

## CHAPTER 28

***Proverbs 28:1 The wicked flee when no man pursueth: but the righteous are bold as a lion.***

A clear conscience is a glorious and wonderful possession. Hear Solomon! Its value cannot be measured on earth.

Without a clear conscience, your soul nervously looks around to see who is watching or coming to get you.

With a clear conscience, you fear no evil. You can take on any opponent. So why be afraid? You know you are righteous, and you know the Lord is with you!

### **What A Huge Difference! Sin Makes Men Cowards!**

The wicked fear mere shadows and run away. They dread judgment in this world and the next, much like the damned angels (*Matthew 8:29*).

The formidable God torments their souls with doubt and fear (*Job 15:20-25*).

The wicked imagine enemies and hide. They are easily intimidated. Their hearts fear, this is the time, they will be caught and exposed, punished and judged. For courage,

The wicked drown their conscience, with noise, man's praise, activity, false religion, alcohol, or drugs.

The righteous fear nothing! Holiness makes great men with courage! They are like the fearless lion, which does not turn away from any (*Proverbs 30:30; Number 23:24; Isaiah 31:4*).

The righteous are able to sleep in the open as easily as in a thicket, for its great confidence and boldness.

### **Greatness Is Before You!**

Do you see it? Believe it; understand it; seize it! Don't leave this Proverb until you grasp it in both hands, and never let it go.

A pure conscience will make you great. You will fear nothing. The Lord will be your sword and shield. No enemy will stand before you. No trial will expose or condemn you. Greatness is yours!

The LORD put a candle in each man to search and judge his thoughts and actions (*Proverbs 20:27*).

The candle is called the conscience. This internal light from God judges each man's actions as wrong, or

excuses them as right (*Romans 2:14-15; 1Corinthians 2:11*).

The Lord will chase you with this fearful enemy inside, if you sin against Him (*Leviticus 26:17, 36; Psalm 53:5*).

When wicked Pharisees tried to trap Jesus with the woman taken in adultery, He asked for the first stone to be cast by one without sin (*John 8:1-11*).

From the oldest to the youngest, their consciences condemned them; and they left Jesus and the woman alone.

Could David have faced Goliath with a guilty conscience? How? With sin on his conscience, he would have had no confidence in God's deliverance, but a certain fearful looking for of judgment.

But his heart and mind were pure before the Lord! He would not have feared, if the whole Philistine army had fought him (*Psalms 3:6; 27:1-6; 46:1-5*)!

The great men in history, God's great men, always had pure consciences. They could go boldly in God's power against any enemies or circumstances (*Psalms 112:7*).

God's great men, feared no man. They knew, if put on trial, nothing wrong could be laid against them. There was no weakness in their faith; they knew the Lord was with them, not against them (*Isaiah 26:3-4*).

Paul went on trial without fear of any man accusing him of wrongdoing (*Acts 23:1*).

No threat of danger moved him (*Acts 20:24*)!

Daniel and three friends had no fear of death threats (*Daniel 3:16-18; 6:10*).

And Moses did not fear the wrath of the king (*Hebrews 11:27*).

These are but a few of the exploits done by those who did know their God (*Daniel 11:32*).

But Cain, the profane murderer, was filled with morbid terror of invisible danger (*Genesis 4:13-15*).

Cain was responding no different than his father, Adam, who trembled in fear amidst the Garden's trees, when God merely called his name (*Genesis 3:9-10*).

The consciences of Joseph's brethren were still chased them 22 years after selling him into slavery (*Genesis 42:21*)!

But Joseph, though falsely charged and convicted of rape, could stand boldly before Pharaoh and his father as savior of Egypt and his family!

Young reader, do you hear the Preacher? Seize greatness! Keep your conscience clear, pure, confident, and bold. Don't spoil it by playing with sin, even private sins, even sin in your thoughts.

The candle of the Lord does not miss the private sins of lustful thoughts and secret fantasies. It will condemn you and steal your courage from the inside out, while you are trying to put up a front of righteousness and boldness on the outside.

Older reader, a polluted conscience will ruin your life. Facing a spouse, meeting the pastor, or disciplining the children will all be different with sin in your life.

A polluted conscience, will stifle your marital life, for you are hiding a secret from your closest friend. Sermons will become fearful and irritating rather than learning opportunities, for you are sure the preacher is chasing and fighting you!

A hypocritical or sinful father will have a hard time disciplining his children, for he knows they are more righteous than he is.

**If** you are not as confident and bold as you should be, humble yourself before the great God now! Confess and repudiate your sins!

God is faithful and just to forgive; and by His Spirit and grace He can restore your conscience and courage. Do it now! Do not let this opportunity for greatness in the sight of God and men slip away from you!

David wrote, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting*" (*Psalms 139:23-24*). See also *Psalms 19:12-14*.

With David and Paul, let us exercise ourselves to always have a conscience void of offence before God and men (*Acts 24:16*).

Exercise yourself toward this goal today, by prayer and self-examination before the throne of God.

This great possession can be yours, more than any saint of the Old Testament. You have fuller knowledge of Jesus Christ and the forgiveness of sins than they had. You can come boldly before God with full assurance of faith (*Hebrews 10:22*).

By faithful obedience to Jesus Christ, you can be gloriously confident (*1John 3:18-22*)!

**If** you have this good conscience, have you obeyed God with it by the baptism in water (*1Peter 3:21*)?

The disciples of Jesus Christ for the last two thousand years have been the greatest men and women on earth. Their consciences pure, their lives holy, they had boldness and confidence in the face of torment, torture,

and death. And their enemies sometimes knew by their great boldness they had obviously been with Jesus (*Acts 4:13*)! What could move them? "*If God be for us, who can be against us?*" (*Romans 8:31*).

No man ever spoke and lived like the Lord Jesus Christ. No man ever had a conscience free from even the slightest taint of sin like Him.

When time came for His death in Jerusalem, He headed boldly in that direction (*Luke 9:51*).

The Lord's courage at all times was marvelous: it caused Pilate himself to marvel (*Mark 15:5*).

Why speak when on trial? He knew He was immaculately innocent, and He knew God was with Him! Do you believe on the Son of God, dear reader?

Believe on Him today! Believe on Him now!

***Proverbs 28:2 For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged.***

#### **Political Instability Is The Consequence And Judgment For A Nation's Sins!**

Rebelling against the God of heaven exposes a nation to civil corruption, decay, or revolution. The greatest boon to a land is a leader fearing God and following righteousness.

His rule will preserve, prolong, protect, and prosper a state. The contrasting histories of Israel and Judah and their kings, recorded carefully in the Bible for your learning, testify to this political fact.

Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, was king of Israel, a rich and powerful nation. His wisdom was renowned worldwide (*1Kings 4:29-34*).

Solomon wrote 3,000 proverbs and 1,005 songs. He contributed to the knowledge of botany, zoology, political science, and other fields. Governments sent men to inquire of his great wisdom.

Solomon inherited the throne from his father David, and he taught his son how to preserve the nation. He taught in another Proverb, "*Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people*" (*Proverbs 14:34*).

There are natural and supernatural laws at work in every government and nation: Natural laws are the ordinary and obvious consequences of corruption, deceit, fraud, sin, and wickedness. Supernatural laws are God's rewards or punishments on a government or nation for its policies and practices.

When a nation sets itself against the source of authority, God Himself, and the wisdom of authority, God's Word, they enter a situation where both natural and supernatural laws will punish them.

Corruption breeds corruption. A corrupt nation will have a corrupt government, and a corrupt government will be subject to decay, mistrust, turmoil, or revolution.

Princes (government officials) will multiply as successive changes disrupt any continuity. God will punish that nation to uphold the integrity of His Word (*Isaiah 3:1-7; Hosea 13:11*).

The many princes of this Proverb are many princes in succession. Though the exponential and destructive growth of a bureaucratic government is terrible, this Proverb does not teach it.

How can you know this? Compare the two parts of the parallel construction of the Proverb. The many princes are contrasted to the prolonging of the state. The longevity and stability of the civil authority depends on a nation's righteousness.

A government will prosper as long as the nation and its leaders are righteous.

A man of understanding and knowledge is not merely a degreed fool, the product of modern educational ignorance. He is rather a man that fears God and pursues righteousness, the only basis for knowledge and understanding (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Job 28:28; Psalm 111:10*).

Both natural and supernatural blessings will reward the righteous leader and nation. Blessed and happy are those people whose God is the LORD (*Psalms 33:12; 144:15*).

No nation on earth today exalts God and His righteousness; therefore the world's political environment is quite unstable, whether it is individual nations or combinations of them.

The nations that have set themselves most openly against God and truth are generally the most unstable.

The frequency of coups, turmoil, and revolutions in a nation often reflects its degree of rebellion against divine authority and Bible holiness.

The French Revolution was no accident: it resulted from the atheism fostered before it.

Germany, home of Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud, has been politically ravaged for the last 100 years.

Atheistic Russia has had three forms of oppressive rule during the same time.

The United States, a young nation, is headed for similar upheaval without repentance.

What can you do? Live the righteous life God requires in His Word and pray for your nation and its leaders (*Jeremiah 29:4-7; 1 Timothy 2:1-2*).

You might be the one the LORD looks to as the intercessor for the peace and prolonging of the state (*Ezekiel 22:29-31*).

It is the duty of every God-fearing citizen to seek His mercy toward a wicked land (*2 Chronicles 7:14*).

***Proverbs 28:3 A poor man that oppreseth the poor is like a sweeping rain which leaveth no food.***

Poverty does not make men charitable, noble, or virtuous!

Solomon observed poor men being cruel and stingy to other poor men, which he considered a perverse practice. And he saw poor men given authority or riches becoming merciless tyrants in abusing their power over former peers.

**This Is Vanity And Insanity.** He, who ought to remember his former state and show tender kindness, grinds them instead for his arrogant greed.

**There Is No Virtue In Poverty.** In fact, poverty generally indicates a base mind, foolish heart, and/or lazy body. All other things being equal, the reason one man is poorer than his neighbor is due to a foolish life.

Apart from the overriding blessing or judgment of God, diligence and wisdom bring success, and slothfulness and folly bring poverty. To believe otherwise is to make failure the reward of wisdom! (*Proverbs 10:4; 11:24; 12:24; 22:29*)

The purpose and profit of rain is to nourish the earth for growing food. And it does this wonderfully, when it falls gently and steadily. But when rain comes in a violent storm, it can easily wash away topsoil and the seeds contained in it by a flood of water.

It can also flatten and soak growing plants and ruin them for food. In both cases, the very thing that ought to be for the profit of a field and its owner becomes a cruel and destructive force.

A poor man, whether still in poverty or given some authority or success, ought to have pity on his poor brethren.

A poor man, should remember his condition or history. But it is a fact that poor men can be very critical of other poor men, which Solomon had observed in his study of human existence.

**If** you exalt or honor a foolish poor man, you will likely create a monster that will trample on those that it should pity and protect (*Proverbs 30:21-22*).

**Is Your Memory Good?** Or do you despise those, that are what you were? Father, do you pity children by remembering your folly at their age?

Businessman, do you recall difficult days in your career enough to comfort those having them now?

Supervisor, are you compassionate to employees, having been one last year?

Student, can you pity a younger sibling as he struggles with what confused you a few years ago?

Grandparent, do you remember past difficulties and help your children or grandchildren facing them now?

Christian, you were the poorest of the poor! Depraved, destitute, and damned! You were a criminal destined for hell! But Jesus Christ gave His life to redeem you from sin and death and make you a child of God with an eternal inheritance!

Can you remember your vile history and the great forgiveness you were freely given and forgive those who sin against you (*Matthew 18:21-35*)?

### **Are You Sweeping Rain Leaving No Food?**

The Lord Jesus Christ went from the poverty of a carpenter's son to the Prince of the kings of the earth (*Revelation 1:5*).

Does He remember and pity you in your weak condition and hard trials? Indeed! (*Psalms 103:13-14; Hebrews 2:17-18; 4:14-16*)

David wrote of Him, "*He shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain*" (*2Samuel 23:4*).

***Proverbs 28:4 They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.***

The best argument against the wicked philosophies and lifestyles of this generation is a righteous life! You can make a strong statement and powerful illustration for truth and wisdom by your actions.

You need not even open your mouth to proclaim truth! You should instead of commending the wicked by folly in your own life, pursue wisdom and condemn them!

It is easy to criticize the profane opinions and conduct of our God-hating society. Their folly is visible everywhere. But words are cheap; and words are also very hollow, **If** you compromise wisdom in your own life. We rightly identify this partiality as hypocrisy.

Sin is sin! Breaking one command is to violate all of it (*James 2:10*).

**If** you ridicule sodomy, but fantasize about adultery or defraud your spouse of frequent sex, you are as wicked as the sodomite and a hypocrite (*James 2:11-13*)!

### **Hypocrisy Will Bring God's Judgment**

Keeping the law contends with the wicked, it fights and opposes them. But forsaking the law praises the wicked!

**If** you cheat and compromise God's holy standard of righteousness, you praise sinners by your choice to break God's law as well.

Rather than picketing an abortion clinic, love and train your children by God's Word. Your children and family's appearance and conduct in public will say more against abortion than any discussion with mindless murderers entering the baby-killing office.

Upset about the high divorce rate in America? Then keep a perfect marriage.

Divorce is just one aspect of a dysfunctional marriage; there are many more. Where are you compromising in your marriage? Have you examined it by the light of Holy Scripture?

Angry about the rebellious youth today? Make sure you drive the speed limit to respect civil authority, outwork your colleagues to respect business authority, submit to your husband to respect marital authority, and obey your pastor to respect religious authority.

Sick of hearing about evolution? Live like you know the Creator! Live like you were made for His glory, and God has the right to dictate the terms of your life. Glorify Him in all you do, and speak of Him as your Maker. You can condemn evolution this way!

Carnal Christianity is the norm today. It is loving pleasure more than God and having a form of godliness without any authority.

Condemn these compromisers by loving God more than pleasure and exalting His authority in your life more than church services.

***Proverbs 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.***

Evil men are puppets. The god of this world jerks them at his will, and they go through life without judgment, knowing what is just and right. The devil blinds them to ignorance of this world and the next. They know nothing at all! (*2Corinthians 4:4; Ephesians 2:2; 4:17-19*)

**If a person contradicts God's Word, they have no light (*Isaiah 8:20; 1Timothy 6:3-5*)!**

That is God's opinion, but the righteous believe it heartily (*Psalms 119:128*)!

Evil men are always learning, in this present information explosion, but they never find truth (*2Timothy 3:7*).

Evil men are evil, because they do not fear God. Without moral absolutes, they cannot know right and wrong.

Evil men are evil, because they do not make choices by judgment. They make choices by lusts, feelings, expediency, popular opinion, tradition, or other worthless criteria. They are like a ship in a storm without a compass or rudder.

**If** we list Adolph Hitler, Charles Manson, Rasputin, or other wicked criminals, most everyone can grasp and believe our first paragraphs. But those are only three men in a very wicked world.

There are many more evil men who do not understand judgment:

Our educators!

Our entertainers!

Our media know nothing!

Their sense of judgment is so perverted they cannot discern up or down. They maim, smash, and vacuum babies from the womb, but they throw men in jail for mercifully ending the lives of unwanted kittens!

The evil men in our proverb have no fear of God (*Psalms 36:1-2; Romans 3:18*).

**They Are Fools *Psalms 14:1; 53:1***

They make decisions according to their own pride and lusts. They love themselves more than anyone else, and life is just a contest to see who can get the most.

Judgment is the ability to know and do what is just and right. By rejecting the fear of the Lord and His will in the Bible, evil men are left to the mercy of the devil and their foolish imaginations to invent all sort of evil perversion without limitation (*Ecclesiastes 7:29*).

Bestiality did not originate with animals! It was another bright idea from God-rejecting man!

Understanding is to comprehend and grasp the nature or importance of something. Evil men cannot comprehend what is just and right, they cannot understand judgment.

Those who seek the Lord fear Him, keep His commandments, read His Word, and pray effectively for wisdom. They comprehend and grasp all things, both of this world and of the world to come. Those who seek the Lord have the mind of the Lord (*1Corinthians 2:15-16*).

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and understanding (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Ps 111:10*).

**Knowledge Of God  
Is Foundational For All Right Thinking!**

Without the worldview of a holy Creator, the depraved human heart has no boundaries to restrain its twisted thinking. Sorting out dilemmas without the fear of the Lord is ridiculous:

Nothing limits your foolish imagination. There is no basis for your sense of fairness. Nothing is right or wrong. Who is to say so? Why can't it be different this time from last time?

What is your worldview? Are you the dependent creature of a holy Creator? Or are you the result of billions of years of evolution with an agenda to improve the human race by social programs dreamed up in the marijuana smoke of university classrooms and pubs?

Are life's choices merely seeking your own pleasure or choosing to obey your Creator?

Man is an insane creature apart from the fear of God. Without the constraints of divine wisdom, he cannot think rightly.

Man destroyed his sound reasoning in Eden, he was not content with being "very good" in a "very good" world. He wanted to be like God.

In recent years, man has "discovered" corporal punishment does not work, babies should be killed in the womb, spotted owls should be preserved at any cost, racial crimes only occur in one direction, women are equal or superior to men, our ancestors are monkeys, homosexuals are perfectly normal and make great parents, and so forth and so on.

Evil men say, "*There is no God*" (*Psalms 14:1; 53:1*). Should we feel sorry for them? Should we apologize for them? Should we understand them? No! No! No! They are fools! They have a lie in their right hand and cannot deliver themselves from their gross self-deception (*Isaiah 44:20*).

Evil men are worse than their stump-worshipping fathers, for at least those pagans sought for divine intervention in their lives! These modern perverts do not have a place for any god in their lives except themselves. They are humanistic idolaters!

### **Humanism Is The Worship Of Man!**

#### **Existentialism Is The Worship Of Existence!**

What depths of wisdom the world's thinkers have plumbed! Let us all worship ourselves!

The LORD Jehovah says, "*Produce your cause, saith the LORD; bring forth your strong reasons, saith the King of Jacob*" (**Isaiah 41:21**).

But evil men have no cause or reasons for their lies. They claim science, but even in 60 AD Paul knew it was "science falsely so called" (**1Timothy 6:20**).

Evil men with profane and vain babblings are ridiculous. There is no evidence for evolution! It is a conspiratorial effort to promote devilish Darwinism against God.

They say, "Self-love is the greatest love of all." How ridiculous! Self-love is just a euphemism for selfishness and pride. How much understanding does a person have who calls those evils great love? The Preacher writes, "Evil men understand not judgment."

They ask entertainers for their opinions on matters of religion, morals, and politics. Unbelievable!

Entertainers are the least intelligent and most twisted members of our society. They cannot maintain marriages, sobriety, contracts, sexual orientation, or anything else of importance. They produce nothing of value, and they spew a flood of moral pollution.

Ah, dear reader, do you seek the LORD? Do you tremble before His Word? Do you beg Him for light and understanding? Do you consider Him and His will for every decision? Is He your everlasting Portion? Is Heaven your favorite destination?

Then you will find the understanding of all things. You will know: Where man came from, his whole duty in life, the basis for productive relationships, the peace that passes understanding, the forgiveness of sins by Jesus Christ, the coming Day of Judgment, and the hope of eternal glory.

All this and everything else will be easy for you to understand.

Consider. A person who seeks the Lord will be a good spouse, for they know what is martially just and right from the Lord and His Word.

A person who seeks the Lord makes a great employee and/or a great boss for the same reasons.

Who would want to be tried by a jury of his peers, unless those peers sought and feared the Lord? What a travesty of justice and judgment to reduce court decisions to twelve mental misfits, whom in the opinion of their Creator do not and cannot understand!

**If** you seek the Lord with your whole heart, He will be found. And if found, He will abide as Wisdom is your soul, you will understand all things. (**Jeremiah 29:13**)

You will understand the things of this life, and you will understand the unspeakable things yet to come.

You will understand things natural and things spiritual. You will understand life, death, and eternal life.

You will understand and find joy, peace, and hope that others do not have.

Go to Him now. Do not wait until you are better, or you will never go! Go to your Creator now and humble yourself before Him. Go to your Savior now and trust in His everlasting mercy. And give Him all the glory for a right understanding of all things.

***Proverbs 28:6 Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.***

#### **What Is Success? Are You Successful?**

**If** we trust this inspired Proverb (The Word Of God), we will learn that success is living right! Seeing success as income and not being rich is failure is living foolishly.

Accept this godly wisdom, and reject the world's lying ideas of success.

Will you believe these Words? God inspired them, and the world's most "successful" man wrote them, the king with the greatest combination of wisdom and wealth.

What hinders you from believing them? Do you think you might know more?

**"Better"** indicates a priority for life from God, which is a way of teaching wisdom in this book.

Can you fear God and crave wisdom enough to believe it? Can you put more emphasis on walking uprightly than making money, and can you keep it there?

Can you be content in poverty? Or must you achieve middle class distinction to be content with uprightness?

Please note that Holy Spirit exalts a poor man in our Proverb!

Walking in uprightness: Is choosing a course of life that keeps your integrity before God and is choosing a course of life that keeps your integrity before men.

Walking in uprightness: Is choosing a course of life that keeps your integrity by always doing what is holy, righteous, just, and noble.

Most men live perverse lives, by choosing a course that disregards and violates the word of God and His precepts. Their choices in life are selfish and wicked, not righteous.

The choice between an upright life and a perverse life will lead to your salvation or to your fall, depending on your choice (**Proverbs 15:16; 16:8, 19; 19:1, 22; 28:18**).

No amount of money can save your soul from trouble here or hereafter, so money is of little value to success.

The world measures success: By man's eyes, by man's flesh, and by man's pride (**1John 2:15-17**).

The devil works with fiery darts to promote the world's way of success. Can you reject them by faith in God's way? (**Luke 4:5-8**)

Paul confirmed our Proverb by writing, "*But godliness with contentment is great gain*" (**1Timothy 6:6**).

Paul condemned financial ambition (**1Timothy 6:7-10**) *For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.*

**8** *And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

**9** *But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.*

**10** *For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.*

A poor man, living a godly life, and choosing contentment with his position and income, is the true measure of success!

God approves him and he is happy with what he has! What a blessed situation!

Are you thankful for the true success God has given you?

**If** you desire to live a godly life in uprightness and are content with your life, God has blessed you by His grace.

**If** you have a source for learning the way of righteousness (His Word), you have all that you need.

**Proverbs 28:7** *Whoso keepeth the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shameth his father.*

Do you want to make your father happy? Then obey God's commandments and get away from those who play all the time.

A father is shamed when he knows that his son always wants to play.

A father is honored when he knows that his son values God's Word above all else in life. Children, do you hear Solomon?

Wise children grow up. Paul said, "*When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things*" (**1Corinthians 13:11**).

Foolish children never grow up. They are fascinated with playing games, following sports, buying cars, racing motorcycles, or otherwise wasting their lives. (**Proverbs 10:5**)

Wise sons keep God's law. What is the first commandment? "*And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might*" (**Deuteronomy 6:5**).

What commandment comes next? "*And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself*" (**Matthew 22:39**).

Fathers love to see their sons do these two things!

What is a riotous man? A man undisciplined, extravagant, and wasteful man,

A man who is given to excessive revelry, like the prodigal son (**Proverbs 23:19-22; 29:3; Luke 15:13**).

What is revelry? Having a wild good time (**Galatians 5:21; 1Peter 4:3**)!

Paul ordered saints to avoid rioting, which was a rebuke for too much fun, too much wild partying! (**Romans 13:13**)

What goes with reveling? Drunkenness, gluttony, banqueting, and surfeiting (**Proverbs 23:20; Luke 21:34**).

Solomon warned against companying with such men! Evil communications corrupt good manners, and wise sons will not choose friends from such men (**1Corinthians 15:33**).

A son that wants to hang around with jocks, car lovers, gluttons, party animals, cool dudes, or other foolish

young men is a shame to his father. His father does not understand the attraction.

It is a sin against these Proverbs to associate with such fools (*Proverbs 4:14-17; 9:6; 13:20; 14:7*).

America in the 21st Century is addicted to pleasure and recreation. It is a nation of riotous men.

Contemporary Christians: fulfill the sober warning, when men are being lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God (*2Timothy 3:4*).

They fulfill the sober warning when the church basketball and softball teams get more attention and passion than the preaching of God's Word. These are riotous Christians!

Young man! Where is your heart? Is it meditating in God's law day and night (*Psalms 1:1-3*)?

Do you hate vain thoughts but love His law (*Psalms 119:113*)?

Do you use extra time for God's Word or recreation?

Your father can see where your heart is by the location of your treasure: where you make your investments of energy, time, and money (*Matthew 6:21*).

Young man!

- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about women?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about wine?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about food?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about time?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about speech?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about sleep?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about friends?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about diligent labor in your job?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about giving your money to God?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about saving your money?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about music?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about clothes?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about your wife?
- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about your parents?

- Does God's law rule your thoughts and activities about any children?

Parent! Train your son while there is hope. Train him now, and he will live wisely when he is older (*Proverbs 19:18; 22:6*).

It is a child left to himself that brings parents to shame (*Proverbs 29:15*).

Correct him, and he will bring rest and delight to you (*Proverbs 29:17*).

Teach him the fear of the Lord and bring him up in the Lord's nurture and admonition (*Psalms 34:11; Ephesians 6:4*).

***Proverbs 28:8 He that by usury and unjust gain increaseth his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.***

### **Interest Is The Time Value Of Money**

Usury, is what we call today as interest, can also mean excessive or unjustified interest.

Here we see a wicked use of interest or other immoral means to take financial advantage of the poor.

God will take, the assets of such an unmerciful and wicked man, and give them to the man that helps the poor (*Proverbs 22:16, 22-23*).

Interest serves an honest purpose as the time value of money.

Interest is the price of having money today and repaying it in the future.

Interest is the reward for loaning your money and receiving it back some time later.

There is nothing intrinsically wrong or immoral about interest. It is the cost of capital. It is the price of money. (*Deuteronomy 23:20; Matthew 25:27*)

In a stable economy without a central bank, unlike our nation, interest rates are consistently very low over long periods of time.

There are no inflationary pressures to charge high interest to protect against severely declining purchasing power.

The fear and risk of financial fraud by a central bank is not present. Interest is generally very low and men can loan and borrow without as great of concern for time value.



Consider Israel. There was no central bank or paper money. Their money supply could not be manipulated to cause the boom-and-bust of economic cycles and transfer wealth from creditors to debtors, as in our nation. They had no Federal Reserve Bank.

There was no paper money in Israel. They were 3000 years ahead of our constitution's Article 1; Section 10 protection of the nation's financial integrity.

Israel's money was weighed, which is why there are many Proverbs about honest balances (*Proverbs 11:1; 16:11; 20:23; Genesis 23:16; 43:21; Job 28:15; Ezra 8:25*).

Give God the glory! Moneychangers in Israel converted foreign coins to Hebrew coins. Jesus found Caesar's inscription on a coin. Judas betrayed Him for thirty pieces of silver.

Every tribe and family had significant debt-free capital. For the LORD gave them their capital by taking it from the seven nations of Canaan.

God also assigned them their property by inheritance, which they could not transfer from tribe to tribe. Fully capitalized in settled estates with cities built, wells dug, and vineyards planted, there was little borrowing.

Any such need would have been an emergency, a single growing season emergency, or a case of poverty due to sickness, death, or other act of God.

The LORD had financial laws for His people and the poor among them.

God condemned charging interest to the poor, for this could further his poverty, and it showed a horrible spirit of profane greed and covetousness. (*Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:35-37*)

God also condemned charging interest to another Israelite, for the nation was to be serving each other, not trying to get rich off one another. (*Deuteronomy 23:19*)

Israel could charge usury of a stranger, which indicates interest itself is not an immoral or oppressive thing, for they were not to oppress a stranger (*Exodus 22:21; 23:9; Deuteronomy 23:20*).

Furthermore, there is a presupposition we are to recognize in the Law of Moses that applies strictly to the poor (*Deuteronomy 15:4*).

The poor were to be supplied and protected liberally, without regard for financial protection (*Deuteronomy 15:7-11*).

As the Holy Spirit taught us elsewhere, scattering can be very financially rewarding (*Proverbs 11:24*)!

Therefore, we conclude, that the wisdom of our Proverb condemns charging interest to the poor.

We make this determination by comparing the Law of Moses and reading the second clause of the Proverb!

It further condemns any other means of taking financial advantage of the poor, such as overcharging in selling, underpaying in buying, delaying payments, keeping items put up for security, or paying wages on a delayed basis.

When you deal with a poor person: Are you super sensitive about paying market price voluntarily? Are you generous and careful about not even coming close to underpaying?

Do you clearly reveal everything you know about the item you are selling them? Do you avoid any and all aspects of intimidation or extortion to force their decision?

**If** your intent or motive is to make money off the poor, you are profanely wrong.

Why does an upright man do this? Because a financial transaction may be legal in our country does not make it right. Because a financial transaction is at your "market price" does not make it right.

There is a God in heaven that measures and weighs all such transactions Himself. Beware!

Can a Christian work in a bank, where interest is charged to poor people on loans? Yes, or most every profession in our ungodly world could be condemned.

Can a Christian work in a grocery store where wine is sold to drunkards? Can a Christian be a roofer that repairs a school building where evolution is taught?

Can a Christian be an hotelier where the strange woman does her work? Sanctified common sense is what Proverbs should give us.

**If** a poor neighbor comes asking for a loan until he gets paid in two weeks, a good man would loan him the money without interest. He would do the same **If** he needed to repair his only means of transportation.

However, **If** another poor neighbor wanted to finance his child's toys or start a hobby-business through you, interest might very well be appropriate. And the rich do not need interest-free loans at all, especially for business purposes.

God takes care of the poor, and He will severely judge those who try to take advantage of them.

When you see oppression in a state, especially against the poor, there is one higher than they are (*Ecclesiastes 5:8*)!

He is a Father of the fatherless and Judge of the widow (*Psalm 68:5*).

The LORD considers your treatment of the poor as your treatment of Him (*Proverbs 14:31; 17:5*).

If you pity the poor and lend to them, He will surely repay you (*Proverbs 19:17*).

If you neglect the poor, He will neglect you in your time of need (*Proverbs 21:13; 28:27*).

Good men take care of the poor, wicked men abuse the poor (*Proverbs 28:3; 29:7, 14; 30:14; 31:9, 20*).

A man who is generous to the poor will be blessed and happy (*Proverbs 11:24; 14:21; 22:9; 28:27*).

As our Proverb warns, the man who takes advantage of the poor may get ahead financially for a moment. But the LORD will take his gain away and give it to the man who has tender regard for the poor.

The rich get richer, when they fear the LORD! Jesus said, regarding the man who did not wisely use his one talent, "Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents" (*Matthew 25:28*).

You have just been given another rule for financial success. Be on the lookout for the poor, and be generous to them. Never think of protecting your assets.

Give, and it shall be given to you. Give generously, and God will open the windows of heaven for you. Scatter your money, and it will bring financial increase!

Do you tip generously in restaurants, where the poor find jobs as waitresses, busboys, and dishwashers?

Do you tip generously in hotel rooms, where the poor find jobs as maids?

Do you consider the poor at all times in all transactions and encounters?

The love of money is the root of all evil, and loving it will cause you to take advantage of the poor. The man who fears the Lord is rather ready to distribute his assets and help the poor (*1Timothy 6:6-10, 17-19*).

Our Lord, Who owns the cattle on a thousand hills and whose riches can never be exhausted, has chosen the poor in this world as the object of His love and largesse (*James 2:5*).

Let us emulate Him and do the same (*James 2:1-10; 1John 3:16-19*).

***Proverbs 28:9 He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.***

How do you listen to preaching? The noble Bereans received Paul's preaching with very ready minds, but the Jews of Jerusalem plugged their ears and would not listen to Stephen. Where do you fall between these two extremes? (*Acts 7:51-60; 17:11*)

God had preachers under the old covenant that taught the people by verbal instruction (*2Chronicles 17:8-9; Ezra 7:10; Nehemiah 8:1-12; Jonah 3:1-2; Malachi 2:7*).

In fact, the writer of these Proverbs is called the Preacher (*Ecclesiastes 1:1-2, 12; 7:27; 12:8-10*).

And of course, we have preachers even today under the new covenant (*Romans 10:14; 1Timothy 2:7; 2Timothy 4:2*).

The Lord warns that He will reject the prayers of those who do not listen submissively. In fact, He will consider their prayers to be abominations!

Here is a very serious warning about our attitude toward the preaching of God's Word.

God explained to the re-gathered Jews, that this lack of taking heed to His Word, was the reason for their horrific punishment by the Babylonians (*Zechariah 7:7-14*).

How were the Bereans noble? Consider *Acts 17:11* closely.

1. They heard Paul with very receptive minds.
2. They did not listen scornfully, raising their own opinions, objections, or foolish questions against his preaching.
3. They wanted to hear; They wanted to believe; They were thankful they had a man of God to declare the Scriptures to them.
4. They searched the Scriptures daily to confirm that Paul was indeed preaching truth.
5. They did not try to undo the pastor's many hours of study and a lifetime in the Word of God with five minutes in a concordance looking for excuses to disobey.

Human pride is horrible, and it often shows up when the sermon is against one of our sins.

Remember that pastors are at war against our opinions (*2Corinthians 10:3-6*).

A pastor should have studied the subject 100 times more than we have;

A pastor is preaching to the varied needs of many people;

A pastor has a divine mandate to be absolutely true to Scripture alone, without regard for men (**Jeremiah 1:17**)

A pastor is not preaching a personal agenda, but bringing commandments from the King of kings.

Paul, knowing the temptation to resent such preaching, warned in **1Thessalonians 5:20**, "*Despise not prophesyings.*" God has warned in both testaments to listen attentively and submissively.

Our Lord Jesus soberly brought his parable of the sower to a conclusion by saying. Our Lord's judgment is severe, He will take from the stubborn listener the little knowledge he thinks he has. **Luke 8:18** *Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.*

Cornelius gives us one of the best examples of receptive hearers, when he assembled his family and friends to hear "*all things that are commanded thee of God*" (**Acts 10:33**).

And Israel held a great celebration for understanding preaching that pointed out duties they had overlooked (**Nehemiah 8**).

The Thessalonians heard Paul's preaching as all preaching should be heard, as the very Words of God (**1Thessalonians 2:13**).

No sermon is perfect, as honest preachers will tell you. There are always small faults you can criticize, and conscientious pastors agonize over them; but the hearers who single them out are scorers (**Isaiah 29:20-21**).

Peter preached like an unlearned fisherman to the scornful Jews, but he had the wise Words of salvation from Jesus (**Acts 4:12-13**).

God will defend His preachers, as forty-two disrespectful children discovered (**2Kings 2:23-25**).

God does not appreciate men ignoring or rejecting the message of His ambassadors (**Deuteronomy 1:41-44**).

Paul despised such men, and he did not allow foolish contentions, even about matters like the length of hair (**1Corinthians 11:16; 14:36-38**).

Our Proverb's warning is severe, because rebellion is as witchcraft and stubbornness is as idolatry (**1Samuel 15:22-23**).

**If** the Lord discerns you are protecting an idol in your heart, He will send you lying delusions, just as He did Ahab (**Ezekiel 14:1-11; 1Kings 22:8**).

Let every reader consider the instruction that Eli gave Samuel, when he heard the Lord calling him at night. Eli told Samuel to answer by saying, "*Speak, Lord; for thy servant heareth*" (**1Samuel 3:39**).

He that hath ears to hear; let him hear. And let his prayers come up as a sweet savor in the nostrils of our holy and just Father in heaven.

**Proverbs 28:10** *Whoso causeth the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession.*

False teachers and compromising preachers are doomed! They will fall into the carnal cesspool they create for their hearers and be destroyed (**Proverbs 26:27**).

But the upright, who only lead others to righteousness, will be satisfied with prosperity, both here and in heaven.

God loves the righteous, and He protects them from evil seducers by promising retributive justice.

God specifically condemned the efforts of some to get others drunk to gaze on their nakedness (**Habakkuk 2:15**).

Let every young man and woman think soberly about their influence on the other sex. But contrary to His judgment of false brethren, God will bless the righteous with good things that cannot be uttered or thought (**1Corinthians 2:9**).

You live in the fulfillment of this Proverb's warning, as the perilous times of the last days have arrived (**2Timothy 3:1-7**).

The compromising and effeminate brand of contemporary Christianity now sweeping the world will be exposed for the profane sham that it is (**2Timothy 3:8-9**).

Though persecution and seducers will get worse, the righteous have the cure, the faithful preaching of God's inspired Scriptures (**2Timothy 3:10, 14-17; 4:1-4**)!

The Proverb certainly applies to modern education, entertainment, and journalism, where the goal is to spread as much evil as possible, from Darwinism to soap operas, from rap music to salacious reporting.

These extremely influential institutions in the modern society, have caused many righteous to go astray, and God will judge them all!

But the more subtle danger is false religion, where men compromise with evil, as fast as they can to increase

churches and followings. The seeker sensitive movement of mega-churches is a perfect illustration.

They downgrade every aspect of worshipping God and Bible holiness, to attract and keep the unregenerate.

The poor righteous, who are caught in this profane appeal, are often lost down the drain of carnal Christianity with the rest.

But God and righteousness will not be mocked. As Jesus rebuked and judged the Pharisees for using religion as means for financial gain (*Matthew 23:14*).

He will do the same to these imposters. Paul warned Timothy to stay away from these growth-at-any-cost gurus and their ignorant religion as being totally contrary to Jesus Christ (*1Timothy 6:3-5*).

Jezebel stirred up Ahab to evil, and the church at Thyatira had a false teacher with the same name that promoted fornication and idolatry, whom Jesus promised to destroy (*1Kings 21:25; Revelation 2:18-23*).

And the church at Pergamos had an emulator of Balaam, the money-grubbing false prophet who taught Israel to commit fornication and idolatry, whom Jesus promised to fight against (*Numbers 31:16; Revelation 2:14*).

God blasted Israel's priests after returning from Babylon for their profane compromise. As Israel had such false men, Peter warned that similar men would wreck havoc in the churches of Christ (*Malachi 2:1-9; 2Peter 2:1-19*).

And Paul warned of false apostles that would serve Satan with a false Jesus, gospel, and Spirit (*2Corinthians 11:3-4, 13-15*).

Reader! It is your duty to be very careful lest you cause the righteous to go astray.

Watch your example and guard your influence, for God is examining them both.

It is also your duty to separate from any who teach contrary to the New Testament (*Romans 16:17-18; Galatians 1:6-9; 2Thessalonians 3:6; Titus 3:10-11*).

**If** you are spiritual and strong, you will save weak men from the clutches of these carnal compromisers (*James 5:19-20; Jude 1:23*).

Pastor! Are you holding to the strait and narrow way of Jesus Christ, or the wide and broad way of contemporary Christianity and carnal compromise?

You will give an account for your influence on every soul you touch! Are you a faithful shepherd feeding and

protecting your sheep, or do you allow wolves in the flock to inflate your numbers?

Father! Is your hypocrisy leading your children to the same evil disease?

Is your language and conduct promoting righteousness, or undermining it? You are commanded to bring your children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (*Ephesians 6:4*). Are you doing it?

Are your impressionable children being seduced to live a life of compromise?

Husband! Your wife took your name and is heavily influenced by your choices and lifestyle.

Is her walk with God and love of Jesus Christ greater or lesser because of her relationship with you?

Would she do better spiritually without you? Look out!

What good things are in store for the upright? Spiritual things beyond human ability to see, hear, or even imagine (*1Corinthians 2:9*)!

A man walking with God can be filled now with all the fullness of God, and in heaven he will inherit all things (*Ephesians 3:14-19; Revelation 21:7*)!

***Proverbs 28:11 The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that hath understanding searcheth him out.***

**Success Blinds Men  
To Truth And Wisdom  
By The Pride It Creates.**

Results prove next to nothing, as they can be caused by many contrary factors.

A man with wisdom and understanding, no matter how poor, can dissect and condemn a rich fool.

Wisdom is the superior possession, and it includes sober skepticism of all ideas, regardless of success.

The rich man in this Proverb is a fool, he only thinks he is wise by the conceited value he puts on wealth.

He cannot hear the instruction or warnings of wisdom, for he is deaf by a bloated ego from his financial successes (*Proverbs 26:16*).

He arrogantly assumes he is right and his conduct just by what he considers positive results and financial invincibility.

The poor man, in this Proverb is a wise man, he has understanding.

He can look at a rich fool and easily see the vanity of his life. The rich man's wealth, success, or position does not deceive or distract him.

He is able to clearly analyze his actions and identify the errors and sins. Prudence and wisdom are not affected by economic status. (*Proverbs 18:17*)

Rich men are generally treated reverently, which deceives them into thinking too highly of themselves (*Proverbs 14:20; 19:4*).

Rich men have many business or financial victories, so they arrogantly conclude they are winners (*Proverbs 18:11*).

But the poor man, without such blinding influences, is able to easily discern the flaws and transgressions of the rich man's life.

Results are deceiving. Moses got water by striking a rock, but God told him to speak to it (*Numbers 20:7-13*).

You will meet children who seem civilized enough and were never spanked, but their parents are fools (*Proverbs 19:18; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15*).

Men may get rich with speculative ventures built on debt, but they are wrong (*Proverbs 13:23; 20:21; 22:7*).

Results are deceiving. Consider them well. What appear to be successes may be God merely using you (*Isaiah 10:5-15*).

What appear to be successes may be the curse of "prosperity of fools" (*Proverbs 1:32*).

What appear to be successes may be incredibly temporary (*Psalms 36:1-2; 50:21*).

What appear to be successes may be just your limited view of a matter, or wishful thinking. (*John 19:15-16*)

What appear to be successes may be a placebo effect, or the initial payment of "profits" in a Ponzi scheme!

Gain is not godliness. Godliness with contentment is great gain (*1 Timothy 6:3-5, 6:6*).

Do not let riches blind or distort your judgment.

Do not envy the wicked for apparent prosperity (*Psalms 37:1-3; 73:1-24*).

The truly wise man is able to see past appearances and judge righteous judgment (*John 7:24*).

Never let apparent success in any area ever distract you from "*thus saith the Lord*," for that alone is wisdom!

The rich shall soon be laid in the grave; death shall feed on them; they cannot redeem any from death (*Psalms 49:6-14*).

***Proverbs 28:12 When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.***

Here is a Proverb for students of political science. Why are good men sometimes called the "silent majority"? What causes certain elements of society to be joyful and outspoken at times and to almost disappear at other times? The key is the ruling government!

If an upright government is in power, good men rejoice with great glory for the blessing of a free and noble state. But when the wicked are in power, righteous men hide themselves.

Remember, the book of Proverbs was partially a training manual for Solomon's son, who was to be the next king of Israel.

Therefore, there are several Proverbs dealing with Solomon's observations about civil government and public policy.

A wise ruler will cause the righteous people in his realm to rejoice with great glory, but a wicked ruler will cause these same citizens to withdraw and hide themselves from the threat of danger.

As with many of Solomon's Proverbs, two clauses are contrasted here. By comparing and contrasting the two clauses, you can fill out the sense of each.

Proverbs are not express declarations of wisdom, but rather dark sayings requiring interpretation (*Proverbs 1:6; John 16:29*).

It is the obscure meaning that makes them challenging, intriguing, and powerful!

The key to this Proverb is "*when the wicked rise*," in the second clause, which describes the political gains and popularity of ungodly rulers (*Proverbs 11:10; 28:28; 29:2*).

During such perilous times, "*a man is hidden*." What kind of a man is hidden? The righteous men of the first clause, who had been rejoicing with great glory under a benevolent government! How do they hide? They move away or withdraw from public view for protection.

When a government has a godly ruler and defends and promotes righteousness, it is a great glory to that nation (*Proverbs 14:34; Psalms 33:12; 144:15*).

Consider King Ahasuerus decreeing protection and revenge for the Jews in the Persian Empire (*Esther 8:17*).

And no nation has had so much joy and glory as Israel under David and Solomon (*1Kings 4:20; 1Chronicles 12:38-40; 2Chronicles 7:8-11*), Hezekiah (*2Chronicles 30:21-23*), and Nehemiah (*Nehemiah 8:1-18*). And after Saul of Tarsus was converted, Christians had great rest and prosperity (*Acts 9:31*).

But when a government promotes wicked men, the opposite is true, the nation is doomed (*Psalms 9:17*).

When Ahasuerus promoted Haman and signed his plan for genocide, the "city Shushan was perplexed" (*Esther 3:15*).

Godly men make the prudent choice to move or withdraw from public view to avoid the rage of the wicked against righteousness and truth (*Psalms 9:17; Judges 6:11; 1Kings 18:3-4; Matthew 2:13-15*).

Though they are forced to hide themselves, the Lord says the world is not worthy of their presence (*Hebrews 11:38*).

The Roman Empire, and then the Roman Catholic Church, combined to persecute the churches and saints of Jesus Christ. Millions were tortured and killed by this beastly kingdom that was, that was not, and yet was.

God's saints found safety by hiding in wilderness places in Asia, North Africa, Italy, France, Bohemia, and Wales (*Daniel 7:15-28; Revelation 12:13-17; 13:1-18; 17:1-18*).

Consider how even Paul hid his warning about the Caesars and popes under veiled language about the man of sin and the restraining power (*2Thessalonians 2:1-12*).

Because you cannot see very many righteous men when wicked rulers are in authority does not mean there are not any.

They have chosen to hide from, rather than expose themselves to, the risk of persecution and the prevailing political winds.

Elijah once thought he was the only righteous man left in Israel under the reign of Ahab and Jezebel, but God assured him that He still had 7000 righteous men (*1Kings 19:18; Romans 11:4*).

The world is pushing legislation and popular opinion against Bible Christianity. Laws are being drafted to classify Bible preaching as a hate crime.

The Koran is allowed, but not the Bible or Christian prayer. Christians are hiding by schooling their children

at home or in Christian schools, avoiding public discussion of Bible morality and righteousness, seeking to move to the country, isolating themselves from community interaction, and/or not running for public offices. The political trends are costing the nation its best citizens.

The only place God's people can truly rejoice is in Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem (*Hebrews 12:22-24*).

There saints can put their trust in David their king, Who is the blessed and only Potentate, and Who will save them from all their enemies with an everlasting salvation (*Jeremiah 30:9; Hosea 3:5*).

You can participate now in that kingdom in one of His churches (*Hebrews 10:23-25; 12:28-29*).

Rejoice with great glory!

***Proverbs 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.***

Prosperity and success, with peace and joy, are easy! Confess and forsake your sins, right now!

Poverty and failure, with pain and misery, are also easy! Hide your sins and pretend you are doing fine!

God will not let you go away with the smallest sin. Be sure your sin will find you out! Which do you want, prosperity or destruction?

Sins are easily defined: they are breaking God's rules for living, and they are all found in the Bible.

Sins are doing what God commanded you not to do, and sins are not doing what God commanded you to do.

There are two main commandments dictating our love of God and neighbor; The Ten Commandments detail these duties further; and then there is the rest of the Bible, spelling out the proper application of each of these ten.

**When You Sin, You Have A Choice.** You can keep the sin to yourself, hide it from others, not mention it to God, and do it again when the urge hits.

Or You can drop to your knees, confess it openly to God, make restitution if it involves others, and You take the necessary steps to avoid committing it again. Your choice here will greatly affect your life.

**All Men Sin!**

God knows this (*1John 1:8, 10; 2:1*). How you handle your sins makes all the difference in the world.

If you confess them, God is faithful and just to forgive you (*1John 1:9*).

If you keep the sins in your heart, He will not hear your prayers; and He will turn His face against you, bringing trouble (*Psalms 66:18; 1Peter 3:12*).

No man can sin too much, too often, or too horribly for God not to forgive him. God's thoughts and ways are far above our thoughts and ways, in His ability to forgive and pardon sins (*Isaiah 55:6-9*).

God has more forgiveness than any man. God will always accept a broken and contrite heart. God will never despise or reject it (*Psalms 51:16-17*).

Ahab and Manasseh were two of the wickedest kings, yet God had mercy on both of them, which is excellent reading for those doubting God's forgiveness (*1Kings 21:25-29; 2Chronicles 33:1-13*).

David, against great blessings and knowledge of God, committed aggravated adultery and murder, yet God forgave him in an instant (*2Samuel 12:13*).

And God forgave Peter, who sinned horribly with cursing and oaths after pompous promises.

Hide and protect your sins, and God will grind you to powder, from the inside out.

Confess and forsake them, and He will restore your soul with life and light (*Job 33:27-28*).

You have a choice, reader, a simple choice. What will you do? Today, in the way you handle your sins, will determine your future prosperity or destruction.

***Proverbs 28:14 Happy is the man that feareth always: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief.***

We all want to be happy and avoid trouble, and the Preacher tells us how.

If we always fear the LORD, we shall be happy.

If we rebel against Him, we will bring trouble on ourselves. May our good God bless us with grace and strength to fear Him all our days.

Is it the fear of the LORD here? Yes, for that is Proverbs' theme (*Proverbs 1:7*).

It is the whole duty of man, no other fear brings happiness (*Proverbs 29:25; Ecclesiastes 12:13*).

It is the opposite of hardening your heart (*Isaiah 63:17*).

In addition, mischief results from not having the fear of God (*Psalms 36:1-2*).

It properly follows that confession of sins to God is necessary for prosperity (*Proverbs 28:13*).

"*Alway*" modifies fear, not happiness. We must always fear Him, even when not happy. The LORD may withdraw temporarily from a God-fearing man, like Job, thus reducing his happiness; but He will return with additional blessings in the end, like Job as well.

Whatever you do, it must always be done with His glory in view (*1Corinthians 10:31*). Our lives must always be guarded by caution, lest we stray from His ordinances and displease our Holy Father.

We must make circumspect examination of every thought, and of every word, and of every deed, and every plan.

Is this choice agreeable to His holy will? Will this activity bring pleasure to Him?

Can happiness and fear coexist? Yes, for fearing the LORD is a reverent desire to please Him by keeping His commandments and hating sin.

There is no pain or torment here. This is fear that hopes in His mercy and rejoices with trembling (*Psalms 2:11; 147:11*).

This is fear compatible with coming boldly to His throne of grace for help (*Hebrews 4:12-16*).

Fear that caused Adam to hide among Eden's trees was the ungodly fear of guilt and rebellion.

The fear of a child of God is like a child's fear of a loving father. It is a strong desire to please and a powerful check on disobedience, but it also includes security, trust, and affection (*Proverbs 16:20*).

#### **Knowing God Correctly Casts Out Fear *1John 4:18***

Our fear of God should cause us to fear ourselves as well, for self-confidence leads to sin and mischief (*1Corinthians 10:12*).

Wise men do not trust themselves, but learn to despise themselves, as their most dangerous enemy. Let Peter's confidence in his own strength and courage humble us, to beg for grace and strength from our Lord who prays for us.

Since God's commandments are life and prosperity and keeping them brings His blessing, these two reasons form this simple rule for happiness. (*Proverbs 3:1-2; Psalm 147:11*)

Keeping the rules for success and having God bless your life is a wonderful combination.

Rejecting His commandments is to choose death and folly and bring His judgment. Do not deceive yourself, for you shall certainly reap what you sow (*Galatians 6:7*).

If you want to love life and enjoy many good days, then fear the Lord and depart from evil (*Psalms 34:12-16; 1Peter 3:10-12*).

Men pay large fees for counsel and therapy to be happy, yet here is the authoritative answer from God.

It was written by the man who experimented with every purpose and pleasure known to man today!

His conclusion here is consistent with that, when he ending his philosophical and practical study (*Ecclesiastes 12:13*).

Read *Psalms 128*, dear Christian, and see if there is not much blessing in fearing the Lord.

If you stubbornly refuse God's commandments, you will bring on yourself His promise of drastic judgment (*Proverbs 29:1*).

The way of transgressors is hard, dear reader (*Proverbs 13:15; 4:19; 19:16; 22:5*).

Lot and Saul compromised God's commandments, and they both lived miserable lives and ended them in horrible disgrace unimaginable years before.

Fearing God is not a light matter. It is life or death. It is happiness or trouble.

Only fools treat the things of God lightly, and they will reap the rewards of their folly.

Only fools take confidence in outward compliance with religion, for God will destroy the hypocrite. Wise men will pass the time of their sojourning here in fear (*1Peter 1:17*).

Where have you hardened your heart against the LORD? What does He require that you do not want to give?

Where do you stubbornly resist the teaching of His servant? Where have you examined yourself today? Is your entire life grounded in the fear of the Lord?

If you presume to think you can get away with rebellion, If you think you can have peace in disobedience, God will bring all His wrath and fury in curses on your despicable life (*Deuteronomy 29:18-20*).

**Be Sure Your Sin**

## **Will Find You Out!**

Our Lord Jesus Christ feared His Father always and did those things that pleased Him, and our Lord is forever seated on His throne in heaven enjoying fullness of joy and pleasures for evermore (*Psalms 16:11; Hebrews 5:7*).

We shall be there soon as well, If we give diligence to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling (*Philippians 2:12-13; 2Peter 1:10-11*).

***Proverbs 28:15 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.***

## **Leaders And Rulers Who Do Not Take Care Of The Poor Are Terrible!**

One of the great duties of leadership and rule is to protect and provide for those unable to defend or help themselves.

When a wicked man gets into power and oppresses the poor under his rule, it is a frightening evil. There is a God in heaven, who will crush such rulers (*Ecclesiastes 5:8*).

Here is an inspired simile based on God's wisdom and Solomon's observations. A roaring lion is a dangerous and threatening lion (*Psalms 104:21; Isaiah 31:4; Amos 3:4; 1Peter 5:8*).

A ranging bear is a hungry bear that has gone outside its normal haunts to search for food.

These two proverbial examples from the animal kingdom illustrate the brute and savage character of a wicked ruler who oppresses the poor in his kingdom.

These cruel beasts have none of the kindness and mercy that characterize godly and noble rulers.

A great ruler protects and provides for the poor, and he will reign for a long time (*Proverbs 29:14*).

Mercy and truth uphold a king, not oppression and greed (*Proverbs 20:28*).

Nations prosper and rejoice under righteous rulers (*Proverbs 29:2*).

But when a covetous and selfish man becomes a ruler, his greed for gain makes him an oppressor, as our context indicates (*Proverbs 28:16*).

It is better to be dead or never to have existed than to suffer under such a tyrant (*Ecclesiastes 4:1-3*).



Pharaoh oppressed the poor Israelites with hard bondage to build his treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses, and he killed their boy babies (**Exodus 1:8-16**).

The God of heaven heard the cry of His people (**Exodus 2:23-25**). He laughed last and best!

God blessed the midwives for defying Pharaoh (**Exodus 1:15-21**).

God used Pharaoh to nourish and train Moses (**Acts 7:20-22**).

God demolished Egypt and killed the firstborn in every family (**Exodus 10:7; 12:29-30**).

God told Israel to take the wealth of Egypt when they left (**Exodus 12:35-36**).

God drowned Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea (**Exodus 14:21-30**)!

King Saul tried to kill poor David and did kill the priests at Nob, so God destroyed him and his sons in one battle with the Philistines (**1Samuel 18:11; 22:12-19; 31:1-13**).

Ahab and Jezebel conspired to steal a vineyard from Naboth, so God sent dogs to eat Jezebel, and other dogs licked Ahab's blood out of his chariot (**1Kings 21:1-16; 22:34-38; 2Kings 9:30-37**).

Rehoboam tried to raise taxes to oppress Israel, but he lost ten of Israel's twelve tribes to his competitor (**1Kings 12:1-20**).

### **Wicked Tyrants Will Be Judged!**

But there are more tyrants than just civil rulers. God will also judge cruel and overbearing husbands (**Malachi 2:10-16; 1Peter 3:7**).

Therefore, it is very important for husbands to love, cherish, and nourish their wives with tender affection (**Ephesians 5:25-29; Colossians 3:19; 1Peter 3:7**).

### **Husband Your Wife Is On Loan To You From The Lord!**

If you abuse or oppress His gift in any way, there will be a payment, in this life and/or in the next life!

**Proverbs 18:22** *Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the LORD.*

**Proverbs 31:31** *Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.*

**Malachi 2:13-16** *And this have ye done again, covering the altar of the LORD with tears, with weeping, and with crying out, insomuch that he regardeth not the*

*offering any more, or receiveth it with good will at your hand.*

**14** *Yet ye say, Wherefore? Because the LORD hath been witness between thee and the wife of thy youth, against whom thou hast dealt treacherously: yet is she thy companion, and the wife of thy covenant.*

**15** *And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.*

**16** *For the LORD, the God of Israel, saith that he hateth putting away: for one covereth violence with his garment, saith the LORD of hosts: therefore take heed to your spirit, that ye deal not treacherously.*

God commands fathers to avoid oppressing children (**Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21**).

A father may have the God-given authority and strength to rule his house; but he better rule with affection and mercy, or the same God, that avenged the poor will come in judgment on him.

God expects fathers to pity their children (**Psalms 103:13; Jeremiah 31:20; Luke 11:11-13; 15:20-24**).

Even chastening for sins is to be done tenderly (**Proverbs 3:11-12**).

Fathers are not the only culprits, as overbearing women are an equal curse (**Proverbs 30:21-23**).

Consider further, **If** you think this Proverb is merely about political science.

Employers must take good care of their employees, especially the poor at the bottom (**Leviticus 25:39-43; Deuteronomy 24:14-15; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1**).

Ministers must never neglect the poor in their congregations, for the Lord Jesus Christ hates partiality (**1Timothy 5:21; James 2:1-7**).

Though endowed with authority from heaven, ministers are to be like nurses (**1Thessalonians 2:7-8**).

There is only one perfect ruler, and He sits on the throne of glory over the entire universe: He is the Lord Jesus Christ (**2Samuel 23:1-5; Psalm 45:6-7; Hebrews 1:8-9**).

God chose the poor of this world to be His children. The Lord Jesus Christ has their care (**1Corinthians 1:26-31**).

God has promised to not lose a single one of them, everyone will spend eternity with Him in heaven (**John 6:37-39; 10:27-29; 17:2; Romans 8:28-39; Hebrews 2:13**).

***Proverbs 28:16 The prince that wanteth understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hateth covetousness shall prolong his days.***

**Ambitious Or Greedy  
Rulers Are Tyrants.**

Instead of using authority to benefit their citizens, they covet more power and wealth, which leads to oppressive legislation and policies. They do not last long. God or an unhappy populace will remove them from office.

But noble men who hate covetousness and are content and committed to serve their people will stay in office.

Here is an axiom of political science from King Solomon.

The previous Proverb warned against wicked rulers with irrational and violent natures like hungry lions and bears (*Proverbs 28:15*).

These insensitive brutes crush the poor of a nation under their selfish programs and practices.

The poor, who need help and protection more than others, become fodder for their voracious appetites. Because of that warning, this Proverb also indicates another kind of oppressive ruler for consideration.

Observe the contrasts, for they provide clues to the Proverbs meaning. A prince wanting understanding is set opposite a prince hating covetousness.

Therefore, we know the oppressive prince is an ambitious and greedy man. But look further. The prince that is a great oppressor is set opposite a prince that shall prolong his days.

Therefore, we also know that oppressive practices by a ruler shorten his reign, either by the hand of God or men.

When an ambitious or greedy politician is in office, his programs and policies oppress the people until they revolt. All governments are popular, meaning that citizens will submit until the pain exceeds the cost of rebellion.

Covetous princes, blind to rising anger against their rule, eventually lose their position.

Citizens can only take so much, and then they revolt. The Lord can only take so much, and then He judges (*Ecclesiastes 5:8; 1Kings 21:1-24*)!

Learn wisdom! A Proverb's instruction is only as good as acceptance of it and obedience to it!

King Solomon taught this Proverb to his son, Prince Rehoboam. But after his father died, this son arrogantly insulted the nation for requesting redress for Solomon's heavy taxation (*1Kings 12:1-20*).

His covetousness and pride blinded his judgment. What happened? The nation revolted! He lost ten of twelve tribes! The Proverb was fulfilled!

By the time Alexander the Great was 30, he had alienated his nation, his army, and many friends and generals by his mad lust for power and wealth. He and his family were wiped from the earth.

It has been said, long after this Proverb was written, "Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely."

Therefore, wise men resist promotion and wealth, for they know it's great power to pervert character.

The wise man Agur, who contributed to this book of Proverbs, prayed against riches (*Proverbs 30:7-9*). What wisdom!

Political wisdom requires rulers that hate covetousness, which is exactly what Moses required for Israel's judges (*Exodus 18:21; Deuteronomy 16:19*).

If this axiom is not followed, do not be surprised by the oppressive consequences of their rule.

Bishops and deacons for New Testament churches must also hate covetousness, which is defined as not greedy of filthy lucre (*1Timothy 3:3,8; Titus 1:7,11; 1Peter 5:2*).

Even women should reject suitors who are greedy for financial gain, because they will be bad husbands and fathers (*Proverbs 1:19; 15:27*).

The Lord Jesus Christ is the blessed and only Potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords (*1Timothy 6:13-16*).

The Lord Jesus Christ's absolute power over the universe has not corrupted Him at all: it has glorified Him as an infinitely righteous Prince (*2Samuel 23:1-3; Hebrews 1:8-9; Revelation 19:11*).

The Lord Jesus Christ covets nothing, for He rules heaven and earth. All those who trust in Him shall reign with Him, and

The Lord Jesus Christ shall prolong His days forever and ever (*Revelation 1:18; 3:21; Isaiah 53:10*). Amen.

***Proverbs 28:17 A man that doeth violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.***

Murderers should be killed immediately! Capital punishment for murder: Is holy, Is right, Is necessary, and Is wise.

There is nothing here to even consider or debate. Any thought to the contrary is devilish folly, rebellion against God, and hatred for human life.

Any accomplice, advocate, or pacifist that hinders the process should receive the same fate. And let every child of God know there is more than one way to kill.

Our Proverb uses "*blood*" as a synecdoche for life, for blood is our life (*Leviticus 17:11*).

The Word "*violence*" excludes accidents, which God provided for differently (*Numbers 35:9-34*).

The pit is a common metaphor, but a literal place, of burial and eternal punishment. Murderers are to be sent there quickly, without hesitation or hindrance, which the verbal metonym "*flee*" intends. No man should stay, or hinder, the murderer's quick death.

The Proverb is simple and clear, murderers should be executed immediately. Murder is a violent act against human life and the God Who created and gave life. All men are to help the process of holy justice in sending the murderer quickly to his grave and eternal Judge.

Abel's blood cried out from the ground to the LORD God in the first generation of the human family (*Genesis 4:9-12*).

Though Abel could no longer cry out physically, his blood did it for him in the omniscient ears of Jehovah. He heard it clearly and loudly, and He cursed Cain. And He continues to hear the blood cry out from every murdered victim.

Where did Cain get the violent thought to murder his brother? From the devil, who had already murdered Adam and Eve (*Genesis 3:1-6; John 8:44; 1John 3:12*)!

Any murderer, or opponent of capital punishment for them, is simply a stooge of the devil. Satan's names are Abaddon (Hebrew) and Apollyon (Greek), for he is "the destroyer" (*Revelation 9:11*).

But the Lord Jesus, Who is Life itself, has reserved Satan for everlasting destruction!

God declared early in the new world, "*And surely your blood of your lives will I require; at the hand of every beast will I require it, and at the hand of man; at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man*" (*Genesis 9:5-6*).

When murder occurs, the murderer is to be put to death; and if men will not do the job, the LORD will!

God declared this rule for the earth right after suffocating all men, women, and children in water, except for one family, for their wicked violence (*Genesis 6:11-13*).

The Words were declared to Noah about 1000 years before the Law of Moses. And all nations have generally practiced it since then (*Acts 28:4; Romans 13:4*).

Moses simply codified it in his law (*Exodus 20:13; 21:12-36; 22:2-3; Leviticus 24:17; Numbers 35:9-34; Deuteronomy 19:1-21; 1Timothy 1:9*).

There is no civil pity or silly sentimentality for murderers in God's religion, even if they are begging for mercy and claiming innocence (*Deuteronomy 19:11-13; 1Samuel 15:32-33*).

God even approved of the victim's family getting to do the righteous honors (*2Samuel 21:1-9*)!

And wouldn't it be better today for the MTV generation to see some public executions rather than rap about violent murder as a legitimate expression of their youth culture!

There are no jury trials, appeals, mistrials, public defenders, stays of execution, pardons, Amnesty demonstrations, or other hindrances to quick justice for murderers in God's Law. Two witnesses were all it took (*Deuteronomy 19:15-21*).

No delays; no imprisonment; no last meals; no visits from Mother Theresa; no phone calls from Jane Fonda.

When Ahab and Jezebel murdered Naboth, the holy God read them their rights, "*Behold, I will bring evil upon thee, and will take away thy posterity, and will cut off from Ahab him that pisseth against the wall, and him that is shut up and left in Israel.... And of Jezebel also spake the LORD, saying, The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel. Him that dieth of Ahab in the city the dogs shall eat; and him that dieth in the field shall the fowls of the air eat*" (*1Kings 21:21-24*).

Jehu had Jezebel thrown from an upper window and trampled her under his horse, and the dogs ate her (*2Kings 9:30-37*).

**The commandment:** "*Thou shalt not kill*" has nothing against the civil obligation to put murderers to death.

Reasoning this way is perverse. The prohibition is of murder, not the contradiction of other commandments or civil judgment.

Capital punishment and war are the duties of the civil government. They are excluded from this general

prohibition of taking life by personal vengeance. Personal, private murder is what is condemned.

The New Testament did not alter the punishment of murder at all. Jesus said, "*Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil*" (*Matthew 5:17*).

His revocation of an "*eye for an eye*" was only to correct its misapplication to personal revenge (*Matthew 5:38-42*).

Paul said the law was good in its condemnation of murderers (*1Timothy 1:8-11*).

Paul said the civil death penalty is God's ordinance, and he even justified his own execution, if he was worthy of it (*Acts 25:11; Romans 13:1-7*).

Of course, all human justice is imperfect, by definition. But this does not alter the need for human justice and punishment. There will be rare exceptions when innocent persons are executed.

Imperfect justice is infinitely superior to no justice at all. To protect the mere possibility of a few at the expense of many thousands is ridiculous. Let every man take precautions to avoid even the appearance of evil, lest he be false accused.

**If** false witnesses and corrupt judges were quickly put to death, as the Bible strictly requires, wrongful deaths would be quite rare!

It is a travesty of thought and language to call opposition to capital punishment, pacifism, peace, philanthropy, or pity.

It is not pacifism, for the anger of God, and the murdered, or his family has not been pacified.

It is not peace, for there is no peace for the dead or his family. It is not philanthropy, the love of man, for it despises the murdered man and his family.

It is not pity, for it has no pity for the innocent pleas of the murdered victim.

### **This Generation Approves Of Murder!**

It starts by murdering babies and calling it abortion.

It ends by murdering the elderly and calling it euthanasia.

In between, Hollywood promotes it in violent productions and defends it with sob story dramas to end capital punishment;

The educational machinery mollifies it by behavioral psychology and capital punishment "debates".

The media makes victims the culprits and murderers the victims; video games use it for entertainment; rap artists sing about it; and attorneys profit from it.

Truth and wisdom have failed from the earth. The Pope profanes human life by protecting murderers.

Educators lie about capital punishment as a deterrent.

The government prosecutes mercy killing of unwanted snakes, but defends the violent killing of babies.

The media rabidly sensationalizes the rare executions of innocent persons. And flunking college students are interviewed for their opinions about capital punishment!

Humans arrive absolutely helpless, needing to be spoon fed and wrapped in a giant sanitary cloth. They go to school to learn to color with crayons, that their ancestors were apes, that two men and a baby are normal, and that the Ten Commandments are illegal and stupid.

After graduating, without a day's experience at any aspect of real life, with their greatest accomplishment the securing of a drivers' license, they inhale Cannabis sativa with their professor and declare against capital punishment. Amazing progress!

But God has spoken! The issue is settled! God said it; we believe it; that settles it! God alone has wisdom, and He has revealed it in the Bible.

Murderers should be killed immediately! No protection; no satisfaction; no pity; no jury. Just get rid of them. If it were done speedily, in minutes or hours, the murder rate would plummet (*Ecclesiastes 8:11*).

The blood of 1,500,000 helpless babies a year cries to the LORD from American incinerators.

This nation is murderous, and they are laughing themselves to hell. But God is not mocked. Blood defiles a nation, and the only satisfaction God will accept is the blood of the murderers (*Numbers 35:33*).

Every murderer in this nation, and every person who promotes their protection, will face the great and dreadful God of heaven (*Ecclesiastes 5:8*).

The rabid Jews screamed for the blood of Jesus of Nazareth. They exchanged the life of a seditious murderer, Barabbas, for the innocent life of the Lamb of God.

Trial before Herod and Pilate proved His innocence, yet they screamed, "*Crucify him!*" They said, "*His blood be on us, and on our children*" (*Matthew 27:25*).

God allowed the slaughter and starvation of 1,100,000 Jews by the Roman armies under Titus Caesar in 70 AD. Jesus prophesied this just event as revenge for innocent blood (*Matthew 23:35-36*).

Rome and her popes are also very guilty. The current edition of the Man of Sin decries abortion and interferes in nations to protect murderers, but his church has a documented history of murder far exceeding the brutality of Hitler and Stalin.

Yet he is fleeing to the pit as well, for every day takes him closer to meeting God. The altar of God in heaven shelters the souls of the martyrs who are still crying for blood vengeance (*Revelation 6:9-11*).

Now hear this, Christian reader. Our Lord took the sixth commandment, "*Thou shalt not kill*," and applied it broadly to unjustified anger and name-calling (*Matthew 5:21-26*).

The Lord, also argued the thought of adultery was equal to the deed, as others had before Him (*Proverbs 6:25; 24:9; Job 31:1-12; Malachi 2:10-16; Matthew 5:27-32*).

Are you a murderer? Have you repented in fear and trembling? God's law is exceeding broad (*Psalms 119:96*).

By clear and obvious implication, all serious personal offences against a man are murder! Anger, backbiting, false accusing, envy, hatred, malice, railing, reviling, slandering, strife, talebearing, and whispering are murder! The person that commits them is a murderer, in the eyes of the only true Judge!

Can God forgive a murderer? Definitely! The precious blood of Christ can cleanse away the guilt and punishment of any sin. He forgave Moses, and He forgave David, and He forgave Saul of Tarsus.

Jesus died as the Substitute for many murderers, which will result in glorious praise throughout eternity. But His mercy in legal satisfaction to God does not modify our duty.

Where sin abounds, either in magnitude or multitude, grace doth more abound (*Romans 5:20-21*).

Let every murderer, of any sort, flee to the only altar of forgiveness, where the murdered Savior pleads, "*Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.*"

***Proverbs 28:18 Whoso walketh uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.***

You are making decisions today that determine how soon you will fall and ruin your life.

**If you walk wisely according to the Words of truth in the Bible, you will be saved from falling and destroying your life.**

**If you choose to be contrary and rebellious, no one is going to get hurt but you. God has already guaranteed your ruin!**

Walking uprightly is living a lifestyle of godliness, righteousness, and wisdom. Those who do so are the great and noble men of the world, and they are blessed and favored by God and men (*Proverbs 11:5-6; 28:6; Psalm 84:11*).

How do you walk uprightly? Learn and obey the plain precepts of God's Word, which govern every aspect of life (*Psalms 119:105, 128*)!

God and men will save such noble characters, because they have integrity and virtue in all their actions. The blessing of God is upon the righteous; He hears their cries for help.

God delivers those who walk uprightly from trouble; and He prospers their way (*Proverbs 12:2; Psalm 34:11-17; 37:23*).

Judges and good men also favor the causes of men that walk uprightly (*Proverbs 22:11; Romans 5:7*).

**If you choose to live perversely: Doing things your own way, doing things contrary to the Scriptures of God, you are headed for destruction! Guaranteed! And Soon!**

You may already be down, but you are too perverse to even recognize that your life is a failure. A foolish approach to life, no matter how much you like it, is doomed to failure (*Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; Psalm 36:2*).

God will take you down, He has promised to destroy the proud and the wicked (*Proverbs 16:18; 21:15*).

God's integrity and jealousy demands that He punish you, **If you are so obstinate as to neglect or rebel against His instruction** (*Proverbs 28:9; Psalm 5:4-6; 36:10-12; 37:1-2*).

The lesson is simple enough, **If you continue in disobedience, your future is ruined.**

When the builders of the Tower of Babel rebelled, God confused their languages and they stopped building.

When men held idols in their hearts, God allowed their deception by their prophets they believed (*Ezekiel 14:6-9*).

A false prophet's method of teaching causes others to fall, unlike God's Word (*Isaiah 28:9-13*).

Jesus was a stumbling block to many, and the Pharisees fell along with their duped followers (*Luke 2:34; Romans 9:33; 1Corinthians 1:23; 1Peter 2:8; Matthew 15:12-15*).

Perverse men stumble through life, because they cannot see clearly, their foolish hearts have no light at all, and they reject the light of Scripture (*Proverbs 4:19*).

But the path of the just is as the shining light: good and honest men see more and more clearly as they pass through life: missing the potholes, pitfalls, and chasms that others fall into (*Proverbs 4:18*).

And then their good works guarantee they shall never fall at the judgment seat of Christ (*2Peter 1:10-11*)!

***Proverbs 28:19 He that tilleth his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that followeth after vain persons shall have poverty enough.***

Do you want to be financially successful? Then do a basic job well, day after day, obeying the economic wisdom in Proverbs. It will work! God guarantees it!

Stop going to promotional meetings, hating to work for others, listening to too-good-to-be-true investment ideas, or daydreaming about a better life.

Make pleasure and rest your last thoughts (*Proverbs 21:17, 20*).

Perform consistent hard work at a needed job! Stop following the lying promises of promoters that will not work! Learn wisdom: love work: hate distractions!

Men by nature are greedy and lazy. They want more of the good things of life than others have, but they want to exert themselves less than others to get them!

They are tempted by two economic sins: <sup>1</sup>To resent their basic jobs and <sup>2</sup>To listen to pipe dreams.

**Learn Wisdom  
Love Work  
Hate Greed!**

Because Solomon had observed these temptations destroying men's financial lives, he repeated this Proverb in similar language (*Proverbs 12:11*).

Who in the world wants to be a farmer, when he could be a real estate tycoon, driving a sports car and making deals on his cell phone, for purchasing houses with no money down?

Who would choose to be a nurse, when she could be an international photographer, for an Internet news magazine?

Who would be a factory slave, when you could use multilevel marketing of a mineral substitute for Viagra, made from sea salt to live on a yacht by 30?

Farming was not the only job in Solomon's day. But it best illustrated the lesson of this Proverb.

Farming required hard work, planning, patience, and repetition.

Farming was the most basic of jobs, using the earth to produce food, and/or to use the food to raise cattle or other animals for various products.

But tilling a field behind a mule became boring and stupid when you heard fantastic rumors of network marketing, for riches in selling soap!

#### **The Tortoise Beats The Hare Financially.**

While the tortoise plods forward an inch at a time toward his economic goals, the hare runs at full speed from distraction to distraction, some costing him precious capital, and all costing him valuable time.

When they come to the day of reckoning, the faithful labors, sound investments, and patience of the tortoise have given him a comfortable estate. The hare is exhausted, frustrated, and broke!

Solomon despised get-rich-quick schemes. He saw poor men making good income, but foolish ideas wasting it (*Proverbs 13:23*).

Solomon saw diligent labor in a basic job brings success (*Proverbs 27:18*).

Solomon saw talking about financial fantasies makes men poor (*Proverbs 14:23*).

Solomon saw getting distracted from the job at hand is terrible (*Proverbs 27:23-27*).

Solomon saw increase is by strength and sound leverage, not scheming (*Proverbs 14:4*).

Solomon saw financial exceptions destroying fools looking for a free lunch (*Proverbs 1:32*).

Vain persons are everywhere, especially with radio, television, telephones, magazines, newspapers, the Internet, and email.

Vain persons promote the rich and famous, though they are only 1 out of 10,000.

Vain persons offer impossible returns to steal your savings for themselves.

The government offer lotteries that are nothing but a tax on the poor and stupid.

Liars flaunt the extravagant lifestyle of multilevel marketing "successes," while ignoring the 98% that bought the overpriced product to pay for their "success."

The net result of these and all other financial "shortcuts" is always negative - you lose!

Why do any listen to such nonsense? Why would anyone consider lies from a person trying to fleece them of their hard earned money? There are only a few reasons.

All of them are sins. Two have been given: <sup>1</sup>Discontentment with your job and <sup>2</sup>Covetousness for a different life.

**In addition:** Some do not like submitting to other men, which is simply pride and rebellion.

And some through willful ignorance do not examine things with a critical and pessimistic eye to avoid liars (*Proverbs 14:15; 15:22; 27:12; 1Thessalonians 5:21*).

The present generation is obsessed with ease and pleasure, amusement, games, recreation, sports, and relaxation, but these things ruin men economically.

**If** you love pleasure, you are going to be a poor man (*Proverbs 21:17*).

**If** you love sleep, you are going to be a poor man (*Proverbs 20:4, 13*).

**If** you love this lifestyle, you will learn to despise work, because it is not as much fun to you as riotous living and sleeping in (*Proverbs 19:15*).

**If** you love this lifestyle, you will waste your money on foolish amusements (*Proverbs 21:20; Luke 15:13*).

**If** you love this childish lifestyle will take you down (*Proverbs 23:21*).

Your safety is in God's Word. Hard work works (*Proverbs 10:4; 13:4; 22:29*).

Haste makes financial waste (*Proverbs 19:2; 28:20, 22*).

Believe nothing without proof, especially testimonials or "results" above market rates (*Proverbs 13:11; 14:15; 22:3*).

Taking the easy road will ruin you economically (*Proverbs 6:9-11; 24:30-34*).

Only one document in the world is totally true, the Bible. Everyone and everything else are liars (*Romans 3:4*).

Obey this Proverb, love your job, do it well each day, thank God for success!

**If** you scoff at or neglect this Proverb, you will wake up poor with a hardworking neighbor ruling over you.

### **Proverb Lessons Apply To Religious Pursuits**

There is no get-spiritual-quick seminar or television offering, that can compete, with daily prayer and Bible reading and listening carefully to the preaching of God's Word (*2Timothy 3:6-7; 4:1-4*).

Do not follow the vain religious personalities that offer their seductive road to God and heaven.

They are liars just like the financial hucksters. There is only one door and Shepherd of the sheep, and the abundant life is obtained by obeying Him and His words (*John 10:1-18*).

There is only one way to heaven: *John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father; but by me.*

***Proverbs 28:20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.***

### **Do You Wish You Could Get Rich Quickly? Repent!**

Wishing to be rich, is a sinful desire, and it will ruin your life.

Wishing to be rich, will distort your judgment, create many temptations for your soul, and bring both natural and supernatural laws against your finances.

Instead, work hard at a noble and useful job and wait for both natural and supernatural blessings to abound (*Proverbs 28:19, 21-22*).

There is context for this Proverb. The faithful man here is a financially faithful man, one rejecting vain persons and working diligently at a farm (*Proverbs 28:19, 21-22*).

God promises prosperity to men who do not get distracted by delusions for quick financial success.

But God warns greedy men, who grasp at get-rich-quick ideas, of coming judgment.

Faithfulness here is: Constant, Persevering, and Steady effort at a wise trade or business.

Faithfulness is contrasted to impulsive and imprudent actions of a man, impatient about money and greedy to get ahead.

Solomon knew men would be tempted to despise boring jobs and/or follow business and investment scams, so he warned you (*Proverbs 12:11; 13:23; 14:23; 28:19*).

### Haste Distorts Judgment

Haste narrows your perspective and shortens your timing, ruining the greater success of a long-term plan (*Proverbs 6:6-8; 12:11; 13:4, 23; 14:4; 30:25*).

Haste suggests temptations that destroy greedy men (*Proverbs 14:15; 15:27; 22:3; 28:21; 1 Timothy 6:6-10*).

Haste brings natural and divine judgment (*Proverbs 20:21; 23:4-5; Ecclesiastes 5:13; Luke 12:15-21*).

Grasp the lesson! Some greedy persons buy lottery tickets or gamble in casinos! Both are guaranteed confiscation leading to financial ruin! The only winner is the state or casino.

The money lost came out of savings, which forfeits future investments. The draw of the "winners" makes it addictive. A real job becomes dull. They are foolish wasters (*Proverbs 18:9*).

These idiots cannot see that lotteries are a device to tax the poor, who have no income or assets to tax (or intelligence to know they are being taxed).

The governmental unit gets them to voluntarily pay extra taxes by hyping the amount in the jackpot. What is the bottom line, every time? The state gains, and the poor get poorer, every time.

Casinos appeal to the more sophisticated. Las Vegas has lots of glitter, posh rooms, live entertainment, buffets of food, and free drinks to loosen your purse.

Based on careful statistics, the house allows winning often enough to keep you playing until they own you.

Consider also a man wanting to get ahead quickly decides he cannot afford to give financially to the Lord. He reasons that he will be a big giver once he is financially comfortable.

By stealing from God, he activates divine laws that will reduce him to poverty, no matter how hard and smart he works (*Proverbs 11:24; Haggai 1:5-10; Malachi 3:8-12*).

Another man lets his medical insurance policy lapse. After all, he has had no claims on it in three years! He puts the premium money to work in several network marketing ideas. Having violated a law of prudence, exposing himself unnecessarily to risk, he is bankrupt

the next year, due to his wife's emergency mastectomy (*Proverbs 6:1-5; 27:12-13*).

Another man frets about interest. Banks are paying 4% annually. But his spam email shows a 25% monthly return, guaranteed! He blesses himself and invests in the Ponzi scheme, showing his family the Lexus he will buy in three months. When the FBI calls, the 4% looks like gold! But it is too late! His haste drove him to believe the impossible!

A conservative man laughs at these examples. He is too smart for any scams. He will not cheat the Lord. He gives 12% every year (which only costs him 7% after taxes)! He ridicules lottery tickets and Ponzi schemes. He works diligently, at two jobs, until he wakes up one day with a heart attack, divorce papers, and children that hate him!

Another man decides saving cramps his lifestyle. He stops saving and trades up in house and cars. He wants the good life now! When a great business deal comes along, he has no capital to invest in it. When he loses his job due to a corporate takeover, he has no emergency fund. He and his wife end up working side by side in a fast food restaurant!

Another man is an accountant. He burns with ambition to be the controller. When the CFO offers him the promotion to inflate earnings for the financial statements, he reasons that he can correct the lie and theft from his new position. It is just a temporary sin. But for some reason, the CFO wants it done again next year. He is damned in his dream job!

A judge with a covetous heart is offered a bribe to fudge a widow's estate in probate. He makes sure that the woman will get enough to live comfortably, but he interprets the will in the favor of his benefactor. He died just two years later from slow and painful brain cancer. His last thought? Why did I forget the Judge of all judges (*Psalms 68:5; Ecclesiastes 5:8*)?

A truck driver hated being known as a truck driver. He received no professional respect. He began to despise his job. When a Rolex-wearing, convertible-driving, always-smiling man told him about multi-level riches in overpriced soap, he sold his rig and jumped in with both feet. He was last seen digging graves by hand, with a garage full of soap!

Another man assessed his finances at year-end. His balance sheet showed little progress. How could he get rich at this pace? The next day was tax day. Surprise! He fudged his tax return just a little. He was last seen in federal prison, without a garage full of soap!

A faithful man accepts the boring job God gave him, works diligently and patiently, saves and gives liberally, hates lies and scams, avoids risk, is scrupulously honest, cares for friends and enemies, and trusts the Lord for daily bread. He was last seen with a sizable



estate, living in contented peace with his only wife, and enjoying his grandchildren.

***Proverbs 28:21 To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.***

#### **A Virtuous Man Has Integrity And Is Fair At All Times.**

A virtuous man wants to exercise righteous judgment and avoid any wresting of truth or justice.

A foolish and wicked man will show preferential treatment to men, when the compromise will benefit him. But this weak disposition makes a man vulnerable to the slightest temptations.

Warnings against financial haste surround our Proverb. Diligent labor works, but vain ideas of quick riches lead to poverty (***Proverbs 28:19***).

A faithful man works diligently and is blessed; a greedy man cheats for riches and is judged (***Proverbs 28:20***).

Greed for riches, rejecting diligent labor, leads men to consider evil ideas; and it will bring them to poverty (***Proverbs 28:22***).

The Bible warns repeatedly against respect of persons, the perverting of judgment for family, friends, the rich, the poor, or those who can benefit you.

True equity and righteous judgment never consider the persons involved, but look only to the facts and justice of the case. God condemns this form of hypocrisy and compromise in many places (***Proverbs 18:5; Exodus 23:2,8; Deuteronomy 1:17; 16:19; 2Chronicles 19:7; James 2:1-10***). See the comments on ***Proverbs 17:23***.

The Holy Spirit through Solomon declared, "*It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment*" (***Proverbs 24:23***).

**And the LORD said,** "*Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour*" (***Leviticus 19:15***).

All men have special friends, even our Lord, Who loved and favored John (***John 13:23***).

Preferences do exist among men, which we can even read about in the best of men (***Genesis 37:3; 1Samuel 18:1; Philippians 2:19-23***).

Any such affection or bias cannot ever enter into their judgment of a case. They must see truth and justice only. However, an ungodly judge must: First require a

great bribe or appeal to cheat justice and compromise his judgment, for his inhibitions against corruption keep him from considering less.

But once he has seared his conscience, it is much easier the next time. Soon he is reduced to violating truth, for the mere proverbial piece of bread, hardly anything at all. He has set a personal precedent and brought his evil heart into motion. God forbid!

Reader, consider your ways. Do you mistrust the teacher criticizing your child due to your sentimental affection for him?

Are you more gracious and serving to successful church members than to others?

Are you more merciful overlooking the faults of friends than enemies? Do you apply company policy equally to friend and foe in the workplace?

Christ's ministers are gravely warned against preference and partiality in the judgment of the church (***1Timothy 5:21***).

For it is a mark of the profane reprobate that admires the more advantaged in the church (***Jude 1:16***).

#### **Every Man Of God Takes Heed!**

Respect of persons cannot be mingled with the religion of Jesus Christ, for it is totally incompatible with the perfect integrity of our Lord and His saints. (***James 2:1***)

Even the enemies of Jesus Christ knew He was impeccably virtuous in this matter (***Matthew 22:16***).

Respect of persons is also a practical shame, for those we generally are tempted to favor by nature are often the enemies of the gospel (***James 2:2-10***).

***Proverbs 28:22 He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.***

#### **Greed Distorts Vision.**

Greed will distort your vision. You will see temptations other men miss, and you will eye everything, as a means for gain. Chasing riches is foolish enough, but pursuing them hastily is a recipe for disaster.

Ambition, covetousness, and greed are the ingredients of financial ruin (***Proverbs 28:20; 1Timothy 6:7-10***).

A wise man is content with his wages and lets God make him rich. He will not pursue damning and elusive wealth, either slowly or hastily.

Haste to be rich, is the impatient lust for more, of a greedy person.

A greedy person, is frustrated by an ordinary job and discontented with ordinary wages.

A greedy person believes he deserves better, he envies successful men, he covets what they have, he believes others owe him, he allows lustful thoughts.

A greedy person's greed for gain perverts his vision.

A greedy person, measures others by how much he might gain by them, rather than how much they could gain from his service to them.

A greedy person's heart and eyes are obsessed with getting ahead financially.

A greedy person is constantly thinking of squeezing more money out of every transaction.

A greedy person wants to buy below market, but he wants to sell above market.

A greedy person begrudges any activity that does not pay. He hates giving charity, but he loves receiving it.

A greedy person, in all his thoughts is about money, he overlooks one great consideration, God and good men will bring the covetous down to poverty.

A greedy person for gain corrupts a man's view of life.

A greedy person is stingy in giving. He is unthankful for receiving.

A greedy person, is overbearing in transactions. He measures relationships financially.

A greedy person, defrauds his family, overworks, underpays, resents taxes, and may even consider bribes.

A greedy person, is angered by acts of God that cost him money. He is easily deceived, by get-rich-quick schemes.

A greedy person despises patient saving. He envies the successful. He is very unhappy.

A wise man scatters his money, knowing it leads to prosperity; he knows miserly thinking leads to poverty and resentment (*Proverbs 11:24-26*).

A wise man considers the poor and is quick to give (*Proverbs 19:17; Psalm 41:1*).

A wise man knows that a little with the fear of the Lord, peace, and righteousness is better than wealth without these things (*Proverbs 15:16-17; 16:8; 17:1; 28:6; Psalm 37:16*).

A wise man is generous and has a good eye, he sees life's priorities correctly (*Proverbs 22:9*).

Tax collectors and occupying soldiers often have evil eyes, using their jobs for greed, but John the Baptist taught precise accounting and contentment with wages (*Luke 3:12-14*).

Heretics, like the mega-church gurus of today, profess gain to be godliness; but they are to be rejected for Jesus Christ's pure doctrine, godliness with contentment is great gain (*1 Timothy 6:3-10*).

Wise men despise riches and willingly give to others (*1 Timothy 6:17-19*).

***Proverbs 28:23 He that rebuketh a man afterwards shall find more favour than he that flattereth with the tongue.***

True friendship and esteem depend on contribution to others' lives. Those who flatter others may have some superficial friends or foolish companions, who enjoy the empty praise.

Those who correct and teach others the way of God more perfectly, will have devoted and thankful friends for the profit they obtain, for their souls and lives.

What does it mean to rebuke? It means to reprove or reprimand another person for some quality or action that is not acceptable.

It is telling another person they are wrong and they need to change.

It means to point out their errors and express strong dislike.

What does it mean to flatter? It means to praise or compliment unduly or insincerely.

It is telling another person positive things merely to make them happy and desirous of your friendship.

It means to play on a person's vanity and cheer them without a good basis.

The Proverb is not comparing two good things and suggesting one is better than the other.

Rebuke is a very good and holy thing, for it stops sin in others' lives and directs them to righteousness.

Flattery is an evil thing, for it comforts and encourages men to continue on, in a course of sin merely for a superficial relationship (*Proverbs 20:19; 29:5; Job 17:5; Psalm 12:2-3*).

True love will rebuke sin in friends. In fact, loving your neighbor requires you to rebuke them for sin. **If** you do not rebuke them, you hate them (*Leviticus 19:17*).

**If** you love someone, you want to help perfect him by pointing out the things that are wrong in his life. You will risk the relationship in order to potentially help him. (*Proverbs 27:5-6; Romans 15:14; 1Thessalonians 5:14*)

The rebuke under consideration here is the reproof or reprimand of sin, as measured by the Word of God.

This Proverb has nothing to do with matters of liberty, because neither God nor good men care what you think in matters of liberty.

No man has any right to judge in matters that God has not judged in the Bible. Personal opinion is just that! Consider the value of rebuke. There can be no progress without change, and there can be no change without correction, and correction means rebuke for doing something the wrong way!

Disciplinarian fathers will be loved more in the long run than pampering fathers. Athletes generally appreciate severe coaches for getting the most out of them.

### **Flattery Does No One Any Good!**

Flattery merely wastes the earth's oxygen and creates noise pollution! You leave such a person worse for the experience, no matter how pleasant the flattery sounded at the moment.

Eventually a righteous person will avoid flatterers, for they actually desire rebuke (*Proverbs 27:9; Psalm 141:5*).

Great men and women are trees of life: They nourish others with wisdom (*Proverbs 10:21; 11:30*).

Most people are quite worthless, because they never contribute to the profit or perfection of others.

Most people are too fearful to help. They are too ignorant to help. They are too selfish to help. Instead of being trees of life, they are merely rotting fence posts!

The value and vitality of a church depends on the practice of this Proverb. There are two great benefits! <sup>1</sup>**If** church members fulfilled their roles of rebuking one another for sin, a church would grow in grace and holiness (*Romans 15:14; Ephesians 4:16; 1Thessalonians 5:14; Hebrews 3:12-13; 10:24-25*).

<sup>2</sup>Look again at the Proverb! The church would grow in love and true esteem for one another by the benefit gained from the wise and godly rebukes!

Most churches are little more than superficial social clubs. After a short session of a form of godliness, which they call a worship service, they engage in idle chitchat and inane bantering. Then they go home backbiting and slandering one another.

God forbid! They ought to be soberly confessing their faults to one another, exhorting one another to greater godliness, and rebuking any known sins (*Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 4:29; James 5:16,19-20*).

Why do most Christians never correct or rebuke anyone in matters of godliness? Because: They reject the truth of this wisdom! They assume the way to obtaining and maintaining friends is flattery, comfortable chitchat, and foolish talking.

They fear losing friends and their favor, the very opposite of God's wisdom, so they never reprove others for sin.

What is the reward of rebuking others? God is pleased that you have fulfilled your role and kept His commandment, and the man you rebuked will love you for it (*Proverbs 9:7-9*).

However, he may not love you at the moment of your rebuke! And for this you must be prepared! Remember the Proverb! It says he will love you "afterwards"!

Children will obey strict training when they are old, though maybe not that week (*Proverbs 22:15; Hebrews 12:11*)!

The Lord Jesus Christ, our preeminent example, was always correcting, rebuking, and instructing those He met in life, whether disciples or enemies.

Paul did the same thing, spending his life to correct and reprove the sin he found in lives. Righteous men and women loved them both, for they appreciated the holy efforts to perfect their lives.

**If** a person were properly convicted about the coming Day of Judgment, there would be little time for anything else but perfecting others by wise rebuke and instruction.

Once you stand before the King of kings, you will wish with all your heart others had rebuked you more, and others will wish with all their hearts you had rebuked them more! Why make it the great Day of Regret? Gently and wisely rebuke sin where you see it today!

***Proverbs 28:24 Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.***

Here are two sins. Robbing a father or mother is a very wicked crime, for the child is already in debt to them

for his whole life. But to minimize or mock such a heinous sin is even worse. God shall judge such perverse fools with the severity He judges murderers.

The LORD God commanded, "*Thou shalt not steal*" (*Exodus 20:15; Deuteronomy 5:19*).

Stealing was punished by multiple restitution, determined by the circumstances; and if a man could not pay, he was sold as a slave to pay it off by hard labor (*Proverbs 6:31; Exodus 22:1-4*).

He was not given a private room at a boarding house, fed three square meals a day, and allowed to play basketball and read magazines all day, as in our modern prison system.]

But to steal from a father or mother is a very aggravated case of theft. A child is already in perpetual debt to parents for having conceived, carried, birthed, trained, and provided for him (*1 Timothy 5:4*).

It shows a dead conscience and a perverse soul. It shows that the natural obligation to cherish parents is rejected, and It shows that ingratitude is added to injustice!

It shows that there is no limit, to the wickedness that such a base person, will degenerate to in his profane greed.

The history of the patriarchs is often the sad story of horrible sins. In light of our Proverb, we see Rachel stealing her father's idols, hiding them from his search, and deceiving him with false propriety (*Genesis 31:19, 34-35*).

Is it any wonder she died shortly thereafter in much pain, and quite prematurely, in the birth of her second son (*Genesis 35:16-20*)!

This profane sinner is not content merely stealing from his parents. He also ridicules the seriousness of the crime. He presumes that what they have is his, and he need not feel any guilt for taking it for himself.

He would be offended to be called a thief and robber, but the Lord counts him as a wicked man, and will deal with him accordingly (*Proverbs 21:7*).

While domestic crimes may be minimized in some circles, since they are merely family matters; they are not minimized in God's holy Word.

Base men might reason that it is not much of a crime, since children are heirs of the family estate anyway. They are simply taking early what they will have in the end. But God and Solomon classify this despicable person as the companion of a destroyer.

How can a person rob his father or mother? He can literally steal their assets, whether it is money from a mother's purse or a credit card from a father's wallet.

He can take tools, food, jewelry, furnishings, pictures, or many other things without permission. If purloining from a master is condemned, how much more small thefts from a parent (*Titus 2:9-10*)!

Every wise reader will confess any such sin to his Heavenly Father and make full restitution to his parents, even if the crime occurred decades ago!

How can a person rob father or mother? He can abuse family assets like house and cars; He can neglect caring for the things given to him by his parents.

He can squander the money given to him for his future; He can party at college instead of doing his academic best; He can waste his parents' estate by riotous living.

He can run up debts his father must pay; He can ruin his father's credit by not repaying loans on a timely basis; He can rob his father's good name by his wicked conduct!

All of these are examples of how a child may waste his parents (*Proverbs 19:26*).

How can a person rob father or mother? He can withhold the honor, He can withhold service, and He can withhold support they deserve in old age.

God considers stinginess at such a time to be a denial of the Christian faith and worse conduct than an infidel (*1 Timothy 5:8*).

Let the noble example of Joseph nourishing his father Jacob in Egypt be our guide (*Genesis 45:9-13; 47:11-12, 27-28*).

In Jesus' day, wicked Jews promised or willed their assets to the temple in order to keep from supporting their parents.

Our Lord condemned them for their false piety and charged them with violating God's plain commandment to honor parents. Even though the stated purpose was giving to God, it did not matter in Christ's judgment. (*Matthew 15:1-9*)

God is not mocked by such fools! They will be severely judged. "*Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap*" (*Galatians 6:7*).

"*But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the LORD: and be sure your sin will find you out*" (*Numbers 32:23*).

"*The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it*" (*Proverbs 30:17*).

Amen! There is a God in heaven that does not cater to willful children!

Our Lord Jesus Christ was in subject to His parents while a child (*Luke 2:51*).

Our Lord Jesus Christ diligently provided for His mother, even while expiring on the cross (*John 19:26-27*).

Our Lord Jesus Christ never robbed them of a thing, and He highly honored them for their relationship to Him.

Let every reader consider this noble example and fulfill it perfectly with his own parents.

***Proverbs 28:25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.***

**Pride Causes Fighting  
Faith Brings Prosperity.**

Here are two rules of wisdom: One saves us from conflicts and disagreements, and One brings blessing and success.

These are opposites: proud men do not trust the LORD, and those who have faith in the LORD are not proud. You cannot be both. Are you a proud heart or a man of faith?

A man with a proud heart will always be in conflicts, with most everyone at different times.

His pride will not let matters drop, for he must avenge himself. Until he feels he has got the last word or act in on a disagreement, he will continue to push, fight, and disagree.

Pride will not overlook minor offences; pride will not admit error or ignorance.

Pride will not easily forgive those who seek it; pride will not easily say, "I am sorry".

Pride does not want to be corrected, and it resents those who make an attempt to do it.

Pride resents the advantages of others, and it seeks to grab whatever honor or position is at stake. Pride does not have sympathetic appreciation for the pain of others.

When a person has pride in their heart, they will not have peaceful relationships with others. A proud husband will not forgive his wife for her minor failures.

A proud wife will not submit and obey the husband she chose to be her leader. And proud children will not honor and obey parents in rules that encroach on their freedom or pleasure.

And proud employees resent difficult assignments; and proud church members resent pastoral rebukes.

Humility can end any conflict by giving in and seeking peace. When a person is at peace with God and themselves, they can overlook the offences of others, they can forgive easily, and they can take correction.

They know they are not important, so they do not continue fighting. Submitting and seeking peace is more important than winning the day.

**Another Way To Live  
Than By Pride.**

Wise men, godly men, put their trust in the LORD. They do not have to protect themselves, the LORD will protect them.

They do not have to resent correction, oppose others, and fight to get ahead. The LORD rewards their faith by blessing them by His power.

The humble man who trusts the LORD will always outstrip the proud man who puts his confidence in himself. Always!

Fat is good, when it means God's blessings of peace and prosperity. And the man who believes God will take care of him, without any fighting on his part, will become fat.

He will have the blessing and protection of the LORD on his side. He will enjoy peace and safety, while the LORD rewards him for laying down his pride and trusting Him alone.

***Proverbs 28:26 He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.***

**You Are Your Own Worst Enemy.**

You have within you a voice that is dearer than the voice of God or any angel or man.

This voice can comfort and convince you against any teaching or warning.

This voice is with you twenty-four hours a day, and it always tells you what you want to hear and believe.

This voice helps you make most decisions. You are a fool! Your heart has a strong opinion on any subject, whether you know anything about that subject or not.

Your heart reacts in an instant against criticism or reproofs, and it controls you with passionate desire for something it wants.

Your heart can lull you to sleep about matters it says are unimportant, and it can keep you from sleeping out of envy or hate.

Solomon used heart, in this Proverb as a metonym for you: Affections, Inclinations, and Thoughts.

It is your internal set of desires and needs that affects your decision-making. This is not your conscience. This is your anti-conscience! This is the set of passions that drives most men and women.

God has spoken about your heart. He said, "*The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?*" (**Jeremiah 17:9**).

**If** you listen to your heart, you are a fool! **If** you follow your heart, you are a fool! **If** you make decisions even partially influenced by your heart, you are a fool!

You are submitting to the most deceitful, depraved, and dangerous source of information on earth. Your heart has gotten you into more trouble in the past than all your enemies combined!

You are your own worst enemy. Wisdom is the power to choose truth against your heart!

Adam died in the Garden of Eden the day he ate the forbidden fruit, according to the Word of the Lord (**Genesis 2:17; 3:6-8**).

Since he physically died 930 years later, what happened to him the day he took the fruit from Eve and ate it (**Genesis 5:5**)?

What died? Not his intellect. He was as intelligent after sin as before sin. Not his power of observation. He could perceive naturally as well after sin as before sin. He was still mentally sane.

Adam's affections for God and spiritual inclinations had died. He was now totally depraved without any desire to seek God, please God, or obey God.

Rather than beg for forgiveness, he made aprons of fig leaves. Rather than repent, he hid in the garden. Rather than confess his sin, he blamed Eve for the mess.

Adam was now entirely motivated by selfish impulses that were dead toward God and others (**Psalms 14:1-3; Romans 3:9-18**).

Today it is totally acceptable to trust and follow your heart. In fact, you are taught that your heart can decide what is right for you.

One man will leave a church and say, "I did not feel right in my heart there." A man will leave his wife and children for a younger woman, saying, "My heart was not in my marriage any longer." A man will quit his job and become a homeless loafer by saying, "I am going to follow my heart." All are fools!

The primary method of teaching today, even at the university level, is to trust your heart.

After the professor presents several contradictory views of capital punishment, he asks the bright-eyed little students, "What do you think?"

This is not teaching! This is corrupting youth by flattering the idiocy and pride of their hearts!

This is conditioning them to think that their opinions are worth considering! This leads to hating anyone that criticizes or opposes them, especially a Bible preacher without a university degree!

Teenagers defy parents because their wicked hearts tell them they are right and their parents are wrong.

Adulterers pursue other women because their profane hearts tell them they deserve it and no one will be hurt.

The self-righteous leave a church because their hearts tell them their pastor had no right to criticize them like that.

Pornography addicts justify another look based on their heart excusing such an innocent thing.

Where does following your heart lead? To destruction! Which is understood in this Proverb by comparison to the parallel clause.

Fools will be hurt and punished, for their decisions are based on the feelings, lusts, and arrogance of their own hearts. What felt so good in the beginning becomes painfully destructive in the end (**Proverbs 14:12; 16:2, 25; 21:2**).

The wise man, who follows God's wisdom rather than his heart's lies, will be saved.

#### **True Wisdom:**

- Is learning to mistrust your heart,
- Is learning to reject its voice, and
- Is learning to make all decisions on the basis of absolute and objective truth.

Where is such a fabulous source for decision-making? In the inspired Words of the living God recorded in the Bible.

It is by learning God's Words and training yourself to make decisions based on them that you can be wise and

saved from the deceitful impulses of your depraved heart (*Psalms 19:7; 119:130*).

The purpose for preaching the Word of God, is to wage war against your heart.

The purpose for preaching the Word of God, is to cast down all your imaginations and thoughts and bring them into captivity to the obedience of Jesus Christ (*2Corinthians 10:4-6*).

The purpose for preaching the Word of God, is to know you do not have a right to your thoughts; you have a responsibility to right thoughts!

The purpose for preaching the Word of God, is also to know most contemporary Christians are obsessed with their hearts and thoughts.

The purpose for preaching the Word of God, is to measure everything by how well it matches up with their hearts! Fools!

How wise are you, reader? Ready for a test?  
Whom do you have a grudge against?

Is it right in the light of God's Word? If not, what will you do about it?

**If** you are a Christian woman, do you always dress in modest apparel with discreet accessories and conservative makeup? **If** not, what will you do about it? The degree of your wisdom is the degree to which you can crush your heart to submit to the Words of God in the Bible.

**If** you learn to walk wisely by the directions of God's commandments, He will deliver you from all the pitfalls and obstacles that clobber and confuse your heart-following neighbors.

**If** you will trust Him and not lean toward your own understanding, God will direct your paths in good ways.

Your future happiness, prosperity, and success depend on your efforts to hate vain thoughts and love the truth of His Words (*Psalms 119:113, 128*).

***Proverbs 28:27 He that giveth unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hideth his eyes shall have many a curse.***

What do you think when you see a poor person in need?

- "I don't want to get involved."
- "Someone else will take care of them."
- "Their situation is none of my business."
- "I don't have enough money myself."
- "I'll help another time."
- "They may be lazy freeloaders."

- "I could become poor giving money away."

This kind of thinking will cause God to curse you with many troubles.

Do you want to prosper and be protected? Give to the poor.

- You will never lose giving to the poor.
- You will always gain!
- You are thinking mathematically, but God will bless providentially!

This economic mystery is not taught in any business school in the world, but it is a law of Bible economics.

Despise or ignore it to your own peril and poverty! Giving to the poor is lending to the LORD, and He will certainly repay what you give (*Proverbs 19:17; 22:9; 28:8; Deuteronomy 15:7-18; Psalms 41:1-3; 112:1-10; Hebrews 6:10*).

The LORD is involved financially and economically in the world. He makes men and nations either poor or rich (*Proverbs 10:22; 1Samuel 2:7; Job 34:29; Psalm 33:12-22; Isaiah 10:5-19*).

It is the LORD that gives promotions (*Psalms 75:6-7*).

God grants witty inventions and wealth (*Proverbs 8:12-21*).

Pagans cannot see or measure God's work, so they reject the fact. But that is fine, for believers can then easily have the edge financially and spiritually over Pagans (*Proverbs 1:32; 28:11; Ecclesiastes 7:18*).

The LORD operates above accounting rules, budgets, and econometric models! It is a rule of Bible economics that you can get farther and faster ahead financially by throwing your money away. The rule is certain, it is simply your faith that is weak.

Cast off the pagan mentality, and believe God! You can get ahead by throwing money away to the poor (*Proverbs 11:24-28; 28:8; Ecclesiastes 11:1-6; Malachi 3:8-12; Luke 6:38; 2Corinthians 9:6-11*).

The rule is so powerful that a goal of working hard should be to have money to give away (*Ephesians 4:28*)!

**If** you think prosperity comes by being financially conservative and frugal in matters of charity, you are on your way to the poor house. Your economic "prudence" will ruin you!

The LORD is able to put holes in your bags to cause your wages to dribble away. **If** you are even a little miserly in an effort to help the poor and to hold on to your money it will fail (*Proverbs 11:24-28; Haggai 1:5-11*).

The rule is as certain as any other Bible truth. You have been told! Believe it! Do it!

But God has promised much more, if you will consider the poor and give for his needs. God will bless you and your family for many generations (*Isaiah 58:3-12*)!

Believe it! You can lay up a good foundation, for the Day of Judgment and lay hold on eternal life (*1 Timothy 6:17-19*).

Jesus Christ will provide His accounting of your giving before God as the evidence of your righteousness (*Matthew 10:42; 25:31-46*).

***Proverbs 28:28 When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.***

### **Political Polls And Surveys Lie.**

Political Polls have a severe bias.

Political Poll results are distorted. Political Polls understate the righteous, when wicked men are ruling. Only when the wicked are gone, do the righteous appear.

This is more than merely a statistical margin of error.

When the wicked come to power, righteous men hide; when the wicked are removed, the righteous speak up. Promoting the righteous or rejecting the wicked will accelerate national revival.

Analyze the Proverb. It has a parallel construction, as do many Proverbs. Its two clauses are contrasted by the disjunctive conjunction, "but." You must compare and contrast the terms of the two clauses to define any one of them correctly.

Proverbs are dark sayings that take a little patience and work, but they can be interpreted and understood (*Proverbs 1:6*).

How do "*the wicked rise*"? They are promoted into public power or popularity, which is the opposite of "*perish*" in the second clause.

What "*men hide themselves*"? Righteous men, as indicated by "*the righteous*" of the second clause.

What does hide mean? It means to avoid publicity, which is known by comparing and contrasting "*hide*" and "*increase*."

When wicked men are in authority, righteous men disappear from view; but when those wicked men are

removed from power, righteous men come out of hiding and are visible.

The lesson is easy. The wicked hate the righteous and want to destroy them. The righteous hate and fear the wicked (*Proverbs 29:27; Psalm 139:21-22*).

Much of Proverbs is political advice from King Solomon to his son. Here he taught the importance of putting righteous men in positions of power.

**If** he did, it would greatly increase the public contribution of noble and wise men.

**If** he chose otherwise, these men would disappear (*Proverbs 11:10; 28:12; 29:2*).

When sin and sinners are widespread and honored, the love of truth dries up (*Matthew 24:12*).

Political pundits in the US have called hidden conservatives the "silent majority." They have been surprised election after election by a powerful voting bloc that showed poorly in polls and surveys. The nation was more conservative than they could measure!

Conservatives were hiding during liberal leadership and trends. Without knowing the Bible, these pundits and the election results they forecast confirmed the Proverb's lesson.

Though the liberal enemies of righteousness and truth are vocal, and though they spend much to promote their profane agendas, they overlook many voters, that are still somewhat conservative and that are sick of the foolish changes and leaders being pushed at them.

Though loud liberals laud their adorable candidate, he loses to his conservative opponent that seemed to have no chance, until the time came for real people to stand up.

Of course, there are several compromised definitions in this modern day example of a "silent majority."

1. No political pundit knows God's definition of truly righteous men! True Biblical righteousness and wisdom are not options at the polls.
2. Truly righteous men have never been and never will be anything close to a majority!

Why would godly men and women in the U.S. expose themselves today? They have no Bible mandate to go public! They know the government, the educational system, the mass media, public opinion, and the entertainment combine are all against them.

The best among these cannot discern between creation and evolution, Jehovah and Allah, Jesus and Mohammed.



Why argue with dumb? Why subject the truth to ridicule? Why risk retaliation? Read **Proverbs 23:9; Matthew 7:6; and 2Thessalonians 3:1-2.**

The true saints of God remain hidden today, just as the 7,000 in the days of Ahab and Jezebel (**1Kings 19:1-18**).

Personal revival by a leader will foster revival. When King Asa followed the Lord fully, many strangers from other nations joined him (**2Chronicles 15:8-9**).

It also occurred under King Hezekiah (**2Chronicles 30:17, 25-26**).

When Haman was killed in Persia, many converted to Judaism (**Esther 8:17**).

When God killed an enemy of the early church, Herod Agrippa I, the gospel spread (**Acts 12:23-24**).

And when "Bloody Mary," Queen Mary I Tudor, died in 1558 by the grace of God, the hidden righteous in England came into fuller view.

The wisdom is easy to follow. In any society, good leaders cause virtuous persons to come forth. Put a wicked person in power, and these valuable people will disappear, out of contempt for evil men and/or fear of persecution and/or discouragement.

To the degree wise men are promoted in a business, wise employees will increase.

To the degree a pastor is holy and righteous, his church will grow in holy and righteous members.

To the degree a father is noble and virtuous, his family will grow in nobility and virtue.

The churches of Jesus Christ have been hidden from the world for most of their existence, just as Daniel and John prophesied (**Daniel 7:19-28; Revelation 12:12-17**).

A great empire beast in two forms, pagan and papal Rome, tried successively to destroy them (**Revelation 12:3; 13:1**).

But God preserved them by His gracious care in hidden places, from Rome's catacombs to Wales' mountains.

Under converted or tolerant rulers, these churches and saints prospered until the next reign of terror or epidemic of carnality.

True saints are seldom seen today, as they hide from two enemies, pagan public policy and carnal Christianity.