-19?
8. What should be the response of the godly to sinners? (10-19)
9. If you walk with sinners (15) what happens next according to verse 16?
10. Summarize the cry of wisdom in verses 20-23. Where does she cry? What does she say?
11. List the results of refusing wisdom=s call. (24-32)
12. What are the results of responding to the appeal of wisdom? (33)
13. Read James 3:13-18. What two kinds of wisdom are described?
14. What three kinds of unbelievers are referred to in verse 22?
15. Can God=s invitation be rejected to the point where it is withdrawn? (28-32)
16. What is the invitation and promise of verse 33?
17. List four reasons God does not answer prayer. (28-30)
18. Wisdom is first mentioned in Exodus 28:2-3 and Exodus 31:1-6. Who was given wisdom? To do what? Who was the source? What else were they to do? (Exodus 35:34).
19. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 2

- 1 My son, if thou wilt receive my words, and hide my commandments with thee;**
- 2 So that thou incline thine ear unto wisdom, and apply thine heart to understanding;**
- 3 Yea, if thou criest after knowledge, and liftest up thy voice for understanding;**
- 4 If thou seekest her as silver, and searchest for her as for hid treasures;**
- 5 Then shalt thou understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God.**
- 6 For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.**
- 7 He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.**
- 8 He keepeth the paths of judgment, and preserveth the way of his saints.**
- 9 Then shalt thou understand righteousness, and judgment, and equity; yea, every good path.**
- 10 When wisdom entereth into thine heart, and knowledge is pleasant unto thy soul;**
- 11 Discretion shall preserve thee, understanding shall keep thee:**
- 12 To deliver thee from the way of the evil man, from the man that speaketh froward things;**
- 13 Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness;**
- 14 Who rejoice to do evil, and delight in the frowardness of the wicked;**
- 15 Whose ways are crooked, and they froward in their paths:**
- 16 To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words;**
- 17 Which forsaketh the guide of her youth, and forgetteth the covenant of her God.**
- 18 For her house inclineth unto death, and her paths unto the dead.**

- 19 None that go unto her return again, neither take they hold of the paths of life.**
20 That thou mayest walk in the way of good men, and keep the paths of the righteous.
21 For the upright shall dwell in the land, and the perfect shall remain in it.
22 But the wicked shall be cut off from the earth, and the transgressors shall be rooted out of it.

Outline 2:

- I. How to understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God. (1-5)
- A. Receive God=s words.
 - B. Hide His commandments with you.
 - C. Incline your ear unto wisdom.
 - D. Apply your heart to understanding.
 - E. Cry after knowledge.
 - F. Lift up your voice for understanding.
 - G. Seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures.
- II. The source of wisdom and what God does for His people. (6-8)
- A. The Lord gives wisdom (*because He is the Spirit of wisdom*).
 - B. Out of His mouth comes knowledge and understanding.
 - C. He lays up sound wisdom for the righteous.
 - D. He is a buckler to them that walk uprightly (*the buckler held armor in place*).
 - E. He keeps the paths of judgment (*helps them make right decisions*).
 - F. He preserves the way of His saints.
- III. How to understand righteousness, judgment, equity, and every good path. (9-10)
- A. Let wisdom enter into your heart.
 - B. Let knowledge be pleasant to your soul.
- IV. Discretion shall preserve you and understanding will keep you. (11-19)
(It is a spiritual weapon.)
- A. It will keep you from the evil man:
 1. Who speaks froward things (*all speech that departs from the law of purity, truth, and love*).
 2. Who leaves the paths of uprightness to walk in the ways of darkness.
 3. Who rejoices to do evil.
 4. Who delights in the frowardness of the wicked.
 5. Whose ways are crooked.
 6. Whose paths are forward.
 - B. It will keep you from the strange woman (*a woman apart from God. See also Supplemental Study in Proverbs 31 on the strange woman.*)
 1. Who flatters with her words.
 2. Who forsakes the guide of her youth.
 3. Who forgets the covenant of her God.
 4. Whose house inclines unto death (*her dwelling place is on the road to hell*).

- and death).*
5. Whose paths lead unto the dead.
 - a. None that go to her return again.
 - b. They do not take hold of the paths of life.
(*Their lives will never again be the same*).
 - V. The reasons you need discretion and understanding. (20)
 - A. That you may walk in the way of good men.
 - B. That you may keep the paths of the righteous.
 - VI. Contrasts between the upright and the wicked. (21-22)
 - A. The upright shall dwell in the land; the perfect shall remain in it.
 - B. The wicked shall be cut off from the earth and transgressors shall be rooted out of it. (*Only the righteous truly enjoy life and prosper.*)

Study questions on chapter 2:

1. Using the King James Version, complete the following. How does one understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God? (1-5)

R _____	H _____
C _____	L _____
S _____	S _____

 Then you will: U _____ and F _____
2. Who is the source of wisdom? (6)
3. For whom is wisdom laid up? (7)
4. What does God do for those who walk uprightly? (7-9)
5. What happens when wisdom enters your heart and knowledge is pleasant to you? (10-11)
6. What preserves and keeps you? (11)
7. Wisdom will deliver you from the e _____ m _____. (12)
8. Summarize the description of the evil man given in verses 12-15.
9. Wisdom will deliver your from the s _____ w _____. (16)
10. Who is the strange woman? Can this be applied spiritually as well? (16) See Revelation 17:5.
11. Summarize the description of the strange woman given in verses 16-19. What results from being seduced by her?
12. Contrast good and evil men as described in verses 20-22. What happens to the upright? What happens to the wicked? What happens to transgressors?
13. According to verses 1-9, what steps can you take if you want to know God=s will?
14. This is one of the Aif/then@ promises. If you do your part, God will do His. Note Aif@ in verses 1, 3, and 4. What is it you must do to receive the benefits (the Athens@ and the Awhen@) of verses 5, 9, and 10?
15. Study the key word Apath@ in this chapter. Summarize what you learn in verses 8, 9, 13, 15, 18, 19, 20.
16. Note in verses 1-3 that your whole being must be involved with the search for wisdom: Your ears, your heart, your voice, and your desires. Think about how you would search

for hidden treasure if someone told you there was a fortune in your yard. Have you sought wisdom with the same intensity?

17. Contrast the way mentioned in verse 12 with the way mentioned in verse 20.
18. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 3

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

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

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

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

5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

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

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil.

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

9 Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase:

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

11 My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord; neither be weary of his correction:

12 For whom the Lord loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.

13 Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

14 For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold.

15 She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

16 Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.

17 Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

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

19 The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.

20 By his knowledge the depths are broken up, and the clouds drop down the dew.

21 My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound wisdom and discretion:

22 So shall they be life unto thy soul, and grace to thy neck.

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

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

25 Be not afraid of sudden fear, neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it cometh.

26 For the Lord shall be thy confidence, and shall keep thy foot from being taken.

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

28 Say not unto thy neighbour, Go, and come again, and to morrow I will give; when thou

hast it by thee.

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

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

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

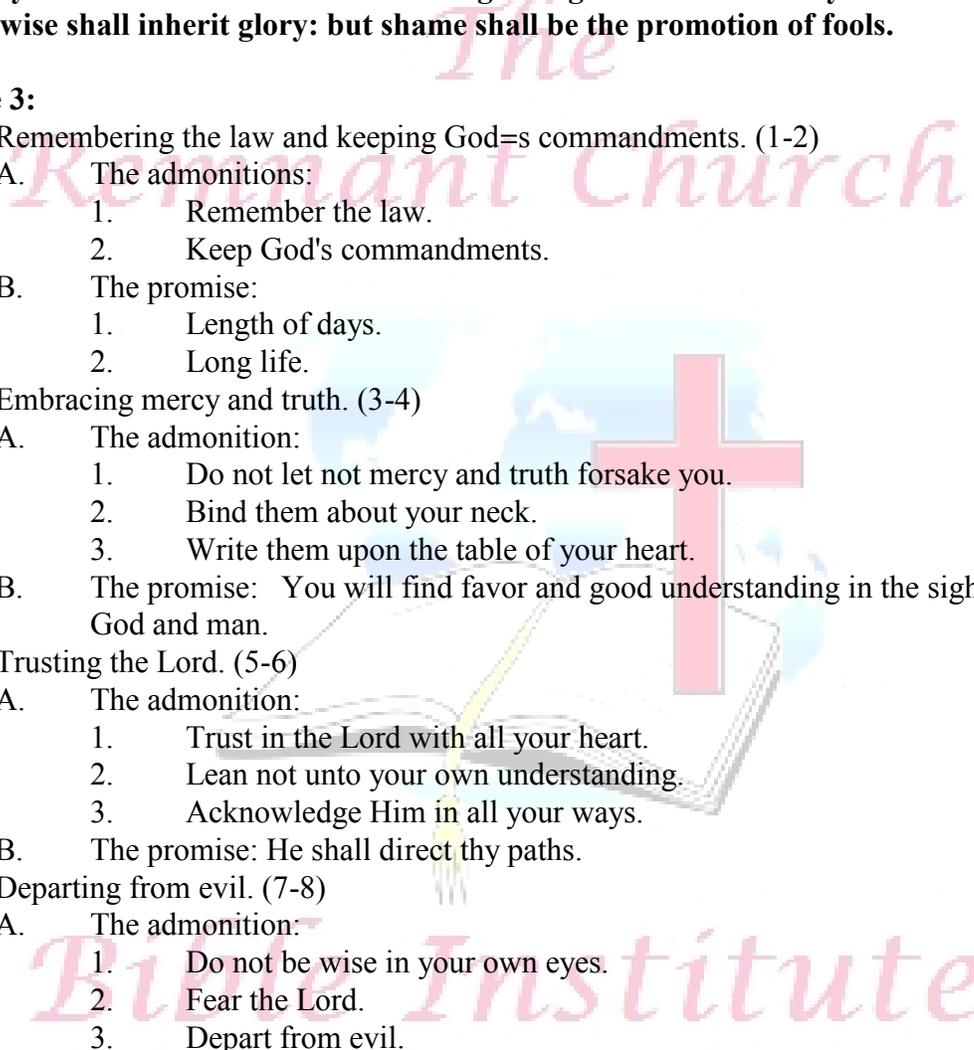
32 For the froward is abomination to the Lord: but his secret is with the righteous.

33 The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just.

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

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

Outline 3:

- 
- I. Remembering the law and keeping God's commandments. (1-2)
 - A. The admonitions:
 - 1. Remember the law.
 - 2. Keep God's commandments.
 - B. The promise:
 - 1. Length of days.
 - 2. Long life.
 - II. Embracing mercy and truth. (3-4)
 - A. The admonition:
 - 1. Do not let not mercy and truth forsake you.
 - 2. Bind them about your neck.
 - 3. Write them upon the table of your heart.
 - B. The promise: You will find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.
 - III. Trusting the Lord. (5-6)
 - A. The admonition:
 - 1. Trust in the Lord with all your heart.
 - 2. Lean not unto your own understanding.
 - 3. Acknowledge Him in all your ways.
 - B. The promise: He shall direct thy paths.
 - IV. Departing from evil. (7-8)
 - A. The admonition:
 - 1. Do not be wise in your own eyes.
 - 2. Fear the Lord.
 - 3. Depart from evil.
 - B. The promise:
 - 1. It will be health to your navel.
 - 2. It shall be marrow to your bones.

(The naval and bones were considered the center of health and vitality.)
 - V. Honoring God with your substance. (9-10)
 - A. The admonition:

1. Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your increase.
- B. The promise:
 1. Your barns will be filled with plenty.
 2. Your presses shall burst out with new wine.
- VI. Chastening of the Lord. (11-12)
 - A. The admonition:
 1. Do not despise His chastening.
 2. Do not be weary of His correction.
 - B. The promise: He loves those He corrects, even as a father loves a son in whom he delights.
- VII. The rewards of wisdom. (13-18; 21-26)
 - A. Happy is the man that finds wisdom and gets understanding.
 - B. Its merchandise is better than silver.
 - C. Its gain is better than that of fine gold.
 - D. Wisdom is more precious than rubies.
 - E. All you desire can't be compared unto her.
 - F. The gifts she holds:
 1. Length of days is in her right hand.
 2. Riches and honor are in her left hand.
 - G. Her ways are:
 1. Pleasant.
 2. Peaceful.
 - H. She is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her.
 - I. Happy is every one that retains her.
 - J. If you keep sound wisdom and discretion:
 1. They shall be life to your soul.
 2. They shall be grace to your neck.
 3. You will walk in your way safely.
 4. Your foot shall not stumble.
 5. Your sleep shall be sweet.
 - K. You will not be afraid of:
 1. Sudden fear.
 2. The desolation of the wicked when it comes.
 - L. The Lord shall be your confidence and shall keep your foot from being taken.
- VIII. God created and sustains creation by wisdom. (19-20)
 - A. By wisdom, the Lord founded the earth.
 - B. By understanding He established the heavens.
 - C. By His knowledge the depths are broken up and the clouds drop down the dew.
- IX. Wise relationships with others. (27-31)
 - A. Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of your hand to do it.

- B. Do not say to your neighbor, 'Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give it to you when you have it already.'
 - D. Devise not evil against your neighbor, seeing he dwells securely by you.
 - E. Strive not with a man without cause, if he has done you no harm.
 - F. Do not envy oppressors nor choose their ways.
- X. Contrasts between the righteous and the wicked. (32-35)
- A. The froward (*those who depart from the law of purity, truth, and love*) are an abomination to the Lord.
His secret is with the righteous.
 - B. The curse of the Lord is in the house of the wicked.
He blesses the habitation of the just.
 - C. He scorns scorers (*those who mock*).
He gives grace unto the lowly.
 - D. The wise shall inherit glory (*be promoted to honor*).
Shame shall be the promotion of fools.

Study questions on chapter 3:

1. The following clusters of verses each contain an admonition and a promise. Make a chart listing the verses, admonitions, and promises: 1-2; 3-4; 5-6; 7-8; 9-10; 11-12; 25-26. Verse 1 indicates these are general principles that will prolong and give quality to life. They are not a guarantee of immunity from difficulties.
2. What guidelines for finding God's will are given in verses 5-6?
3. What do you learn about self-confidence in verses 5-8?
4. What do you learn about giving in verses 9-10?
5. What do you learn about chastening from the Lord in verses 11-12?
6. Verse 12 compares God to a father.
7. List the rewards of wisdom mentioned in verses 13-18 and 21-24.
8. According to verses 13 and 18, what brings happiness?
9. Complete the following statements regarding creation. (19-20)
-The Lord by wisdom _____
-By understanding _____
-By knowledge _____
10. What do you learn about relationships with others in verses 27-31?
11. What are we to avoid? 3:27-31?
12. Using verses 32-35, complete this chart of contrasts.
The froward _____ The righteous _____
The house of the wicked _____ The habitation of the just _____
Fools _____ The wise _____
13. What is the inheritance of the wise? (35)
14. According to verse 30, we should not strive with a man without cause. Does this mean we should never confront wrong-doing?
15. Here is a study outline on wisdom drawn from verses 13-35:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Pursued: | Wisdom must pursued. (13) |
| Profitable: | Wisdom is profitable. (14) |
| Precious: | Wisdom is precious. (15) |
| Promotes: | Wisdom promotes (riches and honor). (16) |
| Peace: | Wisdom is pleasant. (17) |
| Peace: | Wisdom results in peace. (17, 24) |
| Prosperous: | Wisdom brings happiness and true life. (18) |
| Productive: | God created the earth by wisdom; creativity flows from wisdom. (19-20) |
| Preserves: | Wisdom must be preserved. (21) |
| Protects: | Wisdom protects from fear and traps and gives confidence in face of danger. (23-24) |
| Positive relationships: | Wisdom fosters positive relationships with others. (27-31) |
| Promise: | The wise inherit glory. (35) |
16. This chapter indicates there should be total involvement with wisdom: Memory (1); heart (1); neck which guides the head (3); heart (5); eyes (7); navel representing the flesh (8); bones (8); soul (22); feet (23). How would you apply these spiritually?
17. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 4

- 1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.**
- 2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.**
- 3 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of my mother.**
- 4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.**
- 5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.**
- 6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee.**
- 7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding.**
- 8 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her.**
- 9 She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee.**
- 10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.**
- 11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths.**
- 12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble.**
- 13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life.**
- 14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.**

- 15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.**
- 16 For they sleep not, except they have done mischief; and their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.**
- 17 For they eat the bread of wickedness, and drink the wine of violence.**
- 18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.**
- 19 The way of the wicked is as darkness: they know not at what they stumble.**
- 20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.**
- 21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.**
- 22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh.**
- 23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.**
- 24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.**
- 25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee.**
- 26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established.**
- 27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.**

Outline 4:

- I. Hear children! (1-6)
- A. Who is speaking?
1. He was a father himself (*Solomon*).
 2. He was his father's son, who had been taught by his father (*David*).
 3. He was an only child, tender and beloved in the sight of his mother (*Bathsheba*).
- B. What is he saying?
1. Attend (*determine, set your heart and mind*) to know understanding.
 2. I give you good doctrine.
 3. Forsake not my law.
 4. Let your heart retain my words.
 5. Keep my commandments and live.
 6. Obtain, and do not forget, wisdom and understanding.
 7. Do not decline from the words of my mouth.
 8. Do not forsake wisdom, and she shall preserve you.
 9. Love wisdom and she shall keep you.
- II. Wisdom is the principal thing therefore: (7-9)
- A. Get wisdom.
- B. Get understanding also (*common sense and good judgment*).
- C. Exalt wisdom:
1. She shall promote you.
 2. She will bring you honor when you embrace her.
 3. She shall give your head an ornament of grace and a crown of glory.
- III. Hear, my son, and receive my sayings. (10-13)
- A. The years of your life shall be many.

- B. I have taught you in the way of wisdom.
- C. I have led you in right paths where:
1. When you go, your steps shall not be straitened (*hindered*).
 2. When you run, you will not stumble.
- D. Take fast hold of instruction:
1. Do not let her go.
 2. Keep her, for she is your life.
- IV. The path of the wicked. (14-17,19)
- A. Enter not into the path of the wicked.
- B. Do not go in the way of evil men.
- C. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away.
- D. The wicked:
1. Can't sleep unless they have done mischief.
 2. Their sleep is taken away, unless they cause some to fall.
 3. They eat the bread of wickedness and drink the wine of violence.
- E. Their way is like walking in darkness and they do not know over what they stumble.
- V. The path of the just. (18)
- A. It is as the shining light.
- B. It shines more and more unto the perfect day.
- VI. My son, attend to my words; incline your ear unto my sayings. (20-27)
- A. Let them not depart from your eyes.
- B. Keep them in the midst of your heart.
- C. They are life unto those that find them.
- D. They are health to their flesh.
- E. Keep your heart (*the seat of your affections*) with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.
- F. Put away a froward mouth and perverse lips (*all speech that departs from the law of purity, truth, and love*).
- G. Let your eyes look right on, straight before you (*don't look back on the old life*).
- H. Ponder the path of your feet.
1. Let all your ways be established.
 2. Turn not to the right hand nor to the left.
 3. Remove your foot from evil.

Study questions on chapter 4:

1. Who is speaking? Who was his father? Who was his mother? (1,3)
See also 1 Kings 2:1-9 and 1 Chronicles 28-29.
2. What are the admonitions of verses 1-2, 3, 5, and 6?
3. What is the principle thing and the greatest priority? (7)
4. Why is it important to get understanding as well as wisdom? (5)
5. What are the benefits of wisdom? (8-9, 12)

6. Discuss the various paths mentioned in this chapter. (11-12, 14-17, 18-19, 26-27). Verse 22 is not insurance, but a general principle. Why did Solomon warn us to avoid the path of the wicked? (14-19)
7. What do you learn about the wicked in verses 14-17 and 19?
8. Wisdom must be embraced with your total being. Use verses 20-26 to complete the following chart in your notes.

Part of your being	Admonition
Ear	
Eyes	
Heart	
Mouth/lips	
Feet	
Hands	
Flesh	

9. Verse 6 warns not to forsake wisdom. Does this indicate it is something that must continually be pursued?
10. Note verse 23 and compare it to Matthew 12:34. This is a scientifically correct statement which was made under inspiration of the Holy Spirit years before medical science realized the function of the heart. How can this be applied spiritually as well as physically? Why should we guard our hearts? How does one guard his heart?
11. What did Solomon say about perversity and corrupt talk? (24)
12. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 5

- 1 My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:**
- 2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.**
- 3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:**
- 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword.**
- 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.**
- 6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.**
- 7 Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.**
- 8 Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house:**
- 9 Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel:**
- 10 Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger;**
- 11 And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed,**
- 12 And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof;**
- 13 And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!**
- 14 I was almost in all evil in the midst of the congregation and assembly.**

- 15 Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well.
 16 Let thy fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets.
 17 Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee.
 18 Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth.
 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.
 20 And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger?
 21 For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, and he pondereth all his goings.
 22 His own iniquities shall take the wicked himself, and he shall be holden with the cords of his sins.
 23 He shall die without instruction; and in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

Outline 5:

- I. My son: (1-2)
- A. The plea:
 1. Attend unto my wisdom.
 2. Bow your ear to my understanding:
 - B. The purposes:
 1. That you may regard discretion.
 2. That your lips may keep knowledge.
- II. The strange woman (*the adulterous, seductive woman apart from God*). (3-6)
- A. Her lips drop as honeycomb.
 - B. Her mouth is smoother than oil (*she flatters*).
 - C. But her end is:
 1. Bitter as wormwood.
 2. Sharp as a two-edged sword.
 - D. Her feet:
 1. Go down to death.
 2. Her steps take hold on hell.
 - E. Her motive: To deceive, lest her victims should ponder the path of life and realize they are on the wrong road.
 - F. Her ways are movable (*unstable*) so that you can't really know them.
- III. Oh children, hear me, and do not depart from my words. (7-8)
- A. Remove your way far from her.
 - B. Do not come near the door of her house.
- IV. The results of not heeding the warning. (9-14)
- A. Your honor will be given to others.
 - B. Your years will be shortened.
 - C. Strangers will be filled with your wealth.
 - D. Your labor will be in the house of a stranger.
 - E. Your flesh and body will be consumed (*sexually transmitted diseases*).

- F. You will mourn at the last and say:
1. How I have hated instruction.
 2. My heart despised reproof.
 3. I have not obeyed the voice of my teachers.
 4. I have not inclined my ear to them that instructed me.
 5. I was in all evil (*on the verge of total ruin*) in the midst of the congregation and assembly.
- V. Drink waters out of your own cistern and running waters out of your own well. (15-19)
(*Water was very valuable in the arid climate where the Bible was written. It is used as an example of valued sexual purity.*)
- A. Should your fountains be dispersed abroad, and rivers of waters in the streets (*your offspring scattered*)?
 - B. Let them be only your own, and not a strangers'.
 - C. Let your fountain be blessed.
 - D. Rejoice with the wife of your youth.
 1. Let her be as the loving hind and pleasant roe.
 2. Let her breasts satisfy you at all times.
 3. Always be ravished with her love.
- VI. Why will you, my son, be ravished with a strange woman (*a woman apart from God*) and embrace the bosom of a stranger? (20-23)
- A. For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord.
 - B. The Lord ponders all his goings.
 - C. The wicked will be taken in his own iniquities:
 1. He will be bound with the cords of his sins.
 2. He shall die without instruction.
 3. In the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

Study questions on chapter 5:

1. Note that the appeal in verse 1 is not just to listen but to do what? See Luke 12:47.
2. What are the purposes of the plea in verse 2?
3. Who is the strange woman spoken of in this chapter? Can this be applied spiritually as well? How?
4. Describe the strange woman:

Her lips, mouth (3)	Her end (4)
Her steps (5)	Her ways (6)
5. Summarize the admonitions of verses 7-14.
6. What happens in the end if one does not heed these warnings? (11,23)
7. What do verses 15-19 mean?
8. What question is asked in verse 20? What warnings in verses 21-23 refer back to this question?
9. List the losses brought on by adultery (physical or spiritual—spiritual adultery is being turning to something other than God for intimate spiritual relationship). See verses 9, 10,

- 11,12,13,14,21,22, and 23.
10. Where do the steps of an adulteress lead? (5)
 11. What thought does an adulteress give to the long-term consequences of her way of life? (6)
 12. Where should a person seek sexual fulfillment? (15-20)
 13. What did Solomon say about intimacy in marriage? (16-18)
 14. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 6

- 1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,**
2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.
3 Do this now, my son, deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.
4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.
5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.
6 Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise:
7 Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler,
8 Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.
9 How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?
10 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

- 11 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.**
12 A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.
13 He winketh with his eyes, he speaketh with his feet, he teacheth with his fingers;
14 Frowardness is in his heart, he deviseth mischief continually; he soweth discord.
15 Therefore shall his calamity come suddenly; suddenly shall he be broken without remedy.
16 These six things doth the Lord hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:
17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,
18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,
19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.
20 My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother:
21 Bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck.

22 When thou goest, it shall lead thee; when thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; and when thou awakest, it shall talk with thee.

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

24 To keep thee from the evil woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.

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.

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

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

29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.

30 Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;

31 But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.

32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.

33 A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.

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

35 He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

Outline 6:

- I. Providing security for another (*co-signing for debts*), whether a friend or stranger. (1-5)
 - A. You are snared and taken with the words of your mouth.
 - B. Deliver yourself if you have done this.
 - 1. Humble yourself before your friend.
 - 2. Do not sleep until you get out of it.
 - 3. Deliver yourself as:
 - a. A roe from the hand of the hunter.
 - b. A bird from the hand of the fowler (*hunter*).
- II. A word to the sluggard (*lazy*). (6-11)
 - A. Consider the ant and be wise.
 - 1. The ant has no guide, overseer, or ruler.
 - 2. Yet they provide their meat in summer and food in harvest.
 - B. How long will you sleep, oh sluggard (*lazy one*)?
 - 1. When will you arise?
 - 2. A little sleep, folding of the hands to sleep:
 - a. So shall your poverty come as one that travells (*like a prowler*).
 - b. So shall your want come as an armed man (*like a robber*).
- III. The naughty, wicked man. (12-15)
 - A. His conduct.
 - 1. He walks with a froward mouth (*speech that departs from the law of*

- purity, truth, and love).*
2. He winks with his eyes (*meaning he doesn't mean what he says*).
 3. He speaks with his feet (*perhaps stamps his feet?*).
 4. He teaches with his fingers (*signaling his true intent with signs—like gang members do*).
 5. His heart is forward and devises mischief continually.
 6. He sows discord.
- B. His judgment.
1. Calamity will come suddenly.
 2. He shall be broken suddenly without remedy.
- IV. Seven things God hates and that are an abomination to Him. (16-19)
- A. A proud look (*haughtiness*).
 - B. A lying tongue.
 - C. Hands that shed innocent blood.
 - D. A heart that devises wicked imaginations (*plotting evil*).
 - E. Feet that are swift in running to mischief (*eagerness to do wrong*).
 - G. A false witness that speaks lies.
 - H. He that sows discord among brethren.
- V. Keeping the commands of a Godly father and mother. (20-23)
- A. What to do with the commands.
 1. Bind them continually upon your heart.
 2. Tie them about your neck. (*The neck directs the head, vision, etc. This is not speaking literally of putting verses on your neck, but letting them guide your life.*)
 - B. What they will do for you.
 1. They will lead you when you go.
 2. They will keep you when you sleep.
 3. They will talk with you when you awake and guide you in the new day.
 - C. What they are.
 1. The commands are a lamp.
 2. The law is light.
 3. Reproofs of instruction are the way of life.
- VI. God's commands keep you from the evil and strange woman.
- A. Do not lust after her beauty in your heart.
 - B. Do not let her seduce you with her eyes.
 - C. She will reduce you to a piece of bread (*poverty*).
 - D. The adulteress hunts for the precious life.
 - E. You cannot take fire into your bosom and not be burned or walk on hot coals and not burn your feet.
 - F. He that goes in to his neighbor's wife shall not be innocent.
 - G. There is no restitution adequate for adultery.
 1. A thief who steals because he is hungry can make restitution.

2. Whoever commits adultery does not understand that:
 - a. He destroys his own soul.
 - b. His reputation will be damaged (*wounded, reproached*).
 - c. There is no amount of restitution that will eliminate the rage and vengeance of the wronged party.

Study questions on chapter 6:

1. What is the warning in verses 1-5 and why should it be heeded?
2. Why are we told to consider the ant in verses 6-8? What do we learn that can be applied to our lives? (*See Supplemental Study Three for further spiritual applications drawn from the observation of ants.*)
3. To whom are verses 9-11 addressed? What is the warning? What happens to sluggards?
4. What do you learn about the wicked in verses 12-15?

His conduct?	His speech?
His heart attitude?	His relation to others?
His judgment?	
5. List the seven things God hates. (16-19)
6. What are the benefits of heeding the advice of Godly parents? (20-23)
7. What is one of the main dangers Godly advice will guard against? (24)
8. What is the warning of verses 24-29?
9. What eventually happens to a person who engages in sexual sins? (24-29)
10. A thief can restore what is stolen, but what about sexual sins? What is the warning of verses 30-35? Study David's sin with Bathsheba in relation to verses 32-35. Although God forgives, the effects of sexual sin remain (2 Samuel 11-12).
11. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 7

- 1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.**
- 2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.**
- 3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.**
- 4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman:**
- 5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words.**
- 6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,**
- 7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,**
- 8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,**
- 9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:**
- 10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtle of heart.**
- 11 (She is loud and stubborn; her feet abide not in her house:**
- 12 Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)**

13 So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,
14 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.
15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.
16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.
17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.
19 For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:
20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.
21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;
23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.
24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.
25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.
26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.
27 Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Outline 7:

- I. An opening admonition. (1-4)
 - A. My son, keep my words.
 - B. Lay up my commandments with you.
 - C. Keep my commandments, and live.
 - D. Keep my law as the apple (*pupil*) of your eye. (*As your eyesight is precious, so should be God's law.*)
 - E. Bind them upon thy fingers.
 - F. Write them upon the table of your heart.
 - G. Say unto wisdom, You are my sister.
 - H. Call understanding your kinswoman. (*Make wisdom and understanding as beloved as cherished family members.*)
- II. The purpose of the admonition. (5)
 - A. Being kept from the strange woman.
 - B. Being kept from the stranger who flatters with her words.
- III. The strange woman's target. (6-9)
 - A. The simple ones: Those void of understanding (*common sense*).
 - B. Those wandering without purpose in the way of temptation:
 1. He passes through the street near her corner.
 2. He goes the way to her house.
 3. He roams in the evening, in the black and dark night.
- IV. The strange woman's conduct. (10-12)

- A. She wears the attire of a harlot.
- B. She is subtle of heart (*deceptive*).
- C. She is loud and stubborn.
- D. Her feet do not abide in her house:
1. She is wandering around without (*various locations*).
 2. She is in the streets.
 3. She lies in wait at every corner. (*Temptation always stalks us!*)
- V. The strange woman=s trap. (13-20)
- A. Her enticement:
1. She caught him, and kissed him.
 2. With an impudent face she said to him:
 - a. I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows. (*She was religious, but not truly a believer.*)
 - b. Therefore came I forth to meet you, diligently to seek your face, and I have found you.
- B. Her bed:
1. She had decked her bed with:
 - a. Coverings of tapestry.
 - b. Carved works.
 - c. Fine linen of Egypt.
 2. She had perfumed it with:
 - a. Myrrh.
 - b. Aloes.
 - c. Cinnamon. (*Sin is always appealing.*)
- C. Her appeal:
1. Come and let us take our fill of love until the morning.
 2. Let us solace ourselves with love.
- D. Her husband:
1. Was on a long journey.
 2. Took a bag of money with him.
 3. Will return on an appointed day.
- VI. Her victim=s response. (21-23)
- A. With much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
- B. He goes after her straightway:
1. As an ox goes to the slaughter.
 2. As a fool to the correction of the stocks.
 3. As a bird to the snare.
- C. He does not realize it will cost his life!
- VII. A closing admonition. (24-27)
- A. Listen! Pay attention to my words!

- B. Do not let your heart decline to her ways or go astray in her paths (*don't go anywhere near her*).
- C. The reasons:
 - 1. She has wounded and cast down many.
 - 2. Many strong men have been slain by her.
 - 3. Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

Study questions on chapter 7:

1. The Strange woman@ is the woman apart from God and can represent both natural and spiritual fornication. What specific problem is addressed in this chapter? What specific evil will these warnings protect against?
2. What admonitions are given in verses 1-4?
3. What are the results of keeping these commands? (2)
4. Where are these commands to be written (3)? Why, according to Psalm 119:9,11? What does Jeremiah 31:33 say about this?
5. What kind of relationship between wisdom and understanding should be fostered? (4)
6. Who is the target of the strange woman? (5-9)
7. Describe the conduct of the strange woman. (10-12)
8. Summarize her appeal. (13-20)
9. What is the victim's response? (21-23)
10. Summarize the closing admonitions of verses 24-26.
11. Compare Proverbs 7:27 and James 1:14-15.
12. How is the house of the strange woman described? (27)
13. What is the end result of those who enter the strange woman's house? (27)
14. Study Revelation 17 in relation to this chapter. The strange woman can also prophetically represent the false church.
15. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 8

- 1 Doth not wisdom cry? and understanding put forth her voice?**
- 2 She standeth in the top of high places, by the way in the places of the paths.**
- 3 She crieth at the gates, at the entry of the city, at the coming in at the doors.**
- 4 Unto you, O men, I call; and my voice is to the sons of man.**
- 5 O ye simple, understand wisdom: and, ye fools, be ye of an understanding heart.**
- 6 Hear; for I will speak of excellent things; and the opening of my lips shall be right things.**
- 7 For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.**
- 8 All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.**
- 9 They are all plain to him that understandeth, and right to them that find knowledge.**
- 10 Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.**
- 11 For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be**

compared to it.

12 I wisdom dwell with prudence, and find out knowledge of witty inventions.

13 The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

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

15 By me kings reign, and princes decree justice.

16 By me princes rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.

17 I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.

18 Riches and honour are with me; yea, durable riches and righteousness.

19 My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold; and my revenue than choice silver.

20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:

21 That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures.

22 The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way, before his works of old.

23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was.

24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.

25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth:

26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world.

27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: when he set a compass upon the face of the depth:

28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep:

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:

30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;

31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men.

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

33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.

34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors.

35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord.

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

Outline 8:

- I. Wisdom=s voice. (1-3)
 - A. It cries from the top of high places.
 - B. It calls by the pathways.
 - C. It cries at the gates.
 - D. It cries at the entry of the city.
 - E. It cries in the doorways.
- II. Wisdom=s audience. (4-5)

- A. Men.
 - B. The sons of man.
 - C. The simple.
 - D. Fools.
- III. Wisdom=s message. (6-9)
- A. What she speaks:
 1. She speaks of excellent things.
 2. She speaks of right things.
 3. She speaks truth.
 4. She speaks righteousness.
 5. She speaks plainly to those who understand and find knowledge.
 - B. What she does not speak:
 1. Wickedness, which is an abomination to her lips.
 2. Froward or perverse words (*all speech that departs from the law of purity, truth, and love*).
- IV. The value of wisdom. (10-12, 14-21)
- A. It is more valuable than silver, gold, and rubies.
 - B. It is the most valuable thing in the worldBnothing compares to it.
 - C. Wisdom brings prudence and knowledge of witty inventions (*discernment*).
 - D. Wisdom brings counsel, sound wisdom, understanding, strength.
 - E. By wisdom, kings, princes, nobles, and judges rule.
 - F. Wisdom loves those who love her.
 - G. Those who seek her early will find her.
 - H. Wisdom brings durable (*true and eternal*) riches, honor, and righteousness.
 - I. Wisdom leads us in righteousness and judgment.
 - J. Wisdom causes those who love her to inherit substance and fills their treasuries.
- V. The fear of the Lord is to hate: (13)
- A. Evil.
 - B. Pride.
 - C. Arrogance.
 - D. The evil way.
 - E. The froward mouth (*all speech that departs from the law of purity, truth, and love*).
- VI. The revelation of wisdom. (22-31)
- A. The Lord possessed wisdom in the beginning of His way, before His works of old.
 - B. Wisdom was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, before the earth was created.
 - C. When there were no depths, wisdom was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water.
 - D. Before the mountains and hills were settled, wisdom was brought forth: Before God made the earth, the fields, and the highest part of the dust of the world (*man*).
 - E. Wisdom was there:

1. When He prepared the heavens.
 2. When He set a compass upon the face of the deep.
 3. When He established the clouds above.
 4. When He strengthened the fountains of the deep.
 5. When He gave to the sea His decree that the waters should not pass His commandment.
 6. When He appointed the foundations of the earth.
- F. Wisdom was by Him:
1. As one brought up with Him.
 2. As His daily delight.
 3. Rejoicing always before Him.
 4. Rejoicing in the habitable part of His earth.
 5. Wisdom=s delights were with the sons of men.
(*Read this passage again, replacing wisdom with the name of Jesus, who is the Spirit of wisdom.*)
- VII. Blessings and a curse. (32-35)
- A. The blessings.
1. Blessed are they that keep my ways.
 2. Blessed is the man that responds to wisdom:
 - a. He hears wisdom.
 - b. He does not refuse wisdom.
 - c. He watches and waits daily for wisdom.
 3. Whoever finds wisdom, finds life, and shall obtain favor of the Lord.
- B. The curse.
1. He that sins against wisdom wrongs his own soul (*injures himself spiritually*).
 2. Those who hate wisdom love death (*because any other way other than the way of wisdom leads to death*).

Study questions on chapter 8:

1. Where are the voices of wisdom and understanding heard? (1-3) These locations are symbolic of every area of life.
2. To whom does wisdom call? (4-5)
3. Using the King James Version, complete the following sentences which summarize wisdom=s message.
 - Wisdom speaks of e_____ t_____. (6)
 - Wisdom speaks of r_____ t_____. (6)
 - Wisdom speaks t_____. (7)
 - W_____ is an abomination to wisdom. (7)
 - The words of wisdom are in r_____. (8)
 - There is nothing f_____ or p_____ in the words of wisdom. (8)
 - Wisdom is plan to him that u_____ and right to them that find k_____. (9)

4. According to verse 11, what is the most valuable thing in the world?
5. The value of wisdom.
 - It is better than s_____ and g_____ and r_____. (10,19)
 - It brings p_____ and w_____ and i_____. (12)
 - Wisdom provides c_____, u_____, and s_____. (14)
 - Leaders r_____ by wisdom. (15-16)
 - Wisdom brings r_____ and h_____. (18)
 - Wisdom leads to r_____ and j_____. (20)
 - Wisdom gives us an i_____ and fills our t_____. (21)
6. To what is wisdom, instruction, and knowledge compared? (10-11)
7. Who uses wisdom? (15-16)
8. What is the fear of the Lord? (13)
9. How does one receive wisdom? (17, 21, and 34)
10. What do you learn about creation from verses 22-31? See also John 1:3 and Colossians 1:16-17.
11. What do you learn about wisdom in verses 22-31. Read Colossians 2:3 and 1 Corinthians 1:30. Wisdom is expressed in J_____ C_____.
12. What blessings are promised in verses 32-35 and to whom are these promises given? What warning is given in verse 36?
13. Study this chapter again using the following outline:

Wisdom is public	1-2
Wisdom is persistent	3
Wisdom is personal Bto you	4-5
Wisdom is pure and purposeful	6-8
Wisdom is plain	9
Wisdom is to be preferred	10-11
Wisdom is associated with prudence	12
Wisdom hates perversion (prideful, arrogant speech)	13
Wisdom gives proper perspective	14
Wisdom is powerful	15-16
Wisdom is passionate Bloves	17a
Wisdom gives promise	17b
Wisdom is priceless	18-19,21
Wisdom is perfect	20
Wisdom was present and participated in creation:	21-31
Wisdom preserves from spiritual death	32-36
14. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 9

- 1 Wisdom hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:**
2 She hath killed her beasts; she hath mingled her wine; she hath also furnished her table.
3 She hath sent forth her maidens: she crieth upon the highest places of the city,
4 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,
5 Come, eat of my bread, and drink of the wine which I have mingled.
6 Forsake the foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding.
7 He that reproveth a scorner getteth to himself shame: and he that rebuketh a wicked man getteth himself a blot.
8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.
9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser: teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.
10 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.
11 For by me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased.
12 If thou be wise, thou shalt be wise for thyself: but if thou scornest, thou alone shalt bear it.
13 A foolish woman is clamorous: she is simple, and knoweth nothing.
14 For she sitteth at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city,
15 To call passengers who go right on their ways:
16 Whoso is simple, let him turn in hither: and as for him that wanteth understanding, she saith to him,
17 Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasant.
18 But he knoweth not that the dead are there; and that her guests are in the depths of hell.

Outline 9:

- I. The wise woman: Representing wisdom. (1-6, 10-12)
 - A. Her position.
 1. She has built her house.
 2. She has hewn out seven pillars (*the number of perfection*).
 - B. Her provision.
 1. She has killed her beasts (*prepared her meat*).
 2. She has mingled her wine (*mixed her wine*).
 3. She has also furnished her table.
(*Her provision represents the body and blood of the lamb, Jesus*)
 - C. Her plea.
 1. She has sent forth her maidens.
 2. She cries upon the highest places of the city.
 - a. Whoever is simple (*easily led astray*), let him turn in here.
 - b. He that wants understanding, she says to him,
ACome, eat of my bread and drink of the wine which I have

- mingled.@
- c. Forsake the foolish and live.
 - d. Go in the way of understanding.
- D. Her premises.
- 1. The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom.
 - 2. Knowledge of the holy is understanding.
- E. Her promises.
- 1. By me (*wisdom*) your days shall be multiplied.
 - 2. The years of your life shall be increased (*you will be more fruitful*).
 - 2 If you are wise, you will benefit; if not, you will bear it (*pay the penalty*).
- II. Paradox between the wicked and the wise. (7-9)
- A. The wicked:
- 1. He that reproves a scorner gets to himself shame.
 - 2. He that rebukes a wicked man gets himself a blot (*a blemish*).
 - 3. Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate you.
- B. The wise:
- 1. Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.
 - 2. Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be yet wiser.
 - 3. Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.
- III. The foolish woman: Representing the woman apart from God. (13-18)
- A. Her position.
- 1. She is clamourous (*loud, brash*), simple, and knows nothing (*of eternal value*).
 - 2. She sits at the door of her house, on a seat in the high places of the city (*in conspicuous places*).
- B. Her plea.
- 1. She calls passengers who go right on their ways.
 - 2. She appeals to the simple to turn in there.
- C. Her provision:
- 1. Stolen waters that she claims are sweet.
 - 2. Pleasant bread.
- D. Her promises (*not revealed to the simple*):
- 1. The spiritually dead are there.
 - 2. Her guests are in the depths of hell (*Sheol: The place of the dead*).

Study questions on chapter 9:

- 1. Contrast the wise and the foolish in the following areas: Her position; her plea; her promises. (13-18)
- 2. For what did wisdom prepare? For whom? (2-5)
- 3. What did wisdom encourage the simple to do? (6)
- 4. How does a wise man deal with correction? (8-9)
- 5. How do the scorner and the wicked respond to correction? (7-8)

6. Make a list of the contrasts between the scorner and wicked man and the wise man in verses 7-9.
7. What is the prerequisite to receive wisdom and understanding? (10)
What benefits of wisdom are listed in verse 11?
8. What are the consequences of being wise? Of being a mocker? (12)
9. In this chapter, wisdom and folly are contrasted as rival women preparing banquets and issuing invitations. Where are they both found? (3,14) This represents the places where people are seeking God. To whom do they both appeal? (4, 16).
10. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 10

- 1 The Proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.**
- 2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.**
- 3 The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.**
- 4 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.**
- 5 He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.**
- 6 Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.**
- 7 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.**
- 8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.**
- 9 He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.**
- 10 He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.**
- 11 The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.**
- 12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.**
- 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.**
- 14 Wise men lay 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 labour of the righteous tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.**
- 17 He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.**
- 18 He that hideth hatred with lying lips, and he that uttereth a slander, is a fool.**
- 19 In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise.**
- 20 The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is little worth.**
- 21 The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom.**
- 22 The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.**
- 23 It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.**

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

25 As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

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

27 The fear of the Lord prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

28 The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

29 The way of the Lord is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

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

31 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

Outline 10:

(The first nine chapters of Proverbs concern the benefits of wisdom. With this chapter, the focus changes to the application of wisdom. This chapter is one of comparisons.)

- I. The wise and the foolish.
 - A. A wise son makes a glad father: a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother. (1)
 - B. The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating (*foolish talking*) fool shall fall. (8)
 - C. He that walks uprightly walks surely: but he that perverts his ways shall be known. (9)
 - D. He that winks with the eye (*overlooking faults and taking them lightly*) causes sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall. (10)
 - E. In the lips of him that has understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding. (13)
 - F. Wise men lay up knowledge: but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction. (14)
 - G. He that hides hatred with lying lips and he that utters slander is a fool. (18)
 - H. In the multitude of words there wants not sin: but he that refrains his lips is wise. (*The more you talk, the greater opportunity to sin by what you say.*) (19)
 - I. The tongue of the just is as choice silver: the heart of the wicked is of little worth. (20)
 - J. The lips of the righteous feed many: but fools die for want of wisdom. (21)
 - K. It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding has wisdom. (23)
 - L. As vinegar to the teeth and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him. (26)
- II. The obedient and disobedient. (17)
 - A. He is in the way of life that keeps instruction.
 - B. He that refuses reproof errs.

- III. The rich and poor.
- A. He who deals with a slack hand becomes poor: but the hand of the diligent makes rich. (4)
 - B. He that gathers in summer is a wise son: but he that sleeps in harvest is a son that causes shame. (5)
 - C. The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty. (15)
 - D. The labor of the righteous tends to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin. (16)
 - E. The blessing of the Lord makes rich, and He adds no sorrow with it. (22)
(This doesn't mean you don't have problems but that you are blessed despite them. See John 16:33.)
- IV. The godly and godless.
- A. Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivers from death. (2)
 - B. The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but He casts away the substance of the wicked. (3)
 - C. Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. (6)
 - D. The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot. (7)
 - E. The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life: but violence covers the mouth of the wicked. (11)
 - F. Hatred stirs up strife: but love covers all sins. (12)
 - G. The fear of the wicked shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted. (24)
 - H. As the whirlwind passes, so the wicked is no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation. *(When disaster strikes, the wicked are blown away, but the righteous have a strong foundation.)* (25)
 - I. The fear of the Lord prolongs days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened. (27)
 - J. The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish. (28)
 - K. The way of the Lord is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity. (29)
 - L. The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth. (30)
 - M. The mouth of the just brings forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out *(cut down like a barren tree)*. (31)
 - N. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaks forwardness. (32)

Study questions on chapter 10:

1. Contrast the parents of the wise and foolish sons. (1)
2. Summarize what you learn about wealth/work/riches in the following verses:

- 2, 3, 4, 5, 15, 16.
3. What are the rewards of diligence? What is the result of laziness? (4-5)
 4. Compare the head of the just and the mouth of the wicked. (6)
 5. Compare the memory of the just and the name of the wicked. (7)
 6. Compare the destiny of the person who walks uprightly with that of the fool. (9-10)
 7. Compare the mouths of the righteous and wicked/foolish in the following verses. 11; 13; 14; 18; 19; 20; 21; 31; 32.
 8. How did Solomon compare the memory of the righteous and the wicked? (7)
 9. How are hatred and love different? (12)
 10. How do the wages of the righteous differ from the income of the wicked? (16)
 11. What results when you heed sound instruction? (17)
 12. What happens when you reject reproof? (17)
 13. What results from the blessing of the Lord? (22)
 14. According to verse 27, what will prolong your days? What happens to the wicked?
 15. Compare the hope of the righteous with that of the wicked. (28)
 16. Compare the way of the Lord and that of iniquity in verse 29.
 17. What is the promise and warning of verse 30?
 18. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 11

- 1 A false balance is abomination to the Lord: but a just weight is his delight.**
- 2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.**
- 3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.**
- 4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death.**
- 5 The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.**
- 6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.**
- 7 When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth.**
- 8 The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead.**
- 9 An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.**
- 10 When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.**
- 11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.**
- 12 He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace.**
- 13 A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.**

14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.
15 He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure.
16 A gracious woman retaineth honour: and strong men retain riches.
17 The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.
18 The wicked worketh a deceitful work: but to him that soweth righteousness shall be a sure reward.
19 As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.
20 They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the Lord: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.
21 Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.
22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.
23 The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.
24 There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.
25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself.
26 He that withholdeth corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.
27 He that diligently seeketh good procureth favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.
28 He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.
29 He that troubleth his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.
30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that winneth souls is wise.
31 Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.

Outline 11:

- I. Introduction. (1)
 - A. A false balance (cheating) is an abomination to the Lord.
 - B. A just weight is His delight.
(This can also be applied to the weighing and evaluation of our lives on the basis of the truth of God's Word. That is the subject of the remainder of the chapter.)
- II. Contrasts between the wise and foolish.
 - A. When pride comes, then comes shame: but with the lowly is wisdom. (2)
 - B. He that is void of wisdom despises his neighbor: but a man of understanding holds his peace. (12)
 - C. Where there is no counsel, the people fall: but in the multitude of counselors there is safety. (14)
- III. Proverbs concerning the spoken word.
 - A. A hypocrite destroys his neighbor with his mouth: but through knowledge *(wise*

- words) shall the just be delivered. (9)
- B. By the blessing of the upright (*their good influence*) the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked. (11)
- C. A talebearer (*gossip*) reveals secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit conceals the matter. (13)
- IV. Proverbs concerning finances.
- A. Riches profit not in the day of wrath (*judgment day*): but righteousness delivers from death. (4)
- B. He that is surety for a stranger shall smart (*suffer*) for it: and he that hates suretiship (*guaranteeing someone else = loans*) is sure (*secure*). (15)
- C. There is that scatters, and yet increases; and there is that withholds more than is meet (*necessary*), but it tends to poverty (*if you give, you will receive*). (24)
- D. The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that waters shall be watered also himself. (25)
- E. He that withholds corn (*hoarding it*), the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that sells it (*in their time of need*). (26)
- F. He that trusts in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch. (28)
- V. Contrasts between the righteous and the wicked.
- A. The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them. (3)
- B. The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. (5)
- C. The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness. (6)
- D. When a wicked man dies, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perishes (*because their hopes are based only on this earthly life*). (7)
- E. The righteous are delivered out of trouble, and the wicked comes in his stead (*place*). (8)
- F. When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting. (10)
- G. The merciful man does good to his own soul (*he nourishes his own soul by being merciful*): but he that is cruel troubles his own flesh. (17)
- H. The wicked works a deceitful work: but to him that sows righteousness shall be a sure reward. (18)
- I. As righteousness tends to life: so he that pursues evil pursues it to his own death. (19)
- J. They that are of a froward heart (*those who depart from the law of purity, truth, and love*) are an abomination to the Lord: but such as are upright in their way are His delight. (20)
- K. Though hand join in hand (*shaking hands as a pledge*), the wicked shall not be

- unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered. (21)
- L. The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath. (23)
- M. He that diligently seeks good procures favor: but he that seeks mischief, it shall come unto him. (27)
- N. He that troubles his own house shall inherit the wind (*unrest, trouble*): and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart. (29)
- O. The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that wins souls is wise. (30)
- P. Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner (*1 Peter 4:18*). (31)
- VI. Contrasts about women.
- A. A gracious woman retains honor and strong men retain riches. (16)
- B. As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman without discretion. (22)

Study questions on chapter 11:

1. A false weight is _____. A just weight is _____. (1)
2. What comes with pride? What is with the lowly? (2)
3. What guides the righteous? What destroys the wicked? (3)
4. How do riches help in the day of wrath and what delivers from death? (4)
5. Each day, you make a decision to use your mouth for either d_____ or d_____. (9)
6. What are the large-scale results of wicked words? (11)
7. What are the contrasts between those void of wisdom and those with understanding? (12)
8. Contrast the talebearer and one with a faithful spirit. (13)
9. What do you learn about the importance of wise counsel in verse 14? What are the results of too many or too few advisors?
10. What contrast is made between the merciful and the cruel in verse 17?
11. This chapter contains many Proverbs about riches.
 - What warning is given about riches in verse 4?
 - What are the end results of those who trust in their wealth?(4,24,25,28).
 - What are the results of being generous? Of being stingy?
 - What are the benefits of generosity? (24-26)
 - Who benefits from the blessing of the righteous? (10-11)
 - What warning is given in verse 15?
 - What warning is given in verse 28?
12. Contrast the wicked and righteous in the following verses: 3; 5; 6; 7; 8; 10; 17; 18; 19; 20; 21; 23; 27; 29; 30; 31.
13. Contrast the fair woman without discretion described in verse 22 with the gracious woman of verse 16.
14. What contrast is made between those who seek good and those who seek mischief? (27)
15. What do you inherit if you trouble your own house? (29)
16. What is the relationship between the foolish and wise of heart? (29)
17. According to verse 30, how can you be wise?

18. What is the fruit of the righteous? (30)
19. Explain verse 31.
20. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 12

- 1 Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.
- 2 A good man obtaineth favour of the Lord: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.
- 3 A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.
- 4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.
- 5 The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.
- 6 The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.
- 7 The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.
- 8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.
- 9 He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread.
- 10 A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
- 11 He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.
- 12 The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.
- 13 The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.
- 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.
- 15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.
- 16 A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.
- 17 He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.
- 18 There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.
- 19 The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.
- 20 Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy.
- 21 There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.
- 22 Lying lips are abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are his delight.
- 23 A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.
- 24 The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.
- 25 Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.
- 26 The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

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

28 In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

Outline 12:

- I. Introduction. (1)
 - A. Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge.

 - B. He that hates reproof is brutish (*stupid*).
(*The remainder of this chapter dispenses instruction and reproof based on various categories.*)
- II. The righteous and the wicked.
 - A. A good man obtains favor of the Lord: but a man of wicked devices will He condemn. (2)
 - B. A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved. (3)
 - C. The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceitful. (5)
 - D. The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. (6)
 - E. The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand. (7)
 - F. A righteous man regards the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel. (*How we care for animals reflects how we treat people*). (10)
 - G. The wicked desires the net of evil men (*their catch*): but the root of the righteous yields fruit. (12)
 - H. Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counselors of peace is joy. (20)
 - I. There shall no evil happen to the just (*no real harm*): but the wicked shall be filled with mischief. (21)
 - J. The righteous is more excellent than his neighbor: but the way of the wicked seduces them. (26)
 - K. In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death. (28)
- III. The wise and the foolish.
 - A. A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart (*foolish and evil*) shall be despised. (8)
 - B. The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkens unto counsel is wise. (15)
 - C. A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covers shame (*he remains calm when insulted*). (16)

- IV. The slothful (*lazy*) and the diligent (*hard worker*).
- A. He that is despised and has a servant is better than he that honors himself and lacks bread. (*It is better to work than to be too proud to work and starve*). (9)
 - B. He that tills his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that follows vain (*idle*) persons is void of understanding. (11)
 - C. A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the reward of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him (*hard work results in rewards*). (14)
 - D. The slothful (*lazy*) man does not roast that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious. (27)
- V. The virtuous woman and the unvirtuous woman. (4)
- A. The virtuous woman: She is a crown to her husband.
(*See Proverbs 31 for further study on the virtuous woman*).
 - B. The unvirtuous woman: She that causes shame is as rottenness in his bones.
- VI. The importance of wise speech.
- A. The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them. (*The wicked accuse, the righteous defend*). (6)
 - B. The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips (*his own lies*): but the just (*the truthful man*) shall come out of trouble. (13)
 - C. A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the reward of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him. (14)
 - D. He that speaks truth shows righteousness: but a false witness shows deceit. (17)
 - E. There is one that speaks like the piercing of a sword (*making cutting remarks*): but the tongue of the wise is health (*brings healing*). (18)
 - F. The lips of the truthful shall be established for ever (*truth stands the test of time*): but a lying tongue is but for a moment. (19)
 - G. Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord: but they that deal truly are His delight. (22)
 - H. A prudent man conceals knowledge (*he doesn't proudly display his knowledge*): but the heart of fools proclaims foolishness. (23)
 - I. The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful (*gossip*) shall be under tribute. (24)
 - J. Heaviness in the heart of man makes it stoop, but a good word (*of encouragement*) makes it glad. (25)

Study questions on chapter 12:

1. Those who love l _____ love k _____.
Those who hate r _____ are b _____. (1)
2. Contrast the righteous and the wicked in the following verses. 2; 3; 5; 6; 7; 10; 12; 13; 20; 21; 26; 28.
3. Contrast the wise and the foolish in the following verses. 8; 15; 16.
4. Contrast the slothful and the diligent in the following verses. 9; 11; 14; 27.
5. For what is a person praised? For what will he be despised? What is an abomination to

- God? (8)
6. What did Solomon say about the person who chases fantasies? (11)
 7. What do you learn about a foolish man in verses 15 and 16?
 8. Contrast the virtuous and the unvirtuous woman in verse 4.
 9. What do you learn about words/proper speech in the following verses?
6; 13; 14; 17; 18; 19; 22; 23; 24; 25.
 10. In what sort of person does the Lord delight? (22)
 11. What is one significant reward of being righteous? (28)
 12. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

The Remnant Church

Proverbs 13

- 1 A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.**
- 2 A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.**
- 3 He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.**
- 4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.**
- 5 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.**
- 6 Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.**
- 7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.**
- 8 The ransom of a man's life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.**
- 9 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.**
- 10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.**
- 11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.**
- 12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.**
- 13 Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.**
- 14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.**
- 15 Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.**
- 16 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.**
- 17 A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.**
- 18 Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.**
- 19 The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil.**

- 20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.**
- 21 Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed.**
- 22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.**
- 23 Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.**
- 24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.**
- 25 The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.**

Outline 13:

- I. Contrasts between the wise and foolish.
 - A. A wise son hears his father's instruction: but a scorner (*mockers*) hears not rebuke. (1)
 - B. Only by pride comes contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. (10)
 - C. Whoever despises the word shall be destroyed: but he that fears the commandment shall be rewarded (*it provides wisdom for what is ahead*). (13)
 - D. The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. (14)
 - E. Good understanding gives favor: but the way of transgressors is hard. (15)
 - F. Every prudent man deals (*concerns himself*) with knowledge: but a fool lays open his folly. (16)
 - G. Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuses instruction: but he that regards reproof shall be honored. (18)
 - H. Desire accomplished (*accomplished plans and goals*) is sweet to the soul: but it is an abomination to fools to depart from evil. (19)
 - I. He that walks with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. (*If you want to be wise, hang around wise people. If you want to be a fool, hang out with fools*). (20)
- II. Contrasts between the righteous and the wicked.
 - A. A righteous man hates lying: but a wicked man is loathsome (*polluted*) and comes to shame. (5)
 - B. Righteousness keeps him that is upright in the way: but his own wickedness overthrows the sinner (6)
 - C. The light of the righteous rejoices: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out. (9)
 - D. A wicked messenger falls into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health. (17) (*Reliable communication permits progress.*)
 - E. Evil pursues sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repaid. (21)
 - F. A good man leaves an inheritance (*a moral and spiritual legacy*) to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. (22)

- G. The righteous eats to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want (*they are never satisfied*). (25)
- III. Proverbs concerning your words.
- A. A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence. (2)
- B. He that keeps his mouth keeps his life: but he that opens wide his lips shall have destruction. (*A hasty retort causes problems.*) (3)
- IV. Proverbs concerning money/work.
- A. The soul of the sluggard (*lazy*) desires, and has nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat (*rich*). (4)
- B. There is that makes himself rich, yet has nothing: there is that makes himself poor, yet has great riches. (*Some rich are poor in what really matters. Some poor are rich in what really matters.*) (7)
- C. The ransom of a man's life are his riches (*he can pay ransom*): but the poor hears not rebuke (*does not hear threats from the envious because he has nothing*). (8)
- D. Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathers by labor shall increase. (11)
- E. Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuses instruction: but he that regards reproof shall be honored. (18)
- F. A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. (22)
- G. Much food is in the tillage (*work by tilling the land*) of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment (*lack of just judgment*). (23)
- V. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. Hope deferred makes the heart sick: but when the desire comes (*when dreams and goals come true*), it is a tree of life. (12)
- B. He that spares his rod hates his son: but he that loves him chastens him betimes (*disciplines him many times*). (24)

Study questions on chapter 13:

1. Contrast the wise and the foolish in the following verses.
1; 10; 13; 14; 15; 16; 18; 19; 20.
2. Contrast the righteous and the wicked in the following verses.
5; 6; 9; 17; 21; 22; 25.
3. What do you learn about your words in verses 2 and 3?
4. What do you learn about riches/money in the following verses?
4; 7; 8; 11; 18; 22; 23.
5. What do you learn about hope in verse 12?
6. What do you learn about training children in verse 24?
7. Who is guarded by the righteous? (6)
8. What advantage does a person have who is poor? (8)
9. What does pride breed? (10)

10. How should a person accumulate wealth? What happens to wealth gained by dishonesty? (11)
11. How did Solomon describe the teachings of a wise person? (14-25)
12. How does a prudent person act? How does a fool act? (16)
13. What is the result of ignoring discipline? (18)
14. What happens to those who spend time with wise people? (20)
15. What rewards do righteous people receive? (21)
16. Use the following outline to study wisdom.

13	Pursue it
14	Profitable
15	Precious
16	Promotes
17	Pleasant
18	Prosperous (blessed)
19	Produces (creative)
21-22	Preserves
23-24	Protects
17. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 14

- 1 Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.**
- 2 He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.**
- 3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.**
- 4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.**
- 5 A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.**
- 6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.**
- 7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.**
- 8 The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.**
- 9 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.**
- 10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.**
- 11 The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.**
- 12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**
- 13 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.**
- 14 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.**
- 15 The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.**

16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.
17 He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.
18 The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.
19 The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.
20 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.
21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.
22 Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.
23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.
24 The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.
25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.
26 In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.
27 The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.
28 In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.
29 He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.
30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.
31 He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.
32 The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.
33 Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.
34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.
35 The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.

Outline 14:

- I. Proverbs concerning money.
 - A. Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox. (4) *(It is nice to be perfect, but better to be productive. The only way to keep your life neat and tidy is to keep it free from others which is not only a lonely life, but will not fulfill your destiny.)*
 - B. The poor is hated by his neighbor: but the rich has many friends. (20)
 - C. He that despises his neighbor sins: but he that has mercy on the poor is happy. (21)
 - D. In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips tends only to penury. (23) *(Idle chatter and no work leads to poverty.)*
 - E. He that oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker: but he that honors Him has mercy on the poor. *(You honor God when you have mercy on the poor).* (31)
- II. Proverbs concerning your words.

- A. In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them. (3)
- B. A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies. (5)
- C. In all labor there is profit: but the talk of the lips tends only to penury (*poverty*). (23)
- D. A true witness delivers souls: but a deceitful witness speaks lies. (25)
- III. Contrasts between the wise and the foolish.
- A. Every wise woman builds her house: but the foolish plucks it down with her hands. (1)
- B. In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them. (3)
- C. A scorner (*mockers*) seeks wisdom, and finds it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understands. (6)
- D. Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you perceive not in him the lips of knowledge. (*Don't go to fools for advice.*) (7)
- E. The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit. (8)
- F. Fools mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favor. (9)
- G. The simple believe every word: but the prudent man looks well to his going. (15) (*The wise man checks to see where he is going, but the simple plunges ahead in self-confidence without thinking.*)
- H. A wise man fears, and departs from evil: but the fool rages and is confident (*in his own sinful way*). (16)
- I. He that gets angry quickly deals foolishly: a man of wicked devices is hated. (17)
- J. The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. (18)
- K. The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly. (24)
- L. He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalts folly. (29)
- M. Wisdom rests in the heart of him that has understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known. (33)
- N. The king's favor is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causes shame. (35)
- IV. Contrasts between the righteous and the wicked.
- A. He that walks in his uprightness fears the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways despises Him. (2)
- B. The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish. (11) (*The house should be more stable than a tent, but because of wickedness it is not.*)
- C. The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself. (14)
- D. The evil bow before the good and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. (19)
- E. Do they not err that devise evil? But mercy and truth shall be to them that devise

- good. (22)
- F. A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy is rottenness of the bones. (30)
- G. The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous has hope in his death. (*The wicked fear death because of their sin.*) (32)
- H. Righteousness exalts a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people. (34)
- V. The fear of the Lord
- A. He that walks in his uprightness fears the Lord: but he that is perverse in his ways despises him. (2)
- B. In the fear of the Lord is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge. (26)
- C. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. (27)
- VI. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. The heart knows his own bitterness; and a stranger does not intermeddle with his joy. (*Only a person involved in an experience can truly understand the emotions of it.*) (10)
- B. There is a way which seems right unto a man, but the end of it are the ways of death. (12)
- C. Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of mirth is heaviness. (13) (*Laughter cannot heal grief. It is still there when the laughter stops.*)
- D. In the multitude of people is the king's honor: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince (*the needy often revolt against such a ruler*). (28)

Study questions on chapter 14:

1. What do you learn about money in the following verses?
4; 20; 21; 23; 31.
2. What do you learn about the words of your mouth in the following verses?
3; 5; 23; 25.
3. Contrast the righteous and the wicked in the following verses.
2; 11; 14; 19; 22; 30; 32; 34.
4. Contrast the wise the foolish in the following verses.
1; 3; 6; 7; 8; 9; 15; 16; 17; 18; 24; 29; 33; 35.
5. What do you learn about the fear of the Lord in the following verses?
2; 26; 27.
6. What happens to the house of the wicked? The tent of the righteous? (11)
7. Contrast faithful and false witnesses. (5)
8. What do you learn about the company you keep in verse 7?
9. Where does the way that seems right lead? (12)
10. What characterizes a backslider in heart? (14)
11. To what does the prudent person give thought? (15)
12. What do you learn about anger in verses 17 and 29?
13. How should we relate to people in need? (21,31) See also Leviticus 23:22; Deuteronomy 15:7-8; Psalm 113:5-9; 146:5-9; Isaiah 58:7; 2 Corinthians 9:9; James 2:1-9.

14. What are the results of hard work? What are the results of mere talk? (23)
15. How is your health affected by your heart and emotions? (30)
16. What do you learn about envy in verse 30?
17. How can you have hope when facing death? (32)
18. How can a nation be blessed? (34)
19. How can you find favor with those in authority over you? (35)
20. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 15

- 1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.**
- 2 The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.**
- 3 The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.**
- 4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.**
- 5 A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.**
- 6 In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.**
- 7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.**
- 8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.**
- 9 The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.**
- 10 Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.**
- 11 Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?**
- 12 A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.**
- 13 A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.**
- 14 The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.**
- 15 All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.**
- 16 Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.**
- 17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.**
- 18 A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.**
- 19 The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.**
- 20 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.**
- 21 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.**

- 22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.**
- 23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!**
- 24 The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.**
- 25 The Lord will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.**
- 26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.**
- 27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.**
- 28 The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.**
- 29 The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.**
- 30 The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.**
- 31 The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise.**
- 32 He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.**
- 33 The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.**

Outline 15:

- I. Watch your words!
 - A. A soft answer turns away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger. (1)
 - B. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools pours out foolishness. (2)
 - C. A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit (*What you say can cause a breach in your spirit and allow Satan to enter.*) (3)
 - D. The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish does not. (7)
 - E. The heart of him that has understanding seeks knowledge: but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness. (14)
 - F. A man has joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good it is. (23)
 - G. The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord: but the words of the pure are pleasant words. (26)
 - H. The heart of the righteous studies to answer: but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things. (38)
 - I. The light of the eyes rejoices the heart: and a good report makes the bones fat. (30)
- II. The righteous and wicked.
 - A. The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good. (3)
 - B. In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is

- trouble. (6)
- C. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the Lord: but the prayer of the upright is his delight. (8)
- D. The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the Lord: but He loves him that follows after righteousness.(9)
- E. Correction is grievous to him that forsakes the way: and he that hates reproof shall die. (10)
- F. The way of the slothful (*lazy*) man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain. (19)
- G. The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord: but the words of the pure are pleasant words. (26)
- H. The heart of the righteous studies to answer: but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things. (28)
- I. The Lord is far from the wicked: but He hears the prayer of the righteous. (29)
- III. The wise and foolish.
- A. The tongue of the wise uses knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools pours out foolishness. (2)
- B. A fool despises his father's instruction: but he that regards reproof is prudent. (5)
- C. The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish does not. (7)
- D. A scorner does not love the one that reproves him: neither will he go unto the wise. (12)
- E. The heart of him that has understanding seeks knowledge: but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness. (14)
- F. A wise son makes a glad father: but a foolish man despises his mother. (20)
- G. Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walks uprightly. (21)
- H. Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counselors they are established. (22)
- I. The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath. (24)
- J. The ear that hears the reproof of life abides among the wise. (31)
- K. He that refuses instruction despises his own soul: but he that hears reproof gets understanding. (32)
- IV. Fear of the Lord.
- A. Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. (16)
- B. The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility. (33)
- V. Reproof.
- A. A fool despises his father's instruction: but he that regards reproof is prudent. (5)
- B. Correction is grievous unto him that forsakes the way: and he that hates reproof shall die. (10)
- C. A scorner loves not one that reproves him: neither will he go unto the wise. (12)

- D. The ear that hears the reproof of life abides among the wise. (31)
- E. He that refuses instruction despises his own soul: but he that hears reproof gets understanding. (32)
- F. A fool despises his father's instruction: but he that regards reproof is prudent.
- VI. Riches and work.
- A. In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble. *(This does not necessarily mean more money, although it can. There are other treasures greater than money.)* (6)
- B. Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith. (16)
- C. He that is greedy of gain troubles his own house; but he that hates gifts shall live. (27)
- VII. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. Hell and destruction are before the Lord: how much more then the hearts of the children of men? (11)
- B. A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. (13)
- C. All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart has a continual feast. *(You can't choose your circumstances, but you can choose your attitude.)* (15)
- D. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. (17)
- E. A wrathful man stirs up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeases strife. (18)
- F. The Lord will destroy the house of the proud: but He will establish the border *(boundaries)* of the widow. (25)

Study questions on chapter 15:

1. Summarize what you learn about your words in the following verses.
1; 2; 3; 7; 14; 23; 26; 28; 30.
2. Record what you learn about the righteous and the wicked in the following verses.
3; 6; 8; 9; 10; 19; 26; 28; 29.
3. Record what you learn about the wise and the foolish in the following verses.
2; 5; 7; 12; 14; 20; 21; 22; 24; 31; 32.
4. Summarize what is taught about the fear of the Lord in verses 16 and 33.
5. Summarize what you learn about reproof in the following verses.
5; 10; 12; 31; 32.
6. What do you learn about riches and work in the following verses? 6; 16; 27.
7. Summarize what is taught in the following miscellaneous Proverbs. 11; 13; 15; 17; 18; 25.
8. What do you learn about the eyes of the Lord in verse 3, Psalm 139, and Hebrews 4:13?
9. Contrast the house of the righteous (6) with the house of the proud (25).
10. Contrast the merry and sorrowful hearts. (13 and 15) What do you learn about the

- righteous heart in verse 28? The understanding heart in verse 14?
11. What do you learn about prayer in verse 29?
 12. What virtue is required before one is honored? (33)
 13. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 16

- 1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.**
- 2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.**
- 3 Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.**
- 4 The Lord hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.**
- 5 Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.**
- 6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil.**
- 7 When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him.**
- 8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.**
- 9 A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his steps.**
- 10 A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresseth not in judgment.**
- 11 A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are his work.**
- 12 It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.**
- 13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.**
- 14 The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.**
- 15 In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain.**
- 16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!**
- 17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul.**
- 18 Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.**
- 19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.**
- 20 He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.**
- 21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increaseth learning.**
- 22 Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.**
- 23 The heart of the wise teacheth his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.**
- 24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.**
- 25 There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**
- 26 He that laboureth laboureth for himself; for his mouth craveth it of him.**

- 27 An ungodly man diggeth up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.**
28 A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends.
29 A violent man enticeth his neighbour, and leadeth him into the way that is not good.
30 He shutteth his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he bringeth evil to pass.
31 The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.
32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.
33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord.

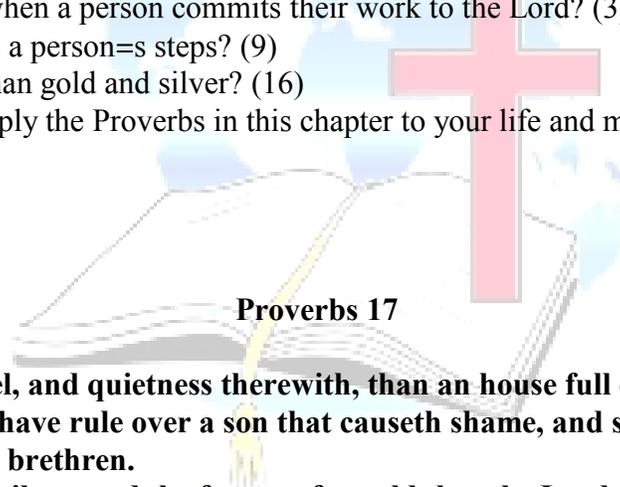
Outline 16:

- I. The Word of God is our standard. (1)
 A. The preparations of the heart in man and the answer of the tongue are from the Lord. (*We can make plans, but God determines their outcome.*)
- II. Your way and work.
 A. All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weighs the spirits (*God examines the motives for your actions.*) (2)
 B. Commit your works unto the Lord, and your thoughts shall be established. (3)
 C. When a man's ways please the Lord, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. (7)
 D. A man's heart devises his way: but the Lord directs his steps. (9)
 E. A just weight and balance are the Lord's: all the weights of the bag are His work. (*The Lord established the principle of fairness in business dealings.*) (11)
 F. He that labors, labors for himself; for his mouth craves it of him. (*Hunger motivates labor.*) (26)
- III. Righteous and the unrighteous.
 A. Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right. (*A little gained through honesty is better than a lot gained by dishonesty.*) (8)
 B. It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness. (12)
 C. Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speak right. (13)
 D. The highway (*pathway*) of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keeps his way preserves his soul. (17)
 E. The hoary head (*grey hair*) is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness. (*A long life is good if it has been a righteous life.*) (31)
- IV. Anger, wrath, favor.
 A. The wrath of a king is as a messenger of death, but a wise man will pacify it. (14)
 B. In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favor is as a cloud of the latter rain. (15)
 C. A perverse (*evil*) man sows strife and a whisperer (*gossip*) separates friends (28)
 D. He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that takes a city. (32)
- V. Pride.

- A. Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished. (5)
- B. Pride goes before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. (18)
- C. Better to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. (19)
- VI. Your mouth.
- A. A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth does not transgress in judgment. (*A godly king judges people fairly.*) (10)
- B. Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speak right. (13)
- C. The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips (*a pleasant teacher*) increases learning. (21)
- D. The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips. (23)
- E. Pleasant words are as a honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones. (24)
- F. An ungodly man digs up evil: and his lips are as a burning fire. (27)
- G. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer (*gossip*) separates the best of friends. (28)
- H. A froward man (*who departs from the law of purity, truth, and love*) sows strife and a whisperer (*gossip*) separates chief friends. (30)
1. He shuts his eyes to devise froward things.
 2. Moving his lips he brings evil to pass.
- VII. Wise and foolish.
- A. How much better is it to get wisdom than gold and to get understanding than silver. (16)
- B. Understanding is a wellspring (*fountain*) of life unto him that has it, but the instruction of fools is folly. (22)
- VIII. Fear of the Lord. (6)
- A. By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the Lord men depart from evil (*the fear of the Lord controls evil*).
- IX. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. The Lord has made all things for himself (*to accomplish His purposes*): yes, even the wicked for the day of evil. (4)
- B. He that handles a matter wisely shall find good: and whoever trusts in the Lord, is happy. (20)
- C. There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death. (25)
- D. A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him into the way that is not good. (29)
- E. The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the Lord. (*God controls decisions.*) (33)

Study questions on chapter 16:

1. What should be our standard of conduct? (1-2)
2. What do you learn about your way and work in the following verses?
2; 3; 7; 9; 11; 26.
3. What do you learn about the fear of the Lord in verse 6?
4. What do verses 1 and 33 reveal about your will, your plans, and God=s sovereignty?
5. What principles for decision-making and goal-setting are revealed in the following verses? 2; 3; 4; 9; 10; 17; 20; 25; 33.
6. Underline the repeated phrase Athe Lord@ in verses 1-9. What is the main point?
7. Underline the repeated word Akings@ in verses 10-15. What is the main point?
8. What do you learn about pride in verses 5, 18, and 19? What does pride and a haughty spirit precede?
9. What do you learn about anger and strife in verses 14, 15, 28 and 32?
10. Contrast unrighteousness and righteous in the following verses.
8; 12; 13; 17; 31.
11. Summarize what you learn about your mouth/words in the following verses.
10; 13; 21; 23; 24; 27; 28; 30.
12. Record what you learn in the following miscellaneous Proverbs: 4; 20; 25; 29.
13. What is stated regarding wisdom and foolishness in verses 16 and 22.
14. What happens when a person commits their work to the Lord? (3)
15. Who determines a person=s steps? (9)
16. What is better than gold and silver? (16)
17. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?



Proverbs 17

- 1 Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.**
- 2 A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.**
- 3 The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts.**
- 4 A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.**
- 5 Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished.**
- 6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.**
- 7 Excellent speech becometh not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.**
- 8 A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that hath it: whithersoever it turneth, it prospereth.**
- 9 He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends.**
- 10 A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.**

- 11 An evil man seeketh only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.**
- 12 Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.**
- 13 Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.**
- 14 The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.**
- 15 He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the Lord.**
- 16 Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he hath no heart to it?**
- 17 A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.**
- 18 A man void of understanding striketh hands, and becometh surety in the presence of his friend.**
- 19 He loveth transgression that loveth strife: and he that exalteth his gate seeketh destruction.**
- 20 He that hath a froward heart findeth no good: and he that hath a perverse tongue falleth into mischief.**
- 21 He that begetteth a fool doeth it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool hath no joy.**
- 22 A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.**
- 23 A wicked man taketh a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.**
- 24 Wisdom is before him that hath understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.**
- 25 A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.**
- 26 Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity.**
- 27 He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.**
- 28 Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.**

Outline 17:

- I. The wise and the foolish.
 - A. A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causes shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren. (2)
 - B. Excellent speech does not become a fool. (7)
 - C. A reproof enters into a wise man more than an hundred stripes into a fool. (10)
 - D. Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly. (*It is safer to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly.*) (12)
 - E. Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he has no heart to it? (*It is useless to pay tuition for a fool who has no desire to learn.*) (16)
 - F. He that begets a fool does it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool has no joy. (21)
 - G. Wisdom is before him that has understanding (*it is his main pursuit*); but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth (*consumed by unrealistic and unachievable*)

- plans and desires*). (24)
- H. A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him. (25)
- I. Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise: and he that shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding. (28)
- II. Anger and strife.
- A. Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife. (1)
- B. The beginning of strife is as when one lets out water: therefore leave off contention, before meddling with it. (*Like a leak in a dam, it is hard to stop a quarrel once it starts so try to stop it before it begins.*) (14)
- C. He that loves transgression loves strife (*sinners love to fight*): and he that exalts his gate (*the proud*) seeks destruction. (19)
- III. The heart.
- A. The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord tries the hearts. (3)
- B. Wherefore (*why*) is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he has no heart to it? (*The fool has no heart for wisdom.*) (6)
- C. He that has a froward heart finds no good: and he that has a perverse tongue falls into mischief. (20)
- D. A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones. (22)
- IV. The righteous and the unrighteous.
- A. A wicked doer gives heed to false lips; and a liar gives ear to a naughty tongue. (4)
- B. Whoever mocks the poor reproaches his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished. (5)
- C. An evil man seeks only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him. (11)
- D. Whoever rewards evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house. (13)
- E. He that justifies the wicked and he that condemns the just are both an abomination to the Lord. (15)
- F. A wicked man takes a gift (*a bribe*) out of the bosom (*pocket*) to pervert the ways of judgment. (23)
- V. Your mouth/words.
- A. A wicked doer gives heed to false lips; and a liar gives ear to a naughty tongue. (*Wicked liars enjoy listening to other wicked liars.*) (4)
- B. Excellent speech does not become a fool: much less do lying lips a prince. (7)
- C. He that covers a transgression seeks love; but he that repeats a matter separates very (*close*) friends. (9)
- D. He that has a froward heart finds no good: and he that has a perverse tongue falls into mischief. (20)
- E. He that has knowledge spares his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit. (27)

- F. Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise: and he that shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding. (28)
- VI. Friendship.
- A. He that covers a transgression seeks love; but he that repeats (*harps on*) a matter separates very (*close*) friends. (9)
- B. A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity (*to help in times of need*). (17)
- C. A man void of understanding strikes hands, and becomes surety in the presence of his friend. (*It is poor judgment to become responsible for another person ⇒ debt.*) (18)
- VII. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. Children's children (*grandchildren*) are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers. (6)
- B. A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that has it: wherever it turns, it prospers. (8)
- C. To punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity. (26)

Study questions on chapter 17:

1. Contrast the wise and the foolish in the following verses.
2; 7; 10; 12; 16; 21; 24; 25; 28.
2. What do you learn about anger and strife in verses 1, 14, and 19? See also James 3:13-4:12.
3. What do you learn about the heart in the following verses? 3; 6; 16; 20; 22
4. Contrast the righteous and unrighteous in the following verses: 4; 5; 11; 13; 15; 23.
5. What do you learn about your mouth/words in the following verses?
4; 7; 9; 20; 27; 28.
6. What do you learn in the following miscellaneous Proverbs? 6; 8; 17; 18; 26.
7. What do you learn about friendship in verses 9, 17, and 18?
8. Compare the broken spirit and the excellent spirit in verses 22 and 27.
9. What issues regarding justice are raised in the following verses?
3; 13; 15; 23; 26.
10. What principles of conflict management are stated in the following verses? 1; 4; 9; 11; 14; 17; 19.
11. What financial principles are taught in verses 2 and 18?
12. What does the Lord try? (3)
13. What do you learn about gifts and bribes? (8,23)
14. How can friends build or tear down their friendship? (9)
15. What happens to the person who pays back evil for good? (13)
16. What does a friend always do? (17)
17. What do we know about a person who loves to quarrel? (19)
18. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 18

- 1 Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddeth with all wisdom.
- 2 A fool hath no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.
- 3 When the wicked cometh, then cometh also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.
- 4 The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.
- 5 It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.
- 6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.
- 7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.
- 8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.
- 9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.
- 10 The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.
- 11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.
- 12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.
- 13 He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him.
- 14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?
- 15 The heart of the prudent getteth knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeketh knowledge.
- 16 A man's gift maketh room for him, and bringeth him before great men.
- 17 He that is first in his own cause seemeth just; but his neighbour cometh and searcheth him.
- 18 The lot causeth contentions to cease, and parteth between the mighty.
- 19 A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.
- 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.
- 21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.
- 22 Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord.
- 23 The poor useth intreaties; but the rich answereth roughly.
- 24 A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.

Outline 18:

- I. The wise and the foolish.
 - A. Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeks and intermeddles with all wisdom. (1)
 - B. A fool has no delight in understanding (*he doesn't care about the facts*), but that his heart may discover itself. (*He cannot express his own heart.*) (2)

- C. The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook (*deep and fresh thinking*). (4)
- D. A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for strokes (*blows*). (6)
- E. A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. (*His problems are caused by his own mouth.*) (7)
- F. The heart of the prudent gets knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. (*A wise man is open to new ideas.*) (15)
- II. The righteous and the unrighteous.
- A. When the wicked comes, then comes also contempt, and with ignominy reproach. (*Sin brings disgrace and ignorance a reproach.*) (3)
- B. It is not good to accept the person of the wicked or to overthrow the righteous in judgment (*unfair judgment*). (5)
- III. Your words.
- A. The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook (*never stagnant*). (4)
- B. A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for strokes (*blows*). (6)
- C. A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul. (7)
- D. The words of a talebearer (*gossip*) are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. (*Rumors are hurtful.*) (8)
- E. He that answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame unto him. (*It is not wise to make a decision without knowing the facts.*) (13)
- F. A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled. (*Wise words are like a satisfying meal.*) (20)
- G. Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat its fruit. (21)
- IV. Your work, the rich, and poor.
- A. He also that is slothful (*lazy*) in his work is brother to him that is a great waster. (9)
- B. The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as a high wall in his own conceit. (*The rich erroneously think their wealth is their defense.*) (11)
- C. A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men. (16)
- D. The poor uses entreaty (*pleading*); but the rich answers roughly (*insults*). (23)
- V. Relationships.
- A. With the Lord: The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous run into it, and are safe. (10)
- B. With great men: A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men. (16)
- C. With your mate: Whoever finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of the Lord. (22)
- D. With friends: A man that has friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother. (24)
- VI. Settling offenses.

- A. He that is first in his own cause seems just; but his neighbor comes and searches him. (*Any story sounds good if you only hear one side of it.*) (17)
 - B. The lot causes contentions to cease, and parts (*divisions*) between the mighty. (18)
 - C. A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle. (*Anger shuts you out like strong bars.*) (19)
- VII. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. Before destruction, the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility. (*Pride=destruction; honor=humility.*) (12)
 - B. The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear? (*Courage sustains you, but you cannot bear the loss of hope.*) (14)

Study questions on chapter 18:

1. What makes a person separate themselves according to this verse? (1)
2. What do you learn about wise judgment, making decisions, and settling controversial issues in the following verses? 5; 13; 17; 18; 19; 23.
3. Where is our true safety? (10) Contrast this with the rich man=s security. (11)
4. Contrast the responses of the rich and poor in verse 23.
5. What is the key to making friends according to verse 24?
6. What do you learn about your mouth/words in the following verses? 4; 6; 7; 8; 13; 20; 21.
7. What do you learn about the power of the tongue in verse 21?
8. What do you learn about your work, the rich and poor, and money in the following verses? 9; 11; 16; 23.
9. Contrast the wise and foolish in the following verses. 1; 2; 4; 6; 7; 15.
10. Contrast the righteous and unrighteous in verses 3 and 5.
11. What do you learn about the spirit in verse 14?
12. What do you learn about relationships in the following verses? 10;16; 22; 24.
13. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 19

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

2 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.

3 The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the Lord.

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

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

6 Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

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.

8 He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

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

10 Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

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

12 The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass.

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

14 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers and a prudent wife is from the Lord.

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

16 He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; but he that despiseth his ways shall die.

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

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

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

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

21 There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the Lord, that shall stand.

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

23 The fear of the Lord tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

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

25 Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.

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

27 Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

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

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

Outline 19:

- I. The wise and the foolish.
 - A. Better is the poor that walks in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool. (1)
 - B. It is not good for the soul to be without knowledge and he that hastes with his feet

- sins. (*Don't rush into the unknown of which you have no knowledge.*) (2)
- C. The foolishness of man perverts his way: and his heart frets against the Lord. (*Foolish decisions ruin a person's life and then they blame God instead of taking responsibility for their own actions.*) (3)
- D. He that gets wisdom loves his own soul: he that keeps understanding shall find good. (*Wisdom causes you to prosper.*) (8)
- E. Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to rule over princes. (10)
- F. A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping (*like water leaking through the roof*). (13)
- G. He that keeps the commandment keeps his own soul; but he that despises his ways shall die. (*Keep the word and live; don't keep it and die.*) (16)
- H. Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: reprove one that has understanding, and he will understand knowledge. (25)
- I. Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causes you to err from the words of knowledge. (*Do not listen to teaching you know is not right and that has the potential to destroy your faith.*) (27)
- J. Judgments are prepared for the scornful, and stripes for the back of fools. (29)
- II. Your work and wealth, the rich and poor.
- A. Better is the poor that walks in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips and is a fool. (1)
- B. Wealth makes many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbor. (4)
- C. All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? He pursues them with words, yet they are wanting to him. (7)
- D. Houses and riches are the inheritance of fathers and a prudent wife is from the Lord. (14)
- E. Slothfulness (*laziness*) casts into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger. (15)
- F. He that has pity upon the poor lends unto the Lord; and that which he has given will he pay him again. (*When you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord.*) (17)
- G. The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar. (22)
- H. A slothful (*lazy*) man hides his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again. (24)
- III. Your words/mouth.
- A. A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaks lies shall not escape (5) and shall perish (9).
- B. Many will entreat the favor of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that gives gifts. (6)
- C. An ungodly witness scorns judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity. (28)
- IV. Relationships.
- A. All the brethren of the poor hate him: how much more do his friends go far from

- him? He pursues them with words, yet they are wanting to him (*ignore him*). (4)
- B. Many will entreat the favor of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that gives gifts. (6)
- C. Chasten (*discipline*) your son while there is hope, and do not let your soul spare for his crying. (18)
- D. He that wastes (*does violence to*) his father and chases away his mother (*mistreats his parents*), is a son that causes shame and brings reproach. (26)
- V. Anger, wrath, contention. (11,12,13,19)
- A. The discretion of a man defers his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression. (*A wise man restrains anger and overlooks sins against him.*) (11)
- B. The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favor is as dew upon the grass. (12)
- C. A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping. (13)
- D. A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if you deliver him, yet you must do it again (*he doesn't learn anything from his experience*). (19)
- VI. Counsel.
- A. Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter end. (20)
- B. There are many devices (*plans*) in a man's heart; nevertheless it is the counsel of the Lord that shall stand. (21)
- VII. Fear of the Lord. (23)
- A. The fear of the Lord tends to life: and he that has it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil. (*Evil may come, but your spirit won't be affected by it.*)

Study questions on chapter 19:

1. Contrast the wise and the foolish in the following verses.
1; 2; 3; 8; 10; 13; 16; 25; 27; 29.
2. What do you learn about wealth and work in the following verses?
1; 4; 7; 14; 15; 17; 22; 24.
3. What do you learn about your mouth/words in the following verses?
5; 6; 9; 28.
4. What do you learn about relationships in the following verses?
6; 7; 18; 26.
5. What do you learn about anger, wrath, and contention in the following verses?
11; 12; 13; 19; 26.
6. What do you learn about counsel in verses 20 and 21?
7. What do you learn about the fear of the Lord in verse 23?
8. What uncommon act brings a person glory? (11)
9. What is the value of listening to and obeying instructions? (16,20,27)
10. Why should we be careful about how we deal with a person who has a short temper? (19)
11. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 20

- 1 Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.
- 2 The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provoketh him to anger sinneth against his own soul.
- 3 It is an honour for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling.
- 4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in 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 every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?
- 7 The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.
- 8 A king that sitteth in the throne of judgment scattereth away all evil with his eyes.
- 9 Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?
- 10 Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the Lord.
- 11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.
- 12 The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the Lord hath made even both of them.
- 13 Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread.
- 14 It is naught, it is naught, saith the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasteth.
- 15 There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.
- 16 Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.
- 17 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.
- 18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.
- 19 He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.
- 20 Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.
- 21 An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.
- 22 Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and he shall save thee.
- 23 Divers weights are an abomination unto the Lord; and a false balance is not good.
- 24 Man's goings are of the Lord; how can a man then understand his own way?
- 25 It is a snare to the man who devoureth that which is holy, and after vows to make inquiry.
- 26 A wise king scattereth the wicked, and bringeth the wheel over them.
- 27 The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly.
- 28 Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.
- 29 The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the gray head.
- 30 The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.

Outline 20:

- I. The following questions summarize the advice given in this chapter.
- A. Most men will proclaim their own goodness: but who can find a faithful man? (6)
- B. Who can say, "I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?" (9)
- II. Your mouth.
- A. There is gold and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. (15)
- B. He that goes about as a talebearer (*gossip*) reveals secrets: therefore do not meddle (*associate*) with him that flatters with his lips. (19)
- C. Whoever curses his father or his mother (*disrespects them*), his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness. (20)
- III. Your work and wealth.
- A. The sluggard (*lazy person*) will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest and have nothing. (4)
- B. Divers weights, and divers measures (*dishonesty—a different standard for buying vs. selling*). (10,23)
1. Both are an abomination to the Lord.
 2. A false balance is not good.
- C. Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty (*don't just close your eyes to your situation*); open your eyes (*look around, show some initiative*), and you will be satisfied with bread (*your needs will be met*). (13)
- D. It is nothing, it is nothing, says the buyer: but when he is gone his way, then he boasts (*about the good deal he got*). (14)
- E. There is gold and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel. (15)
- F. Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman (*don't guarantee debts of others*). (16)
- G. An inheritance may be obtained hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed. (21)
- IV. Anger, strife, and vengeance.
- A. The fear (*wrath*) of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own soul. (2)
- B. It is an honor for a man to cease from strife: but every fool will be meddling. (3)
- C. Say not, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord and He shall save you. (22)
- V. The King. (*Apply these verses spiritually.*)
- A. The fear (*wrath*) of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own soul. (2)
- B. A king that sits in the throne of judgment scatters away all evil with his eyes. (8)
- C. A wise king scatters the wicked and brings the wheel over them (*crushes them*). (26)
- D. Mercy and truth preserve the king and his throne is upheld by mercy. (28)
- VI. Wise counsel.
- A. Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will

- draw it out. (5)
- B. Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war. (18)
- VII. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging: and whoever is deceived thereby is not wise. (1)
- B. The just man walks in his integrity: his children are blessed after him. (7)
- C. Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work is pure and right. (11)
- D. The Lord has made both the hearing ear and the seeing eye. (12)
- E. Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel. (17)
- F. Man's goings are of the Lord; so how can a man understand his own way? (24)
- G. It is a snare to the man who devours that which is holy and after vows to make inquiry. (25)
- H. The spirit of man is the candle of the Lord, searching all the inward parts of the belly. (27)
- I. The glory of young men is their strength and the beauty of old men is the gray head. (29)
- J. The blueness of a wound cleanses away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly. (*Punishment chases out evil. The belly was considered the seat of emotions.*) (30)

Study questions on chapter 20:

1. What are the questions in verses 6 and 9? How do these serve as an introduction to the chapter?
2. What do you learn about your mouth in the following verses? 15; 19; 20.
3. What do you learn about your work and wealth in the following verses? 4; 10; 23; 13; 14; 15; 16; 21.
4. What do you learn about anger, strife, and vengeance in the following verses? 2; 3; 22.
5. What do you learn about the king in the following verses? Apply these verses spiritually. 2; 8; 26; 28.
6. What do you learn about wise counsel in verses 5 and 18?
7. What do you learn in the following miscellaneous Proverbs? 1; 7; 11; 12; 17; 24; 25; 27; 29; 30.
8. What kind of life does a righteous person lead? (7)
9. What should we not love? Why? (13)
10. What is in rare supply? (15)
11. What kind of person should we avoid? (19)
12. How should we be careful about vows? (25)
13. What does the Lord search? (27)
14. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

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.

2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts.

3 To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice.

4 An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

5 The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

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

7 The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.

8 The way of man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right.

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

10 The soul of the wicked desireth evil: his neighbour findeth no favour in his eyes.

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

12 The righteous man wisely considereth the house of the wicked: but God overthroweth the wicked for their wickedness.

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

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

15 It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

16 The man that wandereth out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

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

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

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

20 There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.

21 He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honour.

22 A wise man scaleth the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.

23 Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

24 Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who dealeth in proud wrath.

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

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

27 The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he bringeth it with a wicked mind?

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

29 A wicked man hardeneth his face: but as for the upright, he directeth his way.

30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord.

31 The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord.

Outline 21:

- I. The heart.
 - A. The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turns it whatever direction he will. (1)
 - B. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord ponders the hearts. (2)
 - C. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. (3)
 - D. An high look, a proud heart, and the plowing (*actions*) of the wicked is sin. (4)
- II. Anger and wrath.
 - A. It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. (9)
 - B. A gift in secret pacifies anger: and a reward in the bosom (*a bribe*) strong wrath. (14)
 - C. It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman. (19)
 - D. The proud and haughty--scorner is his name--deals in proud wrath. (24)
- III. Your mouth.
 - A. Getting treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death. (*Treasures obtained by dishonesty don't last and lead to death.*) (6)
 - B. Whoever keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles. (*Control your mouth and your tongue and you will avoid trouble.*) (23)
 - C. A false witness shall perish: but the man that hears him speaks constantly. (28)
- IV. The Lord.
 - A. The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord, as the rivers of water: He turns it whithersoever He will. (1)
 - B. Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord ponders the hearts. (2)
 - C. To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice. (3)
 - D. There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the Lord. (30)
 - E. The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the Lord. (*You can and should prepare for battle, but the Lord controls the outcome.*) (31)
- V. The wise and the foolish.
 - A. When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge. (*The simple learn by punishment, the wise learn by instruction.*) (11)
 - B. The man that wanders out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead. (16)
 - C. There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spends it up (*squanders it*). (20)
 - D. A wise man scales the city of the mighty (*conquers it*), and casts down the strength of the confidence thereof (*the trusted stronghold*). (22)
- VI. The righteous and the wicked.

- A. The soul of the wicked desires evil: his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes (*he is not a good neighbor*). (10)
 - B. The righteous man wisely considers the house of the wicked: but God overthrows the wicked for their wickedness. (*The righteous learn by observing what happens to the wicked.*) (12)
 - C. It is joy to the just to do judgment (*justly*): but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity. (15)
 - D. The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright. (*In the end, the wicked lose and the righteous win.*) (18)
 - E. He that follows after righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor. (21)
 - F. The righteous gives and spares not. (26)
 - G. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination: how much more, when he brings it with a wicked mind? (27)
 - H. A wicked man hardens his face: but as for the upright, he directs his way. (29)
- VII. Your work and wealth.
- A. The thoughts of the diligent lead only to plenteousness; but every one that is hasty only to want. (5)
 - B. The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death. (6)
 - C. The robbery (*violent actions*) of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment (*justly*). (7)
 - D. The way of (*a guilty*) man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right. (8)
 - E. Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard. (13)
 - F. A gift in secret pacifieth anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath. (14)
 - G. He that loves pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loves wine and oil (*luxuries at the time Proverbs were written*) shall not be rich. (17)
 - H. The desire of the slothful (*lazy*) kills him: (25)
 - 1. His hands refuse to labor.
 - 2. He covets greedily all the day long.
 - I. The righteous gives and spares not. (26)

Study questions on chapter 21:

1. Regarding verse 1: In Solomon's day, when these Proverbs were written, the king had absolute authority, yet God still controlled the circumstances. See also Isaiah 10:6-7; 41:2-4; Ezra 7:21.
2. What do you learn about sacrifice in verses 3 and 27? See also Micah 6:7-8.
3. Who ends up in the congregation of the dead? (16)
4. How can you find life, righteousness, and honor? (21)
5. What do you learn about the sovereignty of God in verses 1 and 31?

6. What do you learn about the heart in verses 1-4?
7. What do you learn about your work and wealth in the following verses?
5; 6; 7; 8; 13; 14; 17; 25; 26.
8. What do you learn about anger and wrath in the following verses? 9; 14; 19; 24.
9. Contrast the righteous and the wicked in the following verses.
10; 12; 15; 18; 21; 26; 27; 29.
10. Contrast the wise and foolish in the following verses. 11; 16; 20; 22.
11. What do you learn about your mouth/words in the following verses? 6; 23; 28.
12. What do you learn about the Lord in the following verses? 1; 2; 3; 30; 31.
13. How should you respond to the poor? (13)
14. Although you can and should prepare for spiritual battles, from where does your victory actually come? (31)
15. What does the Lord weigh? (2)
16. What is better than sacrifice? (3)
17. What did the writer say about contentious relationships? (9,19)
18. What happens to a person who is insensitive to the poor? (13)
19. What did Solomon say about coveting? (26)
20. Why are some sacrifices not pleasing to God? (27)
21. How are our plans affected by God=s will? (30-31)
22. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 22

1 A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.

2 The rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all.

3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

4 By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.

5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

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

7 The rich ruleth over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

8 He that soweth iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

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

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

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

12 The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

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

14 The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the Lord shall fall

therein.

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

16 He that oppresseth the poor to increase his riches, and he that giveth to the rich, shall surely come to want.

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

18 For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

19 That thy trust may be in the Lord, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee.

20 Have not I written to thee excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

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?

22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

23 For the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go:

25 Lest thou learn his ways, and get a snare to thy soul.

26 Be not thou one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.

27 If thou hast nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under thee?

28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which thy fathers have set.

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

Outline 22:

I. *(The content of this chapter is summarized in verses 19-21. These Proverbs are written for the following purposes.)*

- A. That your trust may be in the Lord.
- B. To provide excellent counsel and knowledge.
- C. To make you know the certainty of the words of truth.
- D. That you might answer the words of truth to those who ask questions.

II. Your words.

- A. He that loves pureness of heart has grace on his lips and the king shall be his friend. (11)
- B. The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, and He overthrows the words of the transgressor (*ruins his plans*). (12)
- C. The slothful (*lazy*) man says, *A*There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets. *@* (*He is full of excuses for his laziness*). (13)
- D. The mouth of a strange woman is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the Lord shall fall therein. (14)
- E. Bow down your ear, hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart unto knowledge. (17)
- F. For it is a pleasant thing if you keep the words of the wise within you; they shall be

- fitted in your lips (*you will be accustomed to them and it will become natural for you to use this wisdom*). (18)
- III. Anger and strife.
- A. He that sows iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail (*his reign of terror will not succeed*). (8)
- B. Cast out the scorner and: (10)
1. Contention shall go out.
 2. Strife and reproach shall cease.
- C. Make no friendship with an angry man and do not go with a furious man. (24-25)
1. Lest you learn his ways.
 2. Lest you get a snare to your soul. (*Your behavior is influenced by your associates.*)
- IV. Your work and wealth.
- A. The rich and poor meet together: the Lord is the maker of them all. (*They are alike before Him; He is not partial*). (2)
- B. By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, honor, and life. (4)
- C. The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender. (7)
- D. He that has a bountiful (*generous*) eye shall be blessed; for he gives of his bread to the poor (*he sees a need and meets it*). (9)
- E. The slothful (*lazy*) man says, “There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.” (13)
- F. He that oppresses the poor to increase his riches and he that gives to the rich, shall surely come to want. (16)
1. Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate. (22)
 2. For the Lord will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them. (23)
- G. Be not one that strikes hands or that are sureties for debts.
If you have nothing to pay, why should he take away thy bed from under you? (26-27) (*Do not cosign for the debts of others less you lose what you own.*)
- H. Do you see a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean (*unscrupulous*) men. (29)
- V. Humility and the fear of the Lord. By humility and the fear of the Lord are: (4)
- A. Riches.
 - B. Honor.
 - C. Life.
- VI. Discipline.
- A. Train up a child in the way he should go (*in keeping with his gifts and talents and the way of the Lord*): and when he is old, he will not depart from it. (6)
- B. He that sows iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail. (*Correction done in anger will fail.*) (8)
- C. Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction (*discipline*

done properly) shall drive it far from him. (15)

VII. The wise and the foolish.

- A. A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself: but the simple pass on and are punished. (3)
- B. Bow down your ear, hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart unto knowledge. (17)
- C. For it is pleasant if you keep the words of the wise within you; they shall be fitted in your lips. (18)

VIII. Miscellaneous Proverbs.

- A. A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold. (1)
- B. Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward (*who depart from the law of purity, truth, and love*): he that keeps his soul shall be far from them. (5)
- C. Remove not the ancient landmark which your fathers have set. (28)

Study questions on chapter 22:

1. Summarize the introduction to this chapter given in verses 19-21.
2. What do you learn about your words in the following verses? 11; 12; 13; 14; 17; 18.
3. Summarize what you learn about anger and strife in the following verses. 8; 10; 24; 25.
4. Summarize what you learn about your work and wealth in the following verses. 2; 4; 7; 9; 13; 16; 22; 23; 26; 27; 29.
5. What do you learn about the fear of the Lord in verse 4?
6. What is taught about discipline in the following verses? 6; 8; 15.
7. Contrast the wise and the foolish in the following verses. 3; 17; 18.
8. What do you learn in the following miscellaneous Proverbs? 1; 5; 28.
9. What is the promise given in verse 6? What is required to claim it?
10. What three steps are necessary if you want to receive knowledge? (17-18)
11. What counsel is given in this passage concerning friends? (24-25)
12. Why should we strive to be diligent? (29)
13. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 23

1 When thou sittest to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before thee:

2 And put a knife to thy throat, if thou be a man given to appetite.

3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.

4 Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom.

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.

6 Eat thou not the bread of him that hath an evil eye, neither desire thou his dainty meats:

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.

8 The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

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

10 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

11 For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

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

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

14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

15 My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

16 Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things.

17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the Lord all the day long.

18 For surely there is an end; and thine expectation shall not be cut off.

19 Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way.

20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

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

22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

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

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

25 Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.

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

27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.

28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men.

29 Who hath woe? who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes?

30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright.

32 At the last it biteth like a serpent, and stingeth like an adder.

33 Thine eyes shall behold strange women, and thine heart shall utter perverse things.

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.

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.

Outline 23:

- I. Eating with a ruler. (*These are warnings against close association with deceitful, ungodly people.*)
 - A. When you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before you. (1)

- B. Put a knife to your throat, if you are a man given to appetite. (3)
- C. Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat. (6)
- D. Do not eat the bread of him that has an evil eye, neither desire his dainty meats.
- E. As he thinks in his heart, so is he: (7-8)
1. "Eat and drink," he says to you; but his heart is not with you.
 2. You will vomit up the morsel which you have eaten and lose your sweet words.
- II. Riches.
- A. Labor not to be rich. (4)
- B. Cease from your own wisdom. (4)
- C. Will you set your eyes upon that which is not? (5)
1. Riches certainly make themselves wings. (5)
 2. They fly away as an eagle toward heaven. (5)
(Riches and worldly wisdom do not last.)
- III. The old landmark.
- A. Remove not the old landmark. (10)
- B. Enter not into the fields of the fatherless. (10)
- C. For their Redeemer is mighty; He shall plead their cause with you. (11)
(See Ruth 4:3-10.)
- IV. Instruction. (9, 12-18)
- A. Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of your words. (9)
- B. Apply your heart unto instruction and your ears to the words of knowledge. (12)
- V. Discipline: Do not withhold correction from a child.
- A. If you beat him with the rod, he shall not die. (13)
(This does not mean abusive beating, but proper correction.)
- B. You shall beat him with the rod and deliver his soul from hell. (14)
- C. If his heart is wise, your heart shall rejoice. (15)
- D. Your reins (*your innermost being*) shall rejoice when his lips speak right things. (16)
- VI. Envy: Do not let your heart envy sinners.
- A. Fear the Lord all the day long. (17)
- B. There is an end to what you are going through. (18)
- C. Your expectation shall not be cut off. (*You will have hope and a future.*) (18)
- VII. Wine and strong drink. My son, hear and be wise and guide your heart in the way. (19)
(The Bible has two words for wine. The word in Proverbs 3:10 speaks of fresh grape juice [tirosh]. Fermented wine [yayin] is the subject here.)
- A. Be not among winebibbers or riotous eaters of flesh (*those with uncontrolled appetites*). (20)
- B. The drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags. (21)
- C. Who has woe? Who has sorrow? Who has contentions? Who has babbling? Who has wounds without cause? Who has redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the

- wine; they that seek mixed wine. (29-30)
- D. Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it gives color in the cup, when it moves itself aright: At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder. (30-32)
- VIII. Listen to your parents.
- A. Hearken unto your father that begot you, and despise not your mother when she is old. (22)
- B. Buy the truth and sell it not; buy also wisdom, instruction, and understanding. (23)
- C. The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice. (24)
- D. He that begets a wise child shall have joy of him. (24)
- E. Your father and mother shall be glad, and she that bare you shall rejoice. (25)
- F. My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. (26)
(Parents should teach by example as well as by instruction.)
- IX. The strange woman.
- A. A whore (*prostitute*) is a deep ditch; and a strange woman (*a woman apart from God*) is a narrow pit. (27)
- B. She lies in wait as for a prey, and increases the transgressors among men. (28)
- C. Your eyes shall behold strange women, and your heart shall utter perverse things. (33)
- D. You shall be as he that lies down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lies upon the top of a mast. (34)
- E. You will say: (35)
1. They have stricken me, and I was not sick.
 2. They have beaten me, and I felt it not.
 3. When shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.
- (Yielding to sexual sin results in spiritual numbness and a destructive, addictive cycle.)

Study questions on chapter 23:

1. Summarize the warnings about close association with the ungodly. (1-3, 6-8)
2. What do you learn about riches in verses 4-5?
3. What are the results of instructing a fool? (9)
4. Explain verses 10-11. See Ruth 4:3-10.
5. What does it mean to apply your heart to instruction and your ears to the words of knowledge. (12) See also Jeremiah 15:16.
6. What do you learn about correcting a child in verses 13-14?
7. What commands are given in verses 17-18?
8. What warnings are given regarding strong drink in verses 19-21 and 29-31?
9. Summarize what is taught about listening to your parents in verses 22-26.
10. Summarize what is taught about the A strange woman@(the woman apart from God) in verses 27-28 and 33-35.

11. What are the results of yielding to sexual sin? (32-35).
12. What are the questions in verse 29? How are they answered in verses 30-32?
13. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 24

1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.
2 For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.
3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:
4 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.
5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.
6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.
7 Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.
8 He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.
9 The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.
10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.
11 If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;
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?
13 My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:
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.
15 Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:
16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.
17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:
18 Lest the Lord see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.
19 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked;
20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.
21 My son, fear thou the Lord and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:
22 For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?
23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.
24 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

25 But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.

26 Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.

27 Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

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

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.

30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

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.

32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

Outline 24:

- I. The righteous and the wicked.
 - A. Do not be envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them. (1-2)
 1. Their heart studies destruction.
 2. Their lips talk of mischief.
 - B. He that devises (*plans*) to do evil shall be called a mischievous person. (8)
 1. Lay not wait, oh wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; do not spoil his resting place. (15)
 2. For a just man falls seven times and rises up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief. (16)
 - C. Fret not yourself because of evil men, neither be envious of the wicked. (19-20)
 1. For there shall be no reward to the evil man.
 2. The candle of the wicked shall be put out.
 - D. These things also belong to the wise: It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment. (23)
 1. He that says unto the wicked, A You are righteous@: (24)
 - a. The people shall curse him.
 - b. Nations shall abhor him.
 2. Those that rebuke the wicked shall have: (25)
 - a. Delight.
 - b. A good blessing upon them.
- II. Your work and wealth.
 - A. Prepare your work without and make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterwards build your house. (27)
 - B. I went by the field of the slothful (*lazy*), and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding: (30-34)
 1. The condition:
 - a. It was all grown over with thorns.

- b. Nettles (*weeds*) had covered the face of it.
 - c. The stone wall was broken down.
 - 2. The consideration: Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction:
 - a. Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep.
 - b. So shall your poverty come as one that travails and your want as an armed man.
- III. The wise and the foolish.
 - A. Through wisdom is an house built: (3-4)
 - 1. By understanding it is established.
 - 2. By knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.
 - B. A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increases strength. (5-6)
 - 1. For by wise counsel you will make war.
 - 2. In the multitude of counselors there is safety.
 - C. Wisdom is too high for a fool: he opens not his mouth in the gate (*his input won't be accepted in the place of authority*). (7)
 - D. He that devises to do evil shall be called a mischievous person. (8)
 - E. The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men. (9)
 - F. My son, eat honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to your taste: (13-14)
 - 1. So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto your soul.
 - 2. When you have found it, then there shall be a reward.
 - 3. Your expectation shall not be cut off.
 - G. These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment. (*Wise people do not have respect of persons in regards to judgment.*)
- IV. Your words.
 - A. Every man shall kiss the lips that give a right answer (*an honest reply is respected*). (26)
 - B. Do not be a witness against thy neighbor without cause:
 - 1. Do not deceive with your lips. (28)
 - 2. Do not say I will do so to him as he has done to me. (29)
 - 3. Do not say I will render to the man according to his work. (29)
- V. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
 - A. If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small. (10)
 - B. If you don't try to deliver them that are drawn unto death and those that are ready to be slain, if you say, Behold, we knew it not: (11-12)
 - 1. Doesn't He that ponders the heart consider it?
 - 2. He that keeps your soul, does not He know it?
 - 3. Shall not He render to every man according to His works?

- C. Do not rejoice when your enemy falls and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles: Lest the Lord see it and it displease Him and He turn away His wrath from him. (17-18)
- D. My son, fear the Lord and the king. (21)
- E. Meddle not (*do not associate*) with them that are given to change: (21-22)
 - 1. For their calamity shall rise suddenly.
 - 2. Who knows the ruin of them both?

Study questions on chapter 24:

1. What do you learn about the righteous and the wicked in the following verses? 1; 2; 8; 15; 16; 19; 20; 24; 25.
2. What do you learn about your work and wealth in the following verses? 27; 30; 31; 32; 33; 34.
3. What do you learn about the wise and the foolish in the following verses? 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 13; 14; 23.
4. What do you learn about your words in the following verses? 26; 28; 29.
5. What do you learn in the following miscellaneous Proverbs? 10; 11; 12; 17; 18; 21; 22.
6. Why should you not be envious of evil men or desire to be with them? (1-2)
7. What do you learn about adversity in verse 10?
8. Compare honey and wisdom. How are they alike? (13-14)
9. Compare the just man who falls seven times to what is said about the fall of an enemy. (16-17)
10. What should we refrain from doing when an enemy falls? (17-18)
11. Why should we not envy wicked people? (19-20)
12. Why should you not meddle with those given to change? (21-22)
13. Whom should we fear? (21)
14. What is compared to an honest answer in verse 26?
15. What should we refrain from doing to our neighbor? (28-29)
16. Describe what is learned from considering the slothful in verses 30-34.
17. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 25

(Chapters 25-29 are Proverbs of Solomon set in order by the men of King Hezekiah.)

- 1 These are also Proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out.**
- 2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter.**
- 3 The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.**
- 4 Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.**
- 5 Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.**
- 6 Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men:**

7 For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen.

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.

9 Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another:

10 Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away.

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

12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprovor upon an obedient ear.

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.

14 Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.

15 By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

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

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

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

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

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.

21 If thine enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

22 For thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head, and the Lord shall reward thee.

23 The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

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

25 As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

26 A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

27 It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.

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

Outline 25:

- I. Introduction. (1-3)
 - A. These are Proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out. (*They set them in order from this chapter through chapter 19.*)
 - B. It is the glory of God to conceal a thing but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.

- C. The heaven for height and the earth for depth, so the heart of kings is unsearchable.
- II. Strife and anger.
- A. Do not go forth hastily to strive, lest you do not know what to do in the end when your neighbor has put you to shame. (8-10)
1. Debate your cause with your neighbor himself.
 2. Discover not a secret to another (*don't disclose it to someone else*).
 - a. Lest he that hears it put you to shame.
 - b. Lest your infamy does not turn away.
- B. The north wind drives away rain: So an angry countenance is driven by a backbiting tongue. (23)
- C. It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house. (24)
- D. He that has no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down and without walls (*defenseless and open to invasion*). (28)
- III. Your mouth.
- A. A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. (11)
- B. As an earring of gold and as an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprover to an obedient ear. (12)
- C. As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refreshes the soul of his masters. (13)
- D. Whoever boasts of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain. (14)
- E. By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone. (15)
- F. A man that bears false witness against his neighbor is like a maul (*club*), a sword, and a sharp arrow. (18)
- G. As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country. (25)
- IV. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth material for a finer vessel. (4)
- B. Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness. (5)
- C. Do not put yourself in the presence of the king or stand in the place of great men: For it is better that it be said unto you, "Come up here" than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince whom your eyes have seen. (6-7)
- D. Have you found honey? (16,27)
1. Eat so much as is sufficient for you, lest you be filled and vomit it.
 2. It is not good to eat much honey.
 3. Likewise (*just as it is not good to eat much honey*) it is not good for men to seek their own glory.
- E. Withdraw your foot from your neighbor's house; lest he be weary of you, and hate you. (17)
- F. Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth and a foot

- out of joint. (19)
- G. Like one who takes away a garment in cold weather and as vinegar upon niter, so is he that sings songs to an heavy heart. (*Doing this is like taking someone's jacket in cold weather or putting vinegar upon soda which creates a boiling reaction.*) (20)
- H. If your enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink. (21-22)
1. For you will heap coals of fire upon his head.
 2. The Lord shall reward you.
- I. A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain and a corrupt spring. (26)

Study questions on chapter 25:

1. What do you learn in the introduction? (1-3)
2. What do you learn about strife and anger in the following verses? 8; 9; 10; 23; 24; 28.
3. What do you learn about your mouth in the following verses? 11; 12; 13; 14; 15; 18; 25.
4. What do you learn in the following miscellaneous Proverbs?
4; 5; 6; 7; 16; 17; 19; 20; 21; 22; 26; 27.
5. Why should you not elevate yourself to a place of honor? (6-7)
6. Why should you not be hasty to strive? (8)
7. Why should you debate your cause only with the one involved and not others? (9-10)
8. How should you receive wise reproof? (12)
9. To what did Solomon compare good advice to which someone listens? (12)
10. What may be good in moderation is bad in excess. Explain the advice given in verses 16 and 27.
11. Why should you be cautious about spending too much time with a neighbor? (17)
12. What do you learn about the importance of self-control in verse 28?
13. What kind of boasting is bad? (14)
14. Through what can a ruler be persuaded? (15)
15. In what two areas of life should we practice moderation? (16-17)
16. When should we temper our enthusiasm and excitement? (20)
17. How did Solomon counsel us to treat enemies? (21-22)
18. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 26

- 1 As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.**
- 2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.**
- 3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.**
- 4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.**
- 5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.**

6 He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.
7 The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.
8 As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honour to a fool.
9 As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.
10 The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.
11 As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.
12 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.
13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.
14 As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.
15 The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.
16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.
17 He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.
18 As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death,
19 So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?
20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth.
21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.
22 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.
23 Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross.
24 He that hateth dissembleth with his lips, and layeth up deceit within him;
25 When he speaketh fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.
26 Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be shewed before the whole congregation.
27 Whoso diggeth a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolleth a stone, it will return upon him.
28 A lying tongue hateth those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth worketh ruin.

Outline 26:

- I. The fool.
 - A. As snow in summer and as rain in harvest, so honor is not seemly for a fool. (1)
 - B. As the bird by wandering and as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come. *(There is a reason people are cursed.)* (2)
 - C. A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back. *(Discipline is needed when words are not enough.)* (3)
 - D. Answering a fool: (4-5)
 1. Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like him.
 2. Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit. *(Don't get caught up in his foolishness, but deal with him on his own level.)*

- E. He that sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off the feet and drinks damage. (6)
- F. The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools. (*A parable in the mouth of a fool is as useless as a paralyzed leg.*) (7)
- G. As he that binds a stone in a sling, so is he that gives honor to a fool. (8)
- H. As a thorn goes up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools. (9)
- I. The great God that formed all things rewards both the fool and transgressors (*with justice*). (10)
- J. As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool returns to his folly. (11)
- K. See a man wise in his own conceit? There is more hope of a fool than of him. (12)
- II. The slothful.
- A. The slothful (*lazy*) man says, *A*There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets@ (*He uses any excuse for not working.*) (13)
- B. As the door turns upon his hinges, so does the slothful (*lazy*) upon his bed (*he is restless*). (14)
- C. The slothful (*lazy*) hides his hand in his bosom; it grieves him (*wearies him*) to bring it again to his mouth. (15)
- D. The sluggard (*lazy person*) is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason. (*His conceit prevents him from seeing how foolish he is and answering reasonably.*) (16)
- III. The meddler. He that passes by and meddles with strife that does not concern him is like one that takes a dog by the ears. (17)
- IV. The deceiver. As a mad man who casts firebrands, arrows, and death, so is the man that deceives his neighbor, and says, *A*Am I not in sport?@ (*I was only joking when I deceived you.*) (18-19)
- V. The gossip.
- A. Where no wood is, there the fire goes out: So where there is no talebearer (*gossip*), the strife ceases. (20)
- B. As coals are to burning coals and wood to fire, so is a contentious man to kindle strife. (21)
- C. The words of a talebearer (*gossip*) are as wounds and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly. (*Gossip is like eating a tasty morsel.*) (22)
- D. Burning lips (*insincere words*) and a wicked heart are like a potsherd (*earthenware*) covered with silver dross (*it looks like solid silver, but isn't*). (23)
- VI. The one who hates.
- A. He that hates dissembles with his lips and lays up deceit within him. (24)
- B. When he speaks fair, believe him not. (25)
- C. There are seven abominations in his heart. (25)
(Seven is the number of completeness, so this means there is a complete array of abominations in his heart Bperhaps the seven things that are an abomination to

God listed in Proverbs 6:16-19.)

- D. Whose hatred is covered by deceit. (26)
- E. His wickedness shall be shown before the whole congregation. (26)
- VII. The one who sets traps for others. (27).
 - A. Whoever digs a pit shall fall therein.
 - B. He that rolls a stone, it will return upon him.
- VIII. The liar and flatterer. (28)
 - A. A lying tongue hates those that are afflicted by it.
 - B. A flattering mouth works ruin (*it wounds*).

Study questions on chapter 26:

1. Explain the seeming contradiction in verses 4-5.
2. What do you learn about the fool in the following verses?
1; 2; 3; 4; 5; 6; 7; 8; 9; 10; 11; 12.
3. What do you learn about the slothful man in the following verses? 13; 14; 15; 16.
4. What is taught about minding your own business in verse 17?
5. What do you learn about the deceiver in verses 18-19?
6. What do you learn about the gossip in the following verses? 20; 21; 22; 23.
7. What is revealed about the liar and flatterer in verse 28?
8. Why should we be suspicious of a wicked person's speech? (23-26)
9. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 27

- 1 Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.**
- 2 Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.**
- 3 A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.**
- 4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?**
- 5 Open rebuke is better than secret love.**
- 6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.**
- 7 The full soul loatheth an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.**
- 8 As a bird that wandereth from her nest, so is a man that wandereth from his place.**
- 9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so doth the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.**
- 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.**
- 11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me.**
- 12 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself; but the simple pass on, and are**

punished.

13 Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

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

15 A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

16 Whosoever hideth her hideth the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which bewrayeth itself.

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

18 Whoso keepeth the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waiteth on his master shall be honoured.

19 As in water face answereth to face, so the heart of man to man.

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

21 As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise.

22 Though thou shouldest bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.

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

24 For riches are not for ever: and doth the crown endure to every generation?

25 The hay appeareth, and the tender grass sheweth itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

26 The lambs are for thy clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

27 And thou shalt have goats' milk enough for thy food, for the food of thy household, and for the maintenance for thy maidens.

Outline 27:

- I. Boasting.
 - A. Do not boast yourself of tomorrow; for you do not know what a day may bring forth. (1)
 - B. Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips. (2)
 - C. As the fining pot for silver and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise. (*A man is tested by praise as heavy metals are tested by fire.*) (21)
- II. Negative emotions: Wrath, envy, and contention.
 - A. A stone is heavy and sand is weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both. (3)
 - B. Wrath is cruel and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy? (4)
 - C. A continual dropping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. (15-16)
 1. Whoever hides her hides the wind. (*Trying to restrain her is like trying to restrain the wind.*)
 2. The ointment of his right hand betrays itself. (*It is like trying to grasp slippery oil.*)

III. Work and wealth.

- A. Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman. (*Don't cosign for others, especially strangers and ungodly women.*) (13)
- B. Whoever keeps the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waits on his master shall be honored. (18)
- C. Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and look well to your herds. (23)
- D. Riches are not forever and the crown does not endure to every generation. (*Riches, position, and honor do not endure.*) (24)
- E. The hay appears, the tender grass shows itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered (*speaking of agricultural cycles*). (25)
- F. The lambs are for clothing and goats will provide the price of the field. You shall: (26-27)
 - 1. Have enough goats' milk.
 - 2. Have enough to feed your household.
 - 3. Have enough to maintain your maidens (*servants*).

IV. Friends.

- A. Open rebuke is better than secret love. (5)
- B. Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful. (6)
- C. Ointment and perfume make the heart rejoice: so does the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel. (*Friendly counsel is as sweet as perfume*). (9)
- D. Do not forsake your own friend or your father's friend. (10)
- E. Do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity: for better is a neighbor that is near in spirit than a brother far off. (*One who is related to you in heart is better than one related by blood.*) (10)
- F. He that blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him. (14)
- G. Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend. (17)

V. Miscellaneous Proverbs.

- A. The full soul loathes honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet. (*When you are full, even something good is not appealing. Anything is good when you are truly hungry.*) (7)
- B. As a bird that wanders from her nest, so is a man that wanders from his place. (8)
- C. My son, be wise and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproaches me. (11)
- D. A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself; but the simple pass on and are punished (*suffer the consequences*). (12)
- E. As in water face answers to face, so does the heart of man to man. (*Just as water reflects your face, so your heart reveals who you really are.*) (19)
- F. Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied. (*Hell, death, and a man's lustful ambitions are never satisfied*). (20)
- G. Though you should bray (*grind*) a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet

his foolishness will not depart from him. (22)

Study questions on chapter 27:

1. Why is it unwise to boast? (1)
2. What do you learn about boasting in verse 2?
3. What is taught about wrath and contention in the following verses? 3; 4; 15; 16.
4. What do you learn about your work and wealth in the following verses?
13; 18; 22; 23; 24; 25; 26;27.
5. What do you learn about friends in the following verses? 5; 6; 9; 10; 14; 17.
6. What do you learn in the following miscellaneous Proverbs? 7; 8; 11; 12; 19; 20; 21; 22.
7. How do the prudent and the simple respond differently to danger? (12)
8. What does a person's heart reflect? (19)
9. By what is a person tested? (21)
10. Is there a limit in removing folly from a fool? (22)
11. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 28

- 1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.**
- 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.**
- 3 A poor man that oppresseth the poor is like a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.**
- 4 They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.**
- 5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the Lord understand all things.**
- 6 Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.**
- 7 Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.**
- 8 He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.**
- 9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.**
- 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.**
- 11 The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.**
- 12 When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.**
- 13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.**
- 14 Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.**
- 15 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.**

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

17 A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.

18 Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.

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

20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

21 To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

22 He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.

23 He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.

24 Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.

25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the Lord shall be made fat.

26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.

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

28 When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.

Outline 28:

- I. The righteous and the wicked.
 - A. The wicked flee when no man pursues: but the righteous are bold as a lion. (1)
 - B. They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but those who keep the law contend with them. (4)
 - C. Evil men do not understand judgment: but they that seek the Lord understand all things. (5)
 - D. Whoever causes the righteous to go astray in an evil way shall fall into his own pit: but the upright shall possess good things. (10)
 - E. When righteous men rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden. (12)
 - F. He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy. (13)
 - G. As a roaring lion and a ranging bear, so is a wicked ruler over the poor. (*He is as dangerous to them as a lion or bear.*) (15)
 - H. Whoever walks uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse (*evil*) in his ways

- shall fall at once. (18)
- I. When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase. (28)
- II. The wise and the foolish.
- A. For the transgression of a land, many are the princes: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged. (*There is a high turnover rate when evil men are in power.*) (2)
- B. Whoever keeps the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shames his father. (7)
- C. The prince that wants understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hates covetousness shall prolong his days. (16)
- D. He that trusts in his own heart is a fool: but whoever walks wisely shall be delivered. (26)
- III. Your work and wealth.
- A. A poor man that oppresses the poor (*those poorer than himself*) is like a sweeping rain which leaves no food (*destroying their hope*). (3)
- B. Better is the poor that walks in his uprightness, than the rich who are perverse in their ways. (6)
- C. He that by usury (*excessive interest*) and unjust gain increases his substance shall gather it for him that will pity the poor. (8)
- D. The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that has understanding searches him out. (*The real poverty of the rich is evident to the poor.*) (11)
- E. He that tills his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that follows after vain persons shall have poverty enough. (19)
- F. A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that makes haste to be rich shall not be innocent. (20)
- G. He that is hasty to be rich has an evil eye and considers not that poverty shall come upon him. (22)
- H. Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, *It is no transgression@*, the same is the companion of a destroyer. (24)
- I. He that gives unto the poor shall not lack, but he that hides his eyes shall have many a curse. (27)
- IV. Your mouth. He that rebukes a man shall find more favor than he that flatters with the tongue. (*Honest rebuke is respected more than flattery.*) (23)
- V. Your heart. (25-26)
- A. He that has a proud heart stirs up strife; but he that puts his trust in the Lord shall be made fat (*prosperous*).
- B. He that trusts in his own heart is a fool: but whoever walks wisely shall be delivered.
- VI. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. He that turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination. (9)

- B Happy is the man that fears always (*reverential fear of God*): but he that hardens his heart shall fall into mischief. (14)
- C A man that does violence to the blood of any person (*assault, murder*) shall flee to the pit (*his guilt will drive him into the pit*); let no man stay (*help*) him. (17)
(*This does not mean that we are not to minister to those who have assaulted and murdered, but that we are not to minimize the guilt and sorrow that leads them to repentance.*)
- D To have respect of persons is not good: for a piece of bread man will transgress. (21)

Study questions on chapter 28:

1. What do you learn about prayer in verse 9?
2. What do you learn about how to deal with sin in verse 13?
3. What do you learn about your mouth in verse 23?
4. What do you learn about your heart in verses 25-26?
5. What do you learn in the following miscellaneous Proverbs? 9; 14; 17; 21.
6. What do you learn about your work and wealth in the following verses?
3; 6; 8; 11; 19; 20; 22; 24; 27.
7. Contrast the wise and the foolish in the following verses. 2; 7; 16; 26.
8. Contrast the righteous and the wicked in the following verses.
1; 4; 5; 10; 12; 13; 15; 18; 28.
9. What did Solomon say about the person who fears the Lord and about the one who hardens his heart? (14)
10. Why is it bad to trust in yourself? (26)
11. What should be your response to the needs of the poor? (27)
12. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 29

1 He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

3 Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.

4 The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

5 A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

6 In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

7 The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.

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

9 If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.

- 10 The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.
- 11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.
- 12 If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.
- 13 The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the Lord lighteneth both their eyes.
- 14 The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.
- 15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.
- 16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.
- 17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.
- 18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.
- 19 A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer.
- 20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.
- 21 He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.
- 22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.
- 23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.
- 24 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.
- 25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe.
- 26 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the Lord.
- 27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

Outline 29:

- I. Correction and reproof.
 - A. He that being often reprov'd hardens his neck (*refusing to change directions when reprov'd*) shall suddenly be destroyed without remedy. (1)
 - B. The rod and reproof (*spanking and scolding*) give wisdom: but a child left to himself brings his mother to shame. (15)
 - C. Correct your son and he shall give rest and delight unto your soul. (17)
 - D. A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understands he will not answer. (19)
 - E. He that delicately brings up his servant from a child shall have him become his son in the end. (21)
- II. Your words.
 - A. A man that flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet (*flattery is a trap*). (5)
 - B. A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understands he will not answer. (*Discipline, not mere words, is needed for proper correction.*) (19)
 - C. See a man that is hasty in his words? There is more hope of a fool than for him (*because he speaks without thinking*). (20)
- III. The king.

- A. The king by judgment establishes the land: but he that receives gifts (*bribes*) overthrows it. (4)
- B. If a ruler hearkens to lies, all his servants are wicked. (12)
- C. The king that faithfully (*fairly*) judges the poor, his throne shall be established for ever. (14)
- D. Many seek the ruler's favor; but every man's judgment (*true justice*) comes from the Lord. (26)
- IV. The righteous and the wicked.
- A. When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked rules, the people mourn. (2)
- B. In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous sing and rejoice. (6)
- C. The righteous considers the cause of the poor: but the wicked does not regard it. (7)
- D. The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul. (*The just pray for those who seek to harm them.*) (10)
- E. When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases: but the righteous shall see their fall. (16)
- F. An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked. (27)
- V. The wise and the foolish.
- A. Whoever loves wisdom makes his father rejoice: but he that keeps company with harlots spends his substance (*wastes his wealth*). (3)
- B. Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath. (8)
- C. If a wise man contends with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest. (*You can't argue with a fool because he either rages or scoffs at you.*) (9)
- D. A fool utters all his mind: but a wise man keeps it in until afterwards. (11)
- VI. Your work and wealth. The righteous considers the cause of the poor: but the wicked doesn't regard it. (7)
- VII. Miscellaneous Proverbs.
- A. The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the Lord lightens both their eyes. (13)
- B. Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he. (18)
- C. An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgressions. (22)
- D. A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit. (23)
- E. Whoever is partner with a thief hates his own soul: he hears cursing, and bewrays it not. (*He knows who the offender is, but does not reveal it.*) (24)
- F. The fear of man brings a snare: but whoever puts his trust in the Lord shall be safe. (25)

Study questions on chapter 29:

1. What do you learn about correction and reproof in the following verses?
1; 15; 17; 19; 21.
2. What do you learn about your words in the following verses? 5; 19; 20.
3. What is taught about the king/rulers in the following verses? 4; 12; 14; 26.
4. Contrast the righteous and the wicked in the following verses. 2; 6; 7; 10; 16; 27.
5. Contrast the wise and the foolish in the following verses. 3; 8; 9; 11.
6. What do you learn about your work and wealth in verse 7?
7. What do you learn in the following Proverbs? 13; 18; 22; 23; 24; 25.
8. What damage does a flatterer do? (5)
9. By what is an evil person snared? (6)
10. What imparts wisdom? (15)
11. When do people cast off restraint? (18)
12. What did Solomon say about the person who speaks in haste? (20)
13. What did Solomon say about the fear of man? (25)
14. From where do we get justice? (26)
15. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 30

- 1 The words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spake unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,**
- 2 Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.**
- 3 I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.**
- 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?**
- 5 Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.**
- 6 Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.**
- 7 Two things have I required of thee; deny me them not before I die:**
- 8 Remove far from me vanity and lies: give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:**
- 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.**
- 10 Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse thee, and thou be found guilty.**
- 11 There is a generation that curseth their father, and doth not bless their mother.**
- 12 There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.**

13 There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.
 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.
 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:
 16 The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that saith not, It is enough.
 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.
 18 There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not:
 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.
 20 Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.
 21 For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear:
 22 For a servant when he reigneth; and a fool when he is filled with meat;
 23 For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.
 24 There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:
 25 The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;
 26 The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;
 27 The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;
 28 The spider taketh hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.
 29 There be three things which go well, yea, four are comely in going:
 30 A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turneth not away for any;
 31 A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up.
 32 If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth.
 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.

Outline 30:

(Proverbs 30 is what is called a numerical proverb, because it deals with groups of two, three, or four things.)

- I. Introduction: The words of Agur. (1-4)
 - A. He was the son of Jakeh.
 - B. This is the prophecy he spoke to Ithiel and Ucal.
 - C. He declares: Surely I am more brutish than any man:
 1. I have not the understanding of a man.
 2. I have not learned wisdom.
 3. I do not have knowledge of the holy.
 - D. He questions:
 1. Who has ascended up into heaven, or descended?

2. Who has gathered the wind in his fists?
 3. Who has bound (*gathered and controlled*) the waters in a garment?
 4. Who has established all the ends of the earth?
 5. What is his name, and what is his son's name, if you can tell?
(*The writer is not dumb. He is just stressing that in himself he has no knowledge of such wondrous things. His secular learning does not explain these things.*)
- II. The Word of God is: (5-6)
- A. It is pure.
 - B. It is trustworthy: He (*the Word—Christ*) is a shield to them that put their trust in Him.
 - C. It is complete: Do not add unto His words, lest He reprove you and you be found a liar.
- III. Two things Agur desired before death. (7-9)
- A. Remove vanity and lies far from me.
 - B. Give me neither poverty nor riches:
 1. Feed me with food convenient (*adequate*) for me.
 2. Lest I be full and deny You and say, AWho is the Lord?@
 3. Or lest I be poor and steal and take the name of my God in vain.
(*Your actions reflect on God's name.*)
- IV. Accusations: Do not accuse a servant to his master, lest he curse you and you be found guilty. (10)
- V. The needy generation. (11-14)
- A. There is a generation that curses their father and does not bless their mother.
 - B. There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.
 - C. There is a generation, oh how lofty are their eyes and their eyelids are lifted up (*they are filled with pride*).
 - D. 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.
- VI. Two daughters of the horse leach (*leaches attach themselves to their host and drain them of life giving blood*): They cry, AGive, Give.@ (15)
- VII. Four things that are never satisfied and never say, AIt is enough.@ (15-16)
- A. The grave.
 - B. The barren womb.
 - C. The earth that is not filled (*satisfied*) with water.
 - D. The fire that never says, AIt is enough.@
- VIII. The eye that mocks at his father and despises to obey his mother: (17)
- A. The ravens of the valley shall pick it out.
 - B. The young eagles shall eat it.
- IX. Four things which are too wonderful which he knows not (*does not understand*): (18-19)
- A. The way of an eagle in the air.
 - B. The way of a serpent upon a rock.

- C. The way of a ship in the midst of the sea.
 D. The way of a man with a maid.
- X. An adulterous woman. She eats, wipes her mouth, and says, AI have done no wickedness.@ (20)
- XI. Four things for which the earth is disquieted (*perturbed*) and cannot bear. (21-23)
 A. A servant when he reigns (*an unqualified leader*).
 B. A fool when he is filled with meat (*when he prospers*).
 C. An odious (*bitter*) woman when she is married.
 D. An handmaid that is heir to her mistress (*heir to her mistress= husband*).
- XII. Four things which are little upon the earth, but are exceeding wise. (24-28)
 A. The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer.
 B. The conies (*badgers*) are but a feeble folk, yet they make their houses in the rocks.
 C. The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands.
 D. The spider takes hold with her hands and is in kings' palaces.
- XIII. Four things which go well and are comely in going (*majestic in their pace*). (29-30)
 A. A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turns not away for any (*does not back down or retreat*).
 B. A greyhound.
 C. A male goat.
 D. A powerful king against whom there is no rising up.
- XIV. Guidelines for conduct. (32-33)
 A. Pride: If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself: Put your hand upon your mouth (*stop talking*).
 B. Evil: If you have thought evil: Put your hand upon your mouth (*so you won't spread it to others*).
 C. Wrath: The churning of milk brings forth butter, and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood: so the forcing of wrath (*anger*) brings forth strife.

Study questions on chapter 30:

1. Who composed these Proverbs? (1)
2. To whom did he speak these words? (1)
3. What do you learn about Agur in verses 1-3?
4. What are the questions in verse 4? Can you answer them?
5. What do you learn about the Word of God in verse 5?
6. What warning is given in verse 6?
7. What two things does Agur want removed from him and why? (7-9)
8. What warning is given in verse 10 and why is it given?
9. What are the characteristics of the needy generation described in verses 11-14?
10. What things are never satisfied and why? (15-16)
11. What warning is given in verse 17?
12. What things does Agur view with wonder and why? (18-19)

13. What do you learn about an adulterous woman in verse 20?
14. What things disquiet the earth and why? (21-23)
15. What four things are little upon the earth but are very wise? (24-28)
16. What things are considered comely? (29-31)
17. Summarize the warnings given in verses 32-33?
18. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Proverbs 31

- 1 The words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.**
- 2 What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?**
- 3 Give not thy strength unto women, nor thy ways to that which destroyeth kings.**
- 4 It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:**
- 5 Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.**
- 6 Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.**
- 7 Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.**
- 8 Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.**
- 9 Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.**
- 10 Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.**
- 11 The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.**
- 12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.**
- 13 She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands.**
- 14 She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar.**
- 15 She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.**
- 16 She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard.**
- 17 She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms.**
- 18 She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night.**
- 19 She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.**
- 20 She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy.**
- 21 She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.**
- 22 She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.**
- 23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land.**
- 24 She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant.**
- 25 Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.**
- 26 She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.**
- 27 She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness.**
- 28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.**

29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all.

30 Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

Outline 31:

- I. Introduction. (1-2)
 - A. These are the words given King Lemuel.
 - B. It is a prophecy his mother taught him.
 - C. What, my son? What the son of my womb? What the son of my vows?
- II. The warnings: (3-9)
 - A. Do not give your strength unto women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.
 - B. It is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:
 - 1. Lest they drink, forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.
 - 2. Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts: Let him drink, forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more. (*Wine should only be used as a restorative and remedial agent.*)
 - C. Open your mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction (*death*).
 - D. Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.
- III. The virtuous woman. (10-31)
 - A. She is hard to find: Her price is far above rubies.
 - B. The heart of her husband does safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.
 - 1. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.
 - 2. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.
 - C. She is a good business woman.
 - 1. She seeks wool, and flax, and works willingly with her hands.
 - 2. She is like the merchants' ships; she brings her food from afar.
 - 3. She considers a field, and buys it: with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
 - 4. She girds her loins with strength, and strengthens her arms.
 - 5. She perceives that her merchandise is good: her candle does not go out by night.
 - 6. She lays her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.
 - 7. She makes fine linen, sells it, and delivers girdles unto the merchant.
 - D. She is compassionate.

1. She stretches out her hand to the poor.
 2. She reaches forth her hands to the needy.
- E. She provides for her household.
1. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
 2. She makes herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.
 3. She rises also while it is yet night and gives meat to her household and a portion to her maidens.
 4. Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in times to come.
 5. She opens her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.
 6. She looks well to the ways of her household, and eats not the bread of idleness.
- F. The key: Favor is deceitful and beauty is vain: but a woman that fears the Lord excels above all others and shall be praised:
1. By her children: They rise up and call her blessed.
 2. By her husband.
 3. By the fruit (*works*) of her hands.
 4. In the gates.

Study questions on chapter 31:

1. Who is recording the Proverbs in the chapter? (Lemuel is thought to be Solomon, as this was his mother=s name for him.) From where did he learn these Proverbs? Did he always heed this advice in his life? (1)
2. The three Awhats@ of verse 2 are for emphasis. What terms are used for Lemuel?
3. Summarize the warnings in verse 3.
4. What warning is given in verses 4-5 and why is it given?
5. What do you think verses 6-7 mean? Is drunkenness approved?
6. What principles of righteous judgment are encouraged in verses 8-9?
7. What do verses 10-31 concern?
8. List the attributes of the virtuous woman described in verses 11-27.
9. What do you learn of the virtuous woman=s worth in verses 10, 25, and 29?
9. How does the virtuous woman treat the less fortunate? (20)
10. What do you learn about her wisdom and words in verse 26?
11. Summarize the praise given to the virtuous woman by her husband, children, and the works of her hands. What do they say? (28-31)
12. What do you learn about favor and beauty in verse 30?
13. What is the secret of the virtuous woman revealed in verse 30?
14. How can you apply the Proverbs in this chapter to your life and ministry?

Supplemental Study on Proverbs 31:

The Virtuous Woman And The Strange Woman

When woman was first created, she was made by God in a beautiful and sinless state. Due to her fall into sin, all women are now in one of two categories:

The woman apart from God: The sinful woman who has not accepted Jesus Christ as Savior and received forgiveness for her sin.

The woman of God: Once a sinner, this woman has confessed her sin and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior. She now stands virtuous (holy) before God.

The book of Proverbs in the Old Testament emphasizes the contrast between these two categories. The woman apart from God is referred to as the "strange" woman. The woman of God is referred to as the "virtuous" woman.

The subject of the strange woman runs like a connecting thread throughout the book of Proverbs until the final chapter where the characteristics of the virtuous woman are presented as a glorious contrast. Solomon's emphasis on strange and virtuous women developed in part from his own relationships. Solomon sinned by marrying more than one wife and some of his wives were "strange" women who served false gods.

The Strange Woman

The word "strange" in the book of Proverbs means "foreign, alien, adulterous." It describes a woman separated from God, a foreigner to His righteousness. Since God's ideal plan for woman is that through redemption she be part of His Body, the Church, this makes the strange woman an adulteress because she has turned from a relationship with God to a sinful life.

Proverbs identifies several characteristics of the "strange" woman. While all of these characteristics may not be present, many of them are evident in a sinful woman's life.

Insincere: The strange woman uses flattering speech, giving insincere praise with a wrong motive. Proverbs teaches that such a woman should be avoided:

To deliver thee from the strange woman, even from the stranger which flattereth with her words. (Proverbs 2:16)

To keep thee from ...the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. (Proverbs 6:24)

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

Evil: One of the purposes of Proverbs is to provide principles that will...

...keep thee from the evil woman. (Proverbs 6:24)

A destroyer: The strange woman seeks to destroy others by drawing them into her sin:

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. (Proverbs 6:26)

Immodest: The sinful woman dresses and behaves immodestly:

And behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot... (Proverbs 7:10)

Deceptive and subtle: The strange woman is deceptive and subtle:

And behold, there met him a woman...subtile of heart. (Proverbs 7:10)

She is pictured as a deceptive pit which causes others to fall:

For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. (Proverbs 23:27)

She speaks deceptive words which entice others to sin:

For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil. (Proverbs 5:3)

Contentious: "Contentious" means to be argumentative, always involved in controversy:

The contentions of a wife are a continual dropping. (Proverbs 19:13)

A continual dropping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. (Proverbs 27:15)

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

A brawler: Two verses speak of the brawling of the strange woman. To "brawl" means to be loud and to fight noisily. Proverbs warns:

It is better to dwell in the housetop than with a brawling woman in a wide house. (Proverbs 21:9)

Even the corner of a housetop is more desirable:

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

Adulterous: The sinful woman may be involved in adulterous physical relationships. For sure, she is committing spiritual adultery because she has neglected her relationship with God:

Such is the way of an adulterous woman... (Proverbs 30:23)

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

Self-righteous: The sinful woman does not comprehend her own true spiritual condition:

...She eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness. (Proverbs 30:20)

Odious: Proverbs states that the strange woman is "odious" which means "hateful." The writer expresses concern:

For an odious woman when she is married... (Proverbs 30:23)

Angry: Severely upset and inflamed:

It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman. (Proverbs 29:19)

Unprofitable: Two verses reveal how a strange woman can cause financial ruin. This is especially true in cases of divorce where a man leaves one woman for another:

Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a strange woman. (Proverbs 27:13 and 20:16)

Foolish and clamorous: To be foolish is to lack wisdom. "Clamorous" means to loudly complain and demand:

A foolish woman is clamorous... (Proverbs 9:13)

Unknowledgeable: She doesn't know what she is talking about.

**A foolish woman is clamorous; she is simple, and knoweth nothing.
(Proverbs 9:13)**

Without discretion: This means she has no tact. Proverbs compares a beautiful woman without discretion to a jewel in the nose of a pig:

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

The Virtuous Woman

After describing the strange woman throughout the book of Proverbs, the writer closes with a glorious contrast of the virtuous woman. The discussion opens with a question and a declaration: ***Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies @ (Proverbs 31:10).***

Read Proverbs 31:10-31 which details the characteristics of the virtuous woman. Remember, just as the sinful woman may not exhibit all of the traits of the strange woman, the following characteristics may not all be apparent in a Godly woman. They can be attained through spiritual growth, however, and are God's picture of the ideal woman.

The following is a verse-by-verse study of the characteristics of the virtuous woman:

Verse 10: The virtuous woman is rare, as the writer questions "Who can find a virtuous woman?" To be virtuous means to be morally good. This kind of woman is awarded eternal value, far above rubies. The Amplified Bible expands this verse to include the characteristics of intelligence and capability. She is rare, virtuous, and has eternal values.

Verse 11: She is trustworthy and the heart of her husband safely trusts in her.

Verse 12: Her relationships are right. She wants only good for her husband. The Amplified Bible expands the meaning of "good" to include the concepts of comforting and encouraging her husband.

Verse 13: She is industrious and a willing worker.

Verse 14: She provides for her household. This verse means spiritual as well as physical provision. The Amplified Bible expands this passage to explain that she provides for the "physical, material, and spiritual needs of her household."

Verse 15: She is considerate and responsible. She rises early to make provision for her family. This is also a type of making spiritual provision by rising early to meet with God. The virtuous woman is a good supervisor and provides for those who work for her.

Verse 16: She is businesslike. She considers, plans, and thinks before she acts. She is aggressive and productive in the spiritual "vineyard" or material work God has given her to do. The Amplified Bible indicates she doesn't neglect her present duties by assuming others. She expands prudently (wisely).

Verse 17: The virtuous woman is strong. The Amplified Version states she develops "spiritual, mental, and physical fitness for her God given task."

Verse 18: She has a good self image and is not affected by outward circumstances. According to the Amplified Bible, her light of encouragement burns in the night of trouble and sorrow, warding off fear, doubt, and distrust.

Verse 19: She is skillful and trained for her work. She knows how to use the "tools of her trade," so to speak.

Verse 20: The virtuous woman is generous to the poor and reaches out to minister to the needy. The Amplified Bible says she "ministers to the body, mind, and spirit of others.@"

Verse 21: The virtuous woman is fearless. She clothes her family, not only physically but spiritually. Hebrews 9:19-21 speaks of the spiritual covering of the blood of Jesus Christ.

Verse 22: This passage describes the virtuous woman as a creative homemaker as well as being properly dressed.

Verse 23: She is supportive of her husband's position.

Verse 24: She is a good business woman.

Verse 25: She is strong, honorable, and joyfully looks to the future.

Verse 26: She is wise and ministers through the spoken word. She controls her tongue and is kind.

Verse 27: She is conscientious (responsible) and looks well to the ways of her household. She is not idle, but is active and energetic. The Amplified Bible states she "does not eat the bread of idle gossip, discontent, and self-pity."

Verse 28: The virtuous woman is an ideal wife and mother.

Verse 29: She "excels in virtue." The spirit of excellence is apparent in her life and ministry.

Verse 30: She is successful and others recognize it. She also fears God.

Verse 31: She will be fruitful (productive) and others will honor her for her contributions. Her own works praise her. She does not have to boast.

The Secret Of The Virtuous Woman

What is the secret of the virtuous woman? How can she achieve all of these positive traits?

She fears the Lord and all of her positive character traits spring from her right relationship with God.

Fearing God involves more than respecting Him. It includes acknowledging Him as God, recognizing and confessing your sin, and accepting Jesus Christ as personal Savior. When you become a new creature in Jesus Christ, all the old things are done away with:

Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. (2 Corinthians 5:17)

Your life may be ruined by sin. You may have many of the characteristics of the sinful woman evident in your life. Right now, through Christ, you can be transformed from a sinful to a virtuous woman. You can restore your relationship with God and allow Him to develop these beautiful, virtuous characteristics in your life. All you must do is confess your sins and accept Jesus Christ as your Savior. If you have not already made this commitment, pray to God and do this right now.

One final verse provides a concise summary of what Proverbs teaches on the subject of women. It is the final contrast between the strange and the virtuous woman:

Favour is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. (Proverbs 31:30)

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SUPPLEMENTAL STUDIES

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY ONE

KING SOLOMON

HIS BIRTH:

After David's adultery with Bathsheba and the murder of her husband Uriah the Hittite, King David married Bathsheba. The child of their adulterous union died, but later on a son was born to them who would inherit the throneBSolomon.

HIS NAME:

The name "Solomon" is related to the Hebrew "shalom" meaning "peace." Shalom means the kind of peace that comes from being in harmony with God and with one's fellow man. Shalom implies wholeness. According to Samuel, Solomon's other name was "Jedidiah, "Beloved of Yahweh." (2 Samuel 12:24-25).

HIS INAUGURATION AND REIGN:

Solomon's accession to the throne, his prayer to God for wisdom, his great wealth, his building of the temple, his prayer of dedication for the temple and God's response, his successes, as well as his later failures--are recorded in 1 Kings 1-11 and 3:5-15; 1 Chronicles 29:23-25; 2 Chronicles 1-9; and Ecclesiastes 2:4-6.

Solomon was an author and composer of over 1,005 songs (1 Kings 4:29-34); architect and administrator (1 Kings 4 and 6); scientist, writer, and musician (1 Kings 4:29-34); and a diplomat and businessman (1 Kings 4-5). A record of his achievements is found in 1 Kings 6,1,38,; 7:1; and Ecclesiastes 2:4-6.

God gave Solomon:

- \$ Riches and fame: 1 Kings 4:20-27; 10:14-22.
- \$ Wisdom and knowledge: 2 Chronicles 1:7-12; 9:1-8, 22-23.
- \$ Discernment and strength: 1 Kings 4:29-34.
- \$ Skill: 1 Kings 10:23-24.

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VISITS FROM GOD:

1 Kings 3:5-15 and 1 Chronicles 1:7-12:

- \$ What three things are unique to the Chronicles account?
- \$ What three things are unique to the Kings account?

\$ What things are similar?

1 Kings 11: God appeared and was not pleased with Solomon. The remainder of the chapter tells how his reign was plagued by adversaries, internal rebellion, and frustration.

HIS LATER YEARS:

Solomon's early years were followed by spiritual decline and an extended time in his life when he was not walking with God:

For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father. (1 Kings 11:4)

Solomon's decline started with small compromises. His decline was due to:

- Union with an unbeliever: 1 Kings 8:11
- Unaccountable for his actions: 1 Kings 9:19
- Uncontrolled desires: 1 Kings 9:1,10; 2 Chronicles 8:6
- Unwise alliances: 1 Kings 3:1
- Unresolved conflicts: 1 Kings 9:10-14
- Unrestrained preoccupation with sex: 1 Kings 11:1-8
- Unholy involvement with idolatry: 1 Kings 11:4-8

See Deuteronomy 17:14-17 for warnings regarding leaders.

Towards the end of his life, Solomon apparently returned to fellowship with God as reflected by the advice given in his declining years: 1 Kings 11:40-43 and Ecclesiastes 11:9-12:7.

HIS INSPIRED WRITINGS:

Solomon wrote the majority of the book of Proverbs. The Book of Kings says that Solomon also wrote 1005 songs. Of all his songs, only the Song of Solomon survives. Most commentators consider the Song of Solomon to have been written early in his life. Ecclesiastes seems to have been written later in his life as record of his searching for meaning in life. His conclusion is that life only makes sense when God is at the center of all we undertake.

Solomon was called to be a lover of God, but at the end of his life he turned to the flesh. Solomon was given riches, power, and wisdom unlike any other king of Israel (1 Chronicles 29:25).

Why would God choose someone who multiplied wives and concubines and turned away from the Lord so dramatically during a portion of his life to write a portrait of intimacy between our

Heavenly Bridegroom and the Bride of Christ such as the Song of Solomon and to record the wisdom of Proverbs? (1 Kings 11:3-4)

The key truth from Solomon's life is that no matter how much you love God, no matter how deep your level of intimacy with Him, or how wise you are, compromise leads to spiritual decline. This is why the Apostle Paul said:

But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway. (1 Corinthians 9:27)

The Remnant Church



Bible Institute

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY TWO THE FEAR OF THE LORD

THE FEAR OF THE LORD DEFINED:

Job 28:28: And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding.

Psalms 19:9: The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring for ever: the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

Psalms 111:10: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Proverbs 1:7: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.

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.

Proverbs 9:10: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs 15:33: The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.

COMMANDS TO FEAR THE LORD:

2 Chronicles 19:7: Wherefore now let the fear of the Lord be upon you; take heed and do it: for there is no iniquity with the Lord our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

2 Chronicles 19:9: And he charged them, saying, Thus shall ye do in the fear of the Lord, faithfully, and with a perfect heart.

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

Isaiah 2:10: Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty.

Ecclesiastes 5:7: For in the multitude of dreams and many words there is also vanity. But fear God.

1 Peter 2:17: Honor all people. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honor the king.

Revelation 14:7: ...saying with a loud voice, "Fear God and give glory to Him, for the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water."

Ecclesiastes 12:13: Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments.

BENEFITS OF FEARING THE LORD:

Psalms 25:12-14: What man is he that feareth the Lord? him shall he teach in the way that he shall choose. His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth. The secret of the Lord is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Psalm 34:7,9: The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them...O fear the Lord, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

Psalm 103:13,17: Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him... But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.

Psalm 147:11: The Lord taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

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

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

Proverbs 14:27: The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Proverbs 15:16: Better is little with the fear of the Lord than great treasure and trouble therewith.

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

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.

Proverbs 22:4: By humility and the fear of the Lord are riches, and honour, and life.

Ecclesiastes 8:12: Though a sinner does evil a hundred times, and his days are prolonged, yet I surely know that it will be well with those who fear God, who fear before Him.

Ecclesiastes 7:18: It is good that thou shouldest take hold of this; yea, also from this withdraw not thine hand: for he that feareth God shall come forth of them all.

Isaiah 33:6: And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times, and strength of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.

Acts 9:31: Then had the churches rest throughout all Judaea and Galilee and Samaria, and were edified; and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied.

Acts 13:26: Men and brethren, children of the stock of Abraham, and whosoever among you feareth God, to you is the word of this salvation sent.

EXAMPLES OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD DESCENDING:

1 Samuel 11:7: And he took a yoke of oxen, and hewed them in pieces, and sent them throughout all the coasts of Israel by the hands of messengers, saying, Whosoever cometh not forth after Saul and after Samuel, so shall it be done unto his oxen. And the fear of the Lord fell on the people, and they came out with one consent.

2 Chronicles 14:14: And they smote all the cities round about Gerar; for the fear of the Lord came upon them: and they spoiled all the cities; for there was exceeding much spoil in them.

2 Chronicles 17:10: And the fear of the Lord fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah, so that they made no war against Jehoshaphat.

THE RESPONSE OF PEOPLE WHO DID NOT FEAR THE LORD:

Men will fear the Lord one way or another: Either through choice and godly fear, or through terror.

Isaiah 2:19: And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Isaiah 2:21: To go into the clefts of the rocks, and into the tops of the ragged rocks, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE WHO FEARED GOD:

Abraham:

Genesis 22:12: And He said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son, from Me."

Joseph: Genesis 42:18: Then Joseph said to them the third day, "Do this and live, for I fear

God...” Deuteronomy 25:18: how he met you on the way and attacked your rear ranks, all the stragglers at your rear, when you were tired and weary; and he did not fear God.

Job:

Job 1:1: There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil.

Job 1:9: So Satan answered the Lord and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

Job 1:8: And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 2:3: And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

The midwives:

Exodus 1:17: But the midwives feared God, and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them, but saved the men children alive.

Exodus 1:21: And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses.

Hanani and Hananiah:

Nehemiah 7:2: That I gave my brother Hanani, and Hananiah the ruler of the palace, charge over Jerusalem: for he was a faithful man, and feared God above many.

Acts 10:2: A devout man, and one that feared God with all his house, which gave much alms to the people, and prayed to God alway.

The Centurion:

Acts 10:22: And they said, Cornelius the centurion, a just man, and one that feareth God, and of good report among all the nation of the Jews, was warned from God by an holy angel to send for thee into his house, and to hear words of thee.

Jesus:

Isaiah 11:2: 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.

Isaiah 11:3: And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears.

Men of Israel:

Acts 13:16: Then Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen:...@

Acts 13:26: Men and brethren, sons of the family of Abraham, and those among you who fear God, to you the word of this salvation has been sent.

FEARING GOD SHOULD BE A QUALITY OF LEADERSHIP:

Exodus 18:21: Moreover you shall select from all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them to be rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.

FEARING THE LORD IS A CHOICE:

Proverbs 1:29: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the Lord.

THE FEAR OF THE LORD CAN AND SHOULD BE TAUGHT:

Psalms 34:11: Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

Psalms 66:16: Come and hear, all you who fear God, And I will declare what He has done for my soul.

YOU MUST BE WILLING TO CHANGE IF YOU ARE TO DEVELOP THE FEAR OF GOD:

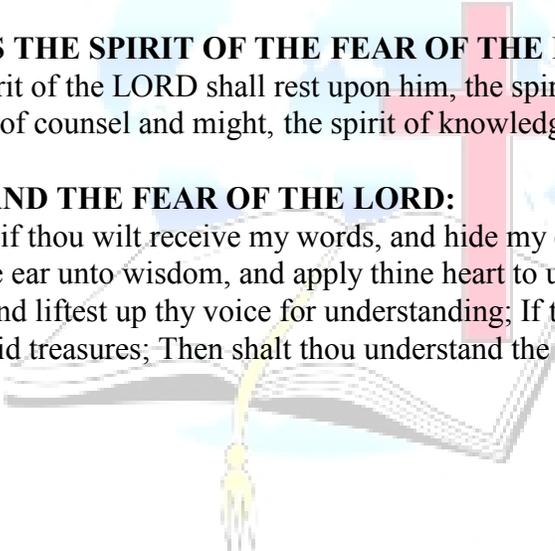
Psalms 55:19: God will hear, and afflict them, Even He who abides from of old. Selah
Because they do not change, Therefore they do not fear God. (NKJV)

THE HOLY SPIRIT IS THE SPIRIT OF THE FEAR OF THE LORD:

Isaiah 11:2: 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.

HOW TO UNDERSTAND THE FEAR OF THE LORD:

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



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SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY THREE

CONSIDER THE ANT

It is estimated that there are about 20,000 different species of ants. For this reason ants have been called earth's most successful species. The Bible indicates we should consider, or study the ant. What can be learned from such a study?

- I. Ants build many different types of homes. Many ants build simple mounds out of dirt or sand. Other ants use small sticks mixed with dirt and sand to make a stronger mound that offers protection from rain. Ant mounds consist of many chambers connected by tunnels. Different chambers are used for nurseries, food storage, and resting places for the worker ants. Some ants live in wood like termites. Army ants don't make a home at all but travel in large groups searching for food.

Consider the ant: What can we learn from this that may be applied to the various gifts and callings in the Body of Christ?

- II. Ants are social insects and they live in large colonies or groups. Some colonies consist of millions of ants. There are three types of ants in each species, the queen, the sterile female workers, and males. The male ants only serve one purpose, to mate with future queen ants. The queen grows to adulthood, mates, and then spends the rest of her life laying eggs. A colony may have only one queen, or there may be many queens depending on the species.

Consider the ant: What can we learn from this that may be applied to the differing purposes of members of the Body of Christ?

- III. Ants go through four stages of development: egg, larva, pupa, and adult. How could this be applied to our development in Christ?
-

- IV. Ants have three main parts. The head, the trunk (middle section), and the rear or metasoma. All six legs are attached to the trunk. The head consists of the jaws, eyes, and antennae. The eyes of ants are made up of many lenses enabling them to see movement very well. The antennae are special organs of smell, touch, taste, and hearing. The metasoma contains the stomach and rectum. Many species of ants have poison sacks and/or stingers in the end of the metasoma for defense against their many predators.

Can we learn something about spiritual warfare from these facts? If so, what?

- V. There are many species of ants. Their favorite food varies according to the species. Sweet foods are very important for worker ants as sources of energy for outputting power and the protein of insect bodies is an important material for building up the ant's body. Some are very fond of insects. Others eat garbage.

Consider the ant: What can we apply from these facts to the spiritual diet of believers?

- VI. When an ant finds a large piece of food, it returns to the nest and collects its fellow workers to share. On the way back home, it leaves a trail of odors as landmarks, so that it can find its way precisely to the place where it had earlier located the food.

Consider the ant: What can we learn from this to apply spiritually?

- VII. Not only bees and butterflies visit flowers. Ants also come to gather sweet honey released from the honey gland at the base of the leaves and buds of flowers and trees or to collect the sweet sap oozing out from the peeled bark of a tree. An ant with honey stored in its crop regurgitates the sweet honey when its mandible is tapped by the antenna of a fellow ant. The recipient ant is given a drop of honey via mouth-to-mouth transfer.

Consider the ant: How could this be applied spiritually?

- VIII. Ants are quite aggressive in protecting their nest or food resources. The enemy sometimes may be an ant of the same species and sometimes of a different ant species. The fight is continued until the enemy's body is dismembered or it dies. Ants fight by:
1. Biting with the mandible
 2. Spraying poisonous fluid
 3. Pricking with the sting at the tip of the abdomen

Consider the ant: What are our spiritual weapons?

How aggressive should we be against the enemy?

How long should we continue a spiritual battle?

- IX. When ants of the same species meet outside the nest, they smell each other using their antennae. This allows them to distinguish their fellow ants from those belonging to a different

Consider the ant: How does the Bible say we will know other believers and be known by them?

- X. When it becomes cold outside in late fall, the ants move deep into the nest looking for a warm place. The exit closes naturally with soil and sands, and ants pass the winter in the security of their nest. They survive the winter using fat accumulated during the fall. There are many chambers in an ant's nest and they are allocated clearly by function into larvae chambers for raising larvae, food stock-piling, garbage stations, and mother's chambers.

Consider the ant: Apply this spiritually. What enables us to survive the winters of our spiritual lives? How do the chambers in the nest reflect the need for various ministries in the Body of Christ?

SUPPLEMENTAL STUDY FOUR

TOPICAL STUDIES

KEY WORDS RELATED TO WISDOM:

Word	Meaning
Wisdom	Well used skill
Knowledge	Knowing and doing what God requires
Understanding	Ability to discern differences in choices
Prudence	Cunning, clever
Instruction	Includes correction and discipline
Learning	Comprehending truth well enough to teach it
Wise counsel	Accurate guidance

Underline these subjects in different colors as you read through Proverbs.

GROUPS IN PROVERBS:

Study the following groups mentioned in Proverbs:

- Seven things God hates: 6:16-19
- Two things the author requests of God: 30:7-9
- Four things which are never satisfied: 30:15-16
- Four things which the earth finds unbearable: 30:21-23
- Four wonderful things: 30:18-19
- Four small but wise things: 30:24-28
- Four stately rulers: 30:29-31

FOOLS IN PROVERBS:

Study the different fools mentioned in Proverbs. The word fool means naive, simple, lacking sense, opposing wisdom, scoffers.

- The simple fool: 1:4,22; 7:7; 21:11
- The hardened fool: 1:7; 10:23; 12:23; 17:10; 20:3; 27:22
- The arrogant fool: 3:34; 21:24; 22:10; 29:8
- The brutish fool: 17:21; 26:3; 30:22

FINDING BIBLICAL EXAMPLES:

An interesting way to study Proverbs is to find a biblical example that fits each Proverb.

For example, Proverbs 10:7 might be illustrated by Dorcas:

The memory of the just is blessed...

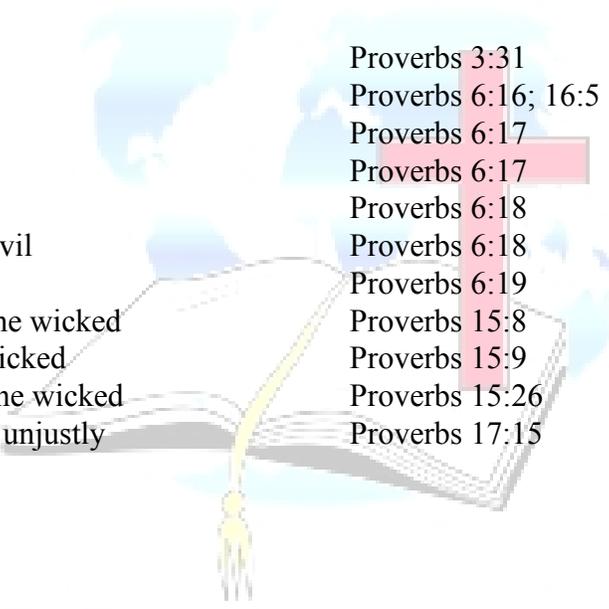
Proverbs 10:7b might be illustrated by Cain, Balaam, Jezebel, and Judas.

...but the name of the wicked shall rot.

Proverbs 16:18 might be illustrated by Nebuchadnezzar and Herod Agrippa.

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

THINGS GOD HATES:



Violent people	Proverbs 3:31
Pride	Proverbs 6:16; 16:5
Lying	Proverbs 6:17
Murder	Proverbs 6:17
Scheming	Proverbs 6:18
Eagerness to do evil	Proverbs 6:18
A false witness	Proverbs 6:19
The sacrifice of the wicked	Proverbs 15:8
The way of the wicked	Proverbs 15:9
The thoughts of the wicked	Proverbs 15:26
Those who judge unjustly	Proverbs 17:15

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WISE PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE:

The following examples are people called wise in the Bible. They can be positive role models for our own pursuit of wisdom. Complete the chart as you study the passages.

Name	References	How they practiced wisdom
Joseph	Acts 7:10	_____
Moses	Acts 7:20-22	_____
Bezalel	Exodus 31:1-5	_____
Joshua	Deuteronomy 34:9	_____
David	2 Samuel 14:20	_____
Abigail	1 Samuel 25:3	_____
Solomon	1 Kings 3:5-14; 4:29-34	_____
Daniel	Daniel 5:11-12	_____
Magi	Matthew 2:1-12	_____
Stephen	Acts 6:8-10	_____
Paul	2 Peter 3:15-16	_____
Christ	Luke 2:40,52 1 Corinthians 1:20-25	_____

YOUR WORK:

Study the following verses to learn what Proverbs says about your work.
10:5; 12:11,14, 24; 13:11; 14:23; 16:6; 18:9; 21:25; 22:29; 24:27; 28:19; 31:13, 17, 31.

PROVERBS CONCERNING MONEY:

Be generous in giving	Proverbs 11:24-25:22:9
Place people=s needs ahead of profit	Proverbs 11:26
Be cautious of countersigning for another	Proverbs 17:18; 22:26-27
Don=t accept bribes	Proverbs 17:23
Help the poor	Proverbs 19:17; 21:13
Store up for the future	Proverbs 21:20
Be careful about borrowing	Proverbs 22:7

Study the following additional verses to learn what Proverbs says about your money/wealth:
 3:9, 10; 8:18-21; 10:4,15, 16, 22; 11:4, 15, 24-26, 28; 13:7, 8, 11, 21, 22; 14:20, 23, 24; 15:6,16,
 27; 16:8; 17:6; 18:11, 23; 19:4, 7; 21:5, 17; 22:1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 16; 23:4, 5; 27:24; 28:6, 8, 11, 22, 25;
 30:8; 31:18

PROVERBS CONCERNING TEACHING AND LEARNING:

Wise Students	Proverbs	Foolish Students
Accept instructions/criticism	10:8; 23:12; 25:12	Ignore instruction
Love discipline	12:1	Hate correction
Listen to advice	12:15:21:11; 24:6	Think they need no advice
Accept parent=s discipline	13:1	Mock parents
Lead others to life	10:17	Lead others astray
Receive honor	13:18	Poverty and shame
Profit from rebuke	15:31-32; 29:1	Refuse it and are destroyed
Advice to teachers		
Help people avoid traps	13:14	
Use pleasant words	16:21	
Speak at the right time	15:23; 18:20	

BUSINESS PRINCIPLES IN PROVERBS

chapter	verses	
1	2-6	Why book was written: Statement of purpose
	7	Foundation of success
	23	Spirit of wisdom essential to business success
2	1-10	Guidelines for decisions
3	6	Put God first and your efforts will be rewarded
	9-10	Tithing brings financial blessing
	21-23	Common sense
4	27-28	Don't withhold payment of debts
	5	Determination leads to wisdom
	23	Guard your affections: They influence everything, including business
5	21	God is your silent partner
6	1-5	Endorsing notes
	6	Working without an overseer (ants)
9	10	Knowing God results in every kind of understanding and makes your time more profitable
10	4,26	Laziness and hard work
	6	How to use your earnings
	27	How to extend the hours of the day
11	15	Vouching for credit
	24-25	Giving brings wealth
12	3	Real success
	24	To become a leader, work hard
	26	Regarding advisors
13	2-3	Negotiation guidelines
	11	Wealth from hard work increases
	16	Advance planning
	17	Reliable communication permits progress
14	4	No income from an empty stable
	8	Planning ahead
	15	The prudent check to see where they are headed

	23	Balance work and talk
	29	Anger causes mistakes
	30	A relaxed attitude lengthens life
15	11	A soft answer turns away wrath of employees/customers
	6	The income of the wicked includes trouble and vexation
	22	Where there are no counselors, purposes are frustrated
16	1,3	Planning
	8	Revenues with injustice
	10	Decisions
	11	Just balances
	33	Decision are from God (even accidental ones)
17	16	Funds should be handled by wise men
	27	Seek employees with cool spirit
18	9	Loose and slack workers
	13,17	Hear the facts first before making decisions
19	2	Be overhasty and you will miss the mark
	15	Slothfulness, idleness
	21	We can plan, but the Lord's purpose will stand
20	10,23	Diverse weights
	21	Money hastily obtained
21	1	The boss's heart
22	24	Business associates
	26	Surety for another's debts
	29	Diligence in business
24	6	Safety in counselors
	12	Professed ignorance is no excuse
	30	The field of the lazy
27	18	Employees should reap material benefits from their labors
	23	Be aware of what is going on among employees
28	2	High turnover due to sin
	6	Integrity
	8	Excessive interest
	23	How to correct employees
29	4	Required contributions
	12	If the boss listens to lies, his leaders will be wicked
	26	Seeking the bosses favor
30	10	Don't accuse a fellow employee to the boss

HOW GOD IS DESCRIBED IN PROVERBS:

God is aware of all that occurs	15:3
God knows the heart	15:11; 16:2; 21:2
God controls all things	16:33; 21:30
God is a place of safety	18:10
God rescues good people from danger	11:8, 21
God condemns the wicked	11:31
God delights in our prayers	15:8, 29
God loves those who obey him	15:9; 22:12
God cares for the poor and needy	15:25; 22:22,23
God purifies our hearts	17:3
God hates those who do evil	17:5; 21:27; 28:9

CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE WISE AND FOOLISH:

The Wise	The Foolish	Reference(s)
In regards to counsel and advice:		
Give good advice	Lack of judgment	10:21
Have great advice		24:5
	Scorn good advice	23:9
	Not good counselors	24:7
In regards to wisdom:		
Enjoy wisdom	Enjoy foolishness	10:23
Cautious	Gullible	14:15
	Avoid the wise	15:12
Seek knowledge	Seek foolishness	15:14
Value wisdom above riches		16:16
Pursue wisdom	Pursue illusive dreams	17:24
	Blame God for failure	19:3

Trust in wisdom	Trust in themselves	28:26
	Make truth useless	26:7
Wisdom conquers all		21:22

In regards to correction:

Receive life	Receive punishment	16:22
Respond to correction	Respond only to punishment	16:22
Profit from correction	Bad example to others	19:25
	Proud and arrogant	21:24
	Repeat their folly	26:11

In regards to their emotions:

Control anger	Unleash anger	29:11
	Cause strife and quarrels	22:10
	Receive no honor	26:1
Keep peace	Stir up anger	29:8

In regards to their walk:

Stay on the right path	Go the wrong way	15:21
	Angry when folly revealed	17:12
	Endangered by own words	18:6-7
Avoid wicked paths	Walk in paths of trouble	22:5
	Guided by hardship	26:3
	Persist in foolishness	27:22

YOUR HEART:

What the word heart means:

The physical heart is the central bodily organ. The word "heart" in Proverbs means the center or focal point of our inner man—the intellect, emotions, and will. It is behind all we think, say, and do.

Negative characteristics of the heart:

- Wicked: 6:18
- Sensual: 7:2-10
- Deceptive: 12:20
- Bitter: 14:10
- Happy: 15:30
- Haughty: 18:12
- Raging: 19:3

Envious: 23:17
Anxious, depressed: 12:25; 14:13
Proud: 5:12-13

Practical instructions for the heart:

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

YOUR MOUTH/TONGUE/SPEECH:

Tongue:

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

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

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

Proverbs 10:31: The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

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

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

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

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

Proverbs 16:1: The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord.

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

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

falleth into mischief.

Proverbs 18:21: Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

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

Proverbs 21:23: Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 25:15: By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone.

Proverbs 25:23: The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

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

Proverbs 28:23: He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.

Proverbs 31:26: She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Mouth:

Proverbs 2:6: For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.

Proverbs 4:5: Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 4:24: Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

Proverbs 5:3: For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil.

Proverbs 5:7: Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 6:2: Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

Proverbs 6:2: Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy

mouth.

Proverbs 6:12: A naughty person, a wicked man, walketh with a froward mouth.

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

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 8:13: The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proverbs 18:4: The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

Proverbs 18:6: A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

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

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.

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

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

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

Proverbs 21:23: Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles.

Proverbs 22:14: The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the Lord shall fall therein.

Proverbs 24:7: Wisdom is too high for a fool: he openeth not his mouth in the gate.

Proverbs 26:7: The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

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

Proverbs 26:15: The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

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

Proverbs 27:2: Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

Proverbs 30:20: Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eateth, and wipeth her mouth, and saith, I have done no wickedness.

Proverbs 30:32: If thou hast done foolishly in lifting up thyself, or if thou hast thought evil, lay thine hand upon thy mouth.

Proverbs 31:8: Open thy mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

Proverbs 31:9: Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:26: She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

Lips:

Proverbs 4:24: Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee.

Proverbs 5:2: That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.

Proverbs 5:3: For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil.

Proverbs 7:21: With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.

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

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

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.

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

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

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

Proverbs 10:32: The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Proverbs 18:6: A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes.

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

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.

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

Proverbs 20:15: There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

Proverbs 20:19: He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flattereth with his lips.

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

Proverbs 22:18: For it is a pleasant thing if thou keep them within thee; they shall withal be fitted in thy lips.

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

Proverbs 24:2: For their heart studieth destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

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

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

Proverbs 26:23

23 Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross.

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

Proverbs 27:2: Let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

Words:

Proverbs 1:2: To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding.

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

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.

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

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

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

Proverbs 4:5: Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 4:20: My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings.

Proverbs 5:7: Hear me now therefore, O ye children, and depart not from the words of my mouth.

Proverbs 6:2: Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

Proverbs 7:1: My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.

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

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

Proverbs 8:8: All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing froward or perverse in them.

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

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

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

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

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

Proverbs 17:27: He that hath knowledge spareth his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

Proverbs 18:4: The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

Proverbs 18:8: The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

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.

Proverbs 19:27: Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

Proverbs 22:12: The eyes of the Lord preserve knowledge, and he overthroweth the words of the transgressor.

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

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?

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?

Proverbs 23:8: The morsel which thou hast eaten shalt thou vomit up, and lose thy sweet words.

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

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

Proverbs 26:22: The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

Proverbs 29:19: A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer.

Proverbs 29:20: Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

ADVICE IN SELECTING A MATE:

Consider these questions:

1. Does he/she have a personal relationship with God? If not, you should not even be considering them as a mate.

2. How does he/she treat animals? This reveals a lot about their character. Proverbs 12:10
3. Does he/she listen to good advice from others? This reveals whether he/she is a wise or foolish person. Proverbs 12:15
4. What are his/her friends like? Proverbs 13:20
5. What about his/her emotions? Is he/she quick-tempered? Proverbs 14:29. If so, you will become like him/her: Proverbs 22:24-25.
6. Does he/she have compassion for the poor? If so, you can be assured his/her prayers will be answered. Proverbs 21:13.
7. Is he/she a moral person? Proverbs 6:27-29.
8. Is he/she an alcoholic? Proverbs 23:29-30
9. How does he/she earn money? You will be affected by business decisions. Proverbs 15:27. Study the notes on business principles in this supplemental study section.
10. What about his/her talk? Study the verses on the mouth given in this supplemental study section. See also Proverbs 17:27-28.

WISDOM IN FORMING FRIENDSHIPS:

- I. How to select a friend:
 - A. Do not be good friends with:
 1. Gossips: Proverbs 20:19
 2. The bad tempered: Proverbs 22:24-25
 3. Those given to change: Proverbs 24:21-22
 4. Those given to drinking and gluttony: Proverbs 23:20-21
 5. Liars, untrustworthy, and those who are inconsiderate: Proverbs 25:18-20
 6. Those given to violence: Proverbs 1:10-19
 - B. The type of friends you want:
 1. Those who display wisdom: Proverbs 13:20
 2. Those who give wise counsel: Proverbs 27:9; 13:14
 3. Those who are comforting instead of dragging you down: Proverbs 17:17
Proverbs 18:24
- II. How to maintain a friendship.
 - A. Things to avoid.
 1. Repeating everything you hear. Proverbs 17:9; 26:20
 2. Senseless arguments: Proverbs 17:14; 26:21
 3. Overstaying your welcome: Proverbs 25:17
 4. Bad jokes at the expense of your friend: Proverbs 26:18-19
 5. Meddling in affairs that do not concern you: Proverbs 26:17

6. Insincere flattery: Proverbs 27:14
- B. Solving problems in friendships.
 1. Be slow to anger: Proverbs 16:7
 2. Be slow to respond: Proverbs 18:13
 3. Avoid quarreling: Proverbs 20:3
 4. Speak gently: Proverbs 15:1
 5. Speak briefly: Proverbs 10:29
 6. Make sure you are at peace with the Lord before trying to solve a problem: Proverbs 16:7.
 7. Be quick to show love: Proverbs 10:12
 8. When necessary, it is better to rebuke than to flatter: Proverbs 28:23.

COUNSELING:

Proverbs is an excellent book to use in providing wise counsel.

- I. The definition of counseling. In the Old Testament, the most common Hebrew word for counseling is *Adah-baar* or speaking casually in everyday conversation. Even if you are not a professional counselor, you can provide wise counsel in everyday encounters with those in need.
- II. The benefits of counseling.
 - A. Relieves anxiety: 18:18,25.
 - B. Enables wise planning: 15:20; 20:18.
 - C. Promotes successful living: 11:14; 15:22.
 - D. Increases wisdom: 12:5, 15; 13:10; 19:20.
- III. Effective counselors exhibit the following characteristics.
 - A. Confidentiality: 11:13-14; 25:9.
 - B. Timing and tact: 15:22-23,28; 16:21-24.
 - C. Objectivity and discernment: 18:17; 26:23-26.
 - D. Understanding: 20:5.
 - E. Purity: 4:18-19.
 - F. Ability to listen: 18:13,15.
 - G. Understanding: 20:5,
 - H. Honesty: 24:23-26; 25:26.
 - I. Genuine interest and love: 27:9
- IV. Counseling is not effective when people:
 - A. Forsake the truth: 10:17.
 - B. Are angry and don't want to change: 19:19.
 - C. Despise the truth: 23:9.
 - D. Only want to talk and not change: 18:2.
 - E. Cover up or try to defend their conduct: 29:9.
 - F. Do not respond to counsel: 29:19.

PROVERBS IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

The following are New Testament quotes of an Old Testament Proverb. Complete the following chart.

N.T. Reference	O.T. Proverb	Situation and how the Proverb was applied
Luke 14:10	Proverbs 25:6-7	
Romans 12:16	Proverbs 3:7	
Romans 12:20	Proverbs 25:21-22	
2 Corinthians 9:7	Proverbs 22:9	
Hebrews 12:5-6	Proverbs 3:11-12	
Hebrews 12:13	Proverbs 4:26	
James 4:5	Proverbs 3:34	
1 Peter 2:17	Proverbs 24:21	
1 Peter 3:13	Proverbs 26:7	
1 Peter 4:8	Proverbs 10:12	
1 Peter 4:18	Proverbs 11:31	
2 Peter 2:22	Proverbs 26:11	

TEN STEPS TO GAIN GODLY WISDOM:

Know Jesus, the Son of God. Invite Him into your life as your personal Savior.

1 Corinthians 1:30: But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption.

Fear God and keep His commandments:

Psalm 111:10: The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.

Claim the wisdom God has laid up for you:

Proverbs 2:6-7: For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding. He layeth up sound wisdom for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.

Be humble:

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

Choose God's way:

Proverbs 8:10-11: Receive my instruction, and not silver; and knowledge rather than choice gold.

For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it.

Listen to God=s direction:

Proverbs 13:10:...with the well advised is wisdom.

Receive God=s correction:

Proverbs 29:15: The rod and reproof give wisdom...

Seek for wisdom and understanding:

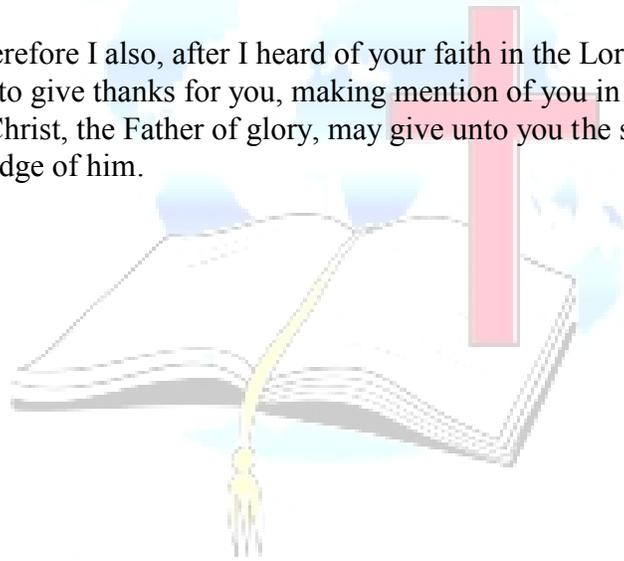
Proverbs 3:13: Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Please God by living a good life:

Ecclesiastes 2:26: For God giveth to a man that is good in his sight wisdom, and knowledge, and joy: but to the sinner he giveth travail, to gather and to heap up, that he may give to him that is good before God.

Ask God for wisdom:

Ephesians 1:15-17: Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers; That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him.



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