

## **Proverbs 10**

**(New International Version)**

**1**The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother. **2**Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death. **3**The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. **4**Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth. **5**He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son. **6**Blessings crown the head of the righteous, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked. **7**The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot. **8**The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin. **9**The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out. **10**He who winks maliciously causes grief, and a chattering fool comes to ruin. **11**The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked. **12**Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs. **13**Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment. **14**Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin. **15**The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor. **16**The wages of the righteous bring them life, but the income of the wicked brings them punishment. **17**He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray. **18**He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool. **19**When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise. **20**The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value. **21**The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment. **22**The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it. **23**A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom. **24**What the wicked dreads will overtake him; what the righteous desire will be granted. **25**When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever. **26**As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him. **27**The fear of the Lord adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short. **28**The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing. **29**The way of the Lord is a refuge for the righteous, but it is the ruin of those who do evil. **30**The righteous will never be uprooted, but the wicked will not remain in the land. **31**The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out. **32**The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.

**THEME: Wisdom For All People (Chapters 10-24)**

**PURPOSE:** Solomon wanted to impart wisdom to all people, regardless of their age, sex, or position in society. These short, wise sayings give us practical wisdom for daily living. We should study them diligently and integrate them into our life.

**OUTLINE:**

**I. The Two Children (10:1-7)**

- a. The wise child brings joy to his father
- b. The foolish child brings grief to his mother

**II. The Two Lifestyles and Their Results (10:8-32)**

- a. The wise vs the foolish. The wise are careful with their words and actions; the foolish care only about what they want.
- b. The obedient vs. the disobedient (10:10,17): The obedient accept correction; the disobedient “wink at wrong.”
- c. The rich vs. the poor (10:15-16,22): Godly people use their money wisely; fools squander it.
- d. The godly vs. the godless (10:11-12,18,24-25,27-32): The words of the godly lead to life; evil people hide their intentions and cut their lives short.

**PROVERBS 10:2**

Some people bring unhappiness on themselves by choosing ill-gotten gain. For example, craving satisfaction, they may do something that destroys their chances of ever achieving happiness. God’s principles for right living bring lasting happiness, because they guide us into long-term right behavior in spite of our ever changing feelings.

**PROVERBS 10:3**

Proverbs is full of verses contrasting the godly (righteous) person with the wicked. These statements are not intended to apply universally to all people in every situation. For example, some good people do go hungry. Rather, they are intended to communicate the general truth that the life of the person who seeks God is better in the long run than the life of the wicked person—a life that leads to ruin. These statements are not ironclad promises but general truths. In addition, a proverb like this assumes a just government that cares for the poor and needy—the kind of government Israel was intended to have (see Deuteronomy 24:17-22). A corrupt government often thwarts the plans of godly men and women.

**PROVERBS 10:4, 5**

Every day has 24 hours filled with opportunities to grow, serve, and be productive. Yet it is so easy to waste time, letting life slip from our grasp. Refuse to be a lazy person, sleeping or frittering away the hours meant for productive work. See time as God’s gift, and seize your opportunities to live diligently for him.

#### **PROVERBS 10:18**

**By hating another person you may become a liar or a fool. If you try to conceal your hatred, you end up lying. If you slander the other person and are proven wrong, you are a fool. The only way out is to admit your hateful feelings to God. Ask him to change your heart, to help you love instead of hate.**

#### **PROVERBS 10:20**

**Words from a good person are valuable (“sterling silver”). A lot of poor advice is worth less than a little good advice. It is easy to get opinions from people who will tell us only what they think will please us, but such advice is not helpful. Instead, we should look for those who will speak the truth, even when it hurts. Think about the people to whom you go for advice. What do you expect to hear from them?**

#### **PROVERBS 10:22**

**God supplies most people with the personal and financial abilities to respond to the needs of others. If we all realized how God has blessed us, and if we all used our resources to do God’s will, hunger and poverty would be wiped out. Wealth is a blessing only if we use it in the way God intended.**

#### **PROVERBS 10:24**

**The wicked person dreads death. Those who do not believe in God usually fear death, and with good reason. By contrast, believers desire eternal life and God’s salvation—their hopes will be rewarded. This verse offers a choice: You can have either your fears or your hopes come true. You make that choice by rejecting God and living your own way or by accepting God and following him.**