

“Insights Into Glorifying God In Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 16:23-26

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Titles of individual proverbs are adapted from *The Wisdom of Proverbs* by Bob Beasley

**1. Allow Your Heart to Instruct Your Lips – 23**

Our tongue needs to be “trained” – James 3:1-12

“heart of the wise” – the heart is the place where our intentions, motives, thoughts and words originate  
Refers to a person who has been transformed by Christ

“speech” – the changed heart will result in changed speech – Matthew 12:34

“judicious” – means having, showing or doing something with good sense (compare v. 22)

He doesn't blurt out whatever comes to his mind but he weighs the facts and thinks before he speaks

“persuasiveness” – see v. 21

The wise are able to be God's instrument to convince others of the way the Lord would have them go.

Harsh, bitter words do the opposite

Psalm 19:14

**2. Speak Words of Sweetness and Health – 24**

“gracious words” – kind, not angry and bitter

“the soul” – it's far more important than sweetness to the taste buds

Encouraging and uplifting to the soul

“body” – compare 14:30

These words are profitable for every part of a person

Colossians 4:6

**3. Warn Yourself and Others of Self-Delusion – 25**

V. 25 is a repeat of 14:12

“seems right” – because we have a sin nature, we don't think right.

We think we know what is good for us but the Bible says we are blind to the truth – John 12:40;

2 Corinthians 4:4

We are extremely vulnerable to being duped by Satan

“way to death” – God's holiness and law is the absolute standard.

Literal Hebrew: “the ways of death” – what was originally thought to be the singular best way has now opened into a bunch of possible death traps

Jesus amplified this in Matthew 7:13-14

Illustrations: Lot

King Saul

This verse is an obvious warning to the non-believer but it's also a warning to the believer  
Romans 12:2; Colossians 3:16

#### **4. Be Blessed in Your Work – 26**

Work is part of God's design for our lives

The Biblical work ethic is that if a man refuses to work, he should go hungry – 2 Thessalonians 3:10

“worker's” – this Hebrew word emphasizes the struggle and laboriousness of work

“mouth” – word is not used here for our organ of speech but of our appetite for food.

“urges him on” – when work becomes toilsome and boring, the need for food for yourself and your family will motivate you to keep on working.

Scripture has warnings about our work:

- Ecclesiastes 6:7 – left to itself this motivation to satisfy our appetite soon produces discontent – John 6:67. That's why we need Psalm 37:4 in our life.
- The parable of the rich fool who built bigger barns – Luke 12:15-21
- Realize that in your work, you are working for Christ and your earthly boss is #2 and that you are to do the will of God from the heart – Ephesians 6:5-9

We are warned that although it is God's design that we work, work shouldn't occupy so much of our time that we have no time or energy left for our families and the worship of God and the study of His Word.