

CHAPTER 11

Proverbs 11:1 A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

The LORD is absolutely righteous, and He expects you to do what is right as well.

The LORD is perfect, and He expects you to be perfect.

The LORD hates deception, cheating or compromise in your dealings.

The LORD loves honesty and integrity. See the comments on ***Proverbs 16:11*** to understand the full weight of this rule.

Before standardized weights and measures, and a government department, to enforce them, merchants were responsible for accurate scales and weights. You bought and sold most of your commodities and foodstuffs by weight.

This was no small matter, as the integrity and prosperity of the nation's economy depended on trustworthy transactions.

This is not a minor moral principle.

The LORD counts economic cheating and compromise to be an abomination! God, seeing and knowing all things, takes close interest in the ounces and pounds, liters and pints, dollars and cents, of our daily lives.

Let every greedy and stingy thief beware! The LORD is not watching from a distance! He is watching you tip the waitress and sell your used car!

You Will Never Get Ahead Cheating!

And only blind fools, would think that way, for even a second. It is far better to pay and perform beyond expectations, than to cut corners or shortchange anyone.

Generosity Is Far Superior To Frugality.

It is a very small mind, motivated by a dead soul, which thinks stinginess is okay (***Proverbs 11:24-26; 28:8***).

It is the large mind, directed by a loving and generous heart, that is God's delight. He will bless the righteous.

Godly Men Are Honest. They never take advantage of others. They go beyond bare duty; they pay more than their share; they keep every term of a contract; they tip generously; pay debts on time; despise purloining, ^{Make} off with belongings of others or any other small thefts; they never lay out sick, when they are well; they disclose all problems with things they sell; do not barter down a

price, then call it a great deal; they communicate promptly and openly.

The Lord avenges any defrauding (***1Thessalonians 4:6; 1Corinthians 6:8***).

God measures every relationship and transaction with His Holy and Divine scales of perfect righteousness. Have you been found wanting?

God will see to it that your prayers stop at the ceiling (***Proverbs 15:29; Psalm 66:18***).

God will blow against you (***Proverbs 13:15; Psalm 34:16***).

You Cannot succeed without God authorizing it (***Proverbs 13:11; 20:21; Jeremiah 17:11***).

The Lord delights in honesty and honest men (***Proverbs 12:22; Psalm 11:7; Luke 6:37-38***).

What a blessing to have God delighting in you because of your daily integrity! Watch every trade you make!

Please every person you trade with! Owe no man anything! Be void of offence before God and men! Let the pure honesty and generosity of the Lord Jesus Christ be seen in your every trade action.

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

The single worst thing you can have, in your life, is pride. It will cost you more than anything else.

Conceit will deceive and trap you in folly, which quickly and surely bring shame to your life.

Humility leads to wisdom, which protects men from foolish mistakes and the resulting shame.

Can You Grasp This Important Lesson?

You will never hear or read a more important warning for your life! Never!

Pride will destroy you, but it will destroy you disgracefully and shamefully before all men.

Being a fool is a horrible thing, as Proverbs teaches often. But there is something worse than a fool, a proud fool!

The Holy Spirit says, "*Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him*" (***Proverbs 26:12***).

There is little hope for a fool, but there is no hope for a proud fool. His arrogance will not allow him to internalize any instruction or correction.

Pride Blinds Men!

Proud men, cannot perceive wisdom, to avoid trouble and shame.

Proud men, resent being taught or corrected by others.

Proud men, are self confident!

Proud men, arrogantly rush on in their high opinions, of their own thoughts and ideas.

Pride Brings Folly Which Brings Shame.

Hate pride! Fear the Lord! *"The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate" (Proverbs 8:13).*

Pride Is A Heinous Evil. Pride began with Lucifer.

Pride caused Lucifer's downfall. He was not content as God's anointed cherub.

Satan wanted to be like the most High (*Ezekiel 28:14; Isaiah 14:14*).

So God threw Lucifer out of heaven to his everlasting shame (*John 12:31; Revelation 12:9, 12*).

The smoke of his torment will be everlasting (*Matthew 25:41; Revelation 14:11*).

Do You Hate Pride Yet? Pride is the devil's sin!

Pride ruined the life of the universe's highest creature!

Pride caused his everlasting shame and torment!

Pride is the worst thing you can have in your life!

Pride will cost you more than anything else!

Ministers cannot have any pride or self-will (*1 Timothy 3:6; Titus 1:7*).

Pride will cause a minister to run amok in the work of their office.

Teachers and rulers must first be humble enough to learn from others and examine themselves critically, before they should be put in a position to teach and examine others (*1 Timothy 4:16; 2 Timothy 2:15*).

Due to pride, Pharaoh, the greatest king of his time, destroyed himself, his family, his army, and his nation (*Exodus 5:2*).

And men have laughed at his destruction and shame for the last 3500 years (*Exodus 15:1-21; 1 Samuel 4:8; 6:6; Nehemiah 9:10; Psalm 136:15; Romans 9:17*)! Even children rejoice and laugh at the frogs in Pharaoh's bed and bread (*Exodus 8:3*)!

Due to pride, the Philistines fought against Israel, in spite of remembering what God had done to Egypt 500 years earlier (*1 Samuel 4:7-9*).

After capturing the Ark of God, the Philistines, put the Ark of God, before their idol Dagon, which fell down and worshipped the Ark (*1 Samuel 5:1-5*)!

God then gave the whole nation an epidemic of hemorrhoids. The only way they could find relief was to return the Ark with five golden hemorrhoids as a peace offering (*1 Samuel 6:1-5*)!

Consider their shame! The whole nation scratched their secret parts (*1 Samuel 5:9*).

There was no Preparation H! Their only relief was to mold five golden hemorrhoids! God laughed at their shame!

God inspired *Psalm 78:66* for this event, *"And he smote his enemies in the hinder parts: he put them to a perpetual reproach."* Indeed! They were put to perpetual shame for pride! What a peace offering! Who was the model for the hemorrhoids?

Due to pride, Nebuchadnezzar, the greatest king of all time, spent seven years crawling around a field on his hands and knees! He ate grass like an ox; his hair grew out like eagle feathers; and his nails grew out like bird claws (*Daniel 4:33*)!

Nebuchadnezzar wrote the whole story down and sent it to his entire kingdom (*Daniel 4:1-3*)!

What trouble! What shame! And all because of pride (*Daniel 4:30-31*)!

Due to pride, Herod Agrippa I, the King of Judea from 37-44 AD, who killed the apostle James and tried to kill Peter, was eaten of worms for receiving the excessive praise of men (*Acts 12:1-4, 20-23*).

Josephus confirms his death (Antiquities; Book 19; 8:2). Don't forget the Tower of Babel, Miriam, Korah, Balaam, Uzziah, Haman, Absalom, and Belshazzar.

God is jealous. His name is Jealous (*Exodus 34:14*).

God is able, and He will, abase those who walk in pride (*Daniel 4:37; Job 40:11-12*).

God sees and knows the very thoughts and intents of your heart (*Hebrews 4:12*).

Reader, you must examine yourself closely, find the seeds of pride in your life, and root them out quickly and completely.

What Is Pride? It is a high or excessive opinion of one's own qualities, attainments, or estate, which gives rise to a feeling and attitude of superiority over and contempt for others; inordinate self-esteem (OED).

What Is Conceit? It is an excessive opinion of oneself; overestimation of one's own qualities, personal vanity or pride (OED).

We are nothing, and less than nothing, in the sight of God (*Psalms 39:5; 62:9; 113:6; Isaiah 40:17*).

We are worms before Him (*Job 25:6*).

We are mere creatures, whose breath is in our nostrils (*Isaiah 2:22*).

Therefore, God hates pride, and He will crush it like a moth and melt those with it like wax (*Proverbs 6:16-17; Psalms 39:11; 68:2*).

Pride Makes One Think They Are Important!

Pride enjoys conversations and events, about you personally.

Pride believes that your thoughts and opinions are right.

Pride resents correction and instruction.

Pride even envies the advantages, abilities, or honors that others have.

Pride ignores asking others for advice. It looks down on others.

Pride Is A Temptation For Every Man!

Pride is one of Satan's favorite devices (*1John 2:16*).

Satan tempted Eve to be like God, and he tempted our Lord with the kingdoms of the world. Every man, has a heart, that is filled with pride by nature.

You are a proud fool, **If** you think you do not have a problem with pride. Only those who know they are proud are learning humility. To think you have beaten pride, is to prove your arrogant conceit!

Our nation is addicted to pride. Our nationalistic arrogance is greater than any other. We are the proudest people on earth.

Americans believe, they are the feeding mother, and disciplining father, for the whole world. We glorify

pride at home by calling it self-esteem and preaching it as the panacea for humanity's problems!

We write and sell books that are sold about looking out for number one, and songs are sung about self-love as the greatest love of all!

We must start at home. We must root pride out of our own souls, and then we must root it out of our families.

Parents must make it a high priority to teach humility and eradicate visible pride from their children. And pastors must root it out of their churches.

Pride Causes Folly, Which Brings Shame. It Blinds Men because they presume they are always right (*Proverbs 12:15; 14:16; 26:12; 28:26*).

Those with pride reject and resent counsel and correction (*Proverbs 21:24; 22:3*).

Those with pride disrespect those in authority. They make hasty decisions, for they cannot possibly be wrong (*Proverbs 14:29; 29:20*).

Those with pride fight to defend their position (*Proverbs 13:10; 28:25*).

Those with pride cannot serve others, unless it serves them best.

Those with pride will not admit the sin to God or men.

Pride Leads A Man To Foolish Decisions Horrible Consequences Destruction And Shame!

The humble man, does not trust his knowledge, or motives. He trembles before God's Word, and appreciates and esteems the advice of others.

The humble man takes correction cheerfully, quickly confesses mistakes, and alters his life. This is a certain road to wisdom, which saves a man from trouble and shame, but only the humble ever find it.

The proud are blinded from it by their conceit, and God intends to keep them blinded, but He will bless His children with wisdom (*Matthew 11:25-27*).

God will never bless a man with a proud spirit (*Proverbs 16:5*).

God draws near to the man with the humble spirit (*Isaiah 57:15; 66:2; 1Peter 5:5-6*).

God will resist the proud and humble them (*Proverbs 16:18; 18:12*).

If you choose humility cheerfully, God will raise you up (*Luke 14:11*).

It is far better to be a poor humble man than to be a rich proud man (*Proverbs 16:19*).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, gave us the greatest example of humility and wisdom, when He came from heaven to live in poverty and die in obscurity (*Philippians 2:5-8*).

Our Lord Jesus Christ, despised the shame of His humility (*Hebrews 12:2*).

God The Father has now highly exalted Him far above all principalities and powers, yea, even far above the devil and all his angels (*Philippians 2:9-11; Ephesians 1:20-23*).

There is no more need for humility in our Blessed LORD, for He is worthy of all our praise and adoration.

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

**There Is A Safe Way To Live:
Do Right!**

**There Is A Dangerous Way To Live:
Do What Feels Good And Sounds Good!**

By committing to do only what is right at all times, you will have a certain guide for every situation. By living your life by your own feelings and choices will often lead you to great perplexity, and it will certainly destroy you.

What is integrity? It is the character trait of always doing what is right, regardless of difficulties or consequences. It is the upright who have integrity.

What is perverseness? It is turning away from what is right to act contrary to law or nature. It is transgressors, who are perverse, for they choose to reject moral restrictions.

The upright always do what is right - they have integrity. Their confusion in life is minimal. They have chosen to follow what is right in every choice and dilemma. The Lord is their constant guide.

Transgressors do whatever they want - they are perverse. They have no standards or parameters for their actions, and their perversity will destroy them.

**What Is Right?
Whatever The Bible Says Is Right!**

Anything to the contrary is perverse and wrong! The Bible should be heeded and exalted on every subject, and all other opinions should be discarded (*Psalms 119:128*).

Such a rule defines Biblical Christianity. It doesn't matter what a pope thinks, what is socially acceptable, what is traditional, or what will win you a promotion.

Is sex up to you? No! God invented the pleasure, and He has established rules concerning it.

Joseph was a man of integrity, and he never had a doubt about what to do with the seductive advances of Potiphar's wife (*Genesis 39:1-12*).

Samson was perverse in his obsession with Philistine whores, and it cost him his eyes, his freedom, and his life (*Judges 16:1-31*).

Is revenge up to you? No! God owns all vengeance, and He has ruled against taking matters into your own hands.

David spared King Saul two times, even though he was seeking to kill David (*1Samuel 24:1-22; 26:1-25*).

David's nephew Joab was perverse, killing Abner, Absalom, and Amasa in anger and revenge, to his own destruction (*1Kings 2:5-6*).

Is taking small items from your employer up to you? The upright know better (*Titus 2:10*).

Is capital punishment debatable? Not to the upright (*Deuteronomy 17:6*)!

Is paying taxes to a pagan government an option? Upright men will pay (*Matthew 22:15-22*).

Is the rosary a prayer? Not to men with integrity and believe the Word of God (*Matthew 6:7*).

Is it right that a man should be content with his wife? Absolutely, upright men will be contented (*Proverbs 5:19; Colossians 3:19*).

These listed matters and many more are simple for the upright, for they make choices based on integrity in always following Scripture.

The wicked, perverse individuals, in their rejection of God's Word, are confused about the simplest matters and end up in destruction.

**The Rule Of Wisdom
Is To Live By Integrity,
Always Doing Right,
Which Gives A Constant Guide.**

The Lord Jesus Christ always did those things that pleased His Father.

The Lord Jesus Christ had perfect integrity and prudence in obeying the Word of God and living a perfect life.

For those who believe on Him, He is the Source and Means of everlasting righteousness.

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

God's wrath against sinners may bring an early death in this world, and it will surely bring an eternal death in the next world. And no amount of money can delay or stop either death.

Righteousness pleases God and delivers men from death now and later (***Proverbs 10:2; 12:28***).

The wisdom is obvious, neglect or reject righteousness to your own peril! Sennacherib, king of Assyria, blasphemed God: his sons killed him while worshipping at Mass (***2Kings 19:37***).

Belshazzar was killed the same night he celebrated his riches with the lords of Babylon (***Daniel 5:1-30***).

A rich man faired sumptuously while Lazarus begged, but the rich man lifted up his eyes in hell (***Luke 16:19-23***).

Ananias and Sapphira were landowners; they had money; but they fell down dead in the church at Jerusalem after lying (***Acts 5:1-11***).

The Holy Spirit showed Solomon observations about death that led him to write, "*Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldest thou die before thy time?*" (***Ecclesiastes 7:17***).

Solomon truly ridiculed men who gathered up wealth, died, and then left it all to a foolish heir (***Ecclesiastes 2:18-21***).

Solomon knew there was no discharge in the war with death, regardless of your wealth (***Ecclesiastes 8:8***).

David wrote the best condemnation of trusting in riches (***Psalms 49:1-20***).

David emphasized that money nor success could deliver from death; and he ridiculed men who pursued wealth after witnessing rich men take nothing with them at death. He summarized by saying, "*Man that is in honour, and understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish*" (***Psalms 49:20***).

Righteousness, defined as "doing those things that please God," defers God's wrath and saves men from death now and later. Ezekiel preached a detailed message of how righteousness, could save a man, from a threatened death (***Ezekiel 18:1-32***).

Amos told Israel plainly how they could turn to the LORD and live, and not die under judgment (***Amos 5:4-15***).

God put Noah in the ark for his righteousness (***Genesis 7:1***).

Abigail knew David was bound up in the bundle of life with the Lord (***1Samuel 25:29***).

Job was preserved by God from Satan for his fear of God and hatred of evil (***Job 1:1***).

Hezekiah had 15 years added to his life for a perfect heart (***Isaiah 38:1-8***).

Manasseh reigned longer than any king for repentance (***2Chronicles 33:13***).

Men invest fortunes in vitamins, doctors, and alternative therapies to defer death; the more money they have, the more exotic the efforts to stay alive! But the true cure is righteousness!

Jesus Christ at the final judgment will ignore your net worth or highest income. Jesus said, "*Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven*" (***Matthew 7:21***).

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

Life is like a minefield, with maiming injury or certain death, only a step or two away. Most rush ignorantly through life without caution, discipline, or restraint.

Men greedily pursue their sinful ambitions, and they fall headlong into dysfunction, destruction, and death.

But the righteous, those who fear and obey God, are led safely through this life and into eternal life, by their right and wise choices, at life's decision points.

Beginning life as helpless infants, men should beg for direction. Men should recognize, that filling their empty minds with ideas, from others who also began with empty minds, is a formula for disaster. This insanity is verified every day in every place on the planet.

Men chase folly and rebellion, and they find pain and trouble. Without regard for God or man.

Men push forward in lust for pleasure and dominance, but end up falling heavily by their own folly.

Who Is The Perfect Man? A man who fears God and keeps His commandments! Though he does so imperfectly, the Lord forgives his sins and considers him perfect (***Genesis 6:9; Job 1:1; Philippians 3:15***).

This man has the guiding restraint in his life of righteous thinking, which keeps him from the self-destruction of the God-rejecting fools around him. His life improves more and more each day, much like the sun ascending to full noon (*Proverbs 4:18*).

How does a man learn righteousness? He begins with the fear of the Lord, and he adds to that the wise instruction of the Word of God and godly counselors.

The fear of the Lord is wisdom and light for life (*Job 28:28; Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 10:27; 14:27; 19:23; Psalm 112:1, 3, 9*).

The Bible is the manual for wise and righteous living (*Proverbs 22:17-21; Psalms 19:7-11; 119:105*).

The Godly counselors are pastors and friends who also fear the Lord (*Proverbs 27:9; Jeremiah 3:15; 1Samuel 23:16*).

The wicked: They love the world's sinful ideas on how to live, received from other fools and their own depraved hearts (*Proverbs 12:15; 14:12; 16:25; 21:2*).

The wicked wander in darkness and fall into traps (*Proverbs 4:19; 13:15; 15:19; 22:5*).

The ignorant and rebellious approach to life, causes the fools who follow it, to fall under God's judgment and the consequences of sin.

Addiction, demotion, depression, disease, divorce, drunkenness, and death are examples of this rebellion! The foolish do not learn from one generation to the next, as they perpetuate and expand their folly.

The righteous man marries a virtuous woman who fears the Lord, and he lives a tranquil married life.

The wicked man marries an odious or whorish woman, and he lives in marital hell or is divorced with torment and trouble chasing him all his life.

The perfect man is in a good way of life.

The wicked man falls by his own wickedness.

The wicked man chose his wife based on looks and seduction, and he paid a terrible price on his way to the grave.

No man enters heaven based on his own righteousness, but upon the imputed righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ the incarnate Son of God. Every righteous man knows heaven is his destination (*Isaiah 64:6; 2Timothy 4:7-8; Titus 3:5; Hebrews 11:4*).

The strait gate and narrow way that promises life now and in the next world is the road of righteousness,

though only a few find it, for the majority of men move in mass toward destruction (*Matthew 7:13-14*).

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

Be sure your sin will find you out..... (Numbers 32:23). Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Galatians 6:7).

These two divine axioms for life are confirmed by this Proverb.

Wisdom Is Living A Life Of Righteousness.

Folly Is Presumptuously Transgressing God's Laws.

The former leads to deliverance; the latter brings pain and trouble.

One of the great principles of wisdom is the certain and sure consequences for both righteousness and wickedness. Solomon repeated this rule many times to get the attention of his son and citizens.

In this chapter alone, compare this Proverb to others very similar in their wording and lesson (*Proverbs 11:3-5, 7-8, 10, 12, 19-21, 23, 27-28, 31*).

The repetition is not wasted. Check your heart. Is there a tendency to think the Holy Spirit's Proverbs are boring? Would you rather read and consider one about love, marriage, relationships, or wealth? Be careful.

The density and distribution of these Proverbs are also by divine wisdom. The repetitions of the rule above are necessary.

Love, marriage, relationships, and wealth will take care of themselves, **if** you live a wise life of righteousness.

- Your heart is cold for righteousness due to sin.
- The devil himself suggests anything he can, to distract you, from learning and growing in righteousness.
- The world only suggests and sells naughtiness; it never promotes righteousness.

Three Well Known Foes Conspire To Destroy You There Really Is No Redundancy!

An upright person does what is right, as defined by God, all the time, and with zeal. This is righteousness. They are delivered or saved from the pain and trouble of sin, both in this world and in the next.

A transgressor is a naughty person who breaks God's Laws, and he wallows and eventually drowns in the misery of his choices, in this world and the next.

Consider this world. The upright man learns and applies the righteous Laws of God to his life. God and men favor him, and he is prosperous and successful in life, delivered from the delusions and dysfunction of others (*Proverbs 3:1-4; Joshua 1:7-9; Psalm 1:1-6; Luke 2:52*).

But the transgressor, is deceived by his naughtiness, falls into all sorts of trouble, for God, and natural laws are working together to destroy him with his sins consequences (*Proverbs 1:31; 8:36; 13:15*).

Consider the next world. The upright man, with fruits of righteousness, gains entrance to heaven by God's free grace (*1Thessalonians 1:2-4; 2Peter 1:5-11*).

But the transgressor, wishing he had never been born, faces the dread sovereign judge of the universe with folly, pride, and many sins that now he must give an account (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Revelation 20:11-15*).

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

"Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Luke 12:15-21).

The Lord Jesus used these gentle words to explain our Proverb to a rich man, whose biggest worry was storing his increase.

**All Men
Arrive In Life Naked And Ignorant
And They Leave The Same Way!**

Worldly men waste their lives chasing goals that disappear in one second, the second they die!

They are blinded by the devil, for they do see their friends die and take nothing with them. Yet, they keep running as fast as they can on the treadmill of ambition, greed, and covetousness until it spits them off into hell! What fools!

Is such speech too harsh for you to bear? It is nothing compared to the shock of the first second in hell!

Every lost sinner will know there is a God, every lost sinner will know his whole life was a waste, every lost sinner will know he has an eternity of unbearable torment ahead the first second in hell!

**Why Do You Think Strong Warnings
About Such A Future Are Harsh?**

Are You Also Blinded?

The biggest fool, is the so called, successful Christian businessman who thinks he is saved because of his deeds.

This so called Christian fool, silences his conscience, by attending church and throwing a little of his prosperity in the offering plate; but the driving force in his life is the pursuit of social and financial standing.

This so called Christian fool has the only reward he will ever get, the approval of the few people, who think he is a success. The Lord and all wise men know where he is going, to the fire that is not quenched.

The World Is Insane!

The world sets goals, of high salaries, prestigious positions, large houses, fancy cars, fine clothes, and other ridiculous ambitions.

They say, "He who dies with the most toys...wins." They chase their neighbors daily to make sure they are not left behind in the mad rush to accumulate things.

**In less Than A Second
They Are All Gone!**

Consider *Psalm 49* carefully. The Lord ridicules the insanity of the rich and their ambitions. His life was a sermon to warn men of the vanity of worldly riches.

Whether a man is wise or foolish, he dies like an animal, and cannot take anything with him. He is quickly a clay carcass dumped in a grave, yet his posterity chases the same illusion!

Consider, **If** you are Born Again. Your treasures are in heaven. The death that strips the wicked of everything they have hoped for. For you, death brings more than you can dream of!

Have you laid up any treasures today toward that investment? Are you willing to give away expectations here to lay up in store, a good foundation against the time to come (*1Timothy 6:17-19*)?

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

There is a reward for the righteous (*Psalm 58:11*)!

God delivers him from trouble, and He puts the wicked in his place. When the righteous is saved out of trouble, the wicked come and take his place, under the trouble and judgment (*Proverbs 24:15-16*).

The LORD loves the righteous, and He sacrifices the wicked for him. See the comments on *Proverbs 21:18*.

The LORD has not promised the righteous will not have troubles, but He has promised to deliver them (*Job 5:17-27; Psalms 34:4-7, 17-19; 50:14-15; 66:12; 91:14-16*).

And so we see Jacob, Joseph, David, Job, Daniel, and Paul, among others, delivered out of much trouble (*Genesis 39:1-3; 48:15-16; 2Samuel 22:1; Job 42:10-17; Daniel 1:17-21; 2Timothy 4:17*).

Here we have written for us, the divine reversal of fortune that replaces the righteous with the wicked!

The righteous often find themselves in a hopeless situation. But God means use the circumstance for the profit of their souls, by His providence.

And the wicked are sometimes involved, in persecuting the righteous and enhancing their troubles, but God then switches their cases and leaves the wicked to their destruction.

A great example would be Haman, who plotted to hang Mordecai on gallows that he built for that purpose. The Lord delivered him, and Haman was hung on that gallows instead (*Esther 7:9-10*).

Wicked Mede officials conspired to have Daniel thrown to the lions, but the lions destroyed them and their families instead (*Daniel 6:24*).

The profane soldiers of Nebuchadnezzar were burned alive by the very flames they had prepared for Daniel's three friends (*Daniel 3:22*).

And sixteen Roman soldiers were put to death instead of Peter by the Lord's deliverance (*Acts 12:18-19*).

The righteous are so precious in God's affections and sight that He will gladly sacrifice the wicked for them (*Isaiah 43:3-4*).

Israel was sure they were doomed when trapped against the Red Sea by Pharaoh's armies (*Exodus 14:10-12*).

The LORD however, delivered them through the Red Sea and drowned Pharaoh's army in it (*Exodus 14:21-31*).

Consider the celebratory song and dance of Israel in light of the fulfillment of this Proverb (*Exodus 15:1-21*).

Peninah, the other wife who had children, persecuted Hannah sorely for being barren (*1Samuel 1:1-6*).

The Lord gave Hannah favor in the eyes of her husband, Samuel as her first child, and five more children as well (*1Samuel 1:7-8, 19-28; 2:21*).

Peninah lived out her days knowing her husband loved Hannah far more, knowing the greatest man in Israel was Hannah's son, and seeing and hearing her other five happy children!

King Saul persecuted David horribly, chasing him with large forces into wild places of Israel, where David was in constant fear for his life. Yet the LORD brought war with the Philistines on the nation to save His righteous servant David (*1Samuel 23:19-29*).

Would you rather die the death of Saul (*1Samuel 31:1-13*), or the death of David (*2Samuel 23:1-5*)?

Our Lord was betrayed, persecuted, falsely accused, abused, and finally crucified between common thieves.

Our Lord was resurrected from death to the right hand of God, and His enemies were destroyed (*Matthew 21:33-46; 22:1-7; Luke 19:27*).

The righteous have been persecuted and sorely troubled for two thousand years by their enemies.

The Lord is coming soon to rectify the whole situation, when there will be a great reversal of fortune lasting through eternity (*2Thessalonians 1:3-10; Revelation 6:9-17*)!

There Is A Reward For The Righteous!

There is no need to fret because of the prosperity or the persecutions from the wicked. The wicked do not see their day coming, but the righteous do!

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

Hypocrites Lead Others Into Sin And Eventually Destruction By Their Lying Words!

But a just man, with the wisdom and knowledge of God and His Word, will not be led astray by these wicked talkers. He will see through them.

Thank God For Saving Truth!

What is a hypocrite? He is a man, who puts up a front, to hide his wicked heart, life, and intentions. They flatter, pretend, and lie. They are wolves in sheep's clothing (*Matthew 7:15*).

How does he use his mouth? ¹A hypocrite flatters, to get men to let down their guard, and hear him. ²A hypocrite deceives and misleads the simple by good words and fair speeches (*Romans 16:18*).

How does the hypocrite destroy others? ¹A hypocrite speaks of loving the Lord but lives for himself, which undermines the faith of those watching. ²A hypocrite leads men to sin by pretending to have good intentions.

A hypocrite uses religion to get men to think well of him (*Matthew 6:2, 5, 16; 23:14, 25, 27*).

What is a just man? He is a righteous man, who does what is right in the sight of God and men.

A just man is honest, sincere, and true.

A just man is the opposite of the hypocritical liar (*Proverbs 20:7*).

How are the just delivered? The just man is saved from the hypocrite by knowing the truth. The truth gives a just man the wisdom and understanding to reject the hypocrite's ideas.

What knowledge saves the just? ¹Knowing God and His Word saves righteous men from the evil work of the hypocrite. ²Knowing God's will from the Scriptures, the righteous easily see through the bluster and boasting of the hypocrite. They pursue knowledge!

Jesus often faced hypocrites. The Pharisees, the most conservative denomination of the Jews' religion, were the greatest hypocrites in the Bible by claiming to be the most dedicated to God while hiding their perverse agenda. They eventually killed Jesus.

The Bible warned there would be many hypocrites in the future (*2Corinthians 2:17; 4:2; 11:13-15; Colossians 2:4; 2Thessalonians 2:10; 1Timothy 4:1-3; 6:3-5; 2Peter 2:3,18-19; Jude 1:16*).

In fact, we may be living in the most hypocritical time of all, for Paul prophesied of perilous times of the last days, when men would only have a form of godliness, but their true life denies the power of real godliness (*2Timothy 3:5; 4:3-4*).

Are you knowledgeable and wise enough to defeat hypocrites?

Are you so settled on the Word of God, so that you can see through, their deceitful pretensions, good words, and fair speeches (*Romans 16:17*)?

Are You Learning The Bible And Walking In The Spirit?

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

Should good people, be more joyful at the wicked destroying themselves then succeeding in their

wickedness? Should they rejoice at the promotion of the righteous? Yes, and yes!

The difference between righteous and wicked men is enormous, and even citizens with little nobility or religion can appreciate the difference.

But God's people know the difference even better and celebrate accordingly.

A nation's citizens appreciate a benevolent, faithful, and wise ruler; they mourn a foolish, oppressing, and selfish ruler (*Proverbs 29:2*).

Egypt rejoiced to have Joseph, and Babylon rejoiced to have Daniel.

Shushan, the capital of Persia, mourned when wicked Haman was promoted, but they rejoiced when Mordecai replaced him (*Esther 4:15; 8:15*)!

Israel celebrated their great blessings to have David and Solomon as kings (*2Samuel 6:14-19; 1Kings 4:20-25*).

When King Asa initiated a revival in Judah, many left their homes in Israel and moved to be under such a good king (*2Chronicles 15:8-19*).

It was the same under good King Hezekiah (*2Chronicles 30:21-27*).

Therefore, wise citizens will pray for their leaders, for in the prosperity of good rulers they will obtain their own blessing (*Jeremiah 29:4-7; 1Timothy 2:1-2*).

Vengeance is always the Lord's prerogative; He will repay (*Romans 12:19*).

Both destruction and promotion come from the Lord. He rules all things (*Psalms 75:6-7; Isaiah 13:6*).

Those who fear the God know there are no accidents, coincidences, or acts of nature. They know God uses whirlwinds, hurricanes and tornadoes, and waves, tsunamis and hurricane surges (*Nahum 1:3*).

Israel danced at the Red Sea, when the bodies of Pharaoh and his army washed up on shore (*Exodus 14:30-31; 15:1-21*).

The psalmist wrote about the event of seeing Babylon's small children dashed against rocks (*Psalms 137:8-9*).

And the apostles and prophets of God rejoiced over the destruction of spiritual Babylon (*Revelation 18:6, 20*).

Godly men make a difference between personal enemies and God's enemies. You have no right to rejoice when a personal enemy is in trouble (*Proverbs 24:17-18; Job 31:29-30; Psalm 35:11-14*).

Instead, you should pray for him and do what you can for him (*Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:17-21*).

You can only justify disliking God's enemies (*Psalms 52:6-7; 139:22-23*).

But remember, in this age of Grace, your main responsibility is sowing the seed of the Word of God.

And we are commanded to love our enemies! (*Matthew 5:44; Luke 6:27*)

Is there cause for joy in any ruler today? Forget your province or nation! Jesus Christ after His resurrection and ascension into heaven was promoted over all angels, devils, and men in the universe for the benefit of His church (*Ephesians 1:20-23*)!

Those in the kingdom of God have the greatest ruler ever as Savior and Friend! Celebrate! Rejoice!

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

Political prosperity depends on godly men and their prayers. The long-term civil success of a city or nation requires righteous men begging God for its blessing.

To the contrary, the arrogant, foolish, and profane mouths of the wicked will bring a state to ruin. This political axiom is certain. Believe it for your own comfort and understanding, or reject it to your own ignorance and peril.

**Do Not
Let The News Media
Corrupt Your Wisdom!**

Adam Smith tried to discover why some nations are rich and others are poor. But his Wealth of Nations published in 1776 did not consider this Proverb.

He was too busy noting minor and secondary factors like division of labor, price mechanisms, wage rates, land rents, capital formation, import laws, forms of government, the role of agriculture, and so forth. Like all educated humanists, he could not see the forest for the trees.

The LORD determines which cities or nations shall prosper and those that shall not (*Psalms 75:6-7*).

God favors those men who fear and honor Him. *"Blessed is the nation whose God is the LORD; and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance" (Psalm 33:12).*

"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17).

Let God be true, but every man a liar. Adam Smith missed most of the equation.

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

"Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath" (Proverbs 29:8).

"When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn" (Proverbs 29:2).

"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" (Proverbs 28:2).

Around 4000 years ago, the LORD discussed with Abraham the total destruction of Sodom for its obvious perversion (*Genesis 18:20-33*).

Abraham reasoned with God that the righteous should not be destroyed with the wicked and that a Holy God would show mercy for the sake of the upright in the city. The LORD agreed to spare the city for ten righteous souls. Ten upright souls were not found, so the city was destroyed!

What is the *"blessing of the upright"* that exalts a city?

Proverbs often have two clauses to be compared. The second clause indicates it is the speech of the wicked that destroys cities. Their foolish talk reduces the wisdom of a city, and their haughty words bring God's judgment.

Therefore, we conclude that the upright exalt a city:

- By their virtuous speech and fervent prayers.
- By wise counsel and holy advice, they ennoble the city.
- By fervent prayers from righteous, they bring God's blessings that exalt a city.

History will confirm the Proverb. Babel was an early kingdom, but God confounded their building program for arrogant speech (*Genesis 10:10; 11:1-9*).

Pharaoh's treasure cities of Pithom and Raamses were devastated within and without for his proud rebellion (*Exodus 1:11; 5:2; 10:7*).

Babylon thought she would sit a queen forever, but the Persians took her in one night, and she was eventually reduced to her present condition of debris mounds (*Isaiah 47:1-15*).

History will confirm the Proverb many times over. Alexander the Great plundered and then destroyed the great Persian city of Persepolis in 330 A.D.

Compare today's versions of Athens and Alexandria to the cities they once were. What remains of the great cities of Nineveh and Tyre today?

What happened to the cities of the Mayans and Aztecs? What did all these cities have in common? They wickedly boasted in their pagan deities.

What is the lesson? The political prayers of the righteous can bless a city or nation; the arrogant speech of the wicked will bring a city or nation to ruin (*Psalm 127:1*).

Jeremiah explained to the Jews captive in Babylon that **If** they prayed for the peace of Babylon, they could enjoy peace in that wicked city for their families (*Jeremiah 29:4-7*).

Paul confirmed this wisdom by teaching men to pray for the kings of the Roman Empire (*1 Timothy 2:1-2*).

The prophet Isaiah once saw the glory of God, and he was immediately convicted for the unclean speech of his own lips and that of his countrymen (*Isaiah 6:1-8*).

Isaiah knew that he was undone for his foolish words. The Lord had mercy on Isaiah and cleansed him from his sin. But have you confessed your own foolish and rebellious words? Or do you foolishly think God will overlook your speech (*Psalm 12:1-5*)?

Have you prayed for your two cities? First, this Proverb teaches you to pray for the city where you live, as Babylon in the days of Jeremiah. This is wisdom from the Lord for the preservation and prosperity of your city.

Second, you should pray for your heavenly city, the New Jerusalem, unto which all true believers will inhabit (*Psalm 122:6; Hebrews 12:22-24*).

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

**It Is Easy To Sin With Your Mouth.
And There Are Many Ways To Do It!**

The Holy Spirit warns against saying negative things about your neighbor. Wise men do not despise others with their words. They will hold back the negative things that wicked fools are quick to say.

In the very limited context is the following Proverb, which condemns talebearing. "*A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter*" (*Proverbs 11:13*).

Talebearing is telling anything about another, whether true or false, that is neither necessary, nor helpful to their reputation. See the comments on *Proverbs 11:13*.

Speech is one of the most certain indicators of wisdom, or the lack thereof. For the words of a man's mouth reveal the heart inside (*Luke 6:45*).

Mere quantity can prove either wisdom or folly. "*A fool's voice is known by multitude of words*" (*Ecclesiastes 5:3*).

One of the simplest rules for wisdom is to cut your words in half. See the comments on *Proverbs 17:28*.

The LORD, hates evil speech about others, so He condemned backbiting, despite, gainsaying, hatred, malice, malignity, railing, reviling, slandering, swelling, talebearing, and whispering, among other related sins. Of course, you will rarely hear these sins mentioned in public, let alone defined and condemned.

The LORD considers unkind speech about another to be a violation of the sixth commandment. Jesus said, "*Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire*" (*Matthew 5:21-22*).

Loving your neighbor is the second greatest commandment (*Matthew 22:39*).

Your neighbor being much more than the people next door, as the Good Samaritan proved (*Luke 10:29-37*).

Your neighbor extends even to servants of another man (*Proverbs 30:10*).

And loving your enemies is another commandment (*Matthew 5:43-48*).

You have no room to hate or speak evil of others. We were all born hateful and hating each other in malice and envy (*Titus 3:3*).

But now we are to be changed by Lord's grace (*Titus 3:2; Ephesians 4:31-32*).

It has been said, "**If** you can't say anything nice about someone, then don't say anything at all." Perfect! That is exactly what the Proverb teaches! And parents should enforce this with children toward siblings, classmates, and any others that come up in conversation.

A cure for this wicked habit is to avoid despising others in your heart; "*Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for*

a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter" (Ecclesiastes 10:20).

Even if correcting another overtaken in a fault, we are to do it meekly and fearfully (*Galatians 6:1*).

When someone curses you, remember the Holy Spirit's advice, "*Take no heed unto all words that are spoken; lest thou hear thy servant curse thee: For oftentimes also thine own heart knoweth that thou thyself likewise hast cursed others" (Ecclesiastes 7:20-21).*

Return a blessing for their curse, not railing for railing (*1Peter 3:8-9*).

Show yourself a child of the King! Jesus exposed those who thought they were righteous and despised others, by giving the parable of the Pharisee and the publican (*Luke 18:9-14*).

It is wicked pride and haughty conceit that causes a person to despise others (*Romans 12:16*).

Those who love to despise others for their motes are never wise enough to see their own beams (*Matthew 7:1-5*).

When Jesus was reviled and threatened, He neither reviled nor threatened back, when He could have justifiably foretold their earthly and eternal damnation (*1Peter 2:21-24*).

Follow Our Lord's Example Be Christians Ruling Their Tongues!

How kind is the Word of God, when it names failures! Gideon is a man of faith! Samson is a hero in the cloud of witnesses! And Lot is a just and righteous man, whose righteous soul was vexed every day by the wicked men of Sodom (*Hebrews 11:32; 2Peter 2:7-9*).

Here Is Kindness And Mercy To Those With Major Blots In Their Personal Histories.

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

What god called talebearing; We call tattling or gossip.

- Today it is investigative reporting.
- Today, it is entertainment.
- Today, newspapers, television, tabloids, and Internet sites feed on it.

People read talebearing with glee; they tingle with curiosity hearing talebearing; they beg for more details, especially sexual ones; they cannot wait to repeat talebearing to others.

If the least rumor or event can be obtained about our president's personal life or family, it is spread far and wide and discussed to death.

The same is true for business leaders, sports figures, and celebrities. The more negative the facts, that much more exciting to spread! This fascination with secrets is a sin and proves the perversity of our nation.

Family members, neighbors, office workers, and even some church members love to spread news of negative events in the lives of others. They say, "Did you know they are divorced? Have you heard the latest about him? Can you believe she did that?" And off go wicked lips and ears to discuss the private details of others that should be concealed.

This sin of talebearing is an abomination to God, and He hates it.

God's Holy heart knows that spreading damaging news about others is to rape their reputations. The Word of God does not know the word gossip; it uses talebearer, tattlers, whisperer, and backbiter.

Solomon teaches here that good men with faithful spirits will not repeat private news they learn about others.

Talebearing is telling private matters to gratify malice or idle curiosity.

Tattling is talebearing. Whispering is quiet or secret talebearing. Backbiting includes talebearing behind a person's back.

God condemns these sins (*Leviticus 19:16; Romans 1:29-30; 1Timothy 5:13*).

These Bible terms all involve telling true facts about others that need not be told. That the information is true only means it is not slander, which is spreading lies about others.

Talebearers will quickly justify themselves by saying they are only telling facts, but that is the very definition of talebearing, tattling, whispering, and backbiting.

That the secrets are true does not mitigate the sin at all. The Lord knows there are only two reasons you are telling them: malicious hatred or idle curiosity.

You are damaging another person's reputation, and there is no godly reason for you to do it.

Physical rape is a horrible crime, and it should be punished severely. But talebearing may be worse, in that it can have greater consequences. Instead of hurting a person's body for a few minutes or emotional state for a while, it can leave permanent scars on a person's reputation and character, the much more valuable parts of a person. Consider it well!

The heart of man is desperately wicked and will do anything it can to defame or injure others (*Jeremiah 17:9; Romans 3:13-18*).

By nature all men are hateful and hating one another (*Titus 3:3*).

One of the easiest ways to hurt another's reputation is to spread private information that does not need to be told. It is this sin that our Proverb condemns!

Righteous faithful men will hide private information they happen to learn. They will conceal such things. They will not repeat them to anyone. They will do all they can to protect the reputations of others, no matter what their personal feelings about the person might be.

This sin used to be condemned in our nation. Many can remember rules and punishment for tattling at home and school. But now it is a forgotten sin in our perverse generation. Instead of punishment, rewards are given for those who can obtain the most salacious reports or revealing photographs of persons at all levels of society.

Guard your tongue, reader. Do not let it spread secrets that should be concealed. It does not matter one whit whether the information is true or not.

And if someone else is backbiting, condemn him with an angry countenance or rebuke (*Proverbs 25:23; 1Thessalonians 5:14*).

How Important Is It For You To Avoid Talebearing?

Our Proverb teaches that faithful men will not do it.

Psalm 15:3 He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour.

This teaches that a mark of eternal life is to not be a talebearer. Since God hates it and mentions it often in Scripture, all fathers must include it in their training (*Ephesians 6:4*).

Our Lord Jesus is Faithful and True (*Revelation 19:11*).

The Lord forgets our sins forever (*Hebrews 8:12*).

Our Lord would never reveal them, for it is His glory to cover transgressions (*Proverbs 25:2*).

And it should be our pleasure to love others with the same compassion (*Proverbs 10:12; 17:9; 1Peter 4:8*).

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

Neither you nor the government know how to make good decisions in a vacuum. The protection against bad decisions is to identify a large number of wise men to help make important decisions.

If a government proceeds in haste, pride, or by the whims of one man, corruption and trouble will likely follow for that principality. But when a government heeds a broad range of wise men, there is generally profit and safety for all.

God inspired Solomon to write Proverbs to teach young men to be wise (*Proverbs 1:1-5*).

Here before you is an important rule of wisdom.

Do not make large decisions without consulting a variety of wise and successful men, who are not emotionally or personally or financially involved.

They can apply their wisdom and experience to your situation without the distracting and distorting influences that may be corrupting your thoughts.

Every way of a man is right in his own eyes! Of course! Have you ever made a bad decision? Of course not! This is a fact of human behavior Solomon had often observed (*Proverbs 14:12; 16:2, 25; 21:2*).

But you are usually wrong for many reasons, even though you may not realize it! You are inherently ignorant, emotionally affected, personally biased, educationally slanted, financially motivated, and peer influenced. You are dangerous!

Not every counselor will do! **If** you choose to check your ideas and decisions with just your friends, most of them will agree with you to keep your friendship and avoid debate.

This very thing happened to Solomon's son, Rehoboam. After the death of his father, he listened to his young friends rather than his father's aged and wised counselors. Because of this foolish choice, he lost 10 of his nation's 12 tribes to a rival (*1Kings 12:1-20*).

It Has Been Said "Power Corrupts, And Absolute Power Corrupts Absolutely."

To counter this perverting effect of authority, those in positions of leadership must rely even more heavily on counselors.

If they seek to go it alone, they are taking a great risk with their office and the poor people under them. How many souls, lives, and fortunes would have been saved,

if all husbands, fathers, employers, pastors, and rulers had used counselors?

Consider World War II.

Counselors could have saved Chamberlain from Hitler's lies. If Hitler had trusted military advisors, he would have defeated the Soviets.

Counselors tried to save Japan from war with the U.S., but were rejected.

Counselors could have saved 20 million countrymen from Stalin's purges.

Counselors could have benefited the U.S., they would not have given Eastern Europe to the Soviet Union.

These are decisions that caused many to fall, and these are only a few associated with that war!

If you desire to grow in wisdom, you will jettison your thoughts and replace them with the opinions of wise counselors. This is a hard choice to make, because you hate being criticized or corrected.

You want to be the wise one that always makes outstanding decisions.

You must learn to squash your pride and subject your ideas and plans to the analysis and examination of others.

By choosing godly and successful men as your counselors, you can instantly raise the quality and results of your decisions.

The ultimate counselors are those that know the Word of God and can apply it to your life and choices (*Proverbs 22:17-21; Job 32:6-22; 33:23-24; Psalm 119:98-100; 2Timothy 3:16-17*).

Counsel contrary to the Bible is worse than no counsel at all; it is destructive (*Isaiah 8:20; 1Timothy 6:3-5*).

Do you have godly counselors in your life (*Malachi 2:7; Acts 8:30-31; Hebrews 13:7, 17*)?

Are you such a counselor to those that need you (*Proverbs 11:30; 15:4; Hebrews 5:12-14; 1Peter 3:15*)?

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

**Hate Risk! Love Guarantees,
Insurance, And Security!**

Hate overextending! Love living within your means!
Wise financial management includes reducing risk.

Only fools laugh at risk and expose their assets or income to loss or contingent liabilities.

King Solomon knew his son would be tempted to guarantee or cosign the obligations of others, and he warned often against this foolish risk in his life (*Proverbs 6:1-5; 17:18; 20:16; 22:26-27; 27:13*).

Being surety for someone is guaranteeing their performance in some action or payment of some obligation.

The most common example of this foolish act today is co-signing on loans.

Would you co-sign on a loan for a stranger? Only a fool would consider such a thing! But King Solomon knew his son, as royal prince of Israel, would be tempted by many requests to lend his signature or seal to strangers to confirm them in business deals.

The Proverb declares that risk can bring future pain, "*he that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it.*" But if a man hates the risk involved in suretiship, he is sure.

One that hates this risk, has protected himself from financial loss, and he has a much greater probability of being successful.

A wise man will minimize risking his income and assets, because contingent liabilities can come back to bite you, as when the stranger does not pay, and you must pay for him (*Proverbs 22:26-27*).

If you need or want to help someone by consigning a loan or guaranteeing some other obligation, make sure of two things.

1. Make sure you know them well and can count on them to fulfill their obligation. In such a case, your involvement is merely to reassure a cautious or skeptical creditor.
2. Make sure you can afford the obligation, without it cramping your lifestyle or hindering your own performance, if you are forced to pay it.

Some Christians reject insurance, they assume that living by faith means to ignore risk and trust God to take care of them. This is foolish heresy.

God expects men to use their wits and strength to protect themselves, as long as they trust God to bless their efforts.

While it is up to God to build houses and secure cities, there is still a need for builders and watchmen (*Proverbs 16:9; 21:31; 30:26; Psalm 127:1-2; James 4:13-15*).

A wise man protects himself from danger and contingent liabilities (*Proverbs 22:3; 27:12*).

A wise man understands the need to avoid risk as one of his duties from God.

A wise man takes every precaution he can. He begs the Lord to bless his efforts, protect him from what he cannot see, and open unseen doors of opportunity.

A wise man asks and trusts God to prosper his use of wisdom and effort.

If you assume risk unnecessarily, even **If** you claim to trust God to protect you, you are guilty of tempting the Lord.

Satan took Jesus to the top of the temple in Jerusalem and tempted Him to leap off, based on God's promise to send angels to protect Him in a fall (*Matthew 4:5-7; Ps 91:11-12*).

Jesus knew the promise, but He would not jump!

Those who are hasty, impulsive, or foolish in ignoring risk will be punished, they will smart for it.

Those who are cautious, conservative, and risk averse will be safe; they will move through life with solid protection from trouble. They are wise.

So, hate risk! Do not co-sign loans, unless necessary and within their means. Do insure yourself against large losses in each area of your life. Trust the Lord to bless your means to protect yourself.

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

If we rank Proverbs by brevity, wisdom, value, and clarity, this is one of the best. Delight in these ten Words and the wisdom they give both women and men.

Do others love and praise your wife? **If** so, she is gracious. **If** not, she is odious (*Proverbs 30:21-23*).

The rule is simple. To have a good name and be held in loving favor by others, you need to zealously pursue graciousness. See the comments on *Proverbs 22:1*.

Graciousness in a woman, will cause people to love her and esteem her. They will mark her person, enjoy her company, desire her friendship, praise her spirit, and use her as an example of virtue.

A lack of graciousness in a woman, will steal these things from her. The rule is simple.

Have your assets grown over the years? **If** so, you are strong. **If** not, you are weak.

The rule is simple. **If** you need better financial growth, you need to correct your financial weaknesses, which are taught in Proverbs. See the comments on *Proverbs 12:11*.

Strength keeps men from the temptations to waste and lose money. A strong man is not vulnerable to financial foolishness.

It is weakness that causes men to spend too much, chase vanity, not save, and pursue foolish ideas that bring loss. The rule is simple.

If you quickly read this Proverb without assessing your life, you are foolish, and arrogant. This is God's Word!

If you flunk the rule for your manhood, you must make whatever changes are needed to obey the wisdom given here. This is God's Word!

A Woman Is That Wonderful Creature God Made For Adam (*Genesis 2:18*).

A gracious woman well behaved, is a man's most desirable possession (*Proverbs 12:4; 18:22; 19:14*).

Poorly behaved women, are more bitter than death (*Ecclesiastes 7:26*),

The world cannot stand her (*Proverbs 30:21-23*).

She cannot be hid (*Proverbs 27:15-16*).

Even beauty cannot cover an odious woman (*Proverbs 11:22*).

A gracious woman is "a lovely person." Her warm and gentle virtue wins others.

A gracious woman is never offensive or haughty, always discreet and modest, and delightfully charming in every way.

A gracious woman is never disagreeable or critical.

A gracious woman is always kind and makes others feel safe and accepted. There is never tenseness, coldness, or harshness with this woman.

A gracious woman has no haughty thoughts about herself and would swear she is not gracious enough.

A gracious woman limits her speech to kind and gentle words, and then only when they add significant value.

A gracious woman is submissive and cheerful. She never thinks she is owed anything by anyone.

A gracious woman is a wonderful hostess and never does anything questionable.

A gracious woman is most excellent. Every wise woman will learn all there is about this trait and diligently seek to acquire it.

An odious woman is the opposite. Her abrasive and offensive manners annoy others.

An odious woman is haughty, indiscreet, and irritating.

An odious woman is contrary and wants to give her opinion.

An odious woman makes others feel uncomfortable. She displays no warmth and pleasantness. Most everyone avoids her.

A woman's honor is her respect and esteem by others. Her family or spouse's opinion matters little. What do other good men and women think of her?

Here is the rule. Do others treasure her company? Do others use her as an example of virtue? Do others praise her? Do others love her instantly and permanently? This is the goal of a holy woman.

Graciousness earns honor and keeps honor. The rule is simple. Gracious women are always esteemed. **If** you are not highly regarded by others, you lack graciousness. By the mirror of God's Word, you must identify and cover your blemishes (*James 1:21-25*).

Do not deceive yourself by thinking you are gracious, for only others can measure it by how you affect them.

You can know it by the number, the quality, the affection, and the depth of your friends. Do not run and hide in your conceit and self-righteousness.

Dear Christian lady, God's Word and this book of Proverbs can teach you more about graciousness. **If** you humbly seek the Lord, He will give you the wisdom and strength to acquire this glorious trait of David and Jesus (*Proverbs 22:11; 1Samuel 18:1-4; Psalm 45:2; Luke 4:22*).

What about a man? God gave him dominion over the earth (*Genesis 1:26; 2:15; 3:17-19*).

From his position of authority, he works to acquire assets for his family (*Proverbs 19:14; Ephesians 4:28; 1Thessalonians 4:11-12; 1Timothy 5:8*).

A good man will leave an inheritance to his family (*Proverbs 13:22*).

Strength Is The Power To Do Things And The Force To Repel Attacks.

A strong man has the ability to make wise choices, do the right thing, and resist temptations. He is able to rule his financial spirit (*Proverbs 16:32*).

A strong man can see potential evil and avoid it by wise measures.

Think financially. A strong man is not vulnerable to vain financial ideas. He is disciplined, patient and persistent.

A strong man works hard at a boring job and does not waste precious capital chasing dreams.

A strong man rejects all talk about easy income or high-return investments.

A strong man knows that increase comes by labor. See the comments on *Proverbs 12:11*.

A strong man locks down spending when necessary.

A strong man takes two jobs, if that is necessary, saves money away from even his own use.

A strong man hates risk; he cuts losses short before they hurt him; and he invests in secure things.

A strong man is scrupulously honest. He pays all his taxes.

A weak man cannot do these things, for he is vulnerable to financial foolishness.

A weak man listens to harebrained schemes. He thinks there are shortcuts to success.

A weak man cannot stop spending, for he is too weak.

A weak man does not save, for he always has something else to buy. Money burns in his pockets.

A weak man takes risks; he holds losing ventures too long; he invests in vain ideas.

A weak man wastes his wife in minimum wage jobs. He chases dreams.

Strength will keep riches. Strong men will have them in the end. It is weakness of character that lets them get away. There is more financial wisdom in Proverbs than in a Harvard M.B.A.

Have You Learned That Wisdom? Have You Applied That Wisdom?

America is the land of opportunity. Never has it been possible to make more with less effort than in America the last fifty years.

Strong men will have something to show for it.

If you are not getting ahead, there are resources from God's Word to show your weak areas, and you need to eliminate them. Strong men keep riches. The rule is simple.

But what of true riches, the spiritual blessings we have in Jesus Christ? Strong men will retain them, for only weak men let the things they have heard slip away (*1Thessalonians 5:21*).

It is your duty as a man in the house of God to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered (*Jude 1:3*).

It is your duty to make sure you show greater strength maintaining the pillar and ground of the truth than you do keeping our savings accounts and balance sheets (*1Timothy 3:15*).

Christian man! Here is your calling. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (*1Corinthians 16:13*).

Let us retain the grace of God and the apostolic faith until the Lord returns without losing any of either.

Our Lord Jesus Christ was the ultimate Man in graciousness and strength, and it is our high privilege and duty to learn of Him and follow His glorious example. Lord, help us.

Proverbs 11:17 The merciful man doeth good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubleth his own flesh.

This Proverb is important! It can change your life! It will affect your life!

You can do yourself a world of good, or you can torment yourself, depending on what you do with this lesson.

The Proverb is an inspired axiom about mercy, and the results are certain.

God blesses merciful men with goodness, but He chastises cruel men with trouble.

Merciful men are kind even to themselves, unmerciful men torment themselves.

The merciful man will be in heaven, but the cruel man will not, for he knows nothing of God's grace.

Humanity is cruel and selfish by nature. Adam gave all men a depraved, sinful nature that is cruel, hateful, and malicious (*Romans 3:13-18; Titus 3:3*).

Mercy toward others is only by the Holy Spirit, and it is a trait only of godly men (*James 3:17-18*).

Such men, by showing mercy to others and themselves, bring blessings on their own souls. But unmerciful men, with hard hearts toward others or themselves, bring pain and suffering on their own lives.

What is mercy? "Forbearance and compassion shown by one person to another who is in his power and who has no claim to receive kindness; kind and compassionate treatment in a case where severity is merited or expected." (OED).

Mercy is kind to those who do not deserve it and cannot repay it. It forgives proper obligations and debts. Mercy gives up rights in order to help another, even when the choice is costly.

Men by nature are unwilling to give up rightful claims to help others, they are selfishly cruel, only thinking of themselves.

Men by nature, follow the Prince of the power of the air, they accept his murderous ambitions (*Ephesians 2:1-3; John 8:44*).

His Hebrew name, Abaddon, means destroyer; and his Greek name, Apollyon, also means destroyer (*Revelation 9:11*).

Since being rejected from heaven for his pride, Satan seeks to destroy men in this life and in hell to come.

False religion is generally marked by a cruel and perverse form of worship. Baal and Molech required terrible suffering: self-mutilation by the former, and child sacrifice (abortion today) by the latter (*1Kings 18:25-29; Leviticus 18:21; Jeremiah 32:35; Ezekiel 20:26; 23:36-39*!).

God despises the devil and wicked men: He loves mercy, and He rewards it in men. God values mercy even more highly than His own ceremonial commandments (*Matthew 12:1-7*).

When a man shows mercy to others, God blesses that man with extra favor and mercy (*Proverbs 14:21; 22:9; 28:27; 29:14; Matthew 5:7; 6:14-15; 25:34-40; Luke 6:38; James 2:13*).

This is the passive reward for mercy, what the LORD does for merciful men. And the passive punishment, for cruelty, is what God does against the cruel and unmerciful man.

Grasp this law of mercy carefully! God will bless, protect, and strengthen the merciful man (*Psalms 41:1-4*).

God will show him light and establish him forever (*Psalms 112:4-10*).

God will cause the man giving mercy liberally to stand (*Isaiah 32:7-8*).

And the Lord will prosper him in many ways (*Proverbs 11:24-26; 19:17; Isaiah 58:6-12*).

God will destroy the cruel man on the inside and outside for his lack of mercy (*Proverbs 21:13; 22:16; 28:8, 27; Job 20:10-29; James 5:1-8*)!

Are you merciful? How merciful? Are you cheerful and eager to show mercy?

God measures you every day by opportunities, that He provides, to show mercy (*Proverbs 29:7; Luke 10:25-37*).

Do you forgive those who offend you (*Genesis 45:4-15; Matthew 18:21-35*)?

Are you compassionate toward the helpless (*Isaiah 1:16-17; James 1:27*)?

Are you generous with the poor (*Job 29:11-17; 31:13-22*)?

Do you release those who owe you (*2Samuel 3:12-21; 19:13*)?

Do you charitably think the best about others' actions and always defend them in private?

But there are also rewards for mercy, what a merciful man, can do for himself! God is merciful, and He expects His children to be good to their own souls.

Jethro taught Moses to have mercy on himself by appointing assistants (*Exodus 18:13-26*).

David taught the importance of putting things in God's hands and going to bed (*Psalms 127:1-2*)!

Solomon added the exhortation to rejoice in all good things (*Ecclesiastes 9:7-10*)! And

Timothy was to teach that rich Christians could still enjoy the good life (*1Timothy 6:17-19*).

There are active punishments for cruelty, which an unmerciful man causes himself by his bad choices.

The miser is miserable and cannot sleep, he has the evil disease of greed that torments him (*Ecclesiastes 4:8; 5:10-17; 6:1-2*).

Money is to be spent and used, but the covetous man cannot think of this pleasure, only more hoarding.

The workaholic does not know mercy, because he never does any good to his own soul. He troubles his own flesh!

Monasticism, vows of celibacy and poverty, abstaining from meat, required by Rome denies the pleasures God intended you to have (*Colossians 2:20-23; 1Timothy 4:1-3*).

The seventh day was not an intact religious institution, as the Adventists imagine.

True Christianity rejects these two false cults: it reflects the true God and His Son Jesus Christ, Who together displayed infinite mercy by redemption (*Ephesians 2:4-7; Titus 3:5; 1Peter 1:2-5*).

The seventh day was mercifully given for man's rest and refreshment (*Exodus 23:12*).

If you could obtain mercy for yourself, a friend, or your ox by breaking it, you could do so (*Luke 6:1-5; 13:15-17; 14:5-6*).

God sent His undeserved mercy and compassion on men, without regard for the will or efforts of men, so they are thus the vessels of mercy (*Romans 9:15-24*).

It should be easy for these ransomed souls to show mercy to others and to themselves, remembering that they were given undeserved mercy and that the merciful shall obtain mercy.

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

There is only one way to a successful life, pursue it faithfully and righteously, as unto the Lord.

Sinners cheat themselves! They plan and labor toward a goal, but they either miss their target, or they are unhappy once they get it!

The righteous! They diligently and patiently pursue their objectives, they either obtain what they sought, or they find equal or greater peace and pleasure without it! What a contrast in lives! Consider the Proverb.

Deceitful Work Of The Wicked Is The Elusiveness Of Success.

The wicked aims for pleasure by sin. He pursues his lusts, but the results never satisfy.

Compare the two clauses to prove this interpretation. How the wicked man compares to the righteous. How the deceitful work compares to the sure reward.

Therefore, the righteous man gets what he patiently pursues, but the wicked end up deceived.

Consider some examples: Satan promised Eve she could be like God by rejecting His command and eating the forbidden fruit (*Genesis 3:1-5*).

The first terrible results arrived immediately, but they shall never end (*Genesis 3:6-24; 5:5; Revelation 20:11-15*).

On the other hand, Satan offered the world's kingdoms to Jesus, but He endured the temptation, and now He rules heaven and earth (*Matthew 4:8-11; Hebrews 12:1-3*)! Jesus obtained the sure reward!

Amnon fell sick with lust for his beautiful half sister, so he conspired and raped her. But the consequences were totally unsatisfying and cost him his life (*2Samuel 13:1-39*)!

On the other hand, Isaac at 40 and Jacob at 77 trusted their fathers for direction for wives, and they both ended up with beautiful women who feared God, Rebekah and Rachel, and a great progeny.

Amnon was deceived, but the two patriarchs found a sure reward.

Israel murmured and complained about manna until they forced God to give them quail. He gave it to them all right, three feet high in every direction as far as they could walk in a day; but many died for their lust and as God sent leanness into the souls of the rest (*Psalms 106:13-15*).

On the other hand, a little salad or a dry morsel is more than enough for two people walking with God and in love and at peace with each other (*Proverbs 15:17; 17:1*).

Gehazi foolishly lusted after the rich Syrian garments of Naaman, and he lied to obtain them. But he was sorely disappointed in the end to lose the garments, and he and his family ended up with terminal leprosy (*2Kings 5:20-27*)!

On the other hand, Moses rejected the pleasures and riches of Egypt for the people of God, and he was rewarded with one of the highest offices and most illustrious careers in Israel (*Hebrews 11:24-29*).

Moses appeared in a glorified state with Elijah on the mount of transfiguration (*Matthew 17:1-3*).

The man who works himself to death to get ahead seldom enjoys the riches he gathers, for he had no time to relax and enjoy them, and then he is gone. While hearing of his growing assets, he finds himself discontent and wanting more (*Ecclesiastes 5:10*).

But a righteous man does not even want the danger or vanity of riches, so he prays for modest income and assets rather than wealth, and he is thrilled with the convenient outcome (*Proverbs 30:7-9*).

A righteous man may not see his reward for a while, for sowing is a term taken from farming, where men wait many weeks and even months for the reward of a harvest.

The exhortation is to never faint! *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not"* (*Galatians 6:9*). Believeest thou this?

The Reward Will Surely Come For The Righteous!

Sow faithfully in righteousness, and you shall reap the reward soon enough (*Galatians 6:7*).

"So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth" (*Psalms 58:11*).

Godliness hath promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come (*1Timothy 4:8*).

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

Living A Longer Life Is As Close As Your Bible!

The Word of God defines what God considers right or wrong (*Psalms 19:7-11*).

If you do what is right in His sight, you will live better and longer.

If you reject His counsel and live a sinful life, you will suffer and die for it (*Psalms 1:1-6*).

It is up to you. The rule of this Proverb is true. You cannot alter it by any means (*Proverbs 11:21; 16:5*).

How are you alive? Where did you get life? Why are you still alive today? Life is not a chance event!

You were not asked if you wanted to live, but God gave you life as your Creator. He is the Potter, and you are the clay.

If you do not like this arrangement, He suggests you argue it out with other broken pieces of pottery like yourself (*Isaiah 45:9-10*)!

Evolutionists claim baboons for parents, which means those stupid and ugly brutes are closest to them in features and wisdom!

But the truth is, God created all things and gave life to the first man, as even children can learn and understand (*Genesis 1:1; Hebrews 11:1, 3*).

The only big bang in this universe was what happened when God said, ***"Let there be light!"***

God gave you your life. And He gave the baboons their lives, which is why you are you, and they are still baboons.

If God gave you your life, He has the right to dictate how you live; He has the right to take your life away; and He has the right to extend your life with blessings.

**The Proverb Is True.
Your Future Depends On How Well
You Obey His Words.**

This rule is so true and weighty that the Holy Spirit has stated often: righteousness extends life; wickedness shortens life (*Proverbs 3:2, 16; 4:10; 8:36; 9:11; 10:16, 27; 11:4; 12:28; 19:23*).

Having learned this wisdom, then your duty is clear: learn righteousness from the Word of God and live it; identify and reject the evil lifestyles of the world around you. It is really that simple!

If you do not believe the Proverb, you are already a fool on the way to death. Check out the life expectancy of rappers and rockers, who revel in their blatant wickedness.

Read the Bible warnings against drunkenness and think about all the ways it shortens lives, auto accidents, liver failure, lost jobs, fighting, provocative speech, etc.!

Why do Russian men live 16 years less than American men? Abuse of vodka is one reason; national atheism is another; and hopeless communist thinking is a third. Become a Bible actuary!

How does sin kill? In many ways!

Sin increases accidents through foolish risk taking.

Sin provokes others to anger and revenge.

Sin brings capital punishment for certain crimes.

Sin exposes men to disease and sickness.

Sin leads to association with dangerous men.

Sin brings God's supernatural judgment.

Sin steals joy, hope, peace, and vitality from the soul.

How does righteousness tend to life?

Righteousness provides contentment and peace for the soul.

Righteousness brings God's supernatural blessings.

Righteousness leads to association with helpful and wise men.

Righteousness avoids the diseases of sin.

Righteousness has no crime deserving of capital punishment.

Righteousness puts even dangerous men at peace with you.

Righteousness reduces accidents through cautious prudence.

Some sinners live long lives, and some righteous men die young. What gives? Will you scorn the Proverb (*Proverbs 13:1; 14:6; 26:12*)?

God considers many factors in the length of your life.

This Proverb is one main factor. God may take a righteous man early out of mercy (*Isaiah 57:1-2*).

God may allow a wicked man a portion now before eternal torment (*Psalms 17:14*).

The world spends billions on life extension through medicine, exercise, nutrition, and other secondary factors, but wise men will rejoice at this Proverb and make it the chief goal of life (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

Wise men will relish God's promise to grant a good and long life to those who will merely honor their parents (*Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:2-3*). Simple isn't it?

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

**What A Difference!
Some Men Are An Abomination To God
Some Men Are God's Delight!**

This difference in how God views men. How does God look at you?

Does God despise you for your rebellious and stubborn heart?

Does God rejoice in you for your righteous actions? The consequences here are very great. Examine yourself!

Though this is a typical Proverb in its construction, it teaches a very important lesson. Do not speed read by these Words!

**God Treats Men According
To The Thoughts Of Their Heart
And Their Conduct!**

God is the enemy of the wicked. God is the Friend of those who love and live godliness. Reader, it is your wisdom to strongly consider this rule.

What is a froward heart? The word "*froward*" is not the word "*forward*." They have two very different meanings. Froward means: bad, unreasonable, obnoxious, perverse, and ungovernable.

Frowardness describes a naughty, evilly-disposed, and wicked person. A man with a froward heart is regularly thinking and acting contrary to God's Word.

It is important to know what God hates and what He loves, so that we may govern ourselves accordingly, and avoid His displeasure and commending ourselves to His favor.

Now in this Proverb we are told: That nothing is more offensive to God than hypocrisy and double-dealing, for these are signified by the word which we translate frowardness, pretending justice, but intending wrong, walking in crooked ways, to avoid discovery.

Those are of a froward heart, who act in contradiction to that which is good, but professing that which is good. Such ones, are more than any sinners, an abomination to the Lord, (*Isaiah 65:5*). M. Henry

Such a man is an abomination to God. It means the LORD detests, loathes, and despises.

A man's face reflects his kindness or resentment of another. God's face is "*against them that do evil, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth*" (*Psalms 34:16*).

It is a terrible thing when God sets His face against a man (*Leviticus 17:10; 26:17*).

This also includes those who in rebellion, set up idols in their heart (*Ezekiel 14:7-8*).

The upright in their way are the opposite of the froward.

The upright humble themselves before God's Word in every decision.

The upright choose righteousness, no matter the cost.

The upright do what is correct, honest, and just with integrity. As they face the temptations of life, they choose what is right in God's sight.

Only God Knows The Hearts Of Men.

The contrast between "*heart*" in the first clause and "*way*" in the second clause teaches that a man's actions reflect his heart (*Matthew 15:17-20*).

Once a man has rejected God's redemption, for the last time, (exhausted all opportunities) it is over for him. There is no hope of salvation. He has blasphemed the Holy Spirit! He has crossed that threshold into a hardened heart.

God's face is toward upright men, and He blesses them. His eyes are upon them, and His ears are open to their prayers (*Job 36:7; Psalm 33:18; 34:15*).

God delights in them for good (*Psalms 84:11*).

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him" (*2Chronicles 16:9*).

The issue of this Proverb, is what you will do with your heart and your life, salvation, and opportunities that only God gives (*Proverbs 1; Romans 1*).

If you push ahead in rebellion or stubbornness, thinking you know better, the LORD will despise you.

If you will admit and confess your folly and commit all your ways unto the Lord, He will delight in you and cause you to ride upon the high places of the earth (*Deuteronomy 32:13-14*).

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

Numbers mean nothing to God: It does not matter if evil men conspire together: the Judge of all will punish them.

God loves to break up combinations and confederacies of wicked men (*Proverbs 16:5*).

Vengeance is God's explicit domain: He will repay. He will also direct His providence to save and bless good men and their children, though they may be very few.

The choice is simple. God will deliver and help godly men and their families. But He will crush the wicked, no matter how large and powerful they become.

Reader, it is your daily choice to be righteous or wicked. The resulting outcomes are certain; there is no escape (*Proverbs 12:3*).

If the LORD is against you, your future punishment is certain. The choice is simple: choose godliness!

Go back 4400 years. The world was full of violence and wickedness. The saints of God were marrying women of the world. Their children were great successes. Mankind was united in rejecting God and His ways (*Genesis 6:1-7, 11-12*).

There was one faithful man, who was just, perfect, and righteous; and he walked with God (**Genesis 6:8-10; 7:1**).

It began to rain! Every man, woman, and child drowned! But Noah saved himself and his family!

Go back 2000 years. Kings and Israel's rulers conspired against Jesus of Nazareth (**Psalm 2:1-3**).

How did God react to this international confederacy? He laughed hard (**Psalm 2:4**)!

God got angry and vexed them with tribulation in 70AD worse than anything before or since (**Psalm 2:5; Matthew 24:21**)!

Were any delivered? Only the few who feared the LORD, kissed the Son, and trusted in Him (**Psalm 2:10-12; Matthew 24:22; Acts 2:40**)!

Consider today: Hollywood, the UN, communism, the NEA, Democrats, the PTA, Muslims, the NBA, Republicans, the ACLU, and Hell's Angels all have something in common, they despise Bible Christians.

And most of today's carnal Christians and churches agree with them (**2Timothy 3:1 - 4:5**).

But do not let their numbers or agreement bother you. Hold fast, and you will rule with Jesus Christ over them (**Revelation 2:25-27**)!

The majority means nothing, except to be wrong. Truth has always been held by a small minority (**Matthew 7:14**).

God cannot stand the choices and trends of the majority (**Exodus 23:2; Numbers 14:1-10; 1John 5:19-20**).

Good men reject the majority (**Joshua 24:15; Job 31:34; Daniel 3:1-18**).

One man with God on his side is invincible (**Ezekiel 22:30; 2Timothy 4:16-18**)!

Your Daily Choice To Be Godly Or Wicked Affects Children And Grandchildren (**Exodus 20:5; Psalms 37:25-26; 112:1-2; Jeremiah 32:39**).

Christian reader, do not fear this world and its united front against truth and godliness. "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong" (**1Corinthians 16:13**).

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

Beauty is not much, if the woman with it does not know how to act. It is hard to appreciate a nose ring on a 2000-pound stinking, grunting, and hairy pig!

This really is a fair comparison of an attractive woman without the personal graces to be in pleasant company.

Solomon knew women. He married 700 princesses, and he had 300 concubines (**1Kings 11:3**).

God gave Solomon great wisdom, and he used it to analyze life.

Solomon did not trust women; he found them more bitter than death (**Ecclesiastes 7:25-29**).

Solomon warned against whorish women (**Proverbs 2:16; 5:3, 20; 6:24; 7:5; 9:13-18; 23:27-28**)

Solomon warned against odious women (**Proverbs 12:4; 19:13; 21:9, 19; 25:24; 27:15-16; 30:21-23**).

**A Virtuous Woman
Is More Rare Than Rubies
(Proverbs 31:10)**

Unless you have been close to hogs, you cannot appreciate Solomon's simile! God made the hog one of the most despicable creatures. It is noisy, dirty, foul, greedy, smelly, and destructive.

A hogs nature is revolting to all human sensibilities. And there is no training to alter it. A hog is a hog is a hog! A gold nose ring is entirely out of place on its body!

A fair woman is a beautiful woman. God favored her with a face and body that make a woman attractive and desirable to the sight. Such beauty is indeed a jewel of gold, and she can be a wonderful gift and ornament to a man.

Her image arrests a man's attention in nanoseconds. She has power over men that can hardly be measured. She can turn men into distracted, quivering weaklings in short order. She is almost irresistible.

Solomon knew the danger, so he warned his son against beautiful women, unless they also had the discretion and virtue that make them desirable companions.

Solomon ridiculed mere beauty by this powerful simile, which God inspired by the Holy Ghost.

Wise fathers and mothers will do the same in warning their sons about dangerous women. Sons must be taught plainly about other aspects of living with a woman beyond mere beauty.

What is discretion?

Discretion is the ability to discern or distinguish what is right, befitting, or advisable for one's own conduct.

Discretion is propriety of behavior; civility, courtesy; judicious, prudent, circumspect, and cautious conduct; especially to be silent when speech would be improper.

Discretion is ability to be proper at all times, in all situations. Here is a marvelous quality. Lacking it can turn a beautiful woman into an ugly pig!

Discretion, as used by Solomon, as part of wisdom, the power of right judgment, and understanding, the power of right discernment (*Proverbs 1:4; 2:10-17; 3:21; 5:1-2; Genesis 41:33, 41:39*).

Discretion is generous to others (*Psalms 112:5*).

Discretion rejects the wicked conduct of others (*Proverbs 2:10-17*).

Discretion can rule the spirit to defer anger (*Proverbs 19:11*).

Discretion knows how each situation calls for different conduct (*Isaiah 28:23-29*).

Discretion Is Prudent Application Of Wisdom Of Speech And Actions!

A woman with discretion is a gracious woman, which Solomon just exalted (*Proverbs 11:16*).

She always knows how to act, and she does it in such a way as to be delightfully charming to all those around her, all the time. Good men and women always hold this desirable creature in the highest regard. She is always honored, and men are very blessed when married to this queen of virtue.

Wise men will only marry discreet and gracious women. And if such a woman is also beautiful, heaven has smiled upon the man with two suns!

How can a woman be without discretion? She can be the forward, aggressive, and conniving strange woman despised by Solomon, a Delilah (*Proverbs 7:10-20; 9:13-18*).

Discretion is a branch of the adjective "discreet," understanding and wisdom, which causes us to describe a forward or immoral woman, or her conduct, as "indiscreet."

A sexual impropriety is often called an "indiscretion." Female conduct not chaste, modest, or shamefaced lacks moral discretion.

How can a woman be without discretion? She can be irritating in speech or action. See Solomon's descriptions of odious women above.

She argues or nags. She has opinions without being asked. She is self-righteous, gets angry easily, is moody, or loves to second-guess others.

She is petty, prudish, or political. She cannot shut up, sit still, or be quiet. She loves to meddle or needle. She reveals her spirit by spoiled body language.

How can a woman be without discretion? She asks questions about every matter brought up. She pouts if she does not get her way. She waits for her husband to apologize to her. She thinks she was created to be her husband's second conscience.

She worries more about how the dessert turned out than how her husband was honored. She tells her family she works hard for them. She thinks the bride is the most important part of a wedding.

How can a woman be without discretion? She worries about her son's homework, while he struggles with pornography. She forces him to take piano lessons, when he wishes he could get a chainsaw. She thinks her opinion is equal to her husband's.

She thinks reverence was a formal social custom of Abraham's day. She thinks cooking is a virtue. She tells her husband about her day at home rather than hear about his day at work.

How can a woman be without discretion? She loves to talk, question, suggest, or remind. She is critical, negative, or picky. She values worthless trivia. She corrects her husband for dates and other irrelevant facts.

She loves to pick lint off his suit like he is a seven-year-old boy. She is childish, nosy, or inquisitive. She thinks she is attractive, criticizes others, expects her own checkbook, or cannot forgive instantly and completely.

How can a woman be without discretion? She disagrees with her husband in public. She cries over nothing. She overreacts to rumors or minor events in her life. She always has an experience to tell. She can find something negative about everything.

She keeps a cluttered house. She doesn't have a clue when she irritates people; she does not grasp social decorum. She is too bold, too forward, too loud, and too opinionated. She is a pain.

How can a woman know she lacks discretion? Simple! Do good men and women crave your company? Do you have numerous friends? Are you highly regarded by all?

If you cannot positively answer these three questions, then you lack discretion (*Proverbs 11:16*).

**Good Conduct Leads To Favor
From Others (*Proverbs 22:1*).**

Your opinion of yourself is worthless: and it is dangerous! All odious women think themselves desirable; that is why they are odious! And your family will lie to keep domestic tranquility, so their opinions are also worthless.

How Can A Woman Learn Discretion? Study Proverbs And Apply It!

Ask godly friends to be brutally honest and give you straight criticism. Pick a few gracious women and emulate their good conduct.

Reject your mother or any other example from your past that does not match Holy Scripture. Learn to be discreet (*Titus 2:5*) and meek and quiet (*1Peter 3:3-4*).

Hate the arrogant and selfish attitude of the modern woman, who do not know nor understand their position.

Parent, teach your sons how to measure women! Identify the sows with nose rings and those without them. Warn them about going to bed and getting up with such creatures. Exalt and praise gracious and virtuous women (*Proverbs 11:16; 18:22; 31:28*).

Introduce your sons, even at young ages, to gracious women, so they can learn the precious respect and warmth they create. Praise these women as the only acceptable standard for a wife.

Young man, do not let a woman's beauty deceive you! Do not fall victim to her eyelids or other physical assets (*Proverbs 6:25*).

Pick a wife by her ability to act perfectly at all times, in the fear of the Lord and with a meek and quiet spirit (*Proverbs 31:30; Ecclesiastes 10:1*).

The precious jewel of a gracious spirit exceeds the luster of physical beauty as sunlight to moonlight, and the gracious woman gets better with age, while the model corrupts to fat, gray, and wrinkles!

It is your grave duty, with your father's heavy assistance, to measure a woman's soul, not her body. A beautiful exterior often hides a depraved and deformed spirit.

What will you do with a beautiful wife who is always just out of reach, friendlier to other men, always irritated at home, or always irritating the home?

Hell may be a more pleasant place! But a pure and gracious spirit will turn an average looking woman into a glorious lover and friend!

What are the consequences of neglecting this advice? You could live your life in marital hell. You could experience pain worse than death itself. You will try to hide your horrible blunder from public view, but your odious wife cannot be hid (*Proverbs 27:15-16*).

All men and women will know that your life is torture, as your arm candy grunts and roots beside you! And if your sow is not beautiful, all men and women will wonder why you ever married!

In matters of marriage, only a discreet and gracious woman will do. In matters of religion, only the pure doctrine of Holy Scripture and grace of Jesus Christ will do.

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

What is your future? How will things end for you and your family? Do you want a glimpse into the days ahead? The Proverb is true.

Count on it. Expect it. A righteous man will realize only good as the end result of all his desires, for both God and men will favor and reward him. But the wicked man, no matter what he wishes for, will receive wrath.

In this Proverb, the desire of the righteous should be compared to the expectation of the wicked. The parallelism between the two clauses sheds light on both of them.

The wicked do not actively and consciously expect wrath; they rather expect to realize their dreams and live the good life.

Therefore, the desire of the righteous and the expectation of the wicked is the effect, the end result, or the conclusion to their lives.

This use of words is called metonymy, a common figure of speech where a related word is substituted to add beauty and force, and in the case of Proverbs to create mystery.

Desire here is a metonym for the effect, future, or results of a righteous man's life.

Expectation here is a metonym for the effect, future, or results of a wicked man's life.

A righteous man desires good things for others and himself that the wicked cannot even know. But the lesson is not how men desire different things. The lesson is what righteous men receive contrasted to what wicked men receive.

A righteous man desires a blessed life, and he gets it! The wicked man desires a blessed life, and he gets judgment instead.

Solomon described the expectation of the wicked elsewhere. "*When a wicked man dieth, his expectation*

shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth" (Proverbs 11:7).

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

**The Future
Of The Righteous Will Be Blessed!
The Future
Of The Wicked Will Be Cursed!**

A righteous man delights himself in the LORD, and God gives him the desires of his heart (*Psalms 37:4*).

A righteous man walks uprightly by zealously doing the will of God at all times, and God does not withhold any good thing from him (*Psalms 84:11*).

A righteous man lives a godly life, desiring and trusting God to have mercy on Him and bless his efforts.

God and men favor the cause of such men, and they reap results that are only good in this life and the next.

A wicked man thinks he will live indefinitely, and he pursues his goals without regard for God, confident in himself and the world's promises.

A wicked man is shocked with the trouble he endures in life, and then he dies to find his expectations turned upside down.

A wicked man cannot take anything with him, and he finds God angry with him for eternity (*Revelation 20:11-15*).

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

No business school in America teaches this law of economics. Not Harvard. Not Stanford. Not the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. Giving away financial assets will increase net worth, while saving money will lead you to poverty.

If you want a wealth building secret, from the LORD and Solomon, here it is.

Throwing money to noble causes will bring prosperity, but holding it back will be destructive. Here is advice, not to invest money, but to give it away! That's right; give it away!

Our Proverb is not a sound bite for a desperate charity, but an axiom of wisdom.

The Holy Spirit tells us elsewhere to cast our bread upon the waters by giving it away, for it will come back

sometime in the future by God's blessings (*Ecclesiastes 11:1-6; 2Corinthians 9:8-11; Philippians 4:17-19*).

Solomon compares two men in this Proverb. The one man scatters his money by giving it to godly causes, and he increases in financial prosperity. The other man hoards and protects his assets by not giving when he should, and he keeps getting poorer and poorer.

Fools scorn God's wisdom. The nation's best MBAs laugh at such preposterous ideas. How can you give away funds and increase assets?

They are limited to simple addition and subtraction taught by early teachers. Remember, these ignorant MBAs also think the solar system is from a big bang of cosmic gases and their mothers came from monkeys!

**They Think 10-1=9
When 10-1=900!
Learn God's Math!**

Consider, Isaac from a family that gave away a tenth, had an annual return of 10,000% on his portfolio (*Genesis 26:12*)!

When did these little fools with thick economic textbooks ever get an annual return like that!

Abraham, Isaac's father, who gave away a tenth of everything to God's priest, was very rich (*Genesis 14:20*).

Abraham in spite of moving six hundred miles from home, without a strategic plan, to a strange land, where he didn't know anyone or anything (*Genesis 13:2, 6*)!

Jacob, Isaac's son, moved to a new country with only a stick, but in 20 years he was so rich he could only travel in two companies (*Genesis 32:10*).

What was his great secret for financial success? Give away 10% of all income (*Genesis 28:22*). Give God the glory!

Fools think they have to look out for number one, themselves, and only give to God a little of what is left. **If** nothing is left, then God gets nothing.

Wise men also look out for number one, God Himself. They give to God first, and live on whatever is left. Amen!

Fools reason, "I cannot afford to give. I have to protect my poor financial situation. I have bills coming up that I need to save for. When I get in a better situation I will give." Fool!

The God of heaven operates far above your ignorant and wicked ideas of financial safety. Fool! You are headed to poverty.

You Will Never Improve Violating This Proverb!

Just a little survey will show such men are always the poorest you know. You cannot afford not to give! Your situation will go from bad to worse, **If** you continue to selfishly rob your Creator and Lord (**Galatians 6:7**).

It is better to live on 90% of your income in the will of God than to be a miser and steal His 10% and live in rebellion!

You can afford to give. **If** your salary were cut 10%, you would go right on living with just a few changes.

And our wonderful government will split your giving with you by allowing you a deduction! It truly only costs you about 6%. You steal and lie, when you say you cannot afford to give! Humble yourself, and choose wisdom and increase!

And 10% is only for babes, for New Testament blessings surely deserve more than the beggarly 10% of the Law! Are not your spiritual and material blessings greater than Israel even dreamed? When we look closer, the Old Testament actually required 23 1/3% plus.

Fools also reason, "Other men give because they have more to give. Their giving did not bring financial success, but they give because they are financially successful."

Fool! You lie to yourself again, to protect your selfish and stingy soul. You reject the infallible Word of God to honor your greedy ignorance. You will never be a success.

Israel once thought it was financially wise to build their own houses first, but God blew against their efforts and put holes, in the bags, where they kept their wages (**Haggai 1:1-11**).

God guaranteed them great success, **If** they would put His cause first (**Haggai 2:13-19**).

Do you have holes in your bags? You cannot mock God; He will allow poverty to overtake you. Does God really bless giving? Indeed, He does (**Proverbs 3:9-10**). See the comments on **Proverbs 3:10**.

How can the Lord increase a man who gives his money away? He can raise his income, lower his expenses, change tax laws, arrange gifts, grant favors, defer liabilities, extend the life of assets, preserve health and strength, open doors of opportunity, multiply efforts, provide bargains, give wisdom, attract customers, and many other things. God will not be mocked!

How far does this rule go? God dares you to out give Him! He told Israel He would open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing they could not receive,

If they would simply bring their tithes and offerings to Him (**Malachi 3:7-12**).

Always Give God The Glory!

God can give a good measure, press it down, shake it together, and run it over the top (**Luke 6:38**)! He dares you. God dares you to out give Him.

There are two conditions for God's rich blessings on giving:

1. You must give generously, and
2. You must give cheerfully (**Proverbs 11:25**; **2Corinthians 9:6-7**).

If you are stingy, God will be stingy to you.

If you are generous and liberal, God will be the same in His dealings with you.

If you are not cheerful and excited about giving you err. **If** you think it is all a waste: remember God loves cheerful givers.

Giving Is An Act Of Worship And You Must Do It With Joy (Deuteronomy 28:47).

If you are a child of God living in America, you have the greatest combination of blessings ever known by any people in the world. How can you not be the most liberal giver of all time? You are in great debt to your Creator and Savior far more than others.

R.G. LeTourneau (1888-1969), a Christian man with little education, was one of our nation's greatest inventors with 300 patents in earthmoving and other heavy equipment. He and his plants produced 70% of the heavy earthmoving machines used by the Allies during World War II. His rule for success?

LeTourneau gave 90% of all income back to the Lord. His favorite verse? **Matthew 6:33** *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*

LeTourneau's philosophy and experience about giving? "I shovel out the money, and God shovels it back to me; but God has a bigger shovel."

If you meet a poor person in true need and give to him, the Lord of heaven will repay you (**Proverbs 19:17**; **Deuteronomy 15:10-11**; **Psalms 41:1-2**).

Consider this: **Ephesians 6:8** *Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether he be bond or free.*

If you keep your money and assets to protect your financial situation, the Lord will set in motion many curses (**Proverbs 28:27**).

Giving to the man of God, who teaches you the Word of God, is not just a religious tradition or convenient suggestion; it is the ordinance of God (**1Corinthians 9:1-14; Galatians 6:6; 1Timothy 5:17**).

If you have grandparents, parents, uncles, or aunts in need, you are worse than an infidel and have denied the faith of Christ, If you do not support them financially (**1Timothy 5:4, 8**).

If you are a grandparent or parent with children, you should be giving them an inheritance (**Proverbs 13:22; 2Corinthians 12:14**).

Are you holding back for yourself, like the Pharisees in Jesus' day (**Mark 7:9-13**)?

Have you wished you could walk on water with Peter? Here is your opportunity. Peter had to step over the gunwale of his boat and down on the water by faith, and you get to scatter your money by faith. Go for it; and don't look at the waves!

The promise of this Proverb and the other verses we have considered are as the Lord saying to you, as to Peter, "Come."

Do you believe the Bible? Do you tell others you believe the Bible? Then believe it! Give away part of what you have. Do it. Show God and men your faith. Test the Proverb. See if you increase. Let God be true, but every man a liar. The Proverb is true.

Benefits Of This Golden Parachute Keep Coming.

Generous and cheerful giving provides a good foundation for your soul in the Day of Judgment (**1Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 10:42; 25:40; Luke 4:14; Hebrews 6:10**).

What more do you need to learn to be a giver? Giving reflects the grace of God in our hearts and draws us closer to Him. But no matter how far we progress in the grace of giving, Jesus Christ remains the unmatched Giver.

It was He who left the wealth of heaven to make the supreme sacrifice to deliver us from eternal poverty and grant us eternal riches (**John 3:16; Romans 6:23; 2Corinthians 9:15**).

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

Generosity pays! Here is a secret of wisdom, If you believe God and the Bible is true.

If you do not believe, the Bible is true, then the Proverb is not for you. Generosity pays! If you are liberal in your giving to the Lord and to the poor, He will pay you back. And God can out give you more easily than you can say $10 - 2 = 13$.

This Proverb is tightly connected to the one before it, which reads, "*There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty*" (**Proverbs 11:24**).

Giving away your money, to the right causes in the name of the Lord, will bring increase! Restraining your giving in these circumstances will bring you greater deficits!

God has been most generous to mankind, and He rewards men that show a similar generosity to others (**Proverbs 19:7; 22:9; 28:27**).

You can get ahead financially by learning to give generously, for the Lord will bless you generously. This is the message of the Proverb.

Of course, such wisdom is far beyond any business school or economics class in the world, for they reject the existence of God and His supernatural effect on finances.

God has blessed you. Therefore, you are to give liberally to the poor or employees, even if they are leaving you (**Deuteronomy 15:13-14**)!

The Lord will observe your giving and treat you accordingly. Paul wrote, "*But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully*" (**2Corinthians 9:6**).

If you are generous, God is able to pour you out an abundant return (**Ecclesiastes 11:1-6; Isaiah 32:8; Malachi 3:10; Luke 6:38**).

A measure of a righteous man, a man going to heaven, is his generous spirit in giving to others (**Isaiah 58:6-12; 1John 3:16-19**).

Job was such a man. He took gentle and kind care of his servants. And God blessed him greatly! (**Job 29:11-17; 31:13-22**).

If you take care of those needing financial help, the Lord will take care of you (**Psalms 41:1-3**).

Wise men will lay hold of eternal life by purposing to give (**Matthew 25:31-46; 1Timothy 6:17-19**).

God does not miss or forget your giving (**Hebrews 6:10**).

God rewards it. The Corinthians were liberal givers, and Paul promised God's blessing on them for it (**2Corinthians 9:8-11**).

And there was the further effect, of those receiving the charity being exceedingly thankful to God for the Corinthians (*2Corinthians 9:12-14*), which is not a bad reward either!

Giving must be done cheerfully, for grudging charity does not count (*2Corinthians 9:7*).

If you know anything, of God's great payment, for your redemption, giving cheerfully to others should not be a problem (*2Corinthians 8:9*).

**What Liberal Giving
Will You Devise Today
(Isaiah 32:8)?**

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

Cursing or blessing? What a huge difference! All from the selling of corn! Let us learn God's wisdom: holding back corn from the market to unjustly raise prices is wrong.

In the American capitalistic system, it is common, even for Christians, to believe all "arm's length transactions" are morally right and good.

For example, If you have a business advantage in a product or area, you charge any price you wish; If anyone doesn't like your price, they can forego the item or buy it somewhere else. Is this thinking right?

Isn't it just good business, to charge as much as you can and make, as much as you can? After all, we are American capitalists simply using our free market economy to earn profits, right? But is this right? Is this good? Does God approve this thinking?

In the early 80's, a Texas billionaire almost cornered the silver market. By buying futures contracts on the world's silver supplies, he drove silver from less than \$5 an ounce to more than \$50.

If the commodity exchanges had not changed rules to stop him, he would have achieved his goal. He could have slowly sold his contracts with enormous profits. He could have made upwards of 150 times (15,000 %) the amount of his investment.

Is this right? Is this good? Does God approve this thinking? Wasn't it just a great deal?

**No, God Rejects Making Gains
At The Expense Of Others!**

It is wrong to corner a market in a commodity for profit. A farmer with an advantage in corn must sell it

for reasonable and moderate prices. To hold it for higher prices, when the poor depend on it, is wrong.

The greedy silver speculator in Dallas forgot the small jewelry maker in Des Moines, who had to pay 10 times as much for his raw silver. But the Lord didn't forget him.

Gain at the expense of others is wrong (*Proverbs 1:19*); especially the poor (*Proverbs 14:21, 31*), who depend on cheap commodities; and they that do shall lose their riches to merciful men (*Proverbs 28:8*).

Oppressors may hoard silver as dust, but the just will end up owning it (*Job 27:16-17*).

You will never lose being generous, merciful, and kind (*Proverbs 11:24-25*).

Those who give to the poor are lending to the Lord, and He always repays well (*Proverbs 19:17*).

What about our Lord Jesus, what did He do? He had a legitimate corner on riches and glory, but He gave it up for you and me, so we might receive the gift of eternal life (*Philippians 2:5-8; 2Corinthians 8:9*).

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

**What Are Your Goals?
What Is Your Reputation?
How Does Your Life Affect Others?**

If the answer to all three questions is doing good and helping others, you will obtain the blessing and favor of God and men (*Luke 2:52*).

If the answer, is to serve yourself, that may cause trouble for others, then certain troubles are coming (*Psalms 7:15-16; 9:15-16*).

This Proverb offers blessing or trouble. Which will you choose? The key is how you treat others.

If you are good to men, you will be blessed. David and Peter wrote, "*For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil!*" (*Psalms 34:12-16; 1Peter 3:10-12*).

If you are selfish or hurtful to others, If you are critical or negative, If you are bitter or envious, or If you sow discord or irritate others. Then you are in for a troubled life. It is that simple.

As the saying declares, "What goes around comes around." David wrote, "*The wicked in his pride doth persecute the poor: let them be taken in the devices that they have imagined*" (**Psalm 10:2**).

At some point in life, you will be exposed and punished (**Proverbs 11:29; 26:17-28**)!

Do not comfort yourself that you do not wrong others. Do not comfort yourself that you say to yourself and let others live their own lives! You will never be blessed with this attitude!

The favor of God is on those who "*diligently seeketh good*"! A wonderful life with happy days is only for those aggressively helping and serving others!

Don't pat yourself on the back being a loner and not bothering people! Your life is a waste, **If** you are not a servant! What is a real servant? (**2Timothy 2:24-26**)

This wisdom is not for intellectual exercise! It is for blessing and favor in life! Loving your neighbor is the second commandment; but the LORD offers a reward with it!

You will obtain loving favor from Him and others, which is of great value (**Proverbs 22:1**).

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith" (**Galatians 6:10**).

And you should also, do good to your enemies (**Matthew 5:43-48**)!

You are alive: to do good (**Ecclesiastes 3:12**), to serve (**Mark 9:35; 10:44; Galatians 5:13**).

Paul warned not to forget to do good (**Hebrews 13:16**), for your good service to others will be remembered in the last day (**1Timothy 6:17-19; Matthew 25:40**).

Consider these blessings (**Psalm 37:1-5, 23-28**)!

What good could you do right now for someone? Then do it! Now! Why wait? You are being selfish! Knowing you could and should do good, and not doing it, is sin (**James 4:17**)!

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

Money is not a good source of security or prosperity. The man who puts his confidence in money will fall and be destroyed, but the man who emphasizes a righteous life will be protected and prospered.

Though money can help in some situations, **If** God blesses it; personal righteousness will help in all situations, for it guarantees God's blessings!

If a poor man wrote these Words, you would suspect he criticized wealth out of envy at the luxurious lifestyles of the rich. You could justifiably discount his words, because you would know he had no experience with the first clause. However, The Holy Spirit of God through King Solomon, the richest king of Israel, wrote these Words. And the Lord God inspired the wisdom!

Solomon taught wisdom as priorities for life. He said, "*Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right*" (**Proverbs 16:8**). His father David had taught, "*A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked*" (**Psalm 37:16**).

The world, the devil, and your flesh deny these Words, seeking to sell greed and covetousness. Is the testimony of God, David, and Solomon enough for you to believe this Proverb?

What will you do, when the doctor says, "You are full of cancer; there is nothing we can do"? Will you spend your savings to cure an incurable disease? Will you buy morphine to ease the pain before you get to die? Will you buy Catholic candles? Or will you trust the God of heaven, Who delivers the righteous even on their sickbed (**Psalm 41:1-3**)?

Consider two rich men. One fared sumptuously every day; but he went to hell when he died, while the beggar at his gate went to heaven (**Luke 16:19-25**).

The other boasted to himself about plans to build bigger barns to store his increase, but the Lord called him a fool. That night, God asked him who would get his estate the next day (**Luke 12:15-21**)!

Riches are not a sin, but trusting in them is (**Psalm 62:10**)! It is the ambition for wealth that is fatal (**1Timothy 6:6-11**). It is humanly impossible for such men to be converted. But not divinely so (**Mark 10:21-27**).

The rich foolishly trust in their riches without regard for death (**Psalm 49:6-14**). Only God's grace can save a fool whose pursuit of money denies God like an idolater (**Job 31:24-28**)!

A wise man prays for God to save him from both poverty and riches (**Proverbs 30:7-9**).

Riches are a pain to get and to keep, and you cannot take them with you (**Ecclesiastes 5:10-12; 1Timothy 6:7-8**).

**Godly Men Put God First
Family Second Business Third
(Matthew 6:24, 33).**

The godly know that the true measure of success is godliness with contentment (*1 Timothy 6:6*).

When wealth increases, they spend it for God's glory and His people (*Acts 4:34-37; 1 Timothy 6:17-19*).

The righteous man is like a branch, tightly connected to his Savior (*John 15:5*).

The righteous man trusts God for all things, and he bears fruit without ceasing (*Psalms 1:1-6; Jeremiah 17:7-8*).

What A Difference Between A Leaf And A Branch!

A leaf lasts only a season, and then it is gone! A branch, though it may look bare during the winters of life, will endure, bud and blossom again, reaching even higher than before, until it is transplanted into the very presence of God.

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

Two Ways You Can Cause Trouble And Cost Yourself A Lot!

You can abuse privileges, or neglect duties, in your family, and you will end up with nothing. Your future will disappear like wind through fingers.

These and other foolish choices will also destroy you, and you will end up serving those who are prudent and wise in their choices.

Fathers can trouble their houses in many ways. Being greedy of gain is clearly trouble (*Proverbs 15:27*).

Fathers can also, work too many hours, waste money in foolish ventures, deprive their family of personal attention, stingy with money, compromise integrity, and are carnally minded, all in their vain pursuit of wealth.

Lazy and foolish fathers also hurt their families by depriving them of needs and opportunities through sloth and ignorance.

Fathers can also be too overbearing, harsh, critical, and domineering, which may discourage wives and children, or provoke them to wrath (*Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21*).

On the other hand, a father who avoids decisions or being a leader troubles his house. The wife and children are at sea without a captain. They lack security and direction for their lives.

While fathers are mentioned here, everyone knows overbearing wives and mothers are a horrible evil as well (*Proverbs 12:4; 19:13; 21:9,19; 25:24; 27:15-16; 30:21-23*).

The mothers can drive children to anger, bitterness, discouragement, frustration, and even hatred; though they whitewash their odious conduct by saying, "I was just trying to help."

Mothers like this, are full-time meddlers, always digging, nagging, and pressing suggestions about the unimportant matters of life.

What is the punishment for these selfish persons: foolish fathers and mothers?

THEY LOSE THEIR FAMILIES!

The children can hardly wait for marriage to get away. Some will run away before marriage. These children only come home under duress.

These children want so much to escape the vexation of living with selfish or critical parents.

These children want peace and quiet, with affection and happiness, where love reigns.

These children want to escape their cruel parents. Foolish parents also lose the perceived contest of life.

The cream however, always rises to the top: these are prudent and wise men. But foolish and impulsive men fall.

These losers end up serving the wise in heart. They envy a wise man's success. They may even end up begging for their charity. They borrow from them. They likely work for them.

Troubling Your Family Has Consequences.

Foolish parents, who selfishly neglect their children or detestably interfere in their lives, will lose them. They will end up dying lonely, even if the children visit them out of obligation.

Foolish choices will cost a man his standing. The prudent man will take dominion over him. These judgments are natural and appropriate.

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

**The Great Goal Is To Be A Tree Of Life:
To Win Souls From Sin And Folly
To Righteousness And Wisdom!**

There is no higher calling or greater purpose, in your relationships with others, than to serve them by providing correction and instruction to please and glorify God, and enjoy the abundant life of godliness and wisdom.

The highest measure of love and value to other men is perfecting them before the Lord.

A tree of life, bears the fruit of wisdom and righteousness!

A tree of life helps men find the good and peaceful life that is pleasing to God.

A person that is a tree of life has a life-changing effect on the lives they touch.

They do this by example and counsel. A tree of life person, feeds and improves the lives of those struggling in ignorance and folly.

A tree of life person knows, this is accomplished by taking advantage of the divine appointments, that God provides, and by telling appointee, about salvation and/or the wisest use of their life.

This Proverb teaches the Lord can save a soul from the punishment of sin to everlasting life and righteousness: for only our Lord Jesus can do that.

The imputed righteousness, that only the Lord gives, makes us acceptable before God the Father, only comes about by, the grace of God.

The Lord expects His children to tell a lost and dying world about this great grace (*1John 5:13; Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23; Romans 5:8; Romans 10:9-13; Ephesians 2:8-9*).

This Proverb teaches you can save a soul from folly and error, which costs men their fellowship with God and leads them to trouble and destruction in this life and the next life.

Wisdom leads to the good life (*Proverbs 3:18; 4:13; 8:35*).

Righteous men help others find it. Folly causes men pain and death, and wise men will help others out of it (*Proverbs 8:36; 11:19; 13:14*).

Parents can save their children from death and hell, pain and trouble in life, by using the rod wisely (*Proverbs 22:15; 23:13-14*).

Though Solomon used the Words death and hell, he does not mean you can save your child from the lake of fire by beating him. But you can save him from hell on earth, a dysfunctional and destructive lifestyle, by use of the rod.

Solomon, as a loving father, spent many Proverbs seeking to save his son from the death and hell of the strange woman, a whore and adulteress (*Proverbs 2:18-19; 5:5; 7:27; 9:18*).

Many have felt the horrible pain caused by fornication and adultery, and it is truly death and hell in many respects. Good fathers will save the souls of their sons from this grave danger.

James described another aspect of this truth, by what we call soul winning, when he wrote, "*Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins*" (*James 5:19-20*).

This kind of soul winning is of brother, brought back from error to the truth.

Read what the Lord told Peter: "*But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not: and when thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren.*" (*Luke 22:32*).

Only God can regenerate a man from death to life.

Only God can bring us back from carnal living to righteous living.

And we may need conversion many times during our lives, but God's regeneration, form death to life, we only need once.

The question is, are you a tree of life? Do others thank you for helping them in their life before God? Do you win souls? Are you known, for wisdom, hanging from your branches? Are you a source of wise counsel from the storms of life to those in need? Do you help those around you acquire wisdom and its benefits? You must ask and answer these questions.

Those who turn others to righteousness are highly exalted in God's view.

Daniel praised the coming ministers of the New Testament, "*And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever*" (*Daniel 12:3*).

Is this a chief goal for your life? How well are you meeting it?

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

**Your Eternal Reward Or Punishment
Heaven Or Hell
Will Far Exceed Earthly Reward Or Punishment.**

There are definite payments made to the righteous and the wicked in this life.

The righteous should not despair that there is no reward for them now, and the wicked should not presume to think they can live today with impunity (*1Peter 4:17-18*).

The Holy Spirit wants your attention, "*Behold!*" You should soberly consider God's dealings with men. God does repay men on earth for their actions.

You are not hid from His eyes; you are not lost in the crowd. The righteous will be blessed; the wicked will be punished.

Both the righteous and wicked suffer adversity on earth. However, the Bible reveals very great differences, which natural men cannot learn.

God treats the righteous and the wicked very differently. Spiritual men know this: they understand God's present and future dealings with man.

God sends adversity in love to chasten and perfect the righteous (*Proverbs 3:11-12; Ps 11:5; Amos 3:2; 1Corinthians 11:32; Hebrews 12:5-17*).

God's thoughts are only good toward the righteous; He hears their prayers and gives them their hearts' desires (*Psalms 34:10-16; 37:4; 84:11*).

God blesses the righteous with riches, or that which is better than riches, or both (*Proverbs 15:16-17; 21:21; 22:4; 1Timothy 6:6*).

God sends prosperity to the wicked (*Proverbs 1:32; Psalms 17:14; 73:1-20*).

God sends adversity as a warning of greater judgment to come. He does not hear their prayers; and God ultimately laughs at their calamities (*Proverbs 15:8; 28:9; 1:20-31*).

Their foolish joys will condemn them in the Day of Judgment (*Acts 14:15-17; Romans 1:18-32*).

The Proverb and its interpretation are true (*Proverbs 11:20; Psalm 58:10-11*).

Will you believe it and live accordingly? Take comfort Saint! Sinner, beware!

Read this and believe this: "*The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD'S throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth. Upon the wicked he shall rain snares, fire and brimstone, and an horrible tempest: this shall be the portion of their cup. For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; his countenance doth behold the upright*" (*Psalm 11:4-7*).

Life is hard, but the righteous are loved now and later; the wicked are despised now and later.

Though God presently loves and blesses the righteous, eternity is still the best view of life (*Psalms 49:1-20; 73:1-28; 1Corinthians 15:19; 2Corinthians 4:17-18; Philippians 3:18-21; Colossians 3:1-4*). Amen.