

Words & Works

Proverbs 12

Puritan Reformed Church - Pastor David Reece

Lord's Day July 10th, AD 2022

OUTLINE OF PROVERBS:

1) Child / Youth - Collection I¹

1:1-7 - Introduction

Purpose: 1:2-3 - 2 To hear wisdom [Hokmah] and instruction [musar], To see the words of understanding, 3 To grab the instruction [musar] of success [haskel], Justice [truth], judgment [choice], and equity [order/beauty];

Thesis: 1:7 - 7 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, But fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

A - 1:8-19 - The Father's Invitation vs. The Gang's Invitation

B - 1:20-33 - Wisdom Rebukes the simple

C - 2:1-22 - The Father Warns against evil men and the unchaste woman

D - 3:1-4:27 - The Father Commands that teaching be heeded

D' - 5:1-6:35 - The Father warns against the unchaste woman

C' - 7:1-27 - The Father Warns against the Woman Folly

B' - 8:1-36 - Wisdom's invitation to the simple

A' - 9:1-18 - Wisdom's Invitation vs. Folly's Invitation to the simple

2) Young Man / Adult - Collection II - 10:1-22:16 - The 375 Proverbs of Solomon

3) Young Man / Adult - Collection III - 22:17-24:22 - The Thirty Sayings of the Wise

4) Young Man / Adult - Collection IV - 24:23-34 - Further Sayings of the Wise

5) Father / Leader - Collection V - 25:1-29:27 - More Proverbs of Solomon from Hezekiah's Men

6) Father / Leader - Collection VI - 30:1-33 - The Sayings of Agur Son of Jakeh

7) Father / Leader - Collection VII - 31:1-31:31 - The Sayings of Lemuel

¹ Collection I outline Modified from Bruce Waltke NICOT: Proverbs - page 12

TEXT - PROVERBS 12:1-28 - Words & Works

V. 1-14 - Section 1 - Introduction - 1-3

**12:1 Whoever loves instruction loves knowledge,
But he who hates correction [rebuke] is stupid.**

**2 A good man obtains favor from the Lord,
But a man of wicked intentions He will condemn.**

**3 A man is not established by wickedness,
But the root of the righteous cannot be moved.**

- 1) V. 1 - Love Discipline - positive and negative
 - a) Hating Rebuke is hating it when people show you that you are wrong
 - b) Hating negative Discipline is stupid. It is the hatred of being shown your errors.
 - c) Love Rebuke - negative discipline helps you to repent of unbelief and put on belief
- 2) V. 2 - Covenant of Works and the providential tendency for blessing & cursing
 - a) Favor given to the righteous - blessing / justification
 - b) Disfavor given to the unrighteous - curse / condemnation
- 3) V. 3 - Wickedness is not stable or decisive (decisive in spurts and then chaotic - the wicked flee when none pursue) - righteousness is stable and decisive (the righteous are as bold as a lion)
 - a) Individual men cannot be stable in wickedness
 - b) Individual men can be stable in righteousness

Speech & the Household - 4-7

**4 An excellent wife [Lit. A wife of valor] is the crown of her husband,
But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.**

**5 The thoughts of the righteous are right,
But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.**

**6 The words of the wicked are, "Lie in wait for blood,"
But the mouth of the upright will deliver them.**

**7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more,
But the house of the righteous will stand.**

- 4) V. 4 - The wife of Valor - Ayshet Chayil
 - a) Ruth and Proverbs 31
 - b) compared to the man of valor [Ish Chayil]

- 5) She is a crown - she brings honor, authority, power - she is his glory and gives him credibility and power.
 - a) She is a prophecy of the leadership of her husband - if you give him authority he will beautify those things under his power like this one has been beautified.
- 6) The shame causer causes inward pain and weakness and destroys credibility to lead for the husband
- 7) Consider the relationship between 4-7

Work & Property - 8-12

**8 A man will be commended according to his wisdom,
But he who is of a perverse heart will be despised.**

**9 Better is the one who is slighted [lightly esteemed] but has a servant,
Than he who honors himself but lacks bread.**

**10 A righteous man regards the life of his animal,
But the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.**

**11 He who tills [works or cultivates] his land will be satisfied with bread,
But he who follows frivolity [Lit. vain things] is devoid of understanding [Lit. heart].**

**12 The wicked covet the catch of evil men,
But the root of the righteous yields fruit.**

- 8) Reputation is best advanced through good work
- 9) Better to have resources for work which allows for reputational advancement in the long run than try to short term improve your reputation
- 10) It is good to serve a righteous man because he is kind even to his animals, but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.
- 11) Cultivation of capital goods results in food that satisfies and can be enjoyed, but spending effort on useless things shows the lack of wisdom in a man
- 12) If you covet the wicked fruit of wicked men, then you are wicked - repent - and this is fruitless by the way ... However, the root of the righteous yields fruit (thus he will be satisfied with bread).

Words & Work - Concluding Connector - 13-14

**13 The wicked is ensnared by the transgression of his lips,
But the righteous will come through trouble.**

**14 A man will be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth,
And the recompense of a man's hands will be rendered to him.**

- 13) Ensnaring vs coming through trouble

14) Satisfaction and the Good

15) The righteous work with their hands and their mouths to testify to truth and to bring about good. This spreads blessing and reduces curse. This subdues toil, strife, and death.

V. 15-28 - Section 2 - Introduction - 15

**15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
But he who heeds counsel is wise.**

16) The fool's judgment of his own foolishness

17) The wise man's judgment is put to the test

Words - 16-23

**16 A fool's wrath is known at once,
But a prudent man covers shame.**

**17 He who speaks truth declares righteousness,
But a false witness, deceit.**

**18 There is one who speaks like the piercings of a sword,
But the tongue of the wise promotes health.**

**19 The truthful lip shall be established forever,
But a lying tongue is but for a moment.**

**20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil,
But counselors of peace have joy.**

**21 No grave trouble [harm] will overtake the righteous,
But the wicked shall be filled with evil.**

**22 Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord,
But those who deal truthfully are His delight.**

**23 A prudent man conceals knowledge,
But the heart of fools proclaims foolishness.**

18) V. 16 - Fast expression of anger VS Effort to protect the honor of the other party

19) V. 17 - Justice and truth - injustice and falsehood

20) V. 18 - words and kill or resurrect - harm or heal - they can also influence actions to do both

21) V. 19 - Truth and stability, Falsehood and instability

22) V. 20 - Self Deceit and Evil - we always choose the thing we think is best - "nobody knowingly chooses evil"

23) V. 21 - curse comes to evil and righteous are protected from curse

24) V. 22 - abomination and delight

25) V. 23 - concealing knowledge (not always the time to show all of your treasures) and proclaiming folly (shows all the treasures - even the fool's gold)

Work - 24-27

**24 The hand of the diligent will rule,
But the lazy man will be put to forced labor.**

**25 Anxiety in the heart of man causes depression,
But a good word makes it glad.**

**26 The righteous should choose his friends carefully,
For the way of the wicked leads them astray.**

**27 The lazy man does not roast what he took in hunting,
But diligence is man's precious possession.**

26) Dominion and Slavery

27) Anxiety and Encouragement

28) Friends and Influence

29) Rewards and the blessing of diligence

Conclusion - 28

**28 In the way of righteousness is life,
And in its pathway there is no death.**

30) All life, no death - words and works

31) Synthetic parallelism - the completion / expansion of the idea of the first part in the second part