



A Spiritual Review of Biblical Proverbs

A proverb (from the Latin *proverbium*), also called a byword or nayword, is a simple and concrete saying popularly known and repeated, which expresses a _____, based on common sense or the practical experience of humanity. They are often metaphorical. A proverb that describes a basic rule of conduct may also be known as a maxim. Proverbs are often borrowed from similar languages and cultures, and sometimes come down to the present through more than one language. Both the Bible (Book of Proverbs) and medieval Latin have played a considerable role in distributing proverbs across Europe, although almost every culture has examples of its own.

With the Book of Proverbs you have found pure gold, the mother lode of wisdom.....the eternal wisdom of Jehovah, the great I AM THAT I AM, put in short sayings for you and your family to enjoy and prosper from for the rest of your lives. Taste the honey!

Questions to consider:

What is God's will for my life? How can I be a wiser Christian? What should I teach my children? What is wrong with this generation? How can I be happy and successful? What kind of woman/man should I marry? How can I defeat sexual temptation? Why do I have money problems? What are the priorities of a godly life? How should I treat others? How can I get ahead on the job? Perfect answers to these and other questions are in Proverbs.

What could the wisest man on earth charge per hour to authoritatively answer all these questions? \$500 an hour? \$5,000 an hour?

But....here is God's inspired wisdom by King Solomon free of charge! What a glorious blessing, if we will study and apply them!

Is the author qualified?

The Author is Jehovah, Creator and Possessor of heaven and earth. He is more than qualified. And His writer was Solomon, the wisest king who ever lived, who gave his life and unlimited capital to prove the answers.

The Christian should humble himself before the God of heaven, thank Him for this gracious privilege, and find a blessing of wisdom from each of these nuggets of pure gold. If your heart is right, they will be sweet to your taste and profitable to your soul.

Seek God...Seek His counsel...Seek Wisdom from the King of Glory!



Jewels of Truth...from Proverbs

What does it tell us?

Note: The word “listen” is used 15 times in the first 14 chapters of Proverbs.

Remember....when something is important that the Lord wants us to hear and heed...He emphasizes by repeating. Since God is Holy, Holy, Holy...and the writers of Isaiah and Revelation emphasizes the Holiness of God, it would be advantageous for the Christian to heed when the Lord repeats a truth to us.

Note: To each one of the seven churches of Asia mentioned in Revelation, Jesus emphasized to the churches at the end of His message.... “He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit is saying to the Churches.”

Hearing and heeding is what the Lord desires of us!

James states it like this...”My dear brothers, take note of this: Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry....” (James 1:19)

He goes on to say, “Do not merely listen to the word...do what it says...” (1:22).

Therefore...as we read the Proverbs that I have chosen...listen and be aware of how it can apply to your life.

(1)“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.” (Proverbs 1:7)

The basic foundation for learning is to fear God (9:10); but fools reject wisdom and instruction, for they are proud and selfish without regard for God. They love their own opinions (26:12). Rather than search for truth, fools simply want to promote their own thoughts (18:1-2). But you cannot even start learning without the true fear of God.

(2)“Whoever listens to me will live in safety and be at ease without fear of harm.” (1:33).

The choice is yours. God offers wisdom in His word. If you ignore or reject wisdom, He will laugh at your fear and desert you in your calamities (1:24-32). If you love and exalt wisdom, He will bless you with tranquility. The choice is yours. The consequences of a foolish choice are severe. Choose wisdom!

(3)“Don’t forget my teaching. Keep my commands in your heart, for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.” (3:1-2)

Hearing instruction is not enough. There is profit only in remembering and doing it . To hear and forget is a horrible waste of an opportunity; and God will hold us guilty, if we squander the precious privilege of hearing wisdom. We must remember what we are taught; we cannot forget it.

Keeping our hearts is a priority, for out of it are the issues of life. Your heart directs your life. So we keep wisdom there to guide it!



What....Another Proverb?

- (4) **Honor the Lord with your wealth, with the first fruits of all your crops; then your barns will be filled to overflowing.” (3:9-10).**

Success requires giving some of your substance, and the first part of any increase, to the LORD. Giving Him leftovers, whether great or small, is not honor; and it does not fulfill the proverb. The Preacher gave a financial secret - firstfruits giving to honor God. Giving money away is how to get ahead (11:24).

- (5) **“Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it is in your power to act.” (3:27)**

You are in debt! And some debts you may not know about! Here is a rule of wisdom to please God and men. You must give good things to those that need them, when you are able to do so. Your debt may be a civil, employment, or financial obligation; or it may be the very religious matters of mercy and charity. This rule is also taught clearly in the New Testament (I John 3:17). Are you fully aware of your debts, and are you paying them?

- (6) **“Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the well spring of life. Put away perversity from your mouth, keep corrupt talk far from your lips.” (4:23-24).**

Your heart is your most valuable asset. And we are not talking about the muscle beating 70 times a minute in your chest. We are talking about the inner, decision-making part of you that loves certain things and chooses to do them over other things.

You can keep your heart good, or you can let it become bad. You can be diligent in this project, or you can be lazy. As a child of God, your old man tempts you toward evil, and your new man exhorts you toward righteousness. Your heart chooses between them. It is a series of choices that every person makes each day. What are you going to do this day?

Rule your speech! Guard your tongue! Mark your words! After keeping his heart with all diligence, from which are the issues of life, Solomon warned his son to reject ungodly speech (4:23). Beginning with the thoughts and intents of the heart, wisdom demands you govern your speech (4:24), your eyes (4:25), and your feet (4:26-27).

- (7) **PROVERBS 5:21... “For a man’s ways are in full view of the Lord, and He examines all his paths.”**

Proverbially speaking...What are you doing to bless other people, yourself, your family, your God?

