

**MON) July 8****Ch. 9 - The Wise Woman and the Foolish Woman**

Verses 1 to 6 are a praise for wisdom (personified as a woman), and the last part, verses 13 to 18, are an explanation of foolishness (personified as another woman). We all make decisions between wisdom and foolishness every moment of the day. The author defines a wise life, that is, a life that attains eternal life, as follows:  
 "The (.....) of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the (.....) of the Holy One is understanding."

**Ch. 10 - Living according to God's character 1**

This chapter includes lessons about mouth and speech. Words that discern the time and place are important. Read and organize the distinctions between lips of the righteous and the lips of the wicked.

1) Lips of the righteous:

2) Lips of the wicked:

**Ch. 11 - Living according to God's character 2**

Verses 1-3 are lessons related to God's righteousness. Honest scales and fair weights teach us to live honestly and sincerely. Meditate on how you can live honestly and faithfully before God.

**Ch. 12 - The Thoughts and Attitudes of a Wise Man**

The author continues to how what the life of a wise person, that is, a person who fears God, looks like. Attitudes of a wise person and a God-fearing person is described. What are the characteristics of a wise person of verses 1 and 15?

**TUE) July 9****Ch. 13 - People who listen to the Word**

This chapter shows Proverbs' unique way of contrasting the righteous and the wicked, the wise and the foolish, and the diligent and the lazy. Verses 1-3, 10, 13, and 18 include admonitions and rebukes. Are we responding to the admonitions and rebukes? Or, are we showing our pride by rejecting or selectively applying these admonitions in our lives? Verse 13 states:  
 "Whoever despises the word brings (.....) on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be (.....)."

**Ch. 14 - A wise man who fears God**

This chapter describes those who fear God and those who despise God, and those who are wise and those who are foolish. In particular, it explains about the fear of God in verses 2, 26-27, and 31. Through a person's behavior, you can tell whether he fears God or despises Him.  
 1) Verse 2: Whoever walks in (.....) fears the Lord  
 2) Verse 31: He who is (.....) to the needy honors God.

**Ch. 15 - A wise man's speech**

This chapter contains lessons about speech. (Verses 1-2, 4, 18, 23, 28). In particular, this chapter show how to "answer" another's words. How you verbally respond to other people's questions or requests is important. Verse 1 describes a gentle answer, verse 4 a gentle tongue, and verse 18 being quick to get angry. Look back at what our words and attitude are like when we relate to others.

**Ch. 16 - The goal of life is to fear God**

This chapter covers topics about God's providence, the fear of God, pride and humility, economic life, words about the king, wisdom, evil, and honesty. Verse 16 states  
 "How much better to get (.....) than gold! To get (.....) is to be chosen rather than silver."  
 The purpose of a believer's life should be to gain wisdom, not money.

**WED) July 10****Ch. 17 - A Blessed Family for God's people**

The author continues with lessons about the life of a Godly person. In particular, verses 1, 6, 21, and 25 contain words about family.  
 "Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife." (v. 1)  
 "He who sires a (.....) gets himself sorrow, and the father of a (.....) has no joy."  
 (Verses 21, 25)

**Ch. 18 - Living According to God's Wisdom 1**

What are the characteristics of fools described in this chapter?

- 1) Takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing his opinion.
- 2) Enjoys talking about other people.
- 3) Answers before listening.
- 4) Listen to others until the end.

**Ch. 19 - Living According to God's Wisdom 2**

This chapter continues to describe in various ways how faith that fears God, or true wisdom, is revealed in real life. In particular, verse 17 states,  
 "Whoever is (.....) to the poor lends to the Lord, and he will repay him for his deed."  
 Verse 17 emphasizes that God does not forget any kind deeds toward the poor. Let's think about who there are members around us that we need to look after.

**Ch. 20 - A man's steps are from the LORD.**

This chapter covers a wider range of topics than any other chapter in Proverbs. Although people may seem to do what they want, in reality, God determines and guides their steps (verse 24). God illuminates and knows the depths of the human soul, even the hidden motives (verse 27). With these words, let us pray that God will guide our steps today with an honest heart and motivation.

**THU)** July 11**Ch. 21 - God's Sovereignty**

This chapter emphasizes God's sovereignty. It may seem that a king does as he wills, but, in fact, it is God who moves his heart (verse 1). Also, God's sovereignty can not be overcome by human wisdom, human understanding, human counsel, or human power (Vv 30, 31). Let us meditate on today's word and pray as follows. "Father God, please move the hearts of the leaders and rulers of this country, so that they can rule the country with God's justice and love. Please also touch the hearts of the servants of the church, so that they become servants who are recognized by God with honest hearts. Please touch the hearts of the husband and wife and help them build their family with a good character that resembles Christ, I pray in the name of Jesus."

**Ch. 22 - God rewards.**

Verse 4 states, "The reward of humility and the fear of the Lord is (.....) and (.....) and (.....)."

This reward is not just the guarantee of things to be enjoyed in this world, but also the assurance of eternity beyond this world.

**Ch. 23 - My son, give me your heart**

This chapter contains instructions for those who fear God in various social circumstances, especially at a dining table with others. In particular, God warns against drunkenness. What are the consequences for those who are addicted to alcohol and those who go out to get mixed drinks? (verses 29-30)

**Ch. 24 - Do not envy the prosperity of the wicked**

Verses 1 and 17-19 are instructions on how a wise person should treat the wicked.

- 1) Do not (.....) the prosperity of the wicked.
- 2) When your enemy stumbles or falls, do not (.....), lest the Lord see it and be displeased.

**FRI)** July 12**Ch. 25 - Wisdom is guarding the heart**

1) Conflicts may arise in relationships with people.

"Argue your case with your neighbor himself, and do not reveal another's (.....)."

2) Verse 28 tells us to guard our hearts above all else.

"A man without (.....) is like a city broken into and left without walls."

**Ch. 26 - The delusion of those who do not fear God**

This chapter deals with foolish people, lazy people, and those who speak wrong. Proverbs defines all these people as evil. This kind of life is not a life fearing God. In verses 12 and 16, the common delusions of these people are recorded. What is that delusion?

**Ch. 27 - Constructive criticism is better than love unexpressed**

Verses 6, 9, 10, and 17 include advice for a person to discern and accept a friend's rebuke (even if painful) if it comes from loyalty and love. As it always has been people of our time do not know how to listen to painful words. However, "As iron sharpens iron, so a man (.....) another."

**Ch. 28 - The Godly Life of God's People**

Wicked people try to become rich even by crooked means (vv. 6, 18), make money through usury (v. 8), and try to accumulate wealth quickly (v. 20). They are so focused on acquiring wealth that they do not think about the poverty that will come. Their foolishness is revealed (v. 22). In contrast, a Godly man,

- 1) Verses 4, 7, 9: Puts (.....) at the center of his life.
- 2) Verse 13: Does not hide his (.....), but confess them and forsake them to obtain mercy.
- 3) Verse 14: Always fears God
- 4) Verse 25: Trusts in the (.....).

**SAT)** July 13**Ch. 29 - Benefits of Rebuke**

Verse 1 states that "He who is often reprovved, yet stiffens his neck, will suddenly be broken beyond healing." And, flattery may sound sweet to the ears, but it is ultimately harmful (verse 5). Discipline, represented by whipping and scolding, although painful, is beneficial in that it gives wisdom (verses 15, 17).

"Father in heaven, please give me the wisdom to distinguish between sweet and bitter words and what words are beneficial to my soul.

Don't let me be tempted by words that are sweet to the ear or pleasant to listen to.

Above all, help us to set clear standards with the Word of God, and to live based on the Word of God. Please give us discerning ears and a humble heart. Amen."

**Ch. 30 - Proverbs of Agur**

Verses 7-9 are Agur's prayer.

- 1) "Remove far from me (.....) and (.....)"
- 2) "Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is (.....) for me,"

**Ch. 31 - A proverb instructing King Lemuel**

This chapter includes proverbs given to King Lemuel by his mother. She tells her son to refrain from doing anything that would cause him to forget his royal duties (2-7). The core of it is the temptations of wicked women and the abuse of alcohol.

The last part of proverbs ends with praise for a virtuous woman. Throughout the Proverbs, wisdom was personified as a woman. The proverb of the virtuous woman summarizes the book of Proverbs.

A virtuous woman who blesses her family represents wisdom. What is the secret of this wisdom? (Verse 30)