

Second Baptist Church of Doylestown
Bible Study Notes Book of Proverbs—Proverbs 19

10/10/12

Wisdom Instructions On Character

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. WEALTH AND WISDOM (19:1-4): "Wealth makes many 'friends'; poverty drives them away."
- II. DECEIVERS AND LIARS (19:5-9): A false witness will be punished, and a liar will be destroyed.
- III. FOOLS, KINGS, AND CHILDREN (19:10-14): Fools should not live in luxury and should restrain their anger.
- IV. LAZINESS AND LIFE (19:15-16): "A lazy person sleeps soundly—and goes hungry." If you keep the commandments, you keep your life.
- V. DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION (19:17-25): If you discipline your children, you will save their lives. "Loyalty makes a person attractive."
- VI. PARENTAL ABUSE (19:26-29): Children who abuse their parents are a disgrace.

Proverbs 19
(New International Version)

(Verses 1-4) WEALTH AND WISDOM: "Wealth makes many 'friends'; poverty drives them away."

¹Better the poor whose walk is blameless than a fool whose lips are perverse. ² Desire without knowledge is not good—how much more will hasty feet miss the way! ³ A person's own folly leads to their ruin, yet their heart rages against the LORD. ⁴ Wealth attracts many friends, but even the closest friend of the poor person deserts them.

PROVERBS 19:1

A blameless life is far more valuable than wealth, but most people don't act as if they believe this. Afraid of not getting everything they want, they will pay any price to increase their wealth—cheating on their taxes, stealing from stores or employers, withholding tithes, refusing to give. But when we know and love God, we realize that a lower standard of living or even poverty—is a small price to pay for personal integrity. Do your actions show that you sacrifice your integrity to increase your wealth? What changes do you need to make in order to get your priorities straight?

PROVERBS 19:2

We often move hastily through life, rushing headlong into the unknown. Many people marry without knowing what to expect of their partner or of married life. Others try illicit sex or drugs without considering the consequences. Some plunge into jobs without evaluating whether or not they are suitable to that line of work. Don't rush into the unknown. Be sure you understand what you're getting into and where you want to go before you take the first step. And if it still seems unknown, be sure you are following God.

(Verses 5-9) DECEIVERS AND LIARS: A false witness will be punished, and a liar will be destroyed.

⁵ A false witness will not go unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will not go free. ⁶ Many curry favor with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of one who gives gifts. ⁷ The poor are shunned by all their relatives—how much more do their friends avoid them! Though the poor pursue them with pleading, they are nowhere to be found. ⁸ The one who gets wisdom loves life; the one who cherishes understanding will soon prosper. ⁹ A false witness will not go unpunished, and whoever pours out lies will perish.

PROVERBS 19:8

Is it good to love yourself? Yes, when your soul is at stake! This proverb does not condone the self-centered person, who loves and protects his or her selfish interests and will do anything to serve them. Instead, it encourages those who really care about themselves to seek wisdom.

(Verses 10-14): FOOLS, KINGS, AND CHILDREN: Fools should not live in luxury and should restrain their anger.

¹⁰ It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury—how much worse for a slave to rule over princes! ¹¹ A person's wisdom yields patience; it is to one's glory to overlook an offense. ¹² A king's rage is like the roar of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass. ¹³ A foolish child is a father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like the constant dripping of a leaky roof. ¹⁴ Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.

(Verses 15-16) LAZINESS AND LIFE: "A lazy person sleeps soundly—and goes hungry." If you keep the commandments, you keep your life.

¹⁵ Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless go hungry. ¹⁶ Whoever keeps commandments keeps their life, but whoever shows contempt for their ways will die.

PROVERBS 19:16

The commandments we are told to obey are those found in God's Word, such as the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20) and other passages of instruction. To obey what God teaches in the Bible is self-preserving. To disobey is self-destructive.

(Verses 17-25): DISCIPLINE AND DEDICATION: If you discipline your children, you will save their lives. "Loyalty makes a person attractive."

¹⁷ Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward them for what they have done. ¹⁸ Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death. ¹⁹ A hot-tempered person must pay the penalty; rescue them, and you will have to do it again. ²⁰ Listen to advice and accept discipline, and at the end you will be counted among the wise. ²¹ Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the LORD's purpose that prevails. ²² What a person desires is unfailing love; better to be poor than a liar. ²³ The fear of the LORD leads to life; then one rests content, untouched by trouble. ²⁴ A sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth! ²⁵ Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke the discerning, and they will gain knowledge.

PROVERBS 19:23

Those who fear the Lord receive "protection from harm" because of their healthy habits, their beneficial life-style, and sometimes through God's direct intervention. Nevertheless the fear of the Lord does not always protect us from trouble in this life: Evil things still happen to people who love God. This verse is not a universal promise but a general guideline. It describes what would happen if this world were sinless, and what will happen in the new earth, when faithful believers will be under God's protection forever.

PROVERBS 19:25

There is a great difference between the person who learns from criticism and the person who refuses to accept correction. How we respond to criticism determines whether or not we grow in wisdom. The next time someone criticizes you, listen carefully to all that is said. You might learn something.

(Verses 26-29): PARENTAL ABUSE Children who abuse their parents are a disgrace.

²⁶ Whoever robs their father and drives out their mother is a child who brings shame and disgrace. ²⁷ Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge. ²⁸ A corrupt witness mocks at justice, and the mouth of the wicked gulps down evil. ²⁹ Penalties are prepared for mockers, and beatings for the backs of fools.

How to Succeed in God's Eyes

Proverbs notes two significant by-products of wise living: success and good reputation. Several verses also point out what causes failure and poor reputation.

Qualities that promote success and a good reputation

Godliness (righteousness)	10:7; 12:3; 28:12
Hating what is false	13:5
Committing all work to the Lord	16:3
Using words with restraint; being even-tempered	17:27, 28
Loving wisdom and understanding	19:8
Humility and fear of the Lord	22:4
Willingness to confess and forsake sin	28:13

Qualities that prevent success and cause a bad reputation

Wickedness	10:7; 12:3; 28:12
Seeking honor	25:27
Hatred	26:24-26
Praising oneself	27:2
Concealing sin	28:13

Other verses dealing with one's reputation are 11:10, 16; 14:3; 19:10; 22:1; 23:17, 18; 24:13, 14.