

“Insights Into Glorifying God In Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 16:33-17:4

February 14, 2024

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

## 1. Worship God in His Sovereignty – 16:33

Chapter 16 ends the way it began with the theme of God’s sovereignty – 16:1-9

Verse 1:

“belongs to man” – God gave man the ability to reason and think things through

“answer of the tongue” – refers to more than a reply. It’s the correct and perfect response to the immediate situation

“from the Lord” – while man may plan what he thinks is best – only God can put the perfect answer in a person’s mouth.

Verse 3:

“established” – God will lead us in the way He has planned

Verse 4:

“its purpose” – Everything is under God’s control and under His direction

“wicked” – even the wicked exist under God’s sovereign plan in order to fulfill His eternal purposes. Example: Joseph’s brothers

Verse 9:

“establishes his steps” – God will lead us in the way He has planned

Verse 33:

“the lot is cast into the lap” – like rolling dice and they came to rest in the lap of the person who rolled them. Used by the crew of Jonah’s ship to see who was responsible for the storm.

Used by the apostles to choose Mathias

We don’t see believers using lots after the coming of the Holy Spirit. Plus we have the completed New Testament.

## 2. Prefer Peace to Plenty – 17:1

“Quiet” - not absence of sound but absence of quarreling, yelling and conflict

“feasting” – literally: “sacrifices”

Probably refers to the peace offerings – Leviticus 7:11-17

“strife” – regardless of the subject of the strife, it is caused by being dominated by selfishness rather than the fruit of the Holy Spirit

Jesus promised us peace – John 16:33

Colossians 3:15 – we are to let the peace of Christ rule in our hearts

Isaiah 26:3; Philippians 4:6-7

Charles Bridges: “Would you like to really enjoy your material blessings? Then welcome the Savior to them. Cherish His Spirit. Look to His glory in their enjoyment. Whether we have little or much, it will be blessed with the token of His presence and the seal of His everlasting love.”

### **3. Be a Wise Servant...and A Wise Child – 17:2**

“deals wisely” – Hebrew word describes one who is careful in difficult situations and has wisdom in how to solve the problem at hand and the ability to apply the solution and produce results.

“acts shamefully” – such as:

- Through disrespect and violence – Proverbs 19:26
- Extravagant living – Proverbs 28:7
- Thinking only of himself – Proverbs 29:15

Example: Solomon’s son Rehoboam and his servant Jeroboam

This proverb was meant to shock a shameful son into action and faithfulness  
Apply Ephesians 6:1-3; 5-8

### **4. Submit to God’s Furnace of Purification – 17:3**

“crucible is for silver” – precious metals had to be refined to get impurities out. They had to be heated until they became liquid.

“tests” – the fire serves two purposes

- Testing (to see if any impurities)
- Refining (to remove impurities)

“hearts” – nothing in our heart escapes God’s sight  
James 1:2-4

The believer who wants to grow in spiritual maturity and Christlikeness is not only willing for this process but even asks God for it – Psalm 26:2  
Pray Psalm 139:23-24

### **5. Shut Your Ears to Wickedness – 17:4**

“evildoer” – listening to “corrupt lips” reveals the corruption that is already in my heart.

“wicked lips” – this is the opposite of love – 1 Corinthians 13:6

My inner character is revealed not just by what I say but by what I willingly listen to others say  
Proverbs warns about listening to wrong influences – Proverbs 1:10-16

Be careful about who you hang out with because you will probably become like them.