

“Insights into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 12:26-13:7

8/31/22

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

1. Choose Friends Carefully – 12:26

The Hebrew word translated “guides” can also be translated “investigates”. If “investigates”, then it is saying: a righteous person is one who cautiously moves into new relationships.

In choosing someone as a friend, ask:

- Are they the kind of person you want to become? – 22:24-25
- Will this friend love you enough to confront you with sin in your life? – 27:6a; 27:17
- Will this friend stick around when things get hard? – 17:17

2. Discipline Yourself to Finish What You Start – 12:27

The lazy person starts projects, but seldom finishes them.

3. Walk in Christ, Your Pathway to Righteousness – 12:28

4. Open Your Ears to the Father’s Instruction – 13:1

The first line in Hebrew doesn’t have a verb: “a wise son...father’s instruction”

Translators add a word: ESV “hears”; NAS “accepts”

“Hears” in Scripture involves receiving the message with the heart, as well as the brain. And thus the person acts upon what he hears in repentance and faith

“Instruction” – specifically instruction in how to live / how to live a life pleasing to God

We don’t automatically think correctly about life and we all need correction in our thinking. Therefore everyone of us needs:

- Corrective instruction of God’s Word – Psalm 119:9-11; 2 Timothy 3:16-17
- Our Parents – Proverbs 1:8; 4:1
- God’s People – Proverbs 12:26; Hebrews 10:24-25

Jesus is a great example – Isaiah 50:4-5

5. Be Blessed By Your Own Words – 13:2

“Good” – our words are a major determining factor of whether or not our lives are pleasant or not. Colossians 4:6

6. Guard Your Lips – 13:3

James 3:2

We need God's help to guard our lips and we should call on Him for help – Psalm 141:3

“Ruin” – can be financial, social, physical, spiritual (or all 4)

7. Be Diligent in Spiritual Things – 13:4

8. Hate Falsehood – 13:5

“Falsehood” – part of loving God is hating what He hates

This isn't saying that a righteous person never lies – David lied, Peter lied

And yet David could pray Psalm 119:29

Peter remembered his sin and he showed great happiness at his deliverance from it – 1 Peter 3:10

Compare Paul – Romans 7:15, 19

“Shame” – literally “stench”

9. Grow in Sanctification – 13:6

“Righteousness” – referring to our sanctification (the work of God that makes us more and more free from sin and like Christ in the way we think and act)

“Guards” – our righteousness / sanctification is like a sentry standing guard over our life to keep out sin and disobedience

“Way is blameless” – consistent conformity to God's ways

Some of the things that sidetrack us from the way of righteousness are:

- Fear of man
- The Deceptive Allure of Sin
- Desires of the Flesh
- Wanting Something that Doesn't Glorify God

“sin overthrows the wicked” – sin brings ruin and ultimately eternal judgment

10. Don't Pretend to Be Something You're Not – 13:7

Some deceive by making themselves look better than they are.

Some deceive by making themselves look poor, when in fact they are rich