

CHAPTER 29

Proverbs 29:1 *He, that being often reprov'd hardeneth his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.*

The LORD is patient and longsuffering. He is gracious and merciful. But He is not so forever!

The man rejecting His many offers of wisdom and correction will be destroyed without warning.

There will be no recovery from this judgment. Rebellion and stubbornness are heinous sins against God, and He will not overlook them.

Here is one of the most frightening warnings in Scripture, for those who play with sin and rebel against reproof.

Wise readers will read, consider, and remember this grave description of how God deals with scorners. This text ought to be in every church bulletin and on the face of every pulpit, for rejecting preaching and Scripture is horribly serious! Parents sometimes say, "Don't make me say it again." And so does the LORD!

God Reproves By Various Means:

- Parents,
- Friends,
- Magistrates,
- Ministers,
- Conscience,
- Scripture,
- The Holy Spirit,
- Circumstances, and
- Nature.

By many reproofs, God is fair and kind. But many harden their neck, and rebel, by rejecting His correction outright or hearing it without changing (**2Kings 17:14; Nehemiah 9:16, 29**).

By despising God's fairness and kindness, men deserve the severe judgment He sends, for it is a brutish error (**Proverbs 5:12; 10:17; 12:1**).

The LORD will come in His timing to punish such men. No matter what efforts they make for protection, or how highly others esteem them, He will crush and destroy them (**Proverbs 6:12-15; 28:18; Isaiah 30:12-14; Zechariah 7:11-14; 1Thessalonians 5:2-3**).

And the ruin of their lives will be without healing or recovery. Ultimately, God will laugh (**Proverbs 1:22-31**). See the notes on **Proverbs 1:26**.

God turned Lot's life upside down with pregnant daughters for daily ignoring his vexed soul.

In this day of effeminate and carnal Christianity, this warning falls on deaf ears. They have created a god to their own liking who is "watching from a distance" and overlooks their sins (**Psalms 50:21**).

But what does He say? *"Now consider this, ye that forget God, lest I tear you in pieces, and there be none to deliver"* (**Psalms 50:22**).

Rebellion and stubbornness are heinous sins, regardless of outward worship. The LORD counts rebellion as witchcraft, and stubbornness as idolatry and iniquity. Careful listening and obedience are far more important than formal service. Because Saul rejected God's reproofs, He ripped the kingdom from him irretrievably. (**1Samuel 15:22-23**)

When God saw man's great wickedness 1536 years after Creation, He sent Noah to preach and warn them for 120 years (**Genesis 6:1-7**).

When they rejected that kindness, He suffocated every single one, young and old, in the waters of the Flood (**Genesis 7:21-24**).

Consider: Pharaoh, who hardened his neck against Moses' reproofs. The LORD despised Egypt and desolated their nation from every angle! Suddenly their firstborn were dead and Pharaoh suffocated at sea!

Eli's sons rejected their father's rebukes, so the LORD killed them both in one day!

Judas hardened his neck against the most gracious reprover ever, and he scattered his own bowels in an open field on his way to an eternity in hell!

Ahab, king of Israel, married the wicked Jezebel, who stirred him up to do evil. They both rejected the reproofs of Elijah. (**1Kings 21:25**)

Ahab, though disguised and in armor, was killed by a chance arrow (**1Kings 22:34-35**).

God had Jezebel thrown from an upper window, trampled by a horse, and eaten by dogs (**2Kings 9:30-37**).

God saw Nebuchadnezzar's great pride and wickedness, so He sent Daniel and his friends with warning reproofs (**Daniel 1:17-20; 2:24-30, 46-48; 3:24-30; 4:19-27**).

But when the great king rebelled, He reduced him to an animal for seven years (**Daniel 4:28-33**).

Nebuchadnezzar could have had a lengthening of his tranquility, but he chose to harden his neck! Only by exceptional mercy did Nebuchadnezzar's humility remedy the situation (**Daniel 4:34-37**).

God loved His people Israel. But when they had mocked: His messengers despised His Words, and misused His prophets, His wrath against them rose until there was no remedy (*2Chronicles 36:15-17*).

He sent Nebuchadnezzar with the Babylonian armies to utterly destroy them without regard for young, or old, or females. Consider this well!

In mercy, God gave Israel another chance 70 years later, when He blessed their re-gathering to Jerusalem.

But again they rejected, His prophets, apostles, and then His blessed Son; so the Roman armies were sent to obliterate them by indescribable atrocities!

Yet He had warned by His Word in Daniel and other prophets for forty years before doing it (*Matthew 21:33-46; Luke 19:41-44; Acts 2:40*).

The Church at Thyratira allowed a false prophetess named Jezebel to compromise the purity of the gospel (*Revelation 2:20*).

The Lord Jesus Christ gave her only "a space of time to repent," then He purposed to destroy her and her followers with death (*Revelation 2:21-23*).

Are you in your "space of time" for some sin for which you have been often reproved?

If you are froward, difficult or rebellious, the LORD will treat you the same way. *"With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself froward"* (*Psalms 18:26*).

God *"repayeth them that hate him to their face, to destroy them: he will not be slack to him that hateth him, he will repay him to his face"* (*Deuteronomy 7:10*).

Do You Hear Preaching?

God does not owe any man truth or wisdom. **If** you neglect or reject correction, He will judge you severely. See the comments on *Proverbs 1:26 and 28:9*.

One of the basic lessons of Proverbs is to humbly receive instruction, lest you be classified and judged as a scorner. See the comments on *Proverbs 9:12; 13:1; 15:12; 21:29; and 28:14*.

To refuse instruction is to despise your own soul: You deprive yourself of the best thing in life and bring destruction upon yourself. What folly! (*Proverbs 15:32*)

You sin against the correction and instruction of wisdom, you wrong your own soul and you hate reproof, you must love death. For God is coming! What folly! (*Proverbs 8:36*)

What sin in your life has been often reproved? Has it been preached against? Has your conscience smitten you? Have others warned you? Have you been reminded of it from others sources and by other means?

The clock is ticking. The longsuffering of God is expiring. Judgment is coming. Flee! Repent! Today! Before it is irremediably too late!

Daniel said it well to Nebuchadnezzar. But the king refused the mercy and brought upon himself horrible judgment. *"Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquility"* (*Daniel 4:27*)

There Is No Hiding From God! All the thoughts and intents of your heart, and your secret sins, are naked and opened to Him (*Hebrews 4:12-13*).

"Be sure your sin will find you out" (*Numbers 32:23*)!

Humble yourself before Him today! *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap"* (*Galatians 6:7*).

Jesus is LORD of all! He may be your Savior; but He is your LORD! Every tongue shall confess He is LORD in the Day of Judgment (*Philippians 2:9-11*).

Our Lord has the keys of hell and death (*Revelation 1:18*).

Our Lord opens, no man shuts; when He shuts, no man opens (*Revelation 3:7*).

If you are resisting His warnings to give up any sin, you face dreadful consequences. He breaks His enemies into shivers, small fragments, as a rod of iron shatters pottery (*Psalms 2:9; Revelation 2:27*).

God will laugh at them and have them in derision (*Psalms 2:4*)!

If a man will hear His teaching and fall on Him in repentance, he will be forgiven; but **If** He must fall on a rebellious man, He will grind that man to powder (*Matthew 21:44*)!

Proverbs 29:2 *When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.*

It is time to mourn in all nations, for wicked men are ruling and turning God's wisdom upside down.

How can God's saints rejoice, when they see equity, righteousness, truth, and wisdom compromised and corrupted on a daily basis?

King Solomon, writing to his son as a future king of Israel, made this observation and rule about political policy. The good people of any nation are seriously affected by the morality of their rulers.

The Proverb does not apply to all men: the wicked love wicked rulers, for they promote and protect their sins.

Many nations have loved and do love atheistic and profane rulers. The people of this Proverb are God's saints, especially those of Israel.

Solomon taught his son godly motivation by looking out for noble citizens and honoring them.

Many nations have never had a righteous ruler, so they never had this reason to rejoice. However, even in nations that did not know better, even where there were few saints living, a considerate king that protected and provided for his people was a joyful thing.

Violent tyrants, such as Herod the Great, who slew the children under two years old around Bethlehem, caused great mourning among even the most calloused people (*Matthew 2:16-18*).

This Political Observation Is True!

When King Ahasuerus promoted Haman in Persia, the capital city of Shushan was perplexed at the rise of that wicked man (*Esther 3:15*).

But when righteous Mordecai replaced him, it rejoiced and was glad (*Esther 8:15*).

Israel rejoiced when Solomon took the throne, but they rebelled when his son Rehoboam succeeded him.

America enters the 21st Century appearing to be a Christian nation under righteous rulers. But God's saints mourn, because the wicked rule!

Wicked Leaders Protect:

- Infanticide,
- Child rebellion,
- Pornography,
- Labor rebellion,
- Sodomy,
- Islamic moon worship,
- Adultery,
- Evolution,
- Foolish divorces,
- National indebtedness, and

- Lascivious entertainment. Saying or singing, "God Bless America," does not prove anything but ignorance or hypocrisy.

David cried rivers of waters, when he saw men turning from God's law (*Psalms 119:136*).

But there is a day coming in which the Son of David will put down all authority and reign supreme in righteousness under God (*2Samuel 23:1-7; Psalm 45:1-7; Isaiah 9:6-7; Jeremiah 23:5-6*).

What are the lessons? There is no cause for political joy in any nation today (*Psalms 9:17; 33:12; 144:15*).

Let all in authority be righteous, even fathers, for the example and joy of their subjects (*Colossians 3:21; 1Timothy 4:12, 16*).

Let all saints pray for their nation and rulers, for peace is possible, even in the midst of a Babylon (*Jeremiah 29:4-7; 1Timothy 2:1-2*).

Proverbs 29:3 Whoso loveth wisdom rejoiceth his father: but he that keepeth company with harlots spendeth his substance.

A man's desire and love for wisdom will be apparent in practicing wisdom. Wisdom may be applied to gospel wisdom, Christ the Wisdom of God, (*1Corinthians 1:19-21, 24*).

Knowledge is nothing more than a collection of facts. Knowledge may be only theoretical, but wisdom is always practical, and one must desire and love wisdom before he will put it into practice.

Solomon has already warned of the folly of going in unto strange women, (*Proverbs 2:10, 16; 5:3-10; 6:23-26; 7:1-5*).

He who keeps company with harlots is dominated by his fleshly lusts. There is an evident contrast, between him who desires and loves wisdom, and him who lusts after harlots.

These facts are important to know for this Proverb:

- **Wisdom** – Is the power of right judgment.
- **Lust** – Is any desire out of the perfect will of God

In the early chapters of Proverbs we saw the warnings about young men involving themselves with harlots. The son who avoids these situations and lives his life in wisdom is one who causes his father to rejoice, because he knows, that his son has his mind on other more productive and profitable things, which means that he can be trusted.

The one who keeps company with the harlots and the lifestyle which accompanies it, and that may include drugs, drinking and gambling, is one who will not only spend what he owns, but may begin to take from the family money, and also must lie to keep up his lifestyle.

Consider this passage: (*Proverbs 28:24 Whoso robbeth his father or his mother, and saith, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.*)!

We saw this, that there may be some who steal from their parents and not call it a transgression. This person does not see it as stealing because he is blinded to his own sins that he keeps feeding and not forsaking.

**Those That Live This Lifestyle
Are Those Who Retire With Nothing
Because They Do Not Prepare.**

Our text verse talks of different kinds of sons and the consequences: A son's conduct has effect upon his parents: (*Proverbs 10:1; 27:11*).

A son's wasted substance with riotous living. (*Proverbs 6:26; Luke 16:13*).

But according to his elder brother, he spent it on "harlots" (*Luke 15:30*).

A parental life, is a life of sympathies and concerns, only parents alone can understand and appreciate.

**A Man Must Be A Parent
In Order To Interpret A Parent**

Proverbs 29:4 The king by judgment establisheth the land: but he that receiveth gifts overthroweth it.

A nation's prosperity and security depends on righteous leaders, who prudently make decisions by wisdom and equity.

A nation's downfall and ruin is certain, when its leaders are influenced by favors and rewards.

Solomon warned his son against political compromise in the office of king, especially the taking of bribes, lest he be the cause of the nation's destruction.

Heed This Proverb To Lead Righteously

Rulers must have exceptional character, or they do not belong in their office. They should be so dedicated to principle that they cannot be bought for any price.

Rulers character must be so strong, as to mock any efforts to compromise justice, mercy, or truth.

Rulers should be noble far above their peers, with a fearless and committed hatred of evil.

Rulers must have one motive at all times, to make all decisions based on righteousness and wisdom.

**The Fear Of The LORD
The Only Basis For Great Leadership!**

The ruler must have an obligation to righteousness far above any duty or desire to men.

The fear of man brings a snare. Neither temptation touches great rulers. And so does the love of gifts (*Proverbs 29:25; Isaiah 1:23*).

Great leaders see one singular duty at all times, to rule in such a way as to please God!

Jethro, by God's inspiration, prescribed such rulers for Moses. He laid out their prerequisites this way: *"Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens"* (*Exodus 18:21*).

Able men need little assistance from others: they can analyze and make wise decisions themselves.

Men fearing God have the highest motive to use their power only for good.

Men of truth hate liars and any distortion of the truth. They never put a spin on anything.

Men hating covetousness cannot be bought, for they do not love money or reward.

Such men are exceeding rare, with only Jesus Christ being a perfect king (*Psalms 45:1-7*).

Though David was a good king, he freely confessed that neither he nor his family had such rulers. He prophesied of Jesus, *"The God of Israel said, the Rock of Israel spake to me, He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God"* (*2Samuel 23:3*).

The fruit of such a ruler is glorious, as David also wrote, *"And he shall be as the light of the morning, when the sun riseth, even a morning without clouds; as the tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain"* (*2Samuel 23:4*).

These similes present, the glorious and prosperous image of how a just king benefits a people.

**It Is A Shame
That Lobbyists Even Exist.**

A lobbyist function is to influence legislators to rule in their favor, sometimes by offering them gifts or other compensation.

It is a shame, when we see presidents pardon criminals, as favors to friends or supporters.

It is a shame, when we see any conflict of interest, influence the decisions of our leaders.

If a ruler respects persons, he will eventually compromise justice for a mere piece of bread (*Proverbs 28:21*).

The lesson applies to all leaders. Righteousness and truth are more important than anything else.

Masters (employers) must be just and fair dealing with employees (*Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 3:16*).

Ministers are forbidden any preferential treatment or partiality in their office, and their integrity should be proven before being put in office (*1Timothy 3:10; 5:21*).

Husbands and fathers should also be fair (*Psalms 103:13; Malachi 2:10-16; Colossians 3:19-21; 1Peter 3:7*).

When sound judgment, equity, and truth are exalted in the highest position of authority in a nation, the king or other civil ruler, their righteous example affects the whole nation.

Masters, fathers, husbands, and pastors will follow the lead of their chief ruler.

Wisdom will prevail in public and private, when a noble example is given from the highest office in the land.

It is the duty of saints to pray for rulers, that God might strengthen or overrule their character to be righteous leaders (*1Samuel 10:1-12; Nehemiah 2:1-6; Esther 4:13-17; Jeremiah 29:1-7; 1Timothy 2:1-3*).

A ruler violating this Proverb does not lose his authority, for he is still to be obeyed (*Proverbs 24:21-22; Jeremiah 27:1-17; Matthew 22:15-22; 23:1-3; Romans 13:1-7; 1Peter 2:13-17*).

Proverbs 29:5 A man that flattereth his neighbour spreadeth a net for his feet.

Flattery Is Pleasant To Receive.

Flattery strokes your pride and rewards your ego. But it closes your eyes to the character or intentions of the giver. You cannot see the trap being set.

Flattery is also pleasant to give. It causes a positive and warm response from most hearers. But the false

feelings you give others is sin in the sight of God and noble men.

Flattery is false, insincere, or excessive praise used to gratify the vanity or self-esteem of a person.

Flattery is sucking up to persons, exaggerating their good features, and ignoring their faults.

Men flatter others to obtain undeserved favor or otherwise serve their own purposes (*Daniel 11:21, 32, 34*).

Self-esteem and pride, are vulnerable traits of carnal Christians in these perilous times, are sinful symptoms of man's depraved heart (*2Timothy 3:1-2*).

Flattery is a sin in the sight of God and good men.

Flattery is lying speech, for it is either not true and/or insincerely given (*Psalms 12:2-3; 36:2; 78:36; Ezekiel 12:24*).

Flattery is praise with a deceitful motive

Flattery is a profane and perverse thing: stay away from flatterers (*Proverbs 20:19*).

Flattery is also unfaithful and wicked use of speech that works ruin (*Proverbs 26:28; Psalm 5:9-10*).

Rebuke is actually far better, for it has the noble and profitable goal of helping others (*Proverbs 28:23*).

Flattery is dangerous both to giver and receiver.

Flattery is dangerous to the giver, because God will judge him for it, and he will be known as a lying suck up (*Job 17:5; Psalm 12:1-3*).

Flattery is dangerous to the receiver, for it can seduce him to do what he should not do, as in the case of a whorish woman (*Proverbs 2:16; 6:24; 7:5, 21*).

Young man, young lady, do not believe any romantic words from a person wanting you to sin.

Flattery is dangerous because believing flattery, no matter how much you desire it to be true, is conscious self-deception by an enemy! Despise it! (*Proverbs 26:24-25*)

Politicians, salesmen, and many of today's ministers are flatterers. Rather than present substance, facts, and truth, they present fawning, foaming, and empty praise, insincere friendliness, and vain promises of performance.

A wise man will recognize these common culprits, who crave your vote, your purchase, or your tithe. God's ministers do not flatter (*1Thessalonians 2:5*).

A wise man will not let men lie to him, even about his virtues (*Proverbs 14:15*)!

A wise man will avoid obvious traps being set, and he will avoid the pleasant self-deception of flattery.

A wise man will not flatter, for he knows it is a sin despised by God and good men (*Proverbs 6:16-19*).

If a wise man has a job involving clients, customers, patients, or church members, he will be very careful to deal with facts and reality. It is a temptation of our grinning, frivolous, superficial generation to flatter.

All men must guard their friendships and neighborly relationships, lest they use excessive or insincere praise.

Did you know that even flattering titles commonly used today are also condemned (*Job 32:21-22; Matthew 23:5-12*)?

Proverbs 29:6 In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous doth sing and rejoice.

What a Proverb! Some go through life falling into this trouble, and others go through life happily singing!

What makes the difference? Surely such wisdom is worth your time and attention! You can have a disastrous life with pain and problems, or you can have a wonderful life filled with joy and happiness. Which do you prefer?

An evil man chooses to transgress against a commandment of God.

An evil man wants to do things his own way. He has no regard or respect for the Word of God.

An evil man is in love with his own thoughts. He believes he can get away with his sin.

An evil man confidently rejects wisdom to choose the path of fools.

But he is deceived! For every sin has a snare! There is an unseen trap to punish him for rebellion against God.

Though evil man, did not see it when he chose to sin, the rusty claws of the trap, will suddenly spring shut on his life!

Then he will feel the painful results of a foolish choice. And he despises the only way out of the trap, full repentance! (*Psalms 36:2*)

A man marries, a beautiful woman who does not fear God. Is there a snare? He must live with an odious woman the rest of his life!

A woman defrauds her husband of daily sex. Is there a snare? She must live with a bitter husband the rest of her life.

A man discreetly visits a whore. Is there a snare? He contracts an STD!

A lazy father neglects child training. Is there a snare? A rebellious child crushes his heart and shames the family!

But the righteous man lives a holy life. He carefully lives in obedience to all God's commandments. He trembles before the Word of God, and he quickly confesses any sins; and his merciful Father restores his spirit.

A righteous man's conscience is pure and confident. His soul is full of pleasure now and with great hope for the future. He sings with joy!

Pleasure is the fruit of holiness. The holy life is safe from harm, free from guilt, free from trouble. There are no snares in doing right, no vexing remorse or painful consequences. There is no smitten conscience or hypocritical quandary.

The righteous man has a feast every day! And he knows even greater blessings are coming at death! (*Proverbs 3:17; 15:15*)

Ah, reader! Do you understand this? Have you seen troubled and painful lives? Have you been troubled yourself?

You know it is your fault! You chose to transgress, and the snare of sin caught you!

There is a snare in every sin! Stop sinning, and you can recover your tranquility (*Proverbs 11:6; 12:13*).

Where are you cheating the Lord? The trap is ready to spring! Let the righteous man joyfully sing, for his life is blessed and his future even better!

Proverbs 29:7 The righteous considereth the cause of the poor: but the wicked regardeth not to know it.

**Ignorance Is Not Bliss
Nor Is It An Excuse**

Wicked men do not think about the poor or make any effort to know their situations or troubles. But a righteous man considers the poor and explores their

circumstances to learn what they need and how he can help.

Ignorance is not bliss, nor is an excuse, in this matter, for God will punish the selfish man that neglects to think about the poor and take care of them (*Proverbs 21:13; 28:27*).

Selfish and stingy persons, who are the wicked of this Proverb, do not think or care about the poor.

Wicked men are so obsessed with their own worthless lives that there is no room in their mind or heart for others, even when those others, are in need or in trouble.

If you confront them, they say: "I did not want to pry into their personal business," or, "I mind my own business, as you should," or, "I did not know they were having such difficulties," or, "I cannot afford to help anyone else, because I do not have many luxuries myself."

Consider Job. The blessed God bragged to the devil that Job was a perfect and upright man (*Job 1:1-8*).

Did Job think about the poor? Did he inquire about the poor to know when help was needed? Job said, "*I was a father to the poor: and the cause which I knew not I searched out*" (*Job 29:16*). Amen!

Job also said, "*I delivered the poor that cried, and the fatherless, and him that had none to help him. The blessing of him that was ready to perish came upon me: and I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy*" (*Job 29:12-13*).

Pure religion is thinking and doing for the poor (*Proverbs 14:31; 17:5; Psalm 112:9; Luke 19:8-9; James 1:27; 1John 3:16-19*).

God does not care about your fasting, church attendance, Bible reading, or tithes, if you ignore or neglect the poor (*Isaiah 1:10-20; 58:3-7; Matthew 23:23*).

God measures religion where it counts, in the heart and by your wallet!

How much have you thought about the poor? Have you felt their pain? Have you asked about their needs? What have you done about it? Have you responded with labor or money? How much?

Financial success depends on giving to the poor: even though wicked men do not give, because they greedily think that is how they will get ahead!

Wicked men are blind! You cannot become poor by giving to the poor, for the Lord will repay in abundance, even beyond what you give! Consider it

well (*Proverbs 11:24-26; 19:17; 22:9; 28:8; Luke 6:38; 2Corinthians 9:6-11*)!

Poor saints are your primary duty (*Deuteronomy 15:7-11; Acts 2:42-45; 4:34-37; 6:1-7; 11:27-30; Romans 15:25-27; 1Corinthians 16:1; 2Corinthians 9:1-2*).

The only pagan poor you are bound to consider are those God brings directly in your path in a crisis (*Luke 10:25-37*).

Only those of both types who are doing all they can for themselves are worthy. When you give to the Christian poor, there are two other bonuses to consider.

Jesus Christ will remember your charity in the Day of Judgment, and Some have entertained angels (*Matthew 10:41-42; 25:31-46*) unawares (*Hebrews 13:2; Genesis 18:1-8; 19:1-3; Judges 13:2-23*).

If you are a woman, there is another reason for charity.

If you are ever widowed, a true church will fully support you (*1Timothy 5:3-16; Acts 6:1-6*).

The qualifications for this special class of widows include a great reputation for diligence in good works, including the lodging of strangers and relief of the afflicted (*1Timothy 5:10; Proverbs 31:20; Acts 9:36-43*).

You can be fully vested in God's retirement plan by investing in good works for others!

Empathy is feeling with and for others. Paul wrote, "*Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body*" (*Hebrews 13:3*).

Empathy is practicing the golden rule from your heart and mind (*Luke 6:31*).

God's law required empathy with generosity, which Job practiced (*Job 31:16-22; Exodus 22:21-27; Deuteronomy 15:7-11; 24:12-22; Psalm 41:1*).

Be Considerate Of Others In Need?

How tender is your heart, and how wide do you open your hand to help them (*Deuteronomy 15:7-11*)?

King Lemuel's mother taught him to intervene for the poor, and she taught him to only marry a woman with the same kind of heart (*Proverbs 31:8-9, 20*).

A great measure of noble character is a person's eagerness to help others in trouble.

This wisdom is not only for the Old Testament: it is also required in the New Testament (*Romans 12:13*).

Your own happiness and blessings are dependent on how you treat the poor (*Proverbs 14:21; Psalm 41:1-3; Acts 20:35*).

What will you do about this Proverb? Despise it? Forget it? Whom should you be thinking about right now?

Whom will you have to your house for a meal, or take out to eat, next? Those who can repay in some way, or those who cannot (*Luke 14:12-14*)?

Whom will you give worthless and cruel lip service (*James 2:15-16*)!

The omniscient God is watching your heart, mind, and wallet (*Proverbs 15:3; Hebrews 4:12-13*)!

True love that proves eternal life performs, like the Lord Jesus Christ performed mightily for you (*1John 3:14-19; 2Corinthians 8:9; 9:15*)!

Proverbs 29:8 Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath.

Scorners Are Dangerous

Scorners are dangerous to themselves and they are dangerous to those near them.

By arrogant conceit and willful rebellion, scorners provoke the wrath of both God and men.

But wise men, by humility and discretion, pacify the anger of God and men to maintain or restore peace and tranquility.

Wise men will carefully avoid and reject scorners.

Wise men will instead be peacemakers, with both God and men (*Proverbs 22:10; Ezekiel 22:30; James 3:17-18*).

Scorners are arrogant fools. A fool is a man without wisdom or the desire for it. He is ignorant, lazy, and stubborn.

A fool is bad enough, but a scorner is worse! A scorner is a conceited fool. (*Proverbs 26:12; 29:20*)

A scorner is so puffed up in pride he despises teachers;

A scorner is so profanely belligerent he welcomes fights. He is filled with resentment against any correction or opposition (*Proverbs 9:7-8; 21:24*).

Men by nature are hateful, malicious, and selfish. A small offence can start a battle. (*Titus 3:3*)

If no wise man, is present to turn away wrath, with soft words, then fighting will likely follow (*Proverbs 15:1*).

If a scorner is present, his arrogant and offensive manners and words, will escalate the smallest differences into unnecessary and violent conflict (*Proverbs 15:1*).

When Gideon and his three hundred men were pursuing the Midianites, he called on the cities of Succoth and Penuel, for food for his famished troops.

They scornfully mocked him as being too small to defeat Midian. So when he was done securing the total victory, he returned and severely punished the scorners of those two cities (*Judges 8:4-18*).

The men of Jabesh offered to be servants to Nahash, king of the Ammonites. But he scornfully demanded to put out the right eyes of their men. What an inflammatory request! These are called fighting words!

The previously submissive men of Jabesh raised an army from Israel and thoroughly defeated Nahash and his people (*1Samuel 11:1-11*).

One lesson from this Proverb was not enough for the nation of Ammon! Later, their King Hanun scornfully treated ambassadors from David, so he sent Joab and Abishai with his mighty men to destroy them.

Though David and Hanun's father had enjoyed a good relationship, Hanun's scornful spirit cost him a crushing military defeat (*2Samuel 10:1-14; 12:26-31*).

However, a wise man or woman can save a city from wrath. The scorner Sheba, who rejected David's restoration to the throne after Absalom's revolt, was holed up in the city of Abel.

Joab explained the reason for his great army surrounding the city, and a wise woman cut the scorner's head off and sent Joab away peacefully (*2Samuel 20:1-22*).

Consider how the town clerk of Ephesus subdued a riot in his city by discreet and prudent words (*Acts 19:23-41*).

Though Demetrius had inflamed an angry mob with his violent rhetoric, a wise man was able to save the city from either self-destruction or the Romans.

The examples so far deal with the wrath of men against a city, but scorners also bring the wrath of God.

Scornful kings like Manasseh brought great wrath on Israel (*2Kings 21:9-15; 23:26-27; 2Chronicles 36:16-17; Isaiah 28:14-22; Jeremiah 36:23-32*).

But humility and submission, wise kings brought God's mercy and deferred His anger (*2Kings 22:11-20; Jonah 3:5-10*).

The Scriptures are filled, with examples of wise men, that discreetly and prudently turned away God's wrath from His people.

Consider Moses, Aaron, Phinehas, Elijah, Amos, Job, Daniel, Samuel, and Noah among others.

Rather than scornfully responding to judgment from God, they humbly besought His mercy and delivered those with them.

This warning applies to families and churches, as well as to cities.

A scorner in a family or church brings it under the wrath of God or men by arrogant rebellion. It is the duty of parents and pastors to expose, punish, and reject scorners (**Proverbs 19:25, 29; 21:11; 24:9**).

When a scorner is identified and cast out, contention, strife, and reproach will end (**Proverbs 22:10**)!

Since scorners first show themselves at home, parents must punish: words, attitudes, or expressions that reveal this poison in the heart (**Exodus 21:15, 17; Deuteronomy 27:16; 30:17**).

The flippant, irreverent attitudes allowed today in most homes cannot be tolerated. The haughty and profane disregard for authority or correction must be totally eliminated.

It is by kissing the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, that wrath is diverted (**Psalms 2:12**)!

But the wicked Jews scornfully defied our Lord, which led, to the utter destruction of their nation (**Matthew 21:33-46; 22:1-7; 23:34-39; 1Thessalonians 2:14-16**).

They derided and mocked the Lord, which brought on their city the greatest tribulation ever (**Luke 19:41-44; 21:20-22**).

What about you? Are you a scorner or a wise man?

Do you humble yourself before God or do you provoke Him? Will you scorn the warning of Paul, "**If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha**" (**1Corinthians 16:22**)!

Do you live peacefully, with all men as much as you are able, or do you have bitter envying and strife in your heart and life (**Romans 12:18; James 3:14-16**)?

Be Sure Your Sin Will Find You Out!

Proverbs 29:9 *If a wise man contendeth with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.*

Fools Are Hopeless!

Fools are a pain! No matter what methods you use: they cannot and will not learn wisdom. They are incorrigibly foolish, rebelliously wicked, and stubbornly conceited.

Thus, from anger to humor, nothing will change a fools depraved heart.

There is only one physician for this disease, only one counselor for these lunatics.

What is a fool? A fool denies the existence of God, in words or actions (**Psalms 14:1**).

A fool trusts his own heart, and despises correction, reject instruction. (**Proverbs 15:5; 28:26**)

A fool hates wisdom and loves folly. He is not merely foolish; he has been given over to folly. He thinks, speaks, and acts contrary to wisdom and convention. He is in love with himself.

You Will Meet A Fool At Sometime

Solomon here prepared his son for these frustrating encounters. Rather than fall into despair over helping them, Solomon warned that there are no methods, known to man, to change these corrupt persons.

If the Lord does not change a fools perverse heart, he will sink into hell with it (**Proverbs 20:12; 2Timothy 2:24-26**).

You cannot reason with fools: They are unreasonable, they have no faith (**2Thessalonians 3:2**).

Fools do not seek the living God (**Hebrews 11:6**).

Fools are incorrigible (**Proverbs 27:22**).

Fools may know and recite Scripture or doctrine, but it means nothing. The Lord will reject many accomplished Pharisees and preachers in the Day of Judgment (**Matthew 7:21-23**).

Intimidation and threats will not teach a fool, neither will friendship and humor.

You will be frustrated! There is no rest! Fools love being fools, they love their folly, and you will not change them.

So the wise thing to do is get away from them, as Solomon, Jesus, and Paul agreed. Stay away from them! (**Proverbs 9:6; 13:20; 14:7; 26:4-5; Matthew 7:6; 1Corinthians 15:33**).

What a great horror it is, to give birth to a fool (**Proverbs 17:21, 25**)!

What a great horror it is, to marry a fool (**Proverbs 30:23; 1Samuel 25:25**)!

What a great horror it is, to be born to a fool (**1Samuel 20:30-34**)!

If the truth is told, you were born a fool! You were as corrupt, as the worst fool of hell. Only the renewing and regeneration of the Holy Spirit saved you! (**Romans 3:9-18; Ephesians 2:1-3; Titus 3:3, 5**)

Fools must be born again, resurrected from spiritual death, and quickened into life by the Son of God and power of the Holy Ghost. Salvation is of the Lord! (**John 3:3; 5:25; Ephesians 2:1**)

If you love wisdom and heavenly things, and are living a life dedicated to Jesus Christ, bless His name for saving you!

Proverbs 29:10 The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

You are in a war. Which side are you on? Are you prepared for battle? It will come. The wicked of this world hate the righteous and want to shed their blood, but just men, love those same saints and want their prosperity and companionship.

From the very beginning, in the first family on earth, this violent conflict was quickly visible, for Cain murdered his younger brother Abel.

Why did Cain do such a wicked and abominable thing? His deeds were evil, and he hated Abel for being good (**1John 3:12**).

As hard as it may be for some to comprehend such malicious hatred, the murderous spirit of Satan still controls the hearts of the human race (**John 8:44; Ephesians 2:1-3**).

Only God's restraining hand keeps Satan from using them against the saints today!

The hatred is burning viciously, but God has bound His enemy from most outward acts. However, the time for a loosing and bloodletting may be fast approaching (**Revelation 12:12-17; 20:7-9**).

This deep and depraved antagonism surprises most, for they have not heard it preached or seen it in action.

Their carnal religion, with only a form of godliness and greater love for pleasure than love for God, does not draw the violent hatred of Satan or the wicked. Please notice, "*the bloodthirsty hate the upright.*"

The contemporary churches and carnal Christians that comprise 99% of Christianity today, do not qualify. Satan need not hate or persecute them, they are doing a fine job already destroying the kingdom of God.

But the malignant spite against true saints has never abated. The wicked hate the righteous; (**Proverbs 29:27; Psalm 139:19-22**).

Good men abominate scorners lives; and scorners hate them (**Proverbs 24:9; 9:8**).

The wicked, watch and plot and gnash with their teeth, and conspire to kill the righteous. Believe it, wise reader. (**Psalm 37:12, 32**)

Under God's throne is the most glorious and precious congregation ever assembled, the martyrs of God (**Revelation 6:9-11**).

Those who hate the upright murdered them, as Solomon taught. Many of them suffered unspeakable torments and tortures before they were allowed to die.

Wise readers will read and reflect, on some of the histories of these brutal campaigns against the saints. They are our worthy heroes (**Hebrews 11:35-38**).

Consider our Lord Jesus. He healed a man, and the religious leaders immediately, conspired to destroy Him (**Matthew 12:13-14**)!

There is a spirit in this world, the prince of the power of the air, Satan is his name, which stirs and directs the wicked in their violent anger and hatred, against the righteous. It was never more obvious than against our Lord.

Jesus told His disciples the world hated Him because he told them, their way of life was wrong (**John 7:7**).

Jesus further told them the world would hate them as well, for He had chosen them out of the world, and they were no longer part of it (**John 15:18-19**).

Should we expect the same? "*Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you*" (**1John 3:13**).

This world hates any man or woman, who will take a stand for righteousness and holiness.

If you live godly in Christ Jesus, you shall suffer persecution (**2Timothy 3:12**).

These perilous times of the last days are filled with religious people who are "*despisers of those that are good*" (**2Timothy 3:3**).

Why do they hate a person just because he is good? Think Satan. Think Cain. Think the Pharisees.

If you and your church are not despised and hated by the world, then you are living wrong. It is that simple.

Jesus said He did not come to bring peace for His disciples; He came to bring a sword; and a man's

enemies would be from his own family (*Matthew 10:34-36*).

You are in a war. Are you prepared for battle? It will come.

We understand "*the just*" to be seeking the soul of the upright, not the soul of the bloodthirsty. We make this choice in interpretation for three reasons: ¹because the just do seek the soul of the upright, ²because they do not seek the soul of the bloodthirsty, and ³it is that antecedent closest to the pronoun "*his*".

David sought any who feared the Lord to be his friends, but he had no time or desire for the wicked. He could not stand evil men in his sight, presence, or house. Here is a good example of a just man for us to follow. (*Psalms 101:3-8; 119:63, 115*)

The just seek the soul of the upright. The righteous love one another, and they seek one another's welfare (*John 13:35*).

God's true ministers must be lovers of good men. Ah, dear reader, check your heart by this measure. (*2Timothy 1:3-4; Titus 1:8; 2John 1:1; 3John 1:1*)

Do you love the upright? Are your best friends the most holy people you know? Do you crave their righteous fellowship and serving them well?

Saul tried to kill David, but Jonathan sought him out and protected him.

Jezebel tried to kill God's prophets, but Obadiah hid one hundred of them in caves and fed them (*1Kings 18:3-4*).

The obstinate Jews plotted to destroy Jeremiah, but Ebedmelech rescued him (*Jeremiah 38:1-13*).

Herodias hated John for condemning her adultery and killed him, but his disciples sought even his headless body for proper burial (*Mark 6:16-29*).

The bloodthirsty Jews hated our Lord Jesus Christ, and they betrayed and murdered Him violently, though there was no sin in His life at all (*Isaiah 53:9*).

He was flawlessly and immaculately perfect, so they hated Him and crucified Him cruelly by Roman soldiers.

Yet there were just men from every nation who sought the Lord Jesus Christ like no other, and there are yet today, a scattered few who still seek the Lord Jesus Christ, in spite of the world's ferocious hatred of Him and them. (*John 12:20-22; Luke 10:38-42*) (*Isaiah 1:9*)

Proverbs 29:11 A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards.

Fools talk a lot. They cannot keep their mouths shut. Any little thought, no matter how frivolous, no matter how unstudied, no matter how inappropriate, has to come flowing out.

A wise man speaks carefully. He does not speak hastily, or speak without study, or opinions as truth.

A wise man rules his mouth, to choose wise words and waits for the right timing.

A Talker Is A Fool.

If he talks arrogantly, hastily, or loudly, he confirms his folly even more. A fool loves the sound of his own voice, and he thinks others should love it also.

A fool thinks he has wisdom to share, and he thinks others are blessed to hear him. He gets angry, when he is eventually isolated, due to his ignorant and obnoxious speech.

Solomon said there is a time for everything, "*a time to keep silence, and a time to speak*" (*Ecclesiastes 3:7*).

Knowing the right time requires discretion and prudence, two branches of wisdom the fool has never considered.

As long as a fool has air to breathe and a full belly helps, he will vent his through his lips (*Proverbs 30:22; Ecclesiastes 10:12-14*).

If a fool could keep his mouth shut, he might be thought wise (*Proverbs 17:27-28*).

But a fool cannot do this, for: he has never held back words in his life. He has neither the will nor power to do so.

A fool must pour out foolish ideas, in the hope of satisfying his agitated conceit, but it will never happen. When he runs out of things to say, he keeps talking anyway (*Proverbs 15:2*).

There is nothing virtuous about being "*outspoken*." It is merely another word for a fool!

It would be much better to keep those words in and let them dissolve in the bile of your liver and go into the draught.

It would be much better to ask the Lord to set a watch before your mouth and to keep the door of your lips (*Psalms 141:3*). Do not speak out!

Many things should not be spoken (*Proverbs 10:18; 11:13; 25:23; Matthew 12:36; Ephesians 5:3-5*).

- Idle words,
- Filthiness,
- Foolish talking,
- Jestings,
- Backbiting,
- Talebearing, and Slander.

Slander And many words greatly raise the probability of sin (*Proverbs 10:19; Ecclesiastes 5:3*).

How much damage and pain could have been avoided by restraining your words (*Proverbs 12:18*)?

Therefore, the fewer, and more carefully chosen, and more slowly spoken, are your words, the better (*James 1:19*)!

A fool's wrath is presently known, because he cannot keep his angry words in (*Proverbs 12:16*).

A fool pours out unstudied nonsense, and worse yet, his personal opinions; but a righteous man studies before answering anything (*Proverbs 12:23; 13:16; 15:28*).

A fool shows his folly and shame by answering a matter even before hearing it fully presented (*Proverbs 18:13*).

A fool cannot rule his spirit, and thus proves himself a failure and loser among men (*Proverbs 16:32; 25:28*).

Wise men restrain their speech (*Proverbs 17:27-28*).

Wise men study before answering (*Proverbs 15:28*).

Wise men are slow to speak (*James 1:19*).

Wise men choose the right words carefully and wait for the right opportunity to say them (*Proverbs 15:23; 24:26; 25:11*).

Discretion and prudence are the guardians of wisdom. They restrain your words and actions until you understand a situation clearly and can wisely choose a godly response (*Proverbs 12:23; 13:16; 14:8; 16:21; 19:11; 22:3*).

Wise men keep words in "till afterwards"! After what? After they have let passion dissipate and can speak prudently (*Proverbs 19:11; James 1:19*).

After they have applied Scripture to the situation and found the godly, charitable response (*Psalms 119:11; 1 Corinthians 13:4-7*).

After they have studied for an answer with the certain Words of truth (*Proverbs 15:28; 22:17-21*).

After they have sanctified the Lord God in their hearts (*1 Peter 3:15*).

After they have heard a matter in its entirety, and someone has sincerely asked for their response (*Proverbs 18:13; 25:6-7*).

Samson uttered all his heart, and it cost him greatly; he could not resist the provocation of Delilah to open up and spill the beans (*Judges 16:17*).

Yet Abigail, a beautiful woman of good understanding, waited for the right time to give her husband some bad news (*1 Samuel 25:36*).

The Lord told Samuel to answer Saul only part of his mind and when in court, Paul declared only part of his relationship to the Pharisees (*1 Samuel 16:1-3; Acts 23:6*).

Christians, to be wise and avoid folly, are to be circumspect in their conduct: Inspecting all the circumstances in every direction (*Ephesians 5:15*).

Their words are to be predominantly gracious, with only a seasoning of salt; and the purpose is always to be edifying (*Ephesians 4:29; Colossians 4:6*).

Can you keep from uttering all your mind today? Can you wait until you have the right words and the right opportunity to say them?

Proverbs 29:12 If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

A ruler, who is a fool, will only want his counselors to tell him what he wants to hear.

If his servants are as wicked as he is, then they will be too glad to tell him what he wants to hear. This way there will be peace within the palace but it will be a false peace built upon lies. As long as a king does not want to hear what he needs to hear, he also places his country at great risk.

If an enemy is amassing at his border and he refuses to do anything because he refuses to hear about it, he can expect that shortly his country will be overtaken and he will lose his kingship.

A country is built strong upon truth and the rejection of false ways. A wise king will want to hear the truth and act upon it accordingly.

All Lying Always Corrupts

When a ruler heeds the lies told to him by his servants, it encourages them to continue lying. Just as lying lips are not becoming to a ruler, so neither is it wise for him to allow liars to remain in his company. (*Proverbs 17:7*)

David believed this, (*Psalms 101:7*)!

God has decreed that liars shall not abide in his presence, (*Revelation 21:8, 27; 22:15*).

Executives and managers, who select and surround themselves, with fawning sycophant employees and listen to their lies, and follow through on what they are told, find serious trouble and problems in the end. Their employees are wicked and their only value is to pump up the chief's ego.

This verse has shown itself throughout the history of kings, prime ministers, and presidents.

Many leaders receive false intelligence because they want to receive false intelligence. There is no regard for the truth, only his own personal glory or the justification of his worldview.

If the counselors and advisors that a leader puts in positions of influence are only there only to validate his personal convictions, not to tell him the truth, that's a problem.

The wicked opportunistic employee: Will see which way the wind is blowing, and the desires of his boss are, and then he will provide himself as a cheerleader for those desires in order to gain advantage with his manager.

A manager over wicked employees like this can become more and more distant from reality and truth because he never hears it. He only hears what he wants to hear and anyone offering a position counter to his own will be excluded from his inner circle of advisors.

It is important to remember that this Proverb would have been addressed to kings and rulers under God's authority in the Kingdom of Israel.

This is a comment on the rule of the so called faithful although this Proverb can be applied to any level of government or business.

Words of falsehood could be translated: "speech, saying, making charges, telling stories, giving advice, counsel, etc..." and this gives the Proverb a fairly wide range of warning.

This could include false charges, false reporting, false ideology, etc. This is the same Word used in the ninth commandment. *Exodus 20:16*

Proverbs 29:13 The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lighteneth both their eyes.

Judgment will be for both men. They are both accountable to God. God gives the light to every man that cometh into the world, (*John 1:9 That was the true*

Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.)

In *Proverbs 22:2*, these men are opposite in many ways, yet they must meet together for the judgment and payment of their sin (*Romans 3:23*).

It is functional atheism, to regard God as the Creator of the man and then having nothing to do with the man's surroundings.

Regarding "*the poor*" and "*the deceitful*" demonstrates that we are ready to look upon them as a blemish of Providence, but God makes even them to display the beauty of Providence (Matthew Henry).

Where do they meet? For sure at is at the foot of the cross.

It says here that the LORD is the one who illuminates their eyes. *Matthew 6:23 But if thine eye be evil, thy whole body shall be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!*

If there is one thing that every person has need of, it is salvation. It is here in this verse stating, that "*the poor*" and "*the deceitful*" person meet together.

How are they enlightened? The eye of the unbeliever is only attuned to darkness and when God saves someone, He takes their eyes out of spiritual darkness, and brings them into the light of the Gospel. Thus, illuminating their eyes with light of the Gospel. (*1John 1:5*).

The contrast here is between "*the poor*" and "*the deceitful*" rich man. The rich who charges interest to the poor, often does so oblivious, to God's strict commands (*Exodus 22:25; Leviticus 25:36; Ezekiel 22:12*).

The implication here is regarding the man who gains his wealth: by trickery, or by taking advantage of the poor and by actually preying on the poor. The oppressor, (*Proverbs 22:22; Amos 4:1; Zechariah 7:10; James 2:6*).

God is the only one who can enlighten the minds of both the victim and the victimizer. Salvation for the just and the unjust, for the evil and the good, for the poor and his oppressor, can only come through Jesus Christ.

The Holy Spirit of God opens up the eyes of the poor man and the rich.

To the poor and his oppressor, and their need for salvation. To the wickedness of their hearts, and to whether or not, in this wicked world system, you are the bug or you are the windshield, you desperately in need Christ before you die and split Hell wide open!

We can understand the deceitful and crooked going to Hell but the point is that being the poor victim doesn't

mean you get a pass in eternity. Both types of people must be saved or spend eternity in un-describable agony and regret.

The Word which we translate "deceitful" (*takak*), is not found in any other place of Scripture. The meaning of it cannot be exactly ascertained. The most ancient interpreters render it creditors. **If** we take it in this sense, it means being oppressive in dealing with the poor.

The poor too often look with an envious eye upon the rich, especially those to whom they are in debt, and the creditor looks with an eye of contempt upon his poor debtor. But what has the rich more than the poor, or why should the poor grudge at the riches of another man?

The Lord is the maker of them both, and gives them equally the light of understanding. The Lord bestows comfort upon the poor as well as the rich.

The Lord bestows the light of life, and reason, and comfort, to the poor, at least as much as to rich.

The Lord made the poor of this world rich in faith.

The Lord warns the deceitful man that without pardoning and converting grace, he shall not be permitted to enter heaven.

Proverbs 29:14 The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

Of all mankind, the poor is least likely to have defenders, for there is little worldly profit in it. But God delights in defending them, and promises blessings to those, who also will do so.

The phrase, "*established for ever*" doubtless refers primarily to Solomon's own throne, which is to be perpetuated by Christ as the 'Son of David' who is to sit upon David's throne.

But the faithful discharge of kingly duties will pay eternal dividends for any ruler. (***Proverbs 20:28; 25:5***)

This verse is totally opposed to the way the wicked king in, handles the affairs of state. ***Proverbs 29:12***

If a righteous king is on the throne and he faithfully executes all the aspects of his office, including having mercy on the poor, then his throne will be established for ever.

Now in terms of a temporal king, his throne will be established in perpetuity, that is, his family will continue to rule as long as they remain as righteous as the first king. **If** they do not, then another ruler will be picked.

Now there is another aspect to this verse and it is about the Lord Jesus Christ. ***Matthew 11:5 The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them.***

When the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth, one of the groups of people He preached to were the poor.

When the Lord Jesus Christ came to earth, the Lord faithfully ministered to the poor and we as His children, in His spiritual family, we should do the same thing, which results in the fact, that the Lord's throne has been established forever. (***Revelation 4:10-11***)

These verses show the Elders falling down before the throne of the Lamb who liveth forever and ever which means the throne of the Lord Jesus Christ is established forever.

The Lord Jesus Christ will rule righteously in all matter of government. Matthew Henry said that the rich can afford to defend themselves but the ruler of any nation must defend the poor.

The chief executive, of the government, however a nation's leadership as arranged, has an obligation to see to the needs of the weakest of their subjects.

The rulers are called upon to be impartial in judgment. ***Leviticus 19:15 Ye shall do no unrighteousness in judgment: thou shalt not respect the person of the poor, nor honour the person of the mighty: but in righteousness shalt thou judge thy neighbour.***

Consider Job, he trumpets his own mercy and care for the poor.

Consider the Word of God: ***Psalms 10***, speaks specifically about the wicked's behavior toward the poor.

Psalms 41:1 Blessed is he that considereth the poor: the LORD will deliver him in time of trouble.

Proverbs 28:15 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.

Consider Daniel speaking to Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, ***Daniel 4:27 Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable unto thee, and break off thy sins by righteousness, and thine iniquities by shewing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of thy tranquillity.***

Consider the Lord Jesus Christ, who will return and rule for a thousand years physically on earth before history itself ends. The Bible clearly states in ***Revelation 20***, He rules. Christ assumes control of all earthly nations in ***Revelation 11:15***.

The apostles believed, that Christ would soon return to establish the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

In the first three centuries of the Christian era millennialism, was the predominant view stating the belief, that the Lord Jesus Christ would return to rule from earth for 1,000 years, between human history's end and eternity beginning.

Christians in the Bible believed Christ's reign was "at hand", a phrase that means "*and the things that shall come upon them make haste,*" and is near (*Deuteronomy 32:35; Jeremiah 23:23; Philippians 4:5; 2Thessalonians 2:2; Revelation 22:10*).

Yet, just as they missed "the need for Christ to suffer and die", and be risen, so they missed the fact that 1,000 years is but a day to the Lord or a watch in the night (*Isaiah 53; Psalm 22; Psalm 90:4; Hosea 6:2; Matthew 16:21-23; Mark 9:9-10; 2Peter 3:8*).

If 2,000 years pass before the Lord returns, what is that to God (*Ecclesiastes 6:6*)?

Christ's reign will be with an iron rod, but just and fair. (*Psalm 2:9; Revelation 2:27*)

All through the Old Testament the command to treat the poor humanely, with mercy, and with generosity is laid out, which in reading of the Psalms will clearly show in many verses.

A righteous king, of whom Christ is the most righteous of all, will be merciful to the poor. His reign begins with a thousand years but His reign will be forever.

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Spare the rod and spoil the child, an American proverb, is true (*Proverbs 13:24; 19:18; 23:13-14*).

Spare the rod and shame the parents is also true, as this inspired Proverb declares.

All children are born with a default mechanism to foolishness, and it must be corrected by reproofs and corporal punishment for them to learn wisdom (*Proverbs 22:6, 15; 29:17*).

If these methods of child training are neglected, the child will be a painful disgrace to his parents.

America once knew this axiom of child training. Whipping was the universal means of maintaining order in the home, school, and military. (See the entry in any edition of Encyclopedia Britannica before the ACLU, PETA, NOW, and PTA began extorting editorial changes.)

But many today are foolishly experimenting with children. puffed-up intellectually with profane speculations about life and morality (*1Timothy 6:20*):

The intellectually puffed-up effeminate and permissive conclusions have spawned arrogant, amoral, and anarchic children that are a disgusting shame.

The intellectually puffed-up conclusions measured against, the criteria of the fear of the Lord and godly wisdom, they are a total loss!

Rather than train them with the proven methods of reproof and corporal punishment, little Johnny is told he is special just as he is!

His temper tantrums are self-expression.

His lack of self-control is hyperactivity.

His rebellion is independence.

His promiscuity is extra affection.

His violence is a strong personality.

His arson is spontaneous creativity.

When Johnny gets too violent to handle, a school nurse gives him Ritalin to sedate him.

If that isn't enough, he is removed to a foster home or mental institution.

Little Johnny ends up a drugged, discarded, divorced, dysfunctional, and depressed social experiment. Thank you, Ben Spock, for your wisdom. But of course, you know better now, don't you?

Degenerate children once came from degenerate parents, who conceived them ignorantly, and left them in an undisciplined environment of self-gratification to their corruption.

Such parents were rightfully despised! But today's advanced generation does the same thing, consciously and haughtily! With the fanfare of the latest educational advances!

Consider our great advancements! A child is "left to himself" in front of the television, where the venom of hell is spewed at him with a light and sound show from MTV, CBS, BET, VH1, FOX, and others. Doesn't need to be born in a brothel; the brothel is brought to him!

A child doesn't need a murderer for a father; he is entertained with murder for hours a day!

A child instead of a pimp and prostitute for parents, he has a doctor and his socialite wife!

Consider our great advancements! A child is "left to himself" in educational daycares from ages 3 to 24. There he is fed and flattered by nurses, who have never worked a day in the real world.

A child trained at headquarters in the Spock religion, they are strictly forbidden from ever telling Johnny he is surely wrong or using physical persuasion to help him.

A child quickly learns (he knew it all along) the world was made for him to do whatever he wishes.

Grandpa grew up on a farm. He knew male calves became bulls. He knew he either helped the bull become a steer, or he needed to carry a big stick!

He knew male horses were stallions. He knew he either helped the colt become a gelding, or he needed a bridle and whip!

And he also knew just as clearly how to help Johnny obey the law, share toys with his sister, be honest, and not play with fire! Grandpa knew **Proverbs 26:3** and **29:15!**

Grandpa knew the default mechanisms of animals and how to alter them to get good behavior.

It was amazing what Grandpa could do with a well-trained stallion, much like trainers and jockeys today.

His father had used similar training on him in his youth, and he used it in turn to help Johnny. He never needed Ritalin! Amazing! Though only having a third grade education, he could read the King James Bible and the Federalist Papers!

Grandpa didn't understand why Susie Socialist littered the road to town with her newfangled sign, "Kids, you can't beat 'em."

He knew his bulls and stallions were dangerous without a few physical "reminders." But having been raised in a city high rise, Susie had never trained anything more than a goldfish. All she ever did was feed it, so in her simplicity she swallowed the new exciting PTA fad of trying the same with children.

The warning about a child "left to himself" is not a warning against daycares or schools.

If the parental job is not done, either directly or indirectly, then future days of pain and trouble are coming, when both parents will grieve over their foolish children (**Proverbs 10:1; 17:25**).

The Foundations Of Wisdom Are Being Destroyed

What were once axioms are now set aside for the innovative hallucinations of social engineers, who have

never trained an animal or raised children with moral character!

Divine and natural wisdom and six thousand years of experience are thrown aside for the mere babblings of psycho-healers who think another serving of cotton candy will train children just fine.

Consider the rod in training. As children grow, The control stage of training is replaced by The instructional stage, rules for the bathroom replace diapers!

This transition uses the rod less and reproofs more, as the child's conscience develops.

Training becomes almost entirely instructional during the teenage years, with only exceptional need for the rod.

By itself, the rod merely creates servile fear, which is not the goal of training. Without loving affection, you will discourage children (**Colossians 3:21**).

Administered harshly, you will create bitter resentment that will bite you later (**Proverbs 29:21**).

Without pity, you are nothing like the Lord (**Psalms 103:13**).

Without mercy, He will judge you without mercy (**James 2:13**).

And the Lord sees every word of reproof and every use of the rod (**Ecclesiastes 5:8**)!

Proverbs 29:16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.

A Right Worldview

Learn here about trends, polls, majorities, sin, the future. God and Solomon want you to understand what is happening and will happen in the world.

Each Proverb was written to teach you wisdom, this one included. As the world gets worse, you should understand why and not be surprised, and you should know its certain future. Here is crucial wisdom for your life with a profound invitation buried in one single Word.

The wicked love a majority, they need a crowd to bring their sins out of the closet into public view.

The wicked think numbers justify their opinions and practices. As trends develop, the wicked jump on the sin bandwagon, because their hearts and minds were always sinful.

The wicked crave the encouragement of a majority to make their abominations and rebellion public. The effect is a geometric increase in wickedness, as in today's world.

Consider the rule. As the wicked increase in proportion to any population, the overall wickedness increases even faster due to the growing majority providing the support for greater individual rebellion.

It is hard sometimes to separate the growth in numbers from the greater degree of depravity, as you will often see them both increasing together.

It is when a combination of factors comes into play together, that wickedness can explode.

Wicked men multiply and wickedness increases for many reasons. Unknown to most due to ignorance of the Word of God, that God's truth hardens men's hearts to do greater wickedness by both prosperity and adversity, thus justifying greater punishment for their sins (*Exodus 7:3; 9:16; 1Samuel 2:25; Psalm 106:14-15; Jeremiah 48:11; Romans 1:18-32; 2Thessalonians 2:9-12*).

If you do not know this, you cannot even get started to see things correctly.

Corrupt governments and sinful rulers increase evil by the example of their folly and sin in high offices (*Ecclesiastes 10:5-7; 3:16; Esther 1:16-18*):

This is accomplished by legislating approval of sin (*Daniel 3:1-7; Esther 3:15*).

This is accomplished by not punishing criminals appropriately (*Ecclesiastes 8:11*).

This is accomplished by not rewarding righteous citizens for their good (*Esther 2:21-23*).

Righteous authority in any segment of society can restrain wickedness by example and enforcement (*Proverbs 20:8, 26; Genesis 18:19*).

A decline in true religion increases wickedness. Pulpits are where men chosen by God are to preach forcefully against sin. This was once a major influence in America's moral uprightness. (*Isaiah 58:1*)

But sinners do not like such preaching, so they ask for a gentler message by false teachers (*Isaiah 30:8-14*).

When this happens, as it is now around the world, wickedness increases. (*2Timothy 4:3-4*)

Instead of a preservative of righteousness like salt, these false teachers are more like gasoline on a fire (*Matthew 5:13*).

Humanistic Education Increases Sin.

When God-haters get the insane theory of evolution into the schools, they eliminate the restraint of a Creator with moral laws and the power of temporal and eternal punishment.

When joined with the idol of existential self-love and self-esteem, children can do anything they wish, with the only guide of pleasing themselves.

When there is no fear of God a spiritual restraint is gone (*Psalms 4:4; 14:1-5; 36:1; Proverbs 9:10; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14*).

Immoral Entertainment Increases Sinfulness.

The Beatles and Hollywood ruined morals everywhere, as they perverted their own.

The shorthaired boys with white shirts and ties from Liverpool quickly degenerated to drug-stupefied, girlish devotees of Hamburg brothels and Hindu gurus.

The entertainment industry is condemned before God (*Psalm 101:3; Proverbs 14:9; Romans 1:32*).

The news media, which greatly influences society's judgment of events, increases wickedness. They have not honestly reported a moral issue in decades, they are incapable of it for the factors above.

The news media, defends and promotes the same insanity taught in the schools and glamorized in entertainment.

The news media's, slanting of all moral issues and blatant hatred for Bible Christianity reveals their devilish agenda. They are damned to fall.

Technological advances have increased evil. The influences above would have little effect without the modern ability to expose the earth's population to them for little cost.

Techno sins describes technology that allows or furthers wickedness. Witty inventions are good, when used for God's glory and man's righteousness, or a better standard of living. (*Proverbs 8:12*)

Therefore, every parent today faces threats to their children never imagined before!

Urbanization increases wickedness. The countryside is better than the city. As people leave rural areas of wise local ordinances and safe traditions and fewer ways to sin, for large cities where sinfulness increases.

The more they pack together in a city, the more this Proverb takes effect. God identified this factor when men united at Babel to rebel against Him (*Genesis 11:1-9*).

God divided nations and set boundaries for spiritual good (*Acts 17:26-27*).

Much, much more could be said about these factors that cause wicked men to multiply and increase their transgressions against God's laws.

Wise men that understand the times will consider these things soberly and research them out even further (*1Chronicles 12:32; Esther 1:13; Ecclesiastes 8:1*).

These are the perilous times of the last days, which Scripture foretold. Hear God's warning: prepare to stand against even greater sinfulness. (*2Timothy 3:1-17; 4:1-4*)

Once this snowball starts downhill, it gathers speed and size. As wicked men increase in number and individual rebellion, the result is a compounded increase in evil.

If there are several factors working together at once, as it is presently; and when all parts of society are rushing into sin under so many influences, and God is allowing it to occur; you can count on a catastrophic event to occur soon to destroy them all for the righteous to see.

Consider the lesson illustrated. For 1500 years after creation, the wicked multiplied numerically by polygamy (*Genesis 4:19; 6:1-2*).

This increase in numbers brought greater boldness in sinning, which God saw (*Genesis 6:5*).

In holy anger, God destroyed them all, suffocating them in a worldwide flood (*Genesis 6:6-7*).

God saved righteous Noah and his immediate family, who knew the entire earth's population had drowned (*Genesis 6:8; Hebrews 11:7*).

Consider another illustration. Wicked men gathered in the watered plains of the Jordan about 2000 B.C. Their cities were Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim.

This conflux of wicked men led to one of man's most abominable perversions - sodomy. What an increase of transgression! God had made the perfect Eve for Adam, not Steve (*Genesis 2:18-25*)!

These perverts abused each other. God burned them all to ashes! (*Genesis 19:1-7; Romans 1:24-27; 1Corinthians 6:9*)

Abraham saw the smoke of the fall of the cities (*Genesis 19:27-28*).

It is similar today. Wicked men and their sins have increased by all the factors above in the last two generations. Two men in a bed is not a marriage in the Bible or in hardly any time of human history.

Yet the rabid hatred of these perverts against the Bible, Christians, and traditional cultural and legal norms is shocking. Get ready. A fiery inferno is coming to burn

the universe to destroy them (*2Thessalonians 1:7-10; 2Peter 3:10-14; Revelation 20:7-15*).

If you believe in opposite sex marriage out of fear of God, you will only see the judgment.

Christian reader, do not let the increase of the wicked and their perversion of everything good trouble you.

Jesus Christ – the coming Judge of the world – told His apostles, “*These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world*” (*John 16:33*).

The rapture is at hand! And a new heaven and earth are coming, rejoice and live soberly (*2Peter 3:10-14*).

Do not let increasing iniquity in the world and in most churches cause your fear and love of God to turn lukewarm or cold, as it did for many following the Jews' crucifixion of the Lord Jesus Christ (*Matthew 24:12*).

Just forty years later, the righteous saw God's vengeance on the Jews for the death of His Son, through more horrific tribulation on that nation than has ever occurred at any other time (*Luke 21:20-24; Matthew 22:1-7; 1Thessalonians 2:14-16*).

While the wicked take comfort in their swelling ranks, remember that God has already declared that anything they highly esteem is an abomination to Him (*Luke 16:15*).

God has already declared the world's wisdom to be foolishness (*1Corinthians 1:19-21; 3:18-20*).

God has already declared them His enemy (*James 4:4*).

If you choose God's side and His righteousness, you are part of a large, totally victorious kingdom (*Hebrews 12:22-24; Revelation 7:9*).

First the rapture: *1Thessalonians 4:13-18*

Then all born again believers will give account for those things done in the body since we were saved. (*2Corinthians 5:10*)

Then the marriage supper of the Lamb takes place. (*Revelation 19:7-9*)

In the same time frame, the seven year tribulation of God's wrath is on earth.

At the end of the seven year tribulation, is the second coming of Jesus Christ, responding to cries from the Israeli remnant (those fleeing the destroying armies of the world). (*Revelation 19:11-16*)

This ushers' in the thousand year millennial reign of the Lord Jesus Christ. (*Revelation 20:4*)

The Lords rule will be with a rod of iron. Righteousness is the law. (*Revelation 19:15*)

Beast and false prophet are cast alive into the Lake of Fire. (*Revelation 19:20*)

Next is the coming catastrophic event, when the righteous will see all the wicked stand before God! It is the Great White Throne Judgment. All unsaved from all ages will attend.

It is a time when the righteous will witness God's final judgment of mankind.

When the great Day of Judgment will occur, and the wicked will give an account to the holy God of the Bible (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Romans 14:10-12; 2Corinthians 5:9-11; Revelation 20:11-15*).

All the wicked will be cast into the lake of fire for eternal torment (*Matthew 7:21-23; 25:41, 46; John 5:28-29*).

The Proverb taught several lessons about societal changes and coming judgment. But do you see the most important lesson?

There are righteous men and women in the Proverb! They are different from the wicked! Are you one of the righteous? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and start living His righteousness today (*2Peter 1:5-11*).

Proverbs 29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

Foolish parents say: "We can let it go this time. If he does it again, then we will do something." What a dangerous idea!

Ignoring a problem does not help it go away! Ignoring sinful conduct reinforces it in a child! It will be harder to correct later! It will also be easier for the parents to procrastinate again the next time.

And before they realize it, they will have established the terrible habit of overlooking a child's wicked behavior.

Many parents overlook sinful conduct to preserve domestic tranquility. They crave peace at home. They hope that giving a child some slack will keep things comfortable and calm. They are terribly mistaken!

The Proverb teaches that rest and delight depend on correcting children, not accommodating them!

By seeking peace, many parents end up forfeiting it! A short loss of peace to correct a child is the low price for long-term peace.

The wisest parent you will ever meet, King Solomon, warned against letting child discipline slide. He wrote, "*The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame*" (*Proverbs 29:15*).

The rule is simple; the consequences are terrible. The pain and shame that some mothers have endured are enormous. And why? They chose to take the road of compromise and not correct their children with tough love.

The rod and reproof will correct and train children to return wonderful joy to their parents. The promise is sure: "*Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it*" (*Proverbs 22:6*).

"*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him*" (*Proverbs 22:15*).

Do not procrastinate! Every time you put off the inevitable, you harm your child and sacrifice your future pleasure.

If you love your children: You will aggressively save them from dysfunctional lives (*Proverbs 3:12; 23:13-14*).

You will not delay in this great matter. "*Betimes*" means to do it early, speedily, before it is too late. "*He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes*" (*Proverbs 13:24*).

Only hatred and lazy ignorance would cause you to delay. It is these and other parental sins that have spawned the most selfish generation in history. "*Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying*" (*Proverbs 19:18*).

Your Father in heaven exceeds Solomon in wisdom. He only practices perfect child discipline (*Proverbs 3:11-12; Psalm 119:75; Hebrews 12:5-17; Revelation 3:19*).

In order to perfect you, God uses various means to punish your sins. And what a privilege it is, for He corrects those He loved or adopted (*Hebrews 12:6-8; 1Corinthians 11:32*).

This is the proof of His love; it is for your profit; and you should delight in it (*Psalm 119:67, 71; Romans 5:3-5; James 1:2-4*).

Proverbs 29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

The hired gun brought in by the ambitious pastor tells the contented church, "To be a big church, you need to think big.

If you want to grow, then you need to think growth.

If you want to triple your attendance in two years, then you need to build an auditorium that size.

If you can dream it, you can believe it.

If you can believe it, you can achieve it.

Even God agrees. The Bible says, '*Where there is no vision, the people perish.*' Get a vision, people! Get a vision of tripling the size of your little church! Sign your pledge cards today, and help your pastor get that multi-million dollar mortgage!"

Who has not heard this sound bite, "*Where there is no vision, the people perish*"?

Here is one of the most abused verses in the Bible! This is the sound of words with no regard to the sense of words. Lord, save us from such ignorant and flippant use of your Scriptures.

Our Proverb is often corrupted to seduce churches to borrow large sums of money to finance unnecessary building projects.

The "vision" is a plan to grow the church in size; and "perishing" is continuing on the same course with a bought-and-paid-for building.

What a travesty of Bible interpretation! May the LORD bless us to read and understand the sense of this Proverb, as Ezra read and gave the true sense to Israel (*Nehemiah 8:8*).

As often in Proverbs, the parallelism tells us that "vision" is the hearing and reading of God's Word. For a happy man is contrasted with people perishing, and the law of God is contrasted with "no vision." There is nothing here about dreaming or building plans.

The Lesson Is Simple But Powerful. God's Word is a great blessing, and obeying it, is the basis for true happiness

Where the Word of God is not preached, the people will die in ignorance and folly from starvation for knowledge.

There are times when the Lord takes the Word of God away from His people.

Consider the early days of Samuel, who anointed David king of Israel.

The Word of the LORD, or a revelation from God, was rare in those days, and it is specifically called a vision. In general, God was not revealing Himself and His will to the nation until Samuel arrived.

And the child Samuel ministered unto the LORD before Eli. *And the Word of the LORD was precious in those days; there was no open vision. 1Samuel 3:1*

God took His Word away at other times also. Asa, the nation had gone a long time without a teaching priest or the law of God (*2Chronicles 15:3*).

Josiah's reign, the law of God, which had been lost, was found during temple renovation (*2Chronicles 34:14*).

In Babylon, God also took His word away from Israel (*Ezekiel 7:26; Lamentation 2:9*).

Jesus saw His own people, without faithful preaching, as sheep without a shepherd (*Matthew 9:36*).

Without the Word of God to save him, man will zealously worship trees, burn children in sacrifice, teach reincarnation, believe he descends from monkeys, eat a cracker-god, kiss a stone in Mecca, worship buffalo, burn widows on funeral pyres, and so forth and so on.

Without God's revelation, men wander out of the way of understanding and remain in the congregation of the dead, to perish there under Satan's delusions (*Proverbs 21:16; Ephesians 2:1-3*).

When Paul preached at Lystra and Athens, he explained that God had let the Gentiles walk in their own ignorant ways without His Word for many generations, but He was now commanding men to repent of their ignorance (*Acts 14:11-18; 17:22-31*).

Without Scripture, men will rush with greedy ambition into the vilest of lifestyles (*Ephesians 4:17-19*).

In our own world, great sections of it are closed to the reading and preaching of God's Word.

It is generally forbidden in Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and other countries. Where it is not read and preached, the people suffer in ignorance and folly of all sorts.

Without God's Word such nations are "without hope" religiously (*Ephesians 2:12; John 4:22; 1Thessalonians 4:13*).

Without God's Word men cannot achieve the "witty inventions" of even natural progress (*Proverbs 8:1-31*).

One-sixth of the world is Catholic, where until recently, people were not allowed to read the Bible and the Mass was done in Latin. What superstitious ignorance!

Compare a Catholic country with those around it, and the perishing of people through ignorance is visible. Since they did not receive the love of the truth, God sent them delusions (*2Thessalonians 2:9-12*).

The logic is simple. Salvation is by calling upon the name of the Lord Jesus Christ. Asking Jesus Christ to save you!

- And how can they call without believing?
- And how can they believe without hearing?
- And how can they hear without a preacher?
- And how shall they preach without being sent?

God has withdrawn His Word from a world that rejected it (*Romans 10:13-17*).

The LORD warns that one of His judgments is to take away the Word of God and leave a people starving for Him and Scripture. The Lord says, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge" (*Hosea 4:6*).

God describes, the famine He will bring on a land, not a famine of bread, but a famine for hearing God's Word (*Amos 8:11-12*). Lord, save us!

We are now in such a generation in America. We are in the perilous times of the last days (*2Timothy 3:1-5*). Though living in an information explosion, we see a geometric increase in learning with no ability to identify or learn the truth (*2Timothy 3:6-7*).

False teachers are at work everywhere, deceiving and being deceived (*2Timothy 3:8-13*).

So-called Christians resent sound doctrine and truth, and they multiply teachers and entertainers who will tickle their itching ears and lusts with fables (*2Timothy 4:3-4*).

Preaching is despised as an outdated, boring, negative thing. Entertainment rules!

There Is No More Vision!

We are in the midst of a famine for God's Word. Men are perishing in ignorance and folly!

Christians in our own city are starving to hear and understand the Word of God. Confusion and error reign safely on any and every subject.

What is the cure? God-called men must preach the Word of God faithfully and dogmatically.

Scripture is completely sufficient, to make every faithful minister, perfectly prepared to instruct his

people, in all the wisdom of God (*2Timothy 3:14 - 4:2; Jeremiah 3:15*).

What is another cure? Honor faithful preaching of God's Word with ready and receptive minds, and do not despise old-fashioned Bible teaching (*Acts 17:11; 1Thessalonians 5:20; Jeremiah 6:16*).

What is another cure? Treasure God's Word as the greatest earthly possession and delight in its glorious Words from heaven (*Jeremiah 15:16; Job 23:12; Psalm 19:10; 119:72, 103, 111*).

What else can we do? Humbly obey what we hear and read in sincerity and truth. Not in outward compliance to a religious ritual and habit (*Ezekiel 33:30-33; Luke 8:18*).

What else? Show the true joy, peace, and hope in believing that will cause others to be encouraged and ask a reason of our hope (*Romans 15:13; 1Peter 3:15*).

Those under the influences of the Spirit at Pentecost did not count their vision a light thing (*Acts 2:42-47*).

There is great reward in having and obeying the Word of God (*Psalms 19:11*).

Moses told Israel that the precious revelation, that they had received from God, was their wisdom and understanding above other nations (*Deuteronomy 4:5-10*).

Their righteousness and means for God's blessing, and even their life (*Deuteronomy 6:20-25; 32:46-67*).

Building on this solid foundation will prepare you well for life's storms that will surely come (*Luke 6:46-49*).

Jesus said regarding His preaching, "If ye know these things, happy are ye if you do them" (*John 13:17*).

He even told a woman that hearing and keeping the word of God was a greater blessing than being His own mother (*Luke 8:21; 11:28*).

And James added that the blessing is for those who hear and do. Let us be hearers and doers! (*James 1:25*)

The Holy Scriptures and the faithful preaching of them, provide more value to a people than any other blessing.

Obeying God's Word saves from horrible ignorance and trouble, for obeying God's Word leads to the highest peace, prosperity, and pleasure possible in this world, and obeying God's Word because it contains all the spiritual instruction to prepare for the next world.

For obeying God's Word because it teaches us how to walk with God with the confidence of eternal life and personal fellowship with Him.

Our Lord Jesus Christ rose from the dead and ascended to the right hand of God. There He received great gifts and spoil for His victory over sin and death, and He has in turn given these gifts of ministerial ability and authority to preach the Scriptures to His people and churches.

Rejoice and be exceedingly glad that you have seen the beautiful feet and heard the joyful sound of the gospel (*Job 33:23-24; Psalms 89:15; 68:11; Romans 10:15; 10:18*).

Dear reader, do you love, appreciate, read, and obey the Bible as you should?

It Is Your Life.

Neglect it to the peril of life and soul. Exalt it to the happy blessing of the same.

Proverbs 29:19 A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer.

Rebellion Can Be Active Or Passive.

Wicked servants will not respond to verbal correction, for their heart is full of defiance.

Wicked servants fear enough to refrain from cursing, but they do not have the spirit of a virtuous servant.

Wicked servants are clearly and frequently corrected, and their understanding needs improvement, they will not answer properly or amend their ways.

A scornful, sullen, surly servant will show his stubborn rebellion by ignoring verbal instruction and correction. Therefore, authority needs to be enforced painfully.

If you explain things carefully and clearly: the wicked employee will not agree or submit. Though you ask questions he understands, he will not answer.

He uses silence to punish the authority he despises. He shows his wickedness quietly by rejecting your rule. We often describe such a person as the man who doesn't know how to say, "I am sorry."

If you find yourself saying, "Say something!" You have encountered the rebellious problem.

Solomon here described to his son. Silence is no evidence of agreement or submission; it is often a loud statement of defiance. Measures beyond words must be used. This is not just any servant, for many servants are corrected by words (*Matthew 8:9*).

Such rebellion must be dealt with. Authority must be enforced to maintain order and peace.

It was solved by two options under Moses' law. You could beat the servant, if necessary, to within an inch of his life (*Proverbs 19:29; 26:3; Exodus 21:20-21*).

Moses' law warned against unnecessary rigor, but authority must be maintained (*Proverbs 19:25; 21:11; 26:3; Leviticus 25:43*).

Modern employment relationships do not have the provisions of Moses' law; so wise masters fire belligerent losers.

Allowing a defiant employee to remain, even if they rebel by their silence, will cost your authority. When you find a scorners, and you cannot correct him, throw him out (*Proverbs 22:10*)!

Parent, do you know your children? Do you know when their silence is rebellion? Do you measure their sullenness? Do you understand that a withdrawn child is a problem child?

Do you know your children's temperaments, and do you carefully watch the phlegmatic ^{Showing little emotion} ones, who tend toward reserved dispositions? Their rebellion can grow while you snooze.

Rebellion can be active or passive, loud or silent, angry or sullen. It is your job to detect passive rebellion. Do not allow a child to avoid instruction, correction, or questions.

They quickly learn delay tactics, knowing you will tire and forget them. Reject excuses, such as needing more time; children do not have any such rebellious luxury when facing you.

Remember how much God hates mocking eyes (*Proverbs 30:17*).

Watch and read the faces of your children. Correct any insolence, even in the facial expressions. Silence can be mocking.

When you detect such a problem, quickly move toward more severe measures to rescue this child from their self-will. The rod will work wonders (*Proverbs 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15*).

Tears are also used in silent rebellion. Rather than telling you wickedly they will not do it, they simply let go with the tears, knowing that such a show of emotion got rid of you the last time.

If the tears are genuine, they will accompany sincere words of apology.

Christians should never be such blots on their Savior. They should take correction with cheerfulness and

contrition. Consider God's pure religion: **James 1:27** *Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world.*

Christians should reverently express a desire to make amends as quickly as possible.

Then Christians should do what is expected. Silent rebellion is a conduct totally contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ for servants (**Ephesians 6:5-7; 1Timothy 6:1-2**).

Let us be the quickest to say we are sorry when shown our faults. Insubordinate servants, wives, and children are obnoxious things that trouble the earth (**Proverbs 30:21-23**).

Let Christians avoid such reputations. Understand the great Lord you serve?

You must give Him your sincere confession when you are convicted for sin.

You must confess your sins and admit your folly to the Lord (**Proverbs 28:13; Job 33:27; 34:31-32; 1John 1:9**).

Your Master will receive you, the angels will celebrate, and your fellowship will be restored. Amen.

Proverbs 29:20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

**Slow Down!
Think Before You Speak!**

Make sure you know what you are talking about before sounding off! A person that talks fast, talks often, and answers quickly is worse than a fool!

A fool will get in trouble due to ignorance, but a man who answers or speaks before thinking is going to be punished. He is worse than a fool!

God's wisdom is simple: *"Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath" (James 1:19).*

You have two ears and one mouth: let this proportion be reflected in your listening and speaking!

Many have their mouths running before their minds are in gear, and they are a danger to themselves and to others.

A righteous man studies before answering; wicked men pour out verbal nonsense without study (**Proverbs 15:28**).

The good man is cautious before speaking, because he wants to make certain he only speaks the Words of truth (**Proverbs 22:20-21**).

The arrogant fool likes to hear himself talk, so he is busy talking whenever possible, regardless of truth (**Ecclesiastes 10:12-13**).

Have you ever met a person who answers before questions are fully posed? Have you ever done this? It is folly and shame to answer a dilemma you have not yet fully heard (**Proverbs 18:13**).

What causes a man to answer so presumptuously? His arrogance and conceit! He is so sure of himself, he talks without deliberation; there is more hope of a fool (**Proverbs 26:12**).

Fools are stupid, but hasty and impulsive talkers are proud. There is at least a little hope in helping a fool defeat his stupidity and stubbornness, but there is no hope in helping a proud man recognize his deficiencies in character and conduct and change them!

His self-righteous confidence, the greatest of sins, will not allow him to be corrected. He will not seek a multitude of counselors to obtain safety, because he is surely right (**Proverbs 11:14; 15:22**).

Fools say all that is in their minds, without any necessity or request, but a wise man will listen carefully to see, if he ought to tell what he knows or not (**Proverbs 29:11**).

This is wisdom, reader! No one wants to know your opinion or thoughts until they ask for it, and then they want you to stay to the topic and only say things you have previously confirmed as truth.

How many have brought God's judgment down on them for speaking hastily in the house of God (**Ecclesiastes 5:1-7**)?

It is better not to vow, than to vow and not pay. Sober reflection is superior to the cackling of fools (**Ecclesiastes 7:2-6**).

They merely make a lot of vain noise. It can also happen in writing, so be cautious before replying with a hasty email. Slow men are better than fast men, and hasty thoughts will get you in trouble (**Proverbs 14:29; 21:5**).

Proverbs 29:21 He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.

Here is wonderful advice for managers. Wise and careful treatment of an employee can lead to a relationship with him similar to a family member.

There is a great distance in the Bible between masters and servants, known today as employers and employees. And this significant difference in ability and position is to be preserved.

But prudent managers will also win affectionate loyalty, in addition to diligent obedience, from their employees.

The Bible teaches, defends, and promotes authority: More than any other philosophy or religion, the foundation of all human relationships is the sovereign authority of a creator God.

God ordained the five spheres of human authority, ¹husband, ²parent, ³master/employer, ⁴magistrate, and ⁵pastor. Therefore their offices are not to be compromised (*Ecclesiastes 10:5-7; Romans 13:1-7; 1 Corinthians 11:9; Ephesians 6:1-9; Colossians 3:18-25; Hebrews 13:7,17; 1 Peter 2:13 - 3:7*).

The Bible also restricts and penalizes abuse of this God-ordained authority (*Psalms 12:5; Ecclesiastes 5:8*).

Masters are limited in their authority over servants, and they are bound to treat them with a minimum level of fairness, kindness, and consistency (*Leviticus 19:13; 25:39-46; Deuteronomy 15:12-18; 24:14-15; Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1*).

This doctrine from God further teaches love of neighbor, including servants, by the standard we seek to be loved (*Luke 6:31; 10:27*).

A straightforward reading of the Proverb indicates positive instruction for the wise management of servants/employees. To take the Words in an opposite sense of a sarcastic rebuke is difficult indeed, for there are no words or contextual hints to do so.

"*Delicately*" does not require a definition of exquisite luxury, for it also means considerate and tactful treatment, as in Agag coming delicately to Samuel (*1 Samuel 15:32*).

Solomon taught elsewhere in Proverbs that a wise servant would, and consequently should, be promoted over foolish sons and given an interest in the family inheritance (*Proverbs 17:2*).

Solomon taught that kings recognize and promote wise servants (*Proverbs 14:35*).

Jesus taught that a wise and faithful servant would be highly promoted (*Luke 12:41-48*).

Scripture warns against abusive treatment of servants and requires kind treatment of them. Moses commanded regarding servants, "*Thou shalt not rule*

over him with rigour; but shalt fear thy God" (*Leviticus 25:43*).

Maidservants were to be treated as daughters and given food, clothing, and the duty of marriage, or be set free (*Exodus 21:10*).

Moses allowed for servants loving their masters and staying with them for life (*Exodus 21:1-6*).

And Solomon admitted masters and servants ate the same (*Proverbs 27:27*).

Consider Job's holy and perfect attitude toward servants. He wrote, "*If I did despise the cause of my manservant or of my maidservant, when they contended with me; What then shall I do when God riseth up? and when he visiteth, what shall I answer him? Did not he that made me in the womb make him? and did not one fashion us in the womb?"* (*Job 31:13-15*).

Though slaves had no legal rights, Job granted them the right to appeal to him!

Abraham had such a close relationship with one of his servants, Eliezer of Damascus, he planned on making him his heir (*Genesis 15:2-3*).

He later entrusted a servant to pick a bride for his son Isaac, which resulted in Rebekah being the mother of Israel (*Genesis 24:1-67*).

And Paul told Philemon to receive Onesimus as a brother-servant (*Philemon 1:16*)!

Daniel, though a captive eunuch from Israel, was affectionately treated by Nebuchadnezzar, Darius, and Cyrus. Even Belshazzar promoted him to third in the kingdom (*Daniel 5:29*).

And Joseph was promoted over all Potiphar's house (*Genesis 39:1*).

The history of slavery in America includes examples of slaves being treated as family members with deep and abiding affection and loyalty running in both directions.

Paul did not admit a whole lot of difference between young sons and slaves (*Galatians 4:1-2*).

Beyond the Proverb's interpretation, what is the lesson for us? Considerate and tactful treatment of employees can result in a relationship with the affection and loyalty of a family member.

A proverb of our nation declares, "You can attract more bees with honey than with vinegar." You can attract greater devotion and effort with kindness than with meanness.

Christian employers should conscientiously treat their employees with discreet and prudent care at all times.

Christian employers should redress all grievances in a fair and equitable way, and they should communicate openly and honestly with those in their service.

**"Might Makes Right"
Is A Foolish Notion Of God-Haters.**

Wise business owners and managers win the affection and loyalty of employees with careful and tactful treatment.

Service from the heart is superior to service from fear or a paycheck.

Husbands, parents, magistrates, and pastors will also grasp that the principle applies to them as well.

You tempt the Lord your God, a serious offence, if you seek to enforce your authority by power and privilege alone.

Let every Christian reader apply the same benevolent kindness to those under their authority as their heavenly Father does (*Matthew 5:43-48*).

Proverbs 29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.

Anger Ruins Men!

Anger is a curse on their lives. Anger causes fighting and sin.

Anger is blinding and dangerous. An angry man cannot ignore offences (*Proverbs 19:11*).

An angry man reacts without thinking, which leads to fights (*Proverbs 15:18*).

There is little peace, because an angry man, has either blown up recently or is likely to blow up soon.

An angry man reacts without thinking and says and does sinful things in the devilish heat of his foolish passion. He is a fool (*Proverbs 14:29*).

If you want peace and righteousness in your life, stay away from an angry man. His profane way of responding to life will corrupt your good manners (*Proverbs 22:24-25*).

God have mercy on the poor woman who married an angry man, and God have mercy on the poor children born to an angry man. Their lives are cursed with the devilish heart of their husband or father, who is just as likely to lash out and hit them as love and hug them.

An angry man will lose his wife, children, and reputation.

An angry man has little self-control, like an infant or a defenseless city (*Proverbs 25:28; 1 Corinthians 3:1-3*).

An angry man's children wait for the day when they can leave home to find the peace and security he never gave them.

Of course, angry men are too stupid to figure this until it is too late. His children will not give many warnings, for they fear his wrath and blows.

They nod and submit, despising their father in their heart, until they can leave and have a pleasant life without fear.

Are You An Angry Man?

Do you speak impulsively?

Do you strike impulsively?

Do you yell at your wife or children?

Do you say harsh things that others question or condemn?

Do others crave your presence? Are you known as a difficult man?

Do your wife and children tell you all they are thinking?

Do you rule by intimidation or affection?

Does your wife stay with you because she has to or wants to?

Do your wife and children ever steer clear of you due to fear of your foul mood?

Anger has no virtue, except for those rare and holy occasions when righteous indignation erupts legitimately against ungodliness. Not all anger is sin, but the vast majority is sin (*Ephesians 4:26*)!

And the horrible passions of most anger give place to the devil in your life (*Ephesians 4:27*)!

The blessed God of heaven, who is Holy in all His ways, is angry and furious against His enemies (*Nahum 1:2-6*).

An angry man burns in hot wrath against sin (*Revelation 19:15*).

The very meek Moses became angry. And even Jesus was angry (*Exodus 32:19; Mark 3:5*).

However, anger without a just cause is a violation of the sixth commandment, "Thou shalt not kill" (*Matthew 5:21-22*).

It does not matter that you could not stop your anger; many murderers have tried the same excuse.

It does not matter that you have a temperament prone to quick wrath, you are a weak man.

Grow up! Stop being a child that throws temper tantrums! Get strong and rule your spirit (**Proverbs 14:29; 16:32; James 1:19-20**).

"Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous" (Proverbs 27:4).

Learn to love the wisdom of peace (**James 3:14-18**)!

The Proverb teaches, *"An angry man stirreth up strife."* Anger causes fighting (**Proverbs 15:18**).

A soft answer turns away wrath, but grievous words stir up anger (**Proverbs 15:1**).

The angry man, does not think before speaking or reacting, so he provokes anger and fighting, where a conflict could have ended.

Solomon's son Rehoboam answered Israel harshly and lost ten of twelve tribes, for he provoked them to anger and enmity by his foolish conduct.

It is impossible to fight with a pillow, and the man who defers his anger is a holy pillow.

The Proverb teaches, *"A furious man aboundeth in transgression."* Speaking or acting impulsively generally leads to sin. Angry men are too confused and enraged to examine and check their words or actions by wisdom.

Angry men merely react with the profane instincts of their depraved hearts, and sin is the certain result.

Even Moses, generally a meek and patient man, allowed Israel to provoke him to speak unadvisedly with his lips and strike the rock God had told him to address (**Psalms 106:32-33**).

It Is Cool And Calm Reflection That Leads To Wisdom And Prudence, Not The Passion And Fury Of Anger.

Anger seldom works the righteousness of God (**James 1:19-20**).

Therefore, You must learn to check its first risings in your soul. **If** you know of persons or situations that provoke you to anger, then either avoid them or prepare your defenses in advance.

Learn to wait before allowing anger any expression.

Let the fear of losing your wife, children, and reputation teach you the precious value of kindness, mercy, and patience.

It is a glorious man that can defer anger (**Proverbs 19:11**).

It is a great man that can rule his spirit (**Proverbs 14:29; 16:32**).

Parent, you must train this curse out of your children. There is no room for anger in how your children deal with each other, their friends, or with you.

Require meekness, kindness, service, and reverence at all times. Do not allow that proud and selfish rage that destroys souls and families.

Neither can you allow that sullen and withdrawn fury that burns deeper and longer. All bitterness and grudges must be found and destroyed.

God has ordered you to reject all bitterness, wrath, anger, and malice (Ephesians 4:31).

These sins are totally unacceptable to God and the Christian religion. They will lead to fighting, strife, and other sins that have no right in your life.

In their place you are to be kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving of others.

The motive and standard for this unnatural behavior? God's treatment of you in Christ Jesus (**Ephesians 4:32**)!

Proverbs 29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.

Are you going up or down in life? Are you more a prince or a prisoner? Are you honored or hardly known?

Every person wants a successful life, and this simple Proverb tells you how. One of the greatest factors is your attitude about yourself.

- **If** you are arrogant and haughty, you are headed for trouble!
- **If** you are modest and meek, you are prospering!

Solomon warned often against pride, and he had reasons to be conceited. He had the most wisdom, wealth, and power; and he was attractive! He despised pride as an evil that destroys men's lives. He warned his son and citizens.

The many repetitions in a book of Proverbs declare loudly, this matter is very important and tends to be overlooked!

Consider if you will: *"Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall" (Proverbs 16:18).*

Proverbs 11:2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

Proverbs 18:12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honour is humility.

Proverbs 26:12 *Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.*

How will pride take you down and humility bring you honor? Men hate arrogance, and they love graciousness (**Proverbs 9:6-9; 11:2; 14:3; 21:24; 22:10-11**).

If you are conceited and haughty, you will not grow in favor with men; they will do what they can to cut you off from friendships and opportunities.

If you are meek, modest, and submissive, men will appreciate and enjoy your spirit and do what they can to include and help you.

How will pride take you down and humility bring you honor?

Conceit and haughtiness lead to bad decisions, you are too arrogant to hear others, and you are too confident to examine your own ideas (**Proverbs 11:2; 12:15; 14:16; 16:25; 22:3; 26:12, 16; 29:20**).

A humble man, who trusts the Lord, doubts his opinions and is eager to hear the judgment of others. He will prosper! (**Proverbs 3:5-7; 6:6; 11:14; 12:15; 15:32; 19:20**)

How will pride take you down and humility bring you honor? If the first two results of pride do not bring you down (and they will eventually), the final result most surely will.

God hates pride in man, and it does not matter how much effort they make to protect themselves.

God will destroy them (**Proverbs 3:34; 6:16-17; 15:25; 16:2,5; 21:2; Job 40:9-14; Daniel 4:37**).

God shall bless and exalt the humble in spirit (**Proverbs 3:34; Isaiah 57:15; 66:2**).

Contrary to Solomon's inspired wisdom, the world now commends pride as a virtue and defends conceit. From athletes to actresses to politicians, bloated egos and haughty words are the norm.

Children are taught self-esteem and self-love until they are convinced the universe revolves around them. They should be taught to love and serve others. All ages can boldly say, "I am proud of what I have accomplished." But pride is a terrible sin!

Reader, what is in your heart? Sinful thoughts of ambition and pride, that condemned the devil (**1 Timothy 3:6**)?

Or the childlike humility of Solomon (**1 Kings 3:6-9**)?

If you will humble yourself under the mighty hand of God, He will exalt you soon (**1 Peter 5:6-7**).

Proverbs 29:24 *Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.*

Can you partner for a thief and get away with it? Do you think your sin is small, since you didn't actually steal? You are a fool, you hate your own soul, and judgment is coming!

Partnership with a thief is explained by the second clause. When property owners, civil magistrates, or other authorities confront you with oaths, you deny you know anything.

How often children and young men are faced with this crucial moment of truth!

Cursing here is an oath to tell the truth (**Number 5:21; Judges 17:2**). We do it in America.

Witnesses in court hear, with their right hand raised to God and left hand on a Bible, "Do swear to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; so help me, God?"

Such swearing, by appealing to God, the highest authority in the universe, is intended to end any possibility of lying (**Hebrews 6:16**).

Moses ordered such swearing to get to the bottom of matters, including theft (**Exodus 22:8-15; Deuteronomy 21:1-9; 1 Kings 8:31-32; 22:16**).

If a soul sin, and hear the voice of swearing, and is a witness, whether he hath seen or known of it; if he do not utter it, then he shall bear his iniquity. (**Leviticus 5:1**)

"**Bewraying**" a matter, is to reveal it. Since we no longer use the word "**bewrayeth**," let The Oxford English Dictionary provide a definition for us.

Bewray = To expose (a person), by divulging his secrets, or telling something that one knows to his discredit or harm. To reveal, divulge, disclose, declare, make known, show.

Consider also the Holy Spirit's use of the Word.

An odious woman cannot be hid, for she will bewray, reveal, declare, or show, what she is, as sure as perfume is smelled (**Proverbs 27:16**).

And Peter's speech bewrayed, revealed and declared, he was of Galilee (**Matthew 26:73**).

If you are asked about a sin under oath or by authority, and you do not reveal the sinner, you are guilty of two crimes (*Exodus 20:15-16*).

You should fear God more than any man (*Proverbs 29:25*).

You should fear God because hindering justice is a great sin (*Exodus 23:1-7; Deuteronomy 29:15-21*).

You should understand that such a disclosure is not tattling, which is talebearing (*1 Timothy 5:13; 1 Corinthians 1:11*).

Our Lord Jesus kept total silence during his long and fraudulent trial, but when sworn to tell the truth by the high priest, He answered honestly (*Matthew 26:63-64; Mark 15:5*).

Proverbs 29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.

Worry What Others Think Of You?

It is a dangerous trap! You can bind yourself in sin by respecting other men too much.

If you allow the opinions of others to influence your decisions, you will be tempted to compromise the truth.

If you trust the LORD and His Word, regardless of what others think, you will be safe (*Proverbs 18:10; Psalm 119:128*).

Fearing Man The Opposite Of Fearing God.

You are worried about pleasing men and obtaining their agreement, friendship, and favor.

You are afraid of their displeasure and rejection, so you do what you can to keep their approval and stay in their good graces. Instead of measuring your life by Scripture, you are concerned about popular opinion.

We often call this fear of man peer pressure. Its source is your peers, your equals in similar stations in life, the same age group or social set.

It is pressure, because the approval they give or withhold forces you to alter your beliefs and actions, in order to keep your standing in your peer group.

It makes you conform to the world (*Romans 12:1-2*).

The fear of man can come from other sources as well. Employees can fear their bosses beyond the basic respect of employment.

Pastors can fear their members disapproving of a sermon and reducing support.

A person can fear a spouse and the domestic tension they can create. Scholars or church councils can intimidate a man to compromise the truth.

Aaron feared the people in Moses' absence and made the golden calf (*Exodus 32:22-24*).

Saul lost the kingdom for fearing the people and sparing Agag (*1 Samuel 15:24*).

Herod feared the people, his wife, and his friends, so he killed John the Baptist (*Matthew 6:6-11*).

Pilate feared the people and his political relationship with Caesar (*John 19:11-16*).

Peter both denied the Lord out of fear of others and compromised the gospel (*Matthew 26:69-75; Galatians 2:11-13*).

On the other hand:

David was not discouraged by his oldest brother's accusation (*1 Samuel 17:28*).

Daniel did not fear the lions' den, for he kept up his daily habit of prayer in spite of the new law (*Daniel 6:10*).

His three friends were not afraid of Nebuchadnezzar or his fiery furnace (*Daniel 3:16-18*).

Peter and the apostles boldly defied the Jews after Pentecost (*Acts 5:29*).

Joseph of Arimathea boldly asked for the body of Jesus (*Mark 15:43*).

Most Christians today fear men more than God. They are like some rulers among the Jews. *"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God"* (*John 12:42-43*).

It is impossible to please God and have fear or respect for the approval of men. Jesus warned His hearers, *"How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?"* (*John 5:44*)

There were many like these, who were intimidated by the opinions or persecution of others (*John 7:13; 9:22*).

What are remedies for the fear of man? Be confident in Scripture over men (*Job 32:6-14; Psalm 119:98-100; Isaiah 8:20*).

Avoid corrupt or sinful friends (*Proverbs 9:6; 22:24-25; Psalm 101:3; 1Corinthians 15:33*).

Trust the Lord to protect you (*Daniel 3:16-18; Hebrews 13:6*).

Consider the ignorance and incompetence of natural man (*Psalm 39:5; 62:9; 1Timothy 6:20*).

Do not enter associations, as an individual or church, which will bring ungodly pressure (*2Chronicles 18:1; 2Corinthians 6:14-18*).

Remember that God or truth will never be popular. In fact, anything the world accepts and does not despise is an abomination in God's sight (*Luke 6:26; 16:15*).

Think on Noah! Would you rather be popular or dry?

Think on Daniel! Would you be willing to eat bean soup and water while your peers are gorging on the king's meat and wine?

Recognize and embrace persecution! It is evidence you are following Christ, and it is the means of His great approval (*Isaiah 51:7-8; 66:5; Matthew 5:10-12; John 16:2; Acts 5:41; 2Timothy 3:12; 1Peter 4:12-16*).

If they hated Jesus Christ, they will surely hate you (*John 15:18-25*).

But no weapon formed against you will succeed (*Isaiah 54:17*). Believe it!

Young person! You are the most vulnerable. Can you understand and despise peer pressure? It is the young fools of this world forcing you to turn away from God and holiness to pursue the pleasures of sin. Can you mock their speech, their habits, their dress, and their fads?

Can you hate their fornication, rebellion, and cliques? Fear the Lord!

Are you ashamed to be known as a Christian? Can you boldly carry a Bible in school? To work?

Can you eagerly give thanks for food before the heathen?

Can you easily turn down invitations to join them in worldly amusements?

Can you be confident to explain that Sunday is the Lord's Day?

Can you confidently wear modest clothing?

Parent, do you fear your children? Do you fear their faces, their moods, or their rejection? Stand up for righteousness and trust the Lord!

Eli compromised for his sons and lost everything (*1Samuel 2:30; 3:13*).

Joshua put his foot down for his whole house, and he has been quoted for 4000 years for his courageous zeal as a father. Do your job (*Proverbs 29:15, 17*).

Husband, do you fear your wife? Does interrupted domestic tranquility cause you to compromise? Abraham was God's friend for commanding his household to keep the way of the Lord (*Genesis 18:19*).

You are to lead with love over your wife (*Genesis 3:16*).

She has neither your office nor ability to know the will of God (*1Corinthians 14:34-35*).

Do the consequences of Adam listening to his wife, or Abraham to his, cause you to tremble? They should!

Christian woman! Are you intimidated by fashion trends? Do you keep pace with society's rush to conceal less and reveal more?

Can you dress up and cover more, even when others dress down and cover less?

Can you understand what it is, that keeps you from valuing a meek and quiet spirit over well-set hair and a new outfit and accessories (*1Peter 3:3-4*)?

Can you manage the peer pressure that keeps you from dressing less than your most flattering in order to be holy?

Pastor, preach the word (*2Timothy 4:2*)!

Do not look at the faces of your people for approval (*Jeremiah 1:17*)!

Be insistent, pressing, and urgent, both in and out of season (*2Timothy 4:2*)!

Many men have gone before you that were not afraid of rack or stake! Are you worthy of their noble company? Let them be the witnesses that mold your ministry (*Hebrews 12:1-4*)!

Pastor, reject the "seeker sensitive" compromisers. The time has come when men will no longer endure sound doctrine, but you are to insistently preach the word anyway (*2Timothy 4:1-5*)!

God has not called you to grow your church numerically! Do not do anything to increase your membership that even approaches compromise. God has called you to grow your church spiritually! You are to please God, not men (*Galatians 1:10*)!

Do you fear enemies, teachers, or ancients? Or all three? By meditating on and keeping God's precepts,

the psalmist was confident against all three kinds of men (*Psalm 119:98-100*).

These verses should be required memorization for young men and ministers. Or is it friends that intimidate you? Then make sure your friends all love the truth (*Psalm 119:63*)!

Trust the LORD by esteeming every word of God and knowing no man can harm you (*Psalm 119:128; Proverbs 16:7; 1Peter 3:13*).

You will give an account of your life to God one day, not man (*Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; 2Corinthians 5:10-11*).

Fear God, Who can do real harm (*Luke 12:4-5*)!

Proverbs 29:26 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.

If the sheriff, governor, or president were your friend, he might help you a little if you needed protection, provision, or avenging.

But those who wait on the LORD will receive perfect help in all situations. The LORD by providence dispenses perfect equity and justice to all men. So your great trust should always be in the LORD. Seek Him today.

Natural man looks down. He trusts other men, like parents, employers, legislators, magistrates, or pastors.

He expects them to help, when he is in trouble. However, their abilities are limited, they also have troubles, their judgment is distorted, and they are often fickle.

Though parents generally love their children very much and want to help them, David said the LORD would still be there when they forsook him (*Psalm 27:10*).

Men should look to the heavens, from whence cometh their help (*Psalm 121:1-8*).

Favor and judgment in this Proverb have similar senses. The judgment here is not punishment, but fair and right treatment.

Men love friends in high places, for they think that will be an advantage when in need. But promotion, prosperity, and protection are from the LORD.

The favor of God far exceeds what any man can do for you. Trust Him today!

Do you have enemies? Vengeance is the LORD's; He will repay (*Romans 12:19*).

Do your cares become too heavy? He will bear them for you (*1Peter 5:7*).

Do you become afraid at times? He will never leave you nor forsake you (*Hebrews 13:6*).

Do you have needs? He knows them and will supply (*Matthew 6:25-33*).

Do you rulers could oppress you? He is higher than they (*Ecclesiastes 5:8*)!

Beautiful Esther married Ahasuerus, King of Persia. She should have been blessed and safe married to the world's greatest ruler.

But her husband ignorantly signed into law a decree to exterminate her and her people. She went to the LORD with fasting and prayer, and He delivered her marvelously and totally, even from her husband and king. Give God the Glory!

Precious Hannah was beloved by her husband Elkanah, but his other wife tortured her painfully. So she took her complaint to the LORD. What Elkanah could not rectify, the blessed God could. Hannah had Samuel and five other children to boot! Give God the Glory!

David said it well. "*Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish*" (*Psalm 146:3-4*). "*It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in princes*" (*Psalm 118:8-9*).

Proverbs 29:27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

**Ancient And Strong Enmity
Exists Between The Wicked And Righteous.**

Enmity was there in the beginning; it will be there in the end. The righteous hate the wicked; and the wicked hate the righteous.

They are contrary one to another, and they shall never make peace. No less than the enmity between God and Satan is the hatred between the just and the wicked.

Cain hated Abel and killed him for nothing but envy and resentment, though Abel was righteous and had done him no wrong (*1John 3:12*).

As with Cain, the wicked hate God and His children in obedience to their murderous father, the devil (*John 8:44*).

How could any hate Jesus of Nazareth? But they tortured and killed him mercilessly! There is horrible animosity against Christ and His disciples (*John 7:7; 15:18-19; 17:14*).

Get used to the idea, for it is in this horrible context of Cain killing his own brother in the virgin earth that we are told the world will likewise hate us (*1John 3:13*).

This world is no friend to grace or the children of light. It hates them and would exterminate them without the restraining grace of God (*Matthew 10:22; 24:9; Psalm 76:10*).

Even the religious ones will think they are serving God when they kill you (*John 16:2*).

The righteous hate the wicked, for they cannot stand the vile spirit and actions of the wicked; their hatred is of evil men and their evil actions.

But the wicked hate the righteous for their good deeds; their hatred is of good men and good actions. The conflict is between good and evil, God and Satan, holiness and wickedness, saints and sinners.

The natures of the two antagonists are totally different. The natural man is at enmity against God and His law (*Romans 8:7*).

He is a willing captive of the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that works in the children of disobedience (*Ephesians 2:1-3*).

And this war was prophesied in the Garden of Eden (*Genesis 3:15*). See the comments on *Proverbs 29:10*.

The righteous hate the wicked for their ungodliness and enmity against God. The wicked hate the righteous out of envy and depravity.

The righteous love their personal enemies to show the benevolent character of God, David hated the enemies of God with a perfect hatred (*Psalms 139:19-22; Matthew 5:43-48*).

There is a great difference between our personal enemies and the avowed enemies of God.

Paul had a burning passion for the conversion of Israelites, those who were the children of God (*Romans 9:1-8; 10:1-5*).

He told Timothy plainly that he endured all he did for the sake of the elect (*2Timothy 2:10*).

When it came to wicked men without faith, he asked for prayer to be delivered from them (*2Thessalonians 3:1-2; 2Timothy 4:14-15*).

He understood his gospel to be a sweet savour of death unto death for such reprobates (*2Corinthians 2:14-17*).

Jesus warned often of the hatred the wicked have for the righteous. He warned His disciples of how the world would hate them (*Matthew 5:10-12; John 7:7; 15:18-19; 17:14*).

And the historical account of persecution in the book of Acts is proof of this warning. The Dark Ages are filled with horrible stories of the martyrs of Jesus that are difficult for the most hardened mind to believe.

Do not be surprised when the same devilish spirit drives men to hate, slander, whisper, condemn, persecute, and seek to kill you.

If you live a godly life in this world for Jesus Christ, you will suffer persecution (*2Timothy 3:12*).

We live in the perilous times of the last days when even most Christians are deceived compromisers (*2Timothy 3:1 - 4:4*).

They despise those who are good, and they will turn on you, if you take a stand for holiness in this profane generation! They have a form of godliness, but they deny Him any right to govern their lives (*2Timothy 3:3; 3:5*).

The righteous are to live separate from the world (*James 4:4*).

They may not marry spouses from the world of the ungodly (*1Corinthians 7:39; 11:11*).

God drowned the earth with the Flood, in part, for the sons of God marrying the daughters of men (***Genesis 6:1-3***).

It is the bond of Christ's blood and obedience to God that are the basis of friendship for the righteous (***Psalms 119:63***).

There is nothing to worry about, fellow saint. Jesus Christ has overcome the world (***John 16:33***)!

The martyrs in heaven are crying for the day of vengeance, and it is near (***Revelation 6:9-17***)!

He is coming in flaming fire to destroy all His enemies (***2Thessalonians 1:7-10; Jude 1:14-15***).

If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha!