

Directions

This is a booklet to aid you in your personal study of this book. Read through the text first, discovering God's precious truths for yourself. Write down the main point of each section of text in the space provided. Use the margins on each side of the text and the backside of the page to make notations of the truths you discover and passages you do not understand. When you believe you have seen all there is in text, read and answer the questions in the booklet pertaining to that section of text. The questions are not an exhaustive list of things to look for in the text. The questions are to help you consider the points that the author was trying to convey to his audience. Be prepared to share your findings in class.

Design of the Class

Instead of studying chapters 10-31 of the book of Proverbs verse by verse, we will study this section in a topical form. The benefit of this kind of study will be that we can look at all the proverbs on a particular subject at the same time, with each class period concentrating on one topic at a time. The draw back to studying Proverbs this way is that we will not be able to cover every proverb. Therefore this study is not a substitute for careful examination of the book in the form that the Holy Spirit had it written.

The Importance of Studying Proverbs

The Proverbs are meant to give us wisdom in advance of the time when we will actually need it. If we do not get this wisdom now, when we really need it, wisdom will forsake us (Proverbs 1:28). Therefore, the more time you can spend in your own personal study, the better for you in the future.

Understanding the Proverbs

The Proverbs are GENERAL rules. There are exceptions. Therefore we must not argue that the proverb could not be true in a literal sense just because we can think of exceptions. A "proverb" is a brief saying in the stead of many words. The genius of the proverb lies in its shrewd concentration of a truth so that it catches on and becomes easier to remember.

It is important to understand that the Proverbs are in a concentrated form, much like "orange juice concentrate": a little will go a long way. Thus, the Proverbs often have many lessons that go beyond their immediate context. In other words, a proverb may fit many different occasions not only the one mentioned in the text. An example would be 25:16.

PROVERBS ON WISDOM

INTRODUCTION: Read Proverbs 1:20-33. To whom is the call of wisdom (1:4-5)? To the simple, the young, the wise, and the man of understanding. No matter how old or young, no matter how experienced, it is only the fool who will not seek and listen to wisdom. Obtaining wisdom is like obtaining humility: when one thinks he has attained it, he has lost it.

The Benefits of Wisdom

(Prov 13:15) Good sense wins favor, but the way of the treacherous is their ruin.

(Prov 19:16) Whoever keeps the commandment keeps his life; he who despises his ways will die.

(Prov 15:24) The path of life leads upward for the prudent, that he may turn away from Sheol beneath.

(Prov 18:10-11) The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. 11 A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.

(Prov 16:16) How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.

(Prov 24:5-6) A wise man is full of strength, and a man of knowledge enhances his might, 6 for by wise guidance you can wage your war, and in abundance of counselors there is victory.

(Prov 24:7) Wisdom is too high for a fool; in the gate he does not open his mouth. [Wisdom is unattainable for a fool; in court he does not open his mouth. (Proverbs 24:7 NET)]

The Means of Obtaining Wisdom

Wisdom is not attained by casual behavior--

(Prov 11:27) Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it.

(Prov 12:1) Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

(Prov 24:13-14) 13 My son, eat honey, for it is good, and the drippings of the honeycomb are sweet to your taste.
14 Know that wisdom is such to your soul; if you find it, there will be a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

(Prov 20:12) The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both.

(Prov 22:17-18) Incline your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart to my knowledge, 18 for it will be pleasant if you keep them within you, if all of them are ready on your lips.

To obtain wisdom we must have the ability of unbiased self-examination--

(Prov 14:8) The wisdom of the prudent is to discern his way, but the folly of fools is deceiving.

(Prov 14:15-16) The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps. 16 One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.

(Prov 21:12) The Righteous One observes the house of the wicked; he throws the wicked down to ruin.

(Prov 23:23) Buy truth, and do not sell it; buy wisdom, instruction, and understanding.

The Process and Result of Rejecting Wisdom

The pride of a fool will not allow him to learn--

(Prov 14:6) A scoffer seeks wisdom in vain, but knowledge is easy for a man of understanding.

(Prov 12:15) The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

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

(Prov 15:22) Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

(Prov 18:1-2) Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment. 2 A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

Being a fool does not always mean stubborn rebellion--

(Prov 21:16) One who wanders from the way of good sense will rest in the assembly of the dead.

(Prov 22:3) The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

The end result of rejecting wisdom--

(Prov 1:28-31) Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer; they will seek me diligently but will not find me. 29 Because they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the LORD, 30 would have none of my counsel and despised all my reproof, 31 therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way, and have their fill of their own devices.

PROVERBS ON SIN AND ITS CONSEQUENCES

INTRODUCTION: Jesus prayed, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." We cannot pray this prayer and then expect God to answer when we have not followed His prescriptions for avoiding and overcoming sin. The following proverbs will give us God's directions for finding the way of escape in avoiding sin and the evil it brings.

We Will Reap What We Sow:

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

(Prov 22:8) Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail.

We Must Avoid Being Self-Confident

(Prov 16:2) All a man's ways seem right to him, but the LORD evaluates the motives. (HCSB)

(Prov 14:15-16) The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps. 16 One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.

The Importance of Guarding Our Minds

(Prov 23:26-28) My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways. 27 For a prostitute is a deep pit; an adulteress is a narrow well. 28 She lies in wait like a robber and increases the traitors among mankind.

(Prov 24:8-9) Whoever plans to do evil will be called a schemer. 9 The devising of folly is sin, and the scoffer is an abomination to mankind.

(Prov 27:19) As in water face reflects face, so the heart of man reflects the man.

Be Willing To Change When Corrected

(Prov 18:13) If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

Beware of the flatterer--

(Prov 27:6) The wounds of a friend are trustworthy, but the kisses of an enemy are excessive. (HCSB)

(Prov 28:23) Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue.

Do not have a "servant's" mind--

(Prov 29:19) By mere words a servant is not disciplined, for though he understands, he will not respond.

Responding to correction--

(Prov 27:21) The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and a man is tested by his praise.

(Prov 29:15) The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

PROVERBS ON FRIENDSHIPS

INTRODUCTION: Read Proverbs 1:10-19. This passage at the very beginning of the book summarizes the whole story of companionships. The kind of companions we maintain will make or break us. The kind of companions we have reveal who we are and what is in our heart. Whatever my best friends are interested in, is usually my interests and betrays the direction of my life.

Evil Companions Corrupt

(Prov 12:26) One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

(Prov 13:20) Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

(Prov 18:24) A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.

(Prov 16:18-19) Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall. 19 It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.

(Prov 24:1-2) Be not envious of evil men, nor desire to be with them, 2 for their hearts devise violence, and their lips talk of trouble.

(Prov 23:19-21) Hear, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way. 20 Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters of meat, 21 for the drunkard and the glutton will come to poverty, and slumber will clothe them with rags.

The Benefits of Good Companions

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

(Prov 27:10) Do not forsake your friend and your father's friend, and do not go to your brother's house in the day of your calamity. Better is a neighbor who is near than a brother who is far away.

(Prov 18:1) Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment.

(Prov 27:9) Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.

(Prov 27:17) Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.

(Prov 20:29) The glory of young men is their strength, but the splendor of old men is their gray hair.

(Prov 13:20) Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

Ways of Maintaining Godly Companions

(Prov 18:19) A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.

(Prov 25:8-10) Do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? 9 Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, 10 lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

(Prov 25:17) Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you.

(Prov 27:14) Whoever blesses his neighbor with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, will be counted as cursing.

PROVERBS ON WEALTH

INTRODUCTION: The advertising industry attempts to persuade us that material possessions will bring joy and fulfillment. The idea that happiness is to be attained through limitless material acquisition is preached continuously by every form of media. Money and possessions, like many things God has placed in our control, is good when used the way God intended it. But Satan attempts to use what God intended for good as an object of idolatry which denies us both contentment and spirituality. The following proverbs will help us avoid the pitfalls of materialism.

The Disappointment and Limitations of Wealth

(Prov 11:4) Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

(Prov 11:28) Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

(Prov 23:5) When your eyes light on it, it is gone, for suddenly it sprouts wings, flying like an eagle toward heaven.

(Prov 19:4) Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.

(Prov 20:15) There is gold and abundance of costly stones, but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

The Lack of Profit In Wealth Gained Dishonestly

(Prov 13:11) Wealth gained hastily will dwindle, but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

(Prov 13:7) One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.

(Prov 15:6) In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but trouble befalls the income of the wicked.

(Prov 16:8) Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.

(Prov 21:6) The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death.

(Prov 28:22) A stingy man hastens after wealth and does not know that poverty will come upon him.

The Destructiveness of the Love of Money

(Prov 27:20) As Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so the eyes of a person are never satisfied. (NET)

(Prov 30:15-16) The leech has two daughters: Give and Give. Three things are never satisfied; four never say, "Enough": 16 Sheol, the barren womb, the land never satisfied with water, and the fire that never says, "Enough."

(Prov 23:17-18) Let not your heart envy sinners, but continue in the fear of the LORD all the day. 18 Surely there is a future, and your hope will not be cut off.

(Prov 23:4-5) Do not wear yourself out to become rich; be wise enough to restrain yourself. 5 When you gaze upon riches, they are gone, for they surely make wings for themselves, and fly off into the sky like an eagle! (NET)

The Surpassing Value of Contentment

(Prov 18:10-11) The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe. 11 A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.

(Prov 27:8) Like a bird that strays from its nest is a man who strays from his home.

(Prov 21:17) Whoever loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.

(Prov 25:16) If you have found honey, eat only enough for you, lest you have your fill of it and vomit it.

(Prov 15:16-17) Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it. 17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

(Prov 17:1) Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.

In your quiet moments:

After studying these proverbs, what are some of the things you believe you need to change in your life?

PROVERBS ON WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION: Read Romans 12:1. This passage shows that our lives are to be offered as a living sacrifice which is our reasonable worship. The word "reasonable" implies a worship that is generated from the inward or reasoning part of man. The word is also translated as "sincere," and thus a worship that is truly "in spirit" (John 4:24). There is never a time that I am allowed to "turn off" sincere worship. Just as the offering of the burnt offering symbolized, I am to offer my life to God from the inside out. The following proverbs will help us in this effort.

The Evil of an Insincere Heart

(Prov 15:8-9) The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is acceptable to him. 9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but he loves him who pursues righteousness.

(Prov 21:27) The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with evil intent.

(Prov 15:26) The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but gracious words are pure.

(Prov 21:15) When justice is done, it is a joy to the righteous but terror to evildoers.

(Prov 28:13) Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.

(Prov 28:9) If one turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer is an abomination.

HOW TO HAVE A SINCERE HEART

Live in the presence of God--

(Prov 15:3) The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good.

(Prov 15:11) Death and Destruction lie open before the LORD— how much more do human hearts! (NIV)

(Prov 16:3) Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.

(Prov 17:3) The crucible is for silver, and the furnace is for gold, and the LORD tests hearts.

We must train our conscience according to His word--

(Prov 20:27) The LORD's lamp sheds light on a person's life, searching the innermost parts. (HCSB)

(Prov 30:5-6) Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. 6 Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar.

In order to make correction--

(Prov 30:32-33) If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth. 33 For pressing milk produces curds, pressing the nose produces blood, and pressing anger produces strife.

PROVERBS ON ANGER

INTRODUCTION: In San Francisco in 1979, a civil servant named Dan White resigned his seat on the city's board of supervisors. Shortly thereafter he changed his mind, but he was too late: Mayor George Moscone had decided to give the job to someone else. White took his snub-nosed revolver, climbed in through the window of City Hall, and pumped nine bullets into Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk, who had been one of White's outspoken opponents (and who was a homosexual whom White disliked). White's lawyers argued that his excessive consumption of junk food (Twinkies) had caused his "diminished mental capacity", leaving him unable to premeditate anything, much less murder. The jury agreed. White was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and given a maximum sentence of seven years and eight months in jail.

Is it true that there are times in our lives in which we are just "out of control?" When anger "overcomes" us, can we take some of the blame off by claiming "diminished mental capacity"? The Proverbs will answer these and other vital questions concerning the sin of human anger.

The Results of Not Controlling Anger

(Prov 10:12) Hatred stirs up strife, but love covers all offenses.

(Prov 14:16-17) One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless. 17 A man of quick temper acts foolishly, and a man of evil devices is hated.

The effects of a person's anger on those around him--

(Prov 12:18) There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

(Prov 22:24-25) Don't make friends with an angry man, and don't be a companion of a hot-tempered man, 25 or you will learn his ways and entangle yourself in a snare. (HCSB)

(Prov 25:23) The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.

(Prov 27:3) A stone is heavy, and sand is weighty, but a fool's provocation is heavier than both.

(Prov 27:4) Wrath is cruel, anger is overwhelming, but who can stand before jealousy?

Where does a person learn uncontrolled anger?--

(Prov 19:18-19) Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death. 19 A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again.

What does uncontrolled anger say about a person's life?--

(Prov 25:28) A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.

(Prov 29:20) Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him.

The Benefits of a Controlled Spirit

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

(Prov 15:23) To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!

(Prov 21:23) The one who guards his mouth and tongue keeps himself out of trouble. (HCSB)

How To Restrain Anger

(Prov 15:1-2) A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

(Prov 15:18) A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger quiets contention.

(Prov 17:14) The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.

(Prov 20:3) It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife, but every fool will be quarreling.

(Prov 26:2) Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest. (NIV)

(Prov 30:32-33) If you have been foolish, exalting yourself, or if you have been devising evil, put your hand on your mouth. 33 For pressing milk produces curds, pressing the nose produces blood, and pressing anger produces strife.

New Testament texts that apply--

(Ephesians 4:31) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

(James 1:19-20) Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; 20 for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.

(Colossians 3:8) But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth.

PROVERBS ON THE TONGUE

INTRODUCTION: James 3 teaches us that the tongue is like a rudder that controls our whole life. Further, the tongue is like a small flame that can set a whole forest on fire. Therefore, the tongue is very powerful, affecting not only our own lives, but the lives of those around us. By our tongue we can heal and by our tongue we can wound deeply. Jesus said that by our words we would be justified and by our words we would be condemned (Matthew 12:37). It is therefore eternally important that we give special heed to the proverbs on the tongue.

The Destructive Nature of the Tongue

(Prov 18:6-8) A fool's lips walk into a fight, and his mouth invites a beating. 7 A fool's mouth is his ruin, and his lips are a snare to his soul. 8 The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

(Prov 20:19) Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with a simple babblers.

(Prov 26:20-22) For lack of wood the fire goes out, and where there is no whisperer, quarreling ceases. 21 As charcoal to hot embers and wood to fire, so is a quarrelsome man for kindling strife. 22 The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.

(Prov 10:19) When words are many, transgression is not lacking, but whoever restrains his lips is prudent.

(Prov 16:27-28) A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire. 28 A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.

(Prov 26:27) Whoever digs a pit will fall into it, and a stone will come back on him who starts it rolling.

(Prov 17:14) The beginning of strife is like letting out water, so quit before the quarrel breaks out.

The Benefits of the Tongue in Contrast To Its Destructiveness

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

(Prov 10:31-32) The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. 32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.

(Prov 11:9) With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.

(Prov 11:11-13) By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown. 12 Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent. 13 Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

(Prov 15:1-2) A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. 2 The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

(Prov 15:4) A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

(Prov 18:4) The words of a man's mouth are deep waters; the fountain of wisdom is a bubbling brook.

The Consequences of Speaking Too Quickly

(Prov 15:28) The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

(Prov 17:27-28) Whoever restrains his words has knowledge, and he who has a cool spirit is a man of understanding.
28 Even a fool who keeps silent is considered wise; when he closes his lips, he is deemed intelligent.

(Prov 18:13) If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

(Prov 25:8-10) Do not hastily bring into court, for what will you do in the end, when your neighbor puts you to shame? 9 Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's secret, 10 lest he who hears you bring shame upon you, and your ill repute have no end.

(Prov 29:11) A fool gives full vent to his anger, but a wise man holds it in check. (HCSB)

The Danger of Lying Lips

(Prov 12:22) Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

(Prov 12:17-19) Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit. 18 There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing. 19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

(Prov 17:4) An evildoer listens to wicked lips, and a liar gives ear to a mischievous tongue.

(Prov 20:25) It is a snare to say rashly, "It is holy," and to reflect only after making vows.

(Prov 28:23) Whoever rebukes a man will afterward find more favor than he who flatters with his tongue.

(Prov 29:5) A man who flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

PROVERBS ON LAZINESS

INTRODUCTION: In Titus 2:14 Paul stated that God has purified a people “zealous for good works.” And again in Titus 3:14, “Let our people also learn to maintain good works, to meet urgent needs, that they may not be unfruitful.” From the very beginning of time God has always expected His people to be busy and productive. Though the following proverbs will warn mainly of one’s inactivity in his personal life with his home and his business, many applications should be made to our spiritual life and our work for the Lord as members of His body.

The Way the Sluggard Thinks

(Prov 12:11) Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

(Prov 14:23) There is profit in all hard work, but endless talk leads only to poverty. (HCSB)

(Prov 13:4) A sluggard’s appetite is never filled, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied. (NIV)

(Prov 21:25-26) The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. 26 All day long he craves and craves, but the righteous gives and does not hold back.

(Prov 12:27) The lazy do not roast any game, but the diligent feed on the riches of the hunt. (NIV)

(Prov 26:13-16) The sluggard says, “There is a lion in the road! There is a lion in the streets!” 14 As a door turns on its hinges, so does a sluggard on his bed. 15 The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; it wears him out to bring it back to his mouth. 16 The sluggard is wiser in his own eyes than seven men who can answer sensibly.

The Lazy and His Job

(Prov 10:26) Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to those who send him.

(Prov 18:9) Whoever is slack in his work is a brother to him who destroys.

(Prov 12:24) The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

The Result of Being Lazy

(Prov 15:19) The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.

(Prov 19:7) All a poor man's brothers hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He pursues them with words, but does not have them.

(Prov 19:15) Laziness induces deep sleep, and a lazy person will go hungry. (HCSB)

(Prov 24:30-34) I passed by the field of a sluggard, by the vineyard of a man lacking sense, 31 and behold, it was all overgrown with thorns; the ground was covered with nettles, and its stone wall was broken down. 32 Then I saw and considered it; I looked and received instruction. 33 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, 34 and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

The Remedy For Laziness

(Prov 20:13) Don't love sleep, or you will become poor; open your eyes, and you'll have enough to eat. (HCSB)

(Prov 27:23-27) Know well the condition of your flock, and pay attention to your herds, 24 for wealth is not forever; not even a crown lasts for all time. 25 When hay is removed and new growth appears and the grain from the hills is gathered in, 26 lambs will provide your clothing, and goats, the price of a field; 27 there will be enough goat's milk for your food— food for your household and nourishment for your female servants. (HCSB)

(Prov 16:26) A worker's appetite works for him because his hunger urges him on. (HCSB)

(Prov 6:6-11) Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. 7 Without having any chief, officer, or ruler, 8 she prepares her bread in summer and gathers her food in harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest, 11 and poverty will come upon you like a robber, and want like an armed man.

PROVERBS ON RELATIONSHIPS

INTRODUCTION: There are probably few areas of our lives that are more written about and discussed than our family/home relationships. Everyone seems to have an opinion. Even the “experts” cannot find agreement on the proper course. For the Christian, the knowledge of the experts are only worthwhile when God’s word has been used as a foundation or when their advice reflects godly instruction. The Proverbs offer us unique insights into God’s wisdom on the home. We need to both trust and heed these instructions.

The Parent/Child Relationship

(Prov 10:1) A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.

(Prov 13:1) A wise son hears his father’s instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

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

(Prov 17:21) A man fathers a fool to his own sorrow; the father of a fool has no joy. (HCSB)

(Prov 17:2) A servant who deals wisely will rule over a son who acts shamefully and will share the inheritance as one of the brothers.

(Prov 20:20) If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.

(Prov 23:24-25) The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son will be glad in him. 25 Let your father and mother be glad; let her who bore you rejoice.

As pertains mainly to the parent--

(Prov 11:29-30) Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.
30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who is wise saves lives. (NIV)

(Prov 22:6) Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

(Prov 29:17) Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

(Prov 29:15) The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

(Prov 13:24) Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

(Prov 19:18) Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.

(Prov 22:15) Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

(Prov 23:13-14) Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you punish them with the rod, they will not die. 14 Punish them with the rod and save them from death. (NIV)

PRIORITIES IN THE HOME

As pertains to the woman--

(Prov 14:1) Every wise woman builds her house, but a foolish one tears it down with her own hands.

(Prov 19:13-14) A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife's quarreling is a continual dripping of rain. 14 House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

(Prov 21:9) It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

(Prov 11:16) A gracious woman gains honor, but violent men gain only riches. (HCSB)

(Prov 11:22) Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion. (Proverbs 11:22 ESV)

(Prov 31:10-31) An excellent wife who can find? She is far more precious than jewels. 11 The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. 12 She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life. 13 She seeks wool and flax, and works with willing hands. 14 She is like the ships of the merchant; she brings her food from afar. 15 She rises while it is yet night and provides food for her household and portions for her maidens. 16 She considers a field and buys it; with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard. 17 She dresses herself with strength and makes her arms strong. 18 She perceives that her merchandise is profitable. Her lamp does not go out at night. 19 She puts her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold the spindle. 20 She opens her hand to the poor and reaches out her hands to the needy. 21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet. 22 She makes bed coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple. 23 Her husband is known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land. 24 She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant. 25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come. 26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. 27 She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. 28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29 "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

As pertains to the man--

(Prov 4:1-4) Hear, O sons, a father's instruction, and be attentive, that you may gain insight, 2 for I give you good precepts; do not forsake my teaching. 3 When I was a son with my father, tender, the only one in the sight of my mother, 4 he taught me and said to me, "Let your heart hold fast my words; keep my commandments, and live.

(Prov 4:10-12) Hear, my son, and accept my words, that the years of your life may be many. 11 I have taught you the way of wisdom; I have led you in the paths of uprightness. 12 When you walk, your step will not be hampered, and if you run, you will not stumble.

(Prov 31:28-31) Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: 29 "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all." 30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. 31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

As pertains to priorities in general--

(Prov 15:16-17) Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it. 17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is than a fattened ox and hatred with it.

(Prov 30:7-9) Two things I ask of you; deny them not to me before I die: 8 Remove far from me falsehood and lying; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is needful for me, 9 lest I be full and deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" or lest I be poor and steal and profane the name of my God.

PROVERBS ON THE FOOL AND THE SCOFFER

INTRODUCTION: There is no book in the bible that says more about the fool than the book of Proverbs. These words at times so accurately describe our actions that it is frightening. The real danger is that when we act the fool or when we scoff at wisdom and knowledge, the result is devastating to our lives and will seriously affect the lives of those around us. Jesus said that foolishness was a sin (Mark 7:22). We must listen to these proverbs and learn!

The Character of the Scoffer: Hating Correction

(Prov 10:17) The one who follows instruction is on the path to life, but the one who rejects correction goes astray. (HCSB)

(Prov 12:1) Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

(Prov 12:15) The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

(Prov 13:13) Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.

(Prov 13:19) A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but to turn away from evil is an abomination to fools.

(Prov 15:12) A scoffer does not like to be reproved; he will not go to the wise.

(Prov 17:10) A rebuke goes deeper into a man of understanding than a hundred blows into a fool.

(Prov 27:22) Though you grind a fool in a mortar, grinding them like grain with a pestle, you will not remove their folly from them. (NIV)

The Wicked Ways of the Fool

(Prov 10:23) A fool finds pleasure in wicked schemes, but a person of understanding delights in wisdom. (NIV)

(Prov 13:16) All who are prudent act with knowledge, but fools expose their folly. (NIV)

(Prov 14:7) Leave the presence of a fool, for there you do not meet words of knowledge.

(Prov 14:12) There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.

(Prov 14:15) The simple believes everything, but the prudent gives thought to his steps.

(Prov 17:16) Why should a fool have money in his hand to buy wisdom when he has no sense?

(Prov 18:2) A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.

(Prov 26:3-12) A whip for the horse, a bridle for the donkey, and a rod for the back of fools.

4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you be like him yourself.

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

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

7 Like a lame man's legs, which hang useless, is a proverb in the mouth of fools.

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

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

10 Like an archer who wounds everyone is one who hires a passing fool or drunkard.

11 Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.

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

The End of the Fool

(Prov 10:21) The lips of the righteous feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.

(Prov 11:7) When the wicked dies, his hope will perish, and the expectation of wealth perishes too.

(Prov 13:15) Good sense wins favor, but the way of the treacherous is their ruin.

(Prov 15:10) There is severe discipline for him who forsakes the way; whoever hates reproof will die.

PROVERBS ON CHEERFULNESS

INTRODUCTION: The New Testament is filled with passages encouraging us to “rejoice in the Lord.” But at the same time the scriptures continually speak of the trials that a Christian is destined to endure. The Proverbs give us an interesting glimpse into the means by which the child of God can suffer and yet still maintain an attitude that will provide him with the joy that God expects of us.

The Benefits of Cheerfulness Contrasted With Depression

(Prov 17:22) A joyful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones.

(Prov 18:14) A man’s spirit will endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?

(Prov 15:13) A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed.

(Prov 15:15) All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast.

(Prov 15:30) The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones.

The Benefits of One’s Cheerfulness To Others

(Prov 12:25) Anxiety in a man’s heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

(Prov 15:23) To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!

True Joy Comes From Within

(Prov 14:10) The heart knows its own bitterness, and no stranger shares its joy.

(Prov 14:13) Even in laughter the heart may ache, and the end of joy may be grief.

(Prov 14:30) A tranquil heart gives life to the flesh, but envy makes the bones rot.

New Testament passages to consider:

(Philippians 4:4-7) Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

(1 Peter 5:7) Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. (NIV)

(Philippians 1:15-18) Some indeed preach Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from good will. The latter do it out of love, knowing that I am put here for the defense of the gospel. The former proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but thinking to afflict me in my imprisonment. What then? Only that in every way, whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is proclaimed, and in that I rejoice.

(Romans 8:18-19) For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

PROVERBS

CHAPTERS 10-31



A SELF-STUDY WORKBOOK

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