

Readers, please do your best to read through the entire book of Proverbs between now and July 30. One chapter per day will get the job done in a month's time, and is well worth the effort. Parents, read these words to your children and explain God's wisdom to them as you do.

Proverbs 10

As one reads this chapter, it is evidently a contrast between the "righteous" and the "fool." Notice the compliments paid to the "righteous" person. He makes his family glad (v. 1). He is delivered from death (v. 2). He is a diligent worker (vv. 3-5). He is blessed (v. 6). His memory is blessed (v. 7). The righteous one receives commands (v. 8), instructions (v. 17), and has a tongue of silver (v. 20).

In contrast, the "foolish" person causes his family grief (v. 1), profits nothing (v. 2), is empty-handed at harvest (vv. 3-5), is violent (v. 6), and has a name that will rot (v. 7). The prating fool will fall (v. 8), and his perverted ways will become known (v. 9). His mouth is full of violence (v. 11), and a rod is reserved for his back (v. 13).

The contrast is so vivid and sharp that any thinking person would immediately begin to examine his own life and make the necessary changes to become the "righteous, wise" person! Imagine reading things like this on a daily basis and forming your life according to the wisdom learned?! So many pitfalls could be avoided, and so much good learned.

A well-known proverb is also couched in chapter 10 at verse 26: "As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the lazy man to those who send him." Does anyone doubt the truth of that statement?

Proverbs 11

Jehovah delights in honest scales (v. 1)! How many butchers at the meat market have tipped the scales with their thumb?

The chapter continues with the contrast between the wise, righteous and faithful person versus the proud, perverted, unfaithful man. Solomon tells us that the deeds of the "**righteous**" will deliver from death (v. 4), direct his ways blamelessly (v. 5), and protect by the knowledge that goes with it (vv. 8-9).

The proud fool brings shame (v. 2), will be destroyed (v. 3), and will fall by his own wickedness (v. 5). When the wicked man dies, his expectations die with him (v. 7). Numerous statements are made regarding the words of a foolish person (vv. 9, 11-13).

Several proverbs in this chapter deal with women, as we see in verse 22: "*As a ring of gold in a swine's snout, so is a lovely woman who lacks discretion.*" Try getting that picture out of your mind! Young men, pay attention as you are choosing a life-long mate! Pick someone who is *beautiful on the inside first!*

Next we see a wise statement to which all of us would do well to heed: "*He who troubles his own house will inherit the wind...*" (v. 29). This truth is rather obvious, but the brief parable is a good reminder!

Proverbs 12

"*The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand*" (v. 7). Solomon views the **results** of the life of the wicked versus the life of the righteous. Consider the truth of this proverb in the book of Esther. Wicked Haman not only lost his own life, but the lives of his ten sons! On the other hand, righteous Mordecai was a blessing of longevity to his family. How much more will these things be true in eternity?

"*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but he who heeds counsel is wise*" (v. 15). How sad for those young men who think they have *discovered* something new! If only they would pass their "*wisdom*" by a few trusted advisors they would save themselves a lot of misery. But the fool is **sure** he is right!

"*In the way of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death*" (v. 28).