

“Insights into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 15:16-21

June 14, 2023

1 Corinthians 1:30; Ephesians 1:17

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

1. Prefer Poverty and Peace to Treasure and Trouble – 16-17

Luke 12:15

“fear of the Lord” – a deep concern to give the glory and honor that He deserves along with a dread of doing anything that would offend and dishonor God

“great treasure” – 1 Timothy 6:6; Philippians 4:11

Although there is nothing inherently wrong with earthly wealth, we should know God’s warnings about the dangers that can come with earthly wealth:

- Earthly wealth is illusive and often “takes wings” – Proverbs 23:5
- Earthly wealth can become an idol
- The love of earthly wealth is the root of all kinds of sins – 1 Timothy 6:10
- Earthly riches can bring trouble to one’s household because of covetousness, envy, pride, etc.
- Earthly riches never seem to satisfy. The more you have, the more you want

“trouble” – Hebrew word describes catastrophe, disaster, extreme discord

“dinner of herbs” – this isn’t describing a person who is destitute but this is the normal, daily food of the average worker in those days.

“love” – love for the others you are eating with

“fattened ox” – a meal reserved for special occasions

2. Be a Peacemaker – 18

“hot tempered man” – this is a heart issue (not a personality issue)

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

“stirs up strife” – the hot tempered person lashes out verbally and or physically at others

Proverbs 6:16-19

This person lets anger smolder like an ember in a fire smoldering beneath the surface and then with little warning he fans the flame once again. “Some persons make it their occupation to sit by the fire [of angry thoughts], to feed and fan the flame, lest it be extinguished.” Charles Bridges

“slow to anger” – Charles Bridges continues: “What this is the Christian’s exercise? Not to stir up strife, but to pacify it; to bring water, not fuel to the fire; by a ‘gentle (soft) answer’ to turn away wrath (v. 1); by a yielding spirit to melt, subdue, and bring peace.”

God commands us to deal with this every day – Ephesians 4:26-27; Galatians 5:22-23

“quiets contention” – “This person’s presence is a blanket that suffocated all embers of anger seeking the oxygen to thrive” John Kitchen

According to Scripture, there are only 2 ways to deal in a godly way with a conflict with another:

- Overlook the offense – 1 Peter 4:8; Proverbs 10:12; 19:11
- When we experience a serious problem with another person because of their sin we are to go privately to that person for the purpose of resolving the problem – Matthew 18:15

How do we put this Proverb into practice?

- Rely on the Holy Spirit in our lives to control our temper and anger
- Realize God is sovereign in all things and submit our circumstances to Him
- Yield our rights to God

(Suggested book: *Anger and Stress Management* by Wayne Mack)

3. Live Diligently by Faith – 19

“sluggard” – 6:6, 9; 13:4

A lazy person – Matthew 25:14-30

The wise person (believer) is to be serving God with their whole heart (with the gifts God has given them)

“hedge of thorns” – his laziness is his hedge of thorns and it has caught up with him

“upright” – to call a person “upright” is synonymous with saying that he is “diligent”

They have troubles and obstacles in their life but they are able to overcome them – Jeremiah 17:7-8; Psalm 112:6-8

4. Honor God by Honoring Your Parents – 20

“wise son” – this son has become wise by:

- Fearing the Lord
- Heeding his parents’ godly teaching

“despises his mother” – Proverbs gives insight into the actions of this son

- He might curse his parents – 20:20; 30:11
- He might mock his parents – 30:17
- He might rob his parents – 28:24
- He might assault and drive away his parents – 19:26

Jesus told us in the Sermon on the Mount that sinful attitudes are just as bad
This fool will be judged in the severest of ways – 20:20; 30:17

5. Walk Joyfully in the Wisdom of God – 21

“lacks sense” – literally: “heart” (seat of his thinking, feeling and choosing)

He has lost all ability to think correctly. Plus his emotions are all messed up and he chooses the path in life that leads to destruction.

He has no joy in God and godliness that bring lasting joy – Psalm 16:11

“straight ahead” – the person of understanding / wisdom weighs each choice by what is right in God’s eyes