

PROVERBS 3:1-12

NEXT [4:1-15, 20-27](#)

INTRODUCTION:

Wisdom is the principal theme of this book. Wisdom keeps us in harmony with the principles and purposes that the Lord had built into His world so that as we obey God everything works for us and not against us. King Solomon is the author of the Book of Proverbs. ¹King Solomon ruled the nation of Israel for 40 years. He brought peace and wealth to the nation. When he was young, Solomon obeyed God. He asked God for wisdom, and God gave it to him (1 Kings 3:9, 12). Solomon learned and wrote many proverbs (wise words). He spoke 3000 proverbs (1 Kings 4:32) and his songs were a thousand and five. The Book of Proverbs contains many wise sayings about the practical affairs of everyday life.

God wants His people to be wise. Two kinds of people portray two contrasting paths of life. The fool is the wicked, stubborn person who hates or ignores God. The wise person seeks to know (have a relationship) and love God by obeying Him.

3:1 My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments: *"My son"* tells us who this message is to. Solomon encourages his son to appreciate wisdom so that it would direct him. The law would be God's divine instructions, which is what Solomon followed. Learn the law first so you won't forget it. In order **not to forget** the Word, keep it in your heart. How does one **keep it in his heart**? He can't take it for granted but he would truly and sincerely observe the commandments daily. With the Word of God in your heart shows that you are applying what you've learned. As the child does this, he grows to depend on God instead of others. Our children need guidance from their parents but the parents are not to be their gods, but the children are to be dependent upon the Lord.

3:2 For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee. When we don't forget about what we've been taught, and when we've kept what we've learned in our heart, we've got to know that all of this is not for nothing!

What do we get? We will get:

- Length of days
- Long life
- Peace

This is a threefold blessing to them that keep God's Commandments. This seems to cover life on earth and throughout eternity in heaven, crowned by *"peace,"* which is the Hebrew word *"Shalom"*; a peace of mind; a peace to stabilize us.

¹ <http://www.easyenglish.info/bible-commentary/proverbs1-9-lbw.htm>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

3:3 Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:

²"*Mercy*" shows love to the utmost, for God and for man. "*Truth*" cannot be underestimated. It is beyond compromise. Do not forfeit these, but live up to them, and preserve interest in them. If a person could have the two most important strengths of character, it would be mercy and truth. The result of the implant of God's grace and truth in our heart will become for us a good reputation before God and men. Having mercy and truth are action words towards others. This "*binding them about the neck*", I believe, just means to treasure them highly and don't lose them somewhere along the way. "*Write them upon the tables of thine heart*" has to do with the heart dictating a person's actions. It isn't enough for a believer to carry the bible in their hands; they must let the Holy Spirit write it on their hearts where the word will come up at any and all times.

3:4 So shalt thou find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man. When we keep "*mercy*" (lovingkindness) in our outward demonstration and "*truth*" in our inward heart, we will "*find favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.*" What that says to me is that you will begin to seek God's wisdom and in the time of crisis, you will not be frustrated because you didn't forsake mercy and truth; you rendered mercy and truth to others; you showed respect by not trying to compete in others' failure. And mercy and truth with good understanding will always be good in God's sight. The door of favor is always open. However, our understanding about making intelligent choices comes from knowing God is in charge of this favor and He allows the door of favor with Him and man.

3:5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. "*Trust*" is the conviction of knowing who God is and what God can do; your dependency is in nothing else but the Lord. It means that you have prayed about the situation and God has given wisdom to believe. Trust is not supposed to come from the head or what you think but from what God had placed in your *heart*. In verse 4, "*good understanding*", shall you find, and in verse 5 we are not to put our **own understanding** before believing God's wisdom. There is a danger when leaning to our own understanding; we will miss God's Will— something better in which we haven't thought of. What little knowledge that we do have is because of God's generosity towards us. We can do nothing of our own selves without God who should be the head of our lives.

3:6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths. To succeed, said Solomon, we must put God first in our lives. Jesus emphasized this same truth; "*But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness*" *Matt. 6:33*. Acknowledge means to recognize God first; go to God first in prayer to be directed. When you are aware of and have fellowship with God, he directs. The word, "*direct*" means to make smooth or straight. If God's truth is in the heart, you will definitely lean to it and walk in a smooth and straight path. Praise God!

3:7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil. When we become wise in our own eyes, we're then heading for trouble. Wisdom suggests that we take notice of God which is in opposition of the efforts of man; that we humbly recognize Him as that "*One*" who can best control the affairs of our lives. The one who "*fears the Lord*" (reverence and is in awe of Him) walks not in vanity of self-conceit, but "*departs from evil*" (shun, avoid, and abstain evil).

3:8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones. The approach to life will have the effect of producing

² <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/03.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

"*health in the navel*," the lifetime of the body for one who is in a state of dependency. Just like the navel is the means by which the child receives life and nourishment from the mother while it is in the womb, so fearing God and departing from evil gives life to a child of God. Our commitment and dependency on God will show us how to have relief for dryness of bones. No human life can be imagined without the frame that upholds the body and the nervous system that is contained in the bone marrow. ³"*Marrow to thy bones*" or, "*watering*" them is that which irrigates and moistens them, and makes and keeps them strong and solid. Marrow is literally watering, i.e., refreshing. Bones will be continuously refreshed as a man trusts in Yahweh (Job 21:24) and commits to God's wisdom. What marrow is to the bones, well then wisdom, or the fear of God is to the souls of men. It is the means of establishing and strengthening them against sin, and snares and temptations, and to do the will and work of God.

3:9 Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: It did not say honor wealth, but "*honor the Lord with our substance*"; give of your best to the Lord. Many people give their leftovers. However, trusting God will always be proven in the area of a man's stewardship of their material wealth. Stewardship is not an attempt to bribe God and ensure our own wealth. It is a committed response to the God who never forgets the needs of His people. ⁴There are various ways that we can honor the Lord. We can honor the Lord by living a pure life, a holy life, by worshiping Him, by proclaiming His truth. But one very significant and important way to honor the Lord is with our wealth. The tithe ($\frac{1}{10}$) is paid after the money is made.

It is better to give God the first part of our income. For example, when it comes to money, before making any further financial decisions, know that putting God first means that God, who is the first and best, must have the first and best of everything. I give the tenth of my gross not my net. The first fruits belong to the Lord (Deut.18; 4; 26:2). The first fruits are paid in anticipation of what will come. First fruits will be a faith offering. This demonstrates that God, not possessions, has the first place in our lives. If we are stingy, if we withhold the Lord's portion, if we don't give when the Holy Spirit prompts us to give, then we are dishonoring the Lord. Giving to God first helps us conquer greed, helps us properly manage God's resources, and opens us to God's special blessings. It shows that God's people can count on His blessings when they honor Him with their offerings.

3:10 So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine. "*Barns*" are the storehouses. "*Presses*" are the vats of a Roman vineyard, into which the wine flowed through a pipe from the wine-press. Therefore, the honoring of God leads to our material prosperity being filled. Those that do good with what they have shall have more to do more good as God leads. The result of such faithfulness to honor God is prosperity and satisfaction. I believe our "*barns*" today are the banks and our "*presses*" are the CD's and investments shall be filled with plenty and burst with newness.

3:11 My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; neither be weary of his correction: God is our Father who wants to teach us the wise path of life. Since even the wisest of God's children are subject to sin and bring dishonor to God, there is a necessity of God's fatherly discipline to increase wisdom and blessing. Such correction should not be resisted because it keeps us on the right track.

3:12 For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth. Man is born

³ http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/geb/view.cgi?book=pr&chapter=3&verse=8#Pr3_8

⁴ <http://healtheland.wordpress.com/2008/01/22/ways-to-honor-god-proverbs-39-10/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

in sin and practices the art of sinning before he meets the God of grace. Thus the Lord's hand of correction is often found upon us to shepherd us away from sin. And because God delights in us, we must not be weary of His hand upon us or despise His gentle and persistent presence; a presence that is always grounded in His faithfulness. It is a sign of both His displeasure of sin and His love for His children. A humble submission is an essential addition to our growth in spiritual truth (1Pt.5:6).

SUMMARY:

This is fatherly counsel to his son. This would be advice you would give to your son or daughter.

1. ⁵Be faithful (3:3-4)
2. Trust in God (3:5-8)
3. Give (3:9-10)
4. Accept discipline (3:11-12)

When you are **faithful**, you won't forget what you've been taught. I know a lot of times when leaving our parents house, we choose not to follow all the things they've said. But there are some things that you kept in your heart you will always follow and not forget. Those are the things that sticks and will always benefit you! They will in turn yield length of days, long life, and peace. If a person could have the two most important strengths of character, it would be mercy and truth to which God is faithful. A merciful, kind person cares for others in his heart. A truthful, loyal person acts responsibly and faithfully and finds favor and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

Trust is a word that speaks to all of us—children and adults. Who do we trust and how far are we to trust? We are to trust the Lord and it's with all our heart. How do we trust? We trust by not depending on our own understanding; we put ourselves wholly at the mercy of another (God); and we don't try to figure out everything on our own, because by acknowledging God in all our ways as the one we truly trust, He then makes our paths smooth; He keeps us on track.

A person cannot grow when he gets the attitude of pride. We then can't assume to know it all, we have to listen to God and our reverence to God will turn us from evil. The fear of the Lord will take away all arrogance and pride. There is a connection between physical health and spiritual or emotional health and that is trusting in God. Our body will glow with health and our bones will vibrate with life because we didn't follow evil but followed God's wisdom.

Giving of our material wealth honors the Lord. It really shows God where our heart lies. It also shows that God's people can count on His blessings when we honor Him with our offerings. Whatever our best is, God deserves it.

Accept discipline because it is out of love that God gives it. By not despising God's discipline or chastening, we grow.

APPLICATION:

The instruction for today is to live life wisely, not with fleshly understanding but building upon the foundation of God's wise and profound Word that will keep right attitudes and behavior. [TOP](#)

⁵ http://www.biblebc.com/bbi/Courses/OT_Survey/Old%20Testament%20Survey%20-%20Student%206.pdf
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PROVERBS 4:1-15, 20-27

NEXT 8:1-21

4:1 Hear ye children, the instruction of a father and attend to know understanding. In ancient Israel the father bore the major responsibility for the spiritual training of the children. This message that Solomon penned for his son Rehoboam, undoubtedly is not only written by him to all young men for instruction, but is also what David had taught Solomon, as well. Note the father/son structure of the entire book, as the wisdom from God is to be shown, taught, illustrated, and lived. It is fatherly instruction or advice and Solomon wants him to hear it and not take it for granted.

4:2 For I give is good doctrine, forsake me not my law. That's what grandparents and parents are to do, pass instruction along to their sons and daughters. We are told again here to remember in detail the law of God and to live by it (do not forsake it).

4:3-4 For I was my father's son, tender and only beloved in the sight of m mother. He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. God has a plan for each of His children and that is, not to fail. We sometimes recall or reflect on our own childhood and what was taught and learned from our father and mother and it's so much better when it's retained in us. You'll know it's retained because we tend to pass what we've learned on to others.

4:5 Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. We are told to get two things: get wisdom and get understanding. Both will go together because if you have the understanding about a thing but is not wise in how to apply what you understand, it will not help you. Therefore, the father is saying, I can't stress this enough: using good judgment and common sense will go a long way.

4:6 Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. The words from the parent's mouths are not to be rejected. What was given them is to be received in their hearts. Wisdom is to be preserved and invested in generation after generation. That's why it says get understanding. Generations need to know how to use this wisdom. When you truly learn and understand a thing you won't forget it. It'll be like riding a bicycle. You'll be saying I heard that or I remember that or I experienced that.

4:7 Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding. Wisdom is the principal thing because knowledge alone can be dangerous; knowledge can destroy. God does not want us to stay immature. But with wisdom, you can choose the best course to use that knowledge you have.

4:8-9 Exalt her, and she shall promote thee: she shall bring thee to honour, when thou dost embrace her. She shall give to thine head an ornament of grace: a crown of glory shall she deliver to thee. Wisdom is called she or her because a father tells his son to treat wisdom the way they would treat their mother, sister, or wife: love her, honor her, embrace her, and exalt her! Wisdom is personified as a beautiful woman who invites us to her lavish banquet, while "*Folly*" is the adulteress or prostitute who tempts us to poverty and death. The one you love is the one who will control your life. Embrace or hold wisdom close and she will promote, exalt you,

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

bring you honor, and bestow a crown of glory for meaningful life. The more highly one esteems wisdom, the more highly wisdom lifts that person. The blessings come as a result of pursuing wisdom. Crowns of glory in the New Testament have to do with heavenly rewards.

4:10 Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many— In order to do anything for the Lord, you not only have to **hear** or listen, but you've got to **receive** what you've heard. Hearing and receiving the father's wisdom or advice brings a multiplication of long life. This is in retrospect to (Eph.6:2-3), honoring father and mother that it may be well with you and **that you may live long** upon the earth.

4:11 I have taught thee in the way of wisdom; I have led thee in right paths— Solomon says he has taught the right way and he has led in the right paths. That's what Jesus did with His disciples. He taught them and led them step by step. He did not tell them one thing and did another. We as teachers are accounted for the same standards we teach. Even though after teaching, do you think your children received it right away? No, that's why it's continual. That's why we keep seeing the word "*Hear!*" Whatever was taught, do it. There is only one path all of us must take and that is the path of wisdom because that's where you'll find the Lord assisting you.

4:12 When thou goest, thy steps shall not be straitened; and when thou runnest, thou shalt not stumble— Can you hear mothers say, *'if you did what I told you to do, then this wouldn't be happening!'* This verse shows that in the wise way you've been directed, your steps won't be hindered; your walk will go in a steady path to the thing you were directed to go. And when you begin to run, you can run the race well and you won't stumble as long as the wisdom of God directs you. There will be times you must be made to act quickly with decisions, therefore, when you're on the right path you are less likely to make mistakes, because you've been consistently choosing the way of wisdom.

4:13 Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life—Take fast hold; a quick grip of instruction. Hold on to wisdom the way a child holds a parent's hand and trusts mother or father to guide and protect. Wisdom must be received into our hearts and not into our heads only. If in our heads then we are just hearers only (it's just leaking out), but we must be doers of the Word that was instructed (It is practiced daily). When we take hold we have a tight grip to do something; we are following it to the letter. That Word can save your very life; that Word is balanced instruction. The father commanded his son in verse 5 to get wisdom, here he commands him to hold on to it.

4:14 Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men—Solomon now pleads to **avoid** at all cost the **path of the wicked**. On that path you will meet men who are ungodly. Sin is best dealt with at its beginning by the application of necessary wisdom to suit the initial temptation. This is a strong command: **enter not!** What will cause you to enter something that is not good for you? It will say, "*No Trespassing! Do not Enter!*" Well, I believe the reason would be that you were not paying attention to instruction; you were not hearing or receiving; you were not taking hold of the wisdom given. You were probably saying, it won't hurt me this time, it's only once. And because of non-adherence to wisdom, evil men are waiting. This is the very reason wisdom is given: there is wickedness lying wait.

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

4:15 Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away—Five verbs identify aspects necessary in urgently dealing with sin at its start:

1. **enter not** the sinful situation (v.14);
2. **go not** toward evil men (v.14);
3. **avoid it** at all cost (v.15)
4. **pass not**—travel as far from it as possible (v.15);
5. **turn from** the tempting path of sin (v.15);
6. **pass away** or escape the sin (v.15)

These words are very clear. There is danger when we go pass a sign that says *"Enter Not!"* There is trouble! *"A man is drawn away of his own lust and enticed"* says James 1:14b. This sounds like a plan where the pattern of sin's enticement is clear. As we know there is a wide path and there is a narrow path. The wicked and evil men have chosen a wide path to follow, meaning anything goes; while the believer has chosen a *"narrow path, which leadeth unto life and few there be that find it"* (Matt. 7:14b).

4:20 My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings—The emphasis is upon fixing upon the members of our bodies on wisdom – the eyes, the ears, the heart, etc. **Attend** means to listen, focus on, and concentrate your attention upon the **words**; don't be distracted when you hear. **Incline** means to tune to the words so your **ears** may be adjusted to God's voice; so your hearing will be keen. Don't let anything else get in or take the place of what the Word is really saying. ⁶Whatever enters my ears will ultimately influence my mind, my heart, and my decisions, so I'd better be careful what I listen to. When people speak, we must be able to identify God's voice (John 10:3-5, 16) and obey what He says. If one fails to hear then he is really hurting himself and will be making the same mistakes over and over as the older generation.

4:21 Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart—As the 'ear' was mentioned in v. 20 to tune in, the *"eyes"* and *"heart"* are mentioned here in this verse. The **eyes** should be fixed upon wise teaching and careful reading of that which imparts wisdom. In other words read it over and over; don't let it depart from your eyes. By you reading the Word over and over, it will get in the heart. The **heart** in the Bible often refers to the mind or affections of a person. ⁷The heart is the core of a person's being. The heart is the *"command and control"* center of a person. We think with our heart; we feel with our heart; we make decisions with our heart. And so a heart that is fully integrated and centered on God will think appropriately (*in a way that is consistent with certainty*), will have (*to a certain extent*) the right feelings (*those that mirror God's feelings*), and will make good decisions (*those that lead to life and further the purposes of God*). This implies meditation upon those things in which we have seen, heard or read. Whatever the heart loves, the ears will hear and the eyes will see. Therefore, the father wants wisdom to be right there guiding his son in the core of his being.

4:22 For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh—The reason for the above verses is concluded in this verse. The Words that we attend to, we incline our ears to, that we don't let depart from our eyes, and that we keep in the midst of our heart brings **life**; brings existence; brings refreshment and

⁶ <http://www.theparkwaychurchofchrist.com/SermonsM-S/proverbs3.htm>

⁷ http://www.faithmanhattan.org/shared/text/2009_06_07_Sermon.pdf
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

second it brings **health to all our flesh** (*flesh is the body*); it brings wellbeing; brings fitness; brings vigor; and strength. Therefore, by finding this wisdom, you determine what kind of life you will live.

4:23 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life— Keep your heart; watch your heart; guard your heart. Why? Why are we to protect our heart, and **with all diligence** (*carefulness, attentiveness*)? Because it's not from our outer circumstances but it's **out of the heart** that **flow the issues of life**; the actions of life; the source of life; the fountain of life. ⁸Think about a little village in the mountains whose only source of water is a spring coming up from the ground. That spring provides fresh water for drinking, cooking, bathing, crops, etc. That village would be foolish not to pay any attention to the condition of that spring because it is a source of life. If the spring becomes polluted, everyone and everything in the village would suffer. In the same way, we would be foolish not to pay attention to the condition of our heart because our heart affects everything in our lives. Whatever fills our heart flows out into the rest of our lives. If the heart is right, so will the actions of men be; they are regulated by it; they will then spring from right principles, and be directed to right ends. *"Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life" (v. 23, NIV)*. If we pollute that wellspring, the infection will spread and before long, hidden appetites will become open sins and public shame. What you believe in your heart affects the way you live; when it's down deep within your heart, then there is the effect upon your life.

4:24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee— One of the best ways to observe what is happening in a person's heart is to listen to his/her words. *"It is not what goes into the mouth of a man that makes him unclean and defiled, but what comes out of the mouth; this makes a man unclean and defiles him"* Matt.15:11 AMP. A pure heart brings pure words. **A forward** (deceitful; contrary) **mouth** reveals a heart filled with pride and perverse (evil) words which come from an evil heart. A forward mouth is speech that has departed from God's law; God's truth. *"Out of the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks"* (Matt. 12:34). **Perverse lips** mean wicked, mean, evil, and vicious. Lips that are filled with scorn and arrogance have their roots in a scorner's heart. Lips only speak what is in the heart. Whatever is in the heart will ultimately come out of the mouth (Matt. 12:33-34). God's children must be careful to have *"sound speech that cannot be condemned"* (Titus 2:8); speech that's gracious and *"seasoned with salt"* (Col. 4:6, NKJV). The call is for speech that is wise, straightforward and not deceptive. It says put it away, put it far away; having nothing to do with it; put away dishonest talk and deceitful speech. A wise heart will teach the mouth.

4:25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee— ⁹Shifty eyes that cannot look at you ordinarily indicate the person has something they are covering up. Eyes that look straight at you say, *"I am telling the truth"*. We have a choice as to where we look and what we look at. Our eyes should be focused on the Lord and on the path ahead gazing in the right direction. The wise person isn't distracted by temptation to leave *"the path of life."* The person who *"looks directly ahead"* is following after wisdom with a single mind.

4:26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established-- "Ponder" means *"to weigh"* or *"to make level."* It is related to a word that means *"scales"* (16:11). It means to think about the path you are launching

⁸ http://www.faithmanhattan.org/shared/text/2009_06_07_Sermon.pdf

⁹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/05.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

out on. Make sure the path of your feet, your walk is sure and certain, and then it will not be unstable but established (*be well known, and publicly recognized as truth*).

4:27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil— Every direction of our steps matter.

Sin turns us to the right when we should go left or left when we should go right, but if we stick to wisdom, it will lead us from evil paths into right paths every time. With the Lord before you, don't let the allurements of the world distract you. Don't be swerved by flattering promises. Should you take a step in the wrong direction, quickly step back for the Lord is willing to help.

SUMMARY:

Solomon, the father gives advice to his son. This meaningful wisdom will bring him long life if he hears it and receives it. When taught right, it equips us to go down the right path even when we want to go into another direction. This fatherly wisdom when received protects our steps. Our steps will not be crooked but stays balanced. We will not stumble but run as a runner would run a race to the finish line. When the baton is exchanged, we will take a solid and quick grip by not letting go of what we've learned from father or mother. That's how we cherish wisdom by taking hold of the instructions taught, keeping that wisdom because it is life; our continuation to life.

The signs are clear to avoid when it says: Wrong Way! Do Not Enter! Do Not Pass This Point! Avoiding these paths means to stay clear of; keep away from; and shun. The wisdom is given but sometimes we step out into the hot water anyway. It would go so much smoother when the voice inside is the Holy Spirit recalling to our remembrance the Words of Wisdom; the Word of God that is evil for our lives.

Every part of us is to adhere to wisdom's instructions: our ear gate; our eye gate, and our heart gate. Our ears are tuned, our eyes are fixed, and our heart will mirror what was heard and seen. As we guard what comes out of the heart, then our lives will be fit for God's use. The actions from our heart will affect our health. The actions from our heart will not bring forth a deceitful and contrary mouth or wicked and evil lips, but our actions will bring pure words that teach our lips sound speech. Our eyes will speak truth; our feet will be certain and accustomed to walking wisely, not into evil paths by swerving to the right hand or the left hand.

APPLICATION:

"Take fast hold of instruction; let her not go: keep her; for she is thy life" Proverbs 4:13.

[TOP](#)

PROVERBS 8:1-35

NEXT 15:1-33

SYNOPSIS:

This is wisdom for young men:

8:1-11 — ¹⁰In Chapter seven, we read how the adulteress went out in the streets to seduce the young man. Now, we see how wisdom, like a virtuous woman, is seen crying in the streets offering services to all who will receive:

- I. Where she cries - in "high places" and at the gates (**8:1-3**).
- II. To whom she cries - to "the sons of men," to people in general (**8:4-5**).
- III. What she cries - that which is "excellent," "right" and "true" (**8:6-9**).
- IV. Why **she cries** - because what she has to offer is far more valuable than silver, gold or rubies (**8:10-11**).

8:12-21 — ¹¹We find here the characteristics of wisdom that can become ours (**8:12-21**). It enables a person to have good old fashioned common sense and be able to give wise counsel. The author states that wisdom [from God], makes prudence his dwelling place (**8:12**). Prudence is right knowledge for special times which if understood, can do much to better a man's position in human affairs.

- I. It gives men good heads. (**8:12**)
- II. It gives men good hearts. (**8:13**)
- III. It has a great influence in public affairs. (**8:14**)
- IV. It makes people happy who embrace it. (**8:15-21**)

8:22 **The Lord possessed me in the beginning of his way,** — Wisdom is speaking and we learn of Wisdom's origin—in the beginning of Creation. God did not need to create wisdom, He possessed it! God possessed, owned, and has responsibility of Wisdom. In God it is as eternally inherent as any other essential attribute of His nature. ¹²What is meant in this passage is that we cannot think of God as ever having been without Wisdom. She is "*as the beginning of His ways.*" ¹³Wisdom is seen here figuratively as a personification (image, epitome) of God's attribute of wisdom. Some scholars suggest that wisdom in chapter 8 refers to Christ. Although Christ was with God before creation and all wisdom resides in Christ (Col.2:3), these verses give no indication that Jesus Christ Himself is the one referred to as Wisdom. Some have suggested that if wisdom is replaced by Christ in chapter 8, then wisdom should be replaced with Christ throughout the book of Proverbs. According to verse 3 of this chapter, Wisdom is referred to as "**She**." I know the Father is the "**Authority**" (*the Administrator*), God the Son is the "**Agent**" (*the representative; the one who becomes what the Administrator speaks*) and the Holy Spirit is the "**Ability**" (the power; the one who demonstrates what is to come) in creation. As we ponder the description of Wisdom, eventually we realize that to speak of wisdom is to speak

¹⁰ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/proverbs-81/>

¹¹ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/proverbs-812/>

¹² <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/16625/eVerseID/16625/RTD/barnes>

¹³ The Woman's Study Bible p.1031

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

of God, for it is inseparable from His character.**before his works of old**;—Before the creation of the heavens and the earth the Lord possessed wisdom.

8:23 I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, or ever the earth was. — Amplified Version says: "*[Wisdom] was inaugurated and ordained...*" This is just saying that Wisdom was established even before the world began; before there was ever an earth.

8:24 When there were no depths, I was brought forth; when there were no fountains abounding with water. NLT says: "*I was born before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters.*" ¹⁴A world of waters, "*great deeps*" lying in darkness, this was the picture of the remotest time of which man could form any conception, and yet the co-existence of the uncreated Wisdom with the eternal Yahweh was before that.

8:25 Before the mountains were settled, before the hills was I brought forth. ¹⁵The very same thing said of wisdom here is spoken of God in chapter 90 of Psalms verse 2, "*Before the mountains were brought forth or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.*" Before the earth had left the blueprint of God's mind to become the product of His creative fingers, Wisdom was gloriously present and brought forth. Mountains are always mentioned as the grandest and most ancient of God's works. Therefore, you see, "Wisdom" and God seem to be overlapping.

8:26 While as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields, nor the highest part of the dust of the world. ¹⁶"*Highest part of the dust*" sounds strange, but perhaps it refers to man, the noblest part of the creation, who was made of the dust of the earth, (Gen. 2:7). The Hebrew word is the same in both places, and is often used of man, (Gen. 3:19; 18:27; Ps. 103:14; Eccl. 3:20). Hence, "*Wisdom's*" existence was before the first man. The creation of man is the last and highest stage in the production of organic life. And, "*Wisdom*" was before creation!

8:27 When he prepared the heavens, I was there: When God made, beautified, and adorned the heavens; when God gave them their form, figure, magnitude, and motion; when God garnished them with the sun, moon, and stars, "*Wisdom*" was there. ...**when he set a compass upon the face of the depth**: — This is pertaining to ¹⁷all the particles of matter, tending to a common center, producing in all bodies the orbicular form, which we see them have; so that even the waters are not only retained within their boundaries, but are subjected to the circular form, in their great aggregate of seas, as other parts of matter are. This is called here making a compass, "*bechukko chug*", sweeping a circle; and even this on the face of the deep, to bring the chaotic mass into form, regularity, and order.

¹⁴ <http://bible.cc/proverbs/8-24.htm>

¹⁵ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/10.html>

¹⁶ http://www.pbministries.org/Landmark_Baptist/Seminary/Bible_Study_Courses/Proverbs/DH_proverbs_chap08.htm

¹⁷ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/16630/eVerseID/16630/RTD/Clarke>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

8:28 When he established the clouds above: when he strengthened the fountains of the deep. —that is, so as to sustain the waters above and repress those below the firmament.

8:29 When he gave to the sea his decree, that the waters should not pass his commandment: —This is ¹⁸when God assigned its limits, adjusted its saltness, and proportioned the extent of the surface to the quantity of vapors to be raised from it, for the irrigation of the terrene surface; ...**when he appointed the foundations of the earth:** —the principles on which earth is constructed, and the laws by which it is governed; the solid structure.

8:30 Then I was by him, as one brought up with him: NLT says: "*I was the architect at his side.*" ...**and I was daily his delight, rejoicing always before him;** Together, God and Wisdom were glad to see the world. Together, they were happy about the work.

8:31 Rejoicing in the habitable part of his earth; and my delights were with the sons of men. Easy English Bible says: "*I was glad when I saw his world.*" "*Habitable*" is that part of earth that's livable and fit for human habitation. ¹⁹In that part of the earth which is habitable, giving joy and delight to God, "*Wisdom*" finds her delight among the sons of men; not in the glory of the material universe, but in God's work among the sons of men. "*Wisdom*" was at creation!

8:32 Now therefore hearken unto me, O ye children: —Wisdom, speaks to those that are children of the covenant promise; believers predestinated to the adoption of children to listen to her, for man has a choice. Why listen? ...**for blessed are they that keep my ways.** There is happiness when wisdom is heard and kept.

8:33 Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. She will bless us with instruction. She will teach us to be wise. When people professing godliness seek excuses for neglecting the means of grace, they show contempt of Wisdom's instructions. This way to be wise to that which is good is to both have the knowledge and practice of it. Refusing to hear instruction is not wise for it is the action of a fool who despises his soul.

8:34 Blessed is the man that heareth me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at the posts of my doors. If a man listens to wisdom, then he will benefit from it. This man does not just listen to one lesson, and then walk away. He is daily watching at the gates before they are opened for opportunities to learn from God and waiting at the door to get in, which ultimately determines his blessings. This shows with what attention and reverence the Gospel should be sought after, and be heard.

8:35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the Lord. Wisdom says when you find her

¹⁸ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/16632/eVerseID/16632/RTD/Clarke>

¹⁹ <http://www.bibletools.org/index.cfm/fuseaction/Bible.show/sVerseID/16634/eVerseID/16634/RTD/Barnes>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

you find life and obtain favor from the Lord. It was already said in 3:4: "*So shall thy find favour and good understanding in the sight of God and man.*" Favor means to be "endued with grace"; "made acceptable." Finding favor means you will not fail. The inner and outer appreciation for Wisdom will produce good success. Your very existence and purpose is guided in the right direction because Wisdom's instructed your path. The "*will of God*" is revealed in the "*Word of God.*" You wise up because you found it to be true. Knowing the truth makes you free; free to obtain favor of the Lord!

SUMMARY:

Wisdom declares that "*She*" was present before Creation. Why? - Because the Lord possessed her from the beginning; before the world began; before the earth had depth; before the springs were filled with water; before the mountains were sculptured or hills took shape.

Now Wisdom trumps out, "*I was there*" when God stretched out the heavens and put it in circular form. He tended to the minute details of soil and weather and set the sky firmly in place. Wisdom was witness to the oceans being mapped and given borders so the waters wouldn't pass God's command. To have been engaged in the creation of the world how awesome was that!

But there is something more spectacular than this, Wisdom says, "*I was by him*" (God Almighty); "*I was the architect at his side.*" "*Daily I delighted and rejoiced in his presence.*" Being so near and dear to God, "*She*" beams out, "*listen to me.*"; give ear to instruction so that you will be wise. 'Wise up so you won't fail because when I speak and you hear, you will be blessed; you will find life; and find favor of the Lord.' It will be God's children who listen and followed. They will take time to be alone with God because they took time and looked for Wisdom; they watched for opportunities to learn and delight in Wisdom.

APPLICATION:

²⁰Many Christians are so busy with spreading or defending Christianity that they have little time for quiet meditation and communion with God. If we are not careful our minds will be a reflection of our society and not our Lord — so Wise Up!

[TOP](#)

²⁰ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/proverbs-822/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PROVERBS 15:1-33

NEXT 25:1-10

SYNOPSIS:

Proverbs 15 is a collection of thirty-three individual sayings. While there is no unifying theme to the chapter, certain verses focus on topics such as speech, accepting rebuke, prayer, and taking things into perspective.

²¹Outline 15:1-20

15:1-2 Speech— ²²*The power for good and evil that lies in the human tongue is awesome. A soft word will often disarm a man whose heart is bent upon great harm, whereas harsh words serve only to stir up great anger. The wise man masters the art of producing the right answer at the proper time and place. He often allows angry words to pass unchallenged, for he has his personal feelings in subjection. He knows when to speak; and when he does, he uses his knowledge in such a way that his words are statements that have great profit for his hearers. The fool is always ready with an answer, but men are seldom profited by his foolish contribution.*

15:3 Omniscience— The wise man does not just believe in God; he believes in the **God** who is **always** there and **all-knowing**. In every moment Yahweh is beholding all He says and does. Not one word or deed escapes His knowing eye. He beholds the evil man and weighs each action until his iniquity is full (Gen.15:16). He compassionately watches the good man and is ever ready to come to his aid (Ps.25:15-17).

15:4 Speech— The **wholesome tongue** in verse 4 should be understood as the healing tongue, the tongue that issues forth healing speech, and brings forth grateful recipients of its ministry. However, **the perverse tongue** belongs to the man who sows discord. Those around him suffer much, but he is the ultimate loser; for perverse speech will ultimately cause a breach in his spirit, literally a fragmentation of his own personality.

15:5 Accepting rebuke— The world is filled with young men who think that their insights are superior to those of their fathers. The young often register disdain for the reproof of their elders. The fool seldom cares for the advice of one who has been over the path before him. He is so full of self-confidence or full of themselves that he feels no need for the slightest assistance. The man who regards reproof and thankfully acknowledges correction is sure to finish life's journey in better fashion than the fool.

15:6 Reward of the righteous/wicked— God's blessing rests upon the **house of the righteous**. The **treasure** that is in such a house is undoubtedly the righteousness that becomes at once a sign and a pledge of abiding prosperity. Whatever **the wicked** may pile up, he shall never be truly rich; for he has no part in the true riches,

²¹ <http://thedailychapter.wordpress.com/2009/04/28/proverbs-15-%E2%80%9Cvarious-sayings-proper-speech-accepting-rebuke%E2%80%9D/>

²² The KJV parallel Bible Commentary

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

the righteousness, and favor of God (cf. Luke 16:11), but he **has trouble**.

15:7 The wise/foolish—The lips of the wise are committed to evangelism and discipleship. They are constantly spreading abroad the knowledge God has given them for the profit, blessing, and edification of all humanity. The fool can only utter what is in his heart, and such nonsense is of no permanent value to anyone. In fact, his words, when believed, often produce great harm.

15:8 Prayer—The Lord delights in the prayers of the righteous, for such utterances form the nucleus of all worship. **The sacrifices of the wicked, however, are an abomination** to Him. Sacrifices, without righteousness is meaningless. It gains no favor with God. The term abomination is found only in Proverbs and Deuteronomy (Deut.7:25, 26; 18:12).

15:9 Righteousness/wickedness—**The way of the wicked is an abomination.** Those who choose righteousness over wickedness can be assured of the presence and protection of God.

15:10 Accepting rebuke—**A grievous (correction)** punishment awaits those **who forsake the way** of wisdom. The Lord will first bring correction that is designed to bring them back into the way (Lev.26:14 ff). If a man hates this reproof from the Lord and does not move to the place of repentance, the Lord will kill him.

15:11 Omniscience—No man will be able to fool Yahweh. His evaluation takes into account all the facts, for he is the perfect discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. All is open to him, even the unseen world of **hell and destruction**. Destruction is a synonym of sheol, or the grave.

15:12 Accepting rebuke—The **scorner** is incorrigible, and he will not tolerate the company of the wise man who could teach him the way of life. He **loves not one if words of reproof** must pass between them.

15:13 Emotions—Joy in the heart brightens the **countenance**. The inner condition of a man always shows in his outward appearance. Where **there is pain in the heart, the spirit of a man is broken**; and the power for effective living vanishes.

15:14 The wise/foolish—The heart possessed by **understanding** moves briskly toward **knowledge**, while the heart of the **fool** ushers him toward greater participation in **foolishness**.

15:15 Wealth and happiness—This verse is connected with the thirteenth verse. The man who is depressed sees in each day only those dismal events that serve to increase his already extensive fear. The man whose heart is possessed by **a merry heart** sees such evidences of God's faithfulness that his days are bright and his soul has a **continual feast**. Real happiness is always determined by the state of the heart.

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

15:16 Fear of the Lord— It is **better to have little on earth** with fear of God and joy in the heart than to have extensive luxuries accompanied by great trouble.

15:17 Love— **Better is a dish of herbs when love is there.** Better the simple diet with love than festive food shared with those who hate you.

15:18 A hot temper— The compensation of the even-tempered man is the subject of verse 18. He is the man who carefully controls his emotions and is not prone to quarreling. **A wrathful man stirs up strife** wherever he goes. The man who is **slow to anger** is able to spread the oil of peace on strife-laden situations.

15:19 Laziness— **The slothful man** sleeps on a bed of thorns. Every hour of the day he is **hedged** about by **thorns**. Most of the thorns, however, are imagined and serve to provide him with all manner of excuses for not dealing responsibly with the realities of life. The righteous, having been informed of his duty, presses toward the fulfillment of his goals. Such obedience illumines his way and makes plain the path for his feet.

15:20 The two sons— A father's heart will be **gladdened** when his son chooses to walk in the ways of wisdom. It is a foolish man who considers himself superior to his mother and ignores her loving advice. Such a man will soon lose the path and succumb to fascination with folly.

15:21 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly—Causes of folly:

1. Willful determination not to follow in the way of wisdom. Although wisdom has sought him out, he has refused and rejected her. The fool is not neutral toward wisdom, he hates it, and he loves the evil of his way.
2. Trusting in himself. The fool, trusting in his own understanding, rejects the fear of the Lord, and chooses to walk in the way of evil

Folly (foolishness) is pleasure to him who is without heart and sense; void of understanding. This is the character of a wicked man when he takes pleasure in sin; he has an appetite to the bait, and swallows it greedily, and has no dread of the hook, nor feels from it when he has swallowed it. Folly is joy to him because it is sin and he loves sin. One way to tell is, if you warn them about sin and they laugh at you. One reason fools don't learn wisdom is because they can't keep their eyes focused on what's important. "*A discerning man keeps wisdom in view, but a fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth*" (17:24, NIV). Instead of dealing with reality, the fool lives in a faraway fantasy world. But the man that is of understanding enlightened by the Spirit of God and walks according to the rule of the divine Word, going straight forward by committing his life to God. His walk is assured not in himself but in God's power.

15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established— If men will not take time and pains to deliberate, they are not likely to bring anything to pass. Many people do not like to receive advice. Perhaps they are proud and so they do not like to hear other people's ideas. If you do not obtain advice, then your plans will often fail. Those with "*tunnel vision*" are likely to miss the right road because they have closed their minds to any new options. It is a good rule, both in public and domestic affairs,

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

to do nothing rashly and of one's own head. We need the help of those who can enlarge our vision and broaden our perspective. Seek out the advice of those who know you and have a wealth of experience. Build a network of counselors. Then be open to new ideas and be willing to weigh their suggestions carefully. How much it will be for our advantage to ask the advice of our godly friends. Solomon's son made no good use of this proverb when he agreed passively not in the counsel of the old men, but gave in to the young men.

15:23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it! —

The wisest of men are apt to say things that they later regret. Much mischief is done by the tongue. Little wonder that a good and therapeutic answer would be a cause of great joy. Speech of this nature will only be found on the lips of those whose way of life is anchored in God's wisdom. When we're walking in the Spirit daily and being taught by the Lord, we'll "*know how to speak a word in season to him who is weary*" *Is.50:4*. Providing an apt answer or a timely word requires a listening posture. Good advice blesses the giver and receiver.

15:24 The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath—The way a wise man

takes to obtain life, is to place his heart, and treasure, and conversation on things above. A good man sets his affections on things above; his way leads directly in that direction. Following the teaching of Proverbs and fearing God (1:7) was wise and it led upward so that the person did not die in hell. Men who speak therapeutically have stepped on the upward path that leads to heaven. The man of understanding has embraced a way of life that leads ever upward to higher levels of moral purity and responsibility that he may turn from the underworld beneath.

15:25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow— Some

people will praise a proud man. Some people think that proud people are very great. God does not think this. In the end, God will punish proud people. The house of the proud will not endure, for the Lord will destroy it. God's face is forever set against those who exalt themselves. "*Yahweh*" will establish the borders of the widows. The offense of removing a neighbor's landmark was a common form of oppression, and the threatened punishment is often mentioned in Scripture. When evil men try to take the property of widows, God will intervene. The most desolate (widows) who have God's help possess a more permanent dwelling place than the prosperous and self-reliant sinners.

15:26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words— God knows our thoughts, and He hears our words. The evil person thinks about evil plans. He might

plot against other people; he might try to steal from them. God knows these thoughts, and He hates these plans. This evil practice was a fruit of the thought of depraved men. Such men and their wicked plotting are an abomination to the Lord; they are utterly repulsive to Him. By declaring what God is pleased and displeased with, the writer revealed the nature and will of God. Not only the deeds, but the very thoughts of people, determine their relationship with God. In contrast, the words of the pure (clean, honest, and sincere) are pleasant words (pleasant thoughts), well-pleasing to the holy God, who delights in purity.

15:27 He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live— Material greed has destructive implications not only for one's self but also for all other relationships. Greed will destroy the

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

family. The covetous man lets none of his family have rest or enjoyment.

- Man's greed for unjust gain is a perpetual source of woe for the people of this world.
- Greed leads men to habitually want more than their share.
- Greed and covetousness have proven the undoing of multitudes.

Expensive gifts to the children become substitutes for the gift of themselves; before long the values become twisted and the family falls apart. He that, in his greediness of gain, takes bribes, and uses unlawful ways of getting money, leaves a curse with what he gets to those that come after him, which sooner or later will bring trouble into the house *Habakkuk 2:9,10* says, "Woe to him..." The gifts (bribes) they often accept bring ruin upon themselves and shame upon all who bear their name. On the other hand, those that are generous as well as righteous entail a blessing upon their families: he shall have the comfort of life; shall live in prosperity and have a good reputation; and his name and family shall live and continue.

15:28 The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things—

The righteous man understands the potential for good and evil that resides in words. In keeping with this understanding, the man who fears God will weigh his words carefully, lest through a hasty utterance he bring dishonor upon his Lord and cause pain in the life of his neighbor. The wicked show no such consideration. The evil man doesn't wait to speak because he doesn't care about the effects of his words. It is important to have something to say, but it is equally important to say it well. Do you carefully plan your words, or do you pour out your thoughts without concern for their impact?

15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous—²³Sin separates us from God. Some have taken this Scripture to mean that God will not hear the prayer of the sinful man. I believe God does hear his prayers but, will not answer until the sinful man repents. God is far from the wicked because the wicked has walked away from God, not the other way around. God does answer the righteous quicker. The Lord will hear the righteous, for He has pledged Himself to hear the prayers of the righteous. "Hears" implies God will answer; He is faithful to His faithful people. The wicked are those who choose to rebel against God and alienate themselves. *"The Lord is nigh unto them all that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth" Ps.145:18. "God...a very present help in trouble" Ps.46:1.*

15:30 The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat— The righteous will have eyes that are sparkling with joy, for they are dynamically linked to the God who cares for them and answers their prayers. This is referring to our spiritual eyes. Even our smiling faces shine through our eyes. It all depends on the condition of our heart. People like it when good news and prosperity come to them. Good news is always a tonic for both body and soul. A good report which a man hears of himself makes his spirit cheerful; and this affects his body and the juices of it, which fill his bones with marrow, and cover them with fatness.

15:31 The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise— This verse exalts a teachable spirit—a willingness to learn from others. Do you keep giving advice to those that don't want it? I've learned that you're only casting pearls among swine. The Lord reminds me of how valuable feedback can be, even if it seems

²³ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/23.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

painful at times. He doesn't ask me to agree with everyone, but He does expect me to listen and consider what has been said. My lesson is: my ear has to be opened not locked to what is being said, to hear, therefore, declaring me to be among and taking advantage of wise and sensible teachers. The wise listen to what life teaches.

15:32 He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding—

When you despise something, you're setting your course toward another way. Therefore, refusing valuable instruction, you are despising your own soul; as if one hates himself. He will suffer as a result succumbing (unable to resist) as an unlearned person makes many mistakes. Undervaluing the benefits of correction determines he is in love with defeat. The person who wants to understand will listen carefully to someone who knows more, and will even take correction from that person to learn. The man who hears reproof recognizes a responsibility to protect the eternal dimension of his soul; his soul is secured from bad ways and directed in good ways. We can heed correction and prosper or reject correction and be destroyed.

15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility— This is a good fear. This fear actually means we will love Him and respect Him. "*The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom*" 9:10, so it is with the "*instruction*" and correction "*of wisdom*". It teaches to abstain from sin, and to serve the Lord; and to seek the salvation of one's soul in the way God has appointed, which is by His Son Jesus Christ, which is the highest wisdom to do; He who fears God much, is well taught. Abiding in that fear, the man of wisdom affirms that it is in accord with wisdom to humbly acknowledge one's mistakes and faults. A man must receive admonition as coming from the Lord Himself, for humility is before honor, meaning God exalts no one but them that are truly humbled.

SUMMARY:

²⁴Wise leadership always seeks advice but many of us hate to admit that we need to be taught. Have you ever thought about the "*why of many counselors?*" God seems to do His best work through a group of men rather than by a "*lone wolf*" (15:22). Seldom does the "*one-man-show*" prove to have lasting success. A multitude of counselors is needed to provide long-term goals, encouragement along the way, and proper evaluation of what is being accomplished. Giving the right answer at the right time makes everyone happy (15:23). All who are wise follow a road that leads upward to life and away from the depths of hell (15:24).

The Lord has a way of humbling the proud by removing their possessions. At the same time He protects the widows (15:25). Land was a precious commodity to the Israelites and was carefully marked by boundaries (Deuteronomy 19:14). Land was kept in the family from one generation to the next and its boundaries were important. Some would try to take advantage of widows by seeking to steal their land. For this reason the Lord promised to keep widows boundaries from being moved.

The Lord hates evil thoughts, but kind words please Him (15:26). A father providing for his family, but dishonest in the process, will eventually cause his wife and children to suffer (15:27). Man's greed for unjust gain is a constant source of woe for the people of this world. An example of this would be gambling or participating in lotteries. The people who refuse to be involved in these ungodly practices shall be the ones who gain.

²⁴ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/wise-leades-always-see-advice/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

²⁵The righteous man weighs his words carefully rather than blurting out the first thing that comes to his mind, while the wicked has no such consideration (15:28). The wicked speaks whatever comes to his lips and doesn't worry about what harm it may bring. In fact some people pride themselves on being frank and outspoken when it would be much better if they would be more careful in what they say and thus save offenses and sorrow. Because the Lord hates the wicked, He distances Himself from them and refuses to hear them (15:29). However, He will hear the righteous for He has pledged Himself to hear their prayers (John 15:7). What a privilege and promise this is for those of us who know and love Him.

A cheerful look or a few words of encouragement not only brings joy to the heart but also contributes to physical well being (15:30). It is only those who hear reproof, who get understanding (15:31). To ignore reproof, only shows that the person actually hates himself (15:32). The fear of the Lord is not only the beginning of knowledge but it also brings wisdom. It is a part of wisdom for us to acknowledge our mistakes and faults and thus "*before honor is humility*" (15:33).

Those who have chosen to walk in the way of wisdom are obligated to point the way to those who have not.

APPLICATION:

There are at least two very practical applications of what we have just observed in Proverbs concerning what God loves and what He hates. The main dynamic is that we do what he delights in and avoid what He despises, and then we can gain insight into the subject of divine guidance or the will of God. Second is that we learn much about a person's character by knowing what he loves and what he hates. In these verses try to pinpoint one behavior that God wants you to implement or curb.

²⁶Proverbs Character Study Questions

Communication	Begin your study by communicating with the Lord. Ask Him to help you see and understand the chapter.
Home	Which verse speaks most clearly to what I am experiencing at home?
Attitudes	What attitude described in this chapter do I need to cultivate or discard?
Relationships	Which verse could be applied to my relationships outside of the home?
Actions	What behaviors described in this chapter should I either adopt or curb?
Consequences	What positive or negative consequences of a particular behavior or attitude does God want to impress upon me?
Tongue	Which verse dealing with the tongue did the Lord impress on me?
Expression	What verse or truth does God want me to communicate to someone else?
Remembrance	Which verse from this chapter would be most helpful to memorize?

[TOP](#)

²⁵ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/proverbs-1528/>

²⁶ <http://bible.org/article/growing-character-through-proverbs>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PROVERBS 25:1-10

NEXT 29:1-27

INTRODUCTION:

We are told that the men of Hezekiah, apparently scribes, were responsible for copying the section from 25:1-29:27. Proverbs written by Solomon, date to his reign (971-31 B.C.). The role of Hezekiah's men (25:1) indicates that important sections were compiled from that king's period (715-686 B.C.). This part, deals with, rulers/kings; pride and humility; and having discernment when arguing with your neighbor.

25:1 **These are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of Judah copied out**— This section, is composed of the proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah...copied. "*Copied*" (from the *Heb root 'ateq*) seems to indicate that the scribes were dealing not only with written proverbs, but also with proverbs that were a part of Israel's oral tradition. Hezekiah, in his anxiety to preserve these sacred words from the past, had them brought together in one sacred collection. This collection of 137 proverbs was spoken by Solomon and most likely copied into a collection during the reign of Judah's king Hezekiah over 200 years later. Hezekiah was one of the few kings of Judah who honored the Lord. By contrast, his father Ahaz actually nailed the Temple door shut. Hezekiah restored the Temple, destroyed idol worship centers, and earned the respect of surrounding nations, many of whom brought gifts to God because of Hezekiah. He worked very hard to encourage respect for the Temple, the law, and godly living, and was very successful (2Chron.31:21).

25:2 **It is the glory of God to conceal a thing: but the honour of kings is to search out a matter**— The hierarchy or chain of command is God, then king. God's glory is to conceal/hide a thing and the king's honor is to search out the secrets of God. God whose knowledge and whose ways are unsearchable, keep things to Himself because He needs no counsel. ²⁷We know there is a secret of God that will not be revealed till the end of the world. We know that the Lord revealed Himself in part to the disciples and to all believers in Christ. He reveals to each of us what He desires us to understand. God is a mystery. Jesus revealed the mystery somewhat in coming to the earth and telling us about God. But a king is great if he understands mysteries. The king needs to realize, if his people are unhappy, he has to decide what he should do. The solution to the problem might be a mystery. The decision may be difficult but it is to the king's honor to give the correct and wise decision of the matter in order to rule righteously; then he is a great king and is therefore, honored.

25:3 **The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable**— ²⁸Nothing is higher than the heavens, nor anything deeper than the earth; the height of the heavens cannot be reached, and the center of the earth cannot easily be gotten into; the heavens above cannot be measured, and the foundation of the earth cannot be searched beneath; at least not by common persons. And so it is that we cannot know a king's emotions or secret thoughts. In public, the king might seem bold. But in private, he might be afraid. Some schemes are laid deep, concealing their designs, and keeping their reasons secret, so that it is not an easy thing to penetrate into their councils and views.

²⁷ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/40.html>

²⁸ <http://www.searchgodsword.org/com/geb/view.cgi?book=pr&chapter=025&verse=003>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

25:4 Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer—²⁹When extreme heat is applied to silver and it is melted down, the trash will come to the top and can be skimmed off and leave pure silver. This is very similar to a Christian. Sometimes God applies the heat (problems) to purify us. We are purged in the fire and made pure; pure silver shall come out of it for the refiner; of which a vessel may be made, very honourable, beautiful, and fit for use. The impurities have to be skimmed off to see the better quality.

25:5 Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness— This verse is associated with verse 4 above. The king cannot rule well if his government is evil and wicked. The king needs trustworthy servants and advisors. Just as heat is applied to the silver and the silver is made pure, the kingdom is made pure, and the kingdom made righteous when the wicked are removed. The king has it in his power to remove whomever he will. The removal of dross from the silver produces silver suitable for use for the silversmith, just as the removal of the lawless/wicked men will establish the king's throne in righteousness.

25:6 Put not forth thyself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men— The matter of proper conduct before dignitaries is the subject of verses 6 and 7. A man who attempts to gain recognition in selfish advancement is certain to meet with the king's rebuke. One is not to intrude himself into the presence of a king; or rush not into his presence in a rude and irreverent way, for he will be put to open shame where he stands when men of greater reputation arrive on the scene (Lk.14:8-11). Don't think too much of yourself; be humble.

25:7 For better it is that it be said unto thee, Come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the prince whom thine eyes have seen— It is better that one is recognized to be brought forth into the king's presence rather than moving oneself there beforehand. As in verse 6 when approaching too near the king's person, and taking the place of some great man, you would find yourself being forced down to a lower place. In other words, it's saying, it is better that we are asked to come up than to be asked down. This will definitely show humility. For the elevating of the humble is honorable, but the humbling of the proud is disgraceful (Lk.14:8-11; Jam.4:7-10).

25:8 Go not forth hastily to strive, lest thou know not what to do in the end thereof, when thy neighbour hath put thee to shame— The subject matter is going to court with a neighbor. When conflict arises, the man with a contentious spirit is quick to go to court. Quick anger causes embarrassment. The end to quick anger is repentance for what is said. "*Don't start something you can't finish and go down before your neighbor in shameful defeat*" (TLB). Take the time to think things through before going to court or before making judgment you would be ashamed of.

25:9 Debate thy cause with thy neighbour himself; and discover not a secret to another— If you are unhappy with a matter dealing with your neighbor, you should discuss the matter with that person first; talk it over by discussing it privately and hear what he has to say. By debating privately, hopefully a lawsuit will not be involved. Don't disclose or gossip the matter with another if the thing in controversy is a secret (something scandalous and reproachful of your neighbor and his family).

²⁹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/40.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

25:10 Lest he that heareth it put thee to shame, and thine infamy turn not away— If the person you have the conflict with hears that you have discussed it with someone else, he can accuse you of slander and you can't withdraw what you have said. And your indiscretion will be put to shame and it shall stick so close to you that you shall never get clear of it as long as you live, leaving you with a bad reputation.

SUMMARY:

These proverbs were gathered by Hezekiah when he became king, and they were added to the books of Proverbs by Hezekiah's scribes. During the period of Hezekiah's reign, it was a period of national revival (25:1). These men of Hezekiah feared the Lord and the king in due order and proportion. God's grandeur and sovereignty is to conceal the matter of His own wisdom and understanding and power and might. The secrets of the universe are concealed by God. Yet the honor of kings is to search out a matter (25:2). Here is wisdom from God to teach you to respect civil rulers. The heaven for height, the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is mentioned and only God can know about these things but He can also conceal the height of the heaven, the depth of the earth and the thoughts of a king. All their ways cannot be understood and are unsearchable by us (25:3).

Before a beautiful vessel can be brought forth, the impurities have to be removed and taken away. In the same way, before righteousness is to be established, wickedness has to be removed and taken away (25:4-5). Before King Jesus can completely and fully rule upon this earth, the wicked are removed into judgment, while God's righteous people will be left to rule and reign with Him. ³⁰It is wrong for a person to try to promote himself (25:6-7). It is likely that he will rate himself far higher than others would. The man who is content with the lowly seat may be called to a higher one if found to be deserving of such recognition

A man must practice care in relationships in order to avoid conflict with others. We should never jump to hasty conclusions about others for what are first impressions may not be true at all (25:8). Much trouble could be avoided if people were careful to keep their discussions to themselves in place of spreading abroad their differences. In providing evidence against a neighbor in a court case a plaintiff may be forced to betray a friend's confidence (25:9-10). As a result the friend may shame him and the plaintiff may have an irretrievable loss of reputation. It is risky business to accuse others publicly in court. What God wants us to do is to follow the simple scriptural rule of, "*Tell him his fault between thee and him alone.*" In following this principle many misunderstandings can be made right and many people spared from hearing about the problem when they should have never heard about it anyway.

APPLAICATION:

Always use discernment before giving advice. It may have been with good intentions but somehow resulted badly. They have to be ready to receive, and sometimes they never are. Well the first and last thing to do is to give it to God!

[TOP](#)

³⁰ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/tell-a-person-his-fault-alone/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PROVERBS 29:1-27

[Home](#)

INTRODUCTION:

This chapter repeats some points already made and introduces new ones. Bad leaders plunge a country into chaos. Don't oppress the poor. Don't show partiality. Take care of your parents. Follow the teachings of your parents. Be industrious.

29:1 Hardening your neck **when being reprov'd**, (*given many rebukes*) makes you make the same mistakes over and over and sets you up for disaster; to be destroyed without remedy. A **hard neck** means stiff-neck or just plain stubborn refusing to listen. There are consequences you will have to face, for your refusal to learn. If your mistake is refusing God's invitations or rejecting His commands, the consequences will be especially serious. It says, you **shall suddenly be destroyed**, meaning such persons shall be punished with everlasting destruction, which shall come upon them suddenly, when they are crying "*Peace*" to themselves, notwithstanding the reproofs of God and men. And in the end, God may have to turn you away.

29:2 The truth will be the rule when **the righteous are in control** (**authority**) because they rule justly. Therefore, **the people will rejoice**. When the righteous increase, when they are in power, when they are set in high places, and exercise right judgment the whole body of the people feel, and enjoy the advantage of it. But on the other hand, when the wicked rule, the land is clothed in mourning. Because of the sad state of things, numbers of good men are lessened, being cut off, or obliged to flee. Then **wicked men** and wickedness are encouraged and **promoted** (*like we see in our government now*); heavy taxes are laid upon the people, and exorbitant demands, injustice, and arbitrary power is exercised, **the people mourn**. Pray for righteous rulers.

29:3 A father is clothed with gladness when his son loves wisdom and abstains from the **company of harlots**. Those who live in a riotous and voluptuous manner will soon **drain a man of his substance**, and bring him to a morsel of bread; and such a son grieves his father, seeing by spending his substance.

29:4 When **a king does right**, all will go well with him and **the land is established**; is stable; stands firm; makes the nation strong. He establishes the laws of the land, and the government; he secures its peace and prosperity of the nation so that it flourishes. However, **the king that takes gifts** and is bribed by them to pervert judgment and justice brings distress and poverty; destroys it and it comes to ruin and thereby **overthrows his kingdom**.

29:5 "*Flattery*" is the saying of what the heart does not mean, with the intention of misleading or obtaining favor. We all want to be liked, so we are all vulnerable to flattery. However, over-flattery is designed to ensnare the unsuspecting and gullible. The one who is the smooth talker **with his neighbor** has a hidden motive and **spreads a net for his steps**; setting a trap for himself.

29:6 The transgressions of these **evil men** forge a chain that binds them steadfastly to a treadmill of evil.

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

Repeated sin becomes a habit, and bad habits destroy a man; that "*snare*" is the habit of sin we get into and then cannot shake. One sin leads on to another, and a man is snared by the works of his own hands. However, the righteous goes singing and rejoicing on their way, free from sin's entangling power. The righteous men are kept from those snares, or delivered out of them; they walk at liberty, walk in safety, and therefore they **sing and rejoice**.

29:7 A compassionate attitude toward those in need demonstrates a godly character. Therefore, **the righteous cares for** and has sympathy; gives attention to the cause (*the basis or source their plea, their case, their legal rights*) of **the poor**. He realizes the plight of the poor and helps them whenever he can. **The wicked** cares for no one but himself. Everything the wicked does has a selfish purpose behind it. They **do not understand** the "*sympathetic knowledge*" or "*concern*" for the cause of the poor.

29:8 **Scornful men** are never pleased with anyone or anything. These scornful create rebellion and riots and **can** cause a whole city to **be** blamed for it; **snared** in discord. They sow discord among the citizens and run them into confusion. Such scornful people make dangerous situations worse, whereas the **wise** calm things down. Then people can consider the situation carefully. And they will make a sensible decision by **turning away anger**.

29:9 A **wise man** is here advised not to set his wit with a foolish man, **not to** dispute with him, or by **contending with** him. There is no reasoning with a fool. ³¹"*Contendeth*" means judge or defend, or plead in this instance. This seems to be (whether in playing or a legal problem) there is no way to ever get it settled completely. It is not possible to persuade this **foolish man** to do what is right. He either gets mad, or laughs but does not accept the truth and returns to embrace his own opinions. "*There is no rest*"; there can be no happy ending to any involvement with him, nor will he have any satisfaction in it.

29:10 "*Bloodthirsty*" mean people who shed blood – murderers, or those who would not hesitate to commit murder in order to get what they want. They hate men of integrity. ³²The upright tries to help the bloodthirsty repent and be saved. **The bloodthirsty** feels terrible guilt when they compare themselves with the upright and they **hate the upright**. The bloodthirsty love no one but themselves, and they will stop at no length to get what they want. **The just** are always **seeking to save a soul**, even that of bloodthirsty one.

29:11 **The fool** likes to hear himself, thereby **uttering his mind**, venting his feeling; his anger which is not the mind of Christ. His wisdom is earthly wisdom, which will bless no one. **The wise** man listens and considers everything. He never speaks until he has fully considered everything by **keeping it back quietly**. There is a time for everything: a time to keep silent and a time to speak which will always show the mark of true wisdom. Therefore, **the fool pours out all his wrath, but the wise man holds it back**.

29:12 A corrupt leader will draw around him corrupt people. The servants of the ruler are apt to become like the ruler and accommodate themselves to his practices. **If the ruler prefers falsehood** to the truth, **his**

³¹ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/46.html>

³² <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/46.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

servants will become able liars. ³³Another idea: If you listen to everything people tell you, including the lies, then you'll end up hating everyone, they'll all become "wicked" because some people will lie and tell you stories to turn you against others.

29:13 If the **poor** (the deprived) and the **deceitful** (the dishonest) **come together** and try to settle their differences the Lord will open their eyes and let them see. Each depends on God for light. Both are partakers of His providential blessings. He is no respecter of blessings. They have something in common; **the Lord** gives life and **light to all men**, the unfortunate and deceiving alike. The moneylender might use his superior economic power to oppress the poor, but he had better remember that they both meet together under the watchful eye of the Lord.

29:14 **Faithfulness to the poor** does much **to establish the throne of the king**. The poor are those who can't stick up for themselves; they can't influence you with gifts; and they can't hire expensive lawyers. God promises to take care of leaders who make decisions fairly by judging the poor truthfully.

29:15 The child who is exempted from discipline and allowed to govern his life according to the dictates of his own will is destined to bring shame upon his home. The rod means the paddle, and reproof means correction. Kids need both **the rod and reproof which give wisdom**. They need to know the consequences and understand what they've done or else this shame will be public for the mother. Kids don't raise or train themselves. Parents raise and train kids. It is natural for a mother's love to be forgiving and **not judging**, but this would give way to the children's happiness and leads to the mother's misery. And those you refuse to chastise **will yield to shame** because you gave in to what they wanted.

29:16 **When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall—** When the wicked are increased or in authority their sins increase and they will not always succeed. Though they may continue for a time, the righteous will ultimately witness the total overthrow of the wicked.

29:17 **Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul—** Correction is the discipline given to improve or reform the person punished. When you train a son correctly, you have nothing to fear from his behavior. A good son brings pleasure and good memories to his parents. Loving discipline along with prayer will produce children who will give rest and cause delight for aging parents.

29:18 **Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he—** While using this verse in this context of correction, suggests where there is no vision for the proper discipline of children, a society produces a generation of young people who have no regard for the law and literally run wild. This also means, ³⁴if you are not looking ahead and planning on accomplishing a goal in your life, you have no life without a vision. A vision from God can be the will of God being revealed to you in a supernatural way. To lose sight of the will of God would certainly cause us to perish. The person who knows the will of God and is living in that will is very happy and contented, knowing they are pleasing God.

³³ <http://www.calvaryfullerton.org/Bstudy/20%20Pro/2004/20Pro%2029.htm>

³⁴ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/46.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

29:19 A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer— Verbal correction accomplishes little with a servant who deliberately refuses to obey commands. This is speaking of a servant who is disobedient and stubborn. He can easily hear what you are saying, but words will not move him. If words are not understood, then actions will have to be applied. A stubborn or disobedient servant must be corrected with something sterner than mere words.

29:20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him—This is speaking of a man that speaks before he thinks; that takes upon him to speak upon a subject, or return an answer to a question, before he has thoroughly thought of it; implying self-conceit; and without taking the advice of others. The fool is one that has not the gift of elocution (the art of clear speaking), or not so much level-headedness and may be able to get away with much because you know he is a fool. The man who speaks with haste has not learned to hold his words back. Once you've said something, you can't get it back. Such portrays that self is ruling instead of Christ.

29:21 He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length—³⁵If the servant comes to you as a child and lives with you, he becomes like a member of the family. You become fond of him, and it is hard to think of him as a servant. He becomes a member of the family. Trusted slaves sometimes rose to positions of prominence and became heirs of their master's property. The idea could be that if you pamper your servant, you might end up with him being a son to you, but you've lost a good worker. Raising a servant from a child, and overindulging or pampering a servant ultimately causes the child to be cared for like a son rather than one who serves the master.

29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife—He always gets it started. His spirit causes it wherever he goes. He causes sin in himself and in others. **And a furious man aboundeth in transgression—**He thrives in overstepping the limit of sin in deliberate rebellion. His furious spirit is always carrying him into extremes. Both are led by self and not by the Holy Spirit. *Proverbs 22:24 says, Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go.*

29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit— Anger and pride always go together. Pride closes a man off from learning and is a forerunner of impending destruction. The lowly (*lit., the sufferers*), who trust in the Lord, are destined for honor. In contrast, the proud will be brought "low," but the one who is "lowly" will be honored. Pride is what makes you want to stand head and shoulders above everyone else. Yet it's what will bring you down. Humility causes you to exalt others ahead of you, but in the end you receive honor.

29:24 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not— Even if you did not steal, but you're in partnership with a thief, you would be guilty by association. It is speaking of knowing of a sin and not speaking out to reveal the sin. The individual who conceals the evil plotting of a thief under the guise of not wanting to become involved, would be an accomplice and punished along with the criminal doing terrible damage to his own soul. It is working against him when he does not inform on the

³⁵ <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/46.html>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>

PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

thief. He will be punished along with the thief if he is caught.

29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe—If people cause you to shake in your boots, then they're going to control what you do. Fear is lack of faith. To fear man and what he can do to you is sin. The believer can either fear man or fear the Lord. He cannot do both. If he fears man, he will be made a slave of man and will always find himself in a snare (a trap) — in a trap there is no freedom of movement or sense of security. Safety is guaranteed only to him who puts his trust in the Lord. Fear God, who can turn the harm intended by others, into good for those who trust Him.

29:26 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD— Many people seek the approval of earthly leaders, but in reality this approval means little because an earthly ruler may err and oftentimes does, in dispensing favors. The moral is to seek the Lord's favor, since He alone can and will exact justice. God alone determines the destinies of men; every man's judgment cometh from the Lord.

29:27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked— The unjust who cherishes deviousness is a disgrace; an outrage; an eyesore to the just. It is not the person, but his actions; his unrighteous actions, his ungodly life and conversation that the good loathe. And the upright, who cherishes righteousness is loathsome; and is disliked by the wicked who hate their goodness. It is the Christ they see within the good that they hate. The enmity may be masked, but nothing can mend it; there can be no treaty of peace. There always has been a mutual enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent (*Gen.3:15*).

SUMMARY:

³⁶When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases (**29:16**). Contrary to what today's society may tell us, proper discipline includes both verbal instruction and spankings. Failure to do so produces a child and in turn a society that is overrun by the wicked who feel they can practice all kinds of evil without punishment. On the other hand, following the Biblical principles of discipline will produce children who will bring delight to their parents (**29:17**).

Without God's Word people abandon themselves to their own sinful ways (**29:18**). The word "*perish*" means to run wild. On the other hand keeping God's law brings happiness. Lack of vision, results in a cold dry theological, or philosophical treatment of the Scriptures, which is given to touch the intellect, rather than the heart and the conscience. ³⁷It is important to use the rod and reproof when children are young and forming both character and habits for life (**29:19**). If they are not corrected when they are young, verbal correction will accomplish very little when they become older, for they will refuse to obey commands then. This is why our jails are filled today.

There is less hope for a person who is insensitive to others than there is for a fool, because he brings trouble on others as well as on himself (**29:20**). Failure to discipline a servant and then require him to carry out

³⁶ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/biblical-discipline-brings-delight/>

³⁷ <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-rod-and-reproof-bring-wisdom/>
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-versebyverse.html>



PITWM VERSE BY VERSE

responsibilities will bring grief (29:21). It is impossible to have a close relationship with the Lord and have an angry spirit (29:22). An angry, hot tempered person causes all kinds of strife and commits many sins. Ironically pride by which a person seeks to elevate himself only results in his being brought low (29:23) while the humble will be elevated by others to a position of honor.

It is a serious thing to partake of other men's' sins. A man who forms a partnership with a thief in reality despises his own life (29:24). In court he must either lie or say nothing. If he testifies he will implicate himself and if he says nothing he will be assumed guilty (Lev. 5:1). The person who fears God will not fear man. However, the person who fears man will never fear God as he should (29:25). Many seek the approval of men when God alone determines the destiny of men (29:26). Good people and criminals can't stand each other (29:27).

Here we have the wise words of Solomon about discipline and discernment; that it is necessary if you don't want wickedness to increase, but you want to find rest and delight in the son you've given wisdom to. You want him to have an ordered; planned, and disciplined life as he stays with the vision. In him knowing the words of wisdom given, will yield discernment, a duty to follow them, and a trust in the deity of God Almighty!

APPLICATION:

The Law of God is ultimate! When we trust His Words of Wisdom to be truth by following them, there is security.

[TOP](#)