

Proverbs 11

(New International Version)

*1*The Lord abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight. *2*When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom. *3*The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity. *4*Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death. *5*The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness. *6*The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires. *7*When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing. *8*The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead. *9*With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape. *10*When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. *11*Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed. *12*A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue. *13*A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret. *14*For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure. *15*He who puts up security for another will surely suffer, but whoever refuses to strike hands in pledge is safe. *16*A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth. *17*A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself. *18*The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward. *19*The truly righteous man attains life, but he who pursues evil goes to his death. *20*The Lord detests men of perverse heart but he delights in those whose ways are blameless. *21*Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free. *22*Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion. *23*The desire of the righteous ends only in good, but the hope of the wicked only in wrath. *24*One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty. *25*A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed. *26*People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell. *27*He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it. *28*Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf. *29*He who brings trouble on his family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise. *30*The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise. *31*If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!

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. GOD HATES DISHONESTY (11:1 ♦3): ♦He delights in honesty. ♦

II. RICHES WON♦T HELP (11:4 ♦9): ♦Only right living safeguards against death.

III. THE UPRIGHT UPHOLD THE CITY (11:10 ♦11):♦The godly succeed and bless others.

IV. THE GODLY LIVE RIGHT (11:12 ♦21): ♦A person with good sense does not gossip; your soul is nourished when you are kind.

V. THE GODLY USE DISCRETION (11:22 ♦23): ♦Discretion is more important than beauty. ♦The godly can look forward to happiness, while the wicked can expect only wrath. ♦

VI. THE GODLY ARE GENEROUS (11:24 ♦26): ♦The generous prosper and are satisfied♦; the greedy are cursed.

VII. THE RIGHTEOUS ARE REWARDED (11:27 ♦31): ♦They find favor and flourish.

PROVERBS 11:4

♦The day of judgment♦ refers to when we die or to the time when God settles accounts with all people. On judgment day, each of us will stand alone, accountable for all our deeds. At that time, no amount of riches will buy reconciliation with God. Only our love for God and obedience to him will count.

PROVERBS 11:7, 8

These verses, like 10:3, contrast two paths in life but are not intended to apply universally to all people in all circumstances. God♦s people are not excluded from problems or struggles. If a person follows God♦s wisdom, however, God can rescue him or her from trouble. But a wicked person will fall into his or her

own traps. Even if good people suffer, they can be sure they will ultimately be rescued from eternal death.

PROVERBS 11:9

The mouth can be used either as a weapon or a tool, hurting relationships or building them up. Sadly, it is often easier to destroy than to build, and most people have received more destructive comments than those that build up. Every person you meet today is either a demolition site or a construction opportunity. Your words will make a difference. Will they be weapons for destruction or tools for construction?

PROVERBS 11:14

A good leader needs and uses wise counselors. One person's perspective and understanding is severely limited; he or she may not have all the facts or may be blinded by bias, emotions, or wrong impressions. To be a wise leader at home, at church, or at work, seek the counsel of others and be open to their advice. Then, after considering all the facts, make your decision.

PROVERBS 11:19

Godly people find life because they live life more fully each day. They also find life because people usually live longer when they live right, with proper diet, exercise, and rest. In addition, they need not fear death because eternal life is God's gift to them (John 11:25). By contrast, evil people not only find eternal death but also miss out on real life on earth.

PROVERBS 11:22

Physical attractiveness without discretion soon wears thin. We are to seek those character strengths that help us make wise decisions, not just those that make us look good. Not everyone who looks good is pleasant to live or work with. While taking good care of our body and appearance is not wrong, we also need to develop our ability to think and make wise decisions.

PROVERBS 11:24, 25

These two verses present a paradox: We become richer by being generous. The world says to hold on to as much as possible, but God blesses those who give freely of their possessions, time, and energy. When we give, God supplies us with more so that we can give more. In addition, giving helps us gain a right perspective on our possessions. We realize they were never really ours to begin with, but they were given to us by God to be used to help others. What then do we

gain by giving? Freedom from enslavement to our possessions, the joy of helping others, and God's approval.

PROVERBS 11:29

One of the greatest resources God gives us is the family. Families provide acceptance, encouragement, guidance, and counsel. Bringing trouble on your family whether through anger or through an exaggerated desire for independence is foolish because you cut yourself off from all they provide. In your family, strive for healing, communication, and understanding.

God's Advice About Money	
Proverbs gives some practical instruction on the use of money, although sometimes it is advice we would rather not hear. It's more comfortable to continue in our habits than to learn how to use money more wisely. The advice includes	
Be generous in giving	11:24, 25; 22:9
Place people's needs ahead of profit	11:26
Be cautious of countersigning for another	17:18; 22:26, 27
Don't accept bribes	17:23
Help the poor	19:17; 21:13
Store up for the future	21:20
Be careful about borrowing	22:7
Other verses to study include 11:15; 20:16; 25:14; 27:13.	