

CHAPTER 13

Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

Reader, measure your wisdom. Answer one question honestly. Do you like to be corrected by someone you know has faults himself? Proverbs emphasizes this mark of great men often (***Proverbs 1:5; 8:17; 9:7-9; 12:1; 13:18; 15:5, 12, 31-32; 23:9; Psalm 32:8-9***).

Some readers live with fathers and see their weaknesses, sins, and ignorance. Sons, filled with the sinful folly of youth, don't like being told what to do by anyone, let alone this man they know also has faults. So they face constant, difficult choices, to submit or rebel.

But God has spoken on this issue: obey and honor your father. What is God's cure for scornful sons? Capital punishment! Simple, appropriate, perfect! Seriously, you need to tremble before God and your father (***Proverbs 20:20; 30:17; Exodus 21:15, 17; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 21:18-21; 27:16***)!

Young man, God chose one man out of billions to be your father. He didn't ask either of you about the matter. The relationship was by God's choice alone, and He gave one the office of father and 20-40 years of wisdom and experience before you wore your first diaper.

Authority on this earth is imperfect. No husband, father, master, or king is perfect. They make mistakes, and many of them as well. But it doesn't matter, for the office is to be feared, obeyed, revered, and trusted. This is the ordinance of God. And anyone debating it, is acting out as a wild animal needing to be put down (***2Peter 2:10-12; Jude 1:8-10; Romans 13:1-7***).

Why else should you listen to your father? Consider that fathers are handpicked by God, have experience you do not have, are emotionally stable, are not on a testosterone high, love you protectively, value your future, have much more knowledge, have a charge from God, know about loss and pain from foolishness, and live with your mother!

If you reject your father's instruction, you are a "scorner" one of the worst names in the Bible (***Proverbs 15:12; 24:9***).

You are worse than a fool (***Proverbs 12:1***).

You are an arrogant loser (***Proverbs 26:12***).

You think yourself wise, but you lack human sensibility (***Proverbs 26:16; 21:24***).

You are the cause of much of the world's problems (***Proverbs 22:10; 29:8***).

Of all things, young men must flee, and very importantly so, are any traits of a scorner. God will not be mocked, and all scorners will be punished (***Proverbs 15:10; 29:1; 19:25; 21:11; Isaiah 29:20-21***).

So it is a highly beneficial rule of the godly man's life to avoid even the seat of the scornful (***Psalms 1:1***).

All scorners should be marked, avoided, and despised as profane and dangerous as any criminal.

Eli warned and rebuked his profane sons, Hophni and Phineas; but they did not hear their father's instruction, so the LORD purposed to destroy them (***1Samuel 2:25***).

If you presume to reject the admonishment of those the LORD sends, such as pastors or fathers, how far can you be from similar, certain judgment (***2Chronicles 36:16***).

Because rejecting those that God sends, is the same as rejecting Him (***1Samuel 8:7; Exodus 16:8; Luke 10:16***)!

This rule of wisdom applies here, as well to all other subjects of authority and instruction. Young woman, do you hear your father and mother's instruction? Employees, do you hear your employer's instruction? You daily face this choice, will you hear and reverence instruction or scornfully reject it?

We all arrive in this world ignorant and foolish, and God in wisdom provides parents, husbands, employers, pastors, and magistrates to teach and guide us through life. Without them, the world would be total chaos and anarchy. How do you receive their instruction? As a wise man, or a fool? Or even worse, as a scorner?

How hard is it for you to receive the instruction, correction, warning, and rebuke of the man of God? You know he is a sinner as yourself, and you may see the weakness of his flesh. Yet he stands and speaks as an ambassador of the LORD Himself, and disdain for him or his instruction will bring judgment (***1Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17***).

Our Lord was taught by His Father, and He rejoiced to do His every instruction (***Isaiah 50:4-5; John 8:29***).

Our Lord learned obedience and became perfect through suffering (***Hebrews 5:7-9***). Let Him be our example!

Deliver us, O Lord, from resisting Thee, Thy Word, and those that Thou dost send. Cross-references: ***Proverbs 14:6 Proverbs 15:31***

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

Speech Can Bring You Good Speech Can Bring You Trouble

God and good men love those who speak well, but they despise those who speak wickedly.

Your mouth is not your own, no matter what your deceitful heart says (*Psalm 12:4; Jeremiah 17:9*). ***Proverbs 18:21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.***

This Proverb has many figures of speech. Eating good is to have God's blessings and the praise of men. It is earned by the fruit (outcomes; results) of your mouth, which is gracious and wise speech.

In the opposite contrast are verbal transgressors, who speak harshly and foolishly. They will eat violence, for both God and men will punish them. What is the lesson? An easy way to grow in favor with God and men is to improve your speech (*Proverbs 3:4; 1Samuel 2:26; Luke 2:52*).

Your speech will bring either good or trouble to your soul and your life (*Proverbs 12:14; 13:3; 18:20*).

Good words earn the blessings and favor of God and good men (*Proverbs 15:23; 22:11; 24:26*).

Good words prove a good heart (*Matthew 12:34-37; James 3:8-12*).

Evil speech incurs the wrath and judgment of God and men (*Proverbs 18:6; 22:10; Psalms 52:1-5; 140:11*).

Evil speech proves a contrary and wicked heart (*Matthew 12:34-37; James 3:8-12*).

Kinds Of Speech:

First, a godly man never spreads damaging reports about others, slanders them, or backbites. Love and mercy are in his mouth (*Proverbs 17:9; 31:26; Ecclesiastes 10:12*).

But a wicked man transgresses against others by backbiting, slander, talebearing, and whispering, all of which are hated by God and man (*Proverbs 6:16-19; 10:18; 16:28; 25:23*).

Secondly, a noble man always respects authority, giving honor where honor is due; and a godly woman always reverences her husband, even to the point of calling him lord (*Romans 13:7; Ephesians 5:33; 1Peter 2:17; 3:6*).

But an evil man boldly criticizes rulers and rails on them, like a brute and ignorant beast, whom the Lord

says should be destroyed (*Jude 1:8-10; 2Peter 2:10-12*).

Thirdly, a virtuous man is grave and sober, realizing life is important; he only speaks to edify others, and he avoids any idle words (*Proverbs 17:27; 29:11; Matthew 12:36-37*).

But a wicked man chatters, talks foolishly and filthily, and jests; God ranks this kind of speech with fornication. (*Proverbs 10:10; 26:18-19; Ephesians 5:3-6*).

Fourthly, a godly man is a peacemaker: he uses words to comfort and soothe; he uses soft answers to turn away wrath; he never scorns (*Proverbs 15:1; 25:15; 31:26*).

But an evil man uses harsh and proud words that provoke anger; he reviles men with names; he sarcastically cuts with words; and such women are like nagging wives (*Proverbs 12:18; 21:19; 26:21; 27:15; Matthew 5:21-22*).

Fifthly, a righteous man loves the truth and always speaks the truth, no matter what the cost might be; he is a faithful witness in all matters; he does not exaggerate (*Proverbs 12:17; 13:5; 14:5, 25*).

A wicked man has deceit in his heart and tongue; he is not afraid to falsely accuse or lie; and he will likely spend eternity in hell (*Proverbs 6:16-19; 12:19; 19:5, 9; Revelation 21:8*).

Sixthly, a virtuous man is thankful for everything. Giving glory to God for all things; he knows he is not worthy of any blessings, so he rejoices in even small kindnesses (*Ephesians 5:20; Colossians 3:17; 1Thessalonians 5:18*).

An evil man complains, murmurs, and whines; he only sees the negative; and he loves to criticize (*Numbers 11:1-35; Deuteronomy 28:47-48; Jude 1:15-16*).

Seventhly, a godly man is humble, meek, and modest; he never praises himself, not even indirectly; he only boasts of the Lord, and he puts others first (*Proverbs 25:27; 27:2; Psalm 34:1-3; Philipians 2:3-4*).

A wicked man loves to talk about himself and commend himself; he will boast, and he will arrogantly put others down; he is proud in speech (*Proverbs 8:13; 14:3; 1Samuel 2:3; Psalm 10:3*).

Reader, bless yourself with goodness! Choose the good life! Stop evil talking: it is that simple (*Psalms 34:12-13*)!

Read it! Believe it! *"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" (1Peter 3:10).*

Fill your mouth with praise and thanksgiving (*Psalms 34:1*).

Speak often to others about the Lord: He will write you in His special book (*Malachi 3:16*).

Let your speech be always gracious and always edifying, building others up (*Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6*).

You will have a good life and save yourself from much trouble!

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

Do you need another Proverb about speech? Yes! Why? Because your tongue is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison, a world of iniquity, set on fire of hell!

Unless you want to claim perfection, you have a problem with your speech. The tongue can no man tame! Solomon repeatedly warned his son, and us, about the danger of our mouths and lips.

So reader, am I too harsh? Try James (*James 3:2-12*)!

Let him help you. But remember, his Words were inspired by the living and true God, Who knows every word in our tongue before it is even spoken (*Psalms 139:4*)!

God wrote about you! And He wants you to know that your tongue is not your own (*Psalms 12:4*).

Mouth and lips here are metonyms denotes one thing refers to another for speech. We use our mouth and lips to talk, so by metonymy the means of speaking are put for speech itself.

The man who keeps his mouth controls his speech; the man who opens wide his lips does not rule his speech. The one guarding his words saves himself; the one talking freely destroys himself.

Solomon knew the grave danger of unguarded speech, so he warned about it often (*Proverbs 10:31; 12:13,18; 16:23; 17:20; 18:7, 21; 20:15; 21:23*).

Your words can get you in serious trouble, so be very careful every time you open your mouth.

You can save your life by taking heed to each word you speak and making sure it has heaven's clear approval.

You can destroy yourself by speaking impulsively without careful and godly prudence.

Soberly learn the lesson, and to fear the danger in your mouth, consider these few sins of the tongue:

- Answering again (*Titus 2:9*),
- Arrogance (*1 Samuel 2:3*),
- Backbiting (*Proverbs 25:23*),
- Boasting (*Psalms 94:4*),
- Bitter remarks (*Ephesians 4:29-32*),
- Complaining (*Numbers 11:1*),
- Contention (*Proverbs 18:6*),
- Debate (*Romans 1:29*),
- Despising others (*Proverbs 11:12*),
- Disrespect parents (*Proverbs 20:20; Deuteronomy 27:16*),
- Extortion (*Proverbs 20:14*),
- False accusations (*Exodus 20:16; Titus 2:3*),
- Flattery (*Psalms 12:3*),
- Flattering titles (*Job 32:21-22*),
- Flirting (*Proverbs 2:16*),
- Foolish talking (*Ephesians 5:4*),
- Harsh fathering (*Colossians 3:21*),
- Hasty or broken vows (*Ecclesiastes 5:1-7*),
- Hypocritical worship (*Isaiah 29:13*),
- Irreverence by a wife (*Ephesians 5:33; 1 Peter 3:6*),
- Jestings (*Ephesians 5:4*),
- Taking the Lord's name in vain (*Exodus 20:7*),
- Lying (*Proverbs 12:22*),
- Nagging by a wife (*Proverbs 27:15-16*),
- Name calling (*Matthew 5:22*),
- Ostentatious praying (*Matthew 6:5*),
- Questioning God (*Romans 9:20*),
- Repetitive and rote prayers (*Matthew 6:7*),
- Risqué speech (*Colossians 3:8*),
- Slander (*Proverbs 10:18*),
- Speaking against a pastor (*Ezekiel 33:30; 3 John 1:9-10*),
- Speaking evil of dignitaries (*Ecclesiastes 10:20; Jude 1:8*),
- Speaking evil of a brother (*James 4:11*),
- Speaking without study (*Proverbs 15:28*),
- Suretyship (*Proverbs 11:15*),
- Swearing (*James 5:12*),
- Talebearing (*Proverbs 11:13*),
- Unlearned questions (*2 Timothy 2:23*),
- Whispering (*Proverbs 16:28*), and
- Women speaking in church (*1 Corinthians 14:34-35; 1 Timothy 2:11-12*).

If all these sins are not enough to sober you, consider the Words of the Lord Jesus Christ, "O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for

out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things. But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned" (*Matthew 12:34-37*).

**No Matter How Religious A Man May Claim To Be
He Is To Be Measured By How Well
He Bridles His Tongue
(James 1:26)!**

Cut your words in half. Speak only if necessary. Speak only half as much as you ordinarily would. Speak only half of what you want to say. Cutting your words in half is to restrain your speech, due to the certainty of sin in many words (*Proverbs 10:19*).

**Never Ever Let Idle Word Escape Lips
Men Will Think You Wise Your Esteem Will Rise!
(Proverbs 17:27-28)!**

Slow down! Be swift to hear, but slow to speak (*James 1:19*)!

Think before you discharge the venom under your lips (*Romans 3:13*).

Hear a matter out before responding (*Proverbs 18:13*).

The heart of the righteous studies before answering (*Proverbs 15:28*).

Take conscious and specific thought every time you open your mouth (or write or type an email or letter).

Make graciousness your constant goal (*Ecclesiastes 10:12; Colossians 4:6*).

Let kindness govern every word (*Proverbs 16:24*).

Remember how David's pure heart and gracious words won Jonathan and Israel (*Proverbs 22:11; 1Samuel 18:1-5*).

A woman who speaks graciously will always be honored (*Proverbs 11:16; 31:26*).

Follow the blessed example of our Lord (*Luke 4:16-22*).

Lord, have mercy on me! *Isaiah 6:5* *Woe is me! For I am undone! I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips!*

Psalms 141:3 *Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips. Teach me to stand in awe of Thee and sin not with my mouth. Amen.*

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

Hard Work Works!

Sluggards will not do it! They hate hard work and perseverance. It is are painful to him. He loves to sleep; he wants to take today off.

The diligent man, working hard each day, enjoys the prosperity and plenty, that the sluggard covets and loses.

Lazy people want stuff. They envy and resent the things of workers. They have a million excuses as to why others have more than they have (*Proverbs 20:4; 22:13; 26:16*).

Lazy people just won't put in the work to get it. Instead, they babble about discrimination, luck, favoritism, etc.! They covet more than most, but they cannot get their lazy backsides out of bed to get those things (*Proverbs 6:6-11*).

Sometimes, lazy people won't even unfold their arms to put food in their mouths (*Proverbs 19:24; 26:15*)!

Work frustrates lazy people, and they cannot figure out the simplest means of gain (*Ecclesiastes 10:15*).

When success falls in their laps, they cannot get it in the bank (*Proverbs 12:27*)!

Lazy people need a bigger house, but they turn down offered overtime. They want a nicer car, but it is more fun to play basketball than take that side job. They want a better marriage, but they are too tired to invest in their spouse.

Lazy people are sick of the rebellious children of this generation, but they don't have the energy to train their own tonight. They want to know the Bible better, but the thought of thirty minutes of study overwhelms their minds.

A sluggard is a lazy person. A sluggard goes to bed late, uses the snooze button, sleeps in late, dresses sloppily, is grouchy until noon, arrives late, complains about his job, moves slowly, slouches often with hands in pockets or arms folded, would rather talk than work, takes frequent breaks, complains about difficult tasks, stands around unless forced to action, never asks for the next assignment, looks for shortcuts, leaves early, makes fun of hard workers, and is always talking about his last or next vacation.

A diligent man is the opposite. He loves hard work and stays until the job is finished. He goes to bed early, jumps up early, smiles in the morning, is excited about

his job, dresses neatly, arrives early, walks briskly, stands erect, is never still, hates small talk, always asks for the next assignment, does every job properly, stays late, commends hard workers, asks for overtime, and considers vacations necessary evils!

Diligence Works

The diligent man rises out of the swamp of losers to the top of the class (*Proverbs 22:29*).

The diligent man becomes a leader (*Proverbs 12:24*).

The diligent man gets rich (*Proverbs 10:4*).

The diligent man has many possessions (*Proverbs 21:5*).

Both God and men will reward the man who works hard; and in this generation of lazy workers, the difference will be more visible and the distinguishing rewards greater.

How do we cure sluggards? Starve them! A man's desire to work rises as his belly button nears his backbone! Solomon knew this (*Proverbs 16:26*)!

Financial help is only right where acts of God make it necessary, so that sluggards are rightly punished (*Proverbs 20:4; 2Thessalonians 3:10*).

Welfare Creates Sluggards Welfare Doesn't Cure Them Welfare Rewards Rejecting Work!

How do we cure sluggards? Keep them away from "a better idea"! Sluggards would rather dream and talk about fairy tales than plowing the back forty, it keeps them from real work.

Farming, the dirtiest and most boring job ever, is exactly how to have plenty (*Proverbs 12:11; 14:23; 28:19*).

Every minute spent listening to "a super-fantastic business proposal" wastes precious time and keeps you from being productive. Go to the field and plow; you will be far ahead of the person dreaming and listening to business ideas.

Such a warning about slothfulness is not just Old Testament doctrine. The apostle Paul said, "*Not slothful in business*" (*Romans 12:11*).

The Holy Spirit taught that working hard with your own hands in a good job would provide everything you need (*1Thessalonians 4:11-12; Ephesians 4:28*).

And He taught like Solomon that starvation is the best cure for sluggards (*2Thessalonians 3:10*).

Hard work is its own reward! Are these the Words of a fool? Only fools think so! These Words are from the Holy Spirit to Solomon, "*Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest*" (*Ecclesiastes 9:10*). A bad thing about dying is you have to quit working!

Diligence applies to our whole lives. The diligent spouse, who works hard at keeping God's marital commandments, will have a prosperous marriage.

The diligent parent, who works hard at child training, will have happy and wise children.

The saint who diligently bears spiritual fruit will have total assurance of their eternal life (*2Peter 1:5-11*).

Ministers must work hard. It is a horrible shame when the ministry is referred to as one of the non-profit professions.

The ministers of Jesus Christ, like the apostle Paul, should outwork every other profession (*2Timothy 2:3-4; 1Timothy 4:13-16*).

Part of the blame for the present famine of the Word of God is due to lazy Preachers (*Amos 8:11-12; 2Timothy 2:15*).

You have a great opportunity today! Work harder than anyone else at your place of employment!

Are you a housewife? Work harder than any wife you know. You will obtain everything you need; you will be happy and content in the effort; and you will be a shining example of Christianity in this lazy and slothful generation.

Paul worked harder than any other apostle, and he knew it (*1Corinthians 15:10*).

Our Lord had little time for leisure (*Mark 6:31*).

The Lord will reward you for a diligent work ethic (and men will as well), and you will adorn the doctrine of God your Savior beautifully (*1Timothy 6:1; Titus 2:9-10*).

Proverbs 13:5 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

A good man hates lying; he loves truth, and it rules him. He despises exaggerations or misrepresentations.

Wicked men lie and slander with ease. They are despicable, disgusting, and repulsive. They reflect their god, who has lied from the beginning. And they will come to shame, for the LORD will expose and judge them.

We inherited our ability to lie from Adam, and we must put it off (*Colossians 3:9; Ephesians 4:25*).

In Israel, God commanded His people to not lie, and lying is still against sound doctrine (*Leviticus 19:11; 1Timothy 1:10*).

No liars are in heaven; they are all in the Lake of Fire (*Revelation 21:8, 27*).

God hates a lying tongue, and so did David (*Proverbs 6:16-17; Psalm 119:163*).

David zealously threw all liars and slanders out of his house (*Psalm 101:4-8*).

We should take as strong a stand against lying as he did, if we want to be like him. See the comments on *Proverbs 6:19*.

Parents should teach their children that lying, exaggerating, misrepresenting, slandering, or falsely accusing are horrible sins.

Any other sin can be covered by repentance and reformation, but lying is of a different nature.

Lying destroys trust in a person, and rightly so. Every event in a child's life involving lying should be dealt with soberly and strictly.

The wicked are despicable, repulsive, odious, hateful, and shocking, as the unusual word "*loathsome*" indicates.

When we loathe something, we abhor it (*Zechariah 11:8*).

God and the righteous loath, abhor, the wicked, lying and profane disregard for truth.

Lies are a symptom of carnal Christianity of the last days, when men would be false accusers, traitors, deceived, deceiving, and preferring fables to truth (*2Timothy 3:1 - 4:4*).

God's saints hate the lying hypocrisy of false religion (*1Timothy 4:1-3*).

God's saints count all men liars, and trust only the God of truth (*Romans 3:4; Acts 17:11; 1Thessalonians 5:21*).

God's saints hate the great whore and her daughters, who prostitute Christianity with lies (*Revelation 17:1-6*).

Wicked liars will be exposed. God will expose their false handshakes and vain words (*Psalm 144:8, 11*).

God manifest sinners for judgment and reveal His saints (*Malachi 3:17-18*).

Ananias and Sapphira dropped dead before the church for lying (*Acts 5:1-11*).

Jesus Christ is:

- The Truth (*John 14:6; Revelation 1:5*),
- The Word of Truth (*James 1:18*),
- The Faithful Witness (*Revelation 1:5*),
- The Faithful and True witness (*Revelation 3:14*),
- The called Faithful and True (*Revelation 19:11*).

If we are new creatures in Him, we will also hate lying and love Truth.

Proverbs 13:6 Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

Be sure your sin will find you out! Moses first preached this warning, but Solomon repeated it here in this Proverb (*Numbers 32:23*).

You cannot get away with sin. It will catch up to you and destroy you. Sinners are headed to destruction for sure.

Sinners cannot succeed. They will suffer. They think they are right, but they are heading toward death (*Proverbs 14:12; 16:25*).

Righteousness Will Keep The Godly Man From Being Destroyed By Sin's Follies!

Righteousness is: doing what is right and pleasing in God's sight (*Deuteronomy 6:25; Psalm 45:7*).

Righteousness has nothing to do with your habits, preferences, or traditions. God does not care what the ACLU, PETA, or the PTA thinks on any subject (*Isaiah 8:20; 1Timothy 4:7*).

A good man is upright in the way that God calls righteous, he journeys through life doing what God says is right; and the Lord honors his righteousness by keeping him from the troubles and destruction that comes on sinners.

Wickedness is: rejecting God righteous way and doing things your way. This foolish choice will hurt you three ways: a dysfunctional life now, God's judgment now, and potentially hell for eternity.

You must fear God and keep His commandments (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

Solomon warned that a sinful lifestyle brings destruction (*Proverbs 3:33; 11:3-6, 19; 12:7; 13:20; 14:11, 34*).

Lot made it to heaven. He was a just man (*2Peter 2:7-8*). But worldly compromise cost him dearly here on earth.

Lot's life was filled with misery and pain. He lost everything. His family's dysfunction was tragic and terrible. Friendship with Sodom ruined his family. His sin overthrew his life, while living a righteous life kept Abraham safe and prosperous!

Joseph and David were both tempted by adultery. Joseph chose a righteous way, so the Lord exalted him in Egypt. But David made wicked decision, so the Lord raised up enemies against him (*2Samuel 12:10-11*).

However, David married Bathsheba and had Solomon, but God chastened him for the rest of his life. You will surely reap what you sow (*Proverbs 15:9; Psalm 34:12-16*).

A rich man lived carelessly and extravagantly, playing with sin. A destitute beggar suffered at his gate, wishing for just a little of the rich man's food and comfort.

Sin eventually overthrew the rich man, and he woke up in hell, just nanoseconds after dying. But the angels of God carried the righteous beggar to heaven forever (*Luke 16:19-31*).

You will make choices today, when you finish reading these comments. Will you make choices righteousness or wickedness?

Reader, are you compromising anywhere in your life? Do you enjoy the world? Your future is dark without hope, if you choose wickedness.

Be sure your sin will find you out. Reader, your future is bright and glorious, **If** you choose righteousness.

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

Moses traded riches and pleasure for affliction and reproach (*Hebrews 11:24-26*).

Why? Moses respected God's way more than Egypt's treasures. Moses chose God's poor people over the wealth of Pharaoh's family. He knew this Proverb! Will you know it as well?

Consider Moses (*Acts 7:20-23*). He was very gifted from birth.

Moses learned all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he was mighty in words and deeds. He had all the opportunities of the royal household of the greatest nation. But at the prime age of forty, he made a great choice for his life. Moses chose the kingdom of God over the world!

Did he lose? No way! He spent 80 years walking with God, heard the ***I AM THAT I AM*** on the backside of the desert, physically saw the back parts of God. He talked with God face to face, and led His people out of Egypt and to Canaan. His riches here and in eternity far exceeded Pharaoh's waterlogged body in the Red Sea!

Reader, what costly choices have you made to follow Christ? None? Then maybe you are not really His disciple (*Luke 14:25-33*).

If you have not counted the price and paid it, you are not His disciple.

If you are not willing to count and pay a price, you do not know Him like you should.

Our Proverb describes two men. The noun "a man" and the pronoun "he" are to be understood twice in this verse. The figure of speech called ellipsis ^{omission or suppression of words} leaves out the words for beauty and force.

With the Words in place, the verse would read like this: *There is a man that maketh himself rich, yet he hath nothing: there is a man that maketh himself poor, yet he hath great riches.*

The first man chose to be rich, but had nothing. The second man chose to be poor, but had great wealth.

The lesson is the difference between worldly riches and heavenly riches. There are two kinds of riches under consideration.

The first man chose worldly riches, the second heavenly riches. The first man loses, and the second man wins.

Reader, what will you choose? See the comments on *Proverbs 10:15*.

What are heavenly riches? Jesus called them "*true riches*" (*Luke 16:11*). They are the Presence of God by His Spirit, the fruit of the Spirit in our souls and lives, and eternal life.

Do these things mean anything to you? Reader, are they the most important things to you? Satan does not want you to know about them, let alone experience them.

Consider: just a few of the comparisons in Proverbs, where the Holy Spirit through Solomon teaches his son that some things are better than other things. He shows his son the true riches!

Wisdom is better than money (*Proverbs 3:14; 8:11, 19; 16:16*).

A Little with the fear of the Lord is better than treasures with trouble (*Proverbs 15:16*).

A salad with love is better than prime rib with hatred (*Proverbs 15:17*).

A little with righteousness is better than much with wrong living (*Proverbs 16:8*).

Humility with the lowly is better than wealth with the proud (*Proverbs 16:19*).

A saltine with quietness is better than filet mignon with strife (*Proverbs Pr 17:1*).

Consider reader, some other comparisons: the exceeding and eternal weight of glory far exceeds short and light affliction here (*2Corinthians 4:17*).

The pleasures of this life can be easily seen, heard, and considered; but God has prepared things that are beyond our senses (*1Corinthians 2:9*).

David, with riches and pleasures as Israel's king, thought being a doorkeeper in the house of God greater than dwelling with the rich (*Psalms 84:10*). Was he crazy? Or very wise?

Paul, whose star was rising rapidly in Jerusalem, forsook it all to follow Jesus Christ (*Philippians 3:4-11*).

Though Paul suffered horribly for choosing Christ (*2Corinthians 11:22-28*).

Paul was confident of being crowned in heaven (*2Timothy 4:7-8*). He couldn't wait to be in heaven!

So reader, you must choose one! You cannot have both worldly life and heavenly riches. Jesus said, "No man can serve two masters" (*Matthew 6:24*).

You cannot be a friend of the world and a friend of God (*James 4:4*).

**If You Love The World
You Cannot Love God
(1John 2:15).**

No man has forsaken the things of this life and not received more of those things here, and he will receive everlasting life in heaven (*Mark 10:28-31*)!

Our Father has promised all the things others seek, **If** we put His kingdom and righteousness first (*Matthew 6:33*).

The Holy Spirit through Solomon describes the man who sets his sights on riches and gets them (*Ecclesiastes 5:10-17*).

- He is not satisfied; expenses rise as fast as income,
- He only gets to look at it, not enjoy it;
- He worries about it day and night;
- He tries to preserve it, but loses it anyway;
- He ends up with nothing to give as an inheritance;
- He goes to the grave as he arrived, naked;
- He has labored for the wind; and found the whirlwind;
- His whole life is darkness, sadness, and anger!

**Know What
The Holy Spirit Called It
Sickness!**

If you try to save your worldly life, you will lose it (*Matthew 16:24-25*)!

If you will lose your worldly life, you will gain it! The choice is simple! But the flesh is weak! The world is tempting! And Satan does not want you to choose true riches!

What have you forsaken to obtain the true riches? Do you forsake pleasure and leisure on Saturday night to prepare for Sunday's preaching?

Do you forsake the passive entertainment of television to keep your eyes from sin? Do you forsake friends who steal your soul away from righteousness? Do you forsake family members who oppose your faith?

So reader, would you quit a job with much opportunity in order to be a better Christian?

Our Lord Jesus left the riches of glory to become poor in this world. Why did He do it? Because He and His Father have infinite love for all humanity, and He saw the enormous reward waiting Him in heaven (*Psalms 16:8-11; Is 53:12; Luke 24:26; Philippians 2:9-11; Hebrews 12:2*).

**There Is A Day Coming Which All The Sacrifices
Of This Life Will Be Repaid Infinitely!**

Reader, this Proverb teaches right priorities, one of the main lessons of the whole book, which is the application of wisdom.

Some men place all their emphasis on financial and professional success, but have nothing in and for their soul. They have lean souls, and are filled with mental anxiety, and loveless marriages, and can take none of it with them. In fact reader, they destroy their own souls.

Other men will pass up promotion and worldly gain to be in peace, love, and righteousness in their dealings.

They choose relative poverty for the true riches of quietness, joy, and righteousness. Which man is richer?

Wise men avoid riches (*Proverbs 30:7-9*).

Wise men know true success is godliness rather than gain (*1Timothy 6:6*).

Wise men fear the desire of their heart with a lean soul (*Psalms 106:15*).

Wise men seek to avoid the foolish and hurtful lusts of riches (*1Timothy 6:7-10*).

Wise men know that Jesus Christ is the ultimate treasure (*Psalms 73:25-26; Isaiah 66:1-2; Matthew 6:19-21; 19:24; 1Timothy 6:17-19; 2Timothy 4:10; Revelation 3:17-18*).

Wise men know, that a rich man, can hardly enter the kingdom of heaven (*Luke 18:24*).

Reader, there are things more valuable and precious than financial riches, and a wise man will set them as his goal, even **If** it means forfeiting some the riches of vanity.

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

Here is one of the more difficult Proverbs of Solomon.

But you can find a wise lesson and warning, **If** you look carefully and diligently. So reader, do you desire wisdom enough to take the time to read this Proverb, and consider it soberly, and absorb the following comments?

The Love Of Money Is The Root Of All Evil

The Love Of Money Destroys Men's Lives

But The Poor Still Crave And Love Money!

Commentators see two options:

1. Either, a rich man can buy himself out of trouble, but the poor avoid dangers by having nothing to attract enemies.
2. The wealth of a rich man attracts theft and threats, while poverty protects the poor from such violence.

In the first option, both riches and poverty are good; in the second option, riches are bad, and poverty is good. These interpretations are obscure; there is a clearer and simpler lesson.

A ransom is the price paid for freedom from captivity, to remove a penalty, or restore a previous condition

(*Proverbs 6:35; Exodus 21:30; 30:12; Job 33:24; 36:18*).

Many men lose their souls by not giving up the pursuit of riches. Ambition and wealth become the ransom price of their lives.

The desire to be rich and successful is the price, or cost, of their lives. When lying on their deathbed, men who have chased riches all their lives have an empty life!

The seekers of riches, will not redeem their souls, by choosing a life of contentment over covetousness and greed. They sacrifice their lives for money, and then go to the grave with nothing (*Ecclesiastes 5:10-17*).

A rich man could enjoy life, naturally and spiritually, **If** he did not love money!

A rich man could be peaceful and quiet, but he chooses the obsession of acquiring yet more. This foolish and destructive fascination with riches is a common disease (*Ecclesiastes 6:1-6*).

Paul put it this way by inspiration of the Spirit, "*But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows*" (*2Timothy 6:6-10*).

The danger is clear, riches can destroy you. Reader, **If** a man loves money, he will sacrifice his soul to get it. Riches are the ransom cost of his life.

The lover of riches, could buy his freedom, but he will not pay the price. He remains a slave! Jesus loved a rich, young ruler, who would not give up his riches for Christ.

The lover of riches, would not ransom his life (*Matthew 19:16-22*).

Jesus knew how difficult it was for a camel going through the eye of a needle (*Matthew 19:23-26*).

Jesus also taught that men should be willing to give the whole world for their souls (*Matthew 16:26*).

What about the poor? How does the second clause of the Proverb relate to the first one? We know that it relates, or it would be a separate Proverb. But we also see the disjunctive "*but*" connecting it. Therefore, there is a related contrast in the second phrase.

The poor live without many of the rich man's fears, worries, and burdens. They even sleep better (*Ecclesiastes 5:12*).

The poor watch the rich in their vain and troublesome pursuit of wealth (*Psalms 39:6*).

The poor see the rich man die just like a brutish fool (*Psalms 49:6-13*).

The two clauses are related; the two clauses are disjunctive; rebuke is not the same as danger or trouble; and the poor refuse rebuke rather than never hearing any. And we find related or similar instruction in other Proverbs (*Proverbs 10:15, 22; 11:4, 28; 13:7; 14:20; 18:11; 19:1, 4, 7; 22:1, 2; 23:4-5; 28:3, 6, 11, 20, 22; 30:7-9*).

Reader, **If** you are rich, you are in great danger of missing the kingdom of God (*Matthew 19:23-26*).

It is your privileged duty to avoid trusting your riches and to be willing to help and even support others in order to lay hold on eternal life (*1Timothy 6:17-19*).

Reader, **If** you are poor, you should be content with your condition, realizing that godliness with contentment is great gain (*1Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:5*).

Remember and believe Solomon's many rebukes of the vanity of riches in Proverbs and Ecclesiastes (*Proverbs 10:22; 15:16; 16:8; 28:6; Psalms 37:16; Ecclesiastes 1:16 - 2:11*).

**If You Need More Wealth
Pray For It Wisely
A Moderate Increase
(*Proverbs 30:7-9*)!**

Riches are usually a curse! You arrived with nothing; you will leave with nothing; and God is not impressed with how much you gathered during your life.

Redeem your soul from this world's mad worship of materialism and success, and hear the rebuke of wisdom instead.

Seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness first, serve only one master, and lay up treasure in heaven (*Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33*). You will soon be glad you did!

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

Your family's future depends on your character (*Proverbs 2:21-22; 3:33; 12:7; 14:11; 20:7; 21:12*).

Your descendants will rejoice under God's blessings, **If** you live a righteous life.

Your descendants will be cut off by His judgment, **If** you live a wicked life. Here is a heavenly promise and warning that exceeds all other influences on your family tree.

Where is the family mentioned in this Proverb?

Remember, Proverbs are the dark sayings of wise men (*Proverbs 1:6; Psalms 78:2*).

It is your job to interpret and apply them. The two Words you must understand are "light" and "lamp." it is discovered by comparing God's Words with God's Words, as directed (*1Corinthians 2:13*).

So reader, a man's family is called his light and lamp. God blessed David, "And unto his son will I give one tribe, that David my servant may have a light always before me in Jerusalem" (*1Kings 11:36*).

Again, "Nevertheless for David's sake did the LORD his God give him a lamp in Jerusalem, to set up his son after him, and to establish Jerusalem" (*1Kings 15:4*).

Again about David, God said, "There will I make the horn of David to bud: I have ordained a lamp for mine anointed" (*Psalms 132:17*).

Again, "Howbeit the LORD would not destroy the house of David, because of the covenant that he had made with David, and as he promised to give a light to him and to his sons for ever" (*2Chronicles 21:7*).

Is this true doctrine? Indeed! "For the LORD loveth judgment, and forsaketh not his saints; they are preserved for ever: but the seed of the wicked shall be cut off" (*Psalms 37:28*).

Again, "I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments" (*Exodus 20:5-6*).

God blesses the families of the righteous. "Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments. His seed shall be mighty upon earth: the generation of the upright shall be blessed" (*Psalms 112:1-2*).

See all the places teaching this: (*Numbers 25:10-13; Psalms 25:12-14; 34:11-22; 37:1-40; 102:28; Isaiah 58:8-12; Jeremiah 32:29; 35:18-19*).

God judges the families of the wicked. "Thine hand shall find out all thine enemies: thy right hand shall find out those that hate thee.... Their fruit shalt thou destroy from the earth, and their seed from among the children of men" (*Psalms 21:8-13*).

See all the places teaching this: (*1Samuel 2:27-36; 1Kings 16:1-7; 21:20-26; Job 18:16-21; 27:13-15; Psalm 109:6-20; Isaiah 14:18-23*).

Does God judge children for parental sins? Since God did not like Israel's proverb, "*The fathers have eaten sour grapes, and the children's teeth are set on edge*" (*Ezekiel 18:1-3*)?

God disliked their proverb, because each generation has the opportunity to break the cycle from their parents.

A wicked man can also break the cycle of blessing from his righteous parents, and a righteous man can break the cycle of judgment from his wicked parents (*Ezekiel 18:4-32*).

Reader! **If** you do not fear God enough to live a righteous life for yourself, will you do so for your children and grandchildren?

Why save money for an inheritance, worry about sending them to college, work for their good marriage and good family, and help get them established? You can endow perpetual blessings on them by living a righteous life ... and this is the only way you can be happy yourself (*Proverbs 3:13, 18; 16:20; 28:14; 29:18*)!

**God Has Offered You
A Great Opportunity
This Day!**

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

**Pride Causes Fights!
It Is The Main Cause Of Fights!**

Without pride, fighting and strife would quickly end. It is arrogant confidence and haughty self-importance that keep contention and conflicts and quarrels going.

Wise men are humble and prudent, to listen to other opinions, so they avoid contentious men, and pass over offences. They are peacemakers.

Men quarrel and wrangle for many reasons, but pride is the trigger, the combustion, and the fuel that initiates, sustains, and escalates contention. Believe it!

The Holy Spirit had Solomon write this about proud fools: "*Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him*" (*Proverbs 26:12*).

It is impossible to deal with a proud man, for there is no way to convince him, of anything against the arrogant conceit of his own thoughts and desires.

James asked rhetorical questions, "*From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members* (*James 4:1*)?"

Then James answered with a question and statement, "*Do ye think that the scripture saith in vain, The spirit that dwelleth in us lusteth to envy? But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith, God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble*" (*James 4:5-6*).

The root cause of fighting is pride! Solomon and James wrote the same thing, inspired by one Author The HOLY SPIRIT!

If covetousness, envy, passion, and revenge have roles in conflicts, pride has the lead role!

Pride makes men impatient, angry at slights, resentful of contradiction, envious of advantage, angry at competition, scornful of correction, revengeful of offences, conceited of opinion, domineering of conversation, critical of weaknesses, and void of forgiveness.

It is pride that is behind these and other perversities of the human soul.

A well-advised man is knowledgeable and has understanding. He is wise and prudent. He asks and receives advice, for he knows safety is in many counselors (*Proverbs 24:6*).

A well-advised man is slow to speak, knowing haste exalts folly and works not the righteousness of God (*Proverbs 14:29; James 1:20*).

A well-advised man ends conflicts by passing over offences (*Proverbs 19:11*), and fleeing angry men (*Proverbs 22:24-25; 29:22*), and cutting off backbiting tongues (*Proverbs 25:23*).

A well-advised man hates pride in himself and others (*Proverbs 8:13*)!

A well-advised man knows that being humble is both wise and Christ-like (*Proverbs 11:2; Romans 12:16*).

There is no place for pride or contention in the lives of the Lord's saints (*1Corinthians 11:16*).

Pride is not of the Father, but of the world (*1John 2:16*).

Pride was the sin of the devil (*1Timothy 3:6*).

Humble yourself beneath the mighty hand of God, that He might exalt you in due time (*1Peter 5:6*).

If there is any conflict, cold war, quarrel, or strife in which you have any role at all, end it immediately, lest it corrupt your worship of God (*Matthew 5:21-26*).

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

"But it worked," the fool tells a wise man questioning his business dealings. "Look at this check! People don't send you money for nothing. Read these testimonials. Others are getting rich doing the same thing. Stop trying to discourage me from getting ahead. You go to work for someone else. I'm going to find my dreams!"

Solomon, the most successful and richest man who ever lived, laughs and laughs. He knows that this fool is headed for destruction, and he knows that the wise man, who keeps going to work every day at his boring job, is going end up successful.

Reader, vanity is vain, foolish, wrong, and an unprofitable approach to something (*Psalms 39:5, 11; 62:9; Ecclesiastes 2:11, 26; 3:19; 4:7-8; 6:2; 7:6; Isaiah 41:29; Jeremiah 16:19; 51:18*).

Wealth gotten by vanity is temporary results from vain, foolish, wrong, and unprofitable business or investment practices.

Do results impress you? The fool in our Proverb is wealthy. His vain methods of business and investment worked! Or did they?

Results Can Be Very Deceiving!

Do results impress you? There are thousands of testimonials for every scam ever sold. Yes, thousands! Yes, every scam! You don't read testimonials? Ever? Great! They are all a mix of wishful thinking, placebo effect, crowd psychology, and lying. Pure vanity!

Who would read testimonials about working hard day after day in a boring job? Just doesn't tickle the ears of fools or sluggards, does it? Who would read testimonials about denying yourself to increase your saving. The writer of Proverbs would!

If you don't believe Solomon's testimony here, there is cheap swampland for sale in Florida.

Do results impress you? In the early stages, Ponzi schemes, pyramid frauds, produce temporary "profits." But the success does not last, and it never reaches more than a miniscule percentage of the participants. Who wants to "go into business for yourself" where 2% of the "distributors" make all the profits?

Most of Holland speculated in tulips in the 1630s; many became rich. But the bottom fell out and crash in 1637. Many in England traded the stock of the South-Sea

Company to wealth, which was based only on hope. There was a total collapse in 1720.

The Roaring Twenties brought the U.S. stock market to ridiculous heights before it crashed, leaving the nation in a multi-year depression. And after running up the new dotcom stocks in 2000, though none had made a profit, the whole NASDAQ stock index collapsed 70% in the following months.

This phenomenon of temporary success, for foolish and fraudulent business ventures, is called "*the prosperity of fools*" (*Proverbs 1:32*). It attracts more fools to be punished.

Notice in our own Proverb, that wealth is indeed gotten! But the wealth does not continue, for it has been gotten by foolish and wrong means; and it will be diminished shortly. God will not allow it to continue, and neither will the laws of economics.

Such vain results are diminished several ways. They were gotten hastily without effort, so they leave the same way. We say, "Easy come, easy go."

Such vain results create a false sense of success, which leads to more foolish decisions. The perceived prosperity also leads to excessive spending to show off their wealth.

Men are tempted by any idea allowing them to work less and make more. It is the deceitful nature of our wicked hearts to expect something for nothing, especially in this spoiled and lazy generation. We love lies; we resent truth.

Due to the temptation, our Proverb warns us against. **If** you want to get ahead financially, then get to work, now!

Hard work done consistently over time with savings and investment will result in increase. And God will multiply your efforts. This is financial wisdom.

So reader, are you able to rule your foolish and deceitful heart and believe it? It is your perverse flesh that wants to work less and make more. So choose wisdom! See the comments on *Proverbs 12:11*.

Hard Work Discipline For Financial Success Continues To Work Into The Future!

The character traits it took to make some progress will lead to more progress. With investment capital in hand, the hardworking man, can now buy productive assets, to leverage his character and efforts into greater returns. See the comments on *Proverbs 14:4*.

The commandments of the Lord Jesus, that teach you how to walk and please God, also include instruction on how you should work (*1Thessalonians 4:1-12*).

Reader, provide things honest in the sight of all men by rejecting financial vanity and be a faithful and diligent worker (*Romans 12:17; Ephesians 4:28*).

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

Hope Is Expectation Of Something Desired!

Reader, when the thing you desire is not obtained in the time expected, your heart and soul are grieved and pained by the delay.

But when the desired thing finally arrives, it is a tree of life: your heart and soul are encouraged and revived. These two aspects of hope are true in all matters, both spiritual and natural.

Hope can be a pleasant thought, **If** you are confident of your desires being fulfilled on time. But it can also be a painful reminder, **If** you are disappointed with delays or difficulties in obtaining your desires. Hunger is comparable. It makes food delightful, when you eat on time. But it can be quite torturous, if you are hindered from eating.

Hopelessness A Destructive And Painful Experience Of Humanity!

Hopelessness must be avoided at all costs, because it will destroy a man's outlook and performance. A wise man sets his hope on sure things, a wise man avoids any desires or expectations for the vain things of this world, that lead to despair or frustration.

A wise man understands human frailty, avoids setting expectations too high, and learns contentment (*Psalms 146:3-5; Hebrews 13:5-6*).

Since hopelessness is so destructive and painful, a good man will work to keep those around him full of hope, like his wife, children, employees, and friends (*Deuteronomy 24:14-15; Psalm 123:2; Ecclesiastes 4:9-12; Colossians 3:19, 21; 2Corinthians 2:2, 6-11; 1Thessalonians 5:11; 1Peter 3:7*).

While training his son for the throne, Solomon teaches the wisdom of keeping citizens filled with hope, lest they become discouraged and desperate enough to revolt (*Proverbs 16:15; 19:6, 12; 20:28*).

If you love Proverbs, here is a classic. Identify Solomon's three metonyms and one metaphor in this Proverb.

First, hope is a metonym for the things hoped for; hope itself is not deferred, or delayed; but rather the objects of hope do not arrive on time.

Second, desire is a metonym for the things desired, because the desire for the things was already there; it is the desired objects that finally come and bring great joy to the heart.

Third metonym, the heart. It is substituted for the feelings and joys of the heart: the substitution uses the seat of your affections for the affections themselves.

There is a metaphor, where desires being realized are compared to a tree of life, which can energize and rejuvenate the soul with its fruit (results), though a fulfilled desire is not a real tree.

This Proverb is an observation by Solomon, and the lessons are to be carefully searched for, within it. While many Proverbs give the lesson more directly, basic observations like this one must be explored and applied to learn the wisdom being taught.

What can you learn about hope from this Proverb in order to be wiser with God and men? Remember, God's Words are exceeding broad and may convey many lessons (*Psalms 119:96*).

The wicked have no hope (*Ephesians 2:12; 1Thessalonians 4:13*).

The wicked expectation always ends in frustration, for they chase the lying delusions of Satan, who is the god of hopelessness (*Ephesians 2:1-3; 2Corinthians 2:6-11*).

The wicked know their days are numbered and their coming torment great (*Matthew 8:29; Revelation 12:12*).

The wicked want their dupes hopeless with them. All things in this world are disappointing and temporal, which hurt those who pursue them (*1John 2:15-17*).

Reader, in this world, every sin, movie, song, or thought of the world ends with the same conclusion, there is no hope, there is only despair (*1Corinthians 15:32; Revelation 9:11*).

The lost try to ease the pain, with activities, comedies and jokes, alcohol and drugs, movies for fantasy escapism, mind-numbing music, extreme sports for thrills, and even suicide. Then they die and discover in hell that their hopelessness was right (*Proverbs 11:7; Job 8:13-14; 11:20; 27:8; Mark 9:43-48*)!

Consider riches: Wealth does not satisfy, for when you achieve one level, you will covet another (*Ecclesiastes 5:10*).

Those taking your wealth are always increasing (*Ecclesiastes 5:11*), and the rich cannot sleep peacefully (*Ecclesiastes 5:12*).

Riches disappear by many factors, and you will not take one cent with you at death (*Matthew 6:19; Luke 12:15-21; 1Timothy 6:7*).

The more you make, the more the government takes.

Why set your hope on the wealth illusion (*Proverbs 23:4-5*)?

You are only going to be disappointed, frustrated, and vexed by the effort (*1Timothy 6:6-10*).

Every child of God, that seeks happiness in this world, will be just as miserable, or worse; for he has set his expectations on things that cannot satisfy.

The Holy Spirit, the true writer here, knows everything in this world to be vanity and vexation of spirit (*Ecclesiastes 1:14; 2:11, 17*).

Godliness with contentment is great gain, for such a man has his hope in God and heaven, which is the certain hope of prosperous saints (*Genesis 15:1; 1Timothy 6:6; Psalm 73:25-26*).

Reader, it is your wisdom, to not hope for much from this world, but rather hope for much from the next (*2Corinthians 4:16 - 5:9; Colossians 3:1-4*).

Therefore: you should be able to pray with Agur against riches (*Proverbs 30:7-9*).

You should be able to be content with little and righteousness (*Proverbs 16:8; Psalm 37:16; Philippians 4:11-13; Hebrews 13:5-6*).

You can avoid disappointment and keep on dancing, **If** you do not put your hope in things of this world (*Job 1:20-22; Habakkuk 3:17-19*).

When a believer is discouraged, he has a simple remedy unknown to the world. He can remind himself to hope in God, just as David shows (*Psalm 42:5, 11; 43:5*).

The God of hope can give perpetual hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (*Romans 15:13*).

Even at the hour of his death, the believer, can be filled with joyful and peaceful hope, for he knows about heaven and the resurrection of the dead, the blessed hope (*Proverbs 10:28; 14:32; 1Corinthians 15:19*).

The believer has hope, which the unbeliever will never have, confident and waiting on God.

If you use the Word of God to build your hope (*Romans 15:4*), others will ask a reason for it, since they have none (*1Peter 3:15*).

When hope is deferred, you can hope against hope, through faith in an omnipotent God (*Job 13:15; Lamentations 3:24-26; Romans 4:18-20*).

And you can know you have the superior definition for hope, patient waiting, for the greatest expectation of the Christian, will certainly come to pass (*Romans 8:23-25; Hebrews 10:36-37*).

Believers never give up, as long as they have life, for a living dog is better than a dead lion (*Ecclesiastes 9:4-10*)!

Until God removes all hope, there is still hope, and even then there is hope! David prayed fervently for his sick son, and gave up praying when the child died, yet he knew he would see him again. He had hope, even after death (*2Samuel 12:15-23*)!

Paul was sure he would die at Ephesus, but hoped in a resurrecting God (*2Corinthians 1:8-10*)!

The Bible is filled with glorious examples of simple believers who put their expectation and hope in the Lord.

How did Sarah give birth and nurse with a smile long after menopause (*Genesis 21:5-8; Hebrews 11:11*)?

How was Joseph a tree of life to Jacob, when he discovered him alive and on Egypt's throne (*Genesis 45:25-28*)?

How many children did Hannah have for loaning her long-desired son to the LORD (*1Samuel 1:19-28; 2:19-21*)?

How Israel was like them that dream after being recovered from captivity (*Psalm 126:1-3*)!

Yet there is a greater illustration of fulfilled hope! For 4,000 years, the sons of God waited for the arrival of the Seed of the woman to deliver them from sin, death, and hell. The desire of all nations did come! The angels shook the countryside with the announcement! Simeon rejoiced to see Him before His death! And His disciples believed, not for joy, when He had risen from the dead!

Christian reader! Hope in God today! **If** you are committed by faith to Jesus Christ, then you have a blessed hope, an impregnable hope, a glorious hope!

If you have committed by faith to Jesus Christ, you will be raised from the dead to an incorruptible inheritance in heaven, where it is reserved for you (*1Peter 1:3-9; Acts 23:6; 24:15, 26:6-7; 28:11, 20*). *Believest thou this?*

If you have this hope, it will purify and sanctify your life (*1John 3:3*).

If you have this hope it will be an anchor for your soul in the storms of life (*Hebrews 6:18-19*).

None That Put Their Trust In Him

Shall Be Ashamed Or Confounded
(*Romans 10:11; 1Peter 2:6*)!

Children can be taught to hope in the Lord when they are very young (*1Samuel 1:28; Psalm 22:9; Ecclesiastes 12:1*).

By building a right foundation for their lives on the ability and faithfulness of God, they will never be driven to depression or despair about life (*Psalm 27:13-14; 37:7; 42:5, 11; 43:5; 71:14*).

This is accomplished by building faith and hope through constant instruction from the Word of God (*Psalms 78:1-8; 119:81, 114; Romans 15:4*)!

True Love Comforts Others
By Building Hope And Taking Away Despair!

Since hopelessness is one of life's greatest evils, you should be faithful in all your dealings to keep from making others' hearts sick.

God specifically commands you not to discourage those under you (*Colossians 3:19, 21; 1Peter 3:7; 2Corinthians 2:6-11*).

After edifying others by your faithfulness, you should then comfort them with the blessed hope of the Gospel (*1Thessalonians 4:13-18; 5:11*).

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

There is a great difference between being destroyed and being rewarded? How much greater when the LORD does both the destroying and rewarding? The difference is enormous!

The conditions for being rewarded are clear and easy!

If you despise His Word, you will be destroyed.

If you fear His Word, you will be blessed and rewarded.

God Is Holy
And Jealous
(*Joshua 24:19*)

God will not overlook those who despise or reject His Word!

Since God is the Creator of all things, including every man, woman, and child, He expects their total submission and obedience to Him. His first commandment justly demands your absolute and total love for Him (*Deuteronomy 6:4-5*).

About 1650 years after creation, or about 4500 years ago, God drowned and suffocated the earth with a flood of water (*Genesis 7:4, 23*).

What brought His great destruction on the earth and the human family? They had despised His Word and corrupted His way on the earth (*Genesis 6:5-7, 11-12*).

God sent Noah to preach and warn them, but they rebelled against the commandments of their Creator. God destroyed them (*1Peter 3:18-20; 2Peter 2:5*).

God sent another preacher to Pharaoh, King of Egypt, about 3530 years ago. The Hebrews, worshippers of the living and true God, were slave laborers for Pharaoh.

Moses brought God's request for Pharaoh to let His people go to Canaan. When Pharaoh despised the Word, God ravaged the land with ten plagues and destroyed his army and him in the Red Sea (*Exodus 5:2; 12:29-36; 14:28*). The lesson of the Proverb is clear! King Ahab despised the Word of the Lord, so God destroyed him in battle with a chance arrow (*1Kings 22:1-40*).

King Uzziah despised God's Word that only the priests were to serve in the temple, so God destroyed him with leprosy (*2Chronicles 26:16-23*).

King Jehoiakim thought he could burn the Word of God and get rid of its warnings, so God destroyed him and his family and gave him the burial of an ass (*Jeremiah 36:1-32; 22:18-19*)!

The Proverb also promises reward to those who fear God's commandments. This is not servile terror, but rather eager reverence to know and do His will (*Psalms 1:1-2; 112:1; 119:47-48; Isaiah 6:8; Acts 9:1-6*).

Though the LORD God is very great, He will bless and reward those who humbly tremble before His Word (*Isaiah 66:1-2; Acts 17:11; Hebrews 11:6*).

Fearing God and keeping His commandments is the whole duty of man (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

But there is also great reward in keeping His commandments (*Psalms 1:1-6; 19:11; 37:4; 84:11; 112:1-3*).

God's saints have experienced great reward in all circumstances, such as Abram in Canaan (*Genesis 13:1-6*), Isaac in Canaan (*Genesis 26:12-14*), Joseph in Egypt (*Genesis 39:1-23*), Ruth in Bethlehem (*Ruth 2:3*), Rehoboam in Jerusalem (*2Chronicles 12:12*), Manasseh in Babylon, (*2Chronicles 33:12-13*), Esther in Shushan (*Esther 2:17*), and Daniel in Babylon (*Daniel 1:1-21*).

So reader, what have you done with the preachers God has sent you? Paul warned against despising prophesying, or preaching (*1Thessalonians 5:20*).

Paul also foretold irremediable judgment on those who despise or neglect these things (*Hebrews 2:1-4; 10:26-31; 12:25*).

Reader, it is your solemn duty and great reward to fear the Word of the Lord. The lesson of the Proverb is very clear!

Proverbs 13:14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

Reader, do you resent being told what to do? When a parent, teacher, or pastor gives you a law, it is for your own good. Be thankful!

Consider it a fountain of life! Instructions are to bless your life and save you from trouble.

No one by nature likes to be told what to do, but a noble person recognizes that wise laws are for his benefit (*Proverbs 6:23; 14:27; 15:24; Psalm 141:5*).

Ponce de Leon sought the fountain of youth, in order to live longer. Laws from wise men are the fountain of life, in order to live better!

The law of the wise, will save you from the "snares of death", which are traps of sinful living, that bring misery and destruction.

If you are wise, you will never resent the reproof and correction of any wise teacher (*Proverbs 8:36; Acts 17:11; 1Thessalonians 5:20*).

Why do parents have rules against playing in the street? Because they want their child to live and not be killed by a vehicle! Should a child resent such a rule? Of course not!

Why do parents restrict activities with the opposite sex? Because they want their children to have blessed marriages without the scar of fornication! In each case, the parental law is a blessing!

If you are noble and prudent, you will appreciate laws given by those wiser than you.

If you desire success in life, you will accept and obey rules given to you, for you to prosper and be protected.

Reader, grasp the importance of learning from the instructive wisdom of others. And you will remember, that the laws they impose are to bless your life and to guard you from death.

Why do nations have traffic laws? Schools have rules against weapons? Factories have safety laws? The military has authority rules? Airlines have maintenance

laws? And electric appliances have user rules? Because the laws and rules are given for protection from danger and death, and they are given to provide sufficient guidance for greater success.

Law was given to help and protect, not please or enrich the giver. Acceptance of God's Laws, prove wisdom, to accept instruction and correction. Only fools and scorners resent them.

How can you learn more laws of the wise? Trust your parents, who lived out your life prior to you. Seek a multitude of counselors for all major decisions. Crave your pastor's preaching, as he gives forth God's laws.

Read the Word of God, to know the rules of wisdom to bless your life and protect you from death.

The Word of God is a lamp and light for your life (*Psalm 119:105*).

The Word of God is able to clean up the lives of young men for success (*Psalm 119:9*).

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

**The Good Life The Hard Life
The Choice Is Yours!**

A good understanding, or living by the rules of wisdom, will bring natural and supernatural blessings. Guaranteed!

If you choose to do things your way and reject the rules of wisdom, your life will be hard. Guaranteed! Meditate on *Proverbs 14:12; 16:25*.

**You Cannot Undermine God Or His Wisdom.
You Will Certainly Reap What You Sow!**

Reader, in just eleven Words in this Proverb, you have a precious offer and promise. What will you do with these Words?

These Words are more valuable than any advice you have ever been given, or ever will be given.

When you will leave this Proverb and make a choice, either to live by wisdom or to transgress its rules. You will live with the outcome. Guaranteed!

A good understanding begins with the fear of the Lord (*Proverbs 9:10*).

Those with understanding, tremble before the written Word of God! There is divine light and the godly rules for true wisdom (*Psalm 119:128; Isaiah 8:20*).

Practical instruction for living is found right here in The Holy Spirit's Proverbs given to us by Solomon. Any man humbly obeying these Proverbs will obtain favor from God and man.

Transgressors Refuse Instruction. They may listen at times, but they will not obey. They are going to do things their way.

Transgressors will not submit to the authority of God or man.

Transgressors believe they are above the laws of God and man.

Transgressors resent being told what to do, and they arrogantly despise those who try to help them.

Transgressors are foolish sinners.

Compare Abraham and Lot.

Abraham feared God and had good understanding. Though having the poorer land after separating from his nephew Lot, he became rich, spiritually and financially (**Genesis 15:1; 24:35**).

Lot, on the other hand, chose the favored land, pitched his tent toward Sodom; caused much death and ruined his life, in every way possible (**Genesis 19:15-18; 2Peter 2:7-8**).

Abraham had good understanding, and the LORD and men favored him.

Samson and David did not resist strange women, and they suffered hard consequences from the LORD and men.

The Proverb is true! Obey the rules of wisdom, and you will be blessed; disregard them, and you will suffer for it.

Manasseh, a very wicked king, humbled himself; so God restored him, from a foreign prison, to his own throne (**2Chronicles 33:11-13**). He learned good understanding late in life!

Nebuchadnezzar, though worldly wise and rich, transgressed Daniel's sober warning, and spent seven years like an ox eating grass (**Daniel 4:27-37**). He learned good understanding the hard way!

So reader, how will you learn good understanding, and when will you learn it? There is no better time than today to stop transgressing and follow wisdom!

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

Every Man Must Choose The Basis For His Thinking And His Dealings In Life.

Fantasy or fact? Fiction or nonfiction? Suspicion or certainty?

Are you really sure?

Fools operate, in the make believe world, of their own opinions and speculations, and their idiocy is visible to all.

Wise Men Prudently Choose Knowledge In All Their Thinking Words And Actions.

Solomon said it well in **Proverbs 14:15**, "*The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.*" There is the difference. The fool believes most anything that comes down the road. The prudent man is cautious and skeptical about everything.

He also said in **Proverbs 22:3**, "*A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.*" Prudent men consider what could happen and avoid it; fools blindly rush on in heady ignorance and are punished.

So reader, prudent men are wise, discreet, circumspect, and use sound judgment. They are very careful in only dealing with what can be proven as fact.

Prudent men do not trust everything they hear or read; it must be established with evidence before they will consider it.

Prudent men do not jump to conclusions, listen to rumors, buy sensationalism, or allow exaggerations.

Prudent men will not speak of things they know little about, enter activities they do not understand, associate with people they do not know, or settle on opinions without all the facts (**Proverbs 14:8**).

Fools believe most everything, especially if it confirms their foolish suppositions.

Fools are looking for anything to support their opinions; they trust it as truth, and they repeat it to others.

Fools do not truly want understanding; they only want to reveal what is in their hearts (**Proverbs 18:2**).

- **If** it sounds plausible, they believe it.
- **If** it sounds sensational and likely to cause a stir, they really get excited about it.

Fools answer matters before they even hear them (**Proverbs 18:13**).

Feelings are as good as facts to a fool. What a shame!

Prudent men study before answering, but fools pour out folly (*Proverbs 15:28*).

Prudent men do not tell all they know, but fools talk about what they do not know (*Proverbs 12:23*).

Prudent men use knowledge aright, but fools pour out foolishness (*Proverbs 15:2*).

Fools show their folly by word and deed every day (*Ecclesiastes 10:3*).

Prudent men scrutinize all things (*Acts 17:11*).

We need more children like Issachar had, men with "understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do" (*1Chronicles 12:32*).

We need men who will judge righteous judgment, not merely by the appearance (*John 7:24*).

We need good men filled with knowledge, able to admonish one another (*Romans 15:14*). See the comments on *Proverbs 13:11; 18:2; 19:2; 20:18*.

This Proverb summarizes much of what Solomon sought to teach his son.

Solomon nailed the fool in *Ecclesiastes 10:13-15*.

He described these babblers as starting with foolish talk and ending with mischievous madness (v13).

They are full of words, even though no man knows what is going to happen tomorrow (v14).

They are frustrated by hard work, because they cannot figure out the simplest things of life (v15).

Paul ordered us to be wise and understand the will of the Lord (*Ephesians 5:17*).

We are to be men, not children, in understanding (*1Corinthians 14:20*).

Saints prove all things (*1Thessalonians 5:21*).

The only true source of knowledge is the Word of God and the fear of God (*Proverbs 1:7*).

Anything contrary to Scripture is ignorance (*Isaiah 8:20*).

We should let God be true, but every man a liar (*Romans 3:4*).

The Bible is right on every subject, and we must hate every false way (*Psalms 119:128*).

Rather than leaning to your own understanding, trust in the Lord with all your heart (*Proverbs 3:5-6*).

Reader, the Lord will direct the path of the prudent man (*Psalms 37:23*).

- Do you repeat things you have not proven?

- Do you believe things in print must be true?
- Do you believe "testimonials"?
- Do you understand how something works before you use it?
- Do you believe there is a "free lunch" just waiting for you?
- Do you know that figures don't lie, but liars figure?
- Do you know that unconventional things are usually closer to snake oil than conventional things?
- Does a popular majority impress you as truth?
- Does "information" against government or other organizations you dislike impress you?

If something appears "too good to be true," it is exactly that - too good to be true! You have not discovered anything new, but a temptation for your weak mind. There is a sucker born every minute, and you should not be one of them.

We are to deal with knowledge. God has given all the knowledge we need in Scripture (*2Timothy 3:16-17*).

The man of God, more than other men, must study to show himself approved in the Word of truth (*2Timothy 2:15; Titus 1:9*).

Too many pastors and teachers have substituted entertainment and fables for the sound knowledge of Bible preaching (*2Timothy 4:1-4*).

Their folly shall be exposed openly, in agreement with our Proverb, by their carnal results (*2Timothy 3:6-9*).

Let Every Man Of God Tremble At His Duty To Deal Only With Knowledge!

Our Lord Jesus dealt prudently with knowledge;

- He was exalted and extolled, and
- He was very high (*Isaiah 52:13*).
- He was of quick understanding with the spirit of knowledge to judge righteously (*Isaiah 11:1-5*).

Our Lord Jesus answered the speculative and crafty questions of the Jewish leadership that hated Him, and He asked them questions that exposed their ignorance and hypocrisy (*Luke 2:41-47; 20:1-8, 20-47*).

Our Lord Jesus always dealt with knowledge.

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

It is a wicked sin to betray the confidence and trust of those who give you an assignment. The prosperous functioning of society depends on men discharging their duties with diligence and integrity.

Wicked Men Get Distracted And Fail Their Commitments.

But faithful men make sure they complete the job, and they are a benefit to all concerned.

If you send a sluggard on an errand, his laziness will irritate you. Solomon wrote, *"As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him"* (**Proverbs 10:26**).

If you send a fool, on an errand, you are begging for damage. Solomon also wrote, *"He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage"* (**Proverbs 26:6**).

Faithful Men Bring Prosperity To Deals.

Faithful men are health to the transaction, rather than the mischief of wicked messengers. Confidence in knowing a man will finish a job right is a blessing. Solomon wrote, *"As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters"* (**Proverbs 25:13**).

Before email, telephones, and mail, messages were sent from individuals and nations by couriers and ambassadors.

Wicked men did not take it seriously, and they would not deliver the message accurately or on time. They would fall into mischief on the way, easily distracted by many temptations.

Faithful ambassadors could be counted on to get the message conveyed accurately and on time. Private and national prosperity was served.

God's saints should have impeccable reputations before the world, as did Joseph and Daniel (**Genesis 41:38-40; Daniel 6:1-5; 1Timothy 6:1; Titus 2:9-10**).

When given an assignment, they should seek to exceed every expectation in keeping it (**Proverbs 22:29; Romans 12:11; Ephesians 6:5-9**).

God chose preaching to send truth to mankind. Many preachers are wicked messengers, who fall into mischief and do not tell His Word accurately. There were many expounders, even in Paul's day, which corrupted the Word of God (**2Corinthians 2:17; 11:3-4, 13-15; Philippians 3:18-19; 1John 4:1**).

This evil trend was going to get worse in the last days (**1Timothy 4:1-3; 2Timothy 3:6-7; 4:3-4; 2Peter 2:1-2**).

Timothy was rare, having Paul's concern for the churches (**Philippians 2:19-21**). Ministers must be ordained cautiously (**1Timothy 3:1-13; 5:22**).

Ministers must be faithful men (**1Corinthians 4:1-2; 2Timothy 2:2; Titus 1:6-11**).

Men who will not be distracted with this world (**2Timothy 2:4**).

Godly men that must give themselves wholly to their work (**1Timothy 4:13-16**).

Godly men that handle the Scriptures honestly (**2Corinthians 4:2**) and with much study (**2Timothy 2:15**).

When churches have faithful ambassadors, they will have spiritual health (**Nehemiah 8:1-12; 1Timothy 4:15-16**).

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

Failure Or Success? Poverty Or Riches? Shame Or Honor?

Which do you prefer? Of course, you want success, riches, and honor! But it is far easier to desire them than to get them.

There is a basic requirement to get them, and the vast majority of men will not meet this condition. They must humble themselves and have great regard for reproof and accept its instruction.

You are making a decision right now about your future. Some will presume they know the lesson, so they stop reading and go back to their little games.

Others will read a little further and stop when the author implies they are likely a fool or scorner. Only a few will be thrilled to see an offer of honor and devour each Word to gain the prize.

Most men are too proud, rebellious, and stubborn to take reproofs or accept instruction.

Most men want to do things their way. They do not like to be told they are wrong. They love their own opinions.

Solomon warned over and over that your willingness to be corrected and taught is the key to your future success (**Proverbs 1:24-33; 2:1-5; 3:1-2; 5:9-14; 8:7-8, 36; 9:7-9; 10:17; 12:1; 13:13; 14:12; 15:5, 31-32; 16:25; 18:1-2; 26:12; 28:11**).

The lesson is simple. You arrived on earth knowing nothing. Your heart and motives are twisted by inherited corruption from your first parents, Adam and Eve.

The world around you is filled with ignorance, and tradition.

You are assaulted daily with profane ideas. You could self-destruct in ignorance without serious help.

There is a simple technique for success in a world doomed to failure. Find teachers that have the truth and wisdom of God and submit to their reproofs and instruction.

It is that simple. God has revealed the wisdom from Him to men desiring wisdom and truth.

If you will find them and accept their correction and teaching, you can deliver yourself from failure, poverty, and shame.

Where are such teachers? They are where God's preserved Scriptures are taught!

Intelligence or education cannot substitute for the Word of God. There is no light or understanding outside the Word of God (*Isaiah 8:20; 1Corinthians 1:19-20; 3:19-20; 1Timothy 6:3-5, 20-21*).

**If You Seek God's Truth With Your Whole Heart
God Will Send You A Teacher!**
(*Job 33:19-26; Acts 8:26-35; 10:1-6; 18:24-28*)

Once you have a teacher, there is another obstacle in the way of success, your own thoughts, imaginations, and opinions.

A man that arrogantly presumes he is right is worse than a fool. He is a scorner. (*Proverbs 9:7-9; 26:12; Ezekiel 14:1-11*).

**A Fool Is Too Lazy Too Distracted To Learn
And Scorners Refuses To Be Taught.**

Learning requires change: you must correct errors you have learned, or you must add new knowledge to your inventory.

First it requires accepting reproofs, and the second requires accepting new ideas through instruction. Pride, rebellion, and stubbornness will not allow a man to do either of these two things. He is certain to be the loser!

A true teacher is an enemy of your thoughts and imaginations (*2Corinthians 10:4-6*).

Reader, you must destroy and pull down the strongholds of your mind, where you are holding false ideas and concepts.

Reader, you must replace them with truth and wisdom, which you have not heard or accepted before.

**You Were Born
In A Foolish Generation!**

Sharing is the method of learning. Ignorant students, which were messing on themselves a few days earlier, are asked their opinions on same-sex marriages, capital punishment, origins, and other subjects. Real education does not ask for opinions, it makes God's absolute truth and wisdom their new opinions!

Some of today's churches are no better than today's schools. Men will no longer endure sound doctrine, teaching designed to convey God's absolute standards for faith and practice.

Instead, they want teachers to entertain them with fables that will please their itching ears, saying things that match up with their carnal and foolish presuppositions (*2Timothy 4:3-4*).

Reader, what keeps you from listening to your teachers, your parents or you pastor?

- Are you too proud to accept correction?
- Are you too stubborn to admit you are wrong?
- Are you too rebellious to change by another's order?

These are marks of a scorner! You are doomed to poverty and shame, unless you repent humble yourself before God's Word.

Reader, do you sleep in church? Do you resent being taught by a man younger than you? Do you attend the fastest-growing church in town to avoid preaching? These are marks of a fool! You are doomed to shame, unless you humble yourself before God's Word.

Jesus made the lesson very plain as He concluded the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus said that hearing His doctrine and not doing it was like building your life on sand. The storms of time and eternity will wash you away (*Matthew 7:24-27*)!

But a wise man, will hear the Lord's sayings and build his life upon them. He will stand sure in both time and eternity!

Did you know that honor is within your grasp. God introduced true wisdom in the visible creation (*Psalms 19:1-6; Romans 1:20*).

God gave the details, of this wisdom/visible creation, in the Bible (*Deuteronomy 29:29; Psalm 19:7-11; 2Peter 1:19-21*).

God sent men to preach this hidden wisdom of God to you (*1Corinthians 2:1-16; 1Timothy 3:16*).

Truth is available:

- **If** men humble themselves (*Isaiah 66:2*).

- If they do not, He will rewire their brains to disgrace themselves with disgusting sexual perversions (**Romans 1:21-28**). What shame!

Reader, examine yourself in the light of this Proverb. If you hear instruction and forget it before applying it to your life, that is foolish. If you hear correction and resent it, you are a scorner.

Wisdom is submitting to reproofs and accepting instruction, for that is the means of learning and growth. God and all good men will honor such a man.

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

**Man Could Be Perpetually Happy
Most Men Despise The Way
To Happiness And Success!**

**The Greatest Source
Of Human Joy And Fulfillment
Is Found In Righteousness Truth Wisdom!**

When a man obtains these things, it is the sweetest accomplishment on earth.

But most men despise these things so much and love sin instead that they refuse to even pursue the reward. They hate and loathe the thought of giving up their sinful lifestyle.

Here is a Proverb, given by the Holy Spirit through Solomon, that needs interpretation (**Proverbs 1:6**).

The desire accomplished is not merely desires in general, for that teaches little wisdom of value, and it does not fit with the disjunctive conjunction, "but." The desire accomplished is not the lustful greed of fools, for that would directly violate the disjunctive. All men and fools realize pleasure at meeting goals or fulfilling lusts, such is not taught here.

The interpretive key is the Word "but," which places the first clause in adversative contrast to the second clause. "But" in this usage is a disjunctive conjunction, joining two clauses set in opposition to each other.

The desire accomplished, must be the holy desire of the righteous, by virtue of it being sweet to the soul and set in opposition to the evil of the fools way in the parallel clause (**Proverbs 10:24; 11:23**).

Consider this carefully before proceeding. The desire of a righteous man is to increase in righteousness, truth, and wisdom (**Proverbs 4:7; 16:6; 18:1; 23:23**).

These are the goals for his life, and they produce enormous pleasure and profit when they are achieved (**Proverbs 3:13, 18, 35; 4:8-9; 22:4; 29:18**).

The pleasure of walking with God and living a holy life far exceeds the superficial joys of the fool. Even when the fool, seems to be basking in prosperity (**Proverbs 10:22; Psalms 4:6-8; 43:4; 63:3-5; 1Peter 1:8**).

The sweetest accomplishment, is to be resurrected from the dead and be in heaven enjoying your eternal inheritance with God the Father and Jesus Christ.

That was truly Abraham's only goal (**Hebrews 11:8-16**).

The Psalmist thought it was better than the pleasures of this life (**Psalms 17:14-15; 49:6-20; 73:1-26**).

That was also true with Paul also (**Philippians 1:23; 3:8-11; 2Corinthians 5:6-8**).

Where does this desire rank among your goals? And what have you done to secure it?

Solomon observed that fools hate the idea of leaving their sins.

Fools cannot see the glorious reward they are missing. They refuse to deny themselves any of the pleasures their lusts crave.

Fools deceive themselves that their sins are pleasing and profitable.

Fools pursue sin greedily to their own destruction. They cannot and will not seek God (**Psalm 36:1-4; Isaiah 26:10; Jeremiah 13:23; 17:9; Romans 1:18-32; 3:10-18; 8:7-8; Ephesians 4:17-19**).

The lesson is quite simple. There is a strait ^{narrow constrained} gate (think strait-jacket) and narrow way that leads to life, and only a few find it. You see there may be some sacrifices of self-denial now, but the sweet rewards are much greater.

There is a wide gate and broad way that leads to destruction, and most men gladly choose to go in it (**Matthew 7:13-14**).

Fools must return to their folly like dogs to their vomit and pigs to wallowing in mud again (**Proverbs 26:11**).

If you desire godliness, God has worked His mighty power to cause you to love what you once abhorred and to abhor what you once loved!

The Lord, will fulfill your desire, and it will be great sweetness to your soul! But all the wicked shall be destroyed!

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

You Are The Company You Keep!

This well-known American saying is just a weak version of Solomon's warning. No matter how wise you are, foolish friends will bring you trouble. But also, no matter how foolish you are, wise friends will teach you wisdom.

Is it easy? No. Your heart will lie that you are strong enough to resist them, and you may have to face the hard fact that some of your better friends are fools. But the Word of God gives help.

What a simple rule for wisdom and life! Reject fools and choose wise men as your friends, and you will grow in wisdom and avoid much trouble in life.

God's Word, declares, *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners"* (**1Corinthians 15:33**).

The warning of deception is to save you! Many think friends are not dangerous.

If you allow, an evil source input in your life, you will certainly lose your good manners.

Fools cannot be real friends to a child of God. It is impossible: they are incompatible by nature. And they have nothing of value to offer. So ignore feelings or history, and cut off your foolish friends.

Two Questions: What Is A Fool?

Do They Fear God Or Not? (Proverbs 1:7; Romans 16:17-18)

David separated from the ungodly and fools (**Psalms 1:1; 101:1-8; 119:115**), and he chose companions of those who feared God (**Psalm 119:63, 79**). Did he have good friends? His relationship with Jonathan was wonderful (**1Samuel 18:1-4; 20:16-17; 23:16; 2Samuel 1:26**).

Child training includes monitoring friends, for peer pressure is one of the greatest threats to children and youth. Many noble parents take their children out of public schools, but fail to monitor their friends from Church, Christian schools, sports, and the neighborhood.

Godly men are lovers of good men, so we must learn to discriminate wisely (**Titus 1:8**).

Since all men can be easily compared on a scale of virtue and wisdom, wise men will gravitate toward those on the top of the scale, even among a Church's membership.

How far should you flee fools? Very far! Go not in the way with them (**Proverbs 1:15; 4:15; 9:6**).

Have no fellowship with them (**Ephesians 5:11-12**)! Your soul is at stake, reader.

Wisdom starts by fearing the Lord, which ought to be the first trait we demand. A church can and should provide most or all of such friends (**Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:23-25; 2Peter 1:1**).

Cross-reference: **Proverbs 19:27**

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

Something is chasing you! Trouble chases sinners until it catches them, crushes them, destroys them, and the destruction ultimately sends them to hell if they are unsaved.

Blessing also chases righteous men until it catches them, promotes them, rewards them, and lifts them up into heaven. Look over your shoulder! Something is chasing you right now! What is it? It will catch you for sure!

Actions Have Certain Consequences!

Sin will surely bring: evil, grief, loss, pain, trouble, and hell. *"Be sure your sin will find you out"* (**Numbers 32:23**)! *"The way of transgressors is hard"* (**Proverbs 13:15**)!

And also, *"Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward"* (**Proverbs 22:5**)! Any sin brings judgment after you, and it will follow your every move until it catches and destroys you.

Actions Have Certain Consequences!

Obedience will surely bring: blessing, favor, joy, peace, riches, and heaven. *"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"* (**1Peter 3:10-12**).

Doing what is right will bring rewards, and they will surely find you. But sinners are real fools! They think they can get away with sin.

There is a Holy God and He is watching you read these Words. Even His angels are watching you read these Words (**Proverbs 15:1-7**)!

- He allows Satan to trouble sinners (**Psalm 35:5-6**).
- He rewards fools and transgressors (**Proverbs 26:10**).

God plentifully rewards the proud doer (*Psalms 31:23; 32:10*).

Lot watched just a little Sodom television, but evil caught him, destroyed all that he had, and left him with two incestuous daughters in a cave!

Many Corinthians carnally partook of communion, but they were weak, sick, and died for it!

Judas wanted to make some quick cash, but evil dashed his bowels all over the ground!

Evil Pursued Them And Caught Them!

If you cheat at all in obeying God, evil will chase and destroy you! To the froward, or disobedient, God will be froward, or contrary. This universal law is as sure as gravity. (*Psalms 18:26*)

Job sought safety at God's altar, but the sword of justice caught him there (*1Kings 2:28-34*).

Jonah thought Tarshish would be safe, but a storm and a whale chased and caught him!

Reader, where are you cheating by doing evil? You can run, but you cannot hide or get away.

Reader, where are you cheating?

- **If** you neglect training your children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, they will destroy your life (*Proverbs 29:15*).
- **If** you neglect your spouse, God will not hear your prayers (*1Peter 3:7*).
- **If** you toy with pornography or sexual lusts, you will end up in death and a destructive life of hell (*Proverbs 2:18; 5:5; 7:27; 9:18*).

Does God not see? His angels listen to your words; they even check hair and submission of women (*Ecclesiastes 5:6; 1Corinthians 11:10*).

Reader, **If** you seek the Lord with a pure and single heart, goodness will follow and bless you. Guaranteed!

To the merciful and upright, God will be merciful and upright (*Psalms 18:25*).

But God distains lip service or shallow church attendance. God looks for dedicated hearts and minds that is committed to holiness and righteousness (*Psalms 37:4; 145:19; Matthew 6:33*).

Reader, do not faint or be discouraged, there is a reward for the righteous (*Psalms 58:1-11; 1Corinthians 15:58*).

You are choosing this very moment what will chase and catch you (*Proverbs 24:20; Isaiah 3:10-11*).

What should you do? Repent for any sins! "*Trust in the LORD, and do good; so shalt thou dwell in the land, and verily thou shalt be fed*" (*Psalms 37:3*).

Whatever a man sows, that shall he also reap.

- **If** you play with the flesh and sin, evil will destroy you (*Galatians 6:7-10*).
- **If** you seek the Lord with a perfect heart, He will look to bless you greatly (*2Chronicles 16:9*)!

Jesus loved and did righteousness. God anointed Him with the oil of gladness above all men (*Hebrews 1:9*).

Jesus, endured the cross and despised its shame, for He saw the eternal joys and pleasures at God's right hand (*Psalms 16:11; Hebrews 12:2*).

We are to consider Jesus and the saints who obtained the promises by faithful obedience (*Hebrews 11:6; 12:1-3*).

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

Good men are farsighted, especially for their families. They are great family planners. They rejoice in grandchildren, and they prepare every possible advantage.

God rewards their goodness by keeping their estates for their posterity. The generations of the just are blessed (*Psalms 103:17*).

The Bible promises longevity to the righteous, and shortened days to the wicked (*Proverbs 3:1-2; 4:10; 9:11; 10:27; Psalms 34:11-13; 91:16; Ephesians 6:2-3*).

And Word of God also promises the safe transfer of wealth from one generation to another for them (*Proverbs 28:8; Ecclesiastes 2:26; Job 27:16-17*).

**These Are Wonderful Promises
That No Life Insurance Salesman
Can Even Approach With His Offers.**

Israel, the people of God, visited Egypt, the dog-worshipping pagans of the Nile. When they left, they took the nation's wealth of many generations (*Exodus 3:21-22; 12:36*)!

Saul was envious of righteous David and persecuted him, but God gave Saul's throne and wives to David (*2Samuel 12:7-8*)!

And it is David's throne that endures forever (*Isaiah 9:6-7*)!

The righteous man has a role! He first is morally and spiritually good. Then he gets an inheritance for his grandchildren. He considers them his crown (*Proverbs 17:6*).

A good man: he is a hard worker at real jobs, a consistent saver, a frugal spender, a prudent investor, and a generous giver. He easily denies himself to have money left over for the next generations.

It is God's ordinance for parents to build an estate for their children (*Proverbs 19:14; 2Corinthians 12:14*).

While children must be ready to support parents in case of an emergency in old age, this is not God's due order for the two generations (*1Timothy 5:8*).

The parents should have lived diligently and wisely enough to have an inheritance for the next two generations.

Our profane world mocks God and His ordinances. Their selfish habits and lusts for pleasures consume most or all of their income.

In fact, it is popular for grandparents to say, "We're spending our children's inheritance." The greatest inheritance is fear of the Lord, Scripture, and wisdom (*Psalms 34:11; 119:111; Ecclesiastes 7:11*).

Good men see three generations needing these things (*Psalms 78:1-8; Joel 1:1-3*).

Reader, what are you doing for your family? Is your life of such integrity that blessings are accruing to your descendants? Or are you a fool, neglecting to give your children the advantages you were charged with (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 2Corinthians 12:14; Ephesians 6:4*).

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

Hard work brings results, but it can easily be lost by foolish decisions.

The poor often labor hard at farming, with much increase from their Creator. Their focused labor on their small plot of land bears good reward for their table.

Others with greater advantage sometimes squander great gain by following harebrained schemes that take it away.

Tillage is the tilling and cultivating of ground for raising crops. Farming was the first profession in the world, and it is a good work. Depending directly on

God's blessing, seeds are placed in the ground for His increase. And He does give increase!

The average return for wheat is 200! One wheat seed planted results in 200 new ones! One bushel planted results in 200 new bushels! The average return for field corn is 800! The average return for rice is 2000! There is much food in the tillage of the poor!

Want Of Judgment Is The Lack Of Good Sense.

Lacking judgment is foolish vulnerability to ideas that will not work. It is listening to vain persons and their schemes. It is a lack of discretion and prudent management.

Lacking judgment is hasty decisions, poor choices, lack of foresight, and risky presumption. It believes everything it hears. It is frustration with the old way of doing things and impatience to experiment with something new.

Our Proverb deals with poor farmers. They have much food, for they labor, at a godly trade day after day, year after year. But there are other men who may not even have enough to eat. What happened? They gave away their increase by foolish decisions! The lesson here is the value of hard work and the importance of wise financial management.

Hard work is an easy lesson. Diligent labor at a needed service will bring results, especially in a necessity like farming. It may be a boring job when compared to others, but it works, and it has worked for 6000 years, since Cain and Abel ran the first farm.

There are many Proverbs for hard work and its reward (*Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4-5, 26; 12:24; 13:4; 14:4; 15:19; 18:9; 19:15, 24; 20:4; 20:13; 21:25; 22:13, 29; 24:30-34; 26:13-16; 27:18*).

Judgment Is Discretion Prudence Wisdom Understanding And Skepticism!

And a man must have much of it to avoid the vain ideas that will steal his productive labor and leave him financially poor. Only strong men, those with good judgment, retain riches.

Solomon also gave many Proverbs to warn against foolish financial management (*Proverbs 11:16; 12:11; 13:11; 13:16; 14:15, 23; 18:9; 21:17, 20; 23:21; 27:23-27; 28:19*).

See the comments on *Proverbs 1:32; 11:16; 12:11; 13:11, 13:16*. You will not be disappointed.

Many men want to be rich, so they are vulnerable to get-rich-quick programs. When someone offers them "financial independence" and their own "business," they plunk down the payment and sign up. When you check with them ten years later, they have done this several

times, without any profit, and the loss of much time from tillage!

Many men like to read success magazines looking for a "better way to make a living." Anything is better than a boring job like farming! Of course, the magazine producers are already in their better job. They chose to make their living by preying off suckers who will read their inventory of vain ideas every month.

When the state approves a lottery, guess who is first in line every week? The poor man who is tired of farming! He dreams of how he will spend his millions. He is eager to take the "much food" from his tillage and give it to the state in a no-win proposition designed only for suckers. The rich get richer, and the poor get poorer!

When hunting or fishing season interferes with harvest, guess which one is chosen by the sluggard? Recreation, of course! After all, he needs to enjoy himself! All work and no play make Jack a dull boy! They cannot think ahead and plan recreation after harvest; they want the pleasure right now! There goes some more food from their tillage!

When foolish men have a bumper crop, they borrow against next year's presumed bumper crop and build bigger barns and buy more acres. They envision owning the whole county! With weather just a little less favorable, they lose their whole farm, for they cannot afford the debt service. They overbuilt due to lack of judgment and discretion.

Other foolish men have a bumper crop and immediately increase their spending on entertainment and other luxuries. When yields for the next two years are less than normal, they are severely pinched, for they spent the excess, instead of putting it in the bank at interest.

Other foolish men are slothful in harvest and do not get the whole crop in the barn. They are procrastinators and wasters. Or they over borrow for things they do not need and saddle their estate with crushing debt. They invest in fly by night schemes that devour their precious capital. Or they become surety for others and must pay off their obligations.

Even though God gave agriculture wisdom right after Eden (*Genesis 1:29; Isaiah 28:23-29*).

Man has been perfecting it for the last 6000 years, the foolish still listen eagerly to any "new idea." It does not matter to them that 99% of all new ideas are really old ideas that failed. They are not content with returns of 200%, 800%, and 2000%!

Neither can they accept that only those gifted by God are truly creative and inventive. They resent hearing that they should continue to apply diligent and persistent labor to the tried and true methods.

There Is No Free Lunch!

To even listen to people hinting at free lunches, or cheap lunches, is foolishly dangerous. Their vain words will cause you discontentment, which will blind your business sense.

If, you listen to them, you are showing a want of judgment, and following their speculative or fraudulent ideas of financial success will soon steal the much food from your tillage. Run from them, and till another acre instead!

Skepticism is wisdom, pure and simple. Only the simple believe everything they hear (*Proverbs 14:15*).

Only the simple look optimistically at the future (*Proverbs 22:3; 27:12*).

Optimism is not a virtue when applied to business; pessimism is much safer and financially prudent.

So reader, how much food is in the tillage of your pastor? Does he give much bread and meat for your soul? How much have you lost by want of judgment in reviewing and applying it? Have you squandered much of it by letting it slip away?

Has the Lord blessed you with grace any less than the farmer with very high returns? Or has He blessed you much more?

What have you done with His grace? It is your duty to exercise diligence and judgment in putting His grace into fruitful use and increasing your spiritual estate with fruit, 30-fold, 60-fold, or 100-fold.

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

Our grandparents said, "Spare the rod, spoil the child." This generation says, "Kids, you can't beat 'em." Who is right?

Our grandparents chose the inspiration of God, the wisdom of Solomon, and common sense.

Today's effeminate and permissive society bows to ignorant educators and silly soccer moms, both of which are clueless about life.

Our grandparents knew true love did what was necessary to prepare a child for life. They knew allowing a child to go unchecked without corporal punishment was to hate a child.

Our grandparents knew an untrained child would grow into an undisciplined adult, unprepared to live a successful life.

Our grandparents knew an undisciplined adult would suffer much pain and trouble.

The issue is not even open to debate. God has spoken, and His Word has been confirmed for 3000 years. The present crop of arrogant, lazy, rebellious, spoiled, violent, and wayward youth proves the point. Never has a nation seen such an overweening batch of dysfunctional children. The chickens have come home to roost. The Holy Spirit is right!

If you do not use the rod, you hate your children (*Proverbs 3:11-12*).

The rod gives wisdom; so not using it selfishly deprives your children of wisdom (*Proverbs 29:15*).

The rod saves children from death and hell; so not using it causes your children future trouble (*Proverbs 23:13-14*).

The rod drives foolishness away; so not using it guarantees them to be foolish adults (*Proverbs 22:15*).

True love is more than the mushy sentimentality of the modern heresy of unconditional love.

True love is the sacrificial desire for the spiritual welfare of another: it is doing what is necessary and right to help another person please God and men more perfectly. Of course, you cannot read about such love in Ben Spock's books or Mad Magazine for life's answers.

**Love Is Measured By Its Goal
Use Of The Rod And Reproof Is Means
To Attain That Goal!**

Christian parents want their children to grow in favor with God and man, the highest goal possible for human existence. And they use the God-inspired and time-proven means to achieve that goal, the rod and reproof (*Proverbs 29:15*).

This is the highest degree of love a parent can have. Allowing a child to do whatever it wants is not a goal but foolish get-along, which will destroy the child in the long run, for the discipline to please God and men is lost.

If you love your children, you will use corporal punishment early and quickly "betimes."

If you wait too long, they become hardened in foolishness, and then it is too late (*Proverbs 19:18; Ecclesiastes 8:11*).

If you foolishly spare the rod, you will reap the painful consequences.

Parents can avoid troublesome teens by training children and pre-teens the Bible way.

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

A righteous man eats sufficient for his needs, of whatever is before him, and finds it a feast.

A wicked man gorges on excess, wishing the fare was different, and cannot be satisfied. The one is contented and fulfilled; the other is discontented and frustrated.

God blesses the righteous in their souls, where the wicked are always troubled (*Isaiah 57:20-21*).

Prosperity alone cannot bring contentment, for silver will not satisfy the man loving silver (*Ecclesiastes 5:10*).

Contentment is a state of mind known only by the righteous (*Proverbs 16:8; Philippians 4:11*).

Adding contentment to godliness is great gain for every man (*1 Timothy 6:6-8*).

Consider the righteous, who eats sufficient for his needs. He eats and drinks with moderation and for strength (*Ecclesiastes 10:17*).

The righteous is not tempted to drunkenness, gluttony, and their consequences (*Proverbs 23:21*).

The righteous even eats and drinks for God's glory (*1 Corinthians 10:31*).

The righteous eats whatever is before him, for he has chosen to be content with whatever God provides (*Philippians 4:12*).

The righteous chooses to be content with such things he has, for the Lord is his everlasting portion (*Psalms 73:25-26; Hebrews 13:5-6*).

The righteous finds, a modest amount of anything a feast, for he has righteousness, peace, and love as the staples of his life (*Proverbs 15:16-17; Psalm 37:16*).

Because his heart is merry in the Lord, he has a continual feast (*Proverbs 15:15; Ecclesiastes 5:18-20*).

Consider the wicked, who may gorge on abundance (*Luke 16:19*).

The wicked chooses excess over moderation and pays the consequences (*Proverbs 21:17; 23:29-35*).

The wicked cannot rest, even in prosperity, for he has the evil disease of worrying about it (*Ecclesiastes 5:17; 6:1-2*).

The wicked always wish things were different, for his heart is covetous and greedy of what others have, and this vexes his soul (*Ecclesiastes 6:9*).

Ahab, though king of Israel, could not enjoy anything without Naboth's vineyard (*1Kings 21:1-4*).

The wicked finds trouble at the finest table, for there is always strife of some sort (*Proverbs 15:17; 17:1*).

The wicked matter where he looks, no matter what he does, all is vanity and vexation of spirit (*Ecclesiastes 2:17; 4:4; 6:9*).

The wicked is like the troubled sea; he cannot rest (*Isaiah 57:20-21*).

God guarantees the righteous will be fed (*Psalms 34:10; 37:3, 25*); and no matter how meager their provision, they have hearts filled with true and lasting joy.

The wicked lose every expectation at death and crave a drop of water through eternity (*Proverbs 11:7; Luke 16:24*).