

CHAPTER 19

Proverbs 19:1 Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

Personal Integrity Is Better Than Riches

The man who walks uprightly, though he is poor, is more of a success in the eyes of God, than a perverse fool though he is rich. The wisdom of God and Solomon promotes holy living over financial success.

We have an ellipsis here, Words removed by design to shorten the sentence and make it more powerful.

We know we have an ellipsis by the incomplete antithesis, for there is no corresponding term for poor; and the LORD gave us the full version in ***Proverbs 28:6***.

It is not just, a poor honest man compared to a perverse fool, but rather to a rich perverse fool!

Here is one of Holy Spirit's many priorities, teaching wisdom by comparison. Young men should strive for righteous lives more than advancement in their profession or financial success.

Honest dealings are more important than economic progress. You should choose holy living over any professional ambitions. See the comments on ***Proverbs 13:7***.

Consider some related comparisons: ***Proverbs 15:16 Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.***
Proverbs 16:8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

A poor honest man is better than a rich liar (***Proverbs 19:22***).

Young man, reject television advertisements, a fast track boss, or a wealthy neighbor. The man that just makes money and gets ahead is less important than walking uprightly in all you do.

The man who does not fear the Lord and says profane things with his mouth is a loser, regardless of how much money he makes or the size of his house. He is headed for destruction.

You will face choices, maybe today, where you must choose between integrity before God and "getting ahead." Will you fudge a quote or estimate to make the sale?

Will you be silent when your competitor is falsely accused? Will you pass a promotion that would require you to work for a dishonest boss?

Will you tell the whole truth in the application for a job you really want? Will you fudge your financial statements to a bank?

You have been warned. If you put professional success ahead of holy living, you lose, now and later!

The Lord sees your heart and every action, and He will treat you justly now and at His judgment seat. But He can give joy now that no money can buy (***Psalms 4:7***)!

Your goals should be: gracious speech, impeccable business dealings, being a loving husband, training your children, and doing good to all men. You also must avoid hypocrisy, evil thoughts, and even the appearance of evil. You should do it all with the LORD first priority in your life.

A wise man will consider that God is measuring His moral performance, rather than worry about the perverse fools measuring by financial gain. The wise priority in ambition of this Proverb is from the Holy Spirit and written agreeably by Solomon. Believe it!

Nabal was a very great man with much riches and a beautiful wife, but he was a fool and a son of Belial (***1Samuel 25:2-3, 17, 25***).

David was the most wanted man in Israel and running for his life, living in the woods and fields with the sheep.

Which man would you want to be? Which man was better? What happened to these men? God turned Nabal into stone for ten days of cold fear, killed him, and gave his wife to David. God protected David, put him on the throne, and made him very great in the end.

One Sold His Soul To The Devil The Other Walked With God!

One probably (there is no evidence to the contrary) went straight to hell at death, and the other died the death of the righteous. The difference in time and eternity between these two men is immeasurable. Consider it!

Young man, the way of the wicked seduces many (***Proverbs 12:26***).

The way of the wicked, is the prosperity of fools (***Proverbs 1:32***).

You should ignore the way of the wicked, for it does not tell their horrible future (***Psalms 73:16-20***).

"He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch" (Proverbs 11:28).

If you give up the things of this evil world for Jesus Christ, He promises to reward you with a hundredfold now and with eternal life in the world to come (*Mark 10:29-31*).

Proverbs 19:2 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.

If ignorance is bliss, it is only so in matters of liberty and sin (*Romans 16:19; 1Corinthians 10:25-27*).

If haste is a virtue, it is only so in matters of obedience to God (*Psalms 119:60*).

For both ignorance and haste are condemned by our Proverb, which mark them with traits of the fool, and is carried over from the previous Proverb by the Word "also."

Therefore, before decisions are made and actions started, the Holy Spirit requires careful study. Haste does make waste! If others tease you for being cautious and wanting to know more, ignore the lunatics!

Fools have no heart for learning, and they are impulsive by nature. They rush to decisions and actions without knowing all the facts, and they are justly punished. (*Proverbs 17:16*)

Wise men do not believe everything they are confronted with, and they do not rush into anything (*Proverbs 14:15; 14:29; 18:13; 25:8*).

Wise men look ahead and see what could happen. Fools rush to pain! (*Proverbs 22:3; 27:12*).

The New Testament also teaches knowledge and caution. Paul condemns ignorance, as he required the proving of all things (*1Thessalonians 5:21; Acts 17:11*).

Wise men examine matters in all directions, they are circumspect (*Ephesians 5:15-17*).

Paul again warned about haste, as the sin of the perilous times of the last days (*2Timothy 3:4*).

Our generation commends marriages on emotion alone; but our Proverb demands that there be knowledge as well.

How many divorces and dysfunctional marriages could have been avoided by learning more about the other party? And when haste is added to mere emotion, folly and its deserved pain will follow. Fifty years in marital hell is a long time!

Parents, especially fathers, should rule dating and courting. And they should be actively involved in the proving process.

A young, single person does not have a clue about marriage, and he or she needs the combined wisdom and experience of their parents to save them from great pain. To rush into such an abyss impatiently is the height of folly.

Others make investment and business decisions by foolish optimism rather than prudent caution and wise counsel. And they are punished. Hard work in a boring job always works better than hastily following vain ideas (*Proverbs 12:11; 21:5; 28:19,22*).

Many join churches without examining them by Scripture out of laziness or to please friends or family. Pastors preach things they have not thoroughly studied. But when the Lord sees such ignorant haste in His worship, He blinds to the truth and sends delusions and lies. Ignorant haste in religion is a horrible, and compounding sin! (*2Thessalonians 2:9-12*)

Proverbs 19:3 The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.

Men have trouble in life due to their own foolishness. Then they blame God for it! What profane wickedness! For foolish man will not live by God's wisdom, for he wants to do things his way.

When the foolish man meets the consequences of his foolish choices, he murmurs and blames God for the difficulties. What a miserable, rebellious, ungrateful wretch!

The LORD Is Good To All His Mercy Is Over All!

The LORD offers wisdom freely to all who want it (*Proverbs 9:1-6; Isaiah 45:19*).

But fools laugh at wisdom. They think they have a better way. But they shall eat the fruit of their folly (*Proverbs 1:29-33*).

The reprobate in our Proverb, accuses God, that His ways are not equal. But it is the fool's ways that are not equal (*Ezekiel 18:25*)!

Has this Proverb ever been true in your life? Have you chosen your own way and met with pain and snares?

Have you ever thought the Lord was unfair? Have you ever resented Him for not delivering you or answering your prayers?

Have you had discontented, vexing, or self-righteous thoughts before the LORD?

Notice carefully, that it is the heart of the fool that frets (your inner thoughts), so your pious speech in the church does not cover for it! **Proverbs 4:23** *Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.*

Reader, how have you been thinking in your heart, where the rest of us cannot see? Remember the Lord sees fretting. Such fretting is sin!

Nothing That You Possess Is Yours! It Is A Gift From God Who Owns All!

God gave you your station in life, abilities, parents, health, children, job, spouse, time, and anything else you can name.

So, why do you chafe against Him about these gifts? These things are not yours; they are His, and you are just a steward of them.

God loaned them to you, and He expects a good return on them. You owe Him! He owes you nothing. So, be a faithful steward of God's gifts! **1Corinthians 4:2** *Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.*

But when you fret against Him after perverting His gifts through slothfulness and foolishness. Your murmuring thoughts are the rebellious poison, seeping out of your heart! You add wickedness to your sins.

So reader, crush those thoughts. Humble yourself before God. Find your joy and contentment in Him, rather than the gifts he gives. Confess your folly that lead to your predicament.

Adam brought himself shame in Eden, and he blamed God for it (**Genesis 3:11-12**).

Cain was cursed for killing his brother, and he blamed God for his punishment being too great (**Genesis 4:13-14**).

Ahab found himself at war for the vicious murder of Naboth for his vineyard, and he blamed God for not ever blessing him (**1Kings 22:8**).

Most of the problems you have are your own fault. You neglected to keep God's Word faithfully. You foolishly chose your own way. Your zeal for following wisdom was lukewarm. Can you see this? (**Proverbs 4:23**)

Reader, confess your foolish stewardship in taking care of what God has given you. **If** you do not, your difficulties, in life, will continue to increase (**Job 36:16-18**)!

Where are you being foolish in your life? It will come back to haunt you. And **If** you blame God for the

trouble, you add greater sin to your folly. No wonder your life is a mess.

The Bible says, "*This is the way, walk ye in it*" (**Isaiah 30:21**).

The Bible says, "*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (**Proverbs 14:12; 16:25; 12:28**).

But you have rejected instruction and wisdom, because you have a better idea, because you think the pastor is too extreme, the Bible is too old fashioned, your daddy didn't do it that way. Beware reader!

God Is Not Mocked Do Not Be Deceived About It!

If you choose to compromise His Word in your marriage, family, thoughts, speech, or any area of life, you are going to reap painful consequences (**Galatians 6:7**).

God's ways are equal; your ways are unequal! And **If** you add fretting to your sin, He will come with even greater judgment.

If there were ever a man who could have fretted against his lot in life, it would have been our Lord. But when facing the most arduous and horrifying task of His difficult life, to pay for our wickedness, He said, "*Nevertheless not my will, but thine, be done*" (**Luke 22:42**).

Our Lord never perverted His way, but paid for us perverting our way. And He still didn't fret! Praise the perfect Son of God!

Proverbs 19:4 Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.

Money creates friends! The rich always have an entourage of happy and serving friends. But the friendships are false, and the happy and helpful entourage is only looking out for themselves.

Once the money runs out, the fair weather friends fly away, the entourage disappears.

Even Once Helpful Neighbors Avoid And Reject A Poor Man.

Some Proverbs teach an obvious lesson. "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it,*" **Proverbs 22:6**.

The Proverb's value is obtained by exploring the full sense of proper training, the nature of a child, the way he should go, and what is an old child. The rule is clear: we simply dig for the principle's details.

Other Proverbs declare an observation from life. The lesson is only implied, and it is the reader's duty to find it. There are many such Proverbs in Proverbs, and this is one of them.

The Holy Spirit stated Solomon's observation about the effects of money on relationships, and it is our privilege to identify the lesson, which is the condemnation of such false priorities.

His observation is true. Men gravitate to those with money, for they hope to get some for themselves. Solomon's experience teaches wisdom.

We can see through the false words and actions of flattering individuals who ingratiate themselves to the rich.

Numbers should not impress us, knowing that the crowd is only temporary, while the money lasts. We recognize the power of bribes, and we have a skeptical view of fads and financial popularity.

The love of money is the root of all evil. It causes men to make friendships based on financial gain rather than character. These are not real friendships, but relationships of greed and covetousness.

Again, when the money runs out, the friendship ends. Even neighbors, who should have a sense of duty to one another, will avoid and reject those who are poor.

Solomon made this observation for his son several times (*Proverbs 14:20; 18:16; 19:6-7*).

Rehoboam being the son of a rich king, fawning leeches would be following him. He had to be wise and see through their facade of friendship and measure their character.

Men of principle do not care about money or other advantage; they are there for the long haul (*Proverbs 17:17*).

Kings, and successful men, must demand character to survive (*Proverbs 25:4-5; Psalms 101:1-8; 144:11-15*).

Financial success, by itself, is not an accurate measure of a man.

There are too many factors contributing to riches other than character and ability.

There are rich fools, and there are poor wise men. Time and chance happens to them all (*Ecclesiastes 9:11*).

Be instructed: a poor wise man is far superior to a rich fool (*Proverbs 19:1; 28:6; Ecclesiastes 4:13; 9:13-16*).

Consider two Bible examples of how wealth affects friendships:

Job, once very rich, his most intimate friends and family members had forsaken him in his horrible poverty and trouble (*Job 19:8-19*).

Jonathan, the Prince of Israel, the greatest example of a friend, gave up his lofty position and great riches to befriend the poor shepherd David. True friends are not influenced by wealth at all. (*1Samuel 18:1-4; 20:30*).

Do Not Love Others For What They Can Do For You.

Jesus said, "*When thou makest a dinner or a supper, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen, nor thy rich neighbours; lest they also bid thee again, and a recompence be made thee. But when thou makest a feast, call the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind: And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompence thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just*" (*Luke 14:12-14*).

Merely loving those who love you is sinful love (**Luke 6:32**).

The Lord Jesus, Who was very rich, became poor to befriend and save poverty-stricken sinners, that they might become rich by His poverty. Here is friendship unknown to natural men! Here is the unspeakable gift of the Gospel! (*2Corinthians 8:9*)

Those who know Jesus Christ will easily burn themselves out serving those who cannot pay for the glory of God (*2Corinthians 12:15*).

Proverbs 19:5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.

How important is telling the truth? Extremely important! A false witness is someone who tells lies against or for another person, especially when that person is on trial for a crime.

This Proverb also condemns all lying. Liars will not escape punishment, for all good men, and magistrates and rulers, and the LORD will all pursue them to judgment.

Reader let this short sentence, reflecting the LORD's hatred of lying, cause your heart to fear about misrepresenting a matter or telling a lie.

Only those who love death, will rush over this Proverb and enter into their day without checking carefully, for honesty blemishes in the mirror of God's Word (*Proverbs 12:19; 21:6; James 1:21-26*).

God hates lying (*Proverbs 6:17, 19; 12:22; Psalm 5:5-6*).

All liars shall have their part in the lake of fire (*Revelation 21:8; 22:15*).

Every time a person lies, he claims and proves the devil is his father (*Genesis 3:1-5; John 8:44*).

God made lying the ninth commandment. His New Testament apostles blasted lying also (*Exodus 20:16; Ephesians 4:25; Colossians 3:9; 1Timothy 1:10*).

Lying will bring certain judgment. One lie leads to another to keep the previous one covered, until a liar is caught in a web of deceit that destroys his soul and reputation.

Men depend upon truth for survival and success, so a liar will be avoided and punished (*Psalms 101:7*).

Civil authority depends upon truth, so they need to punish liars (*Proverbs 16:13; 17:7; 29:12; Deuteronomy 19:16-21*).

God will judge liars severely (*2Kings 5:25-27; Acts 5:1-11; Revelation 21:8*).

This Proverb is weighty with a sober warning, and it is repeated just four Proverbs later. So it is critically important (*Proverbs 19:9*)!

Do you get the message? God and all good men hate lying! You should hate it as well! The Bible is filled with a variety of warnings against lying (*Leviticus 19:11; Psalm 101:7; Jeremiah 9:3-5; Acts 5:3-4*).

Be sure your sin will find you out, especially lying (*Proverbs 12:19; Numbers 32:23*)!

Do you embellish facts, exaggerate events, polish stories, or round numbers in your favor? Do you allow incorrect facts to stand, when they are in your favor?

Reader, do you speak the truth openly and plainly at all times. Do you hate lying and any of its subtle forms! Love honesty and truth! Pray for deliverance from this curse of the devil (*Psalms 119:29*)!

Parents! Demand truth from your children from their earliest days, as babies begin lying before they begin talking (*Psalms 58:3-5*).

Emphasize total honesty in all family dealings and at all times. Punish lying more severely than most or all other infractions.

Especially focus on lying to avoid punishment, for telling the truth then is learning the fear of God. **If** you do not punish them early and teach them to hate lying, they will be punished later!

Our Lord is the Faithful and True Witness (*Revelation 3:14*).

The reason others did not believe Him was because He told the truth (*John 8:45*)!

Natural Man Prefers Lies Nothing Has Changed Today!

Evolution? What a ridiculous, insane lie! Churches preaching lies will always have larger crowds than those teaching truth (*1Timothy 4:1-3; 2Timothy 4:3-4*).

Wise men will not measure godliness by growth or success, but by truth (*1Timothy 6:3-6*).

Proverbs 19:6 Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts.

Can You Discern Motives? Can You A Make Righteous Judgment?

Wise men recognize the temptations and weaknesses of men in order to prudently judge persons and situations.

The power and influence of a prince, and the money and generosity of the wealthy, attract fawning sycophants and leeches.

The many that beg for favors from the powerful, and every man that befriends the wealthy, are generally unfaithful and dangerous men.

The Proverb is an observation by Solomon. As a powerful and wealthy king, he experienced the crowd and constant harassment of petitioners seeking his intervention on their behalf.

Solomon, in order to teach his son, warned that a prince would also have many such followers. The majority of these leeches would be selfish men, with little positive character or loyalty, and a wise man would not put his trust in their words or actions.

The following Proverb sheds light on this one. Solomon wrote, "*All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him*" (*Proverbs 19:7*).

When a man has no money or power, he loses his friends and brothers, for they see no further reason to maintain a relationship. In fact, they are afraid he might request help of them, so they flee! These are fair weather friends!

These two Proverbs together help explain one in the nearby context, where Solomon had written, "*Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour*" (*Proverbs 19:4*).

All three Proverbs together are describing false friends, selfish men, unfaithful followers, and dangerous leeches.

Wise men learn to recognize the temptations of men's souls and thereby have the upper hand in judging their words and actions.

Solomon had taught this principle earlier as well. There he wrote, "*The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends*" (**Proverbs 14:20**).

The lesson is simple: Most men have selfish motives that cause them to follow and pretended loyalty to those who could benefit them.

It is a wise man's understanding, that remembers and considers this weakness of most men, and takes it into account when making judgments.

Even the churches of the Lord, have such evil men creep in, from time to time. Jude warned against those who admire and flatter men, for the advantage they hope to obtain (**Jude 1:16**).

It is a profane shame that men will profess Christianity and pretend an interest in the Gospel, to obtain from the stream of charity spilling from a godly and loving church.

Lord, as David prayed, deliver your Churches, "*from strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood*" (**Psalms 144:11**).

Consider the Lord Jesus Christ. There were those who followed Him merely for the free lunch of fish and bread He had provided for them. They were so eager and intent on securing free food that they tried to forcibly make Him king (**John 6:1-27**).

He rebuked and ridiculed their carnality until they left (**John 6:28-71**).

Wise men will recognize from this lesson the inherent folly of connecting medicine and food programs with the Gospel!

Jesus Christ of the Bible rejected anything even close to seeker sensitive practices!

How is the lesson applied? Consider **Proverbs 31:30**, where men are warned against the deceit of a woman's favors. The fear of God is the only measure of a great wife.

Prudent men see a woman's temptation and weakness, to seduce a good man by favors, and they reject her words and conduct as flattery.

Prudent men know that even an odious woman can be pleasing during courtship (**Proverbs 30:21-23**)!

Wise men demand independent fear of God and spiritual zeal.

True friendship and service have nothing to do with advantage or benefit of the relationship, for they are based on the higher principles of: Fearing God, Christian charity, Righteous character, and Personal integrity.

True friends are not moved by adversity or poverty; they are willing to lose assets in order to help the other (**Proverbs 17:17; 18:24; John 15:13**).

Proverbs 19:7 All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

Here is an accurate observation by King Solomon. Human nature is rather ugly, when men's motives are analyzed honestly.

A man's own family will forsake him, when he is financially poor. And he will certainly lose his friends, for they no longer see any reason to associate with him. Though he may express much affection, they leave him anyway.

Family is usually tighter than friendship, so the world says, "Blood is thicker than water." The world should coin a new saying, "Money is thicker than blood"!

Philosophical talk and romantic songs, about eternal love and the precious value of a soul are nice, but the reality of life, is that without opportunity for personal gain, most men will forsake both family and friends.

Some Proverbs state an observation, and you must discover the lessons. Solomon observed that most men are selfish: when they perceive no further financial opportunity in a relationship, they will dump the person. And Solomon saw, that this horrible trait extended even to family and friends.

What can you learn from this indictment of our race? Mankind is inherently selfish, greedy, and opportunistic. Mankind knows lust, or self-gratification, much better than they know love, or self-sacrifice.

A wise man learns, this trait of men, and considers it when analyzing situations or making decisions involving others. He will remember the underlying ambition, and selfishness in most relationships.

Most friends are fair weather friends. Their commitment and loyalty to you are only as deep as your

pockets! When the going gets tough, they get going, right out the door!

True friends, of whom the world knows little, are not so fickle. Solomon also wrote, "*A [true] friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity*" (**Proverbs 17:17**).

Reader, **If** you earned your poverty by slothfulness or stupidity, you should not complain about your lack of friends: you have driven them away by your own folly.

Diligent and honest men rightly despise lazy and stubborn men. They fear to be near them, lest they will ask for a handout to subsidize their sin.

So reader get to work, avoid foolish scams, and save some money; friends may return (**Proverbs 19:4, 6; 20:4; 1Thessalonians 4:11-12; 2Thessalonians 3:6-12; Ephesians 4:28**).

The only true friends are those united to you in Jesus Christ. They are not fair weather friends, for outward circumstances and lustful ambition neither motivate them nor affect them.

Christian friends are committed to you by their love of God and His family. They are more interested in your perfection than their profit.

Where are such exceptional friends found? In a Church of Jesus Christ, where they assemble for this very purpose!

There is also, no shame in legitimate poverty for those that follow Jesus Christ, for He has chosen the poor of this world, rich in faith, to be His children (**1Corinthians 1:26-29; James 2:5**).

And though false friends may leave and forsake you, when you were born again, God adopted you, to an eternal inheritance with infinite riches, and will never forsake you (**Romans 9:23; Ephesians 1:18; 2:7**).

God's love is everlasting and unchanging, regardless of circumstances (**Romans 8:38-39**).

Proverbs 19:8 He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.

Do you love yourself? Of course! Then do something truly good for yourself today!

Instead of a manicure or box of candy, which both cost money and disappear in days, get some wisdom. It is free and lasts forever.

Keep the understanding you have, for it will bring good success into your life. Go ahead; pamper yourself with something wonderful!

Self-love theory is a lie of humanistic psychology, one of the first symptoms of the perilous times of the last days (**2Timothy 3:1-5**).

Self-love is contrary to the Bible, which knows man loves himself enough, and should love others as much (**Matthew 22:39; Ephesians 5:28-29; Philippians 2:3-4**).

Self-love theory of the Bible is self-denial! The world says, "I am first." The Bible declares, "I am third."

Wisdom is self-serving, for it brings peace and prosperity to your own life.

All those around you will also benefit by your excellent spirit and superior conduct; but you yourself are the great beneficiary of Lady Wisdom's gracious invitations (**Proverbs 8:1-11; 9:1-5**).

The good life, the abundant life, and the successful life is what wisdom will bring the man that has it (**Proverbs 16:22; 19:23**).

To reject wisdom's offer is to love death (**Proverbs 8:36**).

Wisdom Is The Power Of Right Judgment! Knowing What To Do In Any Situation!

Only A Few Have It But It Is Offered To All!

The difference between a fool and wise man is very great, so Solomon told his son, "*Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding*" (**Proverbs 4:7**).

How valuable is wisdom? Try this description from the man who had everything: "*She is more precious than rubies: and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her*" (**Proverbs 3:15**).

And again, "*For wisdom is better than rubies; and all the things that may be desired are not to be compared to it*" (**Proverbs 8:11**).

How do you get wisdom? You start by humbling yourself and trembling before the living God (**Proverbs 1:7; 9:10**).

Then trust the Bible and what it says on any subject (**Proverbs 1:4; Psalms 19:7; 119:128, 119:130**).

You then begin to dedicate yourself to learning (**Proverbs 2:1-9; 18:1**).

You beg God for His free gift of Wisdom daily (**Psalms 119:18; James 1:5**).

You use the teachers, God has providentially put in your life, whether parents or pastors (*Proverbs 5:1; 23:19; 29:15; Jeremiah 3:15; 1Corinthians 2:6-13*).

How do you keep understanding? You remember what you have been taught (*Proverbs 3:1; Deuteronomy 6:6-9; Acts 17:11*).

How do you keep understanding? You hide God's Word in your heart and apply it to every situation (*Job 34:3; Psalm 119:11; Hebrews 5:14*).

How do you keep understanding? You meditate upon God's Word day and night (often) (*Psalms 1:2; 119:98-100, 148*).

How do you keep understanding? You avoid evil communications that corrupt good manners (*Proverbs 9:6; Psalm 1:1; 1Corinthians 15:33*).

Proverbs 19:9 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.

**The World Abounds In Falsehood!
Lies Swarm In Every Area Of Life!**

Lies are in the market, on the internet, in courts of justice, in the Senate, House of Representatives, in the sanctuaries of religion. Lies crowd the very pages of newspapers, magazines and books. Lies infest the social atmosphere.

**Men At All Levels Of Society
Live In Fiction And By Fiction!**

Everywhere men walk is a vain show. The lesson is simple: That falsehood leads to ruin. "*He that speaketh lies shall perish*".

Falsehood is ruinous to reputation. A good reputation is to every man a priceless gem. But A liar, "false witness," endangers a man's reputation.

When his lies and falsities are discovered, his reputation perishes.

When a man is branded a perjurer, or a liar; what a worthless wretch he appears in society!

Falsehood is ruinous to influence. What influence has a known liar in society? What esteem can he garner? What confidence can he inspire? What credit can he gain?

He is suspected, he is despised! When Aristotle was asked what a man could gain by telling a falsehood, he replied, "Never to be credited when he speaks the truth." It is ruinous to the soul.

**Virtue And Happiness Of A Moral Person
Depends Upon The Conformity
Of A Person's Language And Life To Reality!**

The lying man destroys: the strength, the freedom, the happiness of his soul. He lives in a house built upon the sand; ruin is inevitable.

Coleridge says, "Falsehood, is fire in stubble. It likewise turns all the light stuff around it into its own substance for a moment; one crackling, blazing moment, and then dies. And all its contents are scattered in the wind without place or evidence of their existence, as viewless as the wind which scatters them."

This Proverb is almost identical to *Proverbs 19:5*.

To "*Not be unpunished*" means shall certainly be punished.

To "*Perish*" has to do with spiritual destruction, for many habitual liars never are punished in this life for their lies.

The loss of the eternal rewards, **If** there were no other punishment, would cost you more than all gained by lying (*Revelation 21:27; 22:14-15*).

Again, witnessing falsely is perjury and punishable by imprisonment or fine. Perhaps, this is not just speaking in a court under oath. **If** the witness is between neighbors, when the truth comes out, there will be punishment, even **If** that punishment is those neighbors who will not have anything to do with you because they cannot believe a thing you say.

No one likes or wants to be around a liar.

Proverbs 19:10 Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

Fools

**Do Not Deserve Honor Liberty, Or Pleasure.
It Is Unfit For Them (*Proverbs 26:1*)**

Prosperity deceives fools (*Proverbs 1:32*).

It is wrong to give them any delightful encouragement (*Proverbs 10:13*).

A man without wisdom or that does not rule his spirit should be despised, rebuked, and punished (*Proverbs 18:6; 19:19; 26:3*).

And it is much more confusing and wrong when employees take liberties with employers, or citizens with rulers.

Solomon was a great king over Israel, and he taught wisdom by the use of such Proverbs. To promote wisdom in a nation requires that fools be dishonored, rebuked, and punished.

If this practice is not followed, then folly will become acceptable or even honorable, which will destroy the glory and success of a nation.

Furthermore, the essential respect of authority requires servants and princes, to keep their respective offices without confusion.

It is ridiculous to dignify fools. Folly is despicable and damning, so fools should be despised! Any other action encourages fools in their folly and discourages the pursuit of wisdom.

It sends the wrong message, if we honor fools, to the nation, especially the young and impressionable.

It is better to punish fools, for it has enlightening impact upon observers (*Proverbs 19:25; 21:11; Deuteronomy 13:6-11; 21:18-21; 1Timothy 5:20*)!

America exalts fools and folly. Actors and actresses, the most lascivious and least productive members of society, are called stars!

Grown men playing children's ball games are worshipped as heroes! Rap is called music and allowed on the airwaves! Picasso is hailed as an artist!

University students are polled for opinions! Gambling is accepted as a legitimate vocation! Sodomy is called gay! Adultery is called an affair! Comedians are a profession!

Bonnie, Clyde, Jane, and Marilyn are celebrities for crime, sedition, and adultery! Sitcoms dominate primetime! Children mock and rebel against parents!

The Beatles, clanging merchants of drugs and fornication, are made rich and memorialized!

Fraternities are hotbeds of drunkenness and whoredom! Performing artists rail on government policy! "Beavis and Butthead" actually aired, for five years!

Is it any wonder that maturity once expected in the teen years is now missing at 30?

Is it any wonder that a typical American conversation is centered on movies or sports? These are the two most worthless thieves of conscience and time in the nation!

Jokes in the pulpit are common, heterosexual and married parents without a divorce are nearly gone, and April Fool's Day is a national delight! Folly has been dignified in America, and the rest of the world rushes to copy the West!

It is even more ridiculous to allow servants the right to question, control, or punish in charge. Submission to authority are absolutely essential for the success of a state or any other institution.

If rebellion against authority is allowed, then anarchy at all levels and in all spheres of authority will soon follow. The present disorder and dysfunction in America's schools, homes, and other institutions is observable proof of this consequence.

Employees, whether hired or owned, are called servants in the Bible.

Employers, whether paying or owning, are called masters in the Bible.

Magistrates in civil government are called princes in the Bible.

King Solomon, the wisest man ever, committed his life to the analysis of what is good and right for humanity.

Fools being exalted, the rich being despised, princes being forced to obey, and servants taking advantage of princes all sickened him (*Ecclesiastes 10:6-7*).

When listing things that trouble society and are truly unbearable, the Holy Spirit included servants with authority or influence (*Proverbs 30:21-23*).

Where does this folly begin? He observed that this terrible error came from the government allowing it to occur (*Ecclesiastes 10:5-6 There is an evil which I have seen under the sun, as an error which proceedeth from the ruler:*

6 Folly is set in great dignity, and the rich sit in low place.)!

It is the fault of leaders for allowing their authority and authority in general to be questioned, controlled, or overthrown. Only the military has preserved some authority, for obvious reasons.

What about America? "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness."

The truth is rather that their Creator has made great differences in human ability, offices, and stations; and He has assigned unavoidable responsibilities to all men, including the securing of life, liberty, and pursuit of happiness for the righteous and wise only! Fools may not deserve any of the three!

Consider further. "Whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles

and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness."

Without serious qualifications, this statement is the basis for anarchy; for it teaches that rebellion and revolution are justified whenever you want leaders that will better serve the wishes of the people.

Where does such a philosophy of dignifying foolishness lead? It leads to protecting labor unions, which are concerted and conspiratorial efforts of servants (employees) to overthrow princes (owners and managers). This is downright rebellion and revolution.

The servants, unable to grasp reality, do not realize that without the authority, creativity, and capital of princes, they would be reduced to huts, garden vegetables, or rabbits from the woods.

The prosperity of a capitalistic society depends on princes having their authority, creativity, and capital protected from such ignorant thugs.

Rebellion Is Institutionalized In America!

Thankfully, one American prince would not tolerate it! In August of 1981, President Ronald Reagan fired over 11,000 air traffic controllers that had walked off their jobs to demand more wages for less work.

Fewer replacements did a better job with increasing air traffic! Of course! The strikers were base and rebellious servants without regard for national laws, economic and safety concerns of others, or their already excessive wages.

Authority must be restored and promoted at all levels in all spheres, or America will continue to decline morally and economically. This must begin in the home, where God's laws must be exemplified and taught.

Husbands, must be willing, to earn respect so that wives willingly reverence their husbands (*Ephesians 5:22-24, 33*).

Children, must obey and honor, their parents (*Ephesians 6:1-3*).

The father must honor his employer (*1 Peter 2:18-21*), pastor (*Hebrews 13:17*), and rulers (*1 Peter 2:13-17*).

Are these ideas old-fashioned? Indeed! The old paths of God's Word (*Jeremiah 6:16; Jude 1:3*)!

What are you doing to promote wisdom over folly? You cannot justify delight for a fool, because he is unworthy of it, it will further corrupt his perverse heart, and it will endorse folly as acceptable.

What are you doing to promote God's ordained authority? Are you submitting cheerfully and fully to those God has placed over you, whether parent, husband, employer, pastor, or civil government?

Do you defend those in authority, regardless of philosophies and rebels that oppose them? You can make a difference!

Proverbs 19:11 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

You Can Be Glorious Today Someone Will Surely Offend You!

With the discretion of God's wisdom, you can defer your anger and ignore their transgression. You can turn the other cheek, pass over their provocation, and choose mercy over wrath.

Only those bought by Jesus Christ and taught by the Holy Spirit will ever do so.

Discretion Is The Ability To Know The Right Action For Each Occasion.

Deferring is putting off, delaying, or postponing something. Godly discretion, chooses to delay and postpone, getting angry when someone offends you.

Discretion is the mark of a gracious and gentle spirit.

Discretion is the mark of Christian maturity, for only the wicked child quickly strikes back.

Most people, when offended by others, bristle with hostility, choose to be hurt, get indignant, bite back, and plot revenge.

Most people, have no discretion, for feelings rule their hearts.

Most people, do not know deferment, for they react first, then think about it. This is the mark of a proud and froward spirit, contrary to wisdom and grace (*Proverbs 16:28; 28:25*).

Anger is temporary insanity. To give into anger's, hot and hasty demands, will surely cause you to misjudge an offence and retaliate out of proportion (*Proverbs 14:17*).

Once an offence is turned into strife, then you have a war that is not easily ended (*Proverbs 17:14; 18:19*).

Discretion is the wise choice to regain your sanity, before judging an offence.

Anger Not Released Will Dissipate

It Will Quickly Evaporate.

Often by the next day, we can hardly remember offences of the previous day. But this benefit requires two things: ¹You must defer your anger by not releasing it and ²You must keep a spirit that glories in passing over offences.

Learn to defer your anger, reader (*Proverbs 14:29*).

We must choose a spirit which glories in forgiving those who hurt us. Choose the way of wisdom, peace, and love (*Proverbs 17:9; 1Corinthians 13:4-7; James 3:17*).

The spirit that glories in quick retaliation or retribution is from hell, and you should reject and despise it (*James 3:14-16*).

Man's natural inclination, prides itself in quickly spotting and righting personal wrongs, but this is wickedness. Choose mercy, peace, and love instead.

The "*transgressions*" here are personal offences against you.

This Proverb, is not teaching us to pass over, or compromise with sins against God or rightful authority.

Parental authority, civil government, and employers, must still enforce rules. The offences here are the relatively minor transgressions of others that irritate and provoke us.

This is a wonderful Proverb, one of the best. **If** practiced consistently, personal relationships would be perfect and human societies would be joyful and productive. This is true love and friendship. Marriages observing this rule will be glorious.

Churches practicing this discretion will be happy and Spirit-filled. **If** everyone overlooked personal offences and gloried in the opportunity to forgive, life could be wonderful.

Pride keeps a man from deferring anger. He must strike back in quick revenge to protect his imagined superiority and hurt feelings.

His desire of preeminence over others must be protected. His self-interests must be maintained. Sullen faces appear, sharp words are spoken, criticisms are hurled without cause, and blows might even be thrown. This is a proud fool.

God's Wisdom Does Not Change.

Jesus taught the rule plainly in *Matthew 5:38-48*.

Jesus called for offering another cheek to personal enemies. He said not to resist evil, when it is a personal offence against you.

Jesus said to do good to your personal enemies. This is the way of godly peacemakers, and they become very good at it. They glory in forgiving; and they are glorious in forgiveness. They are the true sons of God. Peter, ever the impetuous disciple, asked Jesus how often he had to forgive a brother offending him.

Peter wanted the limit at seven, after which he could justify revenge; but Jesus raised the bar to seventy times seven, far above Peter's natural discretion (*Matthew 18:21-35*).

Yet by the strength of Christ, we can be truly godly and righteous (*Philippians 4:13*).

True Christianity is the religion of forgiveness. It is the cornerstone of our relationship with God and others (*Matthew 6:14-15; Ephesians 4:31-32; Colossians 3:12-13*).

It takes far more grace and character to overlook a personal offence than to strike back in anger.

Godly wisdom and strength is the desire and ability to rule a hasty spirit (*Proverbs 16:32; James 1:19-20*).

Those who think passing over offences is weakness, or fear, or compromise are fools.

When the LORD revealed His glory to Moses, "*And the LORD passed by before him, and proclaimed, The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth*" (*Exodus 34:6*).

Consider what constitutes the Glory of God! His mercy, His grace, His longsuffering, His goodness, and His truth! How godly are you?

You will be offended today by the treatment of others. We certainly live in a sinful world. You will have numerous opportunities to practice wisdom, grace, and glory.

So reader, what will you do? Will you defer anger or resentment and glory in an opportunity to show the grace of Christ in your life? Or will you strike back in self-protection?

May the grace and strength of the Lord Jesus Christ convince you by His Spirit to practice this Proverb.

Overcome evil with good! May the world behold your good works and the kingdom of God be increased and improved by your actions.

Proverbs 19:12 The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass.

Respect and submission to leaders is a rule of wisdom. They can hurt you badly or help you greatly (*Proverbs 16:14-15*).

A lion's roar, audible at over five miles in the African night, causes terror in men's hearts like an angry king can cause in his enemies.

As the dew nourishes grass to grow and prosper, so a king's reward can bring success. The lesson is a reminder to honor and obey civil rulers and all in authority for the obvious advantages.

If you rebel against a ruler, you are begging for pain and trouble, because he has power and strength (*Proverbs 16:14*).

Rebellion is as wise as taking on a lion in the night without weapons (*Proverbs 20:2*)!

Of course reader, some fools are so arrogant, ignorant, and rebellious that they resist or slander most authority they meet. But their end is as certain as the poor native caught by a man-eater in the dark! (*Proverbs 17:11*).

If you obey and serve a state or ruler, you secure the peace, protection, and provision that can assist and promote you and your endeavors (*Proverbs 16:15*).

Authorities can help and nurture you as much as moisture supplies grass with the sustenance necessary for life and growth. Friends in high places are one of the simplest rules of wisdom for your success. It is only pride and stupidity that causes men to squander this opportunity by offending authority.

Honoring and obeying civil government is practical and wise. But it is also a law of God. He chose the word "gods" for civil rulers, and God demands men respect them and submit to them (*Exodus 22:28; 1Samuel 24:6; 26:9; Ecclesiastes 10:20; Acts 23:5; Romans 13:1-7; Titus 3:1-2; 1Peter 2:13-17*).

Speaking against political rulers marks a reprobate (*2Peter 2:10-12; Jude 1:8-10*).

What should you do when a ruler is angry at you? Humbly submit with soft answers and correct whatever he dislikes. Solomon wrote, "*The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it*" (*Proverbs 20:2*).

And, "*If the spirit of the ruler rise up against thee, leave not thy place; for yielding pacifieth great offences*" (*Ecclesiastes 10:4*).

And further, "*By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaketh the bone*" (*Proverbs 25:15*).

Reader, are you wise in this matter of authority? Beginning with civil government, are you impeccably

clear of tax fraud, disrespectful language, or violating any ordinances? Do you also honor and obey your employer, because God expects that as well (*1Timothy 6:1-2; Titus 2:9-10; 1Peter 2:18-22*)?

Wife, do you reverence your husband (*Ephesians 5:33; 1Peter 3:6*)?

Church member, do you esteem your pastor (*1Thessalonians 5:12-13; Hebrews 13:7, 17*)?

Child, do you honor your parents, even in your facial expressions (*Proverbs 20:20; 30:17; Ephesians 6:1-3*)?

The rule of wisdom in the Proverb applies to all these spheres of authority.

If you rebel against the authority, you will hear the roar of the Lion!

If you humble yourself to respect and obey the authority, you will find favor and blessing from God and men.

You do not protect yourself by rebelling against authority: you protect yourself by submitting to authority and securing both the ruler's favor and God's blessing. This is wisdom. Learn it!

Authority originated with God. All other spheres of authority are by His appointment and ordinance (*Romans 13:1-7*).

The devil through pride would not submit to God, and he will spend eternity in the lake of fire, for his rebellion.

From the authority of a king down to the authority of a pastor and every office in between, God will defend the offices of authority and the persons in those offices.

Reader, you are crawling naked through a lion-infested jungle when you oppose God's appointed authorities. And you will miss the blessing, pleasure, and prosperity of submitting to them by faith and trust in God.

There is also an indirect lesson here. **If** you are a ruler, you should remember the terror your disapproval causes and the joy your approval brings. Kings must practice mercy (*Proverbs 20:28*).

Employers must be fair and equitable (*Proverbs 29:21; Colossians 4:1*).

Pastors must be true and impartial (*Ezekiel 13:22; 1Timothy 5:21*).

A husband should be willing to earn respect, and not beat down a wife through bitterness (*Colossians 3:19*).

Fathers and mothers should avoid, destroying a child, by critical and overbearing parenting (*Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21*).

Reader, you have a king, even if your nation does not! Nebuchadnezzar, by God's providence, was the most glorious and fearful king in world history. He changed the religion of his empire and enforced total compliance with the penalty of being burned alive (*Daniel 3:1-7*).

He could take dishonest cabinet members or rebellious citizens and chop them into pieces and turn their houses into a pile of dung (*Daniel 2:5; 3:29*).

But he was nothing compared to the soon arrival of Jesus Christ, the King of kings! Reader, kiss the Son today or perish (*Psalms 2:1-12; 2Thessalonians 1:7-10; 1Timothy 6:13-16; Revelation 19:11-21*)!

Proverbs 19:13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.

Here are two horrible things in a man's life. He can marry an odious woman; and He can have a foolish son. Both are disasters and make marriage and children sober matters.

Contentious women know how to date. They decorate the outside, their physical appearance, by many means, to capture his eyes.

Contentious women hide and disguise what is inside, their personality warts and defects, by a show of grace, respect, meekness, submission, and love.

Contentious women make these efforts until the wedding is over. And then the odious woman makes her appearance. And what an ugly and hateful sight (*Proverbs 30:21-23*)!

The poor man has contracted something worse than cancer: he has contracted marriage with hell. He must go home to this every day for the rest of his life, and he has to sleep with her!

The poor man, quickly learns to work extra hours, take up hobbies like hunting, or build a detached workshop to get away from the noise of this creature (*Proverbs 21:9, 19; 25:24*).

In public he tries to hide her, but what can he do? She is as obvious as a pig attached to gold jewelry (*Proverbs 11:22*).

The poor man cannot avoid his great shame; for everyone sees he married a misfit. He knows they whisper about his horrible plight at home. (*Proverbs 27:15-16*).

While a virtuous woman is a crown to her husband, the woman of our Proverb is rottenness in his very bones (*Proverbs 12:4*).

So bitter is the pain of a wicked woman that Solomon thought it worse than death (*Ecclesiastes 7:26*).

A contentious wife likes: to question, to discuss, to debate, and to oppose most everything.

Her ideas are as good as his. She is proud, stubborn, and self-righteous. She cannot follow; she likes to lead. She asks too many questions, makes too many suggestions, and does not cheerfully obey. She loves to correct her husband, who never gets the facts just right! She will not receive correction meekly.

The continual dropping here is a very rainy day (*Proverbs 27:15*).

You cannot stop it; it keeps on dropping. You cannot stop her noise and resistance! These are not pleasant raindrops on a secure roof; they are the irritating drops of a leaking roof that destroy tranquility and peace.

Any man who has tried to sleep near a leaking faucet understands perfectly. The Chinese perfected a torture of tying a man down and dropping a perpetual drop of water on his forehead. She is torture!

The foolish son may be cast out; the contentious wife must be endured. The foolish son is in his room; the contentious wife is your bedmate!

Therefore reader, let every man take great care how he marries and how his sons marry.

Young fools do not know how to judge women; so fathers must help them, lest they are consigned to fifty years of hell on earth.

Fathers, by the very nature of the relationship, you have more experience in marriage with a woman than your son has in the ignorance and folly of childhood and youth. You have been married longer than he has been alive!

Our rebellious generation thinks they can make this far-reaching relationship decision on their own! So we have an epidemic of dysfunctional marriages, divorces, and adultery!

Young man, it is far better to be lonely and frustrated in your own house and bed than to marry an odious woman and have to live and sleep with her for your entire life!

Let every man who has a virtuous and submissive wife first thank the Lord then thank his father for such protective mercy and then take the good woman out for dinner and thank her a few times!

Let every woman examine herself in the only honest mirror in the universe, the Word of God (*James 1:21-26; Psalm 19:7-14*).

Reader reject those fantasies of our society and your noble thoughts about yourself (*Psalm 119:128; Isaiah 8:20*).

Read God's opinion, as we just have. Then prove your own work and rejoice in yourself (*Galatians 6:4-5; 1Peter 3:1-6*).

A foolish son is also a horrible thing in a man's life, Solomon witnessed many foolish sons: for he had many foolish brothers, and his son Rehoboam was a fool. Read his pain and learn (*Proverbs 10:1; 15:20; 17:21, 25; 23:15-16, 24-25; 29:3, 15*).

A calamity is very grievous affliction or adversity, deep distress, trouble, and misery. It is a painful disaster. And this does not overstate the grief caused by foolish sons, which should be the joy of a father's heart.

Fathers! Train the foolishness out of your son, while there is hope (*Proverbs 22:15; 19:18*).

Fathers! here is a calamity you can avoid (*Proverbs 29:17*)!

Fathers, **If** you neglect his training, he will default to foolishness (*Proverbs 29:15*).

Fathers! training your son is a commandment, and the Holy Spirit tells you what will work, the rod and reproof (*Proverbs 22:6; 29:15; 23:13-14; Ephesians 6:4*). See the comments on *Proverbs 26:1*.

A loving father will train his son; a hateful father will neglect him (*Proverbs 13:24*).

If you are too busy, too tired, too reserved, too slothful, too interested in other things, or any other excuse, you will bear your own burden. Calamity and shame will come, unless you repent and beg for His mercy and recovery of lost years (*Proverbs 29:15; 13:15; Galatians 6:5*).

If you have a foolish son, repent and beg God to help you recover him (*Joel 2:23-27*).

Father, bring your authoritative instruction to bear by whatever means you have.

Further compromise will bring greater pain in the future, as with Eli (*1Samuel 2:29; 3:13*).

If the Father has any fear of God, bring him before his Lord and remind him of his duties (*Ephesians 6:1-3*).

Every man who has wise and noble sons, should first thank his Lord for such protective and kind mercy, and then praise and honor his sons for their faithfulness.

Let every son, of any age, examine himself in the only honest mirror in the world, the Word of God (*James 1:21-26*).

Male reader, are you a joy to your father? Or are there things you know you could be doing better? Correct them!

Reject those notions of your wicked generation and your independent thoughts of folly. Read God's opinion about young men, as this book carefully expresses. Then prove your own work and rejoice in yourself (*Galatians 6:4-5*).

Christian reader, what kind of a wife or son are you to your Husband and Father? Does your Lord rejoice in your constant fidelity, passionate love, and joyful submission? Or are you an odious stench in His house?

Is your Heavenly Father pleased with the success of His child?

Are you a son that needs to be chastened often? Let every reader examine himself to see if he is fulfilling the Husband's and Father's desires.

And further, dear reader, our Proverb teaches the disappointment of this world's greatest pleasures.

The very things we prize can so easily bring our greatest miseries. Without God's grace, all is vanity and vexation of spirit! Is there not a lesson here that the Lord alone, must be our portion, and the treasure of our souls (*Psalm 73:25-26; Matthew 6:19-21*)?

Proverbs 19:14 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.

Here are two rules of marital and family wisdom. ¹Good fathers leave an inheritance for their children, and ²a virtuous wife is a gift from God.

If every father provided financially for his children, each generation would be better off.

If every family trusted the LORD for exceptional women, each generation would have marital and domestic prosperity.

These two rules are essential wisdom for building a great, long-term, godly families.

Many men do not leave an inheritance for their children. They fail for two major reasons. Either they do not work hard enough and smart enough to generate income beyond their needs, or they waste what they earn through risky investments or foolish spending.

Either they are too slothful to earn more than they consume, or they are too foolish and selfish to preserve

capital for the next generation. Both faults are sin! See the comments on *Proverbs 18:9*.

While children are to help and support old parents in need, this is not God's order for building great families. Parents not providing for themselves, so they take from their children in old age, destroy families. (*1Timothy 5:3-16*)

Children should save money for their children and grandchildren, not for their parents (*2Corinthians 12:14*).

Good men leave an inheritance for children and grandchildren (*Proverbs 13:22*).

This is God's rule for great families. Consider how important this was to Caleb and Job (*Joshua 15:17-19; Job 42:12-17*).

But great families need more than wealth to advance and grow. They also need the wonderful blessing of virtuous women: for it is by her character, diligence, reputation, and training that families become great (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

Great Women Make Great Families!

Finding an average wife is no difficulty at all; but finding a great wife is like searching for jewels. It is very difficult. The LORD must bless such a search by His wise criteria and His providential direction. But what a wonderful search! (*Proverbs 18:22*)

A lazy, odious, worldly, or self-righteous woman will destroy family peace, progress, and prosperity. This woman will tear down a family's son, and the grandchildren will partake of the example of this evil fountain.

Wise parents will look beyond average girls; they will seek and beg the LORD and search with all their might for precious girls.

Those exceeding rare girls overflowing with diligence, graciousness, spirituality, and humility. It is important to always stress to your children, examples from Scripture and life of these rare women.

A great woman can do more for a family than most any other factor. Settle for nothing less! Seek and win them with zealously! Pray fervently and often for this rare treasure!

Explore every avenue to find one for each son and grandson! Never compromise a single rule of Scripture for wives, or it will cost you severely.

Let nothing distract or hinder you from demanding the very best. Forbid your sons to marry less than God's best find holy girls for them (*Genesis 26:34-35; 24:1-67; 28:1-5; Judges 14:1-3; Ezra 2:61*).

Parent, catch the vision! Plan now, prepare now, and pray now to build a godly family for generations to come by saving money for your children and grandchildren and search; land and sea for great women.

Make estate planning a godly goal. And trust the LORD; make the fear of the LORD the most important criterion; and beg Him for mercy in your search for godly women. Commit this family project to Him for His honor and glory.

Proverbs 19:15 Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

Slothfulness is doing a job s-l-o-w-l-y. It is d-r-e-a-d-i-n-g a job and resenting the effort it requires.

It is a lazy attitude and effort toward work; and it starts a vicious cycle. Laziness saps your energy, slows you down, intimidates your spirit, and puts you to sleep.

Laziness begets more laziness, until you are a worthless bum. It leads to "I'm too tired to do anything; I think I'll take a nap." Soon you are too "tired" to even eat (*Proverbs 19:24; 26:15*)!

Consequences Of Laziness!

In A Godly World You Would Starve To Death!

The Lord Jesus Christ does not allow lazy people to eat (*Proverbs 20:4; 2Thessalonians 3:10*)!

An idle soul, a person not moving and working, shall suffer hunger! Because you are lazy, noble employers will not promote you or pay you very much; you will stay in lowly jobs and get poorer and poorer. You will soon not have enough to eat. (*Proverbs 10:4; 12:24; 13:4*)

What is slothfulness? It is acting like a sloth! What is a sloth? The Sloth is a mammal that lives in the trees of South America. They move very slowly, upside down.

Sloths are the slowest land mammals and travel very sluggishly on the ground (only 5 feet in a minute). When moving through the trees upside down, they travel at a quicker speed (about 12 feet in a minute). Sloths are very lazy animals and sleep an average of 15 hours per day.

Each day brings several tests to prove whether you are a sloth or not. In the morning, when it is time to get up. What do you do? If you roll over, cuddle yourself under the blankets, and wish you did not have to get up, you are a sloth.

Solomon mocked your antics in bed as resembling a door on hinges, rolling back and forth in the comfort of your covers until poverty has fully destroyed you (*Proverbs 6:9-11; 24:33-34; 26:14*)!

The diligent man is thankful for another day, a place to work, and things to do; he gets up and going!

When you face an unpleasant task, like a sink full of dirty dishes, or a large lawn needing to be cut on a very hot day. You will either, jump on the job and go at it with full strength, or you will tell yourself, how miserable it is that you have to work so hard, and groan and moan all the way through it. **If** you do, you are a sloth.

Don't be a sloth! Don't think about how hard a job is! Think about how thankful you are for health, strength, sunshine, lawnmowers, grass, and having your own yard! Get out there and make it look great!

The hard worker gets done first, enjoys working hard, has a sense of accomplishment, and is rewarded by God and men. He is going somewhere!

The hard worker drives his new car past the yard of the slothful and sees him trudging behind his mower. The slothful man finishes much later, complains about everything, is crushed by a defeated and exhausted spirit, and has his used car repossessed. Fire that bum!

The hard worker is happy, promoted, and asking for overtime! The slothful man desperately just wants to take a nap!

**It Is All About Attitude!
Your Attitude Is A Choice!**

If you get up slowly and wish you were still in bed, you will sap your energy and put yourself in slow motion.

If you start a job with a sigh and resentment, it will seem like a mountain and take forever. Every job to the slothful man has a hedge of thorns in the way (*Proverbs 15:19*)!

If you leap up in the morning, thanking God for another day to serve Him, you can be done with several jobs before noon, have a full sense of accomplishment, peace, and joy, and be a great success.

It is a choice! Don't sit. Don't think about what you need to do. Don't think about it being hard. Don't think about how long it will take. Start the first job now! Get at it! Don't think! Work!

Before you know it, the task is over; you are refreshed by the joy and reward of a job well done; you are rejoicing in your abilities; and men will promote you.

A street bum, a panhandler, who sits and sleeps all day near his park bench, began with a choice one day not to work hard.

One day of not working hard made it easier to be slothful the second day. In just a few days, he had lost the habit, conviction, drive, and joy of hard work.

He personally lulled himself to sleep, the sleep of a bum. Sloth! Open your paper bag and drink your cheap wine! Fall down in the gutter and sleep in your own vomit!

The cure? We could rid the country of sloths by ending social assistance to such people and firing all slow employees. Our nation's productivity would leap! Prosperity would abound much more than it does.

Starvation is the best teacher of good work habits (*Proverbs 16:26; 20:4*).

Men have a universal tendency to be thankful and motivated about working, when their belly button gets closer to their backbone!

If our nation stopped protecting and subsidizing the slothful, men would learn to work, or starve! Either way, society and the workforce are purged of those unworthy of food and drink. What wisdom!

The personal cure for yourself? Don't make excuses (*Proverbs 22:13; 26:13, 16*).

Get to work! Learn that extra time in bed is a horrible waste (*Proverbs 6:9-11; 20:13; 24:30-34*).

Get up! Attack your job with fiery zeal, as to the King of kings; and think about working for kings, for that may be your next promotion (*Proverbs 22:29; Colossians 3:22-25*)!

Work is pleasure and a privilege to the godly man, and he will be content with whatever abilities and job God brings his way.

Parent, this is a great lesson to teach your children each day. It does not matter who discovered Bolivia, that the atomic number for titanium is 22, or that Spanish for nachos is nachos! But it does matter how children get up in the morning and attack their tasks for the day.

Hard work and a zealous attitude are not the properties of any race, nationality, or temperament; they are rather the marks of the children of God.

If you have learned the wisdom of God from this Proverb, you will not subsidize or protect slothful children.

Christian reader, the lesson of this Proverb applies to all areas of your life, not just employment, washing dishes, or cutting the grass. It includes your attitude and efforts

in your marriage, in child training, in personal devotions, prayer, and the worship of God.

Christian reader, are you ambitious, committed, energetic, and fervent in all these duties as well? There is only one way to live and approach our responsibilities, all out for the glory of God!

Never think for a minute that this doctrine is unique to the Old Testament. Paul condemned slothfulness in the New Testament (*Romans 12:11; 1Thessalonians 4:11-12; Ephesians 4:28*).

Paul, inspired by the Holy Spirit, ordered the churches not to let lazy people eat (*2Thessalonians 3:10-12*).

Paul called for the exclusion of any church members compromising these orders (*2Thessalonians 3:6-15*).

The grace of God that converts sinners, and the proper preaching of His Word, will transform men from the slothful habits and thinking, of this lazy and spoiled generation.

Our Lord Jesus and the apostle Paul were diligent workers.

Jesus often did not have time for leisure (*Mark 3:20-21; 6:31*).

Jesus didn't want night to come, because He would have to quit working (*John 4:34; 9:4; 17:4*)!

Paul labored more diligently than the other apostles (*1Corinthians 15:10*).

Paul preached during the day and worked at night; he preached during the night and worked during the day (*Acts 18:3; 1Thessalonians 2:9; 2Thessalonians 3:8*).

There is no room in the kingdom of heaven for lazy and slothful people (*Matthew 11:12; Luke 9:62; 13:24; 1Corinthians 9:24; Philippians 3:14*).

Neither Jesus nor Paul was slothful, and they are both our examples (*1Corinthians 11:1*).

They put their hands, to the will, of God and did it with all their might, just as we should do the various duties God has given us (*Ecclesiastes 9:10*).

Proverbs 19:16 He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; but he that despiseth his ways shall die.

Do you care about yourself? There is a way to live that brings happiness and success, and there is a way to live that will kill you. The choice is yours. The results are God's.

Do you love or despise God's ways for living? **If** you keep God's commandment, you keep yourself from pain and trouble. **If** you despise God's ways, you commit suicide.

What is the commandment to keep your soul? It is all God's commandments, no matter what part of life, each may apply too. *Psalm 119:128 Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.*

The singular noun, is a collective noun, for all God's commandments (*Proverbs 6:20, 23; 13:13*).

The singular can also, be the fear of the Lord, which includes all other commandments (*Proverbs 1:7; 19:23; Psalms 111:10; 112:1; Ecclesiastes 12:13*).

The man who keeps God's commandments is doing something very good for his own soul. He is pursuing wisdom and all its benefits for his life (*Proverbs 4:4-9*).

Proverbs 16:17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul

And *"Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles" (Proverbs 21:23).*

How does a man despise God's ways? He rejects God's ways for the various aspects of his life.

We interpret *"his ways"* as God's ways, because God is to be circumspectly understood from the first clause, and because men do not truly despise their own ways. The man here believes he has better ideas on how to live, so he rejects the counsel of God for his life.

What are the consequences? When a man chooses his own way for a decision in life, rather than God's way, he chooses death.

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Also *"There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 16:25).*

God's Infallible Revelation, the Word of God, teaches men how to be happy and successful.

If men rebel against His wisdom, they bring on themselves dysfunction, pain, trouble, and eventually death.

Men die early by accidents, capital punishment, disease, revenge, or God's judgment. **If** a man truly cared for himself, he would keep God's commandments.

Here is how Moses taught this wisdom to Israel, *"Ye shall walk in all the ways which the LORD your God*

hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess" (Deuteronomy 5:33).

Consider a simple example: Instead of honoring parents as God commanded, men allow disrespect, jokes, and rebellion, never seeing, that such irreverent fools, will eventually run into a human authority that will destroy them, and they lose God's promised blessings for parental honor (*Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2-3*).

It Is Lose-Lose To Reject This Commandment Of God!

Consider another example: Instead of being faithful to one spouse as God commanded, men promote casual sex and adultery, never seeing that such promiscuous fools will eventually end up diseased, divorced, lonely, scarred, unloved, or killed. They could have had the pleasure of a devoted spouse and a happy family, but they wanted it their way.

One day, God will separate all men; those who did the will of their Father in heaven, and those who did things their way.

Jesus warned, *Matthew 7:21-23* *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.*

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Do you want a rule for life? *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths" (Proverbs 3:5-6).*

Instead of despising His ways, humble yourself and have respect unto his ways. *"I will meditate in thy precepts, and have respect unto thy ways" (Psalm 119:15).*

Proverbs 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Helping the poor financially is like making a loan to the LORD!

The metaphor is powerful! The LORD is a great credit risk! He will repay for sure, and He will include interest and blessings with it!

You can never lose giving to the GOD!

He represents the poor, because God has made them and protects them (*Psalms 10:14; 12:5; 140:12; Ecclesiastes 5:8*).

Financial success is not hard! Give to the truly poor, and the Lord will repay your kindness with liberal blessings. Economic prosperity was never so easy! The omnipotent God will send success to you from heaven! **If** you scatter your money cheerfully, He will bless it (*Proverbs 11:24; 2Corinthians 9:7*)!

Of course, the world and your flesh, which are hateful by nature, do not believe this rule. **If** you hold back, poverty could be coming your way (*Proverbs 11:24*)!

This Proverb Like The Others Is A God Ordained Law!

You may trust it like you trust gravity and others of God's natural laws. The esteemed business programs at Stanford, the Wharton School, and Harvard are jokes in comparison. Any man with knowledge of these Proverbs is far superior to the silly little MBA's from these schools (*Proverbs 28:11; 1Timothy 6:20*).

There is little difference between the rich and poor, for God has made them both (*Proverbs 22:2*).

The fact that one man has more than another is God's choice, not personal superiority (*1Corinthians 4:7; Ecclesiastes 9:11*).

The rich should never mock the poor or gloat over them (*Proverbs 17:5*).

It is the solemn duty and privilege of all men to kindly consider the poor (*Proverbs 28:3; 29:7; Psalm 41:1*).

This matter of considering and helping the poor is so important to God that He has attached blessings and punishments to it. Giving to the poor will bring financial blessings to the giver (*Proverbs 22:9; 28:8, 27; Psalm 112:9*).

Being stingy with the poor will bring financial judgment on selfish wretches (*Proverbs 21:13; 22:16; 28:27*).

He That Has Ears To Hear, Let Him Hear!

Who are the poor, and where are they? They are not on television programs from socialist do-gooders with no regard for God or truth. And this includes those "prosperity gospel" heretics posing as Christians.

They often use the pictures of bloated and starving babies simply to increase their cash flow to siphon off for their carnal "ministries." Nations perpetuating poverty by ignorance and superstition are not objects of godly charity.

The poor are the orphans and widows or others, under acts of God, He brings across your path (*James 1:27*).

The Good Samaritan did not go to the slums looking for wounded Jews, but he was eager, to help a poor man, put in his way by the Lord's providence.

The poor, certainly include the poor among saints (*Acts 11:28-30; Romans 15:26; Galatians 6:10*).

The poor do not include foolish or lazy men, unless they sincerely repent and do all they can for themselves. The foolish and lazy men should starve, as it is the best teaching device and appropriate justice (*Proverbs 20:4; Matthew 25:1-30; 2Thessalonians 3:10*).

The wise men are not a general insurance fund for foolish men. Let the foolish learn wisdom the hard way (*Proverbs 16:26*)!

Luxuries or pleasures are not the nature of true charity. What do we give the poor? Food, clothing, and shelter, or those things closely connected to these basic necessities (*Job 31:16-22; Isaiah 58:7; Ezekiel 18:5-9; James 2:15-16*).

Considering the poor is seeing their needs, not their foolish desires (*Acts 2:44-45; 4:34-35*).

Toys for Christmas are not true charity! The Bible is not communistic, the more gifted and diligent should enjoy more.

In the churches of Jesus Christ, the giving is to be overseen by Pastors and deacons, lest the undeserving receive charity and the deserving be overlooked. The money of the early church was laid at the apostles' feet for them to make distribution (*Acts 4:35, 37; 5:2*).

When the task became too great for them, they ordained deacons for the job (*Acts 6:1-6*).

Only cheerful giving works (*2Corinthians 9:7; Galatians 2:10*).

If you resent or moan about giving, you lose twice! ¹You lose the money you give, and ²You lose the promised blessings.

Remember reader, you brought nothing into this world, and you will take nothing out. You have been blessed greatly. Why is your soul so stingy about giving to the poor?

Only a faithless fool says, "I cannot afford to give"! The truth is he cannot afford NOT to give! He is poor because of his stinginess. **If** he loosened his purse, he would be blessed. But of course, unbelievers cannot grasp this simple and certain lesson. The faithful man believes the promise and takes advantage of it with cheer and thanksgiving!

God does not miss a single dime you give, or minute you donate, to the poor. He will repay! And He does not miss a single dime you withhold or a minute you keep for yourself. He repays that as well! God will take the little that a selfish and stingy man has and give it to the rich man, who liberally gives to the poor (*Matthew 25:14-30*).

Wise men with faith, rejoice to give to the poor. They know charity, is the greatest grace and mark of Christianity (*1Corinthians 13:13; John 13:35; 1John 3:16-19*).

Wise men know one purpose of hard work is to have more to give (*Ephesians 4:28*).

Wise men know charity is a more excellent way of serving Christ than being an apostle (*1Corinthians 12:28 - 13:3*).

The Lord Jesus Christ will repay every gift you give to the poor.

He will repay the principal, you will never be short. The Lord will repay with interest, you will have more than **If** you had not given.

The Lord will also repay with many other blessings (*Proverbs 14:21; Philippians 4:17-19; 1Timothy 6:17-19*).

He will remember every dime in the Day of Judgment, even when you forget (*Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 14:12-14*)!

If you still have a hard time giving, consider your Benefactor, the Lord Jesus Christ. Remember your desperate and starving condition in the poverty of sin and condemnation,

He became poor that you might be made rich. What blackness of heart causes you to refrain from giving to others (*2Corinthians 8:9*)?

Proverbs 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Train Your Children Today: Tomorrow May Be Too Late.

Do not waste a single day. You do not have forever. They quickly grow beyond training, and then they are gone from your control. Efforts to train or chasten then, will only provoke them. It will be too late.

God gave them to you helpless and open to instruction. God gave you only a window of time to train them, which closes quickly. Then you must pray for a miracle, which He has not promised to give, **If** you chose to ignore or reject His wisdom earlier in their lives.

Our Proverb makes two strong points: ¹Child training and chastening must be done early in life, and they must be done without regard for foolish pity or tearful appeals. ²Child training is not an option; it is a commandment (*Proverbs 22:6; Ephesians 6:4*).

Chastening is not an option; it is a commandment. Chastening is the enforcement of training. (*Proverbs 23:13-14*).

Chasten: To inflict disciplinary or corrective punishment on; To visit with affliction for the purpose of moral improvement; To correct, discipline, chastise.

The corrective punishment God teaches is by the use of the rod (*Proverbs 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15*).

As horses are trained to run fast with a whip, or riding crop; and as asses are kept controlled and made useful by bridles; so a fool is corrected from foolishness by a rod (*Proverbs 26:3; 10:13*).

Some stripes on the backside are a wonderful training method, as many generations of sober Americans can testify (*Proverbs 19:29; 20:30*). See the comments on *Proverbs 22:15*.

Three generations have neglected chastening, and youth today are given to pride, selfishness, laziness, rebellion, and social dysfunction.

Traits not allowed sixty years ago in any children are now accepted as the norm. Public, academic, and employment standards must be reduced regularly to accommodate an undisciplined generation.

Children, will be well behaved when they are old, **If** we train them when young (*Proverbs 22:15*).

Dear parent, get a strong sense of urgency today! We must chasten our children betimes, early in life, while there is hope, before it is too late (*Proverbs 13:24*).

Betimes: At an early time, period, or season; early in the year; early in life. In good time, in due time; while there is yet time, before it is too late.

Chastening is God's method for training your children for godly and successful lives, but it must be done early in life. If you wait too long, children become hardened in rebellion, established in their own thoughts, formed in their own habits, resentful of corporal correction, and able to leave the home and live on their own.

As we know from the delay of civil punishment, the hearts of men become set to do wickedly (*Ecclesiastes 8:11*).

You must begin when they are very young, and then only reminders will be needed later. Self-discipline and right conduct can be taught early, and they must be

taught early. Every year of life makes it more difficult to change habits and attitudes.

Train them now, while they are young.

Consistent chastening early will do more good than harder and more frequent chastening later. The earlier you begin, the less is required later. Start today!

Training can begin in infancy, for we read that Hannah delivered Samuel permanently to the priest at Shiloh immediately after his weaning (*1Samuel 1:24-28*).

He was prepared to live away from home, follow instructions, and worship God from a very, very early age.

Do not let their tears and crying move you, for children quickly learn to beg, plead, promise, cry, and scream to avoid discipline.

Ignore tears now. To save him and avoid you much worse crying later. It is ungodly pity that hinders us from doing our duty for their happiness and good.

Eli's choice, to compromise with his sons, brought infinitely more pain to him and his entire family, than any short difficulty that chastening them would have caused. Consider this well!

No good parent enjoys chastening his child, for he would much rather hold him tenderly and enjoy his happy company.

But the goal of saving him from hell in life must drive us in our duty. True love is not just hugs and kisses: true love is correction; withholding correction, is hatred (*Proverbs 13:24*).

If you spare the rod, you hate your child, for you are creating future trouble for him; and this choice will come back to haunt both of you (*Proverbs 29:15*).

David chose to spare the rod on Adonijah, and it cost his son his life (*1Kings 1:6; 2:23*).

Exalting friendship with children will lead to problems, for it will be hard to chasten with the right consistency and severity.

You must first be a parent.

Chasten them, and you will bring rest to your soul; reject the tempting and momentary ease now when they are young, so you can take perpetual ease later when your chastening has earned it (*Proverbs 29:17*).

If you have young children, there is hope today. Do not plan on tomorrow, for your case may soon be hopeless.

If you have been negligent in the past, then confess your sin fully to God and beg Him for mercy for the children already past the point of no return.

God does forgive and can mercifully help you recover the lost opportunity (*Joel 2:25-27*).

We are God's sons by adoption through Jesus Christ (*Galatians 4:4-7*), and He proves His love by correcting us when we disobey.

God does pity our frame, but He chastens and scourges every adopted son (*Psalms 103:13-14; Hebrews 12:6*).

Chastening proves His love, for only bastards are ignored and forsaken to go their own way (*Hebrews 12:7-8*).

If you receive painful results in your life for sin, on the inside or outside, you can know you are greatly loved!

Proverbs 19:19 A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver him, yet thou must do it again.

Some People That Cannot Stay Out Of Conflict Or Trouble.

Every time you turn around, they are in a squabble with someone else. If you help them get out of one mess, they quickly get into another.

They have hot tempers and un-ruled spirits, so there is little or no hope for them. They will have a life of trouble, ruin their relationships, and then die lonely.

The lessons are simple: ¹If you do not rule your anger, God and men will punish you for your temper. A wise man will confess his angry spirit, and beg God to help him, and obey.

²If you help a person with a bad temper, you will be helping him again next month, for he cannot learn to get along with others. His selfish spirit and hot temper will explode again against some little offence, real or perceived.

Neither anger nor a temper is a noble quality. It is not a sign of manliness or authority. It is not the evidence of a strong man, it is the proof of a weak fool (*Ecclesiastes 7:9*).

A great man rules his spirit and controls his anger; fools are ruled by their spirits and controlled by their anger.

Wrath is blinding and binding, so that helping a quick-tempered man out of trouble caused by his anger will not protect him for long, he will sin again by anger very soon.

Wrath is violent anger! It is the emotional volcano that erupts in a fool's heart when he is offended or does not get his way. It is a terrible evil, and it leads to many sins of thought, speech, and action.

Jesus Christ knew it, was at the root of murder, so He condemned any unjustified anger as murder in God's sight (*Matthew 5:21-22*).

A man with a temper will be guilty of many sins (*Proverbs 10:12; 12:16; 14:17; 15:18; 17:19; 22:24-25; 26:21; 29:22; 30:33*).

If a man has not learned to rule his spirit, you must rescue him over and over again from the trouble his anger causes (*Proverbs 27:3*).

A man with a temper is a burden to deal with, because you must be constantly covering or correcting his foolish passions.

Delivering him today from a mess his anger caused will not help you tomorrow, he will do it again. A wise man avoids angry men, because they are not worth having as friends (*Proverbs 13:20; 21:24; 22:24-25; 29:22*).

Learn to hate ungodly anger (*Proverbs 27:3-4*).

Ungodly anger is a work of the flesh and the old nature, not the new man of a child of God (*Ephesians 4:31; Colossians 3:8*).

Slow down getting angry (*Proverbs 16:32*).

Glorious men postpone anger (*Proverbs 19:11*). Only fools let it fly (*Ecclesiastes 7:9*).

Learn to get over anger quickly and end conflicts, for it gives place to the devil (*Ephesians 4:26-27*).

Exalt mercy instead (*Proverbs 3:3; 21:31*).

Learn to love, which is God's greatest grace toward us, and the greatest grace we show others (*1Corinthians 13:4-7, 13*).

Love teaches us to bear, endure, and suffer for a long time; it teaches us to not be easily provoked. God is love.

Do you know God (*1John 4:7-8, 16*)?

Proverbs 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

Are you wiser today than last year? Than ten years ago? These are important questions to answer.

How wise will you be later in life? A godly man will greatly desire to grow in wisdom. And the way to

increase wisdom is easy, you need to hear the counsel of wise men and accept their teaching. You need to appreciate and apply instruction from others.

Today is your opportunity to change your latter end. Will you be an older wise man, sought by family and others for sage advice? Or Will you be an old fool, more a burden than a blessing?

What you do today determines what you are tomorrow! You are not too young, and you are not too old. Consider your latter end, and receive instruction today!

The Children Of God Were Adopted By Grace!

But children of God were not adopted to squander their lives in folly. They were adopted to grow up and live as the sons of God in a crooked and perverse world (*Matthew 5:43-48; Romans 8:29; Ephesians 5:1-2; Philippians 2:14-16*).

You can waste the grace of God, or you can use it to be great for Him (*1Corinthians 15:10; 12Corinthians 6:1; 2Peter 3:18*).

How much do you love the private counsel of holy and sober saints? How much do you crave the public preaching of God's Word?

Noble men and women receive it with a ready mind (*Acts 17:11*).

A eunuch, a centurion, a businesswoman, and a preacher were all very thankful for teaching they received (*Acts 8:26-40; 10:33-48; 16:14-15; 18:24-28*).

Examine yourself reader! Are you truly wiser than last year or ten years ago? Have you grown in graciousness, so that you have more godly friends?

Are you in better financial condition by learning and applying the rules of Bible economics? Do you know Jesus Christ and His doctrine better? Are you sought out by more saints to obtain your counsel?

Reader, examine yourself! Does your spouse rejoice at the changes in recent years? Is your employer thankful for many job improvements?

Do you handle adversity better than in times past? Can you answer the Words of truth to those that ask?

Do your parents and children esteem you more? Are you able to give God's answers for modern dilemmas? Is your pastor thankful for the visible progress? Could you run for office and win?

Life is short. What can you do? *"So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom" (Psalm 90:12).*

When? When you seek God early! *"I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me" (Proverbs 8:17).*

Why? Because Wisdom and Understanding is important. *"Wisdom is the principal thing; therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding" (Proverbs 4:7).*

How? With the right desire. *"Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeketh and intermeddleth with all wisdom" (Proverbs 18:1).*

What do you think of preaching? Paul knew that Christians would stop enduring it (*2Timothy 4:3-4*).

Churches congregations today prefer heavy beat sex music with lyrics about an effeminate hippie guru, they call it contemporary Christian music.

If you want a wise latter end, then you will reject fables and demand intense preaching of God's Word (*2Timothy 4:1-2*).

God sends preachers to teach knowledge and understanding Listen to them! (*Jeremiah 3:15*).

What do you do with preaching? Peter told his readers to desire the sincere milk of the Word to grow by it (*1Peter 2:1-3*).

Peter exhorted them to grow in grace and in the knowledge of Jesus Christ (*2Peter 3:18*).

Paul rebuked the Hebrew Christians for not developing into teachers (*Hebrews 5:12-14*).

Hear and receive teaching that you might become wiser! Make sure you prepare, pay attention, and apply what you hear (*Luke 8:4-18; James 1:21-25*).

Proverbs 19:21 There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Do you have plans today? Will they happen? Unless the counsel of the LORD is included your plans for your day, they will not happen. Only His counsel will stand!

The wicked say, *"Who is lord over us?" (Psalm 12:4).*

But the LORD is lord over them all! They cannot do a thing without God's counsel having approved it. If you dislike this fact, you should have chosen birth in another universe with a different god.

This incredible choice was made for you, and all other important choices affecting your life, humble yourself now and worship the Lord.

Wicked men invent and devise evil things all day and night in the perverse depth of their souls (*Proverbs 16:30; Psalm 35:20; Micah 2:1; Romans 1:30*).

The LORD governs it all for His own praise (*Psalm 76:10*).

The only wrath of man allowed to exist is what God has chosen to use.

So let us say, "If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that" (*James 4:15*).

We cannot assume living tomorrow, for it is out of our hands (*Proverbs 27:1*).

You will not brush your teeth tonight without His counsel, for even sparrows do not move outside of His counsel (*Matthew 10:29*).

Does daily news of oppression and wickedness in our perverse world bother you? There is a Sovereign higher than all of mankind issues (*Ecclesiastes 5:8*).

God uses all mankind, those righteous and those wicked, for His honor and glory (*Isaiah 10:15*).

What if enemies conspire against you? What if they have power to do you great harm? The counsel of the LORD, that shall stand! He laughs at all enemies (*Psalm 21:7-13*).

Does the havoc that Satan wrought in Job's life trouble you? Satan was no more than a puppet, in the total control of the LORD (*Job 1:6-12; 2:1-6*). Fear God!

But what about good devices? Devise plans in your heart with holy fear, and God will direct your steps to the perfect ending of your desires (*Proverbs 16:9; Psalm 37:4; 84:11*).

Ruth devised gleaning for a living, but God's counsel was for Boaz to marry her (*Ruth 2:2-3*).

What of chance events? Even the lot is entirely under God's rule (*Proverbs 16:33*).

God directed an arrow, shot at a venture, to a slight crack in a disguised king's armor (*1 Kings 22:34*).

What of prayer? His eternal counsel included all your prayers, so pray with fervent faith, and He will answer you presently by that same counsel (*Proverbs 16:1; Psalm 10:17; Isaiah 38:1-5; Philippians 2:13*).

Proverbs 19:22 The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.

It is implied in these Words, that kindness is a good thing. Solomon means to say that kindness even as a "desire" is a good thing.

If there were no words to express it, no means to gratify it, still as a desire it is good.

A Right Desire Is Good In Itself

Love is the essence of virtue ^{doing right avoiding wrong}. Love is what God approves, love is like Himself. Love is good in its influence upon the possessor. The mind under the influence of love: is free, and is cheerful.

A right desire, is good in its bearing upon society. The society of a kind and loving soul is congenial and useful.

A right desire, is implied, that this good thing may exist only in desire. "The desire of a man is his kindness." The meaning is that kindness must be measured by the amount of a man's desires to do good, rather than by the amount of his ability.

There are cases when *kindness* can only exist as a "desire." There are thousands who have kindness towards the suffering and distressed, but who are entirely destitute of the means to render help. Our Lord appreciates *kindness* in this form. If there be a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and it is not according to that he hath not.

David's desire to build the Temple was as acceptable to God as If he had actually reared the magnificent edifice.

It is implied, that kindness as a desire without means, is "better" than words with ability.

"A poor man is better than a liar." The poor man here must be regarded as the man who has kindness in his heart, but is destitute of ability, and the "liar" as the man who has plenty of ability, and whose kindness is merely in generous talk.

There are many who talk as if their hearts were full of love.

Their language would lead you to infer that their love was strong enough to remove all misery from the world if they had the means, but it is all talk.

Their kindness is a blossom that never turns into fruit. These men are the hollow shams, they are living lies.

Far better is the poor man who has kindness in his heart than such a "liar." He is better in himself, he is better in the eye of the good, he is better in the estimation of Heaven.

"It is a little thing,

To give a cup of water; and yet its draught
Of cool refreshment, drained by feverish lips,
May send a shock of pleasure to the soul
More exquisite by far than when nectarious juice
Renews the life of joy in happiest hour." Talfourd

In our human relationships, we want others to sacrifice themselves for us, yet it seems so hard to reciprocate the same toward others on a continual basis.

Nevertheless, self-sacrifice is the essence of true Christianity, and we can begin this sacrifice, by the kind use of the tongue.

**Better To Have A Heart To Do Good
And Want Ability For It
Than To Have Ability For It And Want A Heart To
It.**

***Proverbs 19:23 The fear of the LORD
tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide
satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.***

The expression, "*he that hath it*" is not in the original; it has been supplied by our translators.

The Words have been rendered thus, "*The fear of the Lord is life, and who hath it shall rest; he shall not be visited with evil.*" We do not see that this rendering has any idea better than what is in our version. The subject is the fruits of personal religion. "*The fear of the Lord,*" here, as elsewhere, stands for religion. It is: a loving, a loyal, and a reverence for God.

And This Has Threefold Fruit: ¹Vitality, It "*tendeth to life.*"

Vitality, is conducive to bodily life. Intelligent belief leads its possessor to attend to the laws of physical health and happiness.

Vitality, is conducive to intellectual life. Love of God stimulates the intellect to study Him and His works.

Vitality, is conducive to spiritual life, the life of pure affections, high aims, and virtuous deeds.

²Satisfaction, "*Shall abide satisfied.*"

Satisfaction, pacifies the conscience. The sense of guilt, which gnaws and distresses the soul. Satisfaction, removes, and instills in its place joy and peace in believing.

Satisfaction, reconciles to providence. It makes a man acquiesce, to say, "*Not my will, but Thine be done.*"

Satisfaction, causes him to rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

³Safety, "*He shall not be visited with evil.*" He may still have sufferings, but sufferings in this case will not be evils, they will be blessings in disguise.

2Corinthians 4:17 *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;.* They will not separate him from the love of God. In all tribulations he will rejoice.

He will not be visited with any event that will damage his interests or endanger his soul. God is his refuge and strength.

A secure, impregnable fortress is the fear of the Lord!

- Ornithophobia is an abnormal, irrational fear of birds, especially pigeons.
- Dextrophobia: People with this phobia do not like having objects situated to their right.
- Cainophobia: this is the fear of anything new.
- Basiphobia: Those who are too afraid to walk or stand because of the possibility of falling.
- Hoplophobia: The fear of people who own firearms
- Porphyrophobia: The color purple causes some people to be very afraid and develop this condition.
- Phobophobia: a rare disorder and refers to the fear of having a phobia.
- Ecclesiophobia: The fear of church and going to church

We all have some fear. **If** someone states they do not have a fear they might be suffering from "Alethophobia" the abnormal fear of the truth.

**Fear Is An Emotional Response
To A Perceived Threat.**

Fear is healthy because it is a basic survival mechanism.

Fear can be unhealthy when it controls our lives. People who have a fear of getting rid of things we call hoarders. They fill their houses with what many would see as trash but to them are special everyday items they need to hold on to. This can lead to unhealthy living conditions and put unneeded stress in their lives.

We live in a society, that is thriving on making us live, on that path of a fearful and scared life. **If** you are watching your favorite show and then the news comes in to give a promo about the 11 o'clock broadcast they are usually using a 'fear promos.' They make it sound like your life will end if you don't watch the 11 o'clock news.

We are use to that stuff. I mean if we followed everything the news told us to be scared of we couldn't do anything.

We couldn't sleep because there is a bed bug epidemic. We couldn't go outside because of the sun's UV rays, the acid rain, the depleting ozone layer, the melting polar ice caps, gang violence.

We couldn't stay at home. There are at least 1700 household cleaners that can kill you and your children, we could be strangled by snags in the carpet, or die in a dishwasher related accident. We would have to constantly live in fear if we listened 100% to the news.

Fear is a Biblical principle. Adam and Eve, after eating the fruit, hid from God as God walked through the garden. They were afraid of God.

Moses tells the people what the Lord told him, **Deuteronomy 4:10** *I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and that they may teach their children.*

Isaiah at his commissioning by God is scared to death and cowers in fear claiming, **Isaiah 6:5** *Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.*

The three disciples at the mount of transfiguration hear the voice of God, **Matthew 17:6** *And when the disciples heard it, they fell on their face, and were sore afraid.*

There is Biblical principal that states we are to have a fear of God. But what does that mean? **Psalms 111:10** *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth for ever.*

If we want to understand God, **If** we want to have any knowledge of who God is, than the first ingredient is fear.

We have to fear God. This goes against our modern idea, of who God is. We do not like a God we cannot hold and fondle. We like a God we manage and make suggestions to. We think God is like Wikipedia, a place where knowledge can be learned but also edited to suit us.

We humans think we can be God. We get caught up in our own self-righteousness, to a point that we think we can stand eye to eye with the creator of the world.

We are the little people standing on the side of a great waterfall, that we had nothing to do with. We are the created not the creator.

We need to fear the one who has the power to control the world around us. We need to fear, the One, who is able to kill people with the sound of his voice (like Moses who died by the Word of the Lord).

It is our job to be like, the hemorrhaging woman who cowers in fear, after reaching out and touching Jesus' cloak. We must fear God.

Yet what is also interesting is that for all the places in the Bible it tells us to fear God there are almost as many where God tells us, "*fear not.*"

When His angels come to Mary and Joseph, they look at them and say "*be not afraid.*"

We are to fear God yet not be afraid. This sounds like one of those Biblical contradictions but it isn't.

When We Have A Correct Fear Of God We Get Understanding Of Who God Is.

Someone put it this way: God wants you to fear him because that will lead you to a life you've never had, it's a better life, it's a secure life, it's a life we were created for.

The fear of God resets our priorities and places us where we need to be!

The fear of God protects us from the things we are fearful of in this world. Things like disease, heights, violence, terrorists, global warming, or whatever else. So, we need to fear The One who truly has the power!

Who has control over eternity? That is the One we should really fear. Then the Proverb will become true for our lives, "*The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.*"

Proverbs 19:24 A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

Lazy people deserve neither comfort nor kindness. So the Holy Spirit uses sarcastic hyperbole ^{exaggeration}, to ridicule them in this Proverb.

Lazy people fold their arms and are too lazy to even feed themselves. They want food to fall into their mouths. An exaggeration of course? But one that makes a powerful point. So necessary is the lesson, Solomon repeats it in **Proverbs 26:15**.

We use similar words when we say, "He stands around with his hands in his pockets."

Lazy people dislike the thought of exertion, so they put their hands into safekeeping. David even asked the Lord once to take His hand out and use it to deliver him (**Psalms 74:11**).

A great work ethic did not originate with man. God worked six days in creating the world, and His example

should be good enough for us. Work is not a curse; it is a blessing.

God wisely ordained, that work is good and should be done with diligent zeal. Before Adam sinned, God had appointed him the work of dressing the garden (*Genesis 2:15*).

The cure for lazy people is starvation. Welfare promotes slothfulness and encourages people to be lazy. Paul commanded that those who did not work should not eat (*2Thessalonians 3:10*).

Christian charity does not include sluggards. Solomon commanded against giving food to lazy people, even in the plentiful time of harvest. (*Proverbs 20:4*).

Wise parents will remember this rule. Children and teenagers do not deserve to eat unless they have worked in school, a job, or chores.

Why create lazy adults? Fixing meals and snacks when they do not work hard is not love; it is cruel hatred. Train them to work hard, to work fast, and to enjoy a job well done. They will be successful.

A favorite place for lazy people to hold their hands in their bosoms is in bed. The pleasure of self-cuddling for an unnecessary hour of sleep is just too much to resist. Snooze buttons on alarm clocks are foolish. Get up, sluggard! Get up! The day is wasting! Solomon saw this love of sleep and ridiculed it (*Proverbs 6:9-10; 24:30-34; 26:14*).

Once a person starts down the path of laziness, work becomes harder and harder. A lazy attitude toward work will make you sleepy and obstacles will seem much more difficult (*Proverbs 15:19; 19:15*).

Diligence begins in the heart and mind, when we choose to enjoy work! The best way to tackle a job is to start it right now, with intensity. Don't think about it. Hard work is its own reward, but you can only realize this blessing by getting to work!

Ever heard, "I'm too tired to fix anything tonight"? Virtuous women do not say this. A woman would feel better and less tired, if she ran to the kitchen and creatively put supper together.

Words themselves, and the thoughts generating them, are mentally and physically disabling. Don't make excuses. Work! You'll feel better and sleep better.

Lazy people have blessings, but they are too lazy to take advantage of them. They may take game in hunting, but they are too tired to dress it when they get home (*Proverbs 12:27*).

And opportunities are frightening to them, for it likely involves more than sleep. What a shame!

Of course, sluggards will always have excuses for not getting much done. They will speak of the dangers on the job (*Proverbs 22:13; 26:13*).

Sluggards will speak of unfavorable circumstances. Their arrogant slothfulness will resist even seven wise men giving good answers (*Proverbs 20:4; 26:16*).

Solomon could spot a sluggard by checking his field (*Proverbs 24:30-34*).

Reader, how clean is your car? Your house? Your closets? Your desk? Is there clutter anywhere? Why? Is there a lion in the way? Is it too cold? Or is folding your hands in bed too exciting?

Saints should hate slothfulness. Our reputations and assets should reflect a godly work ethic. (*Romans 12:11*).

Instead of holding your hands in your bosom, they should be put to good productive labor (*Acts 20:34-35; Ephesians 4:28; 1Thessalonians 4:11-12*).

Instead of the idleness that ruins women, let them keep a house full of children (*Ezekiel 16:49; 1Timothy 5:13-14*)!

Our Lord Jesus was intent on the work He had been given, and I hope you are thankful for Him and His diligent faithfulness in saving your soul. (*John 4:34; 9:4; 17:4*)

We now have an opportunity to be spiritually diligent for Him (*Hebrews 6:11-12; 2Peter 1:10*).

Proverbs 19:25 Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.

Tough love works, directly and indirectly! When you punish a scorner, you may shut his mouth, but you will also get the attention of any thinking about scorning!

Look at the good that can be obtained by tough love, which is punishment and reproof of those needing it (*Proverbs 21:11*).

**By Merely Correcting A Wise Man,
He Will Grow In Knowledge.**

The present generation calls for gentle treatment of rebel children, criminals, and even prisoners of war! The nation has effeminized beyond young girls!

Most churches now teach that coddling is the most effective treatment for sinners! Let God be true reader!

We must pray for holy men like Elijah, John the Baptist, and Paul! Reproof, rebuke, and judgment must be restored in the house of God (*1Corinthians 5:1-13; 1Thessalonians 5:14; 2Timothy 4:2; Titus 2:15*).

When Jesus preached, common people rejoiced as they grew in knowledge (*Mark 12:37; Luke 13:17; 19:48; 21:38*).

But scorners had their mouths shut and feared asking Him any more questions (*Luke 13:17; 20:40*).

Israel had not heard such a preacher in a long time, for their politically correct, effeminate, and refined teachers were a shame (*Matthew 7:28-29*).

Consider Ananias and Sapphira, scorned the church of God and fell down dead, which brought about the revival of fear in that Church (*Acts 5:1-11*)!

When punishment is not executed speedily, both scorners and the simple get hardened in their ways to do evil (*Ecclesiastes 8:11*).

If you have any authority, it is your duty to practice this Proverb for warning of the simple. Wisdom and righteousness are exalted and spread by such actions.

"A word to the wise is sufficient" is a common saying. It means that wise men need only a little reproof or instruction to learn (*Proverbs 1:5; 9:9; 17:10*).

This is true, because they have a good heart and seek correction. It is your duty to reprove and teach (*Proverbs 9:8; 25:12*).

Open rebuke is better than secret love, and the wounds of a friend are faithful (*Proverbs 27:5-6; Leviticus 19:17*).

Proverbs 19:26 He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.

Child! God will make you pay for the pain and shame your folly has cost your parents!

Child! Your ungrateful treatment of your parents will come down on your own head. Get ready for it! Your return of evil for their kindness and love has God sending His hungry ravens and young eagles in your direction (*Proverbs 20:20; 30:17*)!

**Child! Your Parents Gave You Being,
They Fed, Clothed, Sheltered, And Protected You.**

Your father delighted in you and saved for your future. Your mother doted on you and pampered you. despise them! Now you ridicule by word and deed! You wasted their time and assets. Now you have no time for the

woman who loves you most. This wickedness is known all the way up to heaven!

This Proverb is only a list of facts, unless you find its hidden lesson. Proverbs are dark sayings, not sound bites (*Proverbs 1:6*).

If we weigh the pain this wicked child caused his parents, we should see the fire of divine justice burning against him.

If God's Words, "*Be sure your sin will find you out,*" are true in general, they are certainly true in this case!

A son wastes his father by spending his assets through riotous living (*Proverbs 28:7, 24; 29:3; Luke 15:13*).

What should have been for his glory and success has become the source of his latter pain. A wasteful son destroys his father's spirit, burdens his heart, harms his health, sends him to the grave with sorrow (*Genesis 44:29*).

This grief is a calamity to a father (*Proverbs 17:21, 25; 19:13*).

This wretch chases away his mother, by ignoring her warning advice, bringing bitter contention into her house, rejecting her for whores, living a lifestyle she cannot abide, and alienating her affection from him (*Proverbs 10:1; 17:25*).

In the end, when he has spent all, or whether he has much, he denies and desires and needs what she has. How can a mother's tenderness be repaid by such cold and crushing cruelty?

Such a son brings shame and reproach on his father, his mother, his siblings, the family name, and upon himself. But he is so in love with himself, that he does not care.

Such a son tramples all under foot without regard for the feelings of his own flesh and blood or the opinions of God and men.

**These Rebels Deserve All That God
Shall Bring Upon Them!**

Child! Tremble before this Proverb and its Words! God is not mocked! Whatever you sow, you shall reap (*Galatians 6:7*).

If God ordained death for light speech or looks, how great is His fury for these actions? (*Proverbs 20:20; 30:17; Deuteronomy 27:16*)

If God required capital punishment for cursing or hitting, what will He do to this brute (*Exodus 21:15*)?

If honoring parents brings long life, what will the base violence of this wretch deserve (*Ephesians 6:2-3*)?

Child! Mistreating those who have loved and cared for you most is an aggravated sin and exceedingly wicked in God's sight. Your pride and selfishness are so great that you are without natural affection (**Romans 1:30-31**).

Child! You have altogether denied the Christian faith, and you are worse than an infidel (**1Timothy 5:8**).

Child! Humble yourself now! Repent for your rebellion and self-will! Beg God and your parents for mercy! It is never too late!

If you can still feel even a little conviction about your folly. Break away your sins by righteousness and show some mercy to your parents, for it may be a lengthening of your tranquility.

Parent of a fool! Take comfort. There are no perfect parents, and God never justifies a child's wickedness by parental faults or failures.

He is the God of parents, and as a heavenly Father, He will remember every bit of your investment and pain for comfort here and hereafter. Beg Him for wisdom in light of your troubles (**James 1:2-5**).

Reader, how well do you honor your heavenly Father? Have you wasted, any of the precious grace, He has bestowed on you (**2Corinthians 6:1; Hebrews 12:15**)?

Have you brought any shame or reproach on His glorious name (**Ezekiel 20:39; 1Timothy 6:1**)?

Have you been living like a child of God, bringing delight to your Father (**Matthew 5:43-48; 2Corinthians 6:14-18; Ephesians 5:1**)?

Proverbs 19:27 Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

Stop listening to fools! Turn the television off! Get out of that false church! Cut off those foolish friends! End that hopeless relationship!

Turn that radio station off! Get rid of those CDs! Don't listen to their jokes! Do not read those books and magazines! Don't listen to that preacher!

Avoid those compromisers! Quit school! Ask for a job transfer!

Wisdom Sometimes Requires Censorship And Isolation!

Free speech, as perverted by this generation, and it is from hell. Speech is only free as long as it agrees with God's infallible Word.

Any other speech should be punished severely. David said, *"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. A froward heart shall depart from me: I will not know a wicked person"* (**Psalms 101:3-4**). Read **Deuteronomy 13:6-18**.

Consider freedom and liberty: God gave freedom of eating to Adam and Eve, they were free to eat of every tree of the Garden, except the one He forbade (**Genesis 2:16-17**)!

Of course, our sick society would say they had their rights to that tree as well! Satan is still alive and kicking!

God gave liberty of marriage to His children, they are at liberty to marry whom they will, only in the Lord (**1Corinthians 7:39**)!

God Defined Freedom And Liberty As A Choice Within His Revealed Will!

Our evil generation believes that a proper education means being exposed to all the false ideas of pagan religions and perverse philosophers.

What a waste of time and money! And what a dangerous experiment! What do we have to show for it?

A bunch of highly educated people without the knowledge or understanding of a child! From evolution to abortion, divorce to sodomy, and animal protection to euthanasia. They err from the knowledge that every illiterate farmer had just 100 years ago.

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners" (**1Corinthians 15:33**), as Paul warned very soberly.

Solomon taught, *"He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed"* (**Proverbs 13:20**). See the comments on **Proverbs 13:20; 25:5**.

False instruction will eventually cause you to err from the words of knowledge.

Discretion and Prudence demand that you stay away from vain ideas and lies, to avoid the risk of having your true and correct Understanding corrupted by foolish thinking.

There is no option for agreeing to disagree. These are the idiotic and lying words of compromisers.

If God's Word addressed a matter, every man is required to agree totally with Him and hate every different idea (**Psalms 119:113, 128**).

If God has not addressed a matter, then it is purely personal preference, there is no need for any agreement.

As soon as you detect a man is a fool, get away from that man, to the saving of your soul (**Proverbs 14:7**).

Our Proverb does not forbid being corrupted by false instruction. Our Proverb forbids even listening to false instruction.

Consider the force of the prohibition! As Paul warned, it is self-deception to think you can listen to false ideas and not let them corrupt your manners.

The issue at stake is refusing to even listen to erroneous instruction. It is not enough to say, I will not let television corrupt me. The LORD says to stop watching it!

A southern expression says, "Eat the chicken, and throw away the bones." But that is a dangerous game, and contrary to Scripture.

You will easily be deceived into thinking some of the bones are chicken, and you will choke on them! It is much better to eat only pure filets of boneless chicken breast, cut carefully and only from the Word of God!

Fathers, note here the address of this Proverb from Solomon to his son. It is your duty as a father to keep your son (and daughter) from instruction that causes him to err from the truth.

Fathers, it is your duty to use whatever means you need to keep the right instructional inputs into your child's life noble and true.

Every Young Man Should Understand The Sober Necessity Of This Restriction!

How exclusive should saints be? John denied even wishing god speed to heretics (**2John 1:10-11**).

Paul cursed any preaching different from his own, even **If** done by an angel (**Galatians 1:6-9**).

If any men could handle a few false ideas, it would be Christ's ministers; but Paul told Timothy to turn away and withdraw from them (**1Timothy 6:3-5, 20; 2Timothy 3:5**).

Which is the very same advice he gave to all saints (**Romans 16:17-18; 2Thessalonians 3:6**).

How uncompromising should saints be? Moses required the death penalty for false prophets, even if they could do miracles (**Deuteronomy 13:1-5**)!

Paul told the saints to hold apostolic tradition very secure, without wavering (**2Thessalonians 2:15**).

Saints are to measure all ideas by the Word of God, and reject anything that does not match perfectly (**Isaiah 8:20; 1Thessalonians 5:21; 1John 4:1-6**).

We are charged to earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints (**Jude 1:3**).

Pastors and teachers were given to keep the saints from being tossed to and fro with every wind of doctrine (**Ephesians 4:14**).

Wisdom and knowledge are precious commodities, and erroneous instruction will corrupt and steal your assets. (**Proverbs 4:7; 23:23**)

So, get away from the thief and the perverted, who steal truth and replace it with error. The manmade traditions of the Roman church are certainly in this category, and so are the grandly presented ecumenical instructions of other similar compromisers.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, He protects His sheep from the thieves and robbers that come to destroy them (**John 10:1-18**).

Jesus Christ is the Way; the Truth; and the Life (**John 14:6**).

Jesus Christ's whole Sermon on the Mount was to show the erroneous instruction of the Pharisees, which had caused many to err from God's law.

Jesus Christ restored the Law to the LORD's original intent with dogmatic authority, and the people marveled (**Matthew 7:28-29**).

Proverbs 19:28 An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.

The LORD is the God of truth (**Deuteronomy 32:4**).

The LORD demands honesty and truthfulness in all your dealings. You must tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, especially when you speak about others.

Those who deceive or lie when they are witnesses show their scorn of God and justice and a greedy appetite for sin. They will have their reward, for both God and men despise such wicked fools (**Proverbs 19:29; 22:10; 24:9; Isaiah 29:20-21**).

When you are asked about another person, you make a choice that reveals your character. ¹You either tell the careful truth about the situation, or ²you compromise the truth in order to protect yourself or a friend, secure an advantage, or exact revenge.

If you answer falsely to those in authority or in need of information, you reveal yourself as a scorner of

judgment, thinking it a thing of little worth, without respect or regard for it. The devil is a liar and the father of lying (*Genesis 3:4; John 8:44*).

When you corrupt or misrepresent matters about another person, you are an ungodly witness, obeying the devil (*Ephesians 2:1-3; Acts 5:3*).

You must think justice and righteousness are jokes, for you scornfully treat them as nothing by your actions. But the LORD declared in the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not bear false witness" (*Exodus 20:16; Deuteronomy 5:20*).

Perjury is no small matter to the LORD. He hates false witnessing (*Proverbs 6:19*)! Believe it!

God condemns false witnesses often in His Word (*Proverbs 10:18; 25:18; Exodus 23:1, 7; Leviticus 19:11, 16*).

False witnesses will pay, here and hereafter (*Proverbs 19:5, 9; 21:28; Revelation 21:8, 27*).

God's fury against all lying and includes backbiting, slandering, talebearing, and whispering, crimes once called gossip euphemistically, but now nearly forgotten.

How are these sins related to lying? They involve the use of the tongue to destroy others (*Leviticus 19:16; Psalm 15:1-3*).

What happened to false witnesses under God's civil laws? The punishment at stake was executed on the perjurer. **If** we assume a capital trial for murder, a false witness would be executed (*Deuteronomy 19:16-21*)!

If an eyeball was at stake, a perjurer had his eye gouged out. Wise men quickly perceive that witnesses in God's legal system would learn to tell the whole truth! In fact, honesty in court and legal dealings would rise dramatically!

Those who lie about others have no regard for equity, fairness, justice, or righteousness, so God labels them scorners, a despicable type of perverse fool that is beyond help.

God describes their mouths, which easily and quickly pour out wicked insinuations and false reports, as devouring iniquity.

They are flagrant and greedy sinners without consciences, who will lie without remorse or worry whenever convenient, for gain or revenge.

Reader, do you despise false witnessing? Do you always tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?

Here is the proof: what do you do when you hear someone misrepresent another person? Do you get

visibly angry, warn them of their wickedness, and cut them off (*Proverbs 25:23; Psalm 101:5; 1Thessalonians 5:14*)?

If you do not, you are an accomplice in their sin, for listening to their lies or slander is a sin itself (*Proverbs 17:4*).

Praise to God for the Faithful and True Witness at the right hand of God (*Revelation 3:14; 19:11*).

The Lord will soon declare the true facts about your life, remembering every good and bad thing you have done (*Proverbs 15:3; Ecclesiastes 12:14; Matthew 25:31-46; 2Corinthians 5:10*).

Unless your name is in the Book of Life, you will be cast into the lake of fire, which is the second death (*Revelation 20:11-15*). Is your name there? Beg Him for mercy (*Luke 18:14; John 5:24*).

Proverbs 19:29 *Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.*

Fools and scorners deserve one thing, a beating! It is the only thing they understand (*Proverbs 26:3*)!

Other fools try to protect them from a whipping or give them honor. Holy men stand with the LORD and despise fools and scorners. Unless they repent, they should be severely punished. Giving them honor or kindness is rebellion against God.

Wise men do not need punishment for correction and instruction are enough!

Wise men hear the reproofs of truth, and they reform their lives to match it.

Wise men listen to instruction and gain understanding (*Proverbs 1:5; 9:9*).

Wise men benefit from teaching, unlike fools and scorners. "A reproof entereth more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool" (*Proverbs 17:10*).

Fools are stupid scorners and are rebellious. Fools are stubborn; scorners are malicious.

Fools both deserve to be punished, because they flagrantly violate laws, of an orderly society. Therefore, authority must deal severely in punishing them, especially civil government, which legally imposes judgments and stripes on civil offenders (*Deuteronomy 25:1-3*).

Stripes come from flogging on the back. Flogging was once the chief means of discipline in homes, schools, the military, and society. Check any old encyclopedia.

Of course, our confused and effeminate generation treats even violent criminals tenderly. Flogging is now thought abusive, inhumane, and Neanderthal; though it was common just a few years ago. (*Proverbs 10:13; 13:24; 18:6; 19:18, 25; 22:15; 23:13-14; 26:3; 29:15*)!

The wise man, Solomon knew better than our generation. He understood that certain men only respond to one thing, pain. Therefore, he knew the value of a strict penal code.

It was and is the only way to communicate with fools and scorners. Their ignorance and arrogance preclude them from learning by instruction, so they must be punished.

Ignorant sentimentalists protect and honor fools and scorners. Punishment deters their wickedness. And it is an example to others (*Proverbs 19:25; 21:11; Ecclesiastes 8:11*).

Reducing Punishment Promotes Pride And Rebellion.

The nation is reaping the bitter fruit of what it has sown. The present youth have nothing to fear for their folly and scorning. Honoring a fool or scorners is wrong. They should be avoided, rejected, and punished. (*Proverbs 26:1*)

From parenting to voting for elected officials, a strict criminal justice system and severe penal code effectively promote wisdom and righteousness in homes and society.

The horrible pain and suffering caused by rebellion and violence today could have been avoided by following this simple Proverb, which our grandparents understood clearly.

Israel had no prisons, for God's justice system did not have a need for them. The Law of Moses put capital

offenders to death immediately, the Law of Moses used flogging for other crimes, the Law of Moses required heavy restitution for others, the Law of Moses sold you into slavery if you could not pay.

Not a dime was spent on a prison system, where depraved fools and scorners can come together for three squares a day and mutual encouragement in wicked thinking and planning.

Fools and scorners who are not punished due to weak parents and an effeminate society should remember there is God in heaven, Who sees every act of arrogance and rebellion; He will punish without compromise (*Numbers 32:23; Psalm 5:4-6; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).