

“Insights into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 14:33-15:3

3/22/23

1. Let Wisdom Rest in Your Heart – 14:33

“rests in the heart” – it flows from the head and rests in the heart

Luke 2:52

“a man of understanding” – a believer – was true of David – Acts 13:22

“midst of fools” – the idea that wisdom is found in the heart of a fool goes against the whole direction of Proverbs (12:16, 23; 13:16; 15:2, 14, 28; 29:11)

But this is to be understood in connection with the word “rest” in the first line.

While wisdom makes itself known to a fool early in his life, it finds no rest there and is never able to settle in and feel at home, etc.

Compare Proverbs 1:20-33

2. Pray for a Spiritual Awakening in America – 14:34

“righteousness” – God explained the connection of righteousness and wisdom to Israel when they were about to enter the Promised Land – Deuteronomy 4:5-8; 28:1

“exalts” – ultimately a nation’s exaltation depends upon its righteousness – not on its political, military or economic greatness

Example: Nineveh – Jonah 1:2; 3:5-10

“nation” – the word can also refer to individuals or groups of people

“any people” – not just Israel. The prophets preached that nations which practice injustice and unrighteousness would fall victim to the justice of the righteous God – Jeremiah 18:7-10

3. Let Wisdom Be Seen in How You Do Your Job – 14:35

“wisely” – describes a person who works through the many complexities of an issue and then arrives at the wisest and most successful course of action.

Employees are hired to solve problems, not create them.

“king’s favor” – compare Jesus’ story of “The Faithful Servants” – Matthew 25:14-30

Our Heavenly Father will show His faithful servants favor – John 12:26

4. Seek a Gentle Tongue – 15:1

One of the great benefits of wisdom will be to avert needless quarreling and to live in harmony with others. Many conflicts aren’t caused by a difference of opinion but rather because of the spirit people bring to the conflict (a contentious, angry spirit vs. a calm conciliatory spirit).

“wrath” – the Hebrew word used here is the word for anger at its hottest  
Example: - Judges 8:1-3

“harsh words” – words that are designed to hurt/wound another person

“anger” – a single harsh word can fan a little fire into a raging inferno.

#### 5. Seek a Tongue of Wisdom – 15:2

“tongue of the wise” – in order to speak wise words, it is necessary to be a wise person. Wisdom gives a person the ability to control their tongue in 3 ways:

- Speaking with the right tone – 15:1
- Knowing when to speak – 15:23
- Choosing the right words – 15:28

“commends knowledge” – wisdom results in using the right words at the right time with the right tone to point others to wisdom.

Example: Job’s friends

“fools” – they don’t have the knowledge of God in their heart.

#### 6. Live a Joyful Life Under the Gaze of God – 15:3

“eyes of the Lord” – refers to God’s presence in every situation we experience.  
Another well-known verse on the eyes of the Lord - 2 Chronicles 16:9

“every place” – the Lord is in every situation and has omniscience.  
The non-believer (the fool) tries to forget the omniscience of God – Psalm 10:11

“keeping watch” – God is keeping watch on everyone from the most important leader of a nation to the homeless person living on the street.

“evil” – God is just and therefore must punish their sin. This verse is a warning to non-believers.

“good” – believers

In order to bless and reward them.

R.C. Sproul often exhorted us to live our lives “Coram Deo” (“Under God’s Gaze”)

“For the child of God, the gaze is no threat. Rather, it is a promise of safekeeping that God will keep us in His tender care and work out all the circumstances of our lives to His great glory and our eternal benefit.” Bob Beasley, *The Wisdom of God*

Hagar, after being mistreated by Sarah and left alone in the desert, was comforted by God. She gave God the name, “You are the God Who sees me” – Genesis 16:6-15

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