

“Insights into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 15:7-12

4/19/23

2 Corinthians 5:9

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

1. Spread Godly Knowledge – 7

“lips of the wise” – the lips speak what’s in the heart (Luke 6:45) and therefore when a person is wise, godly wisdom and knowledge and understanding will come out of his / her lips (rather than the worthless talk of a fool)

“spread knowledge” – the Hebrew word for “spread” is almost always used to describe the winnowing of grain. Solomon uses the winnowing process as a picture of the effect of a wise person’s words.

1 Peter 3:15

2 Timothy 2:2

“hearts of fools” – their hearts have no valuable wisdom. Thus, they are left without the influence that the wise have.

Pray Psalm 19:14

2. Worship God by Pursuing Righteousness – 8-9

“sacrifice of the wicked” – animal sacrifices brought without repentance of sin

We still have this today in different forms such as:

- Denying yourself of things you like for lent
- Baptism
- Giving money to churches and Christian causes

The sacrifice of Cain was like this – Genesis 4:1-5; Hebrews 11:4

“abomination” – an attitude or action which the Lord refuses to endure

An act that is good in itself can become ugly to God when it is not done with faith

Hebrews 11:6

“upright” – sinner who has come in repentance, confesses sin and hates it and trusts God for forgiveness and wants to live God’s way.

“acceptable” – John Piper: “Prayer is His delight because prayer shows the reaches of our poverty and the riches of His grace.”

God delights in the prayers of the righteous but He also delights in their sacrifices – Psalm 4:5

Verse 9 is a great verse to memorize and meditate on when tempted to sin.

3. Willingly Submit to God’s Discipline – 10

“the way” – the path of wisdom and righteousness

Proverbs teaches that for the one who is wise and responds to the discipline and gets back on the way, there is forgiveness and all is well.

“will die” – not submitting to God’s discipline can lead to further discipline in various forms – and it can also ultimately lead to death

1 Corinthians 11:30

Hebrews 12:5-11

4. Let Purity Dominate Your Thought Life – 11

“Sheol” – in the Old Testament this is a word for the realm of the dead (a general term)

“Abaddon” – refers to the condition of punishment and ruin

Jews pictured it as the deepest recesses of the realm of the dead

“open before the Lord” – in Jewish thinking, nothing could be further from God’s presence than the grave. But this verse tells us God knows everything about these places and these conditions.

Psalm 139:8

“hearts” – people’s motives, thoughts, and desires

We can be deceived about the condition of our own heart – Jeremiah 17:9-10. But God is not –

1 Samuel 16:7; 2 Chronicles 6:30; Psalm 44:21; Acts 1:24

John Kitchen: “He knows my thoughts. He clearly sees my motives. He scrutinizes my desires and longings. My feelings are plain to Him – He knows me – which is both a fright and a comfort, depending upon what I know He sees in me.”

What thoughts are pleasing to God? Philippians 4:8-9

5. Submit to the Rebuke of Wise Men – 12

“scoffer” – the scoffer is the lowest level of the class of fools presented in Proverbs. He is hardened and set in his folly and rejects authority

“reproved” – an accurate measure of spiritual maturity is one’s willingness to accept criticism, rebuke

“not go to the wise” – he won’t seek out another person for wisdom and advice

=we need to seek the faithful rebuke of our godly brothers and sisters, so that we will continue to walk in obedience to God

Every believer should be accountable to at least one other Christian so that sin may not be allowed to gain the slightest foothold – Hebrews 3:12-13

At the same time, we need to study and meditate on God’s Word which will instruct us in the way of godliness.