

CHAPTER 24

Proverbs 24:1 Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

Envy against evil men, is desiring and begrudging their pleasure and prosperity in sin.

Envy is thinking that holy living is too strict.

Envy includes desire to be with the wicked and share their joys.

Such thoughts however, forget the depravity of their empty lives and the coming Judgment upon them, when the righteous will be rewarded and the wicked destroyed. (***Proverbs 24:2***)

The excitement and glitter of this world can make saints doubt the life of self-denial to which they are called.

Even Asaph, the wonderful song leader appointed by David, had problems with envying the wicked. His lesson is the best reading on this subject (***Psalms 73:1-28***).

Therefore, David and Solomon warned against it (***Proverbs 23:17-18; 24:19-20; Psalm 37:1, 7***).

Men envy whoremongers' variety of life. Women envy a single woman's freedom and lifestyle.

Men envy riches and honors of ambitious peers. Children envy the toys and freedom of spoiled brats. Women envy attention given to immodest dressers.

Men envy the free use of Sundays by church-rejecters. Preachers envy the crowds of compromising ministers.

Sin Has Its Pleasure! Only Fools Would Deny It!

There are a few small problems with sin that every wise man should consider. The pleasure of sin is very short, something like seconds (***Proverbs 20:17; Genesis 3:7; 2Samuel 13:1-20; Psalm 36:1-2; Hebrews 11:25***).

The acts of sin by saints, include painful guilt and shame (***2Samuel 24:10; Jeremiah 31:18-19; Luke 22:62***).

The pleasure of sin brings with it many dysfunctional consequences (***Proverbs 24:30-34; 29:15; Genesis 19:30-38; 21:9-11; 38:11-26; 1Kings 11:1-8***).

The judgment in this life is just around the corner (***Proverbs 13:21; Numbers 32:23; 2Samuel 12:7-12; 1Kings 14:6-13; 21:17-26; 2Kings 1:16***).

Then there is eternal judgment to pay as well (***Luke 16:19-26; Hebrews 9:27; Revelation 21:8***).

Wise Men Trust Scripture And Defy A Pleasure Mad World.

Wise men crave God's approval more than honors from sinners. They walk by faith, so their eyes are looking to heaven (***2Corinthians 4:17-18; Hebrews 11:6***).

Wise men do not let the envy of sinners even dull their contentment or peace in Christ. John Newton wrote:

"Fading is the worldling's pleasure,
all his boasted pomp and show;
solid joys and lasting treasure,
none but Zion's children know."

Holy and zealous Christians are the only true enviable persons in the world. Every adversity to them is a blessing, and every blessing is an earnest deposit of heaven!

If you must covet something, crave the spiritual gifts and graces of the Holy Spirit (*Matthew 5:6; 1Corinthians 12:31; Philippians 3:8; 1Timothy 3:1*).

Always remember reader, the pleasures of the wicked, are delusions, to fatten them up for the slaughter (***Genesis 15:16; Psalm 50:21-22; Romans 9:17***)!

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

Never envy the wicked; never desire their friendship. God knows appearances will tempt you to admire them, but there are good reasons against it. (***Proverbs 24:1***)

Here Is One Of Those Reasons: Their character is perverse and their goals evil.

If you love God, you will hate their ambitions and intentions. Their philosophies are the opposite of godly wisdom.

This verse is the second half of a Proverb. The first half reads, "***Be not thou envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them***" (***Proverbs 24:1***).

Solomon warned his son here and elsewhere to not envy the wicked or to fret at their apparent prosperity and pleasure (***Proverbs 24:19-20; 3:31-32; 23:17-18***).

David taught Solomon this (***Psalms 37:1-2, 7-10; 73:1-3***).

God allows pleasure and success to some wicked, for this world is the only heaven they get (***Psalms 17:14; Job 12:6-11; 21:7-26***).

Such blessings are called in Scripture, "*the prosperity of fools*", and only fools are tempted by them (**Proverbs 1:32; Psalm 50:21; Jeremiah 48:11-12**).

Such blessings, as these lifestyles of the rich and famous, are now promoted much more than ever before. It can be a temptation to good men.

But the warnings of God ring loud: do not envy them! Do not fret because of them! Do not desire to be with them!

Ignore appearances; be wise reader; think more deeply than fancy clothes, fast cars, large homes, luxurious vacations, and lots of cash. There are other things to consider that are far weightier, and consider a great future reversal of fortune.

Be honest with God. Do you ever wish you had their beautiful spouses, spacious homes, fabulous businesses, children in the best schools, popular esteem, economic power. (**Jeremiah 12:1**)

They don't seem to worry, about careful and disciplined lives, to please God. They can do whatever they wish. Reader, do you ever envy their lifestyle?

Why not envy the wicked, what is wrong with it? The lesson in this Proverb is because their character, is corrupt with destruction and mischief.

The wicked destroy sexual purity with casual sex, marriage with affairs and divorces, sanity with same-sex nonsense, and also children with their pampering.

The wicked rush money, to Haitian devil-worshippers after an earthquake, while using an abortion doctor to rip apart their own unborn children, because they say they cannot afford a child!

The wicked love destruction. They kill the unborn by abortion. They destroy real art with Picasso, music with rap, and entertainment with comedies.

The wicked destroy companies with unions, a right world view with belief in evolution, and financial integrity with their deficit spending.

The wicked steal domestic peace, with odious women and spoiled children.

The wicked ruin thrift by credit, labor by welfare, life by protecting murderers, and love by lust. They love destruction. They love mischief.

The wicked allow, violent movies and wonder, why violence in schools rises.

The wicked deny creation to push evolution and wonder why youth act more and more like animals.

The wicked mock authority whenever they can and wonder why no one will follow or obey them.

The wicked push spending as a virtue and wonder why no one saves money.

The wicked think two men in bed is marriage and two women adopting babies a family. They love mischief.

The World Is Perverse And Getting Worse!

The wicked have not had a legitimate or profitable thought in generations! Reader, why would you envy them?

The whole world and everything in it, will soon melt with the fervent heat of God's righteous vengeance, for their profane rebellion.

But even more than their certain destruction drawing near, reader, why would you be tempted to their corrupt and abominable thinking on every subject? God forbid!

Godly men want nothing to do with a mentality and lifestyle of destruction and mischief. They instead want to be constructive and noble.

Rather than destroy, they would save. Rather than plan mischief, they seek to profit others.

Godly men hate dysfunctional anything, so they are disciplined and structured in life to follow wisdom, truth, and righteousness. There is no reason to envy men that live a lifestyle opposite your holy goals.

Why not envy the wicked? Because God will judge them for their wickedness (**Proverbs 3:31-32**).

Why not envy the wicked? Because they will be destroyed rather than rewarded (**Proverbs 24:19-20**).

Why not envy the wicked? Because only the righteous will realize their expectations, hopes, and dreams (**Proverbs 23:17-18**).

Why not envy the wicked? Because the wicked will be cut off in this life and sent to hell in the next life (**Psalms 37:1-2, 7-10; 49:6-15; 73:17-20; 37:34-38**).

Do not measure success by circumstances or the things you can see (**Luke 12:15**).

God's love for a person is not always reflected by their possessions, especially in this life (**Ecclesiastes 6:12**).

A man rich and unsaved today will be dead tomorrow and in the torments of hellfire, but a poor man today could easily be in Heaven tomorrow, just as Jesus taught (**Luke 16:25**).

Do not desire to be with them, for they will corrupt your good manners of a godly sensibility and its noble conduct (*1Corinthians 15:33*).

Companions of fools, will be destroyed, but those associating with wise men will be wise (*Proverbs 13:20*).

The constant bent of worldly men toward mischief will drown you in the dysfunctional problems of their ignorance. Get away from them! Do not envy them and their toys!

There are reasons to despise wicked men rather than envy them. There is also a day coming when the prosperity and pleasures of the righteous and wicked will be totally reversed.

Do not think only of this life, which can leave you hopeless. True Christianity is primarily a religion of the next life (*1Corinthians 15:19; 2Corinthians 4:17-18*).

Good men will soon have transformed bodies and enjoy a new earth and heaven for eternity (*2Peter 3:10-14*)!

Jesus Christ never envied the wicked. He valued heaven's joys and pleasures, so even a crucifixion death did not discourage Him (*Hebrews 12:1-2*).

When Satan offered the world's kingdoms to our Lord, it did not entice Him (*Matthew 4:8-10*).

Will you, like Moses, flush the pleasures and riches of this world, for the affliction and reproach with God and His people (*Hebrews 11:24-26*)?

Proverbs 24:3 Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established:

A prosperous and long lasting family and estate are built by wisdom, understanding, and knowledge. There are no shortcuts.

There are no alternatives. The foolish and wicked may appear to be building great houses, but they are not!

There is no cheating this rule. **If** you compromise wisdom, you will lose your family and estate!

Your "house", is not just the building in live in. It includes your posterity and inheritable assets. Only God can build a house (*Psalms 127:1*).

Your "house", includes your literal house, but do not dilute the lesson!

The wisdom and understanding here are far more than savvy building design! See the comments on *Proverbs 14:1*.

It is possible to see the wicked with large and prosperous families, but their duration is short.

Consider David's observation, "*Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it. I have seen the wicked in great power, and spreading himself like a green bay tree. Yet he passed away, and, lo, he was not: yea, I sought him, but he could not be found*" (*Psalms 37:34-36*).

Righteous men, want to leave a godly and prosperous family, in the world (*Proverbs 5:16-18; Psalms 127:3-5; 128:1-6; 144:12-15; Malachi 2:15*).

Righteous men, want to train children and grandchildren, to perpetuate the truth of God in the earth (*Deuteronomy 4:9-10; 6:4-9; Psalm 78:1-8; Joel 1:1-3*).

Consider the house of Abraham in size and quality. The nation of Israel came from his loins, which he built and established by wisdom and understanding (*Genesis 12:1-3; Nehemiah 9:7-8*).

Abraham feared God and lived by faith more than any man of his generation (*Galatians 3:9*).

Compare Abraham's house, with the houses of Lot and Eli, in duration and honor.

Lot lost everything and polluted his own daughters (*Genesis 19:30-38*).

Eli's family of priests, was cut off and destroyed, for the compromise of a sentimental father (*1Samuel 2:27-36; 3:11-18*).

Your family and estate will only prosper by wisdom and understanding, which is plainly found in Scripture.

If you live by any other means, you are doomed to trouble, pain, and destruction. Humble yourself therefore, and shore up your house with the Word of God! Today!

The house of God, the Church, is built and established the same way, by wisdom and understanding. The foundation is laid in the Lord Jesus Christ, and every minister must build only with gold, silver, and precious stones.

For the fire of his Lord's examination will consume any wood, hay, and stubble. Let every doctrine and practice of every church be based only in the pure wisdom and understanding of Scripture (*1Corinthians 3:11-15*).

Proverbs 24:4 And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

**Lasting Wealth Is Built By
Wisdom, Understanding,
And Knowledge.**

There are no shortcuts; cheaters lose in the end; folly only appears to work; riches by vanity disappear.

The good life, for a family or a nation, is only as far away as wisdom. It is the many errors of human thinking that cause economic and financial trouble at every level of society.

The previous verse provides the first half to this Proverb. Here is the full rule: *"Through wisdom is an house builded; and by understanding it is established; and by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches" (Proverbs 24:3-4).*

**Wisdom Understanding And Knowledge
Are The Factors That Make
Estates Rich And Prosperous.**

Earlier (*Proverbs 24:1-2*), the Holy Spirit had warned against, envying wicked men, for they use deceit, violence, and other sins to get ahead financially.

To comfort and encourage His readers, the Holy Spirit promised a substantial and pleasant estate for those living by wisdom, understanding, and knowledge.

The wicked may succeed temporarily; the righteous will always win, in the end.

A godly man applies this Proverb, by fearing the Lord first, for that is the highest degree of wisdom.

He then rules his affairs, by the practical wisdom of Scripture and godly counselors (*Proverbs 24:5-6*).

Some godly men are poor, because they are financially foolish; some financially wise men are poor, because they neglect godliness. Full success requires both.

The Word of God, especially Proverbs, is full of practical wisdom for business, career, or money management.

The Word of God, praises diligence, savings, honesty, planning, disciplined spending.

The Word of God, condemns slothfulness and waste, and it warns against excessive debt, risk, sleep, and spending.

The Word of God, teaches respect and service to those in authority.

The Word of God, gives secrets about the power of charity and generosity.

The Word of God, details how, to both buy and sell fairly.

Reader, choose wisdom by rejecting the world's ideas and trusting God's inspired advice. Success will come.

Ignore foolish and vain claims for business opportunities (network marketing), investment deals (Ponzi schemes), debt pyramiding, luxurious living, cornering markets, extorting sellers, or arrogantly defending yourself.

The economic condition of the world's greatest nations indicates that they are bankrupt in more ways than financial. They believe and promote lies, and they are reaping the consequences.

This Proverb applies to families and nations.

If men in this generation were to hate debt and love thrift, two simple rules of wisdom taught in the Bible. They would quickly get ahead of those men and governments borrowing and spending heavily, which results in economic fluctuations and dangerous levels of risk, interest payments, and debt service.

The book of Proverbs, should be required reading for every school child and government official, in every nation.

Even without humility and fearing God, the principles of godly economic and financial management would work.

Instead, every nation supplies their schools with textbooks and their officials with manuals teaching the opposite of wisdom.

What are you doing about the Word of God's practical wisdom? **If** you are struggling financially, there are reasons for it.

Have you diligently, studied Proverbs, to see what you are doing wrong? Or is there a problem at a higher level, neglecting the Lord and His instructions, resulting, in Him blowing against your efforts (*Haggai 1:4-11; Matthew 6:33*)?

The rule here, may also be applied indirectly, to spiritual riches.

By knowledge of Scripture and Jesus Christ, the chambers of the soul will be filled with the graces and comforts of the Holy Spirit. *"Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost" (Romans 15:13).*

Proverbs 24:5 A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength.

Strength here is the ability, to know and do good and the ability to detect and oppose wrong, in all areas of your life.

Wisdom gives a man this strength. A wise man is strong. A man of knowledge gains in strength.

Fools are weak. They cannot know or do what they should, nor can they understand or resist what they should not do.

Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626) said, "Knowledge is power." But he was merely plagiarizing Solomon, who wrote these words 2500 years earlier!

Wisdom is the power to judge rightly in any situation.

Wisdom is the ability to see trouble and danger, avoid their temptations and snares, and choose a superior course of action. Wisdom is founded on the fear of the Lord (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10*).

Wisdom includes, the prudent management, of matters in the natural realm. Wisdom is strength (*Proverbs 8:14; 10:29*).

Folly, is the confusion of not knowing, right or wrong and defaulting, to the lusts and instincts of the human heart.

Folly, cannot see trouble and danger, it cannot resist their snares and temptations, and choose the right thing to do.

Folly, rejects the fear of the Lord and trusts its own heart (*Psalms 14:1; 53:1*).

Folly is weakness. It shows itself by making numerous mistakes in simple matters of life (*Proverbs 13:16; 14:8, 18; 15:21; 16:22; 26:11*).

How much difference is there between wisdom and folly? Solomon, after observing and analyzing all that is done in this world, concluded that wisdom is better than folly as much as light is better than darkness (*Ecclesiastes 2:12-14*)!

A poor, wise child is better than an old, foolish king, who will not accept correction (*Ecclesiastes 4:13*)!

Every young reader ought to rejoice at this wonderful opportunity to gain in strength by wisdom!

Consider a wise man and a fool, each trying to cut down a tree, with a dull axe. The fool swings and swings the heavy axe until he is exhausted and barely chips the meat of the trunk.

The wise man sits down in the shade, sharpens the blade with a pocket file, and cuts the tree down with just a few, well placed blows.

This is Solomon's illustration of the strength of wisdom (*Ecclesiastes 10:10*)!

Of course, the fool shows everyone at the supper table his impressive forearms and biceps, from swinging his dull club against one tree all day.

The wise man quietly listens and eats, with twenty trees down, stripped, sized, split, and stacked! Ah, wisdom!

Real strength is not the size of your arms but the amount of your wisdom! Without wisdom, no matter what the endeavor, you must put forth much more effort (*Ecclesiastes 10:10*).

Solomon valued wisdom much higher than strength (*Proverbs 21:19; Ecclesiastes 7:19*).

Solomon described how a poor wise man, in a small city, was able to defeat a great king besieging the city, with great bulwarks (*Ecclesiastes 9:13-18*).

Solomon says, "Wisdom is better than strength, wisdom is better than weapons of war."

A wise king will always be able to defeat a foolish king, even with a smaller army and fewer weapons!

It has been said, "Necessity is the mother of invention." Such wisdom is displayed in the witty inventions of the world (*Proverbs 8:12*).

The wise man will consider the need for an invention to save labor and difficulty.

The fool continues on with excessive effort, blinded by habit, tradition, and his little mind. Whole continents display and prove this stubborn ignorance.

We enjoy a proliferation of machines and devices in our generation, that multiply physical force and strength by factors of thousands!

The great bulk of these inventions, are the direct result of wisdom through the knowledge of God, in the English-speaking countries of the last two centuries.

**The Fear Of The Lord Is Wisdom!
Wisdom Is Strength!**

More importantly, wisdom is also strength of character. The wise man, who fears the Lord and knows his God, is able to withstand the temptations of sin and choose righteousness instead.

The wise man, has the directive power of God's Word, to keep him strong in the very face of Satan, and the

flesh, and world's attractions (*Psalm 119:9; 1John 2:16*).

Joseph was a wise man. This very handsome young man was in a foreign city. He was both successful and anonymous in this distant city.

A beautiful woman desired to make love with him. Joseph turned her down strictly, calling such an adulterous affair "great wickedness, and sin against God." The woman daily tried to seduce him.

Joseph continuously ignored her. One day during business, when they were alone together, she grabbed him and begged for him to make love to her.

He ran away, without the delay, of a single word or second (*Genesis 39:7-20*)! He was strong!

Samson was a foolish man. He was a physically strong young man, and traveled to foreign cities to admire their beautiful women. Samson was frequently in trouble with whores there.

Samson was seduced by a woman, who had told him three times she would destroy him; but he told her all his heart anyway.

She sold him to his enemies. They put out his eyes, bound him with fetters, and made him grind in prison. His life was over. Samson was weak!

Which man was stronger? Mighty Samson or slave Joseph? Solomon told of many strong men destroyed by strange women. Samson was just one of their victims. (*Proverbs 7:26*)

But Joseph was wise by knowing God, which gave him strength. It is a foolish simpleton who even goes near loose women (*Proverbs 7:7*).

Strength of character, a result of God's wisdom, is an exceeding precious thing.

Those who do know their God will do exploits, while the foolish, rejecter of a holy life style, is destroyed by a mere woman (*Daniel 11:32*)!

A wise man knows to carefully consider matters before making decisions. He knows that wise counsel from others, and a multitude of them, can save him from serious trouble (*Proverbs 24:6*).

Such wisdom provides strength. It helps a man do well and avoid trouble. Wisdom is strength, and some of it comes through counselors.

A wise man knows, fools cannot see the danger, nor do they ask if others can see it. They rush ahead blindly (*Proverbs 14:15; 22:3; 27:12*).

A wise man knows the great decisions of life, should be based on much counsel (*Proverbs 24:6*).

Strong men retain riches. Their estates are great and secure, filled with precious things. (*Proverbs 11:16*)

Consider the preceding context (*Proverbs 24:3-4*).

There are many traps and snares in life to take a man's money, but strong men are not touched. How? They are wise! They avoid the pitfalls of folly Solomon warns against with his Proverbs.

The wise avoid slothfulness, too much sleep, gluttony, drunkenness, excessive pleasure, waste, vain ideas of making money, foolish investments, talk about financial independence, political change, cosigning loans for friends, strange women, disrespect of authority, heavy spending, fraudulent business practices, neglect of business, and all the other lying vanities that take a man's money from him.

Wisdom also knows answers to life's questions, which stagger the fool. These answers are found in the Holy Scriptures (*Isaiah 8:20*).

So wisdom provides strength for any debate or discussion (*Proverbs 15:28; 22:17-21; 24:26; 26:4-5; Psalm 119:42*).

A man, with the wisdom of God, is not ashamed in any company: he knows the truth (*Psalm 119:46; Daniel 3:16*).

The strongest men: are those who fear the Lord Jesus Christ.

The strongest men, are those who know the Scriptures well, those who walk in the Spirit, and those who pray for wisdom. These are the ultimate sources of wisdom, the basis for great strength (*2Timothy 3:15-17; Ephesians 3:16; 6:10; James 1:5*).

It is the salvation of our souls, families, and churches, to be established with strength in the truth, lest we be children, tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine (*Ephesians 4:14; Hebrews 13:9*).

All men want to be strong, but only a very few will seek strength at these sources.

What will you choose this day? Strength or weakness? Strength with all might is offered (*Colossians 1:9-11*)!

**Reader Humble Yourself
And Choose The Fear Of The Lord!**

Proverbs 24:6 For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety.

War is serious! Losing has enormous consequences; even victory can cost too much. Anger, fear, pride, public opinion, and revenge all combine to make decisions about war difficult.

Solomon warned that decisions must have wise counsel, and lots of it! Here is a rule for strong and knowledgeable men, who want to advance in the sight of God and men (*Proverbs 24:5*).

The book of Proverbs was inspired by the Holy Spirit and written by Solomon "to give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion" (*Proverbs 1:4*).

God inspired Scripture and gave it to His sons to make them wise in the earth (*Deuteronomy 4:6*).

If you want to avoid the pitfalls of life, achieve a great measure of success, and be esteemed by others for wisdom, obey this rule.

Young men are impulsive and headstrong. Though only removed from diapers and rattles by a few years, they believe they know a lot and like to fight. Old wise men know better.

Youth assumes invincibility. Rehoboam, Solomon's son who should have known this Proverb, followed the advice of young friends and lost ten of the twelve tribes of Israel (*1Kings 12:1-19*).

Consider the Japanese Imperial Navy's conflict among admirals and fleet commanders before and after Pearl Harbor and the Battle of Midway. Wise counsel is strength!

There are two parts to this Proverb: ¹There must be wise counsel! Not just any advice will do. ²You must use wise men, in order to get it. Which means you consult cautious, experienced, grave, successful, and God-fearing older men.

It is not prudent to ask aggressive, ambitious, and foolish young friends. Their thoughts are worthless on any subject. Go to the men you are afraid will nix your plans!

And asking just one or two wise men is not enough. The Proverb teaches that wisdom is in a multitude of counselors.

By taking the time to hear many sober opinions and weighing them carefully, young men would be saved from foolish and hurtful decisions. The delaying effect, combined with received wisdom, raises the probabilities of success very high.

Why is the rule so hard to follow? Pride keeps a man from humbling himself to the criticism of others.

Impulsive haste resents any delay for what the heart desires.

Ambition seeks all the glory for itself by making solitary decisions.

Rebellion and stubbornness choose to do their own thing anyway.

Emotion creates passionate zeal for a thing whether it is valid or not.

These obstacles to seeking counsel are the marks of fools. Despise and reject them!

What decisions deserve wise and numerous counselors? Most men do not make decisions about war! But there are other life-affecting decisions like a wife, a career, a specific job, a church, a promotion, a house, an investment, a business, a friend, a move, a problem with a child, a problem with health, and so forth. Do you seek wise counsel from many?

Many men wish someone had stopped them from marrying an odious woman (*Proverbs 30:21-23; Ecclesiastes 7:26*).

How did they make their decision to marry? Did they objectively and unemotionally ask a number of wise married men about the character of their girl and her family? Not a chance! Her fluttering eyelids, smooth words, and young body were too much. They went down like sheep to the slaughter for fifty years of marital hell!

The greatest wisdom from numerous counselors is found in the Bible, which contains the writings of about 40 men inspired by the Spirit of God.

The Word of God is the crucible, to which every decision should be brought, to test it by the hammer and fire of Holy Scripture (*Jeremiah 23:29*).

Let every man tremble before the Word of God!

Let every man esteem all its precepts to be right on every subject!

Let every man hate any contrary opinion; even if it is his own (*Isaiah 66:2; Psalm 119:128*).

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

Wisdom is a wonderful thing, and every man should pursue it (*Proverbs 4:5-7*).

Wisdom is a most precious jewel and should be sought and prized above all earthly possessions.

Lady Wisdom calls for the simple to turn in and partake of her fare. See the comments on *Proverbs 9:1*.

Getting wisdom requires humility, to admit you are wrong.

Getting wisdom requires loving instruction, to be corrected by others.

Getting wisdom requires courage, to think outside family and society's delusions.

Fools cannot do these things. They have no heart for them (*Proverbs 17:16*).

Fools eyes and imagination are wandering everywhere else (*Proverbs 17:24*).

Every God fearing preacher, has watched fools in the presence of wisdom. It goes right over their heads! It is too high for them!

Fools don't even recognize wisdom; they don't have a desire for it; and they certainly don't have the drive to lay hold of it.

Within minutes of a sermon, lecture, or private exhortation, it can be easily observed that nothing stuck.

Thoughts of a fool ruling his spirit, receiving rebukes, rejecting his friends, craving correction, learning in humility, denying the world, begging God, and studying His Word are intimidating and overwhelming.

So the fool gives up before he ever starts. That is why he is a fool, and he will always be a fool. Let everyone check his own heart!

Every batboy wants to be MVP; every mail clerk president; and every soldier a general. But they cannot conceive the gifts and work necessary to achieve such positions, nor can they conceive the responsibilities of those positions.

All that is seen, is the glory, salary, respect, uniform, etc. Fools just believe they deserve the honor as much as anyone: they cannot and will not achieve, anything close.

Fools want to give their opinion in the gate, and they think it should be heard as eagerly as others'; but no one will listen to them.

A fool's eyes only work horizontally, in the plane: of his habits, of his thoughts, his feelings, and of his experience.

A fool does not see above his head to realize, the living and true God has marked out, a very different course for men to take through life.

It is too high for the fool to understand this. He loves himself too much; and he fears the opinions of others too much. He will always be a fool.

How can one be wise, when his fleshly desires, is his god? Many cannot think above sports, family, cars, hobbies, business, or pleasure. They will never reach wisdom, for these things distort their perception and judgment.

Parents infatuated with their children will be unable to judge them rightly.

Men obsessed with making money will compromise sound judgment. The lover of pleasure is confused before even starting!

Scorners cannot find wisdom, but it is easy for men of understanding (*Proverbs 14:6*). Why? The scorners' conceited and profane self-will is blinding him (*Proverbs 21:24; Psalm 10:4-5*).

The scorner's refusal to be corrected is the sure guarantee of his perpetual shame and folly (*Proverbs 9:7-8; 13:1; 15:12*).

The custom, was for business and personal disputes, to be resolved at the city gate (*Proverbs 22:22; 31:23; Deuteronomy 16:18; 21:18-21; Ruth 4:1-12*).

The "gate" combined much of what we call, our city council, legal system, and law enforcement.

At the gate of the city, conflicts were settled by judges and third party mediators. There sat the wise men of the city. There godly wisdom was highly honored.

Fools were rejected; for they cannot see right from wrong in simple matters, so their opinions were rejected and ignored.

In controversies requiring judgment, fools will always be ignored, for they have nothing to offer. You have seen them, don't be one!

Is your opinion sought to resolve questions? Or have you disqualified yourself, by proving in the past to be bankrupt of sound judgment and understanding?

Have you shown ignorance of even the basic reasoning of Proverbs? Is thinking and speaking so difficult, that everyone passes over your opinions? Then seek wisdom!

Wisdom is not difficult. **If** you seek, pray, and work for wisdom, you may have it.

You may have it as easily as Solomon obtained it (*1Kings 3:5; James 1:5*).

But are you willing to forsake your foolish ways and trust God's way only? Most will not do it. (*Proverbs 9:6; 18:1; Psalm 119:128*)

Wisdom is not a result of intelligence. Be thankful! Intellectually gifted people are some of the world's greatest fools.

Wisdom is not the result of education, for it is not learned, in the classroom of classical instruction. It is found only in the fear and blessing of God. Wisdom is obtained by God's grace and in His Word, two things not allowed in our modern educational system.

Consider well the glorious description of Job's wisdom and reputation (*Job 29:7-25*). No wonder the LORD bragged of this man to Satan!

Reader, do you desire to be such a blessing in your family, church, and community? Then humble yourself before the Word of God and devour it (*Psalms 19:7-14; 119:46, 66, 96, 98-100, 104, 113, 128, 130, 144, 152, 158, 160; Isaiah 8:20; 2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:19-21*).

Unlimited wisdom that the world's greatest thinkers have never touched lays waiting for you! Take it! Take it to the gate and deliver the righteous!

And in all your learning, remember that the Word of God, contains all the wisdom of our glorious salvation in Christ Jesus (*2Timothy 3:15*).

Without this wisdom, we would be tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine from the cunning craftiness of false teachers (*2Timothy 4:1-4*).

Our Lord Jesus had within Him all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge (*Colossians 2:3*).

Jesus could answer the doctors of the law at twelve, and He confounded them many more times later. He grew in wisdom and stature and in favor with God and men! Are you?

Though unlearned in probate settlements, Jesus was sought for judgment even in an inheritance case (*Luke 12:13*).

Jesus' combination of knowledge and compassion is unsurpassed in heaven and earth (*Hebrews 4:12-16*).

And Jesus shall soon sit as Judge, of all angels and men in His great throne. Do you reflect the wise teaching of your Master?

Proverbs 24:8 He that deviseth to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

Can you spot a dangerous man? Devising evil, is the active planning of sin in the heart and mind.

Devising evil, is worse than sinning by temptation and weakness.

Devising evil, is diabolical commitment and intention of sinning.

Once devising evil is detected, such a person should be carefully avoided, for he is a mischievous person, dangerous and harmful. God hates such thinking (*Proverbs 6:16-19*).

Can such a simple observation teach wisdom? It can, if you will consider it carefully.

Solomon taught his son to be prudent. In order to be successful in ruling the nation, he needed to be able to identify dangerous men and avoid them (*Proverbs 23:6; 25:5*).

Devising evil, is the description of a profane type of man, whose malicious mind, is bent on doing evil. It is one thing to sin, but a different thing to plan sin.

Drunkenness caused Noah and Lot to sin, but they did not plan to sin. David committed adultery after seeing Bathsheba naked, but he had not devised to take Uriah's wife that night. These men were of better character than Ahab and Jezebel (*1Kings 21:25*).

Following a multitude to do evil is sin, but planning to lead others into evil is much worse (*Proverbs 28:10; Exodus 23:2; James 3:1*).

There Are Wicked Persons Who Constantly Think In Subversive Ways To Commit Sin.

Wicked persons do not have righteous hearts, they are given over to lasciviousness with greediness (*Ephesians 4:17-19*).

The Bible condemns them as inventors of evil things (*Romans 1:30*).

Wicked persons are not happy without planning a new crime against others (*Proverbs 4:16; Psalm 36:4; Micah 2:1*).

It matters little, if they have not done much evil: It is their corrupt and wicked hearts that create the danger.

The Proverb does not warn directly against those that do evil, but rather those that devise to do it.

If they often do not do the evil they devise, how can they be known? By the talk of their lips, which reveals

their hearts (*Proverbs 6:12-15; 24:2; Matthew 12:34-37; 15:10-20*).

Listen for men who generally speak subversively and lightly about sin.

Look for men that make a mock of sin (*Proverbs 14:9*).
A mischievous person excuses their evil plans (*Proverbs 26:18-19*).

A mischievous person, makes light of sins of the heart (*Proverbs 24:9*).

A mischievous person, surmises evil about others (*1 Timothy 6:3-5*).

A mischievous person, often sees convoluted and malicious evil in the actions of others (*Proverbs 21:10*).

A mischievous person, admires and envies wicked men (*Proverbs 12:12*).

A mischievous person, comes up with profane and perverse ideas (*Proverbs 16:29-30*).

Evil devisers are mischievous men, and they are dangerous.

Get away from them (*Proverbs 23:6-8; Psalm 144:11-15*)!

What do you devise? Wickedness, or righteousness? Great men meditate upon God's law day and night (*Psalms 1:2; 119:197*).

Great Men's Thoughts Toward Others Are Good And Honorable.

When you identify a wicked mind that thinks evil toward others, you should get far away, because that evil heart, is also conspiring harmful thoughts toward you.

Proverbs 24:9 The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.

Two rules of wisdom are here: ¹Foolish thoughts are sin in God's sight. Men think their imaginations are their own, but they forget such thoughts are sin against God, Who sees them all. ²And the scorner, a person despising teachers and correction, is hated by good men.

Because a scorner causes constant strife, and removing him brings joy and peace (*Proverbs 22:10*).

The Pharisees formalized hypocrisy by excusing evil thoughts, as long as the actual sin was avoided!

Both hating a person in your heart and lusting after another man's wife were fine, if physical murder and adultery were avoided (*Matthew 5:21, 27*)!

But Jesus made it clear when He said, that unjustified anger and lusting after another woman, were murder and adultery in His sight (*Matthew 5:22, 28*)!

Foolishness, is conduct without regard for God or His wisdom, which is sin (*Proverbs 19:3; 22:15; Psalm 14:1*).

Even foolish talking, evil, filthy, frivolous, or jesting speech, is condemned, and God will soon judge the world for it (*Ephesians 5:3-7*).

God hates folly! And He knows a man's heart, to be the source of his character and conduct (*Matthew 12:34-35; 15:18-20*).

Sexual fantasies are universal, but God condemns them. Sexual sins are folly, and to imagine such folly is sin. (*Genesis 34:7; Deuteronomy 22:21; 2 Samuel 13:12*)

Job said he would not think upon a maid (*Job 31:1 I made a covenant with mine eyes; why then should I think upon a maid?*).

Solomon, warned his son not to lust after strange women, even in his heart (*Proverbs 6:25*).

God ponders man's goings, including those involving sex (*Proverbs 5:21*).

Envy, Hatred, And Pride Are Also Popular Thoughts.

Men and women, love to despise others and exalt themselves, in their hearts. In fact, most envy hate and pride are limited to the heart (*James 3:14-16*).

The Lord condemns, these evil and foolish thoughts as much devilish murder and rebellion. *Purify your hearts, ye double minded (James 4:8)*!

A scorner, is a pain and a problem. Their arrogant rejection, of correction and instruction, make them impossible to teach (*Proverbs 9:7-8*).

A scorners, conceited resentment, of teachers and those that will rebuke, make peace impossible (*Proverbs 22:10*).

A scorner must be avoided or cast out. It is only natural for men to despise them, for they cause constant strife and trouble with any authority.

Scorners are worse than a fool, in many respects, for they are conceited in their ignorance (*Proverbs 6:12*)!

Here are two matters of wisdom: First, keep your heart with all diligence, for sin begins with foolish thoughts (*Proverbs 4:23; James 1:13-16*).

Search your heart and thoughts by prayer for any evil there (*Psalms 139:23-24*).

Second, love instruction and reproof to avoid being a scorner. Humble yourself before God, His Word, and His teachers.

Proverbs 24:10 If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.

No man likes adversity, which is suffering persecution, affliction or calamities.

We all would choose to avoid it. And it is easy for us to resent it. But it truly measures our faith and love toward God, for it alone proves our spiritual integrity and holy confidence.

Without adversity, how would you show strength? You could talk about it, but talk is cheap.

Without adversity, how could you believe you were strong, but that is even more deceitful.

Without adversity, how could you tell the Lord you would never deny Him, but until the trial is passed your words are vain. You see, it is adversity that exposes the false professions of the stony-ground hearers, so take heed.

It is a lie that the Christian life is one of ease without trouble (*Job 5:6-7*).

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19-20).

It is also a lie that Christians never faint, for we find great men, with spiritual passions having times of faintness (*Numbers 11:11-15; 1Kings 19:1-4; Job 3:1-16; Jeremiah 20:14-18; Matthew 26:69-75*).

Even Paul would be cast down, though not destroyed (*2Corinthians 4:8-10*).

God brings adversity to prove our faith, as He did with Job.

God will allow trouble to see how much we rely on Him rather than ourselves.

God will find out how we value Him compared to other things in our lives.

**Do We Worship God
Only For A Protective Hedge?**

Will We Still Worship God If We Have Lost All?

God also allows adversity, to increase our strength through trials, much like boot camp in the military. And because God's purpose is our perfection, we should appreciate these difficult times (*Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4*). In fact, wise men will rejoice in them greatly!

Your difficulties do not exceed those of others (*1Corinthians 10:13*).

Your difficulties may be different, but they are not harder. And there is great comfort just in realizing this important fact. Neither are they impossible, for God will faithfully limit your trials to what you can bear.

God is able to give grace, inward strength and enabling ability, given by His Spirit, to endure any adversity (*2Corinthians 12:7-10*).

When Paul learned God's grace was better displayed by adversity, he chose to rejoice in such difficulties to glorify God through his own natural weakness.

God is able to strengthen you with such glorious power that you will rejoice (*Colossians 1:11*).

"He giveth power to the faint, and to them that have no might he increaseth strength" (Isaiah 40:29).

It has been said, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going." We apply this spiritually to describe faith taking courage in times of difficulty.

If we seek our own deliverance, we lose confidence in God.

If we complain instead of praise, we lose hope for the future.

If we fondly remember forsaken pleasures, we backslide in holiness.

If we lose our thankful spirit, we treat others with less love and patience, and we let our duties become a heavy burden, then we are fainting.

Let us reject these symptoms and quit ourselves like men (*1Corinthians 16:13*).

We have a great cloud of Old Testament saints and our Lord Jesus, to remember, which should keep us from fainting in our long distance race (*Hebrews 12:1-3*).

Since then millions of martyrs have faced and endured adversity like we can hardly imagine.

We may be cast down, but we cannot be destroyed; just as Paul our example showed us. (*2Corinthians 4:8-10*)

If the LORD be for us, who or what can be against us (*Romans 8:31*).

The LORD is our helper, and His sure promises are the anchor of our souls (*Hebrews 6:19*).

Faith can conquer adversity, for it sees through and past the temporary setbacks, to the bright future ahead, either here or in glory (*Psalms 27:13-14*).

Faith keeps us from fainting, by believing that certain deliverance is coming. "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." (*Psalms 27:14*).

How do we implement faith, in a particular circumstance?

1. Realize God created us for His pleasure *Revelation 4:11* *Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.*
2. Pleasing God requires our faith *Hebrews 11:6* *But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.*
3. Doing anything without faith is sin *Romans 11:23* *And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of faith: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.*
4. Decide that everything you do is dependent on God. And therefore, you must seek His support to help you in your need or action, no matter how big or small!

Christian reader, your adversity is not the result of Fate or Chance, but the wise counsel of your Heavenly Father. Not a sparrow falls without God's providential qualifying, and even the very hairs of your head are numbered (*Matthew 10:29-31*).

Even God's chastening rod is no more, than proof of everlasting love and fervent desire, for your perfection (*Hebrews 12:5-8*).

Be not weary in well doing: we shall soon reap, if we faint not. (*Galatians 6:9; 2Thessalonians 3:13*)

Our Savior, endured the cross and despised the shame, for the joy and eternal reward that was before Him. Let us, follow His example of strength. (*Hebrews 12:2; Psalm 16:8-11*)

***Proverbs 24:11* If thou forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;**

This cannot refer to the justly condemned, for God has ordained that such are to be immediately put to death (*Numbers 35:31-33; Deuteronomy 17:6-7*).

"A great duty required of us is to appear for the relief of innocence oppressed. Though the persons be not such as we are under any particular obligation to, we must help them, out of a general zeal for justice," (Matthew Henry)

What does it mean *to deliver*? To save, rescue, or extricate those, that are ready to fall, are tottering or faltering?

This verse is a command for the Christian. To rescue in the Hebrew, is a word, in the Imperative tense (it must be done)!

It is a command to rescue those who are being drawn unto death.

Do you understand that in America, an average of 4500 babies are aborted every day for convenience sake? To make life easier, for the birth mother and father to go about their daily lives unencumbered, for wealth to abortion clinics and doctors and nurses.

Do you understand that, or do you just blot it out of your mind?

In the Old Testament, the wicked had their religious sacrament of sacrificing babies to Moloch. It was done for the same reasoning: making life better and easier and prosperous for the wicked parents. Someday they will meet their babies at the Great White Throne!

Our enlightened society uses different terms but it is the same abdominal sin. We claim it's a woman's right what she does with her body. How wicked, foolish and sinful!

There Are No Excuses At The Great White Throne Judgment!

The same reasons that Old Testament Moloch worshippers burned their babies on out stretched arms on the brass idol of Moloch thinking they had a right and privilege to receive some blessing from Moloch. How foolish!

Do you think you have a responsibility to point this out if you had an opportunity?

Tophet (place of fire) The valley of Hinnom, near Jerusalem, is where the killing of these babies took place.

They used the beating of drums, so that the parents of the children that were burned alive might not hear them cry. Thank God Almighty, the baby is in heaven today and the parent is waiting the final judgment.

Even God Wouldn't Think Of Such A Horrific Wicked Idea! *Jeremiah 7:31* *And they have built the high places of Tophet, which is in the valley of the son of Hinnom, to burn their sons and their daughters in the fire; which I commanded them not, neither came it into my heart.* How wicked can man get!

The Carthaginians made it easier for killing babies; who had, a brazen image of Saturn, which stretched out his hands, inclining to the earth; so that a child put upon them rolled down, and fell into a chasm full of fire. That made the death quicker I guess so parents wouldn't have to bear it long. America has its Carthaginian abortion mills to.... Aren't we proud of ourselves?

What do you think your responsibility should be **If** God gave you the opportunity to counsel some young woman or couple in this matter?

In the second part of the verse, we read about those who are faltering or tottering in life.

This describes the unbeliever as they vacillate continuously concerning the Gospel. They do not even give it much thought. They have no idea how close they are to hell. We bring them the Gospel before their appointed time of death. Do you?

How serious is your desire to see your spouse, children, father, mother, grandfather, grandmother, aunts, uncles, cousins, etc. Saved?

Does the Great White Throne Judgment ever enter into your mind?

Does the thought, of making final eye contact you will make with those lost persons, you know personally, at the White Throne Judgment bother you?

Does the thought of seeing you child standing there about to enter the Lake of Fire trouble you?

This is not some figment of some ones imagination. It is the Word of God!

Proverbs 24:12 *If thou sayest, Behold, we knew it not; doth not he that pondereth the heart consider it? and he that keepeth thy soul, doth not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?*

Excuses are easy to find when a man does not want to do his duty, but God knows his innermost thoughts, and He judges in truth, not just according to outward appearances. (*Proverbs 16:2; 21:2*)

**God Sees And Knows
Excuses Are Lying Subterfuges**

It is amazing how often we deceive ourselves with our excuses, but we do not deceive God who is the keeper of the soul, and who, consequently, knows it better than anyone else.

The last phrase is taken from *Psalms 62:12*, and is quoted in *Revelation 20:12; 22:12*, and is variously referred to elsewhere.

God deals with people on the basis of their works, but their works do not have anything to do, with their salvation and justification, but only attest to the ruling disposition of their heart.

In judgment, God always deals in perfect justice, which is "*according to every man's works.*"

God Ponders the heart, examines our motives.

God Considers these motives, discerns the righteous or evil efforts we make.

God Renders justice, God will return exactly what we sow (*Galatians 6:7*)

This verse carries with it two meanings: ¹We are to care for our neighbor. **If** we have the ability to physically help someone, that is in dire need and we do not do it, do we honestly think that we are justified? (*Proverbs 3:27*)

God examines the heart and discerns the motives and the actions or non-actions derived from those motives.

God knows everything that we do and we cannot hide anything from Him, even with all the rationale our minds can produce. *Jeremiah 17:10* *I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings.*

The last portion, of this verse, states that God is going to render or return, the works according to what has been done.

If a person is generous, they can expect a blessing. But **If** they are cheap and self-centered, then someday they might, be in the same position and when they call out for help, then others will turn a deaf ear to them.

²We must never refuse to partake in the Great Commission by stating that we did not know the spiritual condition of the heart of the unbeliever.

We must never think that someone else will give the Gospel and we don't need to. God knows your heart and He discerns the situation.

Those who do not bring the Gospel or support legitimate Gospel ministries, will be embarrassed in Heaven, that they will not have any spiritual fruit. We

are commanded to go forth with the Gospel and it is not a suggestion.

God has given us material goods for the purpose of sending forth the Gospel, and **If** we do not use those material goods for that purpose, it is His right to take those things away and give it those who are sending forth the Gospel.

"He that keepeth thy soul." He knows that a lie is being told. What impious daring to lie to Him in *"Whose hand thy breath is, and who knoweth all thy ways."* (**Daniel 5:23**) God will recompense!

"Shall not He render unto every man according to his works:" There is a day of judgment coming, when hypocrisy shall be exposed.

Covetousness visited with the retributions of eternity. On that day Christ will say to all neglecters of His commands. *"Inasmuch as ye have not done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have not done it unto me."* (**Matthew 25:45**)

The Lord Jesus Christ, has greatly added to the convicting power of truth. Before his time men were taught that it was wrong to do wrong, but He taught that it was wrong not to do right.

We easily confess that the things that we ought not to have done, we do this in common with all men that acknowledge the rule of conscience.

We are taught by our Lord, and by such passages as this, to go farther, and confess that we have not done the things that we ought to have done. We now know this is our offender crime.

We cannot ignore the evil around us and say we are not responsible.

We cannot shut our eyes and avert from wrong-doing and tyranny, and oppression.

We cannot say, that it is not our business, without it becoming known to the searcher of all hearts (God), who will certainly, reckon it against us, on the day of accounting!

Proverbs 24:13 My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste:

Sweets Can Be Rejuvenating And Delightful.

Solomon used honey for comparisons. It is good for reviving a hungry man (**1Samuel 14:27**).

Honey also tastes sweet for the pleasure in consuming it (**Psalms 19:10**).

Honey illustrates two blessings of wisdom: ¹Wisdom revives the soul and provides much pleasure. ²Wisdom also rewards with certain success (**Proverbs 24:14**).

This Proverb is the first half of a metaphorical comparison with wisdom. Here is the second half: *"So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off"* (**Proverbs 24:14**).

Gaining wisdom is energizing and delightful, and then it leads to rewarding prosperity.

Honey was a common food in Israel during Solomon's reign (**Leviticus 20:24; Isaiah 7:15; Matthew 3:4**).

Honey eaten in right amounts, it was invigorating and very pleasant. Too much of it though, could make you sick, but that is not considered here (**Proverbs 25:16, 27**).

Honey's properties, to rejuvenate and delight the soul, are what Solomon used to illustrate and exalt the value of wisdom.

Have you experienced the sweet exhilaration and pleasure of honey? Or rather, do you know the reviving delight of wisdom?

Once you have tasted honey, other sweeteners or substitutes are easily detected. Once you learn God's wisdom, even the world's best ideas are bland or bitter, to your heart and mind, for they are far inferior by comparison.

David used a similar comparison in **Psalms 19**. The creation, especially the sun, reveals God's glory, so that men are without excuse for ignoring Him (**Psalms 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-21**).

Even better than what nature shows is the wisdom of the Bible. Which is more valuable than gold and sweeter than honey. (**Psalms 19:7-9, 10**)

Like the wisdom lesson here, the Scriptures also save men from trouble by their warnings, and they also bring great reward (**Psalms 19:11**).

If you know honey rejuvenates and delights, would you want cabbage when famished and desiring a lift? Once you taste the good Word of God, why would you consider anything the world has to offer?

This latter contrast of the world, is far worse, than can be imagined, because the world and its wisdom are opposed to God.

God is fully committed to destroying both (**1Corinthians 1:19-21; 3:18-20**).

Do you pursue and approach the preaching of God's Word, with the desire and joy, of a famished man would show toward honey?

Or do you despise preaching as the Bible warns (*1Thessalonians 5:20*)?

Or do you resent sound doctrinal preaching like modern so-called Christians (*2Timothy 4:3-4*)?

Confess your foolishness and humble yourself before God. Thank Him for His inspired Word and its wisdom, and find yourself a Bible preacher.

Proverbs 24:14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto thy soul: when thou hast found it, then there shall be a reward, and thy expectation shall not be cut off.

There are only, a few 'sure' things in life, the blessing of wisdom is one of them.

If you are disappointed with things in life, pursue wisdom.

If you doubt whether seeking wisdom is worth the effort, you are wrong.

When you acquire wisdom, you have a treasure that will delight and reward your soul. Nothing can stop its great benefit to you. Get wisdom!

The adverb "So" connects the previous verse, "*My son, eat thou honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to thy taste*" (*Proverbs 24:13*).

Solomon used a metaphor to compare honey and wisdom. Honey is nutritious and delicious. Wisdom is pleasant and profitable for the soul, as honey is good and sweet for the body. (*Proverbs 16:24; 1Samuel 14:27*)

This honey metaphor applies to the Bible, for the excellence and sweetness of honey, is a proper comparison, for the delight and pleasure that God's Words provide the soul (*Psalms 19:10; 119:103*).

Knowing God in the soul is also compared to delicious and rich marrow, which is also a delicacy (*Psalms 63:5-6*).

Do you know these comparisons by experience? Wisdom is better than rubies (*Proverbs 3:15; 8:11; 20:15; Job 28:18*).

Wisdom is better than gold or silver (*Proverbs 3:14; 8:10, 19; 16:16; Job 28:14-19; Psalm 119:72*).

Wisdom is incomparably better than anything you can desire (*Proverbs 3:15; 4:7; 8:11*).

If a fool, had made these comparisons, we might not believe them due to his ignorance of wealth, but it is King Solomon writing this, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit.

Since wisdom is so important and valuable for the soul, how intense are your efforts, to find and obtain it? Have you laid its foundation, the fear of the Lord, in your heart, as your greatest ambition (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10*)?

Have you read the Word of God daily, for its ability to give you wisdom (*Psalms 19:7; 119:130*)?

Have you sought out teachers, to help you with its instruction (*Acts 8:30-31*)?

God offers wisdom freely and generously (*Proverbs 8:1-5; 9:1-6*).

God does so by the natural creation, He does so by His gracious providence, and He does also, by your God-given conscience (*Proverbs 20:27; Romans 1:20-22; 2:15; Acts 14:17*).

God forces it upon no one. You must, put forth effort, and seek it with diligent effort and zealous dedication, like hunting hidden treasure (*Proverbs 2:1-9; 18:1*).

Wisdom has great reward for those who apply it and do it! But not for those who merely observe it, see it, or hear it (*Psalms 19:11; Luke 8:18; James 1:21-25*).

The things of earth are all disappointing, but wisdom will never disappoint you. Wisdom brings a certain reward, and your expectation of success and prosperity, will come to pass (*Joshua 1:7-8; Psalm 1:1-3*).

Proverbs 24:15 Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:

Wicked man, be warned! Do not conspire against the righteous, to disturb their tranquility, for God will punish you (*Proverbs 24:16*).

Righteous man, be comforted! God is on your side and looking for any evil against you. You may fall, but God will lift you up again (*Proverbs 24:16*).

Solomon was David's son (*Proverbs 1:1*).

Solomon saw, his righteous father's enemies, who tried to spoil David's rest. He saw, his father's God, bring mischief upon them (*1Chronicles 28:9; Psalm 18:48*).

Solomon saw his father's fall, but he also saw, God raise David back up on high (*2Samuel 23:1-7*).

How could anyone hate David? Envy! Jealousy!

Wicked men, hated him, because of his superior character and relationship with God. They could not match his wisdom or the loyalty of the people to him, so they despised and feared him for both (**1Samuel 18:6-16**).

King Saul repeatedly tried to disrupt David's peaceful coexistence. He conspired against him and tried to kill him outright, numerous times. But what was the outcome? God delivered David and deserted Saul.

King Saul, spent his last night on earth, with the witch of Endor, and was beheaded and nailed to a Philistine wall a day later. Now that is Godly mischief!

Absalom David's son, conspired against David. Though the cause was related to David's sins of adultery and murder, Absalom had no right to do the things he did.

Absalom's father was still far more righteous than he. And what was his outcome? With superior forces, he lost the battle and war; and as he hung in a tree, Joab used him for dart practice. Now that is Godly mischief!

Shimei cursed David when he fled from Jerusalem during Absalom's revolt. His trusted men, wanted to take the dead dog's head off, but David submitted to the affliction, as from the Lord.

On David's triumphant return, Shimei begged for mercy, which David granted, temporarily. Solomon put him to death for his father a few years later. What mischief!

Adonijah and Joab conspired to take the kingdom, while David was weak on his deathbed. But God revealed the matter to David, who sent his private security force, headed by Beneniah, the Cherethites and Pelethites, to install Solomon as king.

What was the outcome? After a little respite, Solomon had them both, Adonijah and Joab, killed by the captain (Beneniah) of his guard. What mischief!

It is foolish to mess with the righteous, whether prophet or peon. God will always help them (**1Chronicles 16:22; Job 5:19; Psalms 68:5; 105:15; Zechariah 2:8; Micah 7:8**).

Ask Haman and Judas! And the forty Jews still fasting against Paul (**Acts 23:12**)!

Ask the Jews that crucified Jesus Christ and met Titus Vespasian forty years later in a close encounter! Where do you think they are residing today?

Proverbs 24:16 For a just man falleth seven times, and riseth up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

God Has Not Promised A Bed Of Roses For Just Men.

In fact, to make a just man perfect, the Lord often brings adversity into his life.

When the wicked see all the problems, they presume he is down for the count; they gloat in their apparent success to devour him. But the Lord will raise up the just man again, will put down the wicked man, eventually eternally.

The context is important. Solomon defied wicked men to plan evil against the righteous. He said, "*Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place*" (**Proverbs 24:15**).

It is the ancient conflict between, good and evil, the wicked and the righteous. See the comments on **Proverbs 29:10**.

The Lord plainly tells the wicked not even to think about doing anything to disturb the peace of just men. And our Proverb gives the fearful reason why!

Though a just man may have afflictions in his life, the Lord will deliver him out of them all (**Job 5:17-27; Psalm 34:19**).

The righteous cry unto the Lord in their troubles, and He delivers them out of every one (**Psalm 34:6, 17**).

The Lord holds them by the hand, and He lifts them up from their troubles (**Psalm 37:24**).

But our Proverb's ellipsis ^{the missing words} declare that the wicked shall fall into mischief, and not be delivered or helped!

Joseph's wicked brothers lay wait against him. They spoiled his rest by selling him as a slave into Egypt. They gloated in their triumph over him. They thought they had gotten rid of him forever.

But the Lord was rapidly raising him up again to the throne of Egypt, and they would bow before him in fear for their lives in just a few years!

Satan lay wait against Job. He begged God for permission to disturb his peaceful life. And God gave him permission.

Satan successively took Job's assets, income, real estate holdings, family, and then his health. But the Lord still held Job's hand. The Lord raised him up again and gave him double!

Poor Hannah had no children. Her husband's other wife, Peninnah, gloated over her, and persecuted her, for a barren womb. This woman tormented Hannah and caused her to fret.

It appeared Hannah was down for good. But the Lord raised her up again and gave her Samuel, the great judge and prophet of Israel, and five other children as well!

David sinned horribly! He alone was responsible! His enemies lay wait against him, even his sons Absalom and Adonijah were against him.

Shimei cursed him publicly for being a bloody man. But the Lord forgave David, raised him up again, and destroyed all his enemies. He blessed David to oversee the coronation of Solomon and peace on Israel!

Daniel's enemies lay wait against him. They searched for any dirt they could find in his professional and personal conduct: they found none.

Daniel's enemies, seduced Darius, to make a law against Daniel's religion. Daniel broke the law and was cast to the lions.

Daniel's enemies, celebrated and gloated. But God raised him up again, and threw them down into horrific destruction.

Christian reader! Is there any reason, for you to fret or worry, about your present circumstances?

Do you know of enemies laying wait against you? Possibly gloating over your troubles?

If you are walking uprightly, you have nothing to fear, the Lord will deliver you, from your afflictions and troubles, as surely as he delivered the several examples you just read.

David was the man after God's own heart, the figure of the Lord Jesus Christ; but he had more adversity and setbacks, fell more times, than any other man in the Old Testament.

Yet the Lord raised him up again and again, many more times than seven! You may read of his great confidence in the Lord (*Psalms 3:1-8; 27:1-14; 46:1-11; 118:1-18*).

Paul was the greatest apostle of Christ, but had more tribulations and persecutions, fell more times, than any other man in the New Testament. But God raised him up again, even from the dead (*Acts 14:19-22*)!

Paul, was never in distress or despair (*2Corinthians 4:8-9*).

Paul had a list of sufferings that are difficult even to read, but he rejoiced in them all (*2Corinthians 11:23-12:10*)!

Read of Paul's great confidence in God (*2Timothy 4:16-18; Hebrews 13:5-6*)!

Satan, the Jews, the Romans, Herod, and Pilate lay wait against our blessed Lord. They condemned him at law. They crucified Him. They confirmed His death by a centurion. They watched Him get buried. They posted a guard at His tomb.

It appeared our Lord had fallen to never recover. They celebrated and gloated together at ridding themselves of this Man, Who had exposed their hypocrisy and destroyed their religious and political sham.

But God "*raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come*" (*Ephesians 1:20-21*).

Satan and his angels are not relishing, their appointed day of torment!

The Jews were utterly destroyed by the Romans in 70AD, and the Romans were overrun by the Goths in 476AD.

Herod and Pilate's bodies are rotting in the earth, and their souls are suffering in hell. They have fallen into horrific and permanent mischief, and there is no deliverance! And they shall soon bow their knees and confess that Jesus is Lord of all!

Let the wicked beware! There is hell to pay for messing with the righteous! Though the just man may fall from time to time, the LORD of Heaven will raise him up again!

Let the righteous rejoice! There is no reason to fret or worry, even when you have fallen to adversity or sin. Put your trust in the Lord, for He will lift you up in due time! Amen!

Proverbs 24:17 Rejoice not when thine enemy falleth, and let not thine heart be glad when he stumbleth:

Loving Your Enemy Is A Commandment The Chief Measure Of A True Christian.

Such love includes being grieved when your enemy falls or stumbles in life.

If you are glad or rejoice when he is struck by adversity, you have sinned against God. This Proverb, offers a simple means for spiritual victory in your life.

The Proverb is not complete by itself, for the next verse explains the consequences of rejoicing, at your enemies troubles.

The Lord will see your selfish and vengeful glee; He will be angry at your wicked attitude; and He will lift His punishment of your enemy (**Proverbs 24:18**).

Reader, for then you will have fallen lower than your enemy, all the way to murder of the heart!

We should all know revenge is sin (**Romans 12:17-21**).

We know vengeance is the Lord's prerogative, and we are to return good for evil. But God is going after our hearts. He seeks to crush, those malignant thoughts, that enjoy seeing our enemies in trouble.

Reader, do you rejoice, in your thoughts, when your enemy falls? Are you glad, in the secrets of your heart, when your enemy stumbles? These are the sins God condemns!

Reader, the glorious light of God's Word shines deeply! All the way to our inner thoughts!

Pure and holy thoughts are treating your enemy with love and kindness, even in your thoughts, and letting the Lord deal with him. Only then, do you prove a righteous heart; the Lord is then, pleased by your actions; and your enemy, will ultimately face the Lord (**Proverbs 20:22**)!

We must rightly divide the Word of truth (**2Timothy 2:15**).

We must not effeminately apply this verse to the enemies of God. The enemy here is a personal enemy that has offended you or sought your harm.

Notice carefully, that it is, "*thine enemy*." Saints do not love the enemies of God; (**Proverbs 11:10; Exodus 15:1-21; 2Chronicles 19:2; Job 22:19; Psalms 15:4; 31:6; 58:10; 139:19-22; Revelation 6:9-11; 18:20; 19:1-6**).

Men naturally hate their enemies. They resent anyone who wrongs, slights, or bests them; they want revenge.

The Pharisees twisted God's law in an attempt to justify this kind of hatred. But our Lord corrected their heresy by requiring kindness toward personal enemies, in order to show we are the true children of God (**Matthew 5:43-48**).

The Pharisees also perverted the "*eye for an eye*" provision of God's law to apply to personal offences.

Though God wrote it for civil government only, they used it to justify personal revenge. Jesus again corrected them by teaching the holy wisdom of simply turning the other cheek if our enemy hits us (**Matthew 5:38-42**).

Job, a perfect man, one who rejected evil, whom God boasted about to Satan, was very discreet regarding his enemies.

Job said he was worthy of God's judgment, "*If I rejoiced at the destruction of him that hated me, or lifted up myself when evil found him: neither have I suffered my mouth to sin by wishing a curse to his soul*" (**Job 31:29-30**).

David, after God's own heart, wrote of his enemies, "*But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that mourneth for his mother*" (**Psalms 35:13-14; 2Samuel 1:11-12, 17**).

Yet they showed their profane character by rejoicing at his adversity (**Psalms 35:15-16**).

Even the best of saints, have enemies, for all our families, neighbors, colleagues, and church members are but sinners. This world is no friend to the righteous.

Consider your life. Who are your enemies? Your spouse might even be your enemy in this sense at times. Does someone on the job provoke you? Is there a church member who seems to hate you?

Does a family member ignore and slight you? Is there a schoolmate who teases you? Has a neighbor encroached on your property line?

Does an employee spread secrets and disrespect about you? Has a former friend turned in vicious hatred and slandered you without a cause?

Identify them all. Search your heart carefully. The great issue is how you will respond.

Enemies hate us without a cause; we love them in spite of their hatred. They slander and back-bite us; we bless and praise.

Enemies ignore and slight us; we greet and commend them. They hurt us; we do them good.

Enemies practice evil toward us; we overcome their evil with good (**Proverbs 25:21-22; Exodus 23:4-5; Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 12:14, 17-21; 1Thessalonians 5:15; 1Peter 3:9**). See the comments on **Proverbs 25:21**.

If you want a spiritual victory today, please your Heavenly Father, and to be perfect like Him, pray for your enemies!

Now! Praying for them will prepare you and keep you from violating this holy Proverb.

If you do it in sincerity, you will be blessed with peace and joy; and the Holy Spirit will be freed in your life to work through your new man, for you to be a greater saint in the earth.

We grieve and quench Holy Spirit, by our hateful and hard thoughts, toward our personal enemies (*Ephesians 4:30; 1Thessalonians 5:19; James 3:14-17*).

Reader, what if our Father had not loved us through Jesus Christ, while we were His enemies? Can we follow His example a little? A lot? (*Romans 5:6-10*)

Our Lord loved His personal enemies and had human compassion regarding their destruction (*Luke 19:41-44*).

Our Lord also vividly showed a glorious spirit by praying for His Father to forgive the soldiers gambling for his garments at the foot of the cross (*Luke 23:34*).

Our beloved brother Stephen, with stones thudding off his body, and the Lord Jesus in His sight, prayed God to forgive the Jews for stoning him to death (*Acts 7:55-60*).

These are our holy examples; let us think, speak, and act like them today!

Proverbs 24:18 Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

God Carefully Watches How You Treat Enemies.

If you rejoice when your enemies fall, or are glad when they stumble, this will displease the LORD! (*Proverbs 24:17*)

God protects righteous men; but He will lift His wrath and punishment, if He sees you gloating about it.

Solomon by divine inspiration, wrote Proverbs to raise his son and citizens, to greatness of heart, noble and virtuous in thought, word, and deed.

Here is one of the keys to such greatness: you should not gloat about trouble in the lives of your personal enemies. This requires character of the highest order, possessed only, by exceptional men, true princes.

David taught Solomon this wonderful character trait. *"False witnesses did rise up; they laid to my charge things that I knew not. They rewarded me evil for good to the spoiling of my soul. But as for me, when they were sick, my clothing was sackcloth: I humbled my soul with fasting; and my prayer returned into mine own bosom. I behaved myself as though he had been my friend or brother: I bowed down heavily, as one that*

mourneth for his mother. But in mine adversity they rejoiced ..." (Psalm 35:11-15).

King Saul was David's enemy for a number of years. He tried to kill David on several occasions and caused enormous trouble in his life.

Yet, David sought to serve him as well as he could. He forgave Saul's outbursts of rage and attempts to kill him. David spared Saul's life on occasions, and he wept bitterly for him when he died on the battlefield.

God Himself is the great example every day. How? He sends sunshine and rain on both His friends and His enemies.

We approach the character of God when we learn to love our enemies and show them kindness, which is totally contrary to the evil heart of man's nature. Such thoughts and actions show us to be God's children (*Matthew 5:43-48*).

God hates the selfish cruelty of gloating at calamities of your enemies (*Proverbs 17:5; Zechariah 1:15*).

The inspired history of the Old Testament shows numerous cases of even nations being punished for their delight or participation in the troubles of other nations (*Psalm 137:7-9; Judges 16:25-30; Micah 7:10; Isaiah 10:5-15; Lamentations 4:21-22; Ezekiel 26:2-3; Habakkuk 1:5-11*).

However, hating God's enemies is different. If you are not involved personally, you are encouraged to hate the enemies of God and righteousness. David also wrote, *"Do not I hate them, O LORD, that hate thee? and am not I grieved with those that rise up against thee? I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies" (Psalm 139:21-22).*

How do you measure yourself in nobility and virtue by this Proverb? Are you as much after God's heart as was David? Do you grieve to see your enemies in trouble?

How do you compare to Jesus of Nazareth and Stephen the deacon? Jesus prayed for those crucifying Him, *"Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do" (Luke 23:34).*

Stephen prayed for those stoning him, *"Lord, lay not this sin to their charge" (Acts 7:60).*

If you want to be righteous and wise to please God, then your duty and privilege are clear (*Romans 12:17-21*).

Identify Your Enemies And Pray For Them!

Purpose in your heart, that you will do what you can to help them, if you find them in need.

Purpose in your heart, that you will greet them warmly, if you encounter them. This is the character of God, and it is the character of all those who are truly His children.

Proverbs 24:19 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be thou envious at the wicked;

Sinners appear, to prosper and get away with wickedness. But there is a God, and He will have the last laugh at their rebellion, against Him and His Word.

Sinners happiness is feigned; their success an illusion; their long-term prosperity a delusion!

Sinners experience trouble; they often die young; and then they face an angry God **If** they are not born-again!

Wise Men Walk By Faith And Knowledge.

Wise men believe all God has said against sin in the Bible, and they reject worldly, advice or examples, that pretend sin might be profitable.

Wise men know a day of reckoning is coming, in which all the wicked shall give an account of their lives and be rewarded eternally, for their foolishness and evil (*2Corinthians 5:9-11*).

Fearing God and keeping His commandments are the greatest things you can do for yourself (*Proverbs 1:7; 8:13; 9:10; 10:27; 19:23; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

Here is true wisdom. You trust God's written revelation for your life. You know He exists and His Words are absolute truth, and you know there is great reward for obeying them (*Psalms 19:11; Hebrews 11:6*).

The apparent pleasure and prosperity of fools cause you to question, if there is profit in obeying God and His Word.

David and his song leader Asaph wrote about such foolish and short-term thoughts (*Psalms 49:1-20; 73:1-20*).

These thoughts are fiery darts of doubt, from the devil, to overthrow your faith and commitment to wisdom (*Genesis 3:1; Ephesians 6:16*).

The whoremonger seems to enjoy many women, but God will destroy him (*Hebrews 13:4*).

God lets him think, he is getting away, with adultery (*Psalms 50:16-23*).

In the meantime, he has no committed, loyal, or loving companion, who gives him a family of children to enjoy (*Proverbs 5:15-23*).

These wicked players are lonely now, and they will soon be cut down (*Proverbs 24:20*)!

David and Solomon condemned fretting (*Proverbs 23:17-18; 24:1; Psalm 49:1-20*).

David wrote, "*Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity. For they shall soon be cut down like the grass, and wither as the green herb... Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for him: fret not thyself because of him who prospereth in his way, because of the man who bringeth wicked devices to pass.*" (*Psalm 37:1-2, 7*).

Let the wicked have their fun in this world, you will feel for them in the next (*Psalms 17:13-15; 49:14-15*)! You have a reward coming, that will put the wicked's deceitful pleasures to shame. Remembering this reward, fills the Christian with hope, no matter how miserable, his current existence might be (*Psalms 73:1-20; Romans 8:16-19; 1Corinthians 15:19*).

God will laugh at the wicked's calamities, now and their condemnation later (*Proverbs 1:23-31; Matthew 7:21-23*).

Proverbs 24:20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

No matter how much a wicked man may seem to be accumulating in life, or seems to live care-free, the wise man knows that the wicked, is but a step from death and eternity.

He shall be separated from all his possessions, his physical life, eternally in the darkness of hell. *Proverbs 13:9 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.*

Foolish And Futile Is To Envy Sinners!

Christians not only have eternal life, but are also promised rewards, for everything they fulfill or suffer for the Lord's sake. Divine wisdom assures us of this, (*Proverbs 24:14; Romans 8:16-18*).

This verse gives the end of the wicked. This is why we are not to envy the wicked because along with their wicked lifestyle comes the reward for wickedness.

The fact is that the evil man will have no future like the believer has. All the wicked man has to look forward to is judgment and damnation.

All the light a wicked man possesses, is a physical light, because he has not been spiritually regenerated, so the light inside him is darkness in sin. (*Matthew 6:23*).

Matthew 6:23 emphasizes the fact that the darkness in the unbeliever is great and that darkness leads to eternal darkness (*Matthew 8:12*).

So the life of the unbeliever, continues in darkness and damnation, while the future, of the believer, is in light and glory in Heaven.

Why a wise man is not concerned? The wicked have no reward.

In this verse, Solomon gives us the reasons why we should not fret or be envious of the wicked:

1. This life is all they get!
2. They have no reward.
3. They do have a reward for their evil deeds but it is only: temporary, and fading splendor and riches. What they have in this life will not last. In the life to come, they have no reward only punishment!

This example is similar, to what the Lord Jesus said of the hypocrites. They only reward they get is the applause of men in this life. *Matthew 6:2, 5, 16*

David speaks to this issue as well. *Psalms 17:14-15* *From men which are thy hand, O LORD, from men of the world, which have their portion in this life, and whose belly thou fillest with thy hid treasure: they are full of children, and leave the rest of their substance to their babes. As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.*

The wicked, have their portion in this life. Their bellies are full. They have to leave it all behind to their children.

The believer has something else to look forward to. Regardless of how much or how little the believer has in this life, in the life to come, the psalmist says, *"I shall see thy face in righteousness and be satisfied!" (Psalm 17:15).*

That is a far better prospect for the future than the wicked who prosper in the world. There really is no reason to worry about why they prosper in the world.

There is no reason to envy them either, not if they are going to lose all their toys and trinkets forever.

Reader, as a child of God, we have true riches that last forever. We have true satisfaction, something that earthly riches could never bring.

There is no need for any envy in this life. Envy on our part is foolish.

Proverbs 24:21 My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:

God commands you to honor and obey civil rulers. This includes presidents, governors, mayors, sheriffs, clerks, and all public offices.

God ordained these offices and chose the men in them.

God connects your reverence of ordained offices, with your reverence of Him!

Here is basic wisdom for the glory of God and the peace of nations.

God further commands you to avoid those with revolutionary rhetoric, ideas, or plans. They are guilty of sedition and treason against men and rebellion against God, and they deserve damnation (*Romans 13:1-2*).

As you do not want a spouse, children, or employees fomenting rebellion against you, it is your duty to set the standard toward civil rulers.

Would you have been a loyalist or a revolutionary in America in 1776? It is a good question, but beyond the scope of this study due to many historical factors and much revisionism. Yet, it can and should be answered slowly and soberly by wise men.

Solomon here taught his son to fear the LORD.

The fear of the LORD can be taught, as David showed (*Psalm 34:11*).

Since the fear of the LORD is the beginning and end of wisdom and knowledge, it ought to be taught first and most often (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; 19:23; 22:4; 23:17; Psalm 111:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13*).

God then added fear of the king, as both are to be feared. The LORD is placed first, for you fear Him first. God is feared over the king; and you fear the king because of Him. You fear and obey civil government first out of duty toward God (*Romans 13:1-5; 1Peter 2:13-17*).

For living in a world, of political unrest, encroaching governmental regulation, and free speech by rabid citizens, and an arrogant media gone to seed, here is wonderful, inspired wisdom from heaven. Noble men will consider it and adjust their lives accordingly.

As you consider this Proverb further, you must understand two words seldom used today:

"Meddle": To mix or join in company; to mingle, associate with. You *"meddle"* with persons when you join or associate with them. God hates criticizing

government, so He condemns you mingling with those that do.

You should avoid, these criticizers, their philosophy, and their plans. There is no wisdom gained by reading their literature, listening to their rants, or considering their explanations, for political events they know nothing about.

"Given": Inclined, disposed, addicted, or prone. A person is "given to" something when he is inclined to do it. Some men are prone to criticize and despise government and seek change.

They are generally, haughty, critical, proud, and rebellious. They want to talk, lead, and judge, though God did not make them teachers, leaders, or judges.

God commands you to avoid them. You have been warned.

You cannot be a revolutionary. Government is not by the people. Government is by God. The Declaration of Independence, is neither directly inspired nor derived, from the Bible.

If you want to vote for change, then vote for it. The Bible supports lawful efforts for change (*Nehemiah 2:1-8; Acts 22:25*).

You cannot despise, government or support civil disobedience, for God will judge all such rebels, as the next verse clearly declares (*Proverbs 24:22*).

Seeking to change an established government is the sin of sedition. It is a work of the flesh and shall not inherit the kingdom of God (*Galatians 5:20; 2Timothy 3:1-5*).

While some call themselves patriots, they are anarchists, rebels against existing authority. This attitude toward government is contrary to Christianity (*Romans 13:1-7; 1Peter 2:13-17*).

Jesus honored, an existent government over God's nation, so flush your legal constitutional heresy.

Those who criticize, despise, and want to change government are brute beasts, who need to be destroyed, like rabid dogs, according to God (*Jude 1:8-10*).

They have no clue about government and shall perish in their own profane ignorance. Read well the language used to describe and condemn them, for it is the inspired Words of God.

Citizens despising or resisting government are the same as children rebelling against parents, and unions shutting down employers. It is rebellion, and America's hatred for this centralized authority promotes it from earliest school days.

It is just retribution and recompense to see political activists with revolt in their marriages and homes.

Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap (Galatians 6:7). This includes arrogance or rebellion against any sphere of authority. You have been warned.

Fools and scorners will bark and whine about becoming doormats to a political regime, but they forget Him that is higher than the highest (*Ecclesiastes 5:8*).

God condemns even cursing a king in your thoughts (*Ecclesiastes 10:20*)!

God has the king's heart in His hand, where He can bring about change righteously and much more efficiently than you (*Proverbs 21:1-4*)!

The prosperity and security of a nation do not depend on vigilante citizens to question or resist rulers, they rather depend on the faith and righteousness of citizens to obey the Ruler of nations and to pray to Him.

Why do you think of the title, Jesus Christ is King of kings? God rightly sets up kings and puts them down, not men (*Daniel 2:20-21*).

When should a Christian disobey civil government? Only when government violates God's commandments for his life. The apostles declared, "We ought to obey God rather than men," (*Acts 5:29*).

It does not matter what government does outside your life, for they will answer to God. You must obey until there is a clear and direct personal conflict.

You should follow the Lord Jesus Christ, Who, though being the King of kings, submitted to Caesar's de facto government's taxing authority over Israel and avoided all unnecessary political offence (*Matthew 17:24-27; 22:15-22*).

Later, our Lord, exercising His sovereign rule of the world, ended the nation of Israel in 70 A.D. and the Roman Empire in 476 A.D.

Proverbs 24:22 For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knoweth the ruin of them both?

God does not respect those who criticize or resist authority, especially civil government. He condemns even associating with such people (*Proverbs 24:21*).

Here God, promises sudden calamity and ruin on them both, the leaders and followers of rebellion and sedition.

The fear of God and respect of civil government go together, it is impossible to rightly fear God and be

critical of His appointed authority (*Proverbs 24:21*). See the comments on *Proverbs 24:21*.

Solomon warned his son to fear God and the king (*Proverbs 24:21*).

We fear God first; but we fear the king as well, because his authority is from God. To resist the king, or any civil authority, is to resist God and His ordinance (*Romans 13:1-2*).

We obey the government for two reasons:

1. Fear of punishment from God and
2. Fear of punishment from rulers (*Romans 13:3-7*).

Those wanting to change government have two potent and terrible enemies, God and the king!

Submission to civil authority is true Christianity. Peter taught the same, fearing God and honoring the king go together.

Peter wrote that we are bound by duty to God and man to submit ourselves to every ordinance of civil government (*1Peter 2:13-17*).

Peter condemned thinking or speaking evil of government as marks of ignorant reprobates and brute beasts (*2Peter 2:10-12; Jude 1:8-10*).

There is a God in heaven! Though men accuse, criticize, despise, ridicule, and undermine civil rulers in private, God sees it all.

God does not care if you are a promoter of disrespectful thoughts and speech, or a mere follower and willing listener. Calamity and ruin of both parties will ultimately occur!

Why are some men in such trouble in their lives, families, and businesses? A certain reason can be their wicked attitude and speech toward government.

God will never be mocked. It hardly matters, what evil speaking men try to do; nothing is going to work. God is against them. They cannot disrespect His appointed authority and get away with it.

Why are some men so blessed in their lives, families, and businesses? A certain reason, can be their peaceful and reverent submission to government. God blesses and rewards the righteous!

How can God or the king know of a disrespectful and rebellious subject? Solomon wrote, "*Curse not the king, no not in thy thought; and curse not the rich in thy bedchamber: for a bird of the air shall carry the voice, and that which hath wings shall tell the matter*" (*Ecclesiastes 10:20*).

Rebellious words travel far! And God also sees the very thoughts and intents of every humans heart. He will punish those who criticize matters far too high for them.

Is this point overblown? Lucifer, the anointed cherub of God, will be tormented forever in the lake of fire for rebellion against authority, the rule of Almighty God!

Miriam, the dear sister of Moses, spoke only once against his authority, and God made her white with dreaded leprosy (*Numbers 12:1-15*)!

Korah, and even the wives and children of the rebels, were swallowed alive by the earth for merely speaking against Moses (*Numbers 16:1-34*)!

Absalom rebelled against David, so the LORD caught him by his head in a tree for Joab's dart practice (*2Samuel 18:9-18*)!

Adonijah did not give sufficient respect to the new king, so Solomon had his own brother killed (*1Kings 2:12-25*)!

Joab murdered competitors for his office, so Solomon killed him, his first cousin (*1Kings 2:28-34*).

Shimei cursed David; and though David forgave him, Solomon eventually had him killed (*1Kings 2:35-46*).

Zedekiah ignored Jeremiah's warnings and rebelled against Nebuchadnezzar; for that offence he had to watch his sons killed before him, and then his eyes were put out (*2Kings 25:1-7*).

Rebellious Jews revolted against Rome, which brought Titus to destroy their city and temple and bring upon them greater tribulation than the world ever had seen.

Is this point overblown? Angels, far greater in wisdom and might, do not bring railing accusations against wicked rulers in the earth (*2Peter 2:11*).

Why should a foolish man, who knows nothing of the weighty decisions of his leaders? But the angels check hair length on women, to see if they show public submission to their husbands (*1Corinthians 11:10*).

Speaking lightly about parents was worthy of death in God's estimation (*Deuteronomy 27:16*).

Those who cursed their parents were put to death severely (*Proverbs 20:20*).

And God considered a mocking face toward parents to be worthy of horrible judgment (*Proverbs 30:17*).

God defends His appointed authorities and punishes the disrespect to them.

Is this point overblown? How do you speak of the President? With reverence, or disdain? Do you joke

about him or other officials? What do you read about the government - supportive or critical?

Do you pay taxes respectfully? Do you wickedly imagine a conspiracy in every decision they make? Do you criticize new laws? With what kind of people do you discuss government?

As a parent, do you want your children criticizing your every decision, ridiculing your every weakness, and sowing unrest in your other children?

As a husband, do you want your wife mocking your authority to others?

As an employer, do you want your employees organizing a union to attack and undermine your position and business?

The root cause of disrespect to authority is pride and rebellion, the devil's sins (*Proverbs 13:10; 1 Timothy 3:6*).

It Is Not A Principle It Is Pride And Rebellion.

Men do not evade taxes for principle, but for covetousness and greed. There are lawful and peaceful means to pursue principle, but their tactics prove their ambition. God will always punish proud and rebellious men.

Saints pray for rulers and do all they can to live quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty, regardless of how pagan or wicked the government (*Jeremiah 29:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-4*).

Saints do not despise government. They know God or the king will be coming soon to wreck vengeance on every such rebel. Saints know His blessing is on those who revere authority.

Proverbs 24:23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

Respect Of Persons In Judgment Is A Horrible Evil.

Wise men will not do it, no matter how moving the relationship or temptation.

Wise men will not protect or vindicate a wicked person; they will rebuke him. God blesses such a faithful man.

Good men abhor the man who compromises judgment and excuses or justifies sinners.

Solomon accumulated precepts of wisdom for his son, so he adds another matter belonging to wise men. (*Proverbs 24:21*)

Wise men will be scrupulously fair in judging others, without showing any partiality or respect due to relationship, status, or persons.

Man's nature, tends to compromise, for persons and advantage, so the rule is good. See the comments on *Proverbs 28:21*.

As a king instructing a prince, the Proverb applies first to civil judgment. Citizens are expected to strictly obey the king and reject any efforts at rebellion (*Proverbs 24:21-22*).

But here God adds the responsibility of rulers and magistrates to judge fairly, for He has put moral limitations, on their authority in consequence of their office. Wise rule also applies to all matters of judgment, from the home to the church and nation.

The foolish error is justifying or excusing the wicked rather than reproofing them. And the consequences of good or bad judgment are shown to be significant (*Proverbs 24:24-25*).

A man exonerating the wicked shall be cursed and abhorred; a man reproofing them will be the delight of men and receive the blessing of God. Here is a commandment with promise.

You must choose to be perfectly just in all your dealings. The Word of God defines justice, without any compromise for human affection, honor, sentimentality, or tradition.

God's Truth And Wisdom Must Be Applied Equally In All Cases.

Here is wisdom, for it is fools who allow fear, hate, love, respect, or sloth to cloud and distort judgment.

Parent, are you just in judging your children? Are foolish and wicked children rebuked? Or do you protect sinners in the family? If so, two things will happen: Your family will despise you for your compromise and God will judge you.

It should be your high goal to be absolutely righteous and earn the delight of your family and the blessing of God. If you let sentimentality cloud your judgment, you are undermining your family's future.

Employer or manager, are you known at the office for total fairness in all your dealings? Can all men count on your justice to be totally impartial and equitable?

Here is job duty from heaven for you to obey. Paul would say, "*Masters, give unto your servants that*

which is just and equal; knowing that ye also have a Master in heaven" (**Colossians 4:1**).

Pastor, are you clear of all partiality in using your office? Paul also warned, "I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality" (**1Timothy 2:21**).

Do you apply the whole counsel of God equally to all members without discrimination?

Saint, are you totally righteous in all your opinions and judgments of others? Jesus said, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment" (**John 7:24**).

Do you hate some sins and sinners more than others?

Does God have the same value system as you do, or have you made up your own?

Fairly judge every man by God's standards alone. And let your reputation be known by all men, to be just and honest without exception.

Authority and all judgment must be exercised as unto the Lord, for He is the Judge of all.

God's will, regarding equity and righteousness, has been revealed clearly in the Bible. It is not the lack of understanding, that causes most human compromise, but rather the unwillingness to stand firmly on Scripture alone.

What a blessing to have Jesus Christ of Nazareth as our heavenly Judge!

God is faithful and just to forgive us our sins (**1John 1:9**).

God is the only faithful and true witness (**Revelation 3:14**).

God's character and judgment are so perfectly righteous that His names are Faithful and True (**Revelation 19:11**).

Reader, you may put your trust in Him! Expose yourself completely to Him today in humble confession and repentance. God will be gracious, for an infinite price, has already been paid on your behalf, which He shall never forget or minimize.

Because there is no respect of persons with God, let every sinner dread the day of His coming! (**Romans 2:11**)

God shall come, with His mighty angels in vengeance and flaming fire, to destroy all who disobey and reject redemption, that He paid on your behalf (**2Thessalonians 1:7-9**).

You will receive the full recompense for your sins, even everlasting destruction from His presence!

Proverbs 24:24 He that saith unto the wicked, Thou art righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:

In **Proverbs 17:15** He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

No one can really respect him who perverts justice, for he shows that he esteems personal gain more than he esteems the truth or people.

Thy Word is truth **John 17:17**. It is wrong for us to set ourselves up as judges over the wrong that people do.

It is also wrong, for us to set ourselves, to justify the evil that men do. We have no right to condemn right actions. We have no right to justify wrong actions. It is the perversion of truth.

Often people will justify wrong doing in famous men in order to find acceptance with them. This is as wrong as if one did it for a monetary bribe.

Even unsaved people can see the evil of such perversion of justice, and should scorn such in their hearts.

Read what God says about this issue: **Isaiah 5:20** Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!

If there is one thing that is becoming more prevalent in today's society, it is this reversal in beliefs and philosophy, of calling evil good and good evil.

Example: Abortion is murder! A baby is being killed! But it is referred to only as a fetus and not a person. What was considered heinous sin 100 years ago is now accepted in practice and principled.

There are people, in politics, who bolster people who are really wicked, by announcing to the people that he or she is righteous.

Those in positions of power, who elevate those who are rank sinners and con the people, when the truth finally comes out, they along with their appointees, should be abhorred by the people.

But we find today that our society, is so reprobated in its thinking, that people are easily persuaded that they excuse these reprobates.

We need to heed the warning of the LORD: (*Numbers 32:23*) "be sure your sin will find you out."

The sins of public appointees are normally found out before too long and the one who appointed them should no longer be trusted by the people.

This also applies to those who give false witness in a court of law. Expert witnesses are brought by the defense, and well paid for their time, to make excuses for the accused of a crime. These people literally call the wicked righteous by claiming their acts were justified.

This kind of perverting the truth, will never hold up at the Judgment Seat of Christ, nor at the Great White Throne Judgment.

The point of the first part of this proverbial instruction, is that such partiality or perverted justice is not good. It is not good because it is not fair. It is not just. It is not righteous. It is a perversion.

A Judge, anywhere on planet earth, is personally accountable to God. Whether the judge believes this or not, does not matter. They will be held accountable personally by God.

God has laid out clearly His requirement for every judge: *Deuteronomy 25:1* *If there be a controversy between men, and they come unto judgment, that the judges may judge them; then they shall justify the righteous, and condemn the wicked.*

The status, of the person involved in the accusation, should never even be a consideration.

Their income, pedigree, power, skin color, social status, or their popularity, should have nothing to do with the verdict. Nothing!

God's reaction to this perverted judgment is clear: *Proverbs 17:15* *He that justifieth the wicked, and he that condemneth the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.*

Any wise God fearing man, should be in-line with God's opinion of truth and righteousness.

When you have respect of persons on the basis of their ethnic group, you will be popular in that little group, but nowhere else.

Our nation is paying a heavy price for its political correctness.

In general, people hate perversion of the judicial system. Those who engage in this twisted practice may make one friend, but they also potentially make thousands of enemies.

***Proverbs 24:25* But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.**

The Holy Spirit, has just condemned, justifying or flattering the wicked, and He warned that good men and nations, would curse such weak compromisers (*Proverbs 24:23-24*).

In contrast here, He encouraged men to rebuke the wicked and receive the delight and blessing of God and men. It is a holy duty of righteous men to judge righteously and rebuke the wicked.

The Proverb is primarily for rulers, as Solomon the king addressed his son, the future king (*Proverbs 24:21-24*).

Great rulers must govern justly, which includes rebuking sin, wherever they find it (*Proverbs 16:12; 20:8, 26*).

It is a travesty of our generation that rulers compromise so often with wickedness. Jesus Christ is the only perfect ruler (*Hebrews 1:9; Revelation 19:15*).

But the Proverb also applies to all good men, especially in their offices of leadership; for righteous men have a duty to rebuke sin and warn unruly men. Allowing, any you know or meet, to continue in sin without a rebuke, is an act of hatred (*Leviticus 19:17*).

If righteous men, do not correct or rebuke, how shall fools be instructed or saints perfected?

Without correction or rebuke, how shall the wicked be restrained? The saints have a duty to live and speak in such a way as to reprove evil (*Ephesians 5:11*).

You are your brother's keeper (*Genesis 4:9*).

"Iron sharpeneth iron," (*Proverbs 27:17*).

Church members, are to warn the unruly, and every church has them (*1Thessalonians 5:14*).

It is by such means that churches grow spiritually (*Galatians 6:1; James 5:19-20*).

Of course, the ministers of Christ have the greatest duty and role of rebuking the wicked. John the Baptist rebuked the unlawful marriage of Herod (*Matthew 14:3-5*).

A minister has a divine duty every time he steps in the pulpit to preach against the foolish notions of his hearers (*2Corinthians 10:4-6*).

They are to lift up their voices, like trumpets and show Israel, their sins (*Isaiah 58:1*).

The work is so harsh at times, that they have been described, as hewing people in pieces with their Words (**Hosea 6:5**).

Ministers are to preach the Word, whether the people want to hear it or not (**2 Timothy 4:1-4**).

Ministers are to ignore any efforts to despise their authority (**Titus 2:15**).

They must avoid, preaching smooth things, which sinful generations crave (**Isaiah 30:8-11**).

The Word of God, properly preached, is a hammer and fire, it breaks in pieces the rocks of stubborn hearers (**Jeremiah 23:28-29**).

The people, were astonished at the authority of Jesus Christ, for He rejected the mealy-mouthed compromise of their preachers (**Matthew 7:28-29**).

Proverbs 24:26 Every man shall kiss his lips that giveth a right answer.

Excellent speech, appropriate answers, and Words of truth are wonderful things.

Good men perceive and respect such wise use of language. They will love the man who answers matters well with sound lips. Here is a goal for prudent men, excellent speech.

**The Tongue And Lips
The Faculty Of Speech
Are Potent Tools For Good Or Evil.**

In many Proverbs and elsewhere in the Bible, men are warned against misuse of the tongue and encouraged to wise use of it (**Proverbs 10:19; 12:18; 15:4; 18:21; James 1:19; 3:2-10**).

One of the most direct routes to wisdom and godliness is learning excellent speech. Speech is the quickest and clearest evidence of a fool (**Proverbs 17:28; 18:7; Ecclesiastes 5:3**).

Good Words and answers are as beautiful as fine art (**Proverbs 10:20; 25:11**).

A wise man by the noble use of his mouth can feed many (**Proverbs 15:4, 23; 10:21**).

And good men love those who speak well (**Proverbs 12:14; 16:13; 22:11; Job 6:25**).

In the context of this verse, we see the emphasis on the beauty of judges giving right answers (**Proverbs 24:23-25**).

Excellent speech is not by accident. It is by diligent use of these biblical rules.

Excellent speech requires preparation (**Proverbs 15:28**).

Excellent speech requires hesitation (**Proverbs 25:8**).

Excellent speech requires humiliation (**Proverbs 26:12**).

Excellent speech requires limitation (**Proverbs 17:27**).

Excellent speech requires discretion (**Proverbs 26:4-5**).

Excellent speech requires certain Words of truth (**Proverbs 22:21**).

Excellent speech requires graciousness (**Proverbs 22:11**).

Paul would say, "*Let your speech be alway with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man*" (**Colossians 4:6**).

Paul understood the purpose and object of speech, to be the gracious and edifying, building up of the hearer (**Ephesians 4:29**).

Our Lord Jesus was the Master at giving right answers (**Matthew 22:46**).

We read with great pleasure, how the Lord, handled conspiracies of the Jews to trap Him in His words, for He would confound them on the spot.

When the Lord spoke in general, the people were astonished (**Matthew 7:28-29**).

Even our Lord's enemies said, "*Never man spake like this man*" (**John 7:46**)!

He also blessed His disciples, with wisdom and speech to confound their enemies, even without preparation (**Luke 21:12-15**)!

The deacon Stephen, brought the great hatred of the Jews on him, for their inability to resist his wise speech by the Spirit of Christ (**Acts 6:10**).

**Christian Duty Is To Grow In The Ability
To Teach And Defend The Truth Of The Gospel.**

Paul rebuked, the Hebrew saints, for their lack of progress toward teaching (**Hebrews 5:12-14**).

Peter exhorted, his readers, to be ready to give reasonable answers, not feelings, for their hope in Jesus Christ. Do you deserve kisses on the lips? (**1 Peter 3:15**)

Proverbs 24:27 Prepare thy work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build thine house.

Get A Life Before A Wife!

Establish your profession before buying a house! Get a real job before buying a truck! Necessities come before comforts. Income production comes before spending.

Secure your source of income before committing to expensive projects. Prepare before building, lest you are ridiculed for unfinished projects (*Luke 14:28-30*).

What wonderful advice! Here we have practical advice. Become good at your trade or business before spending on a house.

Even businesses could benefit. Plow your earnings back into the company before declaring dividends or building a fancy home office. Indeed, Solomon was very wise!

In the agrarian society of Israel, most men worked outside in the fields, either growing produce or tending flocks and herds. Cain and Abel represented the two main industries of such a society, one tilled the ground and one kept sheep (*Genesis 4:2*).

But each man had to choose one of these endeavors and become very good at it in order to support a family.

A wise man tells his son, there is a right order to a man's life. He must, identify his professional calling and establish himself in it, before investing in the ornament and luxury of a house, which consumes, rather than produces, income.

Many men create hardship for their families, and some never recover, by getting these two stages of life out of order.

Most American men, are too impatient to follow this rule. They want the goodies now; they want to show off a house before they have earned it. They want to be driving a nice car before they even have any financial assets.

Most American men, will not save and wait. They lack the self-discipline and humility, to keep things in proper order, they want to enjoy life now!

Easy credit and our income tax policies encourage these foolish choices. And the deduction of loan interest for tax purposes further promotes these dangerous choices.

Also credit cards, installment debt, and easy mortgages seduce men into purchasing expensive consumer goods and houses before they are ready professionally or financially.

A young man's goals, in order, should be:

1. To identify his life's work;
2. Become proficient at it;
3. Save some capital before worrying about the luxuries and assets of fathers (*Proverbs 19:14*).

With his income secure, then he can now, think about a wife and house, but not until then. Income production should be far more important to him than income consumption!

A young man committed to this Proverb, is not ashamed to drive a used car and live with his parents. He wants to focus on his work and accumulate capital as fast as possible.

A young man committed to this Proverb, knows professional competence and capital are more important than pleasures or comfort. Nice cars or houses waste capital.

A young man committed to this Proverb, plans to have a house, a fine house, later!

A house is an enormous expense and luxury, as fathers know. It is a foolish burden for the young man, until he has established himself securely in his profession.

An apartment, used cars, a modest wardrobe, and limited entertainment will do fine.

A house produces nothing but expenses. An ox, or any modern income-producing asset, is a much better choice than a house, unless it is a duplex! See the comments on *Proverbs 14:4*.

Hasty men, who get these major decisions out of order, are headed to financial ruin (*Proverbs 21:5; 28:20-22*).

A wise father, will not give his daughter, to a man who has these priorities confused. His daughter will suffer from needless poverty and financial stress, as do so many marriages today, where the father did not properly protect his daughter in this way.

Jacob worked seven years for Rachel. By then he had accumulated the basis for an estate and proven himself to his father-in-law. (*Genesis 29:18-20*)

Spendthrifts found it hard to marry good girls! Only young men with a successful trade and capital could marry Israel's better daughters.

Let every young male reader beware. Patient diligence, is God's plan for financial success (*Proverbs 12:11; 27:23-27; 28:19*).

Prepare your heart to resist, our covetous and greedy nation's mantra of "buy now, pay later." The debt monster always comes back to bite. Let the American

dream be, to own, your own business (or profession), rather than your own house.

Our Lord Jesus Christ kept the priorities of this Proverb gloriously. The Son of God prepared His work, performed it perfectly, and finished it. Then He began to build His house, the church. And He began preparing a permanent dwelling place for His bride (*Matthew 16:18; John 14:2-3*).

Proverbs 24:28 Be not a witness against thy neighbour without cause; and deceive not with thy lips.

You Can Hurt Or Protect Others By Guarding Your Words.

It is easy to harm another person by gossip or slander.

By hurting his reputation or testimony, you may inflict great pain or disadvantage on him.

Part of godliness and wisdom, is to rule your mouth, so you do not injure another person, through malice or indiscretion.

Legal situations occur where you might be called as a witness for an accident, crime, or a person's character.

Your duty before God and men is to not testify against anyone without cause: there must be a righteous reason, to disclose anything about another person, especially something negative.

You should never lie about another person, which is bearing false witness, the ninth commandment of God's ten to Moses (*Exodus 20:1-17*).

Reader, who is your neighbor? Your neighbor is much more than just the few who live near you. It includes anyone you meet during your life, even those you might dislike and consider enemies by culture or race (*Luke 10:29-37*).

It includes fellow employees, church members, relatives, fellow students, citizens, your doctor's staff, and all like them.

A call to court as a witness is rare, but supervisors or managers asking you about fellow employees is not.

Are you ready for such an event? You should tell only the truth needed, if confronted.

You should never, use the opportunity, to damage another employee to advance yourself, either with true events or lies. God condemns it (*Proverbs 30:10*).

Never tell negative things about another person, unless necessary for some authority to rightly exercise their office.

Even if events are true, it is wrong to spread secrets to others, for you damage their reputation, which can be like murder (*Proverbs 18:8, 21; 26:22*).

What some call gossip: the Bible condemns as sins of backbiting, talebearing, and whispering.

If you know private information about a person, keep it to yourself. Private things you know about others are secrets.

Talebearers go around revealing secrets, but faithful men conceal them. Are you a talebearer or faithful? (*Proverbs 11:13; 20:19*)

Talebearers are very destructive (*Proverbs 18:8; 26:20, 22*).

God hates a talebearers sin (*Proverbs 6:16-19; Leviticus 19:16*).

This sin of talebearing, or tattling, which some call gossip, is backbiting in the Bible. (*1Timothy 5:13*)

It is backbiting: you bite a person in the back when you tell secrets about them in their absence (*Proverbs 25:23; Romans 1:30; 2Corinthians 12:20*).

Faithful men, protect those not present by avoiding critical or negative speech about them (*Psalms 15:3; Proverbs 25:23*).

Talking about others, is also called whispering, in the Word of God, for it is the private sharing of secrets with others, through hushed conversation or insinuation (*Romans 1:29; 2Corinthians 12:20*).

Whispering is destructive, as it turns men's minds against, even their friends (*Proverbs 16:28; 17:9*).

Faithful men are protective and kind.

Faithful men hate whispering and choose praise instead.

Faithful men love their neighbors, which is the second greatest commandment of all.

Thus far, the lesson forbids, speaking against your neighbor without a good reason. Even true events should be kept secret, unless you must reveal them for a righteous cause (*Matthew 5:22*).

Telling the truth, that hurts a reputation, is talebearing, backbiting, and whispering. Such sins are ignored today due to the moral decline everywhere.

This Proverb also condemns deceiving speech. This is slander, telling lies to get another person in trouble or to

damage their character. This is bearing false witness, for you deceive and lie to injure him.

Fools slander others (*Proverbs 10:18; 25:18*).

Good men will not slander (*Proverbs 14:5; 1Timothy 3:11*).

God will punish false witnesses and slanderers (*Proverbs 19:5, 9; 21:28*).

As the next Proverb indicates, revenge should never be part of conversation about others. (*Proverbs 24:29*)

You must not reveal secrets about others or slander them by lies, even if they have mistreated you in the past. God will repay them, if they have wronged you, and He commands you to leave the matter to Him (*Leviticus 19:18; Romans 12:17-21*).

Though not included here directly, flattery is also sinful speech that harms others, for it feigns and pretends either affection or praise for deceitful purposes.

Whores use it to seduce young men (*Proverbs 2:16; 5:3; 6:24; 7:5*).

Flattery also is destructive (*Proverbs 20:19; 26:28; 29:5*).

Flattery is another form, of lying and bearing false witness, for the praise is not sincere at all.

Consider the Proverb's wisdom! Your tongue, your words, can cut and hurt others, or they can be health and joy (*Proverbs 12:18; 10:20-21; 16:24*).

God hears or reads your every word, and also knows intimately, all the intents of your heart, so beware (*Psalms 139:4; Proverbs 18:21*).

It has been well said, **If** you cannot say something nice about another person, then say nothing at all!

Words come from the heart, so think only kindly about others, and then only kind words, will pass your lips (*Luke 6:45*).

Keep your heart diligently toward this goal. Always tell the truth (*Proverbs 4:23; 12:19, 22*).

Only be critical, when necessary, for those in authority or for the profit of others, edifying the hearer or a named person (*Proverbs 21:28; 29:24; 9:8; 2Timothy 4:14-15*).

There is one witness always faithful and true and named accordingly (*Revelation 1:5; 3:14; 19:11*).

In a day very soon, Jesus Christ will be the only advocate or mediator before God the Judge of all

things. He will tell the truth, fully and honestly. (*1Timothy 2:5; Revelation 20:11-15*)

Jesus Christ will condemn the wicked (*Matthew 7:21-23*).

Jesus Christ will justify the righteous (*Hebrews 2:10-13*).

Do you know Him? Or much more importantly, does He know you (*Matthew 7:23; Galatians 4:9; 2Timothy 2:19*)?

Proverbs 24:29 Say not, I will do so to him as he hath done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

The "golden rule" - Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you.

The "devil's rule" - Do unto others, as they have done unto you.

The former promotes love and kindness; the latter promotes hatred and revenge. Wisdom brings peace and unity; the other wicked folly brings malice and war.

There are two responses to being wronged by others:

1. The wise way that pleases God and brings peace
2. The foolish way that follows the devil and creates strife.

You can defer anger, ignore another's offence against you, and show forgiveness and kindness. Or you can get angry, remember his offence, and plot revenge. (*Proverbs 19:11; 25:21-22*)

The advantages, of wisdom, in this area of life are wonderful.

If you continue, to remember another's offence against you, then he becomes your master.

Day and night you are plagued by the memory of what he did to you.

Day and night you plot what you might do in return to take revenge and defend yourself. Bitterness slowly eats your soul like a cancer.

If you do not take revenge, then you are destroyed from the inside out, but he is free and happy.

If you do take revenge, then you have put in motion a serious and vicious conflict that will cost you dearly (*Proverbs 15:18; 17:14; 26:21; 29:22; 30:33*).

If you, would kill your pride and bury the issue, you could peacefully prosper, by God's blessings (*Proverbs 28:25; 1Peter 5:6-7*).

You Cannot Hide Bad Habits In The Privacy Of Your Bedroom!

If you fear an enemy will destroy you, unless you fight back, you have forgotten the God of salvation (*Proverbs 16:7; 20:22; Psalm 27:1-6*).

If you fear an enemy, will get away with unjust cruelty toward you, you have forgotten, the God of vengeance (*Psalms 3:7; 94:1; Romans 12:19*).

Jesus Christ taught the same response. Minor personal offences, such as being slapped on a cheek, should be ignored (*Matthew 5:38-42*).

Jesus Christ taught that minor personal enemies should be treated kindly, just as God, generously treats His personal enemies (*Matthew 5:43-48*).

Paul taught the same advice. He warned against private revenge, recommended leaving vengeance in God's hands, and exalted the power of returning good for evil, to your personal adversaries (*Romans 12:17-21*).

Instead of rendering evil for evil, the Lord taught that a good course of forgiveness and kindness should be followed with all men (*1Thessalonians 5:15*).

Who Can You Forgive Today? What Bitterness, Revenge Can You Cancel Today?

If you forgive others, God will forgive you.

If you will not, God will not forgive you (*Matthew 6:14-15*).

God has forgiven you so much, so why not forgive others (*Ephesians 4:31-32*)?

Proverbs 24:30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

Your actions and assets reveal your character and wisdom. You cannot deceive anyone. **If** you are lazy, it shows clearly in various ways.

If you are foolish, it is obvious to those around you. Solomon could identify a slothful or foolish man by his fields.

It does not matter what men think or say about themselves; their actions and assets tell the truth.

Solomon, in his effort to train his son and the nation for success, warned often against folly and slothfulness. Both are self-destructive traits that will destroy a man.

In this Proverb, Solomon showed his son that he could discern the sleep habits of a man by viewing his field or vineyard (*Proverbs 24:30-34*).

Lazy men and fools, think highly of themselves. In fact, arrogance is their ruin (*Proverbs 12:15; 26:12, 16*).

The sluggard believes, he works harder than other men.

The fool believes, he is wiser than other men.

Sluggards and fools self-confidence and self-promotion, are deceitful and destructive. They always have excuses as to why they have done so poorly in life.

The truth is, all you have to do is look at their actions and assets to see their laziness or foolishness.

Solomon saw, a field and vineyard overgrown with thorns, and covered with nettles, and the protective wall broken down (*Proverbs 24:31*).

When he considered the neglected condition, of these income-producing assets, he gained valuable insight into the life of the owner (*Proverbs 24:32*).

The owner, loved to sleep and cuddle in his bed, in the morning light (*Proverbs 24:33*)!

Every person wants to be known as hardworking and wise. They believe these things about themselves; and they are quick to tell others, if there are any questions (*Proverbs 20:6*).

Solomon knew without any doubts that poverty and pain were coming soon for that man (*Proverbs 24:34*).

Actions Speak Much Louder Than Words (Proverbs 20:11).

Actions can be verified, by the condition of your estate (*Proverbs 24:30-34*).

You cannot hide your faults and failures; they are very visible to those simply by observing your assets, friends, relationships, and career.

A diligent man rises to the top (*Proverbs 22:29*).
A diligent man gets promoted (*Proverbs 12:24*).
A diligent man is richer than the non diligent (*Proverbs 10:4*).

A man that loves pleasure or spending will be poor (*Proverbs 21:17, 20*).

A man that pursues get-rich-quick schemes will be poor (*Proverbs 28:19, 22*).

A man that likes to sleep will be poor (*Proverbs 20:13*).

A man that just talks about business a lot will be poor (*Proverbs 14:23*).

A man that believes all testimonials, will fall into traps (*Proverbs 14:15; 19:2*).

Reader, you are well known! Gracious man has perpetual praise and many friends (*Proverbs 11:16; 18:24; 22:11*).

A strong man does not lose money (*Proverbs 11:16*).

An odious woman is despised (*Proverbs 21:19; 27:15; 30:21-23*).

A shameful child indicates no training (*Proverbs 29:15, 17*).

A good reputation reflects wise priorities (*Proverbs 22:1*).

Faithful employees prove wise management (*Proverbs 29:21*).

A virtuous woman cannot be hid (*Proverbs 12:4*).

And neither can an obnoxious one (*Proverbs 27:15-16*).

Fools defend themselves by saying, "You don't know my heart," as if there were something noble in them that others cannot see (*Proverbs 10:20*).

Some things in the heart is easy to know, just look at a person's actions and results.

A diligent and wise man will show success.

A faithful and gracious man will have loving relationships.

A fool or sluggard will not get close to these things! He has destroyed himself by folly (*Proverbs 13:15; 15:19; 22:5*).

Fools also defend themselves by saying, "You don't know the acts of God in my life," as if circumstances caused their failure. Some use poor parents or race as an excuse, which means nothing (*Proverbs 14:35; 17:2*).

All men face obstacles, but fools and sluggards avoid dealing with them (*Proverbs 20:4; 22:13; 26:13*).

If a man or woman has few friends, it is not the fault of others! It is their fault (*Proverbs 11:16; 18:24*).

If a man has no estate, it is not the fault of others! It is his fault (*Proverbs 11:16; 21:20*).

If a man is married to an odious woman, it is not her fault! It is his fault (*Proverbs 11:16, 22; 30:21-23; 31:30*)!

Neither fools nor sluggards deceived Solomon. He identified the cause-and-effect of riches or poverty, friends or enemies, success or failure.

What is your character reader? It has nothing to do, with what you think or say about yourself.

That would be the most deceitful and stupid measure of all, and it does not impress others (*Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; 21:2; Jeremiah 17:9*).

Actions speak louder than words, and so do results! You are known by your assets, friends, relationships, career, etc. What would Solomon know about your heart and habits by observing your life?

Your character and wisdom are known by the cleanliness and orderliness, of your house; the neatness and accuracy of your checkbook; the clutter in your drawers, closets, basement, or car trunk; the mechanical repair of your car; your career progression; your bodyweight and fitness; your handshake; what is at the back of the bottom shelf of your refrigerator; your credit rating; the size of your savings account; and other such things.

Your character and wisdom are known by the character of your children; the esteem you receive from others; your number of friends; your reputation in various circles; the opinions of your parents; the opinions of your children; your demand as a counselor; the respect and thankfulness of neighbors and business associates; the number of requests for leadership roles; and other such things.

Your spiritual condition is also known by your assets and results. Do you bear the fruit of the Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23*)? How many souls have been converted through your efforts (*James 5:19-20*)?

Do your children fear the Lord (*Psalms 34:11; Ephesians 6:4*)?

Do you demonstrate an ability to teach, or are you still crawling with elementary knowledge (*Titus 2:3-5; Hebrews 5:12-14*)?

Do others see Jesus Christ in you today, more than last year (*Ephesians 4:13*)?

Do you graciously overlook the faults of others (*Proverbs 19:11*)?

Or do you complain and fight as a habit (*Philippians 2:14-16*)?

Proverbs 24:31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face

thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

If you like to sleep, you will resent this Proverb.

If you are tempted to procrastinate, you will not like this Proverb either.

If you are undisciplined and have poor personal habits, you might even resent the author (the Holy Spirit).

Solomon identified lazy and undisciplined people, and he teaches how to identify them, by the condition of their personal and professional property (*Ecclesiastes 1:12-18*).

This Proverb is part of his summary of: lazy men, who like to sleep (*Proverbs 24:30-34*).

Foolish and slothful men may have fields and vineyards, but they are always, in a state of disrepair (*Proverbs 24:30-31*).

Solomon learned something, by considering their condition (*Proverbs 24:32*):

Solomon saw the owners, were lazy and loved to sleep (*Proverbs 24:33*).

Solomon saw poverty and trouble approaching fast and surely (*Proverbs 24:34*).

Solomon saw the man who likes to sleep and take it easy, has diminishing prospects (*Proverbs 20:4, 13; 21:17*).

Solomon saw, that if sluggards would only look ahead, to see the certain pain and difficulty coming, they might apply a little more energy, to their work today to avoid them!

**Fools Don't Look Ahead
Nor Expend Energy!**

The fields and vineyards of lazy men show their sin. This Proverb described one that was overgrown, with weeds and the protective wall was broken down.

Daily maintenance had been neglected. Weeds and broken walls take time.

The gradual ruin of productive assets occurs slowly over many days, wasted by sleeping in, taking naps, or wasting time playing too many games.

What would Solomon know about your diligence, sleep habits, self-discipline, and playing by looking in your checkbook? Is it up to date? Balanced to the penny? All entries informative and neatly posted?

Past statements for a couple years well organized and together? Or are your financial records overgrown with weeds and broken down? Did you pass the checkbook test?

What would Solomon think looking in the trunk of your car? What would Solomon think if he asked to see your file of certificates and documents?

What would Solomon think if he asked to check the clutter in your garage, basement, or storage room?

What would Solomon think if there were many unwashed dishes are in the kitchen sink?

What would Solomon think if he asked to check the average age of the leftovers in the refrigerator?

Do you still look like a diligent man? What about your handwriting? Your credit score? The cleanliness and repair of your automobiles and house? Your clothes and closet? Your punctuality? Your resume? Your personnel file at your employer?

Your knowledge of the job market? Your educational or professional certifications? Your last performance review? Your reputation with the man who can promote you?

Your knowledge of the future of your business or employer? Your reputation among peers in your profession?

What is the cure? Do something right now that you were going to do "later," even if it is very small! A few small victories can win a war! Make it a daily habit to do something beyond the minimum, something you did not do daily last year, to keep your life, your house, your effects, and your professional pursuits in top shape.

Before you "call it a day," make sure you do one extra thing to bring every area of your life into good repair.

How is the field or vineyard of your relationships? Neatly weeded with a wall for a hedge against bitterness or grudges?

How about your knowledge of the Word of God? Is it current, well organized, increasing, and ready to be used for those in need?

How about your soul? Are weeds of un-confessed sins growing there? Is the wall, of internal holiness keeping out ungodliness?

Is the Holy Spirit pleased with what He sees? Or grieved?

Choose diligence over sleep and taking it easy to get rid of the weeds and maintain the walls in every area of life!

Poverty and trouble can come in any area, so make a change today to protect yourself!

What can you do right now to protect your life and your soul? How about those you are responsible for?

Proverbs 24:32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

You can learn much by observing others' actions and their consequences. Observation and analysis is one of life's great teachers, and Solomon was a master at wisely considering all he saw (*Exodus 1:12-13*).

It is your duty to learn from the mistakes of others, and it is your duty to teach your children to observe and analyze them also.

Solomon here is condemning lazy men (*Proverbs 24:30-34*).

One of the first lessons parents must teach children is to get out of bed, work hard, and finish the job. Laziness is condemned often in *Proverbs* (*Proverbs 6:6-11; 10:4; 12:24; 19:15, 24; 20:4, 13; 22:29*).

Solomon knew his son's success required his diligence, and he also wanted him to avoid lazy administrators.

Poverty is often easy to explain, that love of sleep cost many men their financial success. When he viewed the derelict condition of homes and property, he realized that the certain consequences of laziness had come to roost at that address.

Men who enjoy, sleeping in the morning and procrastinating, will surely end up in poverty. A wise parent, can be like Solomon to children. He can point out losers in life and the certain consequences that come when the Bible is not obeyed.

Life can provide the lesson guide for godly social studies! Son, do you see the shutters falling off that house? The owner intended to get to it, but he always finds a reason to wait until later! **If** he doesn't correct it soon, the house will eventually fall down, just like the Bible says (*Ecclesiastes 10:18*)!

Do you know the Bible well enough to see its proof in the world around you?

Can you see the fulfillment of Scripture in the dysfunctional lives and political chaos of this foolish world?

Can you teach your children and others the painful consequences of rejecting God's Word? Or are you so deficient that this task sounds near impossible?

Why are most homeless men drunkards? Because drunkenness and gluttony bring rags (*Proverbs 23:21*)!

Why do children scream in restaurants? They need the cure (*Proverbs 29:15*)!

Why do some men spend their free time in a hobby? Because they are escaping from an odious woman (*Proverbs 21:9, 19*)!

What are the consequences to adultery? Death and hell (*Proverbs 9:18*)!

Why is there so much sexual sin and violence in America today? Because it is glamorized on television (*Psalms 101:3; 1Corinthians 15:33*)!

Why are Catholic nations so poor? Because they are taught from childhood to deny reality and truth by assuming a cracker is the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus Christ (*1Corinthians 11:24*)!

Why is there pedophilia among their priests? Because they rejected God's role for the woman (*1Timothy 4:1-3; 1Corinthians 7:1-5*)!

Proverbs 24:33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

How much do you sleep? More than you need? Surely a little extra sleep cannot hurt! But Solomon warned that a little sleep, a little dozing, and a little cuddling in bed can cost you!

Too much sleep wastes precious time and causes drowsiness, which will surely steal success away and leave you in poverty, shame, and trouble (*Proverbs 19:15; 23:21*).

Upon seeing the overgrown field and vineyard of a foolish and slothful man, Solomon considered the man's assets and drew a conclusion, the man enjoyed sleeping too much, and laziness would certainly reduce him to poverty (*Proverbs 6:6-11; 24:30-34*).

Solomon also learned, a lesson by his great understanding, and he wrote this Proverb to teach you that lesson.

Sleep is needed for success, survival, and your spirit! But too much steals time, dulls your drive, and creates drowsiness. **If** you need 7 hours, set your alarm for 7 hours! Do not set it for 8 hours! The extra hour will waste time, set a bad precedent, and make you sleepier.

Solomon wrote Proverbs for youth (*Proverbs 1:4, 8; 4:1*).

The youth often oversleep, especially in a lazy generation. When families operated farms, they had to

get up early. But now every excuse is used for rising later and later. Solomon said, "Get up!" Great wise men will get up!

The danger is a little sleep. Those who oversleep much are obvious sluggards. Solomon worried about a little sleep. It is a little sleep every morning that builds bad habits and steals much time.

Solomon declared: *"Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread" (Proverb 20:13).*

Great men and women get up and get to work. In agreement with this Proverb, it has been said, "Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."

The virtuous woman rose early and stayed up late, not to be a martyr, but to be productive (*Proverbs 31:15, 18*).

Both men and women that get up early and work hard always sleep better (*Ecclesiastes 5:12*).

Attitude Is More Important Than Hours Of Sleep!

A contented man that fears God, loves Jesus Christ, and is thankful for his job, gets up with excitement and zeal every day. He will not live any other way. He wants to get his hands on what he has to do (*Ecclesiastes 9:10*!)

A little spiritual slumber brings spiritual poverty. Just ask Peter, who could not watch one hour with Jesus in Gethsemane.

If you do not make prayer and reading the Word of God a priority each day, you will be spiritually bankrupt. Paul said, *"Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Ephesians 5:14-21; Romans 13:11-12; 1Thessalonians 5:6-10).*

Proverbs 24:34 So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth; and thy want as an armed man.

Poverty comes gradually, little by little, like a traveler who, even on a great journey, moves only one step at a time, until that poverty becomes as strong and as an oppressive robber or a soldier, (in ancient times soldiers could compel citizens to feed and house them).

When this Proverb was written, man traveled on ground, usually on foot. Some rode on various animals or carts. Therefore, the individual moved one step at a time.

Walking is relatively slow process, getting from point "A" to point "B." Thus, this Proverb has some wise instruction to heed.

As one gets into the habit, of taking life easy, and catering to the body: he becomes caught up in the engagement of practices, that lead inexorably to poverty and want.

The spiritually slothful man does not heed the warning of: ***Proverbs 14:12; 16:25.***

Choosing A Way In Life Out Of The Will Of God Is A Spiritual Disaster.

Choosing your own way, can also be spiritual disaster for others under your influence and could lead to eternal poverty by their failure, to awaken to righteousness.

Another way of considering, this Proverb's lessons, is that in eastern understanding, a highway robber, was one who waits in hiding, to attack and steal from an unsuspecting traveler on the road.

A highwayman has nothing, and he must continue to steal to survive. This Proverb is also making a comparison that the life of the lazy man is akin to the life of the thief.

The lazy man does nothing to better himself and hopes to live on handouts and sympathy.

The one who travels loses everything to the highwayman and that is what happens to lazy people, they lose everything.

The thief lives his life from robbery to robbery and does nothing to try and improve his life.

The lazy man wants to earn his keep by, doing nothing and living on the sympathy of others, in hopes that he will get everything he wants, by means of a symphony of one lie built upon another to cover his laziness. (***Proverbs 22:13***).

The lazy man makes all kinds of excuses just as we see in. Lazy people are great at anticipatory excuses when it comes to working or commitment. ***Proverbs 22:13***