

Message #28

Proverbs 10:1-7

We come now to Proverbs 10, our second major section of the book. The first section is called the “my son” section. From **10:1-22:16**, we get our first glimpse of the actual Proverbs of Solomon. Dr. Robert Alden writes: “In some respects the book of Proverbs begins with chapter 10.”

Beginning with chapter 10 to 22:16, there are 375 wise sayings (proverbs) given by Solomon. In this section we do not find lengthy philosophical discussions, but rather short pithy contrasts and comparisons between a wise and foolish life, a righteous and wicked life, a blessed and cursed life and the way of life and the way of death.

In chapters 10-15, the contrasts are primarily antithetic—the conjunction “but.” In chapters 16-22:16, the proverbs are mostly synonymous or synthetic—the conjunction “and.”

A PERSON’S CHOICE TO LIVE A WISE, GODLY LIFE WILL AFFECT EVERY PHASE OF YOUR EXISTENCE IN THIS LIFE AND THE NEXT.

EFFECT #1 – Your choice of lifestyle makes a difference parentally. **10:1**

If a child chooses to live a wise life from God’s perspective, that life brings godly parents joy. If a child chooses to live an impious or foolish life that brings godly parents painful sadness.

The separating of father and mother is a form of Hebrew poetry—a way of communicating that both parents are affected by the way a child lives his life (15:20; 17:21, 25; 19:13).

EFFECT #2 – Your choice of lifestyle makes a difference socially. **10:2**

The particular social issue at stake in this verse is in the area of economics. Wealth that is gained by unrighteous means will ultimately end up of no value, whereas a life invested in the acquisition of righteousness will ultimately end up delivering a person from any path which leads to death.

EFFECT #3 – Your choice of lifestyle makes a difference provisionally. **10:3**

God will sovereignly meet the needs of those pursuing righteousness. Jesus Christ expounded on this very theme in Matthew 6:19-33. Paul taught this to the Philippians (4:19). However, it is also revealed that God will sovereignly stop or thwart the plans and cravings of the wicked. It is significant that the name for God is Jehovah.

EFFECT #4 – Your choice of lifestyle makes a difference financially. **10:4**

The basic thrust of this verse is that a life of laziness brings poverty, whereas a life of diligence brings prosperity.

Dr. Alden said the general principle is that “the industrious, conscientious worker is eventually recognized by his superior(s) and promoted, while the man who constantly watches the clock and puts forth as little effort as possible will stay in the same slot forever...”.

EFFECT #5 – Your choice of lifestyle makes a difference industriously. **10:5**

Both the wise man and the fool are faced with a harvest season—time to go out and work. The wise son is industrious and gets out and brings in the harvest. The fool sleeps through the harvest season and ultimately becomes a disgrace.

EFFECT #6 – Your choice of lifestyle makes a difference retributively. **10:6**

Your choice of lifestyle will bring just retribution—reward or punishment. Solomon seems to be saying that a person who chooses God’s righteousness will be anointed with God’s blessings, but one who does not will end up eating what he deserves—violence. If you are living a life in conformity with the Word of God, it is not wrong to want, pray for and expect the blessings of God. If, on the other hand, you are living a life not in conformity with the Word of God, it is logical to expect the chastisement of God.

EFFECT #7 – Your choice of lifestyle makes a difference memorially. **10:7**

The memory of one that conformed his life to the Word of God will be a blessed memory; but the memory of one that did not conform his life to the Word of God will be a memory that is rotten and will slowly fade away as a worm-eaten piece of wood.

We all have choices to make—follow God’s ways or not. Do God’s will or not. The choices we make have consequences. Choose life or choose death.