

## Notes on Proverbs

### Important Themes in Proverbs

- Wisdom according to Proverbs
  - Doctrine (teaching, or instruction)
  - Know prudent thinking (understanding, perception, and discernment)
  - Prudence (good sense, practical wisdom)
  - Sagacity, good sense (discretion, reflection)
  - Understand, capacity (apprenticeship)
  - How to obtain wisdom
- The characters (personalities) of Proverbs
  - The fool (the opposite to the wise)
  - The simple (naive) (one who is easily deceived)
  - The harsh fool (fool with a mind closed to receiving instruction)
  - The mocker (makes fun of values, morals & ethics)
  - The lazy (doesn't want to do anything)
  - The good friend (he with whom you can have a good relationship)
    - § Characteristics of a good friend:
      - Faithfulness
      - Frankness & sincerity
      - Help & counsel
      - Consideration & tact
- The excellence of self-control
  - In general
    - § Rest
    - § At the table (eating)
    - § Not drinking strong drink
    - § Anger
  - Control of one's temper
    - § Anger should only be used against what is bad (not against self, but against God and His kingdom) to correct, or to protect family and self
    - § Mt 5:22 - *But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and*

*whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.*

§ Pr 16:32 - *He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.*

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

§ Pr 14:29 - *He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.*

§ Pr 15:1 - *A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*

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

- The tongue & our words:

- The power of our words:

- § *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof” (18:21)*

- Good words:

- § Persuade – *“...and a soft tongue breaketh the bone” (25:15)*

- § Bless – *“By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted...” (11:11)*

- § Preserve life – *“A true witness delivereth souls...” (14:25)*

- § Heals – *“...but the tongue of the wise is health” (14:25)*

- § Satisfies – *“A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth...” (12:14)*

- Bad words:

- § Penetrate – *“they go down into the innermost parts of the belly” (18:8)*

- § *“grievous words stir up anger” (15:1)*

- § *“hideth hatred with lying lips” (10:18)*

- § Hurts – *“There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword” (12:18)*

- § Destroy friendships – *“A foward man soweth strife” (16:28)*

- § *“Provoke contention” (18:6)*

- § *“perverseness in words is a breach in the spirit” (15:4)*

- Riches, poverty & charity

- The value of riches:
  - § Prosperity is the payment for hard work, dilligence, and good management (10:4-5)
  - § Money gives a certain sense of security (10:15)
  - § *“The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it”* (10:22)
  - § *“By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life”* (22:4)
  - § Even though money is valuable, it is much less valuable than other values.
- Even though money is valuable, it is much less valuable than other values:
  - § *“How much better is it to get wisdom than gold...”* (16:16)
  - § *“A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold”* (22:1)
  - § Integrity is better than riches (28:6)
  - § *“Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith”* (15:17)
- Warnings about riches:
  - § It is dangerous to be greedy for riches – *“He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house”* (15:27)
  - § Pride – *“The rich man is wise in his own conceit”* (28:11)
  - § Hard heart – *“The poor useth entreaties; but the rich answereth roughly”* (18:23)
- The responsibility that the rich have towards the poor:
  - § Poverty isn’t God’s curse – *“Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich”* (28:6)
  - § Help the poor – *“He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD”* – (19:17)
  - § *“Whoso stoppeth his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard”* (21:13)
  - § The generous will prosper – *“The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that watereth shall be watered also himself”* (11:25)
- Family:
  - The book of Proverbs probably gives us more counsel about how to have a godly, happy family than any other book of the Bible.

- Family problems don't change through time; the problems we have in our families today are the same problems that the Israelites had in Biblical times.
- Marriage:
  - Marriage was created by God for our benefit
  - Even though polygamy was practiced in Biblical times, especially amongst the kings, it was never part of God's plan
    - § *“rejoice with the wife of thy youth... let her breasts satisfy thee at all times; and be thou ravished always with her love”* (5:18-19)
    - § *“Whoso findeth a wife findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favor of the LORD”* (18:22)
  - It is interesting to note that there are more verses that speak about the wife's behavior, than there are which speak about the husband's behavior:
    - § *“A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones”* (12:4)
    - § *“Every wise woman buildeth her house”* (14:1)
    - § *“It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house”* (21:9)
  - The wife:
    - § *“It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman”* (21:19)
    - § *“A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike”* (27:15)
  - Proverbs, as in the rest of the Bible, is very negative about sexual sin
    - § Ch 7 – the whole chapter is a warning against adultery
- Parents & children:
  - The responsibility of training your children– *“Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (22:6)
  - *“My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother”* (6:20)
  - Rebellion:
    - § *“to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin”* (San 4:17)
    - § Submission is giving up your will, to submit to another; rebellion is the opposite
    - § “I don't want to do it”
    - § Whining, crying, begging

- § Temper tantrums
  - § External obedience, but with a bad attitude
  - § Partial obedience is rebellion
  - § Slow, or late obedience is rebellion
- What are we to do with one who has a rebellious heart?
  - § According to the law, we are to stone them to death (Deut 21:18-21)
- Necessity of correction & discipline:
  - § *“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him”* (22:15)
  - § *“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him quickly”* (13:24)
  - § *“Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying”* (19:18)
  - § *“The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame”* (29:15)
- The virtuous woman of Proverbs 31:
  - She is valuable – vs 10
  - Can trust in her – vs 11
  - She is a blessing – vs 12
  - She is a worker – vs 13
  - She seeks our great deals – vs 14
  - She is not lazy – vs 15
  - She is wise in business – vs 16-19, 24
  - She is generous – vs 20
  - She prepares for the necessities of the future – vs 21
  - She is well dressed – vs 22
  - She helps and supports her husband – vs 23
  - She has a beautiful character – vs 25
  - She is wise – vs 26
  - She is a good administrator – vs 27
  - She is honored – vs 28