

CHAPTER 10

Proverbs 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

It is good to remember who wrote the jewels of wisdom called Proverbs. Of course, the Holy Spirit is the real author, who inspired Solomon.

Since Solomon wrote primarily to his son and young men, each son should consider his relationship to his parents. Not until he is a parent himself, will he understand the joy and grief he can cause by his choices and actions. Let every young man consider his mother, his father, and His Heavenly Father.

Through the Holy Spirit Solomon wrote the Proverbs in the Bible. You are very blessed to have the Holy Spirit residing in you and the world's wisest king as your personal tutor.

God Himself oversaw, the selection of these few Proverbs from among the three thousand Solomon wrote (*1Kings 4:32*).

The righteous can rejoice, for having secret wisdom from heaven, concisely defined in short pithy statements for them and their families. See the comments on *Proverbs 25:1*.

The world can make fun of the Bible all they want. Let them look to monkeys as their ancestors, debt as their economic panacea, unruly children as their future, lazy employees as their work force, corrupt officials as their government, liberated professional women as their wives and mothers, and financial scams as the road to success.

The handwriting of disaster is already on the wall, and it will only get worse. Saints will rule in the end!

The first nine chapters are introductory, with long and continuing instruction contrasting divine wisdom to sinful folly.

We are now at this point to introduce what are more properly, Proverbs, short and unconnected sentences setting forth profound wisdom for every part of life.

While the whole book is Proverbs, here are the individual jewels deserving our rapt attention as we examine them to enjoy every facet.

The first one we have, in our text, points to the value of godly training for the joy and deliverance of parents.

If these Proverbs are taught and required of children, such parents will realize the full blessing, of a godly children for their great pleasure and God's glory.

If these Proverbs are neglected, the future is bleak, with calamitous heaviness instead.

Child, have you thought about your parents today? They each lived your life before you were born! So way back then, they together were twice as wise as you are now!

Since your birth, your parents, have accumulated much more wisdom and experience, while you took years learning not to mess on yourself, and to get food in your mouth instead of your ear!

Your dear mother was nauseated, hot, and heavy as she carried you; but she already loved you and had wonderful thoughts for your life.

Your dear mother, decorated the nursery at home. Pregnancy, birth, and nursing took a toll on her body.

Your dear mother constantly doted on you! She cleaned your messes and fed you many times daily, and all you did was cry for more!

Later, when you struggled to make a tricycle work, then a bicycle work, your father managed his soul, his marriage, his job, his finances, his house, his car, and you, among many other things!

He chose and provided for your mother, and he daily invested in you, hoping for a wise and righteous son, who would grow in favor with God and man.

But most sons are too selfish, shortsighted, silly, and stupid to know how important their actions are to their parents.

Most sons, cannot think beyond the next five minutes, and their only thought is to fill those five minutes with pleasure. The responsibility of being a parent is more than their mind and soul could handle, even if by a miracle they chose to try!

Mature thoughts of future matters will not tickle a single brain cell until they are fathers, and only then will they think about how much their parents did and deserve.

A foolish son is the calamity of his father (*Proverbs 19:13*).

It is one of his worst nightmares. The pain of seeing so much time, expense, effort, and affection go to waste sucks the life from a father's soul. It tears at his heart and spirit.

Hear the cry of David for his foolish son Absalom, "And the king was much moved, and went up to the chamber over the gate, and wept: and as he went, thus he said, O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom!"

would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2Samul 18:33).

Consider both Isaac and Rebekah's grief at Esau's foolishness in marrying unbelievers (**Genesis 26:34-35; 27:46**).

If a son will consider these things and be wise, his father will rejoice. "My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me" (**Proverbs 27:11**).

Solomon came from a horrible family, and he well knew the joy of a wise and virtuous son, so he emphasized the point often (**Proverbs 15:20; 17:21, 25; 19:13; 23:15-16, 24-25; 29:3**).

Likewise with mothers, a wise child can be a great source of gladness in her heart (**Proverbs 23:25**).

And a foolish child, can be a painful source of bitter heaviness (**Proverbs 17:25; 29:15**).

How many mothers' hearts have been broken by willful and wayward children? Only the LORD knows such large numbers!

The heart that almost daily burst with pleasure and affection caring for the newborn is torn deeply by the willful disobedience and foolishness of the sinful teenager.

Child, forget birthday cards, anniversary cards, and such things, if you must. But don't forsake wisdom and righteousness, these two things will bring far more parental pleasure!

Instead of taking your parents to dinner, take your wife and children to dinner and love them like a perfect Christian husband and father. It will mean far more.

Honor your father today. Obey his instructions. Keep his commandments. Answer his questions. Communicate openly with him.

You will never meet another person in life who cares for you the same way and to the same degree your father cares.

Honor your mother today. Keep the law of her mouth. Do her simple requests. Make your bed and Clean your room. Be virtuous. Avoid foolish girls and women. "Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old" (**Proverbs 23:22**).

Father, consider this Proverb yourself. Future joy or bitterness, for both you and your wife, are largely your choice today. Will you love and train your children faithfully, or will you neglect them to the heavy pain of both your souls? It is really your choice!

The wisdom of this Proverb cuts both ways. Do you deserve wise and faithful children? Or do you deserve many dark years of shame and reproach revealing you as a slothful parent?

Faithful training will bear fruit, they will not depart from it in time to come (**Proverbs 22:6**).

Son, how well do you honor your Father in heaven? **If** you are a child of God, then He is your Father in a very dear and personal way.

The wiser we are in leaving this world's foolishness and seeking God, the more He will rejoice and draw close to you (**1Chronicles 28:9; 2Corinthians 6:14-18, 15:2; James 4:8; Revelation 3:20**).

Our Lord Jesus was the perfect Son to Mary, Joseph, and God. The Bible plainly tells us He obeyed His earthly parents (**Luke 2:51**).

Mary was a very blessed mother (**Luke 11:27**).

His happy mother followed Him during His life and watched him die (**John 19:25-27**).

And His Heavenly Father? *Hear Him*, He declared, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (**Matthew 3:17**). Let us follow His example.

Proverbs 10:2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

**Crime Does Not Pay!
Sin Will Not Succeed!**

Wickedness cannot profit, no matter how much wealth you temporarily pile up. You cannot buy God off from judgment in this life or the next.

Righteousness is the key to a successful life, and it will deliver you from several deaths. Are you committed to righteousness, even if it means earthly poverty?

Wicked men may prosper for a while. Do not envy them; it is an illusion; terrible judgment is coming soon (**Proverbs 3:31-32; 23:17-18; Psalms 37:1-3; 73:1-20**)!

Do not copy the wicked; sin will not work, and you will lose (**Proverbs 11:4; Psalm 49:6-14; Luke 12:15-21; James 5:1-3**).

The rich man fared sumptuously every day, but he could not prolong his life or buy his way into heaven. In fact, he could not even buy a drop of water for his tongue (**Luke 16:19-21**).

Ahab and Jezebel murdered Naboth, to steal his vineyard, but the wine it produced could not cheer the heart! *Vengeance is mine, saith the Lord!*

Ahab and Jezebel, appeared to be gaining in real property by the wicked conspiracy; but a chance arrow killed Ahab, and dogs, licked his blood and ate Jezebel (**1Kings 21:1-16; 22:37-38; 2Kgs 9:30-37**).

If you get ahead by wickedness, it is only for a moment. Judas's pleasure at thirty pieces of silver did not last long, as his scattered bowels have testified, for two millennia (**Acts 1:18-19**).

Achan's family rued the day he took of Jericho's riches (**Joshua 7:19-26**).

Gehazi could not trade his theft for the cure of leprosy (**2Kings 5:20-27**).

Ananias and Sapphira held back some money by deceit, and they did not, take any of it with them (**Acts 5:1-11**).

The King of Assyria, whom God sovereignly used to punish Israel, heaped up treasures of wickedness by his greedy, conquering heart (**Isaiah 10:5-14**).

And the same God judged him severely when his usefulness was over (**Isaiah 10:15-19**).

The harlot church of Babylon, Roman Catholicism and her Protestant daughters, has taken treasures by wickedness; but the Lord Jesus Christ is coming to take vengeance (**Revelation 17:1-6; 18:1-24**)!

Crime does not pay! Sin will not succeed! *"The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death. The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment"* (**Proverbs 21:6-7**).

"As the partridge sitteth on eggs, and hatcheth them not; so he that getteth riches, and not by right, shall leave them in the midst of his days, and at his end shall be a fool" (**Jeremiah 17:11**).

"But righteousness delivereth from death," Solomon wrote. The righteousness of Jesus Christ will deliver from the second death, eternity in the lake of fire (**Revelation 20:11-15; Romans 5:19; 2Corinthians 5:21**).

By personal righteousness: you can avoid death of your fellowship with God (**James 5:19-20; Revelation 3:1**).

You can avoid bodily death by chastening (**1Corinthians 11:28-34**).

You can lay hold of eternal life (**Psalms 15:1-5; 1Timothy 6:11-12**).

While many do not understand, the importance of personal righteousness, it is, the certain emphasis of God's Word.

Believing and calling on the name of Jesus Christ are only the first step in salvation.

Obedience to His commandments is required to walk with the Lord (**Matthew 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; John 5:29; Acts 10:34-35; Philippians 3:8-14; 1Timothy 6:17-19; Hebrews 5:9; James 2:14-16; 2Peter 1:5-11**).

Do you envy the treasures of the wicked? Do you wish for their pleasures, riches, and comforts?

To exchange living righteously for it, is not worth it! Solomon said: *"Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right"* (**Proverbs 16:8**).

And Jesus confirmed the same by teaching, *"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (**Matthew 16:26**).

Proverbs 10:3 The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

The LORD Has The Ultimate Economic Power!

Let nations legislate, central banks inflate, business schools educate, and thieves confiscate; they can do nothing against God.

The rule is simple, The LORD provides for the righteous; The LORD destroys the wealth of the wicked.

Jacob was the poorest man in Canaan, running for his life with only a staff. When he returned 20 years later, he had to cross Jordan in two bands (**Genesis 32:10**)!

Joseph was the poorest man in Egypt, a foreign bond slave convicted of rape; but 22 years later he sent a token gift of his wealth, that revived his dear father (**Genesis 45:27**)!

The widow Ruth and the orphan Esther, both in strange lands, had nothing; but one became the rich mother of a kingly line, and the other Queen of the known world.

David was the forgotten eighth son, left in the fields to live with the sheep; but in a few years he could not account for the wealth he had gathered for the temple (**1Chronicles 22:14**). Put your trust in the LORD!

David believed, *"I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread"* (**Psalms 37:25**).

Jesus Christ the Son of David said, "*Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?*" (**Matthew 6:26**).

Pharaoh ruled the most advanced and prosperous nation on earth, in his day. But when he did not give the LORD proper reverence, God bankrupted the nation (**Exodus 10:7; 12:36; 15:14**)!

The greatest monarch, in the history of the world, was King Nebuchadnezzar; but God reduced him to shame, with a heart of a beast and living like an animal (**Daniel 4:31-33**).

Lot invested in the best market and chose a worldly life. God reduced him to poverty, in a cave, with his daughters.

Devout Jews, re-gathered to Jerusalem, did not put God's temple first. God put holes in their purses and blew against their efforts (**Haggai 1:1-11; Malachi 3:11**).

"There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD" (**Proverbs 21:30**).

You Cannot Play Games With God!

Be sure your sin will find you out, and diminish you! Read Zophar's scathing indictment of hypocrites (**Job 20:4-9**)!

The First Rule Of Bible Economics Is To Obey God!

Hannah knew, "*The LORD maketh poor, and maketh rich: he bringeth low, and lifteth up*" (**1Samuel 2:7**).

Seek first the kingdom of God, and He will take care of all your needs (**Matthew 6:31-33**).

He takes care of sparrows, and you are of much greater value than many sparrows (**Matthew 10:29-31**).

Proverbs 10:4 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

Poverty Or Riches Are A Choice!

You will make this choice today, tomorrow, and the next day.

The man who applies himself, diligently to his profession or other duties will be rich, but the man who is a slacker, or sluggard, will be poor. The choice is yours!

A great temptation for men, especially young men, is laziness about work.

Solomon often warned against this error, and here he uses synecdoche (Substituting a more inclusive term for a less inclusive one or vice versa) to represent a man by his hand.

He used "*arm*" in (**Proverbs 31:17**), he used "*soul*" for the whole man in (**Proverbs 13:4**).

The "*hand*" can be a figure of speech for the whole man, do not be distracted by it. And sluggards like to keep them in their pockets or folded against their chests (**Proverbs 19:24**).

It can surely bring a sluggard's life to ruin (**Ecclesiastes 10:18**).

And it is a fact some employers note the handshake of an applicant, for they are fearful of the limp, effeminate, weak handshake of a slothful and timid loser. The godly man attacks daily tasks with zeal and force.

Working for pay or profit is a privilege and a blessing (**Ecclesiastes 9:10**).

If a man is consistently diligent, all other things being equal, he will quickly and greatly surpass the man who is lazy, slow, and avoids hard work.

This is the law of God, and it is a simple lesson to teach children. Diligent work brings financial reward, and it can bring its own reward in a job well done.

A "*slack hand*" represents the man who is lacking in energy or diligence, inclined to be lazy or idle, remiss, careless, negligent or lax in regard to his duties.

A slacker is a person, who shirks work or avoids exertion.

This kind of person puts off work as long as he can; he resents real labor; he hates tasks requiring focus and effort.

The slacker always has excuses for his laziness; he will reject sound reasons from even seven men who warn him (**Proverbs 26:16**)!

He has a bad disease, laziness, and will not listen to wisdom. Reader, dismiss your thoughts and believe the Proverb! Solomon learned more in a day than you will learn in a lifetime, and he wrote by the inspiration of an omniscient God, Who knows all things.

What are the slacker's excuses? Basically, he loves sleeping, which ruins men and women and brings poverty (**Proverbs 6:6-11; 20:13; 24:30-34**).

The slacker loves folding lazy hands and huddling under covers in the morning.

The slacker loves the snooze button on the alarm. he loves turning back and forth in bed like a door on hinges (*Proverbs 26:14*).

The slacker hates mornings. He is too addicted to sleep to realize that extra sleep just makes him sleepier (*Proverbs 19:15*).

The slacker resents adversity or difficulty (*Proverbs 20:4*).

The slacker will not plow by reason of the cold. He is always looking for a "snow day" to take the day off.

Instead of putting on a coat and working anyway, he loves any excuse to stay home or avoid a difficult job. The Lord, will put extra thorns in his way (*Proverbs 15:19; 22:5*)!

The slacker is intimidated by challenges (*Proverbs 22:13; 26:13*).

The slacker imagines a lion in the way. His favorite words are, "I can't do it" and "It won't work." Long-term career plans are overwhelming.

The slacker wants something easier, success that will fall in his lap. So instead of tackling the challenge, he does nothing (*Proverbs 26:14-15*).

The slacker resents authority and being told what to do by another (*Proverbs 19:10; 27:18; 30:22*).

The slacker does not want to be an Indian under a chief. He likes to work for himself. His rebellion keeps him from seeing that all chiefs were once hard-working Indians (*Proverbs 17:2; 22:29*)!

The slacker is seduced by vain ideas of easier and more exciting ways to make money (*Proverbs 12:11; 28:19*).

The slacker associates with the discontented and listens to schemes, on how they will beat the system (*Proverbs 14:23; 21:5*).

The slacker is always busy planning his future success. He believes he has figured out life better than Solomon and seven successful men (*Proverbs 26:16*)!

The diligent man laughs at slackers and mocks their excuses, goes to work early every single day, and attacks his job with energy and persistence.

The diligent man knows that life is short.

The diligent man knows that God made him to work.

The diligent man looks forward to getting his diligent hands on a project; and he will do it with his might (*Ecclesiastes 9:10*).

The diligent man will soon rule over the slacker in riches and honor! Guaranteed! (*Proverbs 12:24; 13:4; 22:29*)

Nothing has changed in 3000 years since these Words were penned.

And nothing has changed in 2000 years, since Paul wrote his own warnings against slackers (*Romans 12:11; 1Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2Thessalonians 3:6-13*).

Diligent labor is the law of God and the law of success!

Diligent Labor Must Be Taught Diligently!

The excuses of slackers have not diminished. Parents must train children to work hard and repudiate the slacker's excuses.

Our Lord was exceptionally diligent (*Mark 3:20-21; 6:31; John 4:34; 9:4*).

The Apostles followed His great example (*1Corinthians 4:9-14; 2Thessalonians 3:8*).

In fact, Paul boasted in the grace of God that he labored more abundantly than all the others (*1Corinthians 15:10*). Can you, boast of diligent use of God's grace?

Proverbs 10:5 He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

Opportunity is a blessing, a precious blessing from God.

Wise men exploit opportunities for gain and honor. Foolish men squander opportunities to poverty and shame.

Wise men see a door of opportunity and rush through it with zeal, they are gripped by the potential of gain.

Foolish men miss the door of opportunity, or presume it will always be there; they are dulled by the desire to play or sleep.

Opportunity Is Not Guaranteed!

Life is a changing scene of prosperity and difficulty. The agricultural cycle has a great opportunity, during summer harvest.

Wise men gathered all they could with extra effort and time.

Foolish men dreaded the extra demands and could not see the reward, so they sought to avoid the hot fields.

"There is a time to get, and a time to lose," the wise know when to get, and fools always lose! **If** you snooze, you lose!

When times are good, gather all you can for leaner times to come. Both come from the Lord, but the wisdom of this Proverb teaches you how to handle both events! Business cycles, of prosperity, depression, and promotion are the sovereign work of God (*Ecclesiastes 7:14*).

Diligently accumulate much when it is easy, and you will have extra to fall back on when it is hard.

You cannot boast of tomorrow, so you must plan provision for tomorrow (*Proverbs 22:3; 27:1, 23-24*).

In this section of Proverbs, Solomon gave his son rules for success and he began with financial rules. (*Proverbs 10:1*).

Solomon taught righteousness in business (*Proverbs 10:2*).

Solomon taught providence in business (*Proverbs 10:3*).

Solomon taught diligence in business (*Proverbs 10:4*).

The rule here is prudence in business, to diligently use opportunities to accumulate assets, for a slothful neglect of opportunities will bring poverty.

Even ants know to work hard and save in the summer (*Proverbs 6:6-11; 30:25*).

America is the land of opportunity, and it has been for a very long time. Wise men have taken advantage of this incredible blessing, but foolish men have squandered it foolishly.

Many have come to these shores with nothing, but through hard work and frugal savings they built comfortable estates.

Others, born on these shores, think that prosperity is easy and squander the many opportunities, to their own poverty and shame.

Every man, especially in this blessed nation, has many opportunities in education, business, and investments for great gains. A man must see the opportunity, be prepared for it, and capitalize on it.

"Time and chance happeneth to them all," but have you exploited the times and chances God has given you (*Ecclesiastes 9:11*)?

Most opportunities occur in the earlier stages of life; young men have greater drive and flexibility than others; and the consequences of their sloth are greater; so the Proverb is primarily for young men.

Young man, are you opening educational doors to gather knowledge, learn valuable skills, or acquire a trade?

Young man, are you using your present income with minimal expenses to accumulate the seed capital for lucrative future investments?

Young man, are you building relationships with your father's and other contacts for future references?

Young man, are you working feverishly in a company known for promoting from within?

Young man, do you know that playing or sleeping now will cost you much more than playing or sleeping later?

Young man, **If** you waste opportunity, you tempt God (*Luke 4:12*).

Young man, God gave you the means to success, but you neglected them.

If you have a talent, of any kind, do not bury it! **If** you do, when troubles come, God may not hear, because you wasted His gift to you! (*Proverbs 1:20-32; 20:4; Matthew 25:14-30*).

If God opens a door, of any kind, rush through it with holy zeal. David said, *"By my God have I leaped over a wall"* (*Psalms 18:29*).

Many in the world have few opportunities, so exploit the ones God gives you! To whom much is given shall much be required!

Elisha gave Joash, the king of Israel, an opportunity to fix the number of victories Israel would have over the Syrians; but the lazy king only struck the ground three times (*2Kings 13:14-19*).

Elisha grieved that he had not taken greater advantage of this divinely granted opportunity to exterminate the Syrians!

How many opportunities in your life have you squandered by only smiting the ground three times? Confess it!

When the money tree is blooming, pick it clean and save most of it!

When any personnel change occurs in your office, locate the vacuum and fill it!

When a rising star could be your mentor or sponsor, grab his coattail with both hands!

When a successful man offers you a piece of his action, do your due diligence and dive in!

When rare overtime is available, volunteer for it in advance!

Most fail to recognize the opportunity God gives when He illuminates in His Word. This is a life changing opportunity directed by God Himself! Never miss this opportunity!

When you are reading God's Word and feel knowledge and pleasure in your soul, read longer to fully capitalize on that special grace!

There Are More Than Financial Opportunities Which You Ought To Exploit With Diligent Zeal!

How about the opportunity of wisdom in this Proverb and its commentary! Are you reading it with fired zeal and holy excitement? Are you intent on accumulating that most precious of all commodities, wisdom? Are you meditating on every sentence?

Are you asking God to prosper your efforts to grow wise? Or will He take from you the little knowledge you have and give it to the man who does make such efforts (**Luke 8:18**)?

How about the opportunity of conviction to please the Lord more perfectly? When these seasons of harvest come to your life by the grace of the Holy Spirit, do you rush through the open door, to draw closer than ever before to the living God?

Or are you so infatuated with the world, that these open doors appear only as empty closets, in your rush down the hall of life, to the vanity and excess of this profane, perverse, and damned generation?

How about the opportunity of preparing to stand before the King of kings and Lord of lords? **If** you understand the reality of this approaching event, you have been given a blessed understanding.

You will soon pass out of this bustling world through the darkness of death into the light of His glorious Presence.

You should be like the unjust steward, laying up a good foundation against that time to come (**Luke 16:1-15; 1Timothy 6:17-19**).

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

What is falling from heaven toward you today? Blessings on your head? Or the force of violence to shut your mouth?

As surely as the apple falls from the tree: Either blessing or devastation is going to fall from God upon you and your life.

What makes the difference?

Either you are living the justified man's life of faith, or you are living in the world's life of sin.

Do You Think You Can Get Away With Sin? Ignore God? So Did Those In Noah's Day!

Do you believe God thinks like you and will not judge your sins? Listen to the answer from the sweet psalmist of Israel, *"Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver"* (**Psalm 50:22**).

Why does it say *"the head of the just"*? Because the head was the place where formal blessings were bestowed (**Genesis 48:17; Psalm 133:2; Zechariah 6:11; Matthew 26:7**).

Why *"the mouth of the wicked"*? Because it is, the hole, from which the wicked arrogantly bark, against God and spew malicious words against the righteous (**Psalms 12:3; 31:18; 59:12; 63:11; 107:42; 140:9-11**).

Blessings, are the generous and kind favors, from God and men, that are directed toward the just, who live godly lives in the fear of the Lord.

Just men seek in every part of their lives to be fair, good, right, and righteous. Just men hate sin and will not compromise with the world. Just men cannot be bought, pressured, seduced, or tormented to sin.

"Violence" here depicted in this Proverb, is the terrible things, God and men do to the wicked, who do not care for God or His ways (**Psalm 7:11-16**).

These curses and punishments include economic disaster, health problems, financial failure, professional loss, family dysfunction, mental instability, and any other troubles that the God is justified to pour out upon the foolish.

Jezebel was thrown from an upper window before Jehu trampled her under his horse (**2Kings 9:30-37**).

Saul who envied David was beheaded and nailed to a wall (**1Samuel 31:9-10**).

Judas was turned over, to the devil for a horrific suicide (*Acts 1:18*).

Ananias and Sapphira lied, about their giving, and fell down dead (*Acts 5:1-11*).

Herod Agrippa executed James, and he was eaten by worms (*Acts 12:21-23*).

The Jews crucified Jesus, and the Romans slaughtered them and their children, in 70 AD (*Luke 19:42-44*).

Proud and unthankful evolutionists are given reprobate minds for sodomite perversions (*Romans 1:18-28*).

Only fools wonder, why crazed boys take guns to school and viciously shoot other students.

Only fools wonder, when infant-murder clinics are just down the street.

Only fools wonder why the government allows Hollywood to sell murder and mayhem for entertainment.

Only fools wonder why the public educational zoo teaches evolution while outlawing the Ten Commandments.

**There Are Consequences For Sin!
Wise Readers Of God's Word Know It.**

Fools will ignore the warning and rush forward in their greed to satisfy their lusts, not seeing the coming disasters and pain.

If you can see this proverbial turth it is not too late.

If you are considering this Proverb, then God has had mercy on your soul. Do not silence the voice of conscience or the exhortation of the Spirit.

Humble yourself before the Lord Jesus Christ, and beg for mercy for your wickedness, and turn your steps, to follow in the path of righteousness.

Proverbs 10:7 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

**What Will The Epitaph
On Your Cemetery Marker Say?**

What will those who attend your funeral think? How many will come? Will there be substantial grief, or subdued relief? Will anyone reflect on your life ten years later? Will your memory be blessed or rotten?

David wept painfully, when Jonathan died (*2Samuel 1:17-27*); for he remembered their wonderful friendship

as exceeding the love of women (*1Samuel 18:1-4; 23:16*).

Dorcas was well remembered by many widows for her good works and much charity (*Acts 9:36-42*).

We remember Joseph as virtuous, and Potiphar's wife as an evil whorish woman.

We remember Tamar as a prudent virgin, Amnon as a profane dog.

We remember Paul as the greatest Apostle, Demas as a weak loser.

We remember Elijah and John as zealous heroes, Pilate and Agrippa as compromisers.

We remember Abraham as faithful, Lot as worldly.

We remember Daniel the eunuch, as strong, and strong Samson as weak.

How will you be remembered? This matter is important, for it reflects on, how much you have used God's gift, to your life. Consider the opening questions carefully.

The wicked are not remembered, though they name lands after themselves and dream of a great legacy (*Psalms 49:6-14*).

The Lord will obliterate their memory from the earth (*Job 18:5-21; 27:11-23; Psalm 9:5-6*).

God did obliterate, Judas Iscariot's family (*Psalms 109:6-20*).

Don't ever envy or fret about the wicked! Don't let enemies bother you! "*The name of the wicked shall rot*" into oblivion. Their lives are vanity, for all they have done will be forgotten (*Ecclesiastes 8:10*).

What a difference in funerals! Jehoiada, the high priest who saved the infant Joash, was buried with the kings for his righteousness (*2Chronicles 24:16*).

Jehoiakim, truly a king of Judah, was buried with the burial of an ass for his foolish rebellion (*Jeremiah 22:19; 36:30*).

Josiah, who brought revival to Judah, was lamented by Jeremiah, and many singers, with great lamentation (*2Chronicles 35:24-25*).

Jeroboam, who caused Israel to sin, had his family taken away like dung, without natural deaths or decent burials (*1Kings 14:10-11*).

Saul, God-forsaken and profane to the end, committed suicide. His head was cut off, his body fastened to a wall and then burned, and his bones buried under a tree (*1Samuel 31:1-10*).

David, full of the Holy Ghost, died in bed knowing his Son, would Reign on God's throne forever, and was buried in Jerusalem (*2Samuel 23:1-5; 1Kings 1:1-4*).

We remember the Saul as a envious and wicked man, David as the glorious man, after God's own heart.

David's name was much set by in Israel, while he was alive (*1Samuel 18:30*).

After he died, God compared all other kings to David and blessed them because of David (*1Kings 15:3-5*).

And to this day David is one of the favorite Bible characters of good men and women.

Do you feel your reputation is ruined, because of sin? Repent, and do the first works (*Revelation 2:5*).

Consider that the man we just described, David, he was guilty of aggravated adultery and murdering one of his most loyal friends. But God forgives the sins of the truly repentant, and so do all good men.

How do you remember Mary Magdalene? Wherever the Gospel is preached in the whole world, this woman is remembered for anointing our Lord with precious ointment (*Mark 14:3-9*). "*The memory of the just is blessed.*"

Wherever the Gospel is preached, Judas is remembered for betraying our Lord for thirty pieces of silver (*Mark 14:10-11*). "*The name of the wicked shall rot.*"

And we cannot forget the "Hall of Faith," where the memories of many, some by name and some by exploit, are immortalized, in the chapter of martyrs. It is said of these illustrious heroes of our faith that they obtained a good report by faith (*Hebrews 11:1-2*).

Will this great cloud of witnesses affect your life? Are you worthy of their company?

Keeping the second commandment leaves blessed memories (*Matthew 22:39*).

It is more blessed to give than to receive (*Acts 20:35*). Are you a giver or a taker?

Jesus set our example as the ultimate Giver, whom Paul followed (*Matthew 20:25-28; 2Corinthians 12:15*).

Jesus and Paul served many, and their memories are blessed throughout the world.

A Christian who is a "*tree of life*" will be remembered, for they win souls and help others (*Proverbs 11:30*).

Do your lips feed many (*Proverbs 10:21*)?

Is your hearty counsel sweet to your friends (*Proverbs 27:9*)?

Do you sharpen the countenance of your friends (*Proverbs 27:17*)?

Living and dying without influencing others for the Lord means your life was a waste.

There Are Three Kinds Of Men:

1. Those who help others,
2. Those who do nothing, and
3. Those who harm others.

What Kind Are You?

Husband and children will praise a virtuous wife and mother, before and after her death (*Proverbs 31:28*).

Solomon wrote kindly of his mother in this very book (*Proverbs 4:3*).

Our Lord honored His mother while He hung on the cross (*John 19:25-27*).

Her memory is blessed perpetually for her Child and her testimony of salvation (*Luke 1:46-55*).

If men do not praise or commend you here, Jesus will remember every good work in the great Day of Judgment (*Matthew 25:31-46; Psalm 112:6*).

Psalm 10:7 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

The memory, of our living Savior, will be the theme of every song and act of worship through eternity, and the smoke of the torment of the wicked will be their end! Cross-references: ***Proverbs 12:8***.

Proverbs 10:8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

Wise men love to be taught. They appreciate instruction.

Wise men do not resent being told what to do.

Wise men will listen and do what is commanded.

Wise men are docile and obedient.

Fools do not like to be governed.

Fools would rather talk. They want you to hear their opinions.

Fools pour out nonsense without letup. They complain and object. They babble.

Noble men are thankful for someone to teach them wisdom and truth. Luke described the Bereans as noble for their receptive hearing of Paul (*Acts 17:11*).

Israel under Nehemiah was eager and thankful, to hear the Word of God taught to them, even though it raised a commandment, they had not kept in 1000 years (*Nehemiah 8:1-18*).

A prating fool is one who talks too much, without value or profit. They use many words, maybe even eloquent or sophisticated words, but to no real or lasting value.

Get away from such persons! They are going to fall. They know nothing but that they love, the sound of their own voice and words.

Measure your wisdom right now! Do you love to be taught, or would you rather teach? Do you love to listen, or would you rather talk?

Are others improved and made better by your speech, or do you, just fill the air with noise? Does your correspondence change lives, or is it merely a lot of bluffing hot air?

Do others ask your opinion, or do you give it without others asking? Are you wise, or a prating fool? Others know. Do you know?

A prating fool may be a good typist, so you get long, profitless emails, rather than cauliflower ear from the telephone!

Either way it is the prattle of a fool, lots of words saying nothing. The source is the same, a heart in love with itself, rather than a heart humbly craving to learn.

Parent, correct this wicked trait by teaching children their proper place. A foolish mother will dote on her children's words and opinions, and then wonder why she has a family of prating fools!

The old adage is still wise, children should be seen, not heard! Their opinions are worthless; their words in the presence of others should be few! Human nature being what it is, such children will still talk too much when they are older.

Are you quick to speak? Or are you quick to hear? Do you expect others to believe and obey you?

Are you quicker to believe and obey them? Here we have an important test of our character and soul.

Are we wise in the sense of this Proverb? **If** you like to talk, you are in trouble. **If** you value your opinions, you are in trouble.

Of course, every man thinks his own opinions are better than all others.

But wisdom knows this delusion of the human mind is from hell, motivated by the devil, and from a deceitful and desperately wicked human heart (*Jeremiah 17:9*).

The dumbest man on earth, the one without hope of recovery, is the one conceited about his own ideas (*Proverbs 26:12; 29:20*)!

Wisdom despises its own ideas (*Proverbs 30:1-3; 1Corinthians 3:18-20*).

Wisdom cuts words in half (*Proverbs 17:27-28; Ecclesiastes 5:2*).

Wisdom speaks slowly (*Proverbs 29:20; James 1:19*).

Wisdom wants to be taught by God's teachers, parents and pastors (*Proverbs 1:8; 4:1-4; Malachi 2:7*).

Wisdom only speaks when it has something valuable, right, and certain to say. Otherwise, silence is golden!

It Is Impossible To Teach A Prating Fool.

Before you finish a sentence or paragraph, they want to give you twenty or thirty paragraphs of their own. While you are speaking, they are antsy, preoccupied with their thoughts, and chafing to be able to speak again.

These foolish ones cannot say they are sorry or wrong, for they presume infallibility. It never registers that others do not want their opinions, for they also presume popularity.

Prating fools are as obvious as a loud siren! Listen for chatter! Look for quick opinions on every subject. You found him! You found her!

Some have an answer for everything; some talk over everyone else; some do not believe in silence, ever! They are prating fools, and it is the privilege of wise men to avoid them (*3John 1:9-10*).

A man married to a prating fool must flee to the housetop or wilderness to escape the endless noise of questions, suggestions, corrections, reminders, and other belches from his wife (*Proverbs 19:13; 27:15-16*).

The man who knew the most about women warned men to reject talkative women (*Proverbs 11:16; 30:21-23; 31:26*)!

Christian woman, **If** you have any wisdom at all, covet a meek and quiet spirit (*1Peter 3:3-4*)! Receive this commandment!

Can we discover more about this enemy of sanity? They like the word "But." Listen for it. No matter what you say, they counter it by saying, "But."

They must get their two cents into the conversation. But after five minutes of mindless ramblings, you realize they were always bankrupt, without two cents; and you should avoid them in the future.

If there is no reflection on what you have said, but rather an immediate verbal response of their own, without much acknowledgement or submission to what you have said, you have found a prating fool! Make sure you are not one, and don't waste any time with one.

Are You Wise In Heart? Wise Hearts Are Obvious!

The wise in heart, love to receive the commandments of God and of those God has put in positions of authority.

Do you obey and honor your parents?

Do you receive and obey their commandments?

Do you love to hear preaching, so you can learn something else you should be doing to please God and men? Are you wise in heart?

Proverbs 10:9 He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

Consistent Course Of Righteousness Keeps A Man - He Will Not Stumble!

A man rejecting instruction and wisdom, and choosing his own way, will cause that man trouble and pain; and his perverseness will be revealed to others.

The sister Proverb declares, "*Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once*" (**Proverbs 28:18**).

This slight variation in Wording helps fill out the sense of the warning. The upright man will be safe from trouble in his life, but the perverse man will fall into trouble surely and quickly.

Our Proverb adds that secret hypocrisy and hidden rebellion will be discovered and exposed.

Zophar discussed with Job about hypocrites by saying, "*Knowest thou not this of old, since man was placed upon earth, that the triumphing of the wicked is short, and the joy of the hypocrite but for a moment? Though his excellency mount up to the heavens, and his head reach unto the clouds; Yet he shall perish for ever like his own dung: they which have seen him shall say, Where is he?*" (**Job 20:4-7**).

Judas and Ananias perverted the way of the Lord, and their judgments are well known.

A sincere and faithful man, who walks righteously before God and men, will be secure in his conscience, and in the blessings of God, and safe from disaster (**Proverbs 28:1; Isaiah 33:15-16**).

This sincere man is a single minded man. A man with no fear of detection, for he never practices deceit or hypocrisy.

This sincere man neither fears devils or wicked men, for Jesus Christ is his helper and heaven is his home. He will not fear the future, for his heart and steps are fixed in God's Word.

This sincere man knows that God is with him, regardless of what men may think.

This sincere man knows that difficulties for other men will not defeat or destroy him. He is confident and safe.

But the man who chooses sin and perverts the way of righteousness will always fall, and all men will then know his secret perversity.

To disobey is truly to be perverse, for it is corruption and rebellion against God's Wisdom.

Perversity is God's Word for disobedience, and we should respect the seriousness of it (**Job 33:27**).

Sin Has Consequences! Hypocrites Cannot Keep A Wicked Heart Private Life For Long!

Hypocrites shall fall at once, and all good men will see the perverse practices (**Proverbs 26:24-26**).

Sometime noble saints will even pray for this exposure (**Psalms 144:7-8, 11**).

Though the hypocrite thinks he has covered his sin well, the Lord sees every motive of his heart and every hidden act.

If the hypocrite makes it to the grave with his lying pretense in place, it will show up in his family and of course, at the Day of Judgment (**Ecclesiastes 12:14; Luke 12:1-5**).

Upright men will be commended, but perverse men will be despised (**Proverbs 12:8**).

Upright men fear the Lord, but perverse men despise him (**Proverbs 14:2**).

So it is better to be a poor upright man than to be a rich perverse man (**Proverbs 28:6**).

The man who walks with the Lord Jesus Christ is the surest of them all (**Hebrews 13:5-6**).

The man who walks with the Lord Jesus Christ, is content and confident, and the Lord will be with him, when all men desert him (*2Timothy 4:16-18*). Paul was not ashamed of his despised life, for he knew Whom he had believed (*2Timothy 1:12*).

Reader, are you walking surely with the Lord?

Proverbs 10:10 He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.

Some men are crafty and cause real harm. Some men run their mouths, do little harm, and are fools.

Compare these two kinds of men to dogs. A dog's bark is often worse than his bite. Barking dogs seldom bite. Beware of a silent dog. Timid dogs bark the most.

The Proverb presents two wicked characters, and they are contrasted, by the damage, they do to others or to themselves. Which of these two men is the most dangerous?

Wisdom is the power of right judgment, the ability to discern a person or situation and do what is most effective and prudent.

Solomon used this Proverb to warn about the subtle and sneaky kind of man, for he can cause pain and trouble in the lives of others.

The man with lots of blustery talk is usually not nearly as dangerous, and he will self-destruct by the folly of his own mouth. Learn wisdom and protect yourself.

The Proverb has two clauses, contrasted by the disjunctive "but."

The first clause describes a wicked man, for Solomon warned about him before (*Proverbs 6:12-15; Psalm 35:19*).

The second clause, also describes a wicked man (*Proverbs 10:8; 18:6-7; 3John 1:10*).

The disjunctive conjunction, rather than the coordinating "and," requires an adversative contrast. Both men are wicked. Both men will be judged. But one is more dangerous than the other.

A man who winks with his eyes is dangerous, for he is subtle, secretive, seductive, and subversive.

A man who winks with his eyes is the silent dog, the one that bites without warning. You need to avoid this one, so God gave warning of the greater danger.

Beware of hypocrites, who cover evil intentions, by good words and fair speeches (*Proverbs 26:24-26; Romans 16:17-18*).

These liars may call their mischief a joke, but they are dangerous and to be rejected (*Proverbs 26:18-19*).

This crafty person may stay hidden. He may not get caught until the Day of Judgment. Foolish men may never recognize the danger, but wise men will learn to identify and avoid him.

When a man seldom speaks directly, but relies rather on insinuations and manipulative maneuvers, you need to watch your back!

He cannot be trusted, for honest men never behave this way. You have met a dog, that would rather bite, than bark.

A prating fool is a big-mouthed and long-winded idiot, for "prating" is babbling and chattering to no real purpose.

A prating fool can do little harm. He is mostly or all bark. His bite is less than the noise he creates.

A prating fool gives himself away in mere minutes of meeting him. He is more bluster than bite.

A prating fool is going to fall even while he is talking, because others can easily recognize, that he is a stupid braggart and harmless boaster.

A prating fool falls, in his own noose, every time he opens his mouth (*Proverbs 10:14; 13:3; 14:3; Ecclesiastes 5:3; 10:3, 12-13*).

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

**Your Mouth Is The Opening
To Your Heart.**

**Your Mouth Is A Passageway
That Lets Out What Is In Your Heart.**

A righteous man has a good and noble heart, and his mouth is a well of life to those around him.

A righteous man comforts, encourages, and instructs those around him.

A wicked man has an evil heart, and his mouth is filled with violence.

A wicked man hurts and destroys those around him.

You can know the heart of a man by his speech (*Proverbs 10:20*).

While many like to say, "You do not know my heart," it is easy, to know their hearts, by the kind of words that come from their lips.

Gentle, gracious, helpful, kind, and modest speech proves a virtuous heart.
Caustic, critical, cruel, harsh, negative, and slanderous words prove a depraved heart.

The Lord Jesus Christ explained this Proverb. He said, *"O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things"* (**Matthew 12:34-35**).

This Proverb is an observation by Solomon. You can measure a person's character by their speech.

A good man knows what words are acceptable, and He says them at the right time (**Proverbs 10:32; 15:23; 25:11**).

A good man, makes you want to kiss his lips (**Proverbs 24:26**)!

A good man speaks with a good purpose, to comfort, heal, encourage, teach, or warn (**Proverbs 13:14; 15:7**).

A good man adds to the peace, pleasure, and prosperity of those around him (**Proverbs 12:18; 15:26; 16:24; 18:4**).

A wicked man cannot rule his mouth, so it spews forth the volcanic evil of his heart.

A wicked man talks far more than he should (**Proverbs 15:2, 28; Ecclesiastes 10:12-14**).

A wicked man has harsh, hateful, and sarcastic words of his mouth, and leaves those around him hurting (**Proverbs 12:18; Psalm 52:2**).

A wicked man feels no pang of conscience or remorse for ruining the reputations of others by backbiting, slandering, talebearing, or whispering (**Proverbs 26:20-28**).

A wicked man is a false witness and liar (**Proverbs 14:5; 18:21; 25:18**).

The Proverb has two metaphors.

1. How the mouth, of a righteous man, is a well of life?
2. How the mouth, is a place, where refreshing speech can satisfy your longings and invigorate your soul!

How does violence cover the mouth of the wicked?

There are no refreshing waters, in his mouth, for his mouth is only violent. Compare "covereth" elsewhere (**Psalm 73:6; Jeremiah 3:25**).

What will you do with this lesson? Do others crave your words and conversation, like a thirsty man craves a well? Does your speech bless and enhance their lives? Or do others dread being around you, because your words are critical, negative, and destructive?

If you have unedifying speech, confess it to God, and beg for a new heart!

What you think about your speech is entirely irrelevant! Your heart is the most deceitful thing on this planet (**Jeremiah 17:9-10**).

However, you may safely measure your speech by the degree to which others want to be in your presence and listen to your words.

If you are short on friends, it is because your mouth is too problematic, in some respect. Purify your speech!

How can you improve your speech? Make sure **If** you talk a lot, then talk less (**Proverbs 17:27-28; James 1:19**)!

Make sure your speech, is always gracious and edifying (**Proverbs 22:11; Ecclesiastes 10:12; 1Corinthians 14:26; Colossians 4:6**)!

Make sure your speech, is always helpful (**Proverbs 10:31; 31:26; Ephesians 4:29**)!

Make sure you learn the Words of Truth, to give certain answers to those asking (**Proverbs 22:17-21; 1Peter 3:15**)!

Make sure, you always bless and praise the Lord (**Psalm 34:1-3**)!

Ministers! Of all men, your mouth must be a deep well of life!

Ministers! You bring the good news of the Gospel of Peace!

Ministers! You should have the most comforting, encouraging, and healthful words in the universe!

But make sure, you preach His Word, rather than the fables and entertainment that most seek today (**1Corinthians 2:1-5; 1Thessalonians 2:13; 2Timothy 3:14-17; 4:1-4**)

What Kind Of A Mouth Did The Lord Jesus Christ Have?

It was a deep, deep well with water that satisfied the soul forever (**John 4:13-14; 6:63, 68**)!

The Lord's Words were so gracious, that it stunned a synagogue into silence (*Psalm 45:2; Luke 4:20-22*)!

When the Lord spoke, of the things in Scripture, the hearts of those hearing Him burned with pleasure (*Luke 24:32*)!

Proverbs 10:12 Hatred stirreth up strifes: but love covereth all sins.

Where There Is Strife There Is Hatred!

Conflict Cannot Exist Without Hatred!

Unless love prevails, the strife will get worse.

Love does not fight: Love covers offences and sins.

Love seeks peace and pursues peace.

Love cannot tolerate strife; it tries to end strife as soon as possible.

Strife, a word we do not use much today, means antagonism, enmity, discord, contention, or dispute.

Strife, is fighting and conflict. While it is godly, to strive for Truth, against sin and error. Here we have personal strife, caused by the hatred, of those who do not practice love.

Where there is envy, strife, enmity, conflict, or tension, all you need do, is look a little deeper, to find one or both parties guilty of hatred.

Fighting and antagonism, does not and cannot exist, where each person is practicing Christian love.

There are wicked persons, with hearts full of malice and hatred, which we all were by nature (*Titus 3:3*).

Wicked persons delight, in stirring up contentions and quarrels by talebearing, whispering, evil surmising, and cursing.

These persons have no conscience or compassion, as Ham and Shimei; and they shall receive a similar fate from God and noble men (*Genesis 9:20-27; 2Samuel 16:5-14; 1Kings 2:8-9; Isaiah 29:20-21*).

Love forgives sins and forgets sins, just as the Lord forgives and forgets them.

Love hides and conceals sins, under the same forgiving cover, that Christ provides every saint. This is covering sin, and it is a rule of life for saints of the Lord (*Proverbs 17:9; James 5:20; 1Peter 4:8*).

But hatred, growing from anger and pride, digs up evil, spreads evil reports, and creates strife and trouble

(*Proverbs 15:18; 16:27-28; 26:21; 28:25; 29:22; James 4:1*).

Can we cover sins like Joseph, whose brothers could not believe his forgiveness, even after many gifts, favors, and passage of much time (*Genesis 45:1-15; 50:15-21*)?

Joseph put the very best perspective on their horrible sin and wept over all of them.

How did the Lord reward this one son of Jacob? He gave him two tribes in Israel (*Joshua 14:4*)!

Here is a golden opportunity for child training for dedicated Christian parents.

Children must be, trained and corrected strictly, in this matter of hatred and love, strife and peace, covering sins or spreading them.

The natural antagonism of children, creates a perfect setting, for teaching love, graciousness, forgiveness, and peacemaking.

Love has many facets. Our Proverb emphasizes one of them: covering sins. (*1Corinthians 13:4-7*)

Love overlooks offences against it; hatred gets offended, holds bitterness, or plots revenge.

Love forgets and hides the sins of the repentant; hatred remembers them or spreads them to others.

Love hears rumors, or even factual news of others' sins, but never repeats them; hatred craves private information and spreads it to any listeners.

Can we cover all sins, as the Preacher teaches here?

Peter once sought a limit of seven times for covering sins, but our Lord pressed him to seventy times seven (*Matthew 18:21-22*)!

How can we stir up trouble over a few pence, when our Lord has forgiven us ten thousand talents (*Matthew 18:23-35*)!

These things should never occur among those who name the name of Christ, and the judgment of the wicked servant is just and appropriate.

Covering sins is not compromise.

Covering sins is not withholding Scriptural judgment, whether in the family, church, business, or nation. The rightful authority should speedily execute judgment, where God has ordained it.

Covering sins should occur: When the sins are against you, where there is repentance, or when you are not in direct authority.

Hatred of sin is holy and good (*Proverbs 6:16-19; Psalm 45:7*).

Hatred of others, shown by anger at personal offences, ignoring repentance, whispering about sins, and talebearing is as murder, in God's judgment (*Matthew 5:21-26*).

Hatred suggests a person, is without eternal life and living for the devil with a spirit from hell (*John 8:44; James 3:14-16; 1John 3:15*).

Let us put on, the character of our Lord Jesus, who came into the world to save sinners. He has no use, for the self-loving "righteous," for He knows the blackness of their hearts.

Let us choose to forgive and cover sins in love, so that we might easily and honestly pray, "*Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.*"

Our lesson here is the basis for true peace and love. Where there is strife and contention, there is hatred lurking behind the false handshakes and lying words.

Reader, it is wisdom, to live this lesson and avoid those persons that create strife and contention, and also, to train such evil out of our children.

Let us be, the greatest peacemakers, in the world by practicing the wisdom of this Proverb. Only the Lord Jesus can grant us the grace and wisdom for the task.

In addition, the lesson demonstrates, the great gulf: between the wise and foolish: between the righteous and wicked: between the sons of God and the sons of Belial.

When Jesus met repentant sinners, He freely forgave them; when Pharisees see sinners, they despise them and hate God's full forgiveness (*Luke 7:36-50; 15:25-32*).

But wicked persons shall have their day, as did the Jews. As in 70 AD.

Proverbs 10:13 In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found: but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding.

Degree Of Folly Or Wisdom Is Known By Speech!

A man with understanding, has wise speech that helps others.

A man without understanding, uses empty and foolish words that benefit no one.

You cannot hide your character for long!

You cannot deceive others forever. You will be exposed (*Proverbs 26:26; Ecclesiastes 5:3; 10:3*).

If your speech indicates you are a fool, the best treatment for you, as God's wisdom teaches, is a productive punishment (*Proverbs 18:6; 26:3*).

Notice the Proverb closely. The first clause, identifies a man with understanding, as one who speaks wisely.

The second clause, gives the instruction to punish the man who does not have understanding.

The parallelism of the Proverb teaches two principal lessons: Your speech, proves whether you have understanding or not, and corporal punishment is appropriate, for those who speak foolishly and frowardly.

Our culture, considers corporal punishment illegal today; therefore, you need more wisdom!

The ellipsis ^{missing words}, at the end of the second clause, "and speaks foolishly," is understood by the first clause.

God only gave you precious wisdom, **If** you have it.

Through the Holy Spirit, hear Solomon's advice on how to measure the hearts of men and their treatment.

Good men, with wise hearts convey knowledge, godly counsel, and sound wisdom; and they do it in a gracious and loving way.

Fools, with profane hearts, babble about their opinions and their little problems of life.

Fools, complain about most everything; and they do it in an odious and irritating manner.

Most people love to say, "You do not know my heart. I am a good person. I have understanding." But these are lying excuses to justify ungodly speech and actions.

One of the chief lessons of Proverbs is to identify character by speech; [words mean things] (*Proverbs 10:19, 21,32; 12:13; 14:3, 7; 15:7; 16:2; 17:7, 27-28; 18:7; Ecclesiastes 10:12*).

The Lord Jesus Christ also emphasized this connection (*Matthew 12:33-37*).

Does your speech prove you a fool or a wise man? It is easy to tell.

Can you justify your speech from the Bible? Do you have more friends than you can manage? Do others hold you in high esteem? Do others often seek your advice?

If you can answer all questions positively, you are a wise man.

If any of the questions get a negative answer, you are a fool! Confess your folly to God. Beg Him for help to control your lips.

Do others consider you gracious or odious, kind or cutting, helpful or hurtful, cheerful or critical, sober or sarcastic, loving or laughing, judicious or jesting? Honest answers to these contrasts reveal your character!

Humble yourself before God. Cut your words in half. Cut your volume in half. Do not speak without your words being important to say. Study before you speak. Be gracious and positive, always!

Your degree of worldliness or spirituality is also known by your speech.

To be an enemy of Jesus Christ, all you have to do is care about the things of this world (*Matthew 6:24; Philippians 3:18-19; James 4:4; 1John 2:15-17*).

So how can you spot an enemy of Jesus Christ? Listen. They talk about jobs or business, health, politics, or current events. Though you listen carefully, you never hear Jesus Christ praised, His doctrine exalted, or being thankful to God.

Your degree of love or hatred for others is also revealed by your words.

If you love other saints, which is the greatest evidence you have eternal life, you will always be saying good things: to them, for them, and about them.

The person who is often guilty of backbiting, complaining, slandering, talebearing, or whispering is not only a fool, but also a child of the devil (*John 8:44; 1Corinthians 3:3; Titus 3:3; James 3:14-18; 1John 3:1-19*).

Proper correction, is the best treatment of such a person with a foolish tongue (*Proverbs 26:3*).

If that person is your child, then you can train him in the way he should go, by proper punishment and reproof (*Proverbs 22:6; 29:15*).

If it is a prospective spouse, end the relationship!

If it is a friend, you can easily find new and better friends (*Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 14:7*).

Choose wise men, with wise speech for your companions, for they will make you better (*Proverbs 22:11; Psalm 119:63*).

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

Wise men study and store knowledge before they talk. Fools talk without study; and in their stores of knowledge, they are empty!

Here is the plain difference between a wise man and a fool, one knows what he talks about, and the other talks out of ignorance.

You have seen and heard both men. The wise man is reserved, before speaking, and he is careful while speaking.

The wise man is cautious in his claims, deliberate in his declarations, and sober in his speech.

The fool loves to talk. One-on-one, he can hardly stop, even for air. In a group, he dominates the conversation, as he keeps words, tumbling from his mouth.

Wise men, by being prudent and reluctant about talking, are safe (*Proverbs 15:2; 16:23; 20:5*).

A wise man, when asked a question, will seek to study before he answers, unless he is certain of his knowledge on that subject (*Proverbs 15:28; 24:26; 25:11; 29:11*).

A wise man is committed to learning all that he can, and only then does he offer it to others (*Proverbs 1:5; 9:9; 18:1, 15*).

Fools Love The Sound Of Their Words Fools Get In Deep Trouble.

Fools over-commit in financial transactions (*Proverbs 6:1-5*).

Fools get into disputes before knowing the facts (*Proverbs 25:8*).

Fools whisper foolishly about others (*Proverbs 25:9-10*).

Fools expose themselves prematurely (*Proverbs 29:11*).

Fools talk too much while knowing too little. Their many words tell the world they are fools, and they are soon destroyed for want of knowledge.

Wise men lay-up knowledge; fools lay out words.

Wise men study; fools talk. Wise men are concerned about truth; fools are anxious to be heard.

Wise men are quick to hear and slow to speak; fools are slow to hear and quick to speak.

Wise men grow in favor with God and men; fools are despised and rejected by both.

Reader, it is your duty to be wise, with your mouth, and it will bring success. You begin by learning to speak less and listen more (*Proverbs 17:27-28; James 1:19*).

As a wise man, you emphasize study over speech (*Proverbs 15:28; 22:17-21*).

As a wise man, you make sure you grasp a situation before answering (*Proverbs 18:13; John 7:24*).

As a wise man, you then make sure each word properly fits the occasion (*Proverbs 15:23; 25:11*).

As a wise man, you present each word with graciousness, using only a pinch of salt, if the hearers require it (*Colossians 4:6*).

The Holy God is coming to judge men for their words (*Matthew 12:37*).

All men will give an account for every idle word, those spoken, without study or without cause (*Matthew 12:36*).

God Hates Foolish Talking And Jesting The Mainstay Of This Generation (*Ephesians 5:3-7*)

Are you ready to meet this Judge? *"Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer"* (*Psalms 19:14*).

Proverbs 10:15 The rich man's wealth is his strong city: the destruction of the poor is their poverty.

Money answers all things! Who said these Words? The Preacher did (*Ecclesiastes 10:19*).

Are they true? Yes, they are true, for money can certainly solve a lot of problems and do a lot of things.

Solomon said they were a defense against trouble (*Ecclesiastes 7:12*).

Rich men know they can buy their way out of most difficulties, so they learn to trust in riches as their defense and source of help (*Proverbs 18:11*).

Rich men become conceited in their own abilities and forget God, because they do not feel any need for Him or dependency upon Him.

Rich men don't pray, for they believe they can deliver themselves.

Poor men cannot buy themselves out of trouble. When expenses mount, they have no defense; and they are destroyed.

The poor lose confidence, become frustrated and fearful, and are tempted to covet or steal what the rich man has.

Neither do poor men pray, for they have no hope of deliverance; so they often try to take matters into their own hands.

It is hard for the poor to make and keep friends (*Proverbs 14:20; 19:4, 7*).

What a miserable life! But the rich have many friends (*Proverbs 19:6*).

Neither of these situations is ideal! Because of these two extremes, both of which lead to sin, wise Agur prayed that God would deliver him from both riches and poverty (*Proverbs 30:7-9*).

Agur chose moderate financial success as his goal, a convenient amount of money would be just right.

Agur knew that riches could lead to presumption against God, and he knew poverty could lead to theft.

Can you be content with only moderate success? **If** you love your soul, this will be more than enough!

Can you be peacefully content with God as your Portion?

This is Holy Wisdom: When the rich become poor in spirit and when the poor become rich in faith. Measures most important to your soul! (*Matthew 5:3; James 2:5*).

A strong city was a place of safety, especially in the days of Solomon (*2Chronicles 11:5*).

Rich men trust their money, the same way citizens trusted high and thick walls of a city.

But the Lord should be your only defense (*Psalms 7:10; 62:2, 6*), refuge (*Psalms 9:9; 94:22*), fortress (*Psalms 71:3; 91:2*), and high tower (*Psalms 18:2; 144:2*) against trouble and fear. Trust in Him!

Do not trust money. **If** riches increase, don't think about them (*Psalms 62:10*).

Remember Job and how the Lord allowed everything, to be taken away in one day.

Riches grow wings and fly away (*Proverbs 23:4-5*), and thieves break through and steal (*Matthew 6:19*).

Job cursed himself, **If** he had ever let money become his hope or confidence (*Job 31:24-25*). Do not trust money.

The Desire To Be Rich Is A Horrible Curse!

It is the root of all evil, and it drowns men in destruction and perdition.

Many men have left the faith and pierced themselves through with many sorrows by seeking to be rich (*1Timothy 6:6-10*).

Remember Lot, Balaam, Achan, and Gehazi, as Bible examples, of those who brought much trouble upon themselves by seeking to be rich. Don't even think about being rich!

Men have lost the opportunity for the kingdom of God by valuing riches more than Jesus Christ. Our Lord taught His disciples, that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for rich men to enter the kingdom of heaven (*Mark 10:17-27*).

Money may help put braces on your children's teeth, but it can cost you for eternity!

Wealth and success cannot help in the Day of Judgment, as two rich men learned (*Luke 12:13-21; 16:19-31*).

In eternity, you will take nothing with you (*1Timothy 6:7; Job 1:21*).

Though you may trust your money, you cannot redeem your own soul or that of anyone else with it (*Psalms 49:6-9*).

Only righteousness will help in the day of wrath, not riches (*Proverbs 10:2; 11:4*).

True success is living a godly life and being content with what you have (*1Timothy 6:6*).

This is learned behavior, and there is nothing in your sinful nature that wants to be content (*Philippians 4:11*).

Contentment Today Will Bring Success Tomorrow!

If you are rich, glory not in your riches, but rather glory in knowing the Lord (*Jeremiah 9:23-24*).

If you are rich, be ready to distribute your money to others, so you can lay hold of eternal life and lay up a good foundation against the time to come (*1Timothy 6:17-19*).

If you are poor, remember God chose the poor of this world rich in faith (*James 2:5*).

The Lord has not called many rich or successful people (*1Corinthians 1:26-29*).

You have riches untold and unimagined in glory (*1Corinthians 2:9; John 14:2*).

What is summary of all this? We cannot do better than James, "Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: but the rich, in that he is made low" (*James 1:9-10*)!

Do you know about the greatest reversal of fortune in the whole universe? For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor; that ye through his poverty might be rich. *2Corinthians 8:9*.

Lord, help us to be content with convenient food now and give us eyes of faith, to see the abundance that awaits us with Thee. Cross-references: *Proverbs 11:28*

***Proverbs 10:16 The labour of the righteous
tendeth to life: the fruit of the wicked to sin.***

Two Kinds Of Men The Righteous The Wicked

They both get up each day and labor at school, at employment, and at other things.

The righteous man's efforts lead to godliness and life.

The wicked man's efforts lead to sin and death.

There is no neutral ground between these two. You are either righteous or wicked. Your efforts are either leading you to life or death!

The Holy Spirit's Proverbs often have parallel contrasting statements. By comparing the two statements, we find the Proverb's full intent.

This Proverb has three comparisons. Labor is compared to fruit, the righteous to the wicked, and life to sin.

Comparing labor and fruit indicates a consideration of both the effort and the effect of the two lifestyles. Comparing life and sin shows both the nature and effect of the two lifestyles.

Therefore, you can conclude that the Holy Spirit blessed and commended the lifestyle of the righteous, where their efforts and the effects of those efforts tend toward godliness and life.

And the Holy Spirit condemned and warned against the choices and activities of the wicked, because their efforts and the effects of those efforts tend toward sin, trouble, and death.

The Proverb is a warning that your lifestyle dictates how your efforts will affect you.

This axiom of wisdom: Righteousness brings life and wickedness death, and is not always visible.

Sometimes the wicked look like they live well (*Psalms 37:35; 50:16-21; 73:3-14*).

Sometimes the righteous seem to be the only ones suffering (*Psalms 34:19; Acts 14:22*).

But the wicked will be brought down to destruction and hell, and the righteous will be lifted up above them: Sometimes in this life; always in the next life (*Psalms 37:36; 50:22; 73:15-20*)!

Another axiom says: you cannot escape the consequences of your actions. "Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (*Galatians 6:7*).

Your deceitful heart, will lie to you against God (*Proverbs 12:15; 26:12,16; Jeremiah 17:9*).

The devil, will throw fiery darts of lies into your mind (*Ephesians 6:16; Genesis 3:4*).

The world's lies agree with them both (*1John 2:15-17*)!

Life in this world depends on laboring by the rules of wisdom and Truth.

If you cheat or compromise the rules, you will suffer by being justly chastened or judged for your wickedness.

Sin does not pay; it destroys and kills!

Prosperity is easy, If you keep the rules (*Proverbs 3:13-18; 8:12-21; 13:15; Psalms 1:1-6; 19:11; 106:3; 112:2; James 1:25; 1Peter 3:10-12*).

Life in the next world also depends on laboring by rules of Wisdom and Truth, otherwise you have no claim on eternal life (*Matthew 7:21; John 6:27; Galatians 6:8; 1Timothy 6:17-19; Hebrews 5:9*).

Proverbs 10:17 He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.

Here is wisdom! This is one of Holy Spirit's most valuable lessons. You may not fully appreciate the power and wisdom of this Proverb, but it is the greatest indicator of your character and future success or trouble.

Obeying instruction and warnings is clear proof you are noble and wise. Refusing correction and reproof is clear proof you are foolish and profane. The rule is inspired;

the diagnosis is totally accurate. How do you measure up?

You arrived in life knowing nothing at all. The only way you progress beyond ignorance was to, listen, learn, and obey!

Some do not progress, beyond childish thinking, by these steps to wisdom, while others grow rapidly in knowledge and understanding.

If you do not humble yourself to obey the instruction of teachers, you will be forced to learn the lessons of life the hard way, by painful trouble and destruction of your life.

The key to wisdom and honor is humility. Additionally, you need the ability to reject your thoughts, in order to listen to others (*Proverbs 15:33; 18:12*).

What Hinders You From Obtaining Wisdom And Honor? Pride!

Pride leads to arrogant and selfish rejection of the opinions of others, which leaves you alone, with the foolish imaginations, of your own depraved and ignorant heart (*Proverbs 18:1-2*).

Pride cannot bear to be corrected or taught by another. A man too proud to be taught is worse than a fool (*Proverbs 26:12*).

Grasp This Simple Fact Of Life: Love Instructive Correction!

Correction Doesn't Mean That You Are Being Verbally Chastised.

Do you always wear your shoulder harness while driving? Drive within the speed limit? Obey the premarital counseling you were given? Follow the employee handbook on your job? Complete the maintenance schedule on time for your automobile? Abide by all your parents' rules and requests?

The need to humbly obey correction and instruction is emphasized in (*Proverbs 12:1; 15:5, 10; 17:10; 29:1*).

The rest of the Bible emphasizes it as well. Hearing and doing brings blessing and safety (*Matthew 7:24-27; James 1:21-25*).

Why did Paul warn, "Despise not prophesyings" (*1Thessalonians 5:20*)?

Many do not want a preacher telling them what to do. They hate being corrected from the pulpit. They are fools headed for destruction!

The simple lesson of this Proverb proves two things, your character and your future. It is as true as gravity!

Wise men love to be taught, and they become successful (**Proverbs 9:8-9**).

Fools hate to be corrected or reproved, and they will be destroyed (**Proverbs 9:7; 12:15; 14:16**).

Wisdom promises to laugh and mock at fools, when their calamity comes; and wise men should understand and learn when they witness the pain and trouble of a fool (**Proverbs 1:20-33**).

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

Here are two easy ways to sin with your speech.

1. You can be a hypocrite and use polite words to deceive people and hide the bitterness and envy in your heart.
2. You can spread false and malicious rumors about a person to others.

These two sins are in great supply today. Transparent honesty and integrity, clearly visible and known by all, is very rare.

Do you see what the wise man had to say next? He wrote, *"In the multitude of words there wanteth not sin: but he that refraineth his lips is wise"* (**Proverbs 10:19**).

**It Is Hard To Speak Much And Not Sin
Every Sentence Raises The Chance Of Sin.**

So Solomon inspired by the Holy Spirit, gives the wise advice, of closing your lips and not talking so much (**Proverbs 17:27-28; James 1:19**).

When the prophet Isaiah saw the LORD, he was in terror, for the sins of his lips (**Isaiah 6:1-7**). He said, *"Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts"* (**Isaiah 6:5**).

A right view of God, will cause you, to hate your speech (**Psalms 4:4**)!

The blunt apostle James had no mercy for the tongue. He said, *"And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell"* (**James 3:6**).

He also said, *"But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison"* (**James 3:8**).

Your tongue, is called your glory, for praising God (**Psalms 16:9; 30:12; 57:8; Acts 2:26**).

But your tongue, also curses men. *"Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men,*

which are made after the similitude of God. Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be" (**James 3:9-10**).

You are a fool, **If** you hide hatred with polite words. Instead of forgiving others and ending conflict, fools cover hatred in their hearts with lies.

It is horrible when such evil is in the church. David prayed, to be delivered from such evil, whose right hand is a right hand of falsehood and their mouth speaks empty pretensions (**Psalms 144:7-8, 11**).

It is very foolish, **If** you say anything against another.

Slander is spreading false information or innuendoes about others. Backbiting, talebearing, and whispering are telling the truth about another, is information that damages another's character and reputation.

If you are wise, a tongue is your glory, to praise God and edify others.

If you are a fool, it is your curse, a tool of hypocrisy and murder. Be wise (**Proverbs 18:21; Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6**)!

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

**A Simple Rule Of Wisdom
Is To Cut Your Words In Half.**

Many words and much speaking greatly raise the chance of sinning with your lips.

Because of this great risk, wisdom teaches us to reduce the number of our words and hold our peace. See the notes on **Proverbs 17:28**.

A wise man reflects soberly after speaking a lot, for he remembers the grave warning of the first half of this Proverb.

If he uttered quite a few words, he has probably sinned in his speech and appears a fool (**Ecclesiastes 5:3**).

**In This Context,
Silence Is Very Golden!**

So God tells us to be faster to hear and slower to speak (**James 1:19**).

If you emphasized listening and being skilful at it, you would have little time for talking.

If you were slow and reluctant to speak, you would have an excellent spirit (**Proverbs 17:27**).

Therefore, wisely consider your words before you speak, rather than regret them after they are gone.

Have you not wasted many painful hours reviewing words you spoke? Have you often said, "I wish I'd never said that" or "Why did I say that?" Such misery could be reduced, **If** you would simply refrain your lips from idle or foolish speech.

If we would hold our tongue, we would not have to worry about words that escaped. Wisdom is easy, cut your words in half! Talk less! The tongue is a fire, so douse its sparks, by swallowing words (**James 3:1-12**)!

**The Tongue Is Deadly
Use It Carefully
(Proverbs 18:21)!**

Words and sin are not an arithmetic, but a geometric, relationship.

The words, we add beyond necessary speech contain most of our verbal sins; those sins increase rapidly the more and longer we talk (**Ecclesiastes 10:13**).

Therefore **If** we swallow those extra words that are unnecessary, easily half our words, they will save many sins.

Cutting your words by 50% will reduce your sins of speech by 90%! Wisdom is easy! Bridle your mouth (**Psalms 39:1**)!

If children cut their words in half, there would be less foolishness, teasing of siblings, and dishonoring of parents.

If wives did it, they would be less odious, contentious, and overbearing.

If employees did it, managers would find their jobs much easier and production and unity would improve.

If angry and bitter people did it, there would be much less bleeding of wounded souls.

If fools did it, they would be esteemed wise.

Of course, there are people who hardly ever speak, and this Proverb does not apply to them. They need to use more words to be a gracious and a tree of life.

If they do not learn to speak, their lives will have little value for anyone. True wisdom feeds many (**Proverbs 10:21**).

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

Here is a great Proverb! Can you grasp this rule of wisdom and the lessons it teaches?

A just man has a pure heart, which causes his speech to be noble and valuable. A wicked man has a perverse and worthless heart, which causes his speech to be cruel and offensive. The comparison is between both the hearts and speech of good and bad men.

In dissecting this Proverb, remember the source of these Proverbs. While Solomon made the observations and wrote down the sayings, these Words originated with the Spirit of God, Who inspired his Words (**Ecclesiastes 12:9-11; 2Peter 1:21**).

Since the whole Bible has one Author, we may obtain help for this Proverb from other portions of Scripture (**1Corinthians 2:13; 2Peter 1:20**).

It is clear that the just, which are good men, are being contrasted to the wicked, which are bad men.

The just are those saved and justified by God.

But what is it about them that is valuable like silver? Their literal tongues? No, it is their speech, which is intended by tongue as a metonym, which is the means of speaking (**Proverbs 10:21; 25:11**).

The wicked are those left in their sins, the inherited corruption from Adam.

What about these bad men is worth very little? Their literal hearts? No, rather their corrupt and profane speech, which flows from their wicked hearts.

The Proverb is contrasting the good hearts and good speech of just men to the bad hearts and bad speech of wicked men.

Your speech reflects your heart. Jesus said, "*O generation of vipers, how can ye, being evil, speak good things? for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things*" (**Matthew 12:34-35**).

Solomon knew the heart and speech were connected. He wrote, "*He that loveth pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend*" (**Proverbs 22:11**).

Solomon knew gracious speech was valuable, even to kings (**Proverbs 16:13; 1Samuel 18:1; Ecclesiastes 10:12**).

Solomon knew that such speech came from a pure heart, which the wicked do not have (*Psalm 58:3; Jeremiah 17:9*).

Fools say, "You do not know my heart." But a man's heart is known by his speech.

- **If** his speech is cruel, foolish, or perverse, his heart is black and sinful.
- **If** his speech is kind, wise, and acceptable, his heart is pure.

Every man will be judged by his speech (*Matthew 12:36-37*).

So, reader examine your heart (*Psalm 139:23-24; 2Corinthians 13:5*)!

Confess your sins of speech and beg God for help in guiding your tongue righteously (*Job 34:31-32; Isaiah 6:1-5; Psalm 19:14*)!

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

What a difference between a righteous man and a fool!

Which are you most like? Righteous men are full of wisdom, so they are able to help others by teaching and warning them about life's pitfalls.

Fools do not have even enough wisdom for themselves, so they fall into the snares and traps of Satan and end up dying unnecessarily. Which type are you most like?

Wisdom is not only for self-preservation.

Wisdom is also to help save others from the pain and trouble of foolish decisions.

Righteous men are not selfish: they are eager to use their wisdom to serve others.

Righteous men are not hateful: they rejoice with men walking in the truth (*1Corinthians 13:6*).

It grieves a righteous man to see men fall into sin foolishly.

Do you feed many? Will your funeral be filled with affectionate memories of advice and instruction you gave to save men from life's dangers and difficulties?

Will your funeral be moving a dysfunctional fool to the cemetery? Will men fondly recall your help and wisdom? Will they remember your ignorance and the trouble you caused?

While the righteous feed many, fools die for lack of wisdom.

Understand There Is More

Than One Way To Die!

You can die physically by foolishness, as well as by accidents, drunkenness, AIDS, suicide, murder, execution, lung cancer, and other terminal consequences.

You can also die to love, joy, peace, hope, and prosperity in your life. Divorce is the death of a marriage.

Being fired is the death of a job.

Being in prison is the death of freedom. Having a rebellious child brings the death of peace.

Guilt and shame are the death of joy.
Bitterness and revenge are the death of love.

Debt and poverty are the death of success.

These things happen, due to lack of wisdom. There is more than one way to die!

Do you have wisdom, to avoid these horrible and painful troubles? As Proverbs declares repeatedly, wisdom is easily available, to any man who will humble himself and seek it.

Where is Lady Wisdom found? In the precious Word of God, particularly these short inspired Proverbs!

The Holy Spirit's purpose, in Proverbs, is to teach wisdom to young men (*Proverbs 1:1-4*).

Are you learning it? What keeps you from feeding many? **If** you lack wisdom, get some. **If** you are selfish, confess and forsake it. **If** you can allow others to suffer needlessly, learn godly love.

It is the law of God to love others by correcting them when they need it (*Leviticus 19:17*).

It is the duty of saints to warn the unruly (*1Thessalonians 5:14*) and save brethren from error (*James 5:19-20*).

Righteous men will be trees of life and save the souls of many (*Proverbs 11:30; 27:9*).

Proverbs 10:22 The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.

When God blesses a man to be rich, He also gives contentment, happiness, and peace, which amounts to a double blessing!

Ordinarily, riches bring a measure of fear, greed, guilt, hoarding, labor, pride, vanity, or worry. Wealth can be

more bad than good! But God is able to give riches, without their attendant sorrows!

Fools Think Riches Have No Sorrow.

Solomon wrote more than the book of Proverbs. He also wrote, the Holy Spirit inspired, philosophy of life called *Ecclesiastes*, in which he documented the pain and trouble of wealth (*Ecclesiastes 2:17-23; 4:4-8; 5:10-17; 6:1-2*).

He called the troubles of the rich, a sickness and evil disease, and he said this sorrowful condition was common.

Read this rich king's wise comparisons: "*Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith*" (*Proverbs 15:16*).

"Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith" (*Proverbs 15:17*).

"Better is an handful with quietness, than both the hands full with travail and vexation of spirit" (*Ecclesiastes 4:6*). Poverty can be better!

Rich men fear losing their riches: there are competitors to worry about; propensity to consume takes profits; they know death ends the good life; they dread the tax man more than a thief; and the thought of a foolish heir wasting their estate, is all horrifying to a rich man.

Most men get rich as a result of time and chance, not from diligence, skill, strength, or wisdom (*Ecclesiastes 9:11*).

Of course, God is in control and rules all, time and chance (*Proverbs 16:33; Ecclesiastes 7:14*).

Some men are cursed with riches. Pharaoh is a great example (*Exodus 9:16*).

Great wealth, is called the prosperity of fools, when God blesses a fool with riches to deceive other fools (*Proverbs 1:32*).

Promotion Comes From The Lord (Psalm 75:6-7).

When God promotes a man to be rich as a blessing, He is kind enough to also give that man the spiritual gifts to be content, happy, generous, and secure in his wealth (*Ecclesiastes 2:24,26; 3:13; 5:18-19*).

Such men are not dependent on their wealth, and they would be just as happy if it all went away from them. In fact, these men happily scatter their wealth by giving it to the poor (*1 Timothy 6:17-19*).

What are the lessons?

Human effort without God's blessing will not work (*Psalm 127:1*).

Riches bring sorrow, so it is dangerous to desire them (*1 Timothy 6:6-10*).

The only wealth a wise man should want is by God's blessing, for God gives contentment and peace with it (*Ecclesiastes 5:19*).

A happy and successful life requires factors other than riches (*Proverbs 16:16; 17:1; 28:6*).

While the wicked eat the bread of sorrows, the righteous man sleeps sweetly (*Psalms 127:2; Ecclesiastes 5:12*).

Proverbs 10:23 It is as sport to a fool to do mischief: but a man of understanding hath wisdom.

Sin Is A Joke To Most Today.

Mischief that harms others is celebrated. Consequences of sin are ignored. And those that reprove sin are despised.

Sin Is The Delight Of Many.

They sin without fear, guilt, or shame. They jest and joke about evil; they mock the righteous. But such men are fools.

Those with understanding, look at their wicked approach to life, and know that judgment is coming.

Wise men know there is great reward for sobriety and righteousness.

"Fools make a mock at sin," the wise man teaches (*Proverbs 14:9; 15:21*).

Fools delight in sin; they use it as entertainment for TV and movies.

The most mischievous boys in school are the most popular.

The bold and flagrant sinner is considered brave and strong.

The wildest actors are stars. They rap brutishly about their favorite themes, whore-mongering and violence.

But hell, both here and hereafter, is coming. See the comments on *Proverbs 14:9*.

The segment, of society, most susceptible to this disease is the young men. They still have the full folly of youth bound in their hearts. They have the abilities and liberties to be out and about in mischief.

Solomon feared their draw and influence on his son (*Proverbs 1:10-19; 2:10-22; 13:20*).

Paul warned, "*Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded*" (**Titus 2:6**).

Compulsory education, in America today is a joke if there ever was, true education.

Compulsory education, crams all these young fools into classrooms, where ideologues try to teach them ridiculous subjects with no bearing on life.

What is the certain result for these young men, who will never be working a man's day, at a man's job, under a man's rule?

What is the real outcome for these young men? Nothing but folly, frustration, mischief, rebellion, and sin! They egg each other on, in sinful pranks, until society reeks of their noxious insanity!

What happens when these fools head home? They are fed a diet of profane texting and TV and entertainment, that is nothing more than wickedness at the expense of God and others.

Consider it: Our nation is mad! Wickedly so! The sitcoms, consuming the nation's evening family time, are straight from hell, in their disregard for God, morality, sobriety, and other sins.

Young fornicators, take advantage of girls, without regard for them, their fathers, or their future husbands. They laugh about their exploits.

Young gluttons, have eating contests, and roar hilariously, when one vomits his food back out. They put sugar in the gas of the principal's car, and celebrate when he has his engine replaced.

But God Is Not Mocked!

Fools think only of the moment.

Fools miss tomorrow's consequences.

Fools never even consider God's judgment at death.

The judge puts them in prison; their public records now include a felony; a bigger fool molests them in a prison shower; they contract a deadly disease; and death will bring a reckoning with the infinite God. What a sport! Ha! Ha!

What kind of a person thinks and acts this way? A fool!

There is no fear of God before their eyes (**Psalms 36:1-4; 53:1; Romans 3:18**).

Fools rejoice to do evil, and delight in the perversity of the wicked (**Proverbs 2:13**).

Fools are the curse of every nation, the calamity and grief of every father, the heaviness and shame of every mother (**Proverbs 10:1; 17:25; 19:13; 29:15**).

How are fools corrected? Easily! "*Judgments are prepared for scorers, and stripes for the back of fools*" (**Proverbs 19:29**).

"*A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back*" (**Proverbs 26:3**).

It is only because severe punishment is not executed speedily in this country that we have such a plethora of amoral anarchists (**Proverbs 19:25; 21:11; Ecclesiastes 8:11**).

Solomon, when using death as a means of promoting sobriety, told young men, "*Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment. Therefore remove sorrow from thy heart, and put away evil from thy flesh: for childhood and youth are vanity*" (**Ecclesiastes 11:9-10**).

As a parent, you must soberly teach your children about life, death, morality, sin, and the right treatment of others. Jokes should not be allowed about such things (**Proverbs 26:18-19; Ephesians 5:3-5**).

And especially the jesting, about sin and wickedness, and certainly not at the expense of others.

The tender regard for all things, even baby birds in a nest, doing good to all men should be especially cultivated (**Deuteronomy 22:6-7; Galatians 6:10; 1 Timothy 4:10**).

A man of understanding has wisdom regarding these matters: he sees through the folly of the fool and considers it carefully.

A man of understanding sees the trouble coming tomorrow for today's folly.

A man of understanding sees the judgment coming after death.

A man of understanding sees the great reward of righteousness (**Proverbs 21:12; Job 18:5-21; Psalms 19:11; 37:34-38; 58:11**).

Be Wise And Understand!

Moses prayed, "*So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom*" (**Psalms 90:12**).

This ought to be your prayer and pursuit! For the favor of God and life is upon the wise, but the way of transgressors is hard (**Proverbs 13:15**)!

"For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences" (2Corinthians 5:10-11).

Rather than rejoicing and sporting in what this life had to offer, our Lord looked constantly at the joy awaiting Him in heaven (*Hebrews 12:1-2; Psalm 16:8-11*).

Our Lord had the wisdom and understanding to look beyond the folly here for the joy there. Isaac Watts encouraged us by writing:

"The hill of Zion yields, a thousand sacred sweets, before we reach the heavenly fields, or walk the golden streets."

Only the wisdom and understanding of faith can find the sacred sweets here and see the golden streets there.

Lord, Open Our Eyes!

Proverbs 10:24 The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

What, do you think will happen to you this year? Things you dread? Or things you desire? The choice is yours.

If you are living wickedly, then expect to have your fears come true and confound your life.

If you are pursuing righteousness, then expect to have your desires granted.

Moses warned Israel, *"Be sure your sin will find you out" (Numbers 32:23).*

This is an axiom of life that should be taught to every child; *"Be sure your sin will find you out"*. These eight simple Words can be a constant check of your conduct.

You cannot, hide sin, from God! God will not overlook your sins! He will repay sinful foolishness (*Proverbs 5:22; 8:36; 11:5-6, 17, 19; Psalm 7:16*).

Are you a backslider in heart? Have you slipped from your first love of God and wisdom? Are you lukewarm in devotion to Jesus Christ?

If so, you are in serious trouble, for every backslider will be filled with his own ways (*Proverbs 14:14; Revelation 2:4-5; 3:15-16*).

If you mind earthly things, you are a belly-worshipping enemy of Jesus Christ (*Philippians 3:18-19*).

What do you fear? It is coming! The Holy Spirit already wrote, *"Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you" (Proverbs 1:24-27).*

The righteous shall be blessed! God will grant the righteous man the desires of his heart, because he delighted in the LORD, rather than the foolish and vain lusts of the flesh (*Psalms 21:1-7; 37:4; 145:19*).

And *"The righteous shall rejoice when he seeth the vengeance: he shall wash his feet in the blood of the wicked. So that a man shall say, Verily there is a reward for the righteous: verily he is a God that judgeth in the earth" (Psalm 58:10-11).*

What good things do you desire? Surely you have a wish list either short or long.

The truly good things of life are only for those who walk uprightly, that is, the righteous of this Proverb. *"For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psalm 84:11).*

Solomon observed this law of life: *"Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God" (Ecclesiastes 8:12-13).*

Consider: sociologists, psychologists, philosophers, and historians can study all about differences among men, but this Proverb is far more true and valuable than any of their conclusions.

What will you do with the lesson? Ignore it, and realize your fears in the near future? Or humble yourself by repentance and obtain your desires? The choice is yours.

Proverbs 10:25 As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

At some point, all wicked persons will be eternally judged and never seen again, like the passing of a noisy and violent tornado.

In stark contrast, to the wicked, righteous persons will build, solid lives and leave a lasting legacy, and then they pass on to dwell forever in eternity.

The wicked, have come and gone for 6,000 years, and their arrivals and departures, should not bother the righteous. Godly men and women should instead build lasting families with confidence.

Wickedness is a sure way to shorten your life and ruin your hopes.

Righteousness will extend your life and support you to realize your plans.

But trouble will certainly come and destroy the wicked, but the righteous, are firmly established, on a foundation on movable (*Psalm 11:3; 1 Corinthians 3:11*)!

This contrast between the wicked and righteous is one of Solomon's main themes (*Proverbs 10:6, 9, 16, 24-25, 27-30; 11:3, 5-8, 18-21, 31; 12:2-3, 7, 13-14, 21, 26, 28; 13:6, 9, 14-15, 21-22, 25; 14:11, 14, 19, 32; 15:6, 8-9, 24, 26; 20:7; 21:12, 15-16, 18, 21; 22:12; 28:10, 18; 29:6*).

When you choose a wicked lifestyle, you set in motion God's, supernatural judgments against you and the combined effect of human punishment. This can be a hopeless scenario, which only fools presume upon.

By choosing a godly lifestyle, you bring to bear God's supernatural blessings, and the favor of men, and the benefit of safety. There is no comparison between these two ways of living. So, what is your choice today?

Sodom rejected God's sexual laws, but fire from heaven destroyed them all!

Pharaoh abused God's people Israel, but the Lord destroyed his land and drowned him in the Red Sea!

Ahab rejected God's prophets, so a chance arrow killed him in battle, dogs ate his wife, friends cut the heads off his 70 sons, and his daughter killed his sons-in-law!

Judas chose to betray Jesus Christ, and in great grief he dashed his bowels across a field!

Alexander was named great and thought himself great, but he and his family were cut off and are no more!

What happened to Cleopatra's ambition and the nation she ruled?

Can you find remains of Attila, Genghis Khan, King Tamerlane, or Sultan Suleyman?

Where is the demented and devil-possessed head of the third Reich? These wicked men and their nations have disappeared from the earth or remain as jokes of their former glory.

Righteous men rejoice when the wicked are destroyed (*Proverbs 11:10; Psalm 58:1-11*).

The wicked are destroyed first by death. Then God shall raise them again to stand before Him and be cast into the Lake of Fire (The Second Death) for eternity!

The righteous, build their houses on the rock of divine wisdom, that is lived and preached by Jesus Christ, and they will survive the storms of this life and that of the final judgment (*Matthew 7:24-27*).

He That Does God's Will Abides Forever (*1 John 2:15-17*)!

Proverbs 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

"It's hard to get good help these days," employers often say to each other. They are complaining about the scarcity of fast, hard working employees.

If this Proverb were taught in school instead of liberal arts and entertainment, there would be many more diligent employees.

What is a sluggard? Let The Oxford English Dictionary give us the sense of this Word. "Sluggard" means: One who is naturally or habitually slow, lazy, or idle; one who is disinclined for work or exertion; a slothful or indolent person.

So a sluggard is a slow and lazy person. Instead of being energetic, fast, and diligent, they fall behind through life, functioning in first or second gear without a godly sense of urgency. Paul knew the Creteans were this way, so he told Titus to rebuke the "*slow bellies*" (*Titus 1:12-13*).

How do you approach the day's duties? As a high-energy, fast-working, diligent worker? Or are you an "I'm-here-ain't-I" and an "I-need-to-pace-myself" loser?

There isn't any work in the grave, and you will miss it; so get diligent now (*Ecclesiastes 9:10*)!

Sluggards do not think ahead to get a sense of urgency (*Proverbs 6:6*)

Sluggards love to sleep (*Proverbs 6:9-11*).

Sluggards want more without the effort to get it (*Proverbs 13:4*).

Sluggards are discouraged by slight hindrances of daily life (*Proverbs 20:4*).

Sluggards always have reasons, to excuse themselves (*Proverbs 26:16*)

Employers cringe to see employees standing around, walking slowly, talking instead of working, pacing

themselves through a job, avoiding the next task, taking another break, and other sluggardly desires.

As vinegar causes teeth to ache and smoke causes eyes to water, so a sluggard irritates and hurts his employer, or anyone else counting on him.

Who is relying on you today? An employer? Parents? A husband? A wife? The Lord?

Success and praise are as simple as keeping vinegar and smoke away. Get out of bed, attack your duties, think ahead, and keep moving (*Proverbs 10:4; 12:24; 22:29; 1Kings 11:28*).

Even ungodly men, can receive the reward, of the diligent. So get busy!

Success for a Christian young man in this world is simple: work hard; work fast; finish the job.

Take note, the virtuous woman, is more of a hard worker than anyone else (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

Our Lord Jesus was no sluggard. He always pleased His Father (*John 8:29*).

The Lord Jesus always finished every assignment (*John 4:34*).

The Lord Jesus was always extremely zealous (*John 2:17*).

The Lord Jesus always prepared, for the horrible issue in Jerusalem (*Luke 9:51*).

The Lord Jesus despised the painful shame of the cross (*Hebrews 12:2*).

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

What is the greatest factor in longevity? Nutrition? Health care? Exercise? Genetics? Stress?

What would you pay, to know the certain answer?

God had Solomon write the secret formula for long life in this Proverb. And it is free!

If you scoff at this simple rule, you must love death (*Proverbs 8:36*).

If you are wise, you will realize, it is repeated several times, and you will make it your priority (*Proverbs 3:2, 16; 4:10; 9:11; 28:16*).

Solomon did not use actuaries, statisticians that compile mortality data for calculating the probabilities of when you will die.

Solomon knew by revelation and inspiration that a godly or worldly lifestyle has far more impact on longevity than any other factor.

Solomon knew it by the inspired revelation of God's Word (*Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 4:40; 5:16,33; 6:2; 22:7; Psalm 55:23; Ephesians 6:1-3*).

Solomon knew it by inspiration from heaven (*Ecclesiastes 12:9-10; Isaiah 8:20; 2Timothy 3:16-17; 2Peter 1:19-21*).

Life insurance companies use actuaries to come up with averages. They employ thousands and spend billions of dollars to determine human life spans. After all this work and expense, they estimate the average life expectancy is about 73.

But Moses wrote 3500 years ago that 70 was typical for most people and 80 for strong people, an average of about 73! You can read it in *Psalm 90:10*! How did he know? By inspiration!

A life expectancy of 73 is an average. Men die around the average. No one is an average.

If a godly man lives to be 90 and a rocker dies of an overdose at 56, it is an average of 73.

If two godly grandparents live to be 85 and their sodomite grandson dies of AIDS at 49, the average is 73.

If all 50 members of a small church live to be 75, but an excluded drunkard dies in a car accident at 35 with his 11-year-old child, it is an average of 73.

What is the fear of the Lord? It is walking uprightly (*Proverbs 14:2*)!

The fear of the Lord is loving the Word of God and choosing to fear God (*Proverbs 1:29-30*)!

The fear of the Lord is having absolute confidence in God (*Genesis 22:3-12*)!

The fear of the Lord is a reverent love and respect for God that causes a person to read and obey the Bible, God's Word.

The fear of the Lord, is the basis for all wisdom and happiness (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Psalms 112:1-3; 128:1-6; Ecclesiastes 12:13*).

What is wickedness? It is living a life by your own lusts according to the ideas of the world.

It is your choice how you live. But it is God's choice when you die, and God makes His choice based on this Proverb and (*Ecclesiastes 7:17*)!

How is life shortened? By sin accelerating aging: the world calls it "hard living." Cirrhosis of the liver from drunkenness and STD's from fornication are examples.

Sin brings self-inflicted deaths such as suicide and accidents due to foolishness or rebellion.

The sin of adultery can provoke murder by either spouse.

Sin can bring capital punishment on murderers or other violent criminals.

Sin can also bring about the supernatural judgment of God upon a person by any means at any time.

The Proverb Is True. Believe It!

God killed Er and Onan for different reasons, but they greatly shortened the life expectancy of Judah's family!

Eli outlived his sons, but all three died for sins.

Why did Nabal die early and leave his widow to David? Because he was wicked!

Absalom was a rebel traitor, so it is no wonder Joab killed him in the prime of life. But before being killed, Absalom killed his brother Amnon for raping his sister.

Solomon killed his brother Adonijah for an attempt on the throne. No wonder God chose Solomon to write these Words. He saw life shortened greatly among David's children!

Do not think such things only occurred in the Old Testament. God never changes, and He has not changed (*Malachi 3:6; Hebrews 13:8*).

God is still a fearful God and a consuming fire (*Hebrews 10:31; 12:29*).

Ananias and Sapphira dropped dead in the middle of the church for lying about their giving.

The Corinthian Church had many members, die prematurely for abusing the Lord's Supper.

Herod Agrippa I died for his arrogance after a speech.

Our Proverb: "*The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.*"

Are you surprised the average life span of rappers is about 27? Consider their lifestyle!

So-called homosexuals, called sodomites and dogs in the Bible, die 20-30 years sooner than otherwise expected.

Is it hard to believe that the average age of those on death row is 44? Did the following persons get close to 73? Elvis? Hitler? Diana? Bonnie and Clyde? JFK and Marilyn? Al Capone? Babe Ruth? Jim Morrison? Jim Hendrix? Jim Dean? Alexander? Errol Flynn? Napoleon? John Lennon? You know the answer, and why!

Do you know of exceptions? Of course you do! So did Solomon (*Ecclesiastes 7:15*)!

Solomon knew that the infinite God works many things for many reasons in every life, and he knew these other factors did not nullify this rule at all (*Ecclesiastes 8:12-13*).

If you want to worry about the exceptions and try to sort out the other divine factors in a person's life span, then go ahead. But do not be surprised **If** God counts your "curiosity" as scorn!

Granting a sinner many years as the prosperity of fools or taking the righteous away early, to avoid coming trouble does not alter the certain fact, The Fear Of The Lord Prolongs Life!

What will you do about the cold facts of mortality? Become one more statistic short of 73? Of course, God knows this Proverb, and He has confirmed it in the New Testament.

God knows to which commandment He first attached a promise of long life, the honor of parents (*Ephesians 6:1-3*).

This knowledge and understanding should plan one event for your day, a call or letter to your parents or a dinner with them.

Or will you defeat death by taking your vitamins, suffering through low fat meals, and running on a treadmill! Humble yourself! Fear the Lord! Honor your parents! Keep God's commandments!

But even 73 is a short life! Very short! Too short! The Bible compares it to grass, a vapor, a handbreadth, a tale that is told, a watch in the night, a postal worker, a swift ship, an eagle pursuing prey, a shadow, and a weaver's shuttle! It disappears before you can get your hands on it!

The only true cure for death is the gift of eternal life, and eternal life is only by the grace of a sovereign God through the perfect life, death, and resurrected Jesus Christ (*Romans 6:23*).

True believers in Jesus Christ will live forever (*John 11:25-27*).

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

The man who obeys God has a bright future.

The man who chooses sin will be destroyed.

Every man has desires and plans for the future, but only the righteous man will realize blessings and prosperity.

The wicked man will not achieve his desire, and then he will go to hell. The lesson is simple.

**Obeying God Works.
Sin Will Never Succeeds.**

Compare the length of life, which precedes this Proverb (*Proverbs 10:27*).

Righteousness extends life. God guaranteed it (*Ephesians 6:1-3*).

Solomon confirmed it (*Proverbs 3:2, 16; 4:10; 9:11*).

But the life expectancy of the wicked will be shortened. Solomon declared it (*Proverbs 2:22; 11:19*).

Experience confirms it. Sinful living and worldly popularity shorten the human lifespan.

Compare marriage (*Proverbs 12:4*). Men enter marriage with great hope and fond expectations. But the wicked man is soon disgusted with his odious tormentor, which is confirmed by the thousands of divorces daily (*Proverbs 11:22; 30:21-23*).

The righteous man, demanding the fear of the Lord in a spouse, is blessed and glad, with his virtuous wife (*Proverbs 19:14; 31:10-31*).

Compare children (*Proverbs 10:1; 19:13*). The wicked man expects Benjamin Spock's child care fantasies to yield perfect children. (Before he learns that Ben's own grandson killed himself.) His expectation fails as he sees the arrogant, greedy, lazy, and selfish product of his amoral, permissive approach.

The wise man, trusting God, trains the foolishness, out of his son, for great parental joy (*Proverbs 22:6, 15; 29:15, 17*).

Compare Abraham to Lot, Moses to Pharaoh, David to Saul, and Daniel to Belshazzar.

Examples comparing a righteous man to a wicked man can be multiplied indefinitely, with the wicked man's expectations always perishing (*Psalms 34:12-16*).

But there is another comparison that is much more serious than longevity, marriage, or children. There is the hope and expectation of death. Only the righteous will find anything glad in that event!

Wicked men think: they will live forever, or at least they will leave a perpetual legacy behind them (*Psalms 49:6-14; 73:1-20*).

Wicked men are quickly cut off! They are forgotten by all. They rot in the grave, and drop into the lake of fire (*Proverbs 11:7; Luke 12:16-20; 16:19-26*).

Wicked men expect heaven, or maybe annihilation, but they wake up tormented in hell (*Matthew 7:21-23; 23:33; 25:31-46*)!

Righteous men live with the certain promise of eternal life (*Job 19:25-27*).

Righteous men's hope is the joy of heaven, and the reality will far exceed anything, they can imagine here (*1 Corinthians 2:9*).

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself saw, the joy that was waiting beyond the grave, and the horrible death of crucifixion was little, in comparison to it, (*Psalms 16:8-11; Hebrews 12:1-3*).

Proverbs 10:29 The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

Deism is heresy, and those who reject the sovereign God of providence and revelation are heretics.

Deism is: The form of theological rationalism that believes in God on the basis of reason without reference to revelation

THE LORD of the Bible, intervenes daily in the affairs of all men.

God is not watching from a distance, as a foolish songwriter has hallucinated.

God actively rewards those who obey Him and severely punishes those who reject and disobey Him (*Proverbs 13:13*).

Grasp the Proverb. "LORD," in all capitals, is the name of ancient Israel's God, Jehovah of the Bible, *I AM THAT I AM* (*Exodus 3:14; 6:3*).

Those who follow God and keep His commandments are the upright in the way of the LORD!

God blesses and prospers their lives with. But those who reject Him and His revealed will are called the workers of iniquity, and He righteously, punishes them for their sins.

God sees and measures, all men, in infinite detail (*Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:12-13*).

It is an axiom of the LORD's believers, that He rewards those who diligently seek and obey Him (*Proverbs 11:18; Hebrews 6:10; 11:6; Genesis 15:1; Psalms 18:20; 58:10-11; Matthew 5:10-12; 6:33; Revelation 21:3-5*).

It is an equal axiom that God punishes those who reject Him and His Word (*Proverbs 13:13; 2Chronicles 36:16; Psalm 73:15-20; Matthew 21:40-46; 1Corinthians 11:30; Hebrews 10:26-31; 12:28-29; Revelation 21:8*).

God has revealed Himself by: The natural creation and the written Scriptures.

So complete and thorough is the Lord's creative display in the heavens and earth that men are without excuse.

God judges them severely, for not worshipping Him, in truth and righteousness (*Psalms 19:1-6; Romans 1:18-32*).

In like manner, His written Scriptures are to be reverently obeyed (*Deuteronomy 29:29; Psalm 19:7-11; Isaiah 66:1-2; Matthew 5:19-20; 2Peter 1:19-21*).

God mercifully forgives an individual's sins, upon repentance (*Proverbs 28:13; 1John 1:9*).

But workers of iniquity, forsake the right way to live, in rebellion and sin.

There is no mercy, for those who set themselves against the Most High: God hates sin; their lives will be miserable, without repenting.

The workers of iniquity, will be destroyed (*Proverbs 11:31; 13:15; Psalms 5:5; 11:5; Matthew 7:23; Revelation 21:8*).

If workers of iniquity, appear to be getting away with sin, just wait (*Psalms 37:34-38; 49:6-14; 92:7*)!

God's Gracious Eyes Are Over The righteous: He beholds their lives with approval and blesses them (*2Chronicles 16:9; 1Peter 3:12*).

When the righteous walk in His way, God provides strength from day to day (*Psalms 84:5-7; Isaiah 40:31; 2Corinthians 4:16*).

When the righteous separate, from evil ways to follow God only, He receives them as sons and daughters (*2Corinthians 6:14-18*).

God makes things last, repairs holes in financial bags, restores years lost to folly, and protects in danger (*Deuteronomy 8:1-9; Haggai 2:15-19; Joel 2:25; 2Timothy 4:17*).

These are a few of His ways, which are called, the providence of God, and they are truer than gravity!

Proverbs 10:30 The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

The Bible is not redundant! Though repeating, its promises and warnings many times, the Bible is not excessive, superfluous, or wasteful by confronting you with similar truth again and again. God does not waste Words!

One of the most important lessons of the whole Bible is repeated numerous times in Proverbs.

The righteous shall be blessed, and the wicked will be cursed. The issue is what you will do with the wisdom.

From beginning to end, the Bible describes the blessed lives of the righteous.

The righteous are men and women who fear and love God, trust and obey His Word, for every decision in life.

The righteous despise and reject, the false and deceitful lifestyles, of the world around them.

Consider the righteous lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses, Ruth, David, Esther, and others in the Old Testament. Consider Zacharias, Mary, Simeon, Anna, Luke, and Gaius in the New Testament.

In stark contrast, the Bible also describes the cursed lives of the wicked. They are men and women who fear men and love money, trust and obey the world's ideas, and despise and reject, the wisdom of God, offered to them in creation and the Word of God.

Consider the lives of Cain, Nimrod, Lot, Lot's wife, Ishmael, Esau, Reuben, Samson, Saul, Jezebel, and others in the OT. Consider also Herod, Pilate, Judas Iscariot, Ananias and Sapphira, and Demas in the NT.

If your future success or suffering in this world and the next is at stake, how many times should you be warned, and how loud should you be warned?

God has sent His preachers, early and often, to warn His people about their sins (*2Chronicles 36:15-16; Jeremiah 7:25*).

God has commanded His preachers, to do it loudly (*Isaiah 40:9; 58:1*)!

You will never be able to blame God! But you will, rue the day and blame yourself for rejecting His many warnings (*Proverbs 5:7-14*).

**A Wicked Lifestyle Will Shorten Your Life!
Disbelief Will Damn You For Eternity!**

Where is Adolph, Alexander, Benito, Darwin, Josef, Mao, Nietzsche, Sigmund, Temujin, and countless others.

"God shall likewise destroy thee for ever, he shall take thee away, and pluck thee out of thy dwelling place, and root thee out of the land of the living" (Psalm 52:5).

And what will Jesus say in The Great Day Of Judgment? *"Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matthew 25:41).*

**A Righteous Lifestyle Will Lengthen Your Life!
A Righteous Life Will Bless You For Eternity!**

It is these glorious blessings that Solomon repeated over and over as motivation to choose godliness and wisdom over wickedness.

Consider just a very few examples (*Proverbs 10:6, 16, 24-25, 27-29; 11:3, 5-8, 18-21, 31; 12:2-3, 7, 21; 13:6, 9, 15, 21-22, 25*).

If you want to learn wisdom, from Solomon's Proverbs, then lay hold of his common warning by this Proverb!

But you might ask, "What about the righteous martyrs? They were righteous, and they were cut off early in life, and they died horribly painful deaths."

Our mind is too small! God has countless more factors, involving each life, than we can see with our limited vision and intelligence.

It is helpful to understand the Proverb this way, "The righteous shall never be removed; they shall live long and happily on earth, when God deems this best for them, and they shall live eternally in heaven.

But the wicked shall not inhabit the earth; they shall not even have a long and quiet time on earth, unless God intends a curse and trouble to them by it, and they shall never see heaven."

The Bible is not redundant! Though repeating its promises and warnings many times, the Bible is not excessive, superfluous, or wasteful by confronting you with similar truth again and again.

**God Does Not Waste Words!
God Means What He Says
And Says What He Means!**

Consider how many have read its repetitive warnings and how few have altered their lives to please God and obtain His blessings! What will you do?

Will you be a fool and say, "I have heard all this before"? It is your choice! (*Psalm 59:5-8*)!

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

**Your Future Depends On Your
Mouth And Tongue!**

Can you learn to control your speech to instruct others?

Are you doomed to die a failure and a loser?

Just men use their mouths judiciously, they only say wise things to edify others (*Ephesians 4:29*).

Wicked men flap their tongues foolishly and perversely. They cut and hurt others. God will judge them harshly for their sin.

How does the mouth bring forth wisdom? The mouth It forms words that are wise speech!

"Mouth" here is a metonym for talking, in which the means of talking, is substituted for the talking itself.

Who are the just? They are the righteous saints, who are fair and right in their actions and wise in their words!

How can you learn to speak wisdom better?

You can compliment, praise, and thank those who deserve it.

You can comfort, encourage, and motivate those who are cast down.

You can correct, teach, and warn the unruly.

You can bless, exalt, and worship the Lord.

You can give the certain Words of truth to those asking questions (*Proverbs 22:17-21*).

There is a secret to speaking wise words.

Wise words must first be in your heart. Whatever your heart is full of, is what will come out (**Deuteronomy 6:6; Matthew 12:34-35**)!

What is in the vault of your heart?

If you think wisely about persons and things, you will speak wisely about them.

If you have a wicked heart that surmises evil, you will have perverse and wicked speech (**Mark 7:20-23**).

What is a "froward tongue"? It is perverse speech.

What is froward speech? Froward is an adjective meaning, disposed to go counter to what is demanded or what is reasonable; it is perverse, difficult to deal with, and hard to please. Such men are obnoxious, and such women are odious; the earth cannot bear either.

"Tongue" here is a metonym for talking, in which the means of talking, the tongue, is substituted for talking.

What men have froward tongues? Wicked men!

There are missing words, called an "ellipsis," in the second clause, seen by contrast with the first clause.

Just men speak wisely; wicked men speak frowardly.

You have heard such speech before. Are you ever guilty of such speech?

Men (or women) with evil hearts cannot talk in an acceptable way; they are perverse (*Proverbs 10:32*).

Such persons are critical, extreme, harsh, negative, sarcastic, and unthankful.

Such persons love to complain, backbite, slander, whisper, jest, tattle, and whine.

Such persons are known for foolish talking, filthy speech, carnally minded subjects, joking, and prating, babbling on and on about nothing.

Evil hearted persons irritate and frustrate, most everyone, because they seldom say anything constructive or wise, yet they can seldom stop talking! They are obnoxious.

The Proverb states more! It says the froward tongue will be cut out! Cutting out a tongue may sound cruel and harsh, but the Lord wants to state its seriousness.

God and good men will judge those that cannot speak wisely or acceptably.

God will judge them in this life and the next, and good men will reject them.

Since the Proverb has two parallel clauses, it also implies, God and good men will bless the just man for his speech!

Consider the Proverb with metonyms replaced and ellipses supplied: A just man will be blessed for speaking acceptable and profitable words, but a wicked man will be destroyed, for speaking perverse and wrong words.

The difference is significant. Your future depends on your speech. Jesus said you will be judged by your words (*Matthew 12:36-37*).

Consider your speech! The terrible consequences of froward speech are too great. Death and life are in the power of your tongue (*Proverbs 18:21*).

Others are discouraged and hurt, when you talk forwardly, and the God will hurt you, for talking that way to them.

If you cannot say anything wise or edifying, then keep your mouth shut. Use your precious gift of speech to edify others up with kind and wise speech that glorifies God.

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

A righteous man knows what to say, when to say it, and how to say it.

A righteous man makes sure his words and speech are acceptable to others, and they love him for it.

A wicked man does just the opposite, he lets out of his mouth whatever comes to his contrary mind.

A wicked man words offend others, so they consider him rude and obnoxious; and they avoid him.

Of course, everyone thinks his own speech is good and right (*Proverbs 21:2*).

Human pride and inborn folly presume that others love the way you talk, and pride and folly are in large supply in every child of Adam. Only: by the grace of God, by the acquisition of wisdom, and by the strict ruling of the tongue can men learn to speak in a way acceptable to others.

**Speech Is For The Hearers
It Is Their Perception
And Opinion That Counts!**

While you must please God with each word, He also measures your speech by how it pleases others.

Froward mouths hate this rule, for they want to be themselves without regard for others.

Froward mouths know others avoid and resent them.

Froward mouths excuse and justify themselves.

But here is the true standard of righteousness: what do others think of the way you talk?

A Word fitly spoken is a beautiful thing (*Proverbs 25:11*). The man who uses them well deserves to be kissed on the lips, for acceptable speech is that rare and pleasant (*Proverbs 24:26*).

Good speech is wonderful (*Proverbs 15:23, 26; 16:13, 24; 22:11; Ecclesiastes 12:10; Colossians 4:6*).

The lips of any man only express what is already in his heart, Jesus said (*Luke 6:45*).

And only the Lord can change their heart by regeneration to deliver them from the devil.

Christian charity, the love of others, does not behave unseemly, or rudely (*1Corinthians 13:5*).

If you love others, you will not continue on, in habits and ways that offend people, for doing so is selfish and proud hatred.

Speech is one of the ways you can glorify the Lord Jesus Christ, for pleasant words will be a beautiful testimony to His grace and glory.