

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown

Bible Study Notes Book of Proverbs—Proverbs 15

9/12/12

Wisdom Instructions On Right Emotions And The Right Way To Live

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. USE WORDS WISELY (1-7): "Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit."

II. REMEMBER WHAT THE LORD LOVES (8-9): The prayers of the upright and those who pursue godliness.

III. CONSIDER THE CONSEQUENCES (10-19): Abandoning the right path brings serious consequences.

IV. USE GOOD SENSE (20-29): The Lord is far from the wicked but close to the righteous.

V. LOOK AND LISTEN WELL (30-33): A cheerful look brings joy to the heart.

Proverbs 15

(New International Version)

1A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger. **2**The tongue of the wise commends knowledge, but the mouth of the fool gushes folly. **3**The eyes of the LORD are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good. **4**The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit. **5**A fool spurns his father's discipline, but whoever heeds correction shows prudence. **6**The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked brings them trouble. **7**The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.

8The LORD detests the sacrifice of the wicked, but the prayer of the upright pleases him. **9**The LORD detests the way of the wicked but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

10 Stern discipline awaits him who leaves the path; he who hates correction will die. 11 Death and Destruction lie open before the LORD— how much more the hearts of men! 12 A mocker resents correction; he will not consult the wise. 13 A happy heart makes the face cheerful, but heartache crushes the spirit. 14 The discerning heart seeks knowledge, but the mouth of a fool feeds on folly. 15 All the days of the oppressed are wretched, but the cheerful heart has a continual feast. 16 Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil. 17 Better a meal of vegetables where there is love than a fattened calf with hatred. 18 A hot-tempered man stirs up dissension, but a patient man calms a quarrel. 19 The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway. 20 A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish man despises his mother. 21 Folly delights a man who lacks judgment, but a man of understanding keeps a straight course. 22 Plans fail for lack of counsel, but with many advisers they succeed. 23 A man finds joy in giving an apt reply— and how good is a timely word! 24 The path of life leads upward for the wise to keep him from going down to the grave. 25 The LORD tears down the proud man's house but he keeps the widow's boundaries intact. 26 The LORD detests the thoughts of the wicked, but those of the pure are pleasing to him. 27 A greedy man brings trouble to his family, but he who hates bribes will live. 28 The heart of the righteous weighs its answers, but the mouth of the wicked gushes evil. 29 The LORD is far from the wicked but he hears the prayer of the righteous. 30 A cheerful look brings joy to the heart, and good news gives health to the bones. 31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise. 32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding. 33 The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

PROVERBS 15:1

Have you ever tried to argue in a whisper? It is equally hard to argue with someone who insists on answering gently. On the other hand, a rising voice and harsh words almost always trigger an angry response. To turn away wrath and seek peace, choose gentle words.

PROVERBS 15:3

At times it seems that God has let evil run rampant in the world, and we wonder if he even notices it. But God sees everything clearly—both the evil actions and the evil intentions lying behind them (15:11). He is not an indifferent observer. He cares and is active in our world. Right now, his work may be unseen and unfelt, but don't give up. One day he will wipe out evil and punish the evildoers, just as he will establish the good and reward those who do his will.

PROVERBS 15:14

What we feed our mind is just as important as what we feed our body. The kinds of books we read, the people we talk with, the music we listen to, and the films we watch are all part of our mental diet. Be discerning because what you feed your mind influences your total health and well-being. Thus, a strong desire to discover knowledge is a mark of wisdom.

PROVERBS 15:15

Our attitudes color our whole personality. We cannot always choose what happens to us, but we can choose our attitude toward each situation. The secret to a happy heart is filling our mind with thoughts that are true, pure, and lovely, with thoughts that dwell on the good things in life (Philippians 4:8). This was Paul's secret as he faced imprisonment, and it can be ours as we face the struggles of daily living. Look at your attitudes and then examine what you allow to enter your mind and what you choose to dwell on. You may need to make some changes.

PROVERBS 15:17-19

The "path of the upright" doesn't always seem easy (15:19), but look at the alternatives. Hatred (15:17), dissension (15:18), and laziness (15:19) cause problems that the upright person does not have to face. By comparison, his or her life is a smooth, level road because it is built on a solid foundation of love for God.

PROVERBS 15:22

People with tunnel vision, those who are locked into one way of thinking, are likely to miss the right road because they have closed their minds to any new options. We need the help of those who can enlarge our vision and broaden our perspective. Seek out the advice of those who know you and have a wealth of experience. Build a network of advisers. Then be open to new ideas, and be willing to weigh their suggestions carefully. Your plans will be stronger and more likely to succeed.

PROVERBS 15:28

The godly weigh their answers; the wicked don't think before speaking because they don't care about the effects of their words. It is important to have something to say, but it is equally important to think about it first. Do you carefully plan your words, or do you pour out your thoughts without concern for their impact?

Wisdom and Foolishness

The wise and foolish are often contrasted in Proverbs. The characteristics, reputation, and results of each are worth knowing if wisdom is our goal.

	The Wise	The Foolish	Reference
<i>Characteristics</i>	Give good advice	Lack common sense	10:21
	Enjoy wisdom	Enjoy foolishness	10:23
	Consider their steps	Gullible	14:15
		Avoid the wise	15:12
	Hungry for truth	Feed on foolishness	15:14
	Value wisdom above riches		16:16
	Receive life	Receive punishment	16:22
	Respond to correction	Respond to punishment	17:10
	Pursue wisdom	Pursue illusive dreams	17:24
		Blame failure on God	19:3
	Profit from correction	An example to others	19:25
		Are proud and arrogant	21:24
		Despise wise advice	23:9
		Make truth useless	26:7
		Repeat their folly	26:11
		Trust in wisdom	Trust in themselves
	Control their anger	Unleash their anger	29:11
<i>Reputation</i>	Admired as counselors	Punished as servants	10:13
	Crowned with knowledge	Inherit folly	14:18
		Cause strife and quarrels	22:10
		Receive no honor	26:1
	Keep peace	Stir up anger	29:8
<i>Results</i>	Stay on straight paths	Go the wrong way	15:21
		Lash out when discovered in folly	17:12
		Endangered by their words	18:6, 7
	Their wisdom conquers others' strength		21:22
	Avoid wicked paths	Walk a troublesome path	22:5
	Have great advice		24:5
		Will never be chosen as counselors	24:7
		Must be guided by hardship	26:3
	Persist in foolishness	27:22	