

## CHAPTER 14

***Proverbs 14:1 Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands.***

Have you ever seen a woman tearing shingles and siding from her house? No, and you probably never will. Hear, Solomon used a metaphor, a figure of speech where one thing represents another, to contrast women either improving or destroying their family and estate.

The Word "house" in Proverbs and the rest of Scripture is often much more than the building we live in. It is broader than that. It describes a family and/or estate. Consider:

- **House.** The persons living in one dwelling; the inmates of a house collectively;
- **Household,** family.
- **A family** including ancestors and descendants; a lineage, a race: esp. one having continuity of residence, of exalted rank, or high renown.

Consider the Spirit's use of the word "house" elsewhere (*Genesis 7:1; Deuteronomy 25:9; Ruth 4:11; 1Samuel 2:30, 35; 2Samuel 7:11*) and in Proverbs (*Proverbs 11:29; 12:7; 14:11; 15:25, 27; 24:3-4*).

Of course, taking care of the building is also the wise woman's job, but it is not the emphasis (*Ecclesiastes 10:18*).

The house you must build is your marriage, family, and husband's estate (*Proverbs 24:3-4; Titus 2:3-5*).

A wise woman can greatly improve a marriage, family, home, and estate, even into future generations; and a foolish woman can ruin the potential of her family and destroy it.

There is no better modern example than Sarah Pierrepont, the wife of Jonathan Edwards. She was a great wife to an exceptional man and public figure. She raised eleven children in the fear and love of the Lord, provided a model home in holiness and warmth, and established a legacy through her descendants unmatched in American history.

A woman is either a crown to her husband or rottenness in his bones (*Proverbs 12:4*).

This difference cannot be hid from the observations of others, for his shame comes from others knowing his curse (*Proverbs 27:15-16*).

A husband's flattery is of little value when others can easily witness the neglect of him, the children, the house, or the estate (*Proverbs 24:30-34*).

The virtuous woman had great influence over her family and husband's estate. She directed the care of the children and household and engaged in commercial real estate development and manufacturing and sales.

Her husband's importance in the city was greatly enhanced due to her superb management of these matters. Read it carefully (*Proverbs 31:10-31*).

Biblical examples: houses were built up by Hannah, Lois, Eunice, and Bathsheba; all of whom invested in their children and grandchildren to the glory of God.

Houses were torn down by Michael, Jezebel, and other odious and lazy women.

The only widows to be supported by the church are those who build up houses well (*1Timothy 5:3-10*). Others should be rejected.

How can you identify a wise woman? Look at her children. They reflect the mother very much, which is why the Bible says that a neglected child will shame his mother (*Proverbs 29:15*).

Mothers spend much more time with their children than fathers, and from early ages they are greatly influenced by their mothers. Children of the wise woman will be exceptional in character, conduct, and reputation.

Samuel, Solomon, and Timothy speak volumes about their wise and noble mothers (*1Samuel 1:27-28; Proverbs 4:3; Philippians 2:20; 2Timothy 3:15*).

For children to be successful in relating to others, they must be taught. To be diligent and successful workers. To be truly spiritually minded. To be organized, neat, and orderly. To be gracious, noble, virtuous, and zealous.

Wise women know that their example is at least as important to this training as the frequent and careful instruction they give.

How can you identify a wise woman? Look at her husband. He will be successful in his vocation, for she will have relieved him of most or all the household duties (*Proverbs 31:13-27*).

He will be confident, happy, and content, for she will have been a great lover and companion (*Proverbs 5:19; 19:13; 31:11-12*).

He will apply himself well to the larger matters of family and estate, for his wise wife will have taken care of the lesser ones herself.

How can you identify a wise woman? Look at her house. It will be clean, orderly, organized, comfortable, and bright. It will be reflected outside and inside the care of ownership (*Proverbs 24:3-4, 30-34; 31:13-27; Ecclesiastes 10:18*).

Her house will never show neglect. Hospitality shown in it will be generous, warm, comfortable, and gracious.

Wise women are not satisfied with cooking, laundry, and dusting. A trained twelve-year old girl can do all these things. And she is not satisfied helping with homework. These are childish things women of the world do with little lasting effect on their houses.

A wise woman is a holy example of great godliness and loving femininity at all times. Her children can easily observe her submission, service, and affection to her husband. They see a consistent standard of purity, temperance, diligence, and graciousness every day.

The law of kindness is in her tongue, and she rules her spirit without fail. A wise woman teaches and enforces the virtues of Christian character.

A wise woman instills in her children an ambition for holiness, love of truth, service to others, and gracious conduct.

A wise woman stamps out sibling rivalry, foolish talking and jesting, sarcasm, backbiting, disrespect of authority, and ungodly attitudes. She requires virtuous deportment at all times.

A wise woman works harder than her husband and uses her body and mind to be as productive as possible. She does not waste time away from home at low-paying jobs for self-fulfillment.

A wise woman manages the household, repairs the house, makes the money go as far as possible, and earns as much money as possible. She is not busy: she is diligent!

A wise woman does not try to save a penny while wasting a pound! She rises early and stays up late.

A wise woman is a keeper at home, rather than being a busybody, conversationalist, inefficient shopper, social butterfly, and wasteful errand runner (*Titus 2:5; 1 Timothy 5:13-14*).

This Proverb is as true as gravity. **If** a woman compromises duties at home, her family and estate will amount to little (*Proverbs 11:29*).

**If** she applies herself wisely and diligently, there will be a lasting influence for generations to come (*Proverbs 24:3-4; Ruth 4:11-12*).

Dear woman, When did you last pray with each child? When did you last tell each child verbally and tenderly you loved them? When did you last surprise each child with a favorite snack and soberly express your spiritual ambition for their souls? When did you last pray fervently for each of them?

### **What Are The Curses Of The Foolish Woman?**

- Laziness due to society influences and religious training; wasted time due to misguided priorities.
- Distraction due to an unfocused mind; pleasure in an entertainment oriented generation; not going beyond mere maid duties.
- Trusting academic education to make successful children.
- Lost time due to lack of urgency.
- Being a bad example of an affectionate lover.
- Lack of strict discipline; discouraging her house by being overbearing, critical, or negative.
- Being prudishly out of touch with reality; and Selfishness in forcing her own interests on the family.

A godly woman has a great reputation, for true character and performance results in growing in favor with God and men.

**If** you are not highly esteemed by others, you cannot excuse yourself with arrogant thoughts of self-righteousness, for you are failing in various areas of your life, and your family will suffer for it.

Rather than only address one of the parties, we should modify an American expression to read, "Behind every great man there are two great women." For it is by a great mother and a great wife that men are great.

Wise women see both of these opportunities for building their houses and apply themselves with holy zeal to promote both husband and children.

### **The Woman Who Loves Her Children Over Her Husband Will Lose Them Both**

The husband will suffer directly and the children will despise the defrauding taking place.

Young man, establish your house and future carefully. The marriage choice is one of great importance.

Young man, you will see much of your abilities, efforts, and blessings disappear by a foolish wife; you will live out your days in pain and loneliness by a bad woman.

Young man, marry, but only marry well; for your life, unborn generations, and future estate is at risk. The English have a proverb, "A fortune in a wife is better than a fortune with a wife."

The bride of our Lord Jesus Christ, Christian men and women should be more ambitious in the building up of the Lord's house, the Church. We can tear it down as well by neglect and fighting (*Galatians 5:15*).

We have been called to build it up by our endeavors (*Ephesians 4:3, 6*).

***Proverbs 14:2 He that walketh in his uprightness feareth the LORD: but he that is perverse in his ways despiseth him.***

The wicked fool says, "You can't judge me, because you don't know my heart." But the Holy Spirit, says we can know your heart easily. We simply judge your actions!

Hypocrite! We have found you out! Your talk is cheap. Your Sunday religion vain. Your baptism empty. Your friendship false. Your words lie! Your actions tell the truth!

You are afraid to say you despise God, but your actions say you despise Him! You will soon be exposed before all (*Proverbs 26:26; Psalm 144:7-8*)! See the comments on *Proverbs 6:12*.

The man who walks uprightly, does that which is right all the time, and fears the Lord.

The man perverse in his ways regularly disobeys and despises the Lord.

This basic rule is simple; it is accurate; and hypocrites claiming to fear God do not deceive wise men at all.

Americans say, "Actions speak louder than words." Solomon confirmed this rule. He said even children are known by their doings, whether they are pure and right (*Proverbs 20:11*).

Good trees bear good fruit; evil trees bear evil fruit. And so it is with man. Unless your heart is good, your actions will be evil.

#### **The Mouth Speaks And The Feet Walk According To What Is In The Heart.**

No matter how hard a hypocrite tries, wise men see the inconsistent life betraying his words. Evil men cannot bring forth good actions (*Matthew 12:33-35*).

Hypocrites do not want to be discovered nor judged, for their whole life is a lie. They pretend they fear the Lord in order to get something. They defend their inconsistent lives by denying that anyone knows their hearts.

But sincere hearts are known by consistent righteousness, and evil hearts are known by inconsistency and by sin. The rule is simple.

**Why Do Men Pretend To Fear God?** Think reader.

- They need something in the church, so they act religious to get it.
- They need friends, and Christians are friendly.
- They need a job, and their boss is a Christian.

- They need a spouse, and the best women are Christians.
- They want financial help, and Christians are generous.
- They do it to keep their family happy.

#### **The Fear Of The Lord Is Not A Single Profession Of An Emotional Event.**

**The Fear Of The Lord Is A Lifestyle Of Obeying God Keeping His Commandments And Hating Sin!**  
(*Ecclesiastes 12:13; Proverbs 8:13; 16:6*)

The early churches walked in the fear of the Lord, for they gave up their lives to follow Jesus Christ, even at great personal cost (*Acts 9:31*).

Let Solomon's father tell you how he walked uprightly even in his house (*Psalm 101*).

#### **Walking Is Not A Step: It Is Many Steps!**

Jesus said, "*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed*" (*John 8:31*).

Your heart can be judged! **If** you do not continue walking in the fear of the Lord, you do not fear the Lord. We are to be in the fear of the Lord all the daylong (*Proverbs 23:17*).

Reader, few would ever say they hate God. But a lazy spiritual life, with sin, says that you despise Him (*Malachi 1:6-14*).

**If** you are not sold out for the Lord, you make him sick over your life (*Revelation 3:14-19*).

Loving Christ means keeping His commandments (*John 14:21-24*).

Loving God is **only** by keeping His commandments (*1John 2:3-5*).

Eli despised God, by loving his sons too much and refused to correct them properly (*1Samuel 2:29-30*).

David despised God, when taking Bathsheba (*2Samuel 12:9-10*).

Hypocrite, consider your ways! For you are easily found out! And if we know your evil, how much more does God before Whom all things are naked and opened!

Beloved saint! Keep your heart with all diligence because life's issue stem from it (*Proverbs 4:23*).

Pray for God to examine your heart thoroughly (*Psalm 139:23-24*).

Confess every variance from God's Holy Standards in the Word of God! Remember that your heart is only as good and pure as your actions. Our Lord's heart, was full of the fear of the Father. He was honored by His Father when His Father heard His prayers (*Hebrews 5:7-9*).

### **His Perfect Life Proves A Perfect Heart!**

***Proverbs 14:3 In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.***

### **There Are Two Extremes Of Speech Arrogance And Graciousness**

All speech falls somewhere between these two extremes. Where does your speech fall?

Does your speech tend toward gracious and kind? Does it tend toward being arrogant and hurtful?

There are consequences to your speech. Harsh and arrogant speech brings difficulties and trouble; discreet and gracious speech brings blessing and safety.

How you use your tongue, one of the most difficult things to rule, will dictate how you are treated in life.

Both death and life are in the power of the tongue, and **If** you indulge yourself in talking, you will realize one or the other result (*Proverbs 18:21*).

Solomon warned often about the consequences of speech (*Proverbs 10:20, 31; 15:2; 21:23; 26:28; Ecclesiastes 10:12-14*).

What is this "*rod of pride*" in the mouths of fools? It is a metaphor describing how the proud speech of a fool hurts others and himself. His tongue becomes a weapon for pain (*Job 5:21; James 3:9-12*).

A fool cannot control his proud speech, and it causes others and him much grief wherever he goes (*Proverbs 12:18; 13:10; 14:16; 18:6-7, 21; 21:24; 28:25; 29:20*).

A wise man is preserved and honored by the same bodily member! His speech is the good of others, and they love him for it (*Proverbs 15:4, 23; 24:26; 25:11-12*).

A wise man, has gracious and kind speech. A wise man, wins the blessing and favor of others (*Proverbs 11:16; 22:11; 31:26*).

A wise man preserves his soul from much grief by wisely dealing with others (*Proverbs 6:1-5; 12:13; 15:1; 18:7*).

Do you know where your speech falls between arrogance and grace? Since your heart is deceitful above all things, you will be a poor judge (*Jeremiah 17:9; Psalm 19:12*).

Since men are prone to excuse their own faults, you must accept, the judgment of others.

Reader, do others think you biting, harsh, proud, or sarcastic?

Or do others think you gentle, kind, edifying, or meek?

You must eliminate even the smell of pride in your heart to have acceptable speech (*Proverbs 16:5*).

The Word of God is plain. Corrupt speech is to be replaced with gracious and edifying speech (*Ephesians 4:29*).

Bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking, and malice are to be replaced with kindness, tenderheartedness, and forgiveness (*Ephesians 4:31-32*).

Your speech is to always be gracious, allowing room for only a little salty seasoning (*Colossians 4:6*).

The Lord Jesus Christ spoke with the purest grace ever (*Psalm 45:2; Luke 4:22*).

Even officers sent by the Jews to apprehend Jesus could not believe His excellent speech (*John 7:45-46*).

This wisdom from heaven is distinctly different from the wisdom of hell, and both kinds are evidenced in the heart attitude and speech of mankind (*James 3:14-18*).

***Proverbs 14:4 Where no oxen are, the crib is clean: but much increase is by the strength of the ox.***

Adam Smith wrote "The Wealth of Nations" in 1776; and savings, investment, capital, means of production, income-producing assets, and distribution of labor were little understood until then.

The Word of God taught these things in 920 BC, or almost three thousand years before Adam Smith! Give God the glory! Love Proverbs!

Oxen are large bovine animals that God created for the service of man. When domesticated, we generally call them cattle; and specifically, they are castrated bulls that have reached full maturity and strength. (Bulls do not submit well to handling, yokes, and plowing!) They may easily weigh one ton and have enormous strength for pulling.

A crib, is a barred storage apparatus, where corn and other grain products are kept for feeding cattle and

other farm animals. From this usage we have adapted the word to mean the barred small bed for children, which has a similar appearance.

Actually, cattle crib is similar to the manger in which our Lord and Savior was placed after birth (*Luke 2:7*).

If a farmer plows, cultivates, and harvests by hand, he only has the strength and endurance to work a very small section of ground. His family may barely survive. And he will never get ahead.

The storage crib for corn or other produce will be clean, and empty, because he and his family will have eaten all he could plant and harvest.

Nations in the world even today, that still rely on manual labor, are as poor as they were 4000 years ago.

But If a farmer can scrimp and save to purchase an ox, he will have invested in the means of much greater production. The strong ox can pull a plow through the soil for many hours a day (*1Kings 19:19*).

Many acres can be cultivated. The ox can trample the raw corn and separate it from the stalk (*Deuteronomy 25:4*).

And ox can drive a grinding wheel much better than Samson (*Judges 16:21*).

The ox can pull heavily loaded wagons to market (*Numbers 7:3*).

The farmer now produces much more than he needs to eat and increases his wealth and farm.

### **This Great Reversal Of Fortune Came By Saving And Investing.**

Saving and investing are pillars of a capitalistic economy. To buy an ox, a farmer denies himself short-term pleasure to accumulate the needed funds: this is saving.

Then, the farmer must spend it for an ox that eats much feed each day and requires expensive upkeep: this is investing.

The farmer by saving some of his own production, he created capital; by investing his capital, in better means of production, he has converted his capital to be income producing.

Capital so invested will bring wealth, which creates more capital and investment, which leads to even greater wealth. "*Much increase is by the strength of the ox!*"

Consider the wisdom of our Proverb. Oxen eat a lot of corn and other feed, yet it is a farm without oxen that has nothing in the crib. Farms with oxen, though they

eat much corn, have great increase in their net corn production.

The left over corn is sold to buy luxuries the farmer never dreamed of having, much better than cultivating his land by hand. God has created, the ox means of production, that if wisely used will produce far more than the farmers family can consume.

God deserves the glory, because it is God who has given the wisdom to do all this. Both the ox and the wisdom to use the ox, come from the Lord of hosts. In fact, even the knowledge of how to plant, harvest, and process corn, comes from the Lord (*Isaiah 28:23-29*).

Here is economic wisdom, from the proper source. The Word of God taught this thousands years ago! What lessons does the Word of God have for you?

### **There Are Whole Continents, Societies, And Nations That Have Not Learned These Simple Lessons!**

They still rely on manual labor, do not understand savings, they make no investments, and ignore the means of production, that are available to them.

They pick berries and nuts, hunt wild game, wear skins, and live in huts or tents.

They have not changed in thousands of years.

The United States exploits these principles of wisdom more than any other nation, and we enjoy the greatest wealth and prosperity. We enjoy luxuries and leisure like no other society in history.

We categorize these other nations as second world or third world countries based on their ignorance and lack of use of these simple economic principles. This is the pervasive evil, that wise men see, in this present generation.

And we have ignorant fools in our society who want to replace capitalism with socialism!

Once a man sees the profit of saving and investing in an ox, he becomes very conscious of other possibilities; and so we have other witty inventions, which are a further blessing of God upon those who fear Him (*Proverbs 8:12*).

They invent better plows, planters, pickers, threshing devices, and tractors! They invent chainsaws, combines, PTOs, conveyors, washing machines, typewriters, vacuum cleaners, microwave ovens, and computers!

Consider work efforts: Would you like to be a lumberjack with an axe or a chainsaw? Would you like to slice meat in a deli with a knife or a meat slicer?

Would you like to be an accountant with an abacus or a computer? Would you like to unload trucks with a forklift or by hand? Would you accept the assignment to build a car by hand or on an assembly line? So reader, let us summarize and give God the glory!

The ox, the economic wisdom to use the ox, agricultural wisdom, and witty inventions are all from the Lord!

Reader, are you saving and investing as wisely as you should? Are you obeying this Proverb in your own life? Do you own any means of production? Do you have any income-producing assets? Are you accumulating funds, and capital to invest in such things?

Paul applies care of oxen to ministers, so let us consider how our Proverb addresses them (*1Corinthians 9:6-14; 1Timothy 5:17-18*).

A Church without a pastor will see little spiritual growth, for the God-given strength of the spiritual ox is missing. But where there is a laboring pastor, the church will benefit by this God-ordained means of increase.

A hard working minister can be very profitable, and this should be his calling (*1Timothy 4:13-16*).

And the harder he works, the more he should be fed (*1Timothy 5:17-18*).

Reader, are you taking care of your ox, the watcher of your soul? Do you pray for him daily?

It is the spiritual duty of God's saints to seek the purity of their churches, for spiritual and carnal blessings are by His favor (*Psalms 144:9-15*).

Even the means of natural production, and certainly the means of spiritual production, are by God's blessing.

Strong and healthy oxen and garnerers full of food are both by divine mercy (*Psalms 144:13-14*).

It is a happy people indeed who have honored the Lord with holy lives to bring these great blessings! Happy is that people whose God is the LORD (*Psalms 144:15*)!

***Proverbs 14:5 A faithful witness will not lie; but a false witness will utter lies.***

Is this Proverb too simple for your time and effort to understand? You can grasp its obvious meaning with a single reading.

But have you considered the less obvious importance of faithfulness, honesty, and truth?

We must take the Holy Spirit's dark saying, He gave to Solomon, and open it to the light of Holy Scriptures. So then, you should be gripped by the importance of perfect faithfulness.

Truly faithful men and women are rare! David said, "*Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men*" (*Psalms 12:1*).

Solomon asked, "*Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?*" (*Proverbs 20:6*).

Jeremiah said, "*Run ye to and fro through the streets of Jerusalem, and see now, and know, and seek in the broad places thereof, if ye can find a man, if there be any that executeth judgment, that seeketh the truth; and I will pardon it*" (*Jeremiah 5:1*).

Micah added, "*The good man is perished out of the earth: and there is none upright among men: they all lie in wait for blood; they hunt every man his brother with a net*" (*Micah 7:2*).

It is no different today; in fact, it may be worse, even among so-called Christians. For the character of carnal Christianity, which provides for perilous times, includes trucebreakers, false accusers, and traitors, among other sins (*2Timothy 3:1-5*).

So let us follow what the Holy Spirit says through Paul in carefully providing things honest in the sight of all men (*Romans 12:17; 2Corinthians 8:21*).

The world watches Christians, so you must be impeccably honest at all times to silence their accusations (*1Peter 2:12; 3:16*).

The Word of God commands you to even avoid the appearance of evil (*1Thessalonians 5:22*).

### **Honesty Is The Only Policy!**

Is your word always as pure as gold? God hates lying (*Proverbs 6:16-19*).

Of seven things God hates, two of them are lying. There will be no liars in heaven. All of them will be in the lake of fire (*Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15*).

God is a God of truth, and He despises false witnesses (*Exodus 20:16*).

If a man gave false witness in Israel, he would be judged with whatever punishment was at stake, during his testimony (*Deuteronomy 19:16-21*).

So, do you have perfect integrity? Do you always tell the truth? Can all men totally trust your every word?

When asked about your activities, you must be open and complete. When asked about others, you must honestly represent them. When truth will hurt you, do you tell the truth anyway!

### **Are You The Faithful Man That Is Hard To Find?**

Jesus is the Faithful and True Witness (*Revelation 3:14*).

Jesus is called Faithful and True (*Revelation 19:11*).

Men falsely accused Him at His trial (*Mark 14:56-60*).

Men hated Him for His honesty (*Isaiah 53:9*).

His true disciples will be as perfectly honest (*John 1:47; Revelation 14:5*).

***Proverbs 14:6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.***

A scorner resents correction and instruction, and he despises those correcting and instructing him.

A scorner is a perverse rebel, and he will not grow in wisdom.

A man with understanding, who loves correction and instruction, will grow in knowledge easily. What a difference among men! It is your duty and privilege, to be the wise man.

God has no use for scorners. He is their enemy during life. They wander ignorantly in arrogantly through life in self-righteousness.

The LORD loves humble men, who willingly receive His Word and are thankful for it. Humble men also love His preachers and teachers, whether parents or pastors.

All men are born helpless and ignorant. They take a year to learn to stumble, another year to learn a few basic words, another two to ride a tricycle, and another twelve to drive a car dangerously.

Men of understanding know their ignorance and dependence on God's revelation and teachers. They love parents, pastors, and any other instructors who will teach them wisdom. They realize God has chosen others to lead them to true knowledge.

Scorners are in love with their own thoughts, and they resent being told they are wrong. Their arrogance about their opinions makes them worse than a fool (*Proverbs 26:12*).

Scorners will not go to wise men to learn, because they presume they already know it all (*Proverbs 15:12*).

They are scorners, wise men ignore and reject them (*Proverbs 9:7-8*). Such a soul is lost!

The most important rule for wisdom is to become humble (*1 Corinthians 3:18*).

God resists the proud and hides truth from them (*Matthew 11:25-27; James 4:6*).

Solomon said, he was but a little child; and Jehoshaphat in his situation, said he did not know what to do: both men were blessed abundantly. The lower you can go in true humility, the higher God will raise you.

While humbling yourself: You must fear God and trust His Word in all matters of faith (*Proverbs 1:7; 3:5-6; 9:10; Psalm 119:128*).

You must seek unto His messengers with a noble and receptive spirit of the re-gathered Jews and the Bereans (*Nehemiah 8:1-12; Acts 17:11*).

The combination is potent! The Lord will guide you clearly in all matters of wisdom and knowledge.

### **Our Generation Is Scornful They Are Very Ignorant!**

Teachers cater to silly women, who prefer Bible studies over wifely submission and holy mothering (*2 Timothy 3:1-7; 1 Corinthians 14:34-35*).

The average, so-called Christian today, has rejected sound doctrine for entertainment and fables (*2 Timothy 4:3-4*).

***Proverbs 14:7 Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.***

### **Fools Must Be Strictly Avoided.**

There are several dangers. **If** you give fools attention or honor, they will think their ignorant babbling is acceptable and right (*Proverbs 26:1, 4, 8*).

**If** you keep company with them, they will corrupt your knowledge and good manners (*Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 1 Corinthians 15:33*).

### **Fools Are Everywhere Today:**

- They have no regard for God or His Word.
- They are confident in their own thoughts.
- They are too lazy to think critically.
- They would rather talk than listen and learn.

Intelligence and education have nothing to do with it. Educated or intelligent men are the world's greatest

fools i.e. Charles Darwin, Albert Einstein, Friedrich Nietzsche, Carl Sagan, Sigmund Freud, and countless others.

### **Knowledge Requires Reasoning From Presuppositions.**

Today's fools reason from several presuppositions:

- They all think existence and order in the universe are by chance (big bang theory).
- They think the highest intelligence in the universe are their own thoughts (self-esteem theory), and if they can convince you to believe their hallucination, they win (bigger fool theory).

A child can see through them with something called faith. Faith is, God's gift to recognize truth that educated and intelligent men cannot discover. Faith is the only basis for sound reasoning.

A man with faith, begins his reasoning, with God's existence, the truth of the Bible, and his own depravity and ignorance. He knows it is the only reasonable position to have (*2Thessalonians 3:1-2*).

### **The Fool Reasons From Arrogance And Chance Which Is Profanely Unreasonable.**

You have found a fool, when you meet a man that disregards God and the Bible, or freely offers his opinions, or follows the dolts into evolutionary science or other insane theories.

Fools do not deserve any honor or attention from you (*Proverbs 19:10; 30:21-23*).

Fools do not deserve truth, for they have sold their haughty little hearts to a lie.

Jesus Christ, said, "*Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you*" (*Matthew 7:6*).

Fools do not deserve any truth. They will mock and ridicule it, and they will twist your words to slander you.

Jesus also said, "*Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch*" (*Matthew 15:13-14*).

The disciples thought Jesus had offended the Pharisees (*Matthew 15:12*). He had, and intentionally so! He condemned them.

Jesus Christ considers all wisdom of this world to be dark ignorance (*Isaiah 8:20*).

Jesus Christ has set Himself against the worlds wise men and their so-called learning (*1Corinthians 1:19-20; 3:19-20*).

Jesus refers to the priorities of this world as profane and old wives' fables and the so-called science of this world as profane and vain babblings (*1Timothy 4:7; 6:20-21*).

If a man argues, debates, or questions the doctrine of Jesus Christ, he is a fool (*1Timothy 6:3-5*).

The Holy Spirit in Paul's writings said the man that is proud, does not know anything, and his babbling leads to perverse disputing of men, with corrupt minds, who are destitute of the truth.

What was the advice Paul gave Timothy about such men? The same as Solomon's! Go from them!

Today these men have crept into the churches and taken the weak and vulnerable captive, with a religion of compromise, that allows women to follow their lustful thoughts and ambitions (*2Timothy 3:1-7*).

These false teachers have flocks of silly women, following them like groupies. They do a whole lot of learning without any truth at all. Again what is Paul's advice to Timothy about such Christian teachers? Go from them!

How do you detect fools? Listen. A fool cannot be quiet; his heart burns to teach you his opinions (*Proverbs 17:16; 18:2; Ecclesiastes 10:12-14*).

A fool must tell you his thoughts on any subject, even though he has never researched or studied it before.

A fool like Charles Darwin will write a book that is based entirely and only in his imagination. It took him a volume to tell his hallucinations, while God detailed the origin of the universe in one chapter (*Genesis 1:1-31*)!

Why should you leave fools, when you detect their arrogant, anti-God, anti-truth words? Because listening will feed their conceit and make them more difficult (*Proverbs 26:12*)! Because engaging in discussion will reduce you to their level (*Proverbs 26:4*).

They will slander, your good words and conduct, to justify their profanity (*Proverbs 23:9; 2Timothy 2:23*)!

Because they might rub off on you and corrupt your good manners (*Proverbs 22:24-25; 1Corinthians 15:33*)!

How far should you go away? Solomon taught, "*Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away*" (*Proverbs 4:14-15*).

Get away! You cannot help fools. They will return to their folly as sure as dogs eat their own vomit and swine return to wallowing in mud (*Proverbs 26:11; 27:22*).

God has a fitting reward for them (*Romans 1:21-28*). They do not deserve truth.

Reader, do you speak like a fool? Or do you have the lips of knowledge?

A wise man, with a new heart given by the Spirit of God, and exercising the gift of faith, will speak very differently from a fool.

A wise man will acknowledge God, the world's insanity, his own depravity, and search the Scriptures to confirm what he hears and believes (*Acts 17:11*).

A wise man will humbly submit to correction and joyfully accept instruction. He is a wise man.

Are you protecting your children from fools? The public schools have an agenda that is dedicated to folly. Read a textbook on any subject and perceive their total lack of knowledge.

### **Hollywood Has Not Had A Moral Righteous True Or Wise Thought Since Its Founding**

Are you monitoring your children's television intake carefully?

What about your children's friends? Your children will not be wiser than the friends with whom they associate (*1Corinthians 15:33*).

***Proverbs 14:8 The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way: but the folly of fools is deceit.***

### **Few Men Understand What They Do. Most Live Deceived.**

Fools think they are wise and right, but they are foolish and wrong.

Fools think they know the consequences of their actions.

Fools have believed lies that hide the troubles ahead (*Proverbs 4:19*).

Only righteous men have the prudence and wisdom to examine and choose what is right (*Proverbs 22:3*).

**Deceit Is A Horrible Thing!  
Deceit Is A Damning Fault!  
Deceit Is The Worst Error A Man Can Make.**

You cannot know you are deceived, for deceit means you think a lie is the truth, or the truth is a lie!

Deceit is confidence you are right, when you are horribly wrong.

Deceit is lying to yourself!

Deceit is believing white is black, or black is white.

Deceit is walking naked in public, while thinking you are fully clothed, like a famous emperor!

There is a great difference between wise men and fools.

Wise men take nothing for granted.

Wise men carefully examine and prove all things.

Wise men make sure they know what they should be doing, the risks involved, and the means to accomplish them.

Wise men understand their way. They are not deceived. They have a godly plan, and they execute it.

Fools live foolishly. Their folly is due to their deceived minds.

Fools do things: by instinct (lusts), by tradition (rote), by peer pressure (fear), by self-help books (self-love), by trial and error (chance), and by education (worldly wisdom).

### **Life Just Happens To Them.**

Fools do not understand life or the one right way to live. They deceive themselves into folly!

Joseph understood the evil of adultery, so he rejected Potiphar's wife. Samson was sure he could handle Delilah. Joseph was a prudent man with a future. Samson was a deceived fool who was destroyed.

Abraham understood commanding his family to obey God. Eli thought he could be lenient. Abraham was the friend of God. Eli and his family was utterly destroyed.

Fools were deceived to think Benjamin Spock and James Dobson were child-training experts. Their folly is our generation's dysfunctional, rebellious, and selfish children.

Prudent men know humanistic psychobabble, is contrary to Scripture. They apply God's Word, and the rod it requires, with glorious results, as did their fathers to them.

This Proverb is fully seen in religion. Noble men search the Scriptures, the only source of absolute truth, to prove all things and confirm what is right (*Acts 17:11; 1Thessalonians 5:21*).

Fools cannot endure sound doctrine, so they find teachers who will entertain them with fables and lies (*John 8:45; 2Timothy 3:13; 4:3-4; Isaiah 30:9-11; Jeremiah 5:30-31*).

Just a few minutes of religious television or visiting the fastest growing churches will confirm their folly.

Rome's priests deceive fools into the folly of a cracker becoming the body, blood, soul, and divinity of Jesus in the Mass. Prudent men reject a cracker god and understand the Lord's Supper is purely symbolic of Christ's body and blood.

Rome's daughters, Lutherans, Episcopalians, Methodists, and Presbyterians, deceive fools into the folly of sprinkling water on a baby's head for baptism.

Prudent men understand Jesus went to John the Baptist and was buried and resurrected from a symbolic watery grave. They search the Scriptures for pouring water on babies and cannot find it!

The Watchtower Society deceives its fools into the folly of denying an eternal hell. These deluded souls are in for a big, and long, surprise!

Schuller sells the same lie, God would not send men to a burning hell. But prudent men understand it is appointed unto men once to die and after this the judgment to the lake of fire (*Hebrews 9:27*).

Life is not a joke, as Comedy Central wants you to believe! Or has their folly deceived you?

Do you understand your way? Are you deceived into any folly in your life? Since you cannot see your deception yourself, how will you find out the lies in your life?

#### **BY THE WORD OF GOD!**

David said, *"I hate vain thoughts: but thy law do I love"* (*Psalm 119:113*).

Then David said, *"Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way"* (*Psalm 119:128*).

***Proverbs 14:9 Fools make a mock at sin: but among the righteous there is favour.***

A fool will joke about sin, sneer at sin, excuse sin, and blame others for his sin. A fool has no fear of God.

Sin is not a serious matter to him. But a righteous man will tremble at sin, run from sin, and grieve about sin. God will show that man His gracious blessings.

**If** you do not read this little Proverb with sober contemplation, you also are a fool.

The warning this Proverb contains will be worth more than all the treasures of earth once you discover the truth of it. **If** you do not have the time today, there will be all of eternity to think about its message.

Fools think they can do whatever they want; God withholds His wisdom and judgment from them, so they ignorantly think they are getting away with their wickedness (*Psalm 36:1-4; 50:21-22*).

God will favor the righteous, but the way of transgressors is hard (*Proverbs 13:15*).

Lot sat smugly in Sodom and thought the holy life of Abraham too strict. Lot soon found himself destitute in a cave with two depraved daughters and a hopeless future.

#### **Sin Has Serious Consequences!**

How serious? **If** the Bible is true, God threw many angels out of heaven and reserved them for eternal punishment, for siding with Satan.

How serious? **If** the Bible is true, God damned our entire human race to an eternity in hell for one sin of eating forbidden fruit.

How serious? **If** the Bible is true, God drowned the entire earth, including all children and handicapped, and senior citizens, for sin.

#### **The Bible Is True! And God Did Do These Things Because Of Sin!**

The Bible is true! Jesus Christ is coming to burn the earth up with unquenchable fire and send every lost sinner, to an eternity in the Lake of Fire, with the devil and his angels.

How can a man mock such a horrible thing? He is making fun of the Judge, that will damn His soul to a hopeless, torment-filled eternity, in the dark abyss and inferno of the dead!

Mock the judge of all mankind! God may charge you with contempt of court and throw you in prison.

Mock the Judge of heaven and earth! God will discover your deepest fears and exploit them for His own glory. He will chase you with the angel of the Lord (*Psalm 25:5-6*).

How bad is sin? It causes death! Isn't that enough? Death is horrible. It steals our lives; breaks our relationships; ruins our plans; destroys our dreams.

Where did death come from? Man chose to mock God's warning of death for sin in Eden.

Should you be mocking that which causes every man the greatest fear? How insane!

But sin is also the reason for disease! For deformities! For destruction! For dysfunction! For disasters! For depravity! For derelicts!

Sin is an ungodly evil that consumes our human race every waking and sleeping second. How insane to mock the cause of these things!

How bad is sin? Visit Gethsemane and Calvary. There you can see, the Son of God, under such enormous torment of soul, as He sweat as it were great drops of blood (**Luke 22:44**).

The Son of God prayed His Father for an alternative to bearing our sins, for the guilt and shame of being made sin for man was overwhelming (**Luke 22:42**).

Fools make a mock at sin! Hell is horrible. Hell is hot. You will not turn down the tormenting flames; you will not be able to end your suffering (**Mark 9:44, 46, 48**).

You will know that God has rejected you forever and ever. You will know that He hates sin and has perfected your eternal torment.

Hell is beyond your imagination of suffering. We have never, not in our deepest moments of grief, ever experienced anything even close to hell. And you will mock sin?

Why is hell ignored today? Why is it avoided in preaching? Why is there no mention of it in the newspapers? Why are those who preach about it considered neanderthals? This itself is mocking sin, for it is trying to reject and ignore God's stated consequences for sin.

Why did God create and prepare hell? Because of sin! Hell was created and prepared for the devil and his angels, because they sinned (**Matthew 25:41; 2Peter 2:4**).

And all lost sinful men, who choose that way, will join them there for an eternity of horrible suffering (**Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15**).

The fool says, "It's no big deal! What's it to you?" He complains like a spoiled child, "Why does everyone jump on me for one little mistake?" He excuses himself by saying, "That's just the way I am." He blames others for not having enough compassion for his "weaknesses and slow learning." He says, "I'm sorry," and then does it all over again!

The adulteress commits her sordid and heinous sin by giving away her body, and she wipes her mouth and says, "*I have done no wickedness*" (**Proverbs 30:20**).

To mock something is to ridicule, scorn, deride, jeer, or scoff at it.

To mock sin is to make light of it and jest about it.

To mock sin is to ridicule and scoff at its seriousness.

To mock sin is to scorn and jeer those who teach and threaten against it.

God considers even the thought of foolishness to be sin.

God admits, that men also consider the scorner, one who does not like to be corrected, to be an abomination (**Proverbs 24:9**).

The scorner is a perverse and profane person who chooses folly and rejects and resents correction.

How can anyone, object to spanking children, and the other rebukes and punishments in this life, that stop men from sinning, **If** it might save them from death and eternity in hell (**Proverbs 23:13-14**)?

Even excommunicating church members? **If** it might save their soul in the day of the Lord Jesus! What are these little acts compared to an eternal hell? (**1Corinthians 5:3-5**)

God has judged men severely for "minor" sins. He kept Moses from Canaan for smiting a rock, he was supposed to speak too (**Numbers 20:12**).

God killed Uzzah in David's parade for steadying the ark of the covenant (**2Samuel 6:6-7**). Only fools mock at sin.

Our nation mocks sin as a pastime. Television is committed to fornication, profanity, disobedience to parents, sodomy, adultery, jesting, and many other sins. These are the main ingredients of sitcoms, serials, and dramas.

Programming today mocks sin much more than just a generation ago. And here we have the fulfillment of God's curse (**Romans 1:32**).

Fools make a mock at sin, but they will soon meet their Maker and Judge!

God will extract everlasting praise, for His Holiness, with their screams of helplessness and hopelessness. But the righteous will be in everlasting remembrance, and God will bless them here and in eternity with His personal and special favor for hating sin.

Ministers today make a mock of sin. Jokes are told in the pulpit. One church advertised, "If you come back, we promise not to throw the book at you." What is this but mocking sin!

**If** a person is sinning, they need to have the book thrown at them! John the Baptist did throw it at them, and so did have Jesus and Paul!

Profane and effeminate Christians mock sin today by their attitude. They say, "All that matters is that we all love Jesus." God hates sin, but loves the sinner. But He will punish sin!

Reader, do you mock sin? Do you mock it by not paying attention during the preaching of God's Holy Word?

Do you mock it by getting defensive when the pastor speaks against, one of your pet sins?

Do you mock it by resenting those who rebuke you for sin?

Do you mock it by wishing for a more entertaining pastor than one who preaches sound doctrine? Consider this well.

**If** the Bible is true, worms ate Herod for failing to give God the glory and accepting the praise of the people for his speech (*Acts 12:21-23*).

God killed Bathsheba's little baby for her love affair with David (*2Samuel 12:14*).

God killed the firstborn in every family in Egypt, for Pharaoh's hardened heart and not letting Israel worship where and when they chose (*Exodus 12:29-30*).

God killed Ananias and Sapphira before the church for modifying their giving report (*Acts 5:1-11*).

The world says, "No fear." The LORD says, "*Fear Him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him*" (*Luke 12:4-5*).

Let every fool get off his feet and beg for mercy with trembling repentance and fear.

The Lord Jesus, who will soon judge all men in righteousness, described a wise man that dealt with sin properly. This man would not even lift up his eyes to heaven; and he smote his breast and said, "*God be merciful to me a sinner*" (*Luke 18:13*).

Such a man will be blessed in this world (*Psalms 37:4; 84:11; Matthew 6:33*), and he shall obtain eternal life in the world to come (*Matthew 7:21; Revelation 22:14*).

So, "*Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God*" (*2Corinthians 7:1*).

***Proverbs 14:10 The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.***

You are a unique person, just as every snowflake is unique.

The depths of bitterness and heights of joy that you feel cannot be fully known or appreciated by others.

Your heart, soul, mind, and conscience create a private set of feelings and thoughts that are known only by you and God. Others cannot discover or define your true feelings.

Anguish and pain in your soul from circumstances, fear, guilt, or hopelessness are your personal property and cannot be felt or understood by a stranger, anyone outside yourself.

Neither can, anyone outside your own soul, grasp and appreciate the joy of your heart, when you are enraptured by circumstances, hope, love, or success.

No friend can grasp the extent of your feelings, regardless of how sympathetic.

No psychologist can identify or measure your grief or happiness, or the true causes for them.

No pastor can fully explain your doubts, desires, or other heart matters.

You are alone in the universe with your own soul. No one else can help much either, for the factors that form his feelings and thoughts, are totally different from yours.

The Proverb is an observation by Solomon about human existence. Paul confirmed the observation, when he wrote, "*For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?*" (*1Corinthians 2:1*)

Each person is a unique individual with very real feelings, both negative and positive, that cannot be felt, defined, or measured by any other person.

You must meditate carefully to find the lessons of this Proverb.

Others cannot grasp your grief or happiness, which often causes their confusion or neglect. Forgive them!

And the opposite is just as true, you cannot accurately know or sympathize with others. Forgive them as well for the intense feelings that alter their appearance or conduct!

Therefore, there needs to be a great deal of sensitivity and tolerance in dealing with others. Biblical charity is essential (*1Corinthians 13:4-7*).

The golden rule is indispensable (*Luke 6:31*). Sympathy must be practiced (*Romans 12:15; Hebrews 10:24; 13:3*).

Consider examples: Eli missed Hannah's bitter soul (*1Samuel 1:10-16*).

Gehazi could not see the Shunamite's vexation (*2Kings 4:27*).

Job's three friends were miserable comforters (*Job 13:4; 16:2*).

Our Lord's three chosen disciples neglected the Man of Sorrows in His deepest grief (*Mark 14:32-42*).

Paul had to defend himself to the Corinth church (*2Corinthians 12:15*)!

Michal despised David for his uninhibited worship, because her carnal and shallow soul could not understand David's joy and love for God (*2Samuel 6:16,20*).

Michal loved the public man of war, but despised the religious man of God (*1Samuel 13:14; 18:20*).

What were the consequences of her attitude? She lost her husband and her future in Israel by her foolish and naïve insensitivity (*2Samuel 6:21-23*).

Reader, it is your duty to think about others and be sensitive to their possible feelings and thoughts, either negative or positive. There is more to every man or woman than what meets the eye. Look closer!

Woe to the man whose wife sheds tears outwardly or inwardly for marital treachery (*Malachi 2:10-16; Colossians 3:19; 1Peter 3:7*)!

Woe to the woman whose husband is defrauded of that love and intimacy that his body craves (*1Corinthians 7:1-5*)!

Woe to critical parents who discourage their children and crush their souls with constant correction (*Proverbs 4:3; 31:2; Colossians 3:21*)!

Woe to insensitive employers (*Proverbs 29:21; Deuteronomy 24:14-15; Ephesians 6:9*)!

Woe to the pastor who roughly treats his church members (*1Thessalonians 2:7; 1Peter 5:3*)!

Woe to the man who ignores the poor (*Proverbs 21:13; 29:7; Job 31:13-22*)!

Woe to the man who does not think about possible offences and correct them (*Matthew 5:21-26*)!

But there is a better lesson! Though no other human can relate to your spirit, there is a Counselor and Friend that can! The Lord Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, He is touched with the feelings of your infirmities, and He has experienced all the temptations you will ever face (*Hebrews 4:12-15*).

Jesus is able to help you at your darkest hour of need (*Hebrews 2:18*).

He can supply peace that passes human understanding (*Philippians 4:7*).

The only true joy, man can experience, is God's gift by His eternal Spirit (*Galatians 5:22-23; Romans 15:13; Ecclesiastes 5:20*).

There is no foolish grinning or foaming froth with this joy, for it is God speaking directly to your soul, at a level where no else can intermeddle.

Men walking with God can dance in economic disaster (*Habakkuk 3:17-19*).

Men walking with God can sing in prison, after being publicly stripped and beaten (*Acts 16:22-25*).

Men walking with God can find internal encouragement, even when their best friends want to stone them (*1Samuel 30:6*).

Do you have cares? Our Proverb teaches that others cannot know them. But, **If** you cast your cares on Him, He cares for you like no other (*1Peter 5:7*).

Reader, are you laboring, and others cannot help carry much. He can give rest for your soul (*Matthew 11:28-30*).

He can be your exceeding joy and your exceeding great reward (*Genesis 15:1; Psalm 43:4*).

You can talk to Him at any hour of the day or night, and He will always listen and help (*Psalm 62:8; 142:2*).

When you are overwhelmed, then God Himself will be your Friend (*Psalms 61:2; 142:3*).

He has all your tears in a bottle: He does not miss one of them, either inside or outside (*Psalm 56:8*).

You can pour out your heart to Him (*Psalm 62:8*).

Since God can help in the bitterness of your soul, and He can provide heavenly joy, who else do you need (*Psalm 73:25-26*)?

Do not trust in others for your comfort or joy, for only God truly knows and loves you.

***Proverbs 14:11 The house of the wicked shall be overthrown: but the tabernacle of the upright shall flourish.***

Reader, how prosperous is your family? How long will it last? What impact will it have for truth and wisdom?

God will overthrow the house of the wicked, but He will bless and favor the estate of the righteous.

Solomon watched families of wicked men come and go, but he saw the godly seed of the righteous continuing in prosperity for generations (*Psalms 37:34-40*).

Here is a Proverb that condemns the wicked and encourages the upright.

The wicked build houses, solid, and substantial, and permanent dwelling places, to get themselves a name (*Psalms 49:6-14*).

The wicked trust their wealth, their intelligence, their strength, and their reputations to deliver them.

The upright may begin with only a tabernacle, a fragile, temporary tent. But God will tear down the former and bless the latter. The great reversal of fortune is by the decree of the watchers, God favors the upright!

**Sin Is The Ruin Of Families.** If you want your family to endure and prosper, you need to pursue godliness and holiness like the upright man. You need to set the Lord first in each life in your house (*Psalms 101:3-8; 128:1-6; 144:11-15*).

The wicked, on the other hand, will not think about God at all: they want to do their own thing; they cannot sin enough (*Psalms 10:4; 58:3*).

The Lord has guaranteed by this Proverb that He will overthrow such a man and his house.

So, reader, consider the house of Eli, Priest of Israel. God had promised that his house would last forever as His chosen Priests; but he would not stop his sons from sinning.

So God overthrew his family in one day (*1Samuel 2:12-36; 3:1-18*).

His two foolish sons were killed in battle; Eli fell backward and broke his neck, and his daughter-in-law died in childbirth (*1Samuel 4:1-22*)!

#### **The Lord Overthrew The House Of The Wicked!**

Then there was Joseph. His brothers sold him into slavery at the age of seventeen; he was falsely convicted of raping his master's wife; and he was

thrown into prison. Surely his life and estate had reached rock bottom!

But Joseph truly had resisted his master's wife's advances! God raised him out of prison, put him on the throne of Egypt, and made each of his sons a tribe in Israel, a double inheritance!

#### **The Tabernacle Of The Upright Flourished!**

While there are other examples of houses being overthrown and tabernacles flourishing that could be given, there are greater reckonings that most ignore, death and the Day of Judgment. The beggar Lazarus flourished in heaven, while the rich man was tormented in hell.

What can you do? Reader, teach your family to fear God from the Bible (*Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Psalms 34:11; 78:1-8; Ephesians 6:4*).

Pray for them. Keep their priorities on the things of God and heaven (*Hebrews 11:8-10, 13-16*).

***Proverbs 14:12 There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.***

#### **You Really Are Your Own Worst Enemy!**

You will cause yourself more pain and trouble than any ten foes! Your own heart is the danger! With such warnings, men would never trust their own thoughts, right? Wrong!

While you are destroying your own life, you will think what you are doing is perfectly right! You will never see the danger.

Other Proverbs teach this same warning. "*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death*" (*Proverbs 16:25*).

And "*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise*" (*Proverbs 12:15*).

And "*He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered*" (*Proverbs 28:26*). See also *Proverbs 16:2* and *21:2*.

#### **Some Choices Bring Physical Death.**

##### **Consider David's Sons:**

Amnon thought it right to rape his sister: he died for it (*2Samuel 13:1-39*).

Absalom thought it right to steal his father's kingdom: he died for it (*2Samuel 15:1-6; 18:1-18*).

Adonijah thought it right to use Solomon's mother to beg for Abishag: he died for it (*1Kings 2:12-25*).

### **Some Choices Bring Soul Death:**

Samson thought it right to date an unbeliever, but she left him blind and destroyed, grinding in a prison (*Judges 16:1-21*).

Solomon thought it right to marry unbelievers, but they turned his heart to idolatry (*1Kings 11:1-13*).

Rehoboam thought it right to prefer his young counselors, but he lost ten tribes (*1Kings 12:1-19*).

Your heart is deceitful above all things and you cannot know it (*Jeremiah 17:9*).

Your heart lies to you more than anyone else, and you believe it!

Your heart is desperately wicked, so its lies are always toward folly and sin!

Because your heart is so deceitful and wicked, you cannot fully grasp the danger to you, apart from Scripture's warnings.

In *Jeremiah 17:9* it concludes with, "*Who can know it?*" Child, you think you can dishonor or disobey a parent. You lose (*Proverbs 30:17*)!

Wife, you think you can withhold from your husband. You lose (*Proverbs 30:21-23*)!

Husband, you think you can neglect your wife. You lose (*Proverbs 5:15-23*)!

Young man, you think you can play with whores. You lose (*Proverbs 7:25-27*)!

Parent, you think child training is too hard. You lose (*Proverbs 29:15*)!

Pastor, you think you can alter God's Word or modify His worship. You lose (*Proverbs 21:16*)!

Safety is only by searching your heart; obeying your teachers, parents, and counselors; bringing every thought into captive obedience to Scripture; and keeping your heart with all diligence (*Proverbs 4:23; 2Corinthians 10:4-6*).

Do not ever let your mind think outside the Word of God (*Psalms 119:128*).

Which means you must learn the Word of God, and learn it well (*Psalms 119:11*).

Do not ever allow the profane thought you, that could get away with disobeying God's Word (*Deuteronomy 29:18-20*)!

***Proverbs 14:13 Even in laughter the heart is sorrowful; and the end of that mirth is heaviness.***

The world is laughing itself to hell! Jokes, editorial cartoons, stand-up comedians, sitcoms (with programmed laughter), parties, drunkenness, and mood-altering chemicals are all on the increase!

Laughter is sought to temporarily relieve inward emptiness.

Laughter is used to deceive others that all is well. But the loneliness after such frivolity is crushing.

**Life Is Not Amusing!  
Dying A Terrible Prospect!  
Hell Is Not Funny!**

A party or drunken folly cannot eliminate the painful reality of dysfunctional living, unfulfilled expectations, the certainty of death, and the possibility of eternal damnation.

Men cannot do enough to forget their pain and trouble. When the laughter ends, the heart feels only its heavy grief.

What laughter has sorrow underneath? What mirth ends in heaviness?

This cannot be the laughter and mirth of the righteous, for their happiness flows from a heart that is filled with contentment, hope, joy, and peace.

The Proverb must be dealing with the laughter of the wicked, who are described in the preceding and following Proverbs (*Proverbs 14:12, 14*).

Consider a fool's life. Solomon analyzed the best life can offer, and he summarized it all as vanity and vexation of spirit (*Ecclesiastes 1:14*).

**Life Is Short  
Life Never Meets Expectations  
Life Is Filled With Trouble And Sorrow**

The soul is not content with any amount of anything; and death is sweet compared to the judgment that follows (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

Musing is: considering and thinking. To amuse is to replace that sober activity with frivolity and nonsense and no-thinking.

No wonder the world invented amusement parks. So they can spend a fortune to engage in folly to find fulfillment, but they go to sleep that night knowing that it was an expensive and ridiculous diversion, that did not work at all!

No matter what unbelievers say, they are very unhappy. It is easy to tell. The ones with the best circumstances, the ones the world admires the most, have the greatest misery!

Consider Hollywood's so-called stars! Their sorry lives of divorce, suicide, drunkenness, drugs, and other symptoms of dysfunction tell the truth.

They are empty, miserable, and searching! The Bible calls them "raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness forever" (*Jude 1:13*).

John Newton, the author of "Amazing Grace" also wrote:

"Fading is the worldling's pleasure,  
All his boasted pomp and show;  
Solid joys and lasting treasure  
None but Zion's children know."

Reader, do you know the truth of his words? Seek the God of heaven this day! Those who have tried both ways of living swear by the righteous life (*Psalms 73:25-26; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

***Proverbs 14:14 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.***

#### **Beware! Slipping Spiritually In Your Heart Is A Subtle Danger!**

It can happen easily and with little warning! The consequences are terrible. God will pour out confusion and pain on you, compatible and commensurate to your backsliding.

A good man, on the other hand, one who keeps his heart diligently, will have the continual feast of peace and joy in his heart.

Forget the common idea of backsliding, leaving walking with God and returning to drugs, sex, or violence as a lifestyle.

Satan wants you to think that is backsliding. Instead, keep the light of this Proverb, on your heart, the true source of backsliding.

It is your heart that first slips away from the Lord, His Word, His holiness, and your previous hatred of sin.

Sin takes us from the inside out. Starting with the heart, as James specifically explained: (*James 1:13-16 Let no*

*man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:*

*14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.*

*15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.*

*16 Do not err; my beloved brethren.*)

You must fear and hate this enemy! Backsliding can be as subtle as losing your first love, like at Ephesus (*Revelation 2:1-7*).

Backsliding also involves losing your spiritual joy, praying less, singing less, minding earthly things, and becoming spiritually dull.

Backsliding also is allowing your heart to consider sins that you would have fervently despised before.

So reader how is your heart? Do you have a fervent zeal for spiritual things, or have you slipped into a routine? Solomon taught his son to diligently keep his heart, for out of it are the issues of life (*Proverbs 4:23*).

Are you keeping your heart carefully? **If** you allow any thinking contrary to the Word of God, there will be much to pay!

The LORD, and rightfully so, will bring chastening to bear, as He did on His people Israel over and over again. **If** you allow your heart to slip away from the Lord, He can give you leanness of soul (*Psalms 106:13-15*).

But a good man, who lives faithfully with a pure heart, will have God's peace and assurance in his soul that he pleases his Father. What a difference!

Fervent obedience brings God's blessing and confidence in your soul (*Galatians 6:4; James 1:25-27*).

Such obedient men know they try to live righteously and can make a prayerful appeal to God (*Nehemiah 5:19; Psalm 18:20-27; Isaiah 38:3*).

Such obedient men go forward boldly, knowing they have a pure heart, which God will reward.

The cure for backsliding is simple, By God's grace it is accomplished. Jesus said, Remember from where you have fallen, repent, and do the first works (*Revelation 2:5*).

#### **This Three-Step Process Will Work!**

1. Remember the faith, joy, and peace you once had;
2. Repent of the sins of your heart or life that you have allowed;
3. Repeat the same fervent things you did in the beginning walking with the Lord.

Do not say with Governor Felix that you need a more convenient season (*Acts 24:25*)!

Today may be your last chance (*Proverbs 29:1*)!

Return to the LORD now and repent for any foolishness, slothfulness, or backsliding. He will forgive.

Commit your heart fully to tear every idol and temptation out of your life to be holy once again. Prepare for a blessing.

Backsliders are weak men; they are fearful men. The Holy Spirit is grieved and quenched in their lives, and they do not have the joyful confidence they once had.

It is imperative that every man examine himself and repent, **if** he finds the least compromise in his heart. "*Purify your hearts, ye double minded,*" is what James would tell you (*James 4:8*).

Churches are to exhort one another daily, so saints are not hardened by the deceitfulness of sin and turn from the living God (*Hebrews 3:12-13*).

Saints need one another to provoke them to love and good works, lest they forsake their professions of faith (*Hebrews 10:23-25*).

It is for this spiritual and life-saving purpose that saints are to assemble in congregations.

Jesus Christ warned His disciples that abounding iniquity would cause the love of many to wax cold, and such a state of affairs, must be more true of our generation, than it was theirs (*Matthew 24:12*).

How is your heart? Hot, cold, or lukewarm? Beware! (*Revelation 3:14-16*)!

The judgments and blessings of God are just and proportionate to the state of your heart.

***Proverbs 14:15 The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.***

**Skepticism Is A Virtue  
Caution Is A Sign Of Nobility  
Demanding Proof Is Wisdom**

Only the dumb and foolish believe all they hear. A wise and successful man will examine a matter carefully, before he makes a decision about it.

A wise and successful man understands the risks and rewards before he chooses a course of action. He does nothing by chance or in hope.

Our Proverb is for safety and success.

Our Proverb is one of the best. Memorize it. It will save you often. We live in bad times getting worse (*Proverbs 22:3*).

### **Men Trust Sound Bites Rather Than Sound Reasoning.**

The information explosion bombards us with new data every day. Telemarketers, mail order catalogs, advertisements, infomercials, pop-up ads, and the Internet throw opinions, suggestions, and products at us. God inspired Solomon to save you by this pithy saying.

**The simple are gullible.** They are not bright. They do not have conviction or ability to question and criticize new information.

**If** it sounds good, and something they want to be true, they believe it. **If** others are enthusiastic about it, they get excited. **If** it is in print, they believe it true.

**If** a perceived authority says it, they trust it completely, even without evidence. **If** strangers say it worked for them that is good enough evidence to buy it.

**The prudent are wise.** They have discretion. They are not gullible. They are skeptical of anything sounding too good, too easy, too neat. Too good to be true.

The prudent are not impressed by things in print, words by authority, or testimonials from strangers. They want evidence, and it must be valid.

**If** the simple are excited, the prudent conclude it must be wrong. The majority opinion, in our ignorant and perverse society, scares them away.

Learn to reject anything without proof, and learn the rudiments of evaluating proof. The public education system neglects logic and rhetoric, for they want us gullible and trusting the "authorities," which are the educators, the media, and the entertainers. None of which, in this Bible-rejecting day, have a clue about truth and error. See the comments on *Proverbs 13:16*.

Men are vulnerable to fraud in different areas. The old crave a cure for aging and disease, so they buy magazines filled with health speculations and quickly order their goat's milk cottage cheese with shark oil!

Young men want to look like Hercules, so they ingest gargantuan amounts of the latest weight-gain powder from the same store that granny visited! Of course, in twenty years they will try a new powder to take that weight off!

Some men fall for financial fraud, because they want to make millions, easily! Others obsess about conspiracies

and avoid the electronic cashier at the grocery store, for fear of receiving the mark of the beast!

Safety freaks stop flying, because their one flight out of 40,000 each day, might have a passenger with a shoe bomb! And doting mothers play subliminal ocean sounds to their sleeping children to help them learn to swim!

Parent, teach your children to be skeptics. It can be enjoyable. Show them the false advertisement you get about the free family cruise to Tahiti. Show them the fine print requiring you to get to Mexico City for departure and the contract to rent expensive condos on four continents over the next four years.

Teach them to look for the fine print, and teach them to look around in a full circle, which is "circumspection" (*Ephesians 5:15*).

Teach your children one of life's greatest lessons, there is no free lunch.

Teach them another, no stranger loves them. For the salesman and infomercial have one goal, to take money from their pocket for themselves.

Teach them the Bible is the only book to believe absolutely.

Teach them the Lord is the only Person they can totally trust.

Information is the rage. Schools and degrees, books and other media, multiply ridiculously. We are gorged on information, but there is no truth! We live in the perilous times of the last days (*2Timothy 3:1*).

Paul warned, "*Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth*" (*2Timothy 3:7*).

And it is not going to get any better, for Paul also said, "*Evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived*" (*2Timothy 3:13*).

Husband, protect your wife. Satan stole Eve's mind in about ten seconds in Eden, and Paul warned of religious creeps that would seek to capture silly, weak and vulnerable women (*2Timothy 3:6*).

Husband, protect your weaker vessel (*1Corinthians 14:34-35; 1Peter 3:7*).

What is the cure, for the issues, of this day and age? Confidence and knowledge in the Word of God (*Psalms 119:128; 2Timothy 3:14 - 4:4*)!

Here is the wisdom of God. In life, there is truth and error. The wise man will prove all things, reject the error, and tightly hold the truth. Paul taught this rule plainly when he wrote, "*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*" (*1Thessalonians 5:21*).

The Bereans, they were not simple. They were noble, searching the Scriptures to prove, even if Paul was correct (*Acts 17:11*).

The Bereans did not believe easily; they proved him out. Believe not every spirit (*1John 4:1-6*)!

God is absolute truth, and His Word is absolute truth (*Deuteronomy 32:4; John 17:17*).

Satan is a liar and the father of lies; he has no truth in him (*John 8:44*).

All men follow one or the other. There is no neutral ground (*Galatians 1:8-9; Ephesians 2:1-3; 1Timothy 6:3-5*).

By our first birth, we love lies (*John 8:45*).

As the children of God, we can follow the truth, **If** we will prove it and pursue it (*John 8:47; 1Corinthians 2:15; Jude 1:3*).

Let God be true and every man a liar (*Romans 3:4*)!

The Lord Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life (*John 14:6*).

The Lord Jesus Christ, is Faithful and True (*Revelation 19:11*).

You can trust, the Lord Jesus Christ completely, for your future today and in eternity.

***Proverbs 14:16 A wise man feareth, and departeth from evil: but the fool rageth, and is confident.***

Here a wise man is directly compared to a fool. Surely we can be instructed here. We see both the character and actions of each, and we should learn the differences well. Job taught the first half of this lesson with very similar Words (*Job 28:28*).

A wise man has fear: He has fear of God, which is the beginning of wisdom and the whole duty of man (*Proverbs 9:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13; Psalm 111:10*).

A wise man fears his own heart, for how wicked it is (*Psalms 19:12-13; 51:10; 119:36; Jeremiah 17:9*).

A wise man fears authority, for God has put others over him (*Proverbs 24:21; Ecclesiastes 8:1-5; Ephesians 6:1-3,5-8; 1Pet 3:1-2; Hebrews 13:17*).

The fool has impetuous anger: He is angry against God, for not giving him all he wants and for restricting his life (*Proverbs 19:3; Psalm 2:1-3; Luke 19:14*).

The fool is angry against the righteous, for living a more holy life (*Mark 15:10; Ecclesiastes 4:4; Acts 13:45*).

The fool is angry against authority, for he refuses to be humble (*Proverbs 21:9; 2Peter 2:10-12; Deuteronomy 21:20*).

Cain was a fool; he impetuously envied Abel, because God rejected his offering (*Genesis 4:4-8*).

Uzziah was a fool; he angrily entered the temple, though the priests warned him (*2Chronicles 26:16-21*).

Herodias raged against John, for reproving her adulterous marriage to Herod (*Mark 6:17-28*).

All these, and many others, arrogantly oppose God and His servants in great rage.

A wise man's fear causes him to depart from evil (*Proverbs 3:7; 14:27; 16:6*).

A wise man sees judgment coming, and he turns from his wickedness in godly repentance (*Proverbs 16:17; 22:3*).

When a wise man hears a warning from the Lord, he listens to it and obeys it (*Proverbs 17:10; Psalm 19:11; Ezekiel 3:21*).

But the fool's impetuous anger causes him to be confident in doing evil. He believes he is right and nothing will happen to him (*Proverbs 7:22; 14:12; 26:12*).

There is no glory in such confidence; it is a horrible sin based in scorn, pride, stubbornness, and rebellion.

When Nathan rebuked David, he repented immediately (*2Samuel 12:13*).

When Jonah warned Nineveh, they repented immediately (*Jonah 3:5*).

Even Ahab repented, being warned by Elijah (*1Kings 21:27-29*).

All these men received mercy for fearing and departing from evil. So a wise man examines himself to make sure there is no evil in his heart (*Psalm 139:23-24*).

But when Moses warned Pharaoh, he hardened his heart (*Exodus 8:32*).

But when Moses warned Korah and company, they defied him (*Numbers 16:1-19*).

When Hanani warned Asa, he angrily put him in prison (*2Chronicles 16:7-14*).

Our Lord warned His generation repeatedly, they crucified Him in rage. All these were judged severely.

Without God's mercy, no matter what a man does, he cannot help the fool (*Proverbs 29:9*).

What a horrible plight! The fool opposes himself in foolish rage and false confidence, when only God can give him repentance to be saved from the snares of the devil (*2Timothy 2:24-26*).

God is nigh to them that fear Him and have contrite hearts (*Psalms 34:18; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2*).

But God is against the wicked and their proud arrogance (*Proverbs 15:8, 29; 1Peter 3:12*).

The Lord will not be mocked. Those who confidently go on in sin will be dealt with severely. "Happy is the man that feareth alway: but he that hardeneth his heart shall fall into mischief" (*Proverbs 28:14*).

Humble yourself before the Lord your God and tremble for your sins. Repent and turn to the Lord with all your heart. Do not take for granted your way any longer against Him in foolish rage and false confidence.

***Proverbs 14:17 He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly: and a man of wicked devices is hated.***

**There are two kinds of evil passion, and they are treated differently.**

1. Rash anger, by a quick temper that reacts without discretion or thought, is foolish and proves a man is not ruling his spirit. Such a man is difficult to deal with, but he can often be.
2. The deep-seated malice of smoldering envy and revenge that plots to harm another. God despises this wickedness.

Before applying this Proverb, remember that not all anger is sin. God is angry at the wicked every day (*Psalms 7:11*).

God was angry at Moses (*Exodus 4:14*).

Moses was justifiably angry at Israel worshipping the golden calf (*Exodus 32:19*).

Jesus was angry at the cruelty of religious Jews (*Mark 3:5*).

Properly directed anger for a righteous cause is good and holy. Any other anger must be kept free from sin and ended quickly (*Ephesians 4:26*).

**Some men have quick tempers:** They are infants in men's bodies. They never grew up or learned self-

discipline. They are weak and cannot rule their spirits. They usually had a parent with the same fault.

When this quick tempered man is provoked, often over nothing, they lose control of thoughts, emotions, words, or actions in seconds.

The resulting outburst shames them as fools, costing them friends (*Proverbs 12:16; 22:24; 25:8; 29:22*).

Then there are those that have black hearts that despise others and secretly harbor malice for long periods of time. They cover their hatred with vain smiles, false words, and lying kindnesses (*Proverbs 26:24-26*).

Theirs is no small sin, for it is like premeditated murder compared to involuntary manslaughter. God despises this kind of malicious anger, which these individuals cultivate and harbor for a long time, while laying plans for revenge (*Proverbs 6:16-19*).

Unjustified anger of either kind is sin (*Matthews 5:22*).

**Weakness Is One Thing  
Willfulness Is Another!**

Rash anger is contemptible, calculated malice is abominable! The one cannot be trusted and threatens the peace; but the other must be avoided and defended against like the devil himself (*John 8:44*).

Moses and Aaron missed Canaan for foolish anger (*Numbers 20:10-12*).

God hung Haman and his ten sons for his malicious long-term strategy for Jewish genocide (*Esther 3:5-15; 7:9; 9:13-14*)!

What is the lesson here? Rule your spirit, both the short and long term!

How can others provoke you? How have you provoked God with infinite offences, and continue to do so.

**If** God ever turned his anger for sin against you, it would consume your life. Forgive your neighbor! Forgive your enemy! Let them defraud you instead (*Matthew 5:38-48; 1Corinthians 6:7*)!

Great men rule their spirits; their spirits do not rule them; and they are slow to get angry (*Proverbs 14:29; 15:18; 16:32; James 1:19-20*). These are glorious men (*Proverbs 19:11*). The actions of others do not move them.

There is no honor, manliness, or strength in losing your composure, in spite of what selfish morons think. Men that get bent out of shape, perverted and twisted by anger, are weak men, whose lives are failures (*Proverbs 25:28; Ecclesiastes 7:9*).

Are there more lessons here? Wisely consider the actions of others.

Some blow off steam in an instant over nothing; but the damage is often minimal, they return to normal quickly, and they can be shown the folly of their sin. You may have to correct them again in the future, but they can be recovered.

Some do not blow off as harshly, may harbor deeper and more hateful urges that lead to wicked devices (*Proverbs 12:2; 24:8; Romans 1:30*).

It is easier to identify and correct a child that blows up with quick anger under provocation than one that is passively rebellious and keeps the matter inside, where it hardens and forms itself into long-term resentment.

Children have no right to silence under questioning, isolation from the family, or moodiness.

Parents that allow or ignore these indicators, could soon be facing a vicious monster, without any regard for the family.

Wisdom is the power of right judgment, which cannot allow anger to cloud the vision, disturb the soul, muddle the mind, enflame the emotions, or harden the heart.

Reader despise anger in yourself and others. Reserve anger for the rare cases where God or truth is attacked, not where you might lose a little money or reputation.

Keep your spirit ruled tightly; ignore what others do to you; the God of heaven will devise perfect revenge!

***Proverbs 14:18 The simple inherit folly: but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.***

Prudent men know what to do in most situations.

Prudent men are wise, understanding, and discreet.

Prudent men take advantage of opportunities, and they steer clear of traps.

Prudent men are successful and honored in life.

Prudent men avoid the failure, pain, and trouble that stupid men must endure, who either miss or destroy opportunities and fall into most every trap.

The lesson is simple: wisdom will honor a man with knowledge. By choosing the fear of the Lord and His commandments, a man can obtain a crown of knowledge. A man can be highly respected for knowing what actions are more important than others.

If a man refuses to be prudent and wise, by rejecting God and His Word, then he will receive the attendant pain and trouble as his portion in life and eternity.

What is a simple man? He refuses to fear God and humble himself to obey the Bible.

A simple man relies on his intelligence, feelings, habits, popular opinion, tradition, or worldly education to guide him.

A simple man knows nothing at all according to God (*Proverbs 9:13; Isaiah 8:20; 1Corinthians 1:19-20; 3:19-20; 1Timothy 6:3-5,20-21; 2Timothy 3:6-7*).

Simplicity is a choice, and many men make it every day, they love their simplicity and reject God's wisdom (*Proverbs 1:22, 32*).

How does a simple man inherit folly? By making choices outside the fear of the Lord and the wisdom of the Word of God:

A simple man misses the good life and ends up with the dysfunctional pain of a fool. Due to his humanistic and naturalistic worldview, he is helplessly ignorant of eternity, reality, truth, and wisdom. He ruins his life here and hereafter!

What is a prudent man? He fears God and esteems every precept of Scripture to be right, he hates every false way (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10; Psalm 119:128*).

A prudent man rejects any other criterion for truth but the Bible. He is far superior to a simple man. When faced with new information.

A simple man believes all new information; but the prudent man is cautious and pessimistic. He can see the contingencies and consequences missed by the simple man (*Proverbs 14:15; 22:3; 27:12*).

How is the prudent man crowned with knowledge? By being cautious, critical, and pessimistic about any information outside the Bible, he subjects all information to a rigid criterion.

A prudent man wants to know, does God approve it?

This mechanism keeps a prudent man from delusions, fraud, lies, scams, and traps; it promotes righteousness, truth, and wisdom.

A prudent man knows what to do in any situation. He has great knowledge that the simple man cannot find (*2Timothy 3:6-7*).

Can a simple man become a prudent man? Yes! That is why Solomon wrote Proverbs (*Proverbs 1:4*).

Can a simple man become a prudent man? Yes! That is why God inspired Scripture (*Psalms 19:7; 119:130*).

Wisdom is offered throughout Proverbs and the Word of God, but most men do not want it (*Proverbs 8:5; 9:4*).

Most men would rather listen to their base lusts and the offers of the damning amusements (*Proverbs 9:13-18*).

Most men go the way of lying seductresses, whether whores, friends, ministers, or educators (*Proverbs 7:6-27*).

The simple man inherits religious folly, he cannot detect the lies of false teachers.

The simple man has rejected the only infallible standard by which to try them (*Romans 16:17-18; 1John 4:1-6*).

But the prudent man proves all things (*Acts 17:11; 1Thessalonians 5:21*).

The prudent man prays often for God to reveal more knowledge to him (*Psalms 119:18; Philippians 1:9-11; James 1:5*).

The prudent man is fully convinced that the Word of God is sufficient for all he needs to know (*2Timothy 3:16-17*).

Reader, you will make many choices today, either based on your simple heart and mind, or based on the infinite heart and mind of God revealed in the Bible.

You will either inherit folly as the result of your choice, or you will be blessed and honored with knowledge.

It is your choice; the consequences will surely follow; and you will feel them for eternity!

***Proverbs 14:19 The evil bow before the good; and the wicked at the gates of the righteous.***

**Good Guys Finish First.  
Evil Men Finish Last.**

The righteous are rewarded, often in this world, and always in the next. The LORD does not miss a thing. He rewards men for their deeds.

The LORD honors and promotes good men, He humbles evil men. He exalts the righteous man, so that the destitute will come to this man for counsel, help, mercy, or prayer.

This lesson is not literal bowing, though that does occur at times. The lesson is that God makes a difference in men's lives based on how they live.

The Lord will exalt and promote good men, and He will humble wicked men, so that they are reduced to begging or envying the lives of the righteous. Good guys finish first!

Please grasp the wisdom reader. Men often reason that being good does not pay, for evil men seem successful (*Malachi 3:14-15*).

This thinking is dangerous and wrong (*Proverbs 24:19-20; Psalms 37:1-40; 73:1-28*).

Wisdom looks beyond temporary appearances and measures success by broader rules and permanent results.

When this is done, good guys always finish first! Do not worry about a colleague getting ahead while sinning. He may be at your doorstep soon!

You may say, what about Cain and Abel? Did the good man bow before the evil man and beg for his life?

Considering Abel went to heaven. Cain's life was hard.

The Word of God and history honored Abel and despised Cain. And Cain will bow before Abel at the great Day of Judgment before being cast into the lake of fire! And the same could be said for the rich man and Lazarus (*Luke 16:20*).

### **Wisdom Does Not Judge Temporary Appearances!**

There is a reward for the righteous, often in this world, and always in the next (*Psalms 58:1-11; 49:14; Malachi 4:1-3; 1Corinthians 6:2*).

The Proverb is not a universal rule now, but it certainly will be later. Yet, it is often fulfilled literally in this life.

Never fret about the prosperity of evil men, for God can and will reverse things now or later! His eyes see the evil and the good, and He shows Himself strong on behalf of the good (*Proverbs 15:3; 2Chronicles 16:9*).

Consider these men: **Haman** thought he was on the political fast track in the Persian Empire, but he was soon bowing, and then hanging, before Mordecai and Esther!

**Eli** was not a good father, so his descendant Abiathar ended up bowing and begging from righteous Zadok!

**Joseph** had his day when both Egypt and his wicked brothers bowed before him in fear!

**Sisera** bowed at the feet of Jael!

**Job's** three friends had to beg him to pray for their forgiveness!

**David** was ignored and mocked by his older brothers, but they were soon reduced to mere princes in his kingdom!

**Saul** bowed before David as well!

**Pharaoh** ended his life paying Moses to leave Egypt and begging for breath in the Red Sea!

**Daniel's** conspiring competitors were eaten by the lions they had designed for him!

**The Philippian Jailor** bowed before Paul and Silas, and the city rulers gently begged them to leave town!

Learn the wisdom here. Do not fret about the apparent success of wicked persons around you. God will most certainly bring them to bow before your feet in the great Day of Judgment, but He may also do it now as well!

Keep your heart with all diligence, remembering that there is a reward for righteousness (*Proverbs 4:23; Malachi 3:16-18*).

**If** circumstances seem contrary to this rule, it is only for other purposes, and it is only for a short time!

**If** you honor God with your life, He will honor you (*1Samuel 2:30*). Believe it!

God will reward you according to the way you live (*Psalms 18:24-27*).

Promotion comes from the Lord, and it eventually comes to the righteous (*Psalms 76:6-10*).

Do not worry about the corporate ladder. God is able to take you past those above you, **If** you live righteously before Him.

Every knee shall bow before the Lord Jesus Christ, even all His enemies and those who blaspheme Him in word and deed every day (*Philippians 2:9-11*).

Humble yourself before Him, repent of your sins, and beg for His mercy today (*Matthew 21:44*).

***Proverbs 14:20 The poor is hated even of his own neighbour: but the rich hath many friends.***

### **Money Lies! Money Corrupts!**

This Proverb represents Solomon's sad observation of human selfishness: men are friendly for what they can get from others.

Even a poor man's neighbors hate him, because he is of no use to them in getting ahead. But a rich man, no

matter what his character or conduct, has more friends than he can use.

Money lies! The fine things of the rich, their many friends in high places, their dignified manners, and their ability to help are all dangerous illusions. They tell you nothing of the heart and soul behind the prosperous eyes and beneath the luxurious clothes.

Many rich men are arrogant and have nothing noble or virtuous about them (*Proverbs 18:23; 1Samuel 25:10*).

As a woman's beauty does not prove character, neither does a man's wealth (*Proverbs 11:22; 31:30*).

Money corrupts! Men that ought to love their neighbors will hate them for the simple reason they are poor.

Men that ought to hate proud oppressors will grovel before the rich, in hope they might eat crumbs that fall from his plate.

If the rich ask for a favor, they will leap at the opportunity and often shut their eyes to compromise or evil involved (*Proverbs 17:23*).

The measure of a person: Is his soul, his character, his conduct, not his wealth.

**Nabal** was very rich, but he was a pig (*1Samuel 25:2-11*).

**Ruth** was a destitute Moabite widow, but she was a jewel of a virtuous woman (*Ruth 3:11*).

Instead of considering what a person earns or owns, wise men will inquire about their fear of God and observe their moral conduct.

What are the lessons? The Proverb is not teaching what should be, but rather what is common. One lesson is that popularity proves nothing (*Proverbs 19:4, 6*).

Another lesson is a warning against measuring by assets, rather than character (*Proverbs 19:7*).

Another is to remember that true friends are not affected by a change in circumstances (*Proverbs 17:17*).

And a further lesson is to guard against preferential treatment of the rich and respect of persons (*James 2:1-10*).

But there are also other lessons. God chose mainly from the poor of this world (*1Corinthians 1:26-29; James 2:5*).

Though poverty may indicate a low standing in society, it says nothing of one's standing with God.

It was much better to be the beggar Lazarus being licked by dogs than to be the rich man living in luxury (*Luke 16:19-31*).

No matter how dear are the friends, or how many so called friends that reject you; you can know God will never desert you, no matter how poor (*Psalms 73:25-26; Hebrews 13:5-6*).

God set His love on you when you were his hateful enemy. God will not lift His love for the minor turns of life's events (*Romans 5:6-11*).

God became poor to make you rich (*2Corinthians 8:9*).

***Proverbs 14:21 He that despiseth his neighbour sinneth: but he that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.***

**The Way You Relate To Others Affects Three Things:**

1. God in heaven,
2. Those around you,
3. Your own soul!

If you are cruel, harsh, selfish, or violent toward others, you sin against God, you deprive them of needful help, and you will be miserable yourself!

If you are gentle, kind, giving, and protective toward others, you honor the God of heaven, put joy in their hearts, and find happiness yourself. This is the rule of the Proverb.

The first commandment is to love The God of the Bible with all your heart, mind, soul, and strength (*Deuteronomy 6:4-5; Matthew 22:36-38*).

The second commandment is to love your neighbor as much as you love yourself (*Leviticus 19:18; Matthew 22:39*).

When you love your neighbor, you also love God, because He created your neighbor and brought him across your path in his time of need (*Proverbs 14:31; 19:17; 1John 4:20*).

God will bless you, **If** you are careful, forgiving, honest, loving, and patient toward your neighbors (*Psalms 41:1-3; 112:9; Luke 6:27-38*).

God will judge and punish you, **If** you are hurtful, malicious, overbearing, strict, or vindictive to others (*Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Isaiah 58:7-11*).

Christianity creates the highest motivation to love those you meet, because the difference, between a happy and blessed life and a miserable and troubled life, is the certain result that follows obeying the Word of God.

In a covetous, greedy, and selfish world, it is hard to believe or imagine, that loving others can bring you happiness. But that is what this Proverb teaches!

Both Jesus Christ and Paul confirmed this fact: *"I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive"* (**Acts 20:35**).

When a lawyer asked Jesus the definition of a neighbor (lawyers often nitpick about definitions to avoid responsibility), the Lord answered with the story of the Good Samaritan, where a Samaritan befriended and helped a wounded Jew at great inconvenience and expense (**Luke 10:25-37**).

Though the Jews and Samaritans despised each other, this noble man showed kindness where the Jew's own countrymen had not!

Whatever you have or are, it was given to you by God!

Any difference between you and others is His choice. Therefore, it is profane spite for you to glory over others (**1Corinthians 4:7**).

The happiness of helping others extends to Judgment Day, where those who befriend the least of God's people will be rewarded (**Matthew 25:31-46; Luke 14:12-14**).

You can, lay up a good result, against that Day by giving to those in need (**1Timothy 6:17-19**).

***Proverbs 14:22 Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.***

Your heart and mind seldom rest. They are considering and planning either good or evil.

It is a horrible error to plan evil, but God will give mercy and truth to those who plan good.

Planning wickedness brings the hatred and the judgment of God (**Proverbs 14:17; 24:8; 24:9; Genesis 6:5-7**).

**Today Dedicate Your Heart And Mind  
To Devising Good.**

The LORD is against evil doers, and the LORD rewards those who do good (**Proverbs 12:2; Ezekiel 18:4; 1Peter 3:10-12**).

There will be recompense for both, the sinner shall be judged, and the righteous shall be rewarded (**Proverbs 11:31; 13:21; 26:10; 28:10; Psalm 37:9**).

**Even Thinking About Evil Is Sin.**

"Desire" is equal to the act without the opportunity to do so.

The Holy Spirit said, *"The thought of foolishness is sin"* (**Proverbs 24:9**).

Jesus condemned the thought of desiring another woman as adultery (**Matthew 5:28**).

Do not forget this sober lesson. Fantasies of sin are wrong; evil thoughts are wrong; imagining evil is wrong! See comments on **Proverbs 5:22**.

The Lord sees all the thoughts of every heart and rewards men accordingly (**Jeremiah 17:10; Hebrews 4:12-13**).

Just because you have not committed the sin is not good enough, devising a sin in your heart is just as bad before the LORD.

God will judge, the foolish error, that thinks you can devise wickedness and protect yourself by not going through with it. Again see the comments on **Proverbs 5:22!**

More than forty Jews died very thirsty and hungry, for vowing not to eat or drink until they had killed Paul (**Acts 23:12**)!

Haman devised the destruction of all the Jews out of his great hatred for Mordecai, but he died on his own gallows (**Esther 7:10**).

The Scribes and Pharisees left in shame after bringing an adulterous woman to Jesus, to trap Him (**John 8:1-11**).

The effeminate preachers of our perilous times shall have their corrupt devices exposed as fruitless froth and vain babblings (**2Timothy 3:6-9**).

Abraham devised good in sending his servant to find a God-fearing wife for Isaac. He found Rebekah easily by God's blessing of mercy and truth upon Abraham (**Genesis 24:27**).

David devised good in desiring to build God a house. And though Solomon built it, the Lord gave great promises of mercy and truth to David (**2Samuel 7:1-19; 23:1-5**).

Mercy and truth are wonderful blessings, especially when met together. *"Mercy and truth are met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other"* (**Psalm 85:10**).

This is the promised blessing of those who devise good, who plan, arrange, and design good in their lives and by their lives. Who can resist such an offer?

All you need to do is set your heart and plans toward good, wise and spiritual things, and you will receive the reward.

How do you receive the preaching of God's Holy Scriptures?

Do you devise in your heart, that you are going to keep your sin? Postpone repentance and conversion?

Do you harden yourself against the reproofs of the Preacher and/or the Holy Spirit? You cannot prosper nor escape!

Reader, it is a fatally error to reject God's instruction, and you shall be judged severely, as one to whom much was given.

**If** you devise in your heart to accept the correction and reproof of preaching, and intend to implement it immediately and completely!

Reader, God can and will bless you with mercy and truth, and the grace of Christ in your life (**James 1:25**).

Choose this day to rule your thinking, planning, and devising only toward the good.

***Proverbs 14:23 In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.***

Slinging French fries for minimum wage is better than hearing another business plan for making a million.

**If** you resent the statement, this Proverb is for you!

Dreamers and promoters fantasize about being successful. But reader, diligent and godly men go to their same old jobs, with thankful hearts and find success through hard work!

The diligent do not sit around talking with speculators and making spreadsheets of imagined wealth from a new fantasy business. See the comments on **Proverbs 1:32; 12:11; 13:4; 13:11; 13:23; 14:4; 14:15; 27:23**.

Some men always talk of new businesses, new investments. They are full of ideas how to make money, but their own success is always just around the corner.

Solomon warned his son against the distractions and delusions of moneymaking schemes.

Solomon knew about the exciting "business opportunities" and "investment secrets" of slothful fools and lying promoters.

Over time, slinging French fries would be better than listening to these leeches.

***In All Labor There Is Profit!***

Take an average young man, who diligently and faithfully works hard at a minimum wage, fast food job.

- In one year, he will be shift supervisor.
- In another year, shift manager.
- In two more, store manager.

After managing faithfully for a year, he will get a piece of the action. In five more years, he will own a part of the business. In five more, he could buy out the owner. Simple, certain, and successful!

No better ideas here, just faithful hard work! Not bad for slinging fries at minimum wage, eh? This is a true principle.

*"In all labor there is profit."* Take another young man, who diligently and faithfully works hard at ordinary factory or office jobs. Such efforts will make his raises and promotions above average.

Saving and investing part of his weekly pay, he will accumulate much in 40-50 working years. He will retire on schedule with significant company benefits, considerable Social Security, and a sizeable estate.

Simple, certain, and successful! No better ideas here, just faithful hard work! Not bad for an office or factory stiff, eh?

*"But the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury."* Watch the man craving the lifestyle of the rich and famous: he hates his boring job working for others. Work to him is driving a Lexus, checking investments by cell phone, and flashing his Rolex in fine restaurants.

He reads and listens to every harebrained scam. He drools at "guaranteed" returns of 50%, and he invests heavily to "take advantage" of his "insider information"! The Ponzi scheme takes him down to "penury," and the laboring stiff has to loan him money for food!

*But the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.* Watch the man always changing jobs and always in a new "business opportunity."

What is penury: Want of property; indigence; extreme poverty.

He attends rah-rah meetings where beautiful people with leased cars, pyramid schemes for businesses, and imitation Rolexes tell him he can be rich ... easily!

He is fascinated. He made up his mind he would never be a working stiff, and each new "business opportunity" and investment scam are potential saviors from real

work. But for some reason he never finds the promised mother lode!

Reader, forget your dreams when you get up in the morning and wash your face! Now it is time to work, not sleep and dream, or dream and sleep!

Dreaming is not ambition! Optimism is not ambition!  
Business plans are not ambition!

### **Working Harder And More Faithfully Than Others Is Ambition!**

Forget the lottery mentality! You are not going to be the next NBA superstar! Today is a privilege, use it to do more, and do it better, with a more cheerful spirit, in a real job, than anyone else. You will win!

Here is divinely inspired financial wisdom from the richest and most successful man who ever lived.

Wishful thinking is for losers; only consistent labor will produce results. Exceptions are lies, and they never last anyway (*Proverbs 13:11*).

Talk is cheap! Talking about making money in any other way than hard labor at a boring job is confusing, deceiving, distracting, foolish, and vain. It will rob your soul of the ambition necessary to succeed!

Many companies squander their profits by spending more time talking about saving money and enhancing revenues than actually producing and selling their product or service!

The cost per hour of high-level meetings with numerous participants is enormous! They may soon be filing for Chapter 11 protection.

Governments do the same: seeking ways to control the masses, analyzing, debating, and meeting with little productive effort to honestly solve the true problems.

Reader, consider where our nation is going: Trust God!

Saul Alinsky died a few decades ago, but his writings influenced those who are now in political control of our nation today.....Recall that Hillary did her college thesis on his writings, and Obama writes about him in his books.

Saul Alinsky Died: June 12, 1972, Carmel-by-the-Sea, CA  
Education: University of Chicago Spouse: Irene Alinsky  
Books: [Rules for Radicals](#), [Reveille for Radicals](#).

Anyone out there think that this stuff isn't happening today in the U.S. How to create a social state by Saul Alinsky: There are eight levels of control that must be obtained before you are able to create a social state. The first is the most important:

**Healthcare :** Control healthcare and you control the people.

**Poverty:** Increase the poverty level as high as possible, poor people are easier to control and will not fight back if you are providing everything for them to live.

**Debt:** Increase the debt to an unsustainable level. That way you are able to increase taxes, and this will produce more poverty.

**Gun Control:** Remove the ability to defend themselves from the Government. That way you are able to create a police state.

**Welfare:** Take control of every aspect of their lives (Food, Housing, and Income)

**Education:** Take control of what people read and listen to and take control of what children learn in school.

**Religion:** Remove the belief in the God from the Government and schools.

**Class Warfare:** Divide the people into the wealthy and the poor. This will cause more discontent, and it will be easier to take and (Tax) the wealthy with the support of the poor.

Does any of this sound like what is happening to the United States?

Alinsky merely simplified Vladimir Lenin's original scheme for world conquest by communism, under Russian rule.

Stalin described his converts as "Useful Idiots." (Sounds like something we have just been hearing regarding how Obamacare was passed).

The Useful Idiots have destroyed every nation in which they have seized power and control. It is presently happening at an alarming rate in the U.S.

Minimum wage is not bad. It is more per hour than most "distributors" in multi-level marketing make for the hours spent hearing and talking about getting rich.

It is more than the "investors" make in Ponzi schemes and other investment scams, that relieve fools every year of their money in the foolish and vain hope of getting rich enough to avoid having to work a real job.

### **In All Labor There Is Profit Even Minimum Wage!**

Reader, not all business talk leads to penury, nor everything the government does leads to socialism, but there is safety in wise counselors and the Word of God. (*Proverbs 11:14*).

Wise counselors are never the ones soliciting you, selling you an investment, offering you a product, or promoting an "opportunity." Beware!

Justified conversation is not condemned by this Proverb, but it must be objective, based in fact only, and with an uninvolved, third-party, critical and successful, wise men.

Wise men, will tell you the truth, not what you want to hear.

Be thankful for your job. Be thankful for your given abilities. Be thankful for the opportunity to work hard. Be thankful for this Proverb.

Be early to work; stay late. Exceed at the job expectations. Be cheerful; be respectful. Work zealously as unto the Lord. Work patiently with your eye on the Word of God. You will succeed!

Wishful thinking is what foolish children do on Santa's knee. Anything that sounds too good to be true, is not true!

It is a deceitful vanity to steal your focus from real labor, from following God's way. Plow your field, and reject the illusion of greener pastures elsewhere (*Proverbs 28:19; Psalm 1:1-3*).

Avoid and ignore all sources of "business opportunities" that promise more than your job! Do not listen to them! Do not read their promotional lies! Apply yourself to what is God's way (*Proverbs 12:28*)!

***Proverbs 14:24 The crown of the wise is their riches: but the foolishness of fools is folly.***

#### **Wisdom Gets Results!**

A wise man works diligently and prudently; he avoids unnecessary risks and scams; he achieves economic success and prosperity. He fears God and obeys His commandments, which brings divine favor and blessings upon his life. His financial progress confirms his wisdom, honors his efforts, and shows the Lord's approval.

#### **Folly Also Has Results!**

A fool is slothful and wasteful; he hastily and ignorantly pursues vain ideas; he never achieves much economically: he remains poor and despised. He does not fear God or keep His commandments, and the Lord blows against his efforts. His folly and foolish choices are obvious to everyone. He is known as a fool.

God has not promised prosperity to all His children. And most of them are the poor of this world (*1 Corinthians 1:26-29; James 2:5*).

God tests and perfects many of them by economic difficulties. However, all other things being equal,

wisdom will definitely and quickly bring progress, success; but folly will just as certainly bring decline, destruction, poverty, and trouble. Both wisdom and folly get results. reader, choose wisdom!

#### **Wisdom Also Directs!**

A wise man with riches knows how to use his money for the benefit of others and bring honor to himself.

David was rich, and he crowned himself gloriously by using his wealth to build a magnificent temple in Jerusalem.

Job was rich, and he was honored by all for his faithful and generous care of the poor.

Barnabas used his real estate holdings to provide for the poor in the Church at Jerusalem. And Philemon did the same.

#### **Folly Confuses A Man!**

A rich fool is more prone to foolishness than a poor fool barely surviving. The rich fool has farther to fall and is tempted more to be foolish.

Nabal's prosperity caused his folly against David.

Rehoboam was so puffed up by riches that he lost the rule of ten tribes.

Belshazzar gloried in his riches and lost an impregnable city in one night.

The rich young ruler forfeited the kingdom of heaven for his riches.

In general, all other things being equal, financial success is the result of wisdom, and poverty is the result of foolishness. Riches are a great advantage and tool for good to wise men, which crowns their character again.

But riches provoke fools to even greater folly, for position and wealth increase their arrogance and blinds their judgment.

Wisdom gets results, and the results crown the owner with honor.

Wisdom also leads men to use prudent decisions to bring about good results for God's glory and man's benefit.

Wisdom is wise insight and spiritual perception which come from God (*James 1:5; 3:17*).

**Prudence:** The practical use of wisdom and spiritual discernment.

Folly exposes fools to the shame of their own foolishness, and it causes them to misuse any advantage they have. Get wisdom!

***Proverbs 14:25 A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.***

Lies cost lives; truth saves lives (*Proverbs 18:21*).

Witnesses must tell what they know truthfully to deliver the innocent (*Proverbs 24:12; 31:8-9*).

A witness can save a person from trouble by telling the truth, or a witness can condemn a person by lying about him.

The power of a witness is enormous, and you have opportunities every day to be a true witness or a deceitful witness. It is very important to set your heart and mouth to always tell the truth.

The Proverb is a simple observation about witnesses.

The hidden lesson is the power of truth or lies in a witness's mouth.

A true witness, can rescue an innocent man from suspicion or false charges.

A lying witness, can destroy an innocent man, by deceitfully creating suspicion or confirming false charges.

The damage done by witnesses is very great, which should provoke us to love truth and true men and to hate lies and liars.

The perfect laws of God, which excel the laws of all nations, require a minimum of two witnesses before a charge can be brought in any matter against any person (*Numbers 35:30; Deuteronomy 17:6; 19:15; Matthew 18:15-16*).

One witness is not enough, because it is too easy for an angry or bitter person to ruin the lives of others by deceitfully speaking lies. Most any day you can read or hear about reputations or lives being damaged or ruined by one liar.

God's perfect laws protect against perjury or lying in court. **If** a false witness were found, he was judged with the punishment at stake (*Deuteronomy 19:16-21*).

For example, **If** a person testified falsely in a murder case, where capital punishment was the rule, the false witness would be killed!

**If** eyesight were at stake, then the false witness's eye was gouged out! Compare this to the slap on the wrist that perjurers get today!

There is great wisdom in the Word of God, and every political science class should read it and study it (*Deuteronomy 4:5-8*).

God's perfect laws also required an oath before hearing a witness, which had the powerful effect of bringing the fear of God to bear on the controversy (*Proverbs 29:24; Leviticus 5:1*).

After a person had been sworn to tell the truth in the name of the LORD, any thought of lying would bring with it the thought of God's certain curse. Note that Jesus of Nazareth finally spoke after the High Priest used an oath to bind Him (*Matthew 26:63-64*).

#### **Consider The Damage Done By False Witnesses:**

**Potiphar's wife** accused the just man Joseph of trying to rape her, and it cost him his job, his reputation, and his liberty. But Joseph rose to rule Egypt, and she was never heard from again. *Genesis 39:7-20*

**Wicked Jezebel** hired two false witnesses to lie about Naboth in order for her to steal his vineyard for her wicked husband, King Ahab. He was killed in battle, and she was eaten by dogs! (*1Kings 21:7-14*)

**If** a true witness in court is so important, then what of men who are God's ambassadors and witnesses in the pulpit! Let every man called of God to preach His Gospel take heed to the doctrine that he proclaims (*1Timothy 4:16; Titus 1:9-11*).

But there are today, as there have always been, false teachers and preachers who speak lies in the name of God (*Isaiah 30:8-11; Jeremiah 5:31; 2Corinthians 2:17*).

Measure every minister by the Word of God (*Isaiah 8:20; Acts 17:11*)!

The greatest trial, of all time, is coming soon. All men shall give an account of their lives to God (*Romans 14:10-12; 2Corinthians 5:9-11*).

For those saved, by the Grace of God, the substitutionary sacrifice of Jesus Christ, for their sins. There will be a mediator and counselor with the name of Faithful and True Witness: Jesus Christ the Son of God (*Revelation 3:14; 19:11*)!

He is the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will faithfully confess those who are His own (*Hebrews 2:13; Revelation 3:5*).

***Proverbs 14:26 In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.***

The strongest men and women on earth are those that fear the LORD, and they always have protection and peace in Him.

Those that fear the LORD, serve the LORD, and they know He is always with them.

Those that fear the LORD, can and will do great feats, for they fear no duty, no man, or even death itself.

Those that fear the LORD, are in constant peace, for they trust in everlasting strength.

Weak men, do not fulfill their duties.

Weak men are intimidated by challenges, they cannot rule their own spirits, and they are waylaid by minor obstacles, they show their trust is in themselves.

Weak men cannot even manage their families, for the patient application of godly leadership, in this simple role is too much for their fearful souls.

Saul, who was probably over seven feet tall and very gifted physically was afraid of public recognition, so he hid among the stuff (*1Samuel 9:1-2; 10:17-26*).

When Goliath challenged Israel, Saul hid in his tent and bribed others (*1Samuel 17:1-11, 25-30*).

When Israel sang David's praises, he tried to kill him out of fearful envy (*1Samuel 18:6-11*).

On the other hand, David, though a young shepherd boy, did not understand the fear of Goliath (*1Samuel 17:23-30*).

David rejected Saul's armor but he ran to meet the giant with fearless courage (*1Samuel 17:38-48*).

Later David, when given two opportunities to kill his adversary and take the throne, he left his future in God's hands. And though he was troubled on every side more than any man, he wrote of peace and security in the Lord like no other.

Our Proverb has a pronoun in the second clause. Some see the pronoun "his" standing for a man who fears the LORD, implied from the first clause. But understand it to mean the LORD Himself. His children, God's children, who trust in Him, have a place of refuge.

The lesson is not for the children of the righteous, but for the righteous himself. Reader, take the most direct and simplest interpretation, for there is no guarantee the children of the righteous will fear the Lord.

Fear and confidence are usually considered opposites. But the fear of the LORD, trust and obedience in Him, is the source of confidence in facing the uncertainties of life in this world.

Those who know their God will be strong and do exploits, and they will be kept in perfect peace (*Daniel 11:30; Isaiah 26:3-4*). Take hold of this!

What fear can shake the man who leans on Jesus for repose (**Proverbs 3:25-26**)?

With the angel of the Lord camping nearby, he shall always be delivered (**Psalm 34:7-11**).

With his confidence in the Lord, his heart is fixed and established (**Psalm 112:6-8**).

The fear of man brings faintness, but the fear of God fills us with boldness (**Hebrews 13:5-6**).

The three Hebrew men in Babylon feared the LORD, but not the king (*Daniel 3:16-18*).

But who was more courageous than Paul? He faced the hatred of Jews and Gentiles without fear. When warned by God of impending danger in Jerusalem, he said, "None of these things move me" (*Acts 20:20-22*).

Reader, you can have the pure conscience that emboldens. You can have the strong confidence that only a righteous have ever obtained. (**Proverbs 28:1**).

In the time of trouble, you can escape to His pavilion, where He will protect you (**Psalm 27:5**).

Let **Psalms 18, 27, and 46** strengthen your confidence in the LORD.

Paul was brave, but he could not match our Lord, who endured the physical and spiritual horrors of the cross willingly, for the sins of His enemies. And where did He find His strong confidence? In the fear of the Lord (**Hebrews 5:7-9**)!

***Proverbs 14:27 The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.***

The fountain of life has been found! Reader drink from it now! The man who fears the LORD will be greatly blessed (**Psalm 128:1-6**).

The man who does not fear the LORD will see destruction by the snares of this ungodly world (**Proverbs 10:27; 22:5; Ecclesiastes 7:17**).

The fear of the LORD: Is that sober reverence and is that holy desire to please God.

The fear of the LORD: Is that that rejects sin and confidence in one's self (**Proverbs 3:7; 8:13; 16:6**).

The fear of the LORD: Is the beginning of wisdom (**Proverbs 1:7; 9:10**),

The fear of the LORD: Is closely connected to the law of the wise (*Proverbs 2:1-22*).

The fear of the LORD: Is closely connected to that which also is a fountain of life (*Proverbs 13:14*).

The man or woman who fears the LORD has the wisest impulses and strongest motivation of any living person in the world.

This person will have a splendid life and will be saved from the snares that trap others in dysfunctional and painful lives of hell and death.

What can save a man from the great attraction of a strange woman? His wife? His mother? His pastor? His children? I think not. It is the fear of the LORD! The fear of the Lord is the strongest antidote to her beauty and seduction (*Ecclesiastes 7:26*).

Nothing else comes close, for only reverent fear of His judgment and desire to please Him can cause a man to reject her advances, as did Joseph (*Genesis 39:7-9*).

Saved from her wiles, delivers a man from the hell and death, to which fornication and adultery lead (*Proverbs 2:18; 5:4-5; 7:27; 9:18*).

What will keep a marriage happy and prosperous? Both parties fearing the LORD!

A husband who fears the LORD will love his wife with the tender affection God intended.

A wife who fears the LORD will love her husband with the reverent service that makes for peaceful homes.

Therefore, it becomes of greatest importance that spousal selection fix on the fear of the Lord above all else (*Proverbs 31:30*).

Disregard for this point will cost you fifty years of hell on earth. Mark it well.

The fountain of life, which is a perpetual supply of those good things that make for abundant living, is not dependent on circumstances, for a little with the fear of the Lord is superior to treasure with trouble (*Proverbs 15:16*). Reader, is this not a treasure (*Isaiah 33:6*)?

Christian parent, this is the most important thing to teach your children. Forget even reading, if it competes with this gift.

The fear of the Lord will serve your children far better than any academic pursuit, physical exercise, or entertainment.

The fear of the Lord should be taught as the whole duty of man and the decisive purpose of life (*Psalms 34:11; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Ephesians 6:4*).

### **This Fear Of God Can Be Established By A Godly Father Living Its Example And Enforcing Its Claims Against Each Child.**

If you love your children, then take time this very day to warn them of His judgments, show them His statutes, and offer them His promises. Point out to them the vanity and vexation of life without the fear of the Lord and the prosperous peace with it.

The fundamental cause of the folly, frustration, and pain in life: is the lack of the fear of the LORD, which the wicked know not at all (*Psalms 10:4; 36:1; Romans 3:18*).

It is only by the grace of salvation that men are given this fountain for their parched souls (*Jeremiah 32:40*).

Our Lord Jesus feared God like no man, and by His fear we have the fountain of everlasting life springing up to save us from the wages of sin (*Hebrews 5:7-9; John 4:14; Romans 6:23*).

### ***Proverbs 14:28 In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince.***

The Bible is the world's most useful book. Here is advice for rulers, which The Holy Spirit through Solomon taught his son, so he might be a great king.

You are privileged to read an inspired rule of God's wise king (*Deuteronomy 17:18-20; Ecclesiastes 1:12-18; 12:8-11*).

The Proverb observes that growing kingdoms are a political blessing, but shrinking kingdoms are a problem.

Immigration is better than emigration <sup>settling in another country</sup>. Expansion is better than contraction. A growing population increases economic productivity, military strength, and government revenue. As a man with many children is great, so is a government with a growing population (*Psalms 127:4-5*).

Pharaoh, monarch of the greatest nation on earth at the time, feared with all of Egypt the rapid growth of the Israelites, who exploded from 70 immigrants to a nation of 600,000 men, not counting women and children, (*Exodus 1:1-12; 12:37*).

How does this simple Proverb help rulers? Nations only grow, by immigration and birth rate, when leaders promote freedom, justice, opportunity, safety, truth, and wisdom (*Proverbs 8:1-21*).

With these goals in place, people will travel far to participate, and parents will have large families to build estates.

David prayed for Solomon, in promoting the people's welfare, the prince secures his own throne (*Psalms 72:1-20*).

The more righteous the ruler, the more righteous are those seeking immigration. What kind of individuals want to immigrate into the U.S? (*2Chronicles 11:16-17; 15:9; 30:1-11, 25*).

**If** a ruler is wise, he will first accept the truthfulness of this Proverb that growth is good.

He will then commit himself and his rule to those wise principles that foster population growth of good men, which requires the godly balance of mercy and truth (*Proverbs 20:28*).

He will admit that without happy and diligent people, he and his government are nothing! As a master delicately treating his servant can have him eventually become his son, so a ruler delicately treating his citizens can foster growth and prosperity (*Proverbs 29:21; 1Kings 12:7*).

America exploded in less than 300 years from a poor, weak nation of God-fearing settlers in a wilderness to the economic, military, and revenue giant of the world. How? It came the closest to offering citizens a truly righteous nation.

Well does the Statue of Liberty declare, "Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free, the wretched refuse of your teeming shore. Send these, the homeless, tempest-tost to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door!"

Lady Liberty once closely resembled Lady Wisdom of Proverbs (*Proverbs 8:1-21*). Today it is different! God save America!

David, the man after God's own heart, and whom all Israel loved, expanded Israel to its greatest power (*2Samuel 8:1-18*).

He did it, not by intimidation and oppression, but by righteousness, compassion, generosity, judgment, and justice (*1Samuel 18:5, 14-16,30; 2Samuel 6:19; 1Chronicles 18:14; Psalm 78:72*).

Solomon, David's son, began to compromise, but followed his father in many things (*1Kings 4:20-34; 5:7; 2Chronicles 9:8*).

But David's grandson Rehoboam lost the nation by choosing the opposite course, to his own destruction (*1Kings 12:1-19*).

David confessed on his deathbed that he had a miserable ruling family, but he saw by prophecy the rise of a glorious son, Jesus of Nazareth (*2Samuel 23:1-7*).

What can we say of the Lord's government? It is glorious and without end (*Isaiah 9:6-7*)!

What is the count of the Lord's people? More than any man can number (*Revelation 7:9-10*)!

Jesus Christ saves such as should be saved from the kingdom of Satan, which is doomed to destruction (*Luke 11:20-23; Colossians 1:13; Hebrews 2:14-15; Revelation 11:15*)!

How much honor does Jesus Christ have? He is the Blessed and Only Potentate, King of kings and Lord of lords (*1Timothy 6:13-16*)!

***Proverbs 14:29 He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.***

Reader, are you hot tempered? Quick to get angry? It is the mark of a fool! You must get your spirit under control and keep it ruled, or you will destroy your life.

Wisdom includes self-control and ruling your spirit. **If** you cannot govern your anger, you will say and do many very foolish things.

The Holy Spirit's advice is to slow down and only get angry slowly.

Anger is not always wrong. God is angry at the wicked every day (*Psalms 7:11*).

The LORD was angry at Moses (*Deuteronomy 1:37; 4:21*), Solomon (*1Kings 11:9*), and Israel (*2Kings 17:18*).

But God is slow to anger, which gives us our holy example and pattern (*Psalms 103:8; 145:8*)!

Paul taught the Ephesians to get angry without sinning (*Ephesians 4:26*).

Jesus condemned anger "*without a cause*" as worthy of judgment (*Matthew 5:22*).

Of course, this effeminate generation has removed these three words in modern Bible versions.

Moses was angry at Israel for worshipping a golden calf with a rock concert and nude dancing (*Exodus 32:19-29*).

The Lord Jesus Christ became angry against a crowd that did not want Him to heal a man with a withered hand on the Sabbath day (*Mark 3:1-5*).

Anger is rarely a helpful emotion. It usually causes overreaction, misreading circumstances, misjudging motives, acting without proper thinking, responding more severely than needed, speaking with excessive harshness, neglecting counsel, and getting priorities out of line.

Therefore, a wise man will be very slow in letting anger develop.

**Wisdom Is The Power Of Right Judgment.  
Understanding Is Correct Comprehension.**

Both are compromised in proportion to the speed and intensity of anger.

The faster you get angry, the less wisdom you have under the influence of that anger.

The greater the intensity of your anger, the less understanding you have under its passion.

Anger causes unnecessary fights and many sins (*Proverbs 21:24; 26:21; 29:22; 30:33*).

**Quick anger is a common sin.** Solomon warned against it (*Proverbs 14:17; 15:18; 16:32; 25:8,28; Ecclesiastes 7:9*).

James wrote that it was not compatible with righteousness (*James 1:19-20*).

Paul told Timothy to ordain men to the ministry who were slow to anger (*Titus 1:7*).

Ruling your spirit, is basic to wisdom and success (*Proverbs 16:32*).

Anger begins in the heart, which must be kept with all diligence (*Proverbs 4:23*).

Graciousness, longsuffering, and patience are a few names for the virtue of not getting angry quickly.

And you must avoid angry men, for they will create a temptation for you to be like them (*Proverbs 14:7; 22:24; 1Corinthians 15:33*).

***Proverbs 14:30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.***

Sin is deadly! All sin leads to death.

Sin will destroy your soul, body, and life! And sin will take you to hell for eternity if you are not a child of God!

But before sin takes you to the lake of fire, sin will pervert your thinking, ruin your health, consume your

body, torture your mind, wreck your reputation, and destroy your life.

**Hate Sin!  
Do Not Play With It!**

**Reject Any Idea  
You Can Commit Sin And Survive!**

Psychosomatic illnesses have been formally identified slowly. But Solomon knew about them by the Holy Spirit's inspiration of God 3000 years ago. Psychosomatic illnesses are physical maladies caused by mental, emotional, or psychological factors.

Of course, an enlightened Christian can easily improve the definition. Sin, a spiritual problem of the heart, can affect the body!

Consider the Proverb closely. A sound heart is contrasted to envy, so it is warning about spiritual problems in your affections, not arteriosclerosis narrowing your coronary arteries.

A sound heart keeps God's Word and bears the fruit of the Spirit (*Psalms 119:80; Galatians 5:22-23*).

It is in those who are contented, forgiving, gentle, joyful, loving, peaceful, and thankful. Do you have one of these?

Envy is a horrible thing. "*Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?*" (*Proverbs 27:4*).

Envy is jealous resentment of others, which is devilish and hellish (*James 3:14-16*).

Envy is pride and selfishness gone to seed. It cannot stand the praise or success of others; it rejoices when others fall; it despises their virtues;

Envy labors day and night to put others in an evil light. You cannot escape this terrible master, even in bed!

But who cares about envy today? It is a forgotten and ignored sin. When did you last hear a sermon against it? When did you last hear of a judge ruling against it, or of an attorney using it for a motive in a crime?

Envy is a terrible sin, a horrible evil, and a destructive cancer of the soul; but very few say anything about it or against it. Wise men despise it!

Parent: you must begin when children are young to correct this deadly disease! Teach your children to celebrate the successes of their siblings, praise their accomplishments, grieve over their failures, and pray for their blessings.

Parent you must quickly punish any attitude or action that reveals a proud, selfish, or resentful spirit.

Consider the Proverb again. The life of the flesh is contrasted to rottenness of bones. It is dealing with physical health, overall life success with God and men, and a combination of both?

Remember David's observation, that God's commandments are exceeding broad (*Psalms 119:96*).

The Proverb teaches a variety of consequences for sin and spiritual problems.

Consider sin and death: Sin brought instant death to Adam and Eve's affections toward God; and it quickly impaired their perfect marriage (*Genesis 2:17; 3:7-8*).

Sin also brought physical death to them a few years later (*Genesis 5:5*).

And billions of their descendants will suffer forever in the lake of fire, which is the second death, unless Jesus Christ comes into their life (*Revelation 20:11-15*).

Proverbs uses many metaphors and figures of speech, which is why they are dark sayings (*Proverbs 1:6; John 16:25*).

We know Solomon used body parts to represent other things, as lip for speech (*Proverbs 12:19*), belly for soul (*Proverbs 20:27*), and hand for labor (*Proverbs 12:24*).

We know Solomon made it clear to us that he could use rottenness of bones as a simple simile for grief and pain, without any direct or literal application to leukemia or other bone and marrow diseases (*Proverbs 12:4*).

Therefore, this broad Proverb teaches several levels of trouble that are brought on by sin, particularly envy.

**First**, it will ruin your overall success as a godly and wise man. This is the reason for keeping your heart with all diligence (*Proverbs 4:23*).

**Second**, it will eat at your physical health, due to the evil and corrosive spirit of envy in the soul (*Proverbs 17:22*).

Third, there is God's promise of ruin to your health for sinful living (*Exodus 15:26; Deuteronomy 28:27, 35*).

Sins of the soul and mind affect the body (psychosomatic illnesses).

Amnon lusted so greatly after his half-sister Tamar that it made him physically sick (*2Samuel 13:2*).

Amnon craving what he could not have so tormented his soul that he became ill. Envy grinding the soul of a person day and night, drains vitality from his health.

If Amnon had feared God and rejected evil, it would have been health to his navel and marrow to his bones (*Proverbs 3:7-8*).

Consider a merry spirit. Recent studies have shown that people who laugh and enjoy life live longer than those who are morose and negative. Through the Holy Spirit, Solomon wrote long ago, "*A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones*" (*Proverbs 17:22*).

### **Vitality Comes From Your Spirit Not Your Diet!**

#### **You Cannot Be Merry While Envyng Others!**

You may hide your envy from other men, for a while; but backbiting, emulation <sup>attempt to equal or excel others</sup>, hatred, murder, slander, or whispering will soon expose your envy.

Envy may consume your health directly through a stress-filled and angry, bitter heart; or it may ruin your body by direct physical judgment from God. Exchange your envy for love (*Proverbs 15:17*)!

Consider Joshua's envious words in contrast to Moses' words of humility and godliness (*Numbers 11:24-30*). Which are you like?

Reader, you should examine yourself for envy, the horrible cause of problems in soul and body. Many examine their bodies for lumps, blood pressure, cholesterol readings, or other symptoms of deadly diseases, but why not examine your soul for the root cause of greater consequences?

And the root cause can be taken away easily by godly repentance and confessing your sins to God (*Proverbs 28:13; Job 33:27-28; 1John 1:9*)!

***Proverbs 14:31 He that oppressteth the poor  
reproacheth his Maker: but he that  
honoureth him hath mercy on the poor.***

**It Is Impossible  
To Be A Good Christian  
And Mistreat The Poor.**

It does not matter if you sing, "Oh, how I love Jesus." It does not matter if you attend a church to pretend to worship God. Pure religion before the all-seeing eyes of God is to take care of the poor (*James 1:27*).

The Proverb declares plainly, true honor of God involves mercy toward the poor.

The poor are often defenseless and helpless. If you take advantage of them in this weak condition, you reproach God their Creator. He will avenge all such offences (*Deuteronomy 10:17-18; Psalm 68:5*).

You reproach God by abusing His poor and His providence in leaving them poor (*1Samuel 2:7*).

God made both the rich and poor, and no matter how rich you might be, you are no better than the poor in God's eyes (*Proverbs 17:5; 22:2, 16, 22-23*).

You are not a self-made man. **If** you are rich, it is not because of your ability, effort, or intelligence. Time and chance, by the providence of God, has allowed to be you what you are today (*Ecclesiastes 9:11*).

God gave you what you have, and it is a sin to boast as **If** you did not receive it as a gift (*1Corinthians 4:7*).

You are only, God's gift away, from being the poor yourself.

It is dangerous and deceitful belief, that takes comfort in a form of godliness, without the true power of holy living (*2Timothy 3:1-5*).

Charity, which is agape love, is the great evidence of a true Christian life. Faith is not such good evidence, because even the devils believe and tremble (*James 2:19*).

But the labor of love toward the poor shall never be forgotten (*Matthew 25:31-46; 1Corinthians 12:31; 13:13; 1Thessalonians 1:2-4; 1Timothy 6:17-19; Hebrews 6:10; 2Peter 1:5-7*).

Religion in form or ritualistic religion is meaningless to God. In fact, He hates it (*Isaiah 1:10-15; 58:1-5*)!

God wants the religion of the heart, which gives away your money, for those who have no claim on your mercy (*Isaiah 1:16-20; 58:6-11*).

A man that truly knows God is always thinking outside his own little life to help and serve others (*Acts 20:35; 2Corinthians 12:14-15*).

Of course, not all the poor are worthy of support. **If** a man does not do all he can do, then he is lazy. Starvation is the best gift for him (*Proverbs 20:4; 2Thessalonians 3:10*).

God only cares about legitimate needs, such as food, clothing, and shelter, of real victims, such as orphans, widows, or a wounded man, the Lord puts in your way (*Isaiah 58:7; Luke 10:25-37*).

Reader, God will reward the man who honors Him by taking care of His poor (*Proverbs 19:17; 28:27; Psalm 41:1*).

**It Is Always  
A Win-Win-Win Situation  
To Help The Poor.**

You are practicing pure religion, when the poor rejoice at your kindness, and the Lord will prosper you! The more money you scatter in their direction, the faster and farther you will get ahead (*Proverbs 11:24-26*). Guaranteed!

It is amazing to watch the covetous get farther and farther behind, while the generous get farther and farther ahead. The more you give away, the more you will have; the less you give away, the less you will have. God will overrule the math every time!

This kind of wisdom is too high for the fools at business schools (*Proverbs 24:7*)!

God Himself takes care of the poor far beyond anything you have ever considered.

**If** it were not for the willingness of Jesus Christ to become poor, for the sake of mankind, they would live and die in utter spiritual poverty and then drop into hell for eternity.

But He became poor that we might be made rich with eternal life (*2Corinthians 8:9*)!

***Proverbs 14:32 The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death.***

All men die. But the wicked die very differently than the righteous.

The King of Terrors visits wicked men and tears them from their toys and false security and drives them out of life and away from God's presence like chaff or smoke before the wind.

The righteous lie down in peace and confess that death is better than life for the hope laid up before them.

Reader, you will die soon enough. What have you done today to prepare for it?

The Holy Spirit through Solomon warned often about it (*Proverbs 10:2; 11:4, 19; 12:28; 13:14; 14:12; Ecclesiastes 12:1-7*).

Jesus and Paul both taught the importance of making preparations (*Luke 16:1-9; 1Timothy 6:17-19*).

The wicked die very differently than the righteous. Which are you? How will you die? Many Proverbs show two parallel clauses are contrasted by the appositive "but." By comparing the two clauses, "driven away" is understood as death.

A wicked man, though confident in his wickedness, will be rooted out of the earth by death. But the righteous dies comfortably and with hope, for death is the door to something better.

The wicked are confident in life. They presume they will live forever (*Psalm 49:6-13*).

The worst thought to them is death, and they do all they can to ignore it and defer it. But God said, "*Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished*" (*Proverbs 11:21*).

There is no discharge in the war with death, and wickedness will not save a man from it (*Ecclesiastes 8:8*).

A certain rich man mused about his great prosperity, but the Lord took his soul away that night, in his musing (*Luke 12:16-20*).

The wicked, "*His remembrance shall perish from the earth, and he shall have no name in the street. He shall be driven from light into darkness, and chased out of the world*" (*Job 18:7-8*).

Reader, death happens quickly: "*Before your pots can feel the thorns, he shall take them away as with a whirlwind, both living, and in his wrath*" (*Psalm 58:9*).

And also, "*The rich man shall lie down, but he shall not be gathered: he openeth his eyes, and he is not. Terrors take hold on him as waters, a tempest stealeth him away in the night. The east wind carrieth him away, and he departeth: and as a storm hurleth him out of his place. For God shall cast upon him, and not spare: he would fain flee out of his hand. Men shall clap their hands at him, and shall hiss him out of his place*" (*Job 27:19-23*).

But the righteous has hope in dying, for he has evidence of eternal life (*Matthew 25:31-40; 2Peter 1:5-11; Revelation 14:13*).

The born-again know, that what we call death, is only the temporary sleep of the body of those who shall live forever (*Acts 7:60; 13:36*).

Their bodies simply wait in the grave for the great change of the resurrection (*Job 19:25-27; Psalms 49:15; 73:24*).

Death is a mercy to the righteous and they know it (*Isaiah 57:1-2*)!

The righteous consider it far better to depart from this life and to be with Christ (*Philippians 1:23*).

The righteous know their death is a blessed event and precious in the sight of the Lord (*Psalm 116:15; Revelation 14:13*).

The righteous can and do believe that the day of their death is better than the day of their birth (*Ecclesiastes 7:1*).

Reader, this is hope! Substantial hope! And it is the sole property of the righteous!

***Proverbs 14:33 Wisdom resteth in the heart of him that hath understanding: but that which is in the midst of fools is made known.***

There are two major differences between a wise man and a fool.

First, the heart of a wise man has understanding, but the heart of a fool is filled with stupidity.

Second, a wise man has the humility to keep his wisdom to himself, but the fool's confidence causes him to pour out the foolishness in his heart (*Proverbs 13:16; 15:2, 28; 29:11*).

### **It Is Wisdom And Modesty That Make A Great Man!**

### **The Combination Of Foolishness Pride Makes An Foolish Loser.**

Dissect the Proverb carefully. An understanding man, a man with discretion, knowledge, and prudence, keeps his wisdom resting in his heart. Maybe this is why the 13 defilements of in a man's heart are not manifested.

An understanding man, does not throw his opinion around every opportunity he gets.

An understanding man, does not mind being a listener. In fact, he would rather not speak unless asked or expected to do so.

An understanding man, is a man of few words, and you often have to work to get him to share his wisdom (*Proverbs 10:19; 15:28; 17:27; 20:5; Ecclesiastes 9:17*).

A fool wants to tell everyone his thoughts. His greatest joy is talking, for he believes he has great insights to offer (*Proverbs 18:2*).

Once a fool starts talking, he is difficult to stop. He keeps babbling, regardless of whether he knows the subject or not (*Ecclesiastes 10:12-14*).

A fool is filled with ignorance and stupidity, his pride and lack of discretion cause him to pour out the folly inside. He could improve his reputation just by closing his mouth (*Proverbs 17:28*)!

Reader, ask yourself two questions:

1. Do I have wisdom and understanding in my heart?
2. Do I keep it there until serious and sober men ask for it for noble reasons?

Your answers to these two questions will indicate clearly whether you are a great wise person or a fool.

In fact, better than your answers, what would others say about you? Do others perceive you to be wise and discreet? Or foolish and talkative?

What can you do about your heart? This book of Proverbs offers wisdom throughout (*Proverbs 1:1-6; 8:1-5; 9:4-6*).

This book of Proverbs tells the precise starting point, **The Fear Of God** (*Proverbs 1:7; 9:10*).

This book of Proverbs compares wise men and fools over and over, for you to choose the former and despise the latter.

This book of Proverbs continuously tells you wisdom is not far away! Change your life, and fill your heart with wisdom from heaven!

Wisdom, is the principal goal of a successful life (*Proverbs 4:7*). And it brings great rewards (*Proverbs 4:8*).

What can you do about your mouth? This book of Proverbs says much about your speech, because it is the primary indicator of your heart and affects others the most (*Proverbs 4:24; 10:32; 13:3; 14:7; 17:7; 18:7; 20:15; 22:11; 24:26*).

Reader, wisdom assumes that you can learn to have discreet, wise, and gracious speech (*Proverbs 15:28; 16:23; 22:17-18*).

Since the Lord Jesus Christ said you will be judged by your words in the Day of Judgment, it is time you applied, the Word of God, to yourself more diligently to perfect your heart and your speech (*Matthew 12:34-37; Psalms 19:14; 139:23-24*).

***Proverbs 14:34 Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.***

**America Appears Doomed  
As A Glorious Nation!**

If this Proverb is true! Much of the nation not only neglects righteousness, it despises it with scornful hatred.

America not only allows sin, it promotes it with rabid fervor. Unless America repents and returns to righteousness, she is doomed; for we know this Proverb is true! Let God be true, but every man a liar!

There are two possibilities why America still survives.

1. God is preserving her for the sake of the righteous and their prayers for her, as He would have spared Sodom for Lot's family (*Genesis 18:23-33*);
2. God is setting her up with the illusionary "prosperity of fools," before bringing her crashing down to hell (*Proverbs 1:32; Deuteronomy 32:15-25; Psalms 9:17; 50:21-23*).

God raised Pharaoh up high, but it was not a blessing! It was for the LORD, to have the highest monarch of the greatest nation of its day, to squash like a bug (*Exodus 9:16; Romans 9:17*)!

Of course, most Americans do not accept or understand this profound truth from the Bible.

A nation is exalted when it is lifted up, when it is raised in rank, honor, estimation, power, or wealth.

A nation is reproached when it is censured, discredited, rejected, or shamed for its faults.

The masses once teemed to these shores for noble and virtuous reasons. The praises of America were sung far and wide as the golden land of dreams and opportunity.

Reader what was once the joy and hope of nations is fast becoming a byword! How great is a nation in debt by multiple trillions, with debt growing by billions daily?

How noble is a nation where more money is spent on pets than missions? How virtuous is one calling two men a marriage? And two women and a baby a family?

How free are a people where unborn children, though screaming for mercy, are chased across the womb, and pulled apart in pieces by a suction wand, all for a mother's irresponsible pleasure and a doctor's fee, and salable body parts?

What kind of culture allows a young female to paint her crew cut, purple, use white eye shadow, wear studs in her tongue and other body parts, dress in black leather and chains, listen to anarchic music and lyrics, and walk her lover in public places on a leash? That isn't freedom!

That's insanity! That isn't personal taste! That's rebellion against God and authority! She doesn't have rights! She has responsibilities, to God!

The wickedness of the seven nations of Canaan, which wasn't much worse than segments of America, caused God to say of them, "*And the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land itself vomiteth out her inhabitants*" (*Leviticus 18:25*).

God warned Israel the same thing could happen to them, "*Ye shall therefore keep all my statutes, and all my judgments, and do them: that the land, whither I*

*bring you to dwell therein, spue you not out" (Leviticus 20:22).*

Why is America declining? Adam Smith, who in 1776 wrote "An Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations," did not know. But Solomon, the wisest king and political analyst who ever lived, did know.

Reader, here inspired wisdom from God: righteousness makes a nation great; sin destroys and shames nations.

No New Deal can circumvent this old Proverb! No president or executive action will stave off our decline. No legislation can patch this sinking ship. No court order will stay the hand of the Most High.

Unless America repents, she is going down, down, down! More money for education, legislation reforming prisons, or Nike sponsoring basketball tournaments in the ghetto will roll this snowball back up the hill (*Proverbs 19:21; 21:30*)!

Political and social projects are vanity and a waste. They miss the problem. They have accomplished nothing of value, they actually cause further damage by distracting men from the real cure to a charade!

Reader, as long as man hopes in man, there will be no hope of slowing the decay, for there is no hope in man! Only God and righteousness can save us!

How do we measure the exaltation or reproach of a nation? America was once great like Israel was great under Moses, David, and Solomon. Both nations were known for wisdom, justice, peace, morality, witty inventions, riches, strength, honor, good government, excellent laws, and God's presence (*Proverbs 8:12-21*).

But as Israel became a reproach, so are we. Now we are known for folly, crime, fear, excess, conflict, debt, poverty, weakness, bureaucratic government, legal confusion, and decayed spirituality.

What causes the exaltation or reproach of a nation? It is when a nation fears God and keeps His Word, then that nation will be exalted quickly and surely, for they are following the only manual for public and private wisdom in the universe.

When a nation allows and promotes sin, it will become a disgrace and shame; for sin by definition is the choice of perversity over propriety (*Deuteronomy 4:5-8*).

The explanation is simple. God declared, *"The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God" (Psalm 9:17).*

### **Is America Righteous Or Sinful?**

Prayer and the Ten Commandments are outlawed in most public places; but sodomy, the Koran, and Harry

Potter are defended and promoted. Mein Kampf and The Origin of Species are more popular than the Bible in public schools!

The nation allows and defends labor unions, evolution, same sex marriages, murdering over a million babies each year, witchcraft, lewd entertainment promoting anarchy and fornication, rebellious children, lesbian pastors, chaotic music, no fault divorces, etc.

The nation's Christianity has for the most part sunk to the major degradation levels that Paul warned Timothy against (*2Timothy 3:1 - 4:4*).

Americans are in love with themselves, unholy, despisers of those who are good, love pleasure more than God, have a mere form of godliness, emphasize silly women, and have chosen entertainment and fables over sound doctrine.

What is the cure? Repudiation of wickedness, repentance for sin, revival of hearts, reformation of conduct, and restoration of God's Word as final authority!

We certainly do not need man defined better schools, economic reform, more teachers, anything from the NEA, more freedom, more pleasure, UNICEF, more shelters for stray animals, or other such ridiculous ideas.

Reader, what are you doing to preserve our nation?

Your duties are to live righteously, and thus contend with the wicked (*Proverbs 28:4*).

Pray for our nation (*Jeremiah 29:7*).

Hold the line in all areas of moral decay and decline that are rampant in our country (*Ezekiel 22:30*).

As the Lord agreed to save Sodom for Lot's righteous family, holy living and praying saints could prolong the tranquility of the nation (*1Timothy 2:1-3; Daniel 4:27*).

But rather than singing "God Bless America," as **If** God owes us a blessing in spite of our sins; We must return to the only wisdom in the universe: our Creator's will declared in the Holy Scriptures.

We must hold the line at Word of God only, the strait gate and narrow way of Jesus Christ, without following the wicked to hell, just one or two steps behind them!

### **Restrained Compromise Is Not Righteousness It Is Presumptuous Sin!**

Is there long-term hope for America? Maybe, **If** America turns and repents, deeply and quickly. God told Solomon, *"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear*

from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land" (**2Chronicles 7:14**).

But even Israel went so far as to forfeit deliverance, no matter who would have been praying for her (**Jeremiah 15:1; Ezekiel 14:14**)! See the comments on **Proverbs 1:26; 29:1**.

Is there long-term hope for America? Definitely not, **If** she refuses to repent, as we have entered the final phase of human history.

America is not important enough to warrant any known prophetic place in Scripture, but the Word of God does not paint a pretty picture of renewal and revival in these last times.

In fact, Satan is being loosed for things to get even worse; but the Lord Jesus Christ will soon come to destroy the wicked and save His own (**2Thessalonians 1:5-10; 1Timothy 6:13-16; Revelation 20:7-15**).

Until that glorious event, that saints long for, with expectant hearts, the Holy Spirit has by grace made us a peculiar people and citizens of a holy nation, to "*shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light*" (**1Peter 2:9**).

We are members of Jesus Christ's Spiritual Kingdom, which is not of this world (**John 8:23; 18:36**).

Let us serve our King as perfectly as possible and look for His glorious coming (**Titus 2:11-15**).

The Psalmist knew there was hope for the righteous, **If** they would separate from the wicked. He wrote, "*Rid me, and deliver me from the hand of strange children, whose mouth speaketh vanity, and their right hand is a right hand of falsehood: That our sons may be as plants grown up in their youth; that our daughters may be as corner stones, polished after the similitude of a palace: That our garners may be full, affording all manner of store: that our sheep may bring forth thousands and ten thousands in our streets: That our oxen may be strong to labour; that there be no breaking in, nor going out; that there be no complaining in our streets. Happy is that people, that is in such a case: yea, happy is that people, whose God is the LORD*" (**Psalms 144:11-15**).

**Proverbs 14:35 The king's favour is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causeth shame.**

#### **Discrimination Is Very Rare If A Man Is Wise!**

Here is a general rule that exalts wisdom and condemns folly. Though the difference between a king and servant is very great, wise conduct will earn the king's favor and foolish conduct will bring his wrath.

It is not a dislike of servants that brings the king's wrath; it is the shameful folly of the servant. A king is very happy to favor and promote a servant, if he shows himself wise.

#### **We Live In The Heyday Of Irresponsibility!**

No one wants to be accountable for their actions! They want to excuse themselves and blame others. They refuse responsibility for their own failures. They expect much for little effort.

They blame and condemn others, **If** they are not rewarded highly and quickly.

Women use their sex as an excuse, blacks their color, the old their age, and the young their age. Hispanics, the handicapped, American Indians, and many others want to blame uncontrollable factors for their status in life.

So there is complaining about sexual, racial, age, and religious discrimination among other excuses. But the real problem 99% of the time is the incompetence, foolishness, slothfulness, individual bellyaching.

Reader, this Proverb contains a rule. Wise conduct will bring promotion, no matter how great the difference between the one promoting and the one promoted.

There is far less discrimination of sex, race, and age; and far more discrimination of character and conduct, than people want to admit. And discrimination of character and conduct is good.

**If** a man is gracious with a pure heart, the king will be his friend (**Proverbs 22:11**).

Leadership rewards those who fulfill their duties; they only punish the slothful (**Matthew 24:45-51**).

Leadership does not typically or arbitrarily punish the faithful and reward the slothful. A wise servant can be promoted over a shameful son and participate in the inheritance (**Proverbs 17:2**).

Character and conduct are the keys to promotion or punishment, you choose either one as your reward (*Proverbs 9:12; Galatians 6:3-5*).

Reader, don't blame discrimination or fate.

Performance carries far more weight than preference, character far more than chance, and conduct far more than coincidence. Your situation in life is what you have made it.

Don't let anything deter you from your course with the Lord or man. Every man shall give an account of himself soon.

Don't be intimidated by the Lord we serve and bury your talent in the ground, for He is an austere and expects to receive a return on His investment, even **If** it was only one talent.

He rewards and punishes with perfect justice.