

## QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

16:10

***“I have broken the Ten Commandments, but I do good things for people.”***

Many people do similar things. They may steal from their employer or cheat on their taxes, then give to a charity or spend Thanksgiving helping at a soup kitchen. They think they are balancing the scales: they have done bad, and now they are doing good. However, the Bible reveals that the *motive* of guilty sinners is one of guilt (see Hebrews 9:14). They are attempting to bribe the Judge of the Universe. However, the Judge in this case will not be corrupted. He must punish all sinners. Good works cannot earn mercy; it comes purely by the grace of God. He will dismiss our iniquity only on the grounds of our faith in Jesus.



of wisdom; and before honor is humility.

### CHAPTER 16

**T**HE preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

**2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weighs the spirits.**

3 *Commit your works unto the LORD, and your thoughts shall be established.*

4 The LORD has made all things for himself: yes, even the wicked for the day of evil.

**5 Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.**

**6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.**

7 *When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.*

8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

9 A man's heart devises his way: but the LORD directs his steps.

**10** A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresses not in judgment.

11 A just weight and balance are the LORD's: all the weights of the bag are his work.

12 It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaks right.

14 The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

15 In the light of the king's countenance

**16:2** This is never so evident as when you ask a guilty sinner if he thinks he is a good person (see Proverbs 21:2; Luke 16:15). When the Law is used properly, it strips a man of self-righteousness. See Luke 18:18–23.

**16:5** God resists those who are proud. Grace is only for the humble. Biblical evangelism is “Law to the proud; grace to the humble.” With the Law, we break the hard heart. With the gospel, we heal the broken heart.

**16:6** Men will not let go of their beloved sins unless the fear of the Lord grips their sin-loving hearts. Sinners are like a child whose eyes sparkle with delight as he holds a stick of lighted dynamite. He will not let go of it unless he is convinced that he is in terrible danger. The Law of God coupled with future punishment is the convincing agent that God has chosen to awaken the sinner. He must be told that God (who has the power to cast his soul into hell) will judge the world (on Judgment Day) in righteousness (by the perfect and righteous standard of His Law).



*"Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends?"*

*Abraham Lincoln*

is life; and his favour is as a cloud of the latter rain.

16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!

17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keeps his way preserves his soul.

18 Pride goes before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

20 He that handles a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increases learning.

22 Understanding is a wellspring of life

unto him that has it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

23 *The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips.*

24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

**25 There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.**

26 He that labors labors for himself; for his mouth craves it of him.

27 An ungodly man digs up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.

28 A froward man sows strife: and a whisperer separates chief friends.

29 A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him into the way that is not good.

30 He shuts his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he brings evil to pass.

31 The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

**32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that takes a city.**

33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.

## CHAPTER 17

**B**ETTER is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.

2 A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causes shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.

3 The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD tries the hearts.

4 A wicked doer gives heed to false lips; and a liar gives ear to a naughty tongue.

5 Whoso mocks the poor reproaches his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities

**16:25** See Proverbs 12:15. The way of self-righteousness seems right to men. (See Proverbs 15:8 footnote.)

**16:32** This is the spirit in which we should share our faith. See Luke 6:28.

"He who masters his passions is a king even while in chains. He who is ruled by his passions is a slave even while sitting on a throne." *Richard Wurmbrand*

shall not be unpunished.

6 Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers.

7 Excellent speech becomes not a fool: much less do lying lips a prince.

8 A gift is as a precious stone in the eyes of him that has it: whithersoever it turns, it prospers.

9 He that covers a transgression seeks love; but he that repeats a matter separates very friends.

10 A reproof enters more into a wise man than an hundred stripes into a fool.

**11** An evil man seeks only rebellion: therefore a cruel messenger shall be sent against him.

12 Let a bear robbed of her whelps meet a man, rather than a fool in his folly.

13 Whoso rewards evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house.

**14** The beginning of strife is as when one lets out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.

15 He that justifies the wicked, and he that condemns the just, even they both are abomination to the LORD.

16 Wherefore is there a price in the hand of a fool to get wisdom, seeing he has no heart to it?

17 A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.

18 A man void of understanding strikes hands, and becomes surety in the presence of his friend.

19 He loves transgression that loves strife: and he that exalts his gate seeks destruction.

20 He that has a froward heart finds no good: and he that has a perverse tongue falls into mischief.

21 He that begets a fool does it to his sorrow: and the father of a fool has no joy.

**22** A merry heart does good like a medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones.

23 A wicked man takes a gift out of the bosom to pervert the ways of judgment.

**24** Wisdom is before him that has understanding; but the eyes of a fool are in the ends of the earth.

25 A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her that bare him.

26 Also to punish the just is not good, nor to strike princes for equity.

27 He that has knowledge spares his words: and a man of understanding is of an excellent spirit.

28 Even a fool, when he holds his peace, is counted wise: and he that shuts his lips is esteemed a man of understanding.

## CHAPTER 18

**T**HROUGH desire a man, having separated himself, seeks and intermeddles with all wisdom.

2 A fool has no delight in understanding, but that his heart may discover itself.

3 When the wicked comes, then comes also contempt, and with ignominy reproach.

4 The words of a man's mouth are as deep waters, and the wellspring of wisdom as a flowing brook.

5 It is not good to accept the person of the wicked, to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

**17:11** A rebellious heart is an open door to the demonic realm. This was the case with King Saul.

**17:14** See Matthew 12:36 footnote.

**17:22** Let the joy of the Lord be your strength. See Proverbs 15:15 footnote.

**17:24** True riches are laid before us in the Word of God. Those who ignore these "exceedingly great and precious promises" (2 Peter 1:4) will never be content.

**18:1** Never isolate yourself from other Christians. Those who are not in regular fellowship with other believers make themselves an easier target for the enemy. Satan is a roaring lion, seeking to devour us (1 Peter 5:8). The first thing a lion does in stalking its prey is to isolate individual members from the herd. See Hebrews 10:25.

6 A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for strokes.

7 A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

8 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

9 He also that is slothful in his work is brother to him that is a great waster.

10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runs into it, and is safe.

11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and as an high wall in his own conceit.

**12 Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and before honor is humility.**

**13** *He that answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame unto him.*

14 The spirit of a man will sustain his infirmity; but a wounded spirit who can bear?

15 The heart of the prudent gets knowledge; and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

**16** A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.

17 He that is first in his own cause seems just; but his neighbor comes and searches him.

18 The lot causes contentions to cease, and parts between the mighty.

**19** A brother offended is harder to be won than a strong city: and their contentions are like the bars of a castle.

20 A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.

21 Death and life are in the power of

the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

22 Whoso finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor of the LORD.

23 The poor uses entreaties; but the rich answers roughly.

24 A man that has friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticks closer than a brother.

## CHAPTER 19

**B**ETTER is the poor that walks in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.

2 Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hastens with his feet sins.

**3** The foolishness of man perverts his way: and his heart frets against the LORD.

4 Wealth makes many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbor.

**5** A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaks lies shall not escape.

6 Many will entreat the favor of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that gives gifts.

7 All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursues them with words, yet they are wanting to him.

8 He that gets wisdom loves his own soul: he that keeps understanding shall find good.

**9 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaks lies shall perish.**

10 Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.

**18:13** Be patient when sinners ramble. It is a discredit to our Christian witness to interrupt someone who is trying to tell us something, even though we have heard the empty argument many times before. Love will listen.

**18:16** If you are wanting God to use you, He will open the doors in His time.

**18:19** Make it a rule of life not to argue over petty doctrinal or prophetic interpretations. Strive to keep the unity of the Spirit. See Philippians 1:27.

**19:3** See Romans 8:7.

**19:5** Those who transgress the Ninth Commandment have a fearful fate. See Revelation 21:8.

11 *The discretion of a man defers his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*

12 The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favor is as dew upon the grass.

13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.

14 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.

15 Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

16 He that keeps the commandment keeps his own soul; but he that despises his ways shall die.

**17** He that has pity upon the poor lends unto the LORD; and that which he has given will he pay him again.

18 Chasten your soul while there is hope, and let not your soul spare for his crying.

19 A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if you deliver him, yet you must do it again.

20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter end.

21 There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

22 The desire of a man is his kindness:

and a poor man is better than a liar.

23 The fear of the LORD tends to life: and he that has it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.

24 A slothful man hides his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.

25 Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that has understanding, and he will understand knowledge.

26 He that wastes his father, and chases away his mother, is a son that causes shame, and brings reproach.

27 Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causes to err from the words of knowledge.

28 An ungodly witness scorns judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.

29 Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.

## CHAPTER 20

**W**INE is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.

2 The fear of a king is as the roaring of a lion: whoso provokes him to anger sins against his own soul.

**3** It is an honor for a man to cease from

**19:17** "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." *Winston Churchill*

**20:1 Alcohol is a poison.** When someone is in-toxic-ated, he is "poisoned." The body protests with confused thinking, slurred speech, and impaired vision, memory, and judgment. The victim vomits. The next day his head throbs with pain, yet he still drinks the poison. Hundreds of thousands of innocent people have been maimed on the roads by drunk drivers, yet the world cannot bring itself to say, "Don't drink." It can only say, "Don't drink and drive." This is because alcohol is the only enemy man has succeeded in loving. It destroys his liver, heart, and kidneys. It gives him high blood pressure and causes blood vessels to burst in his skin. It leads him to beat his wife and abuse his kids. It will eventually destroy his ability to enjoy the intimacies of the marriage bed. Yet he still drinks.

He thinks alcohol is a "stimulant." In truth, it is a suppressant that reduces his inhibitions. It dulls the naggings of his conscience so that he can commit sexual and other sins that he couldn't indulge in while sober. A man who gives himself to the demon of alcohol becomes a slave to its addictive properties. It mocks him. It steals his dignity. It takes control of his will. Whoever is deceived by it (and there are millions) is not wise. See Proverbs 23:29–35.

**20:3** It takes no skill to "argue" with sinners. We are called to reason—to plead with love and gentleness.

## QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

20:9

*“I used to be a liar and a thief, but that was years ago. Now I try to be a good person.”*

Time doesn't forgive sin. If a man commits murder on Monday, but on Tuesday he is kind to others, he is still a murderer. If a man lies and steals, unless he comes to the Savior, his sins remain with him until he stands before God in judgment.



strife: but every fool will be meddling.

4 The sluggard will not plow by reason of the cold; therefore shall he beg in harvest, and have nothing.

5 Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out.

**6 Most men will proclaim every one his own goodness: but a faithful man who can find?**

7 The just man walks in his integrity: his children are blessed after him.

8 A king that sits in the throne of judgment scatters away all evil with his eyes.

**9** Who can say, I have made my heart clean, I am pure from my sin?

10 Divers weights, and divers measures, both of them are alike abomination to the LORD.

**11** Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure, and whether it be right.

**12** The hearing ear, and the seeing eye, the LORD has made even both of them.

13 Love not sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you shall be satisfied with bread.

14 It is naught, it is naught, says the buy-

er: but when he is gone his way, then he boasts.

15 There is gold, and a multitude of rubies: but the lips of knowledge are a precious jewel.

16 Take his garment that is surety for a stranger: and take a pledge of him for a strange woman.

17 Bread of deceit is sweet to a man; but afterwards his mouth shall be filled with gravel.

18 Every purpose is established by counsel: and with good advice make war.

19 He that goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets: therefore meddle not with him that flatters with his lips.

20 Whoso curses his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

21 An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.

22 Say not, I will recompense evil; but wait on the LORD, and he shall save you.

23 Divers weights are an abomination unto the LORD; and a false balance is not good.

24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how

**20:6** If you ask a man if he thinks he is a good person, he usually will say that he is. That's why we need to use the Law (which the Bible says in "good") to give him understanding about what "good" is (Romans 7:12). See Proverbs 21:2.

**20:9** No man can do this. Only God can cleanse man's heart of sin and make him pure. See 1 John 1:9.

**20:11** Those who deny the reality of the sinful nature haven't had children. See Proverbs 29:15 footnote.

**20:12** See Psalm 94:7–11.

can a man then understand his own way?

25 It is a snare to the man who devours that which is holy, and after vows to make enquiry.

26 A wise king scatters the wicked, and brings the wheel over them.

27 The spirit of man is the candle of the LORD, searching all the inward parts of the belly.

28 Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upheld by mercy.

29 The glory of young men is their strength: and the beauty of old men is the grey head.

30 The blueness of a wound cleanses away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.

### CHAPTER 21

**T**HE king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turns it whithersoever he will.

**2 Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the LORD ponders the hearts.**

3 To do justice and judgment is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.

4 An high look, and a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked, is sin.

5 The thoughts of the diligent tend only to plenteousness; but of every one that is hasty only to want.

6 The getting of treasures by a lying tongue is a vanity tossed to and fro of them that seek death.

7 The robbery of the wicked shall destroy them; because they refuse to do judgment.

8 The way of man is froward and strange: but as for the pure, his work is right.

9 It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

10 The soul of the wicked desires evil: his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.

11 When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

12 The righteous man wisely considers the house of the wicked: but God overthrows the wicked for their wickedness.

13 Whoso stops his ears at the cry of the poor, he also shall cry himself, but shall not be heard.

14 A gift in secret pacifies anger: and a reward in the bosom strong wrath.

15 It is joy to the just to do judgment: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

16 The man that wanders out of the way of understanding shall remain in the congregation of the dead.

17 He that loves pleasure shall be a poor man: he that loves wine and oil shall not

**21:1** This is our great confidence when preaching to sinners. God has control of the hearts of men and women.

**21:2 Right in his own eyes.** Consider the way dogs cross the road. A dog will wander onto a freeway oblivious to the danger. His tail wags as he steps between cars without a second thought. Cars swerve. Tires squeal. The noise is deafening as vehicles smash into each other. The sleepy dog stops wagging his tail for a moment and looks at the pile of smoldering, broken cars on the freeway. His expression betrays his thoughts. His bone-burying brain doesn't realize for one moment that he is responsible for the disaster.

When man wanders onto the freeway of sin, his tail wags with delight. He thinks that this is what he was made for. His thoughts of any repercussions for his actions are shallow. His mind wanders into lust, then predictably he wanders onto the path of adultery. Suddenly a disaster sits before him. His marriage is shattered, his name is slurred, his children are twisted and scarred. But like the dumb dog, he doesn't realize for one moment that he is solely responsible for his sin.

This is why the perfect Law of God needs to be arrayed before his darkened eyes—to show him that his way is not right in the eyes of a perfect God.

**21:6** It has been rightly said that taking the easy path is what makes men and rivers crooked.

**21:10** Sinful men have no trouble seeing other people's sins.

be rich.

18 The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the transgressor for the upright.

19 It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

20 There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spends it up.

21 He that follows after righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness, and honor.

22 A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and casts down the strength of the confidence thereof.

23 Whoso keeps his mouth and his tongue keeps his soul from troubles.

24 Proud and haughty scorner is his name, who deals in proud wrath.

25 The desire of the slothful kills him; for his hands refuse to labor.

26 He covets greedily all the day long; but the righteous gives and spares not.

**27 The sacrifice of the wicked is abomination: how much more, when he brings it with a wicked mind?**

28 A false witness shall perish: but the man that hears speaks constantly.

29 A wicked man hardens his face: but as for the upright, he directs his way.

30 There is no wisdom nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.

31 The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD.

## CHAPTER 22

**A** GOOD name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.

2 The rich and poor meet together: the LORD is the maker of them all.

3 A prudent man foresees the evil, and hides himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

4 By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honor, and life.

5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that does keep his soul shall be far from them.

6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is servant to the lender.

8 He that sows iniquity shall reap vanity: and the rod of his anger shall fail.

9 He that has a bountiful eye shall be blessed; for he gives of his bread to the poor.

10 Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yes, strife and reproach shall

**21:23** Be slow to speak your personal opinions, and save yourself a great deal of trouble.

**21:24** The proud, arrogant, and angry scorner gravitates to open-air preaching. These will be prevalent in the last days (2 Peter 3:3). The Scriptures reveal that the reason for their contention is that they are given to lust.

**21:27** Mankind can never atone for his own sins and buy immortality by giving to charitable causes. Eternal life is a gift of God. See Romans 6:23; Ephesians 2:8,9.

**22:1** We must guard our name, character, and reputation for the sake of the gospel. If men think evil of us, let it be only for the cause of righteousness.

**22:4** Those who refuse to humble themselves will eventually lose their possessions, their dignity, and their very life. However, those who walk in humility of heart and obey God store up an eternal treasure in heaven. They will preserve their life and be honored by God Himself. See John 12:25.

**22:6 Training our children.** "Let the children... be carefully instructed in the principles and obligations of the Christian religion. This is the most essential part of education. The great enemy of the salvation of man, in my opinion, never invented a more effectual means of extirpating [removing] Christianity from the world than by persuading mankind that it was improper to read the Bible at schools." *Benjamin Rush* (See also Proverbs 4:1-5 and Ephesians 6:4 footnotes.)



cease.

11 He that loves pureness of heart, for the grace of his lips the king shall be his friend.

12 The eyes of the LORD preserve knowledge, and he overthrows the words of the transgressor.

13 The slothful man says, There is a lion without, I shall be slain in the streets.

14 The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.

15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

16 He that oppresses the poor to increase his riches, and he that gives to the rich, shall surely come to want.

17 Bow down your ear, and hear the words of the wise, and apply your heart unto my knowledge.

18 For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you; they shall withal be fitted in your lips.

19 That your trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to you this day, even to you.

20 Have not I written to you excellent things in counsels and knowledge,

21 That I might make you know the certainty of the words of truth; that you might answer the words of truth to them that send unto you?

22 Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

23 For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

24 Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man you shall not go:

25 Lest you learn his ways, and get a snare to your soul.

26 Be not one of them that strike hands, or of them that are sureties for debts.

27 If you have nothing to pay, why should he take away your bed from under you?

28 Remove not the ancient landmark, which your fathers have set.

29 See a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

## CHAPTER 23

**W**HEN you sit to eat with a ruler, consider diligently what is before you:

2 And put a knife to your throat, if you be a man given to appetite.

3 Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat.

4 Labor not to be rich: cease from your own wisdom.

5 Will you set your eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

6 Eat not the bread of him that has an evil eye, neither desire his dainty meats:

7 For as he thinks in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, says he to you; but his heart is not with you.

8 The morsel which you have eaten shall you vomit up, and lose your sweet words.

9 Speak not in the ears of a fool: for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

10 Remove not the old landmark; and enter not into the fields of the fatherless:

11 For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with you.

**12** Apply your heart unto instruction, and your ears to the words of knowledge.

13 Withhold not correction from the child: for if you beat him with the rod, he shall not die.

14 You shall beat him with the rod, and shall deliver his soul from hell.

15 My son, if your heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.

16 Yes, my reins shall rejoice, when your

**23:12** There is no greater way to do this than to read and meditate on God's Word every day. Say to yourself, "No Bible, no breakfast. No read, no feed." Put your Bible before your belly. See Psalm 1, and mediate on the promises for those who do this.

lips speak right things.

**17** Let not your heart envy sinners: but be you in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

18 For surely there is an end; and your expectation shall not be cut off.

19 Hear, my son, and be wise, and guide your heart in the way.

20 Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh:

21 For the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man with rags.

22 Hearken unto your father that begat you, and despise not your mother when she is old.

**23** Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.

**24** The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begets a wise child shall have joy of him.

**25** Your father and your mother shall be glad, and she that bare you shall rejoice.

26 My son, give me your heart, and let your eyes observe my ways.

27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit.

28 She also lies in wait as for a prey, and increases the transgressors among men.

**29** Who has woe? who has sorrow? who has contentions? who has babbling? who has wounds without cause? who has redness of eyes?

**30** They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine.

**31** Look not upon the wine when it is red, when it gives his color in the cup, when it moves itself aright.

**32** At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.

**33** Your eyes shall behold strange women, and your heart shall utter perverse things.

**34** Yes, you shall be as he that lies down in the midst of the sea, or as he that lies upon the top of a mast.

**35** They have stricken me, shall you say, and I was not sick; they have beaten me, and I felt it not: when shall I awake? I will seek it yet again.

## CHAPTER 24

**B**E not envious against evil men, neither desire to be with them.

2 For their heart studies destruction, and their lips talk of mischief.

**3** Through wisdom is an house built; and by understanding it is established:

**4** And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.

5 A wise man is strong; yes, a man of knowledge increases strength.

6 For by wise counsel you shall make your war: and in multitude of counselors there is safety.

7 Wisdom is too high for a fool: he opens not his mouth in the gate.

8 He that devises to do evil shall be called a mischievous person.

**9** The thought of foolishness is sin: and

**23:17** See Psalm 73.

**23:23** It is sad that so many Christian ministries demand money from their audience, often with the promise that God will bless them if they give. God knows the motives of the preacher, but the unsaved don't, and are therefore easily deceived by the practice. We should be careful never to give the impression that our motivation is the love of money.

**23:24,25** This is the fruit of obedience to the Fifth Commandment.

**23:29-35** See Proverbs 20:1 footnote.

**24:3,4** Jesus Christ and His teachings are the only sure foundation. See Colossians 1:9; Matthew 7:24.

**24:9** Never be discouraged when a man mocks you when you are preaching the gospel. Your love, gentleness, and reasonableness will be seen to contrast his foolishness.

the scorner is an abomination to men.

10 If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.

**11** If you forbear to deliver them that are drawn unto death, and those that are ready to be slain;

**12** If you say, Behold, we knew it not; does not he that ponders the heart consider it? and he that keeps your soul, does not he know it? and shall not he render to every man according to his works?

Nothing can damn a man but his own righteousness; nothing can save him but the righteousness of Christ.

**CHARLES SPURGEON**

13 My son, eat honey, because it is good; and the honeycomb, which is sweet to your taste:

14 So shall the knowledge of wisdom be unto your soul: when you have found it, then there shall be a reward, and your expectation shall not be cut off.

15 Lay not wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; spoil not his resting place:

16 For a just man falls seven times, and rises up again: but the wicked shall fall into mischief.

17 Rejoice not when your enemy falls, and let not your heart be glad when he stumbles:

18 Lest the LORD see it, and it displease him, and he turn away his wrath from him.

19 Fret not thyself because of evil men, neither be envious at the wicked:

20 For there shall be no reward to the evil man; the candle of the wicked shall be put out.

21 My son, fear the LORD and the king: and meddle not with them that are given to change:

22 For their calamity shall rise suddenly; and who knows the ruin of them both?

23 These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment.

24 *He that says unto the wicked, You are righteous; him shall the people curse, nations shall abhor him:*

**25** *But to them that rebuke him shall be delight, and a good blessing shall come upon them.*

26 *Every man shall kiss his lips that gives a right answer.*

27 Prepare your work without, and make it fit for thyself in the field; and afterwards build your house.

28 Be not a witness against your neighbor without cause; and deceive not with your lips.

29 Say not, I will do so to him as he has done to me: I will render to the man according to his work.

30 I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding;

31 And, lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.

32 Then I saw, and considered it well: I looked upon it, and received instruction.

33 Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep:

34 So shall your poverty come as one that travels; and your want as an armed man.

## CHAPTER 25

**T**HESSE are also proverbs of Solomon, which the men of Hezekiah king of

**24:11,12** Surely these verses were written for those slothful servants who shun the task of evangelism. See Matthew 25:14–30.

**24:25** We are to “preach the word; be instant in season, [and] out of season,” and to “reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (2 Timothy 4:2). Do this, and you will have the promise of the blessing of God.

Judah copied out.

2 It is the glory of God to conceal a thing; but the honor of kings is to search out a matter.

3 The heaven for height, and the earth for depth, and the heart of kings is unsearchable.

4 Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer.

5 Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness.

6 Put not forth yourself in the presence of the king, and stand not in the place of great men:

7 For better it is that it be said unto you, Come up hither; than that you should be put lower in the presence of the prince whom your eyes have seen.

8 Go not forth hastily to strive, lest you know not what to do in the end thereof, when your neighbor has put you to shame.

9 Debate your cause with your neighbor himself; and discover not a secret to another:

10 Lest he that hears it put you to shame, and your infamy turn not away.

11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.

12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprovener upon an obedient ear.

13 As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refreshes the soul of his masters.

14 Whoso boasts himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain.

15 By long forbearing is a prince persuaded, and a soft tongue breaks the bone.

16 Have you found honey? eat so much as is sufficient for you, lest you be filled therewith, and vomit it.

17 Withdraw your foot from your neighbor's house; lest he be weary of you, and so hate you.

18 A man that bears false witness against his neighbor is a maul, and a sword, and a sharp arrow.

**19** *Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like a broken tooth, and a foot out of joint.*

20 As he that takes away a garment in cold weather, and as vinegar upon nitre, so is he that sings songs to an heavy heart.

21 If your enemy be hungry, give him bread to eat; and if he be thirsty, give him water to drink:

22 For you shall heap coals of fire upon his head, and the LORD shall reward you.

23 The north wind drives away rain: so does an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

25 As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

26 A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

27 It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.

**28** He that has no rule over his own spirit it is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

## CHAPTER 26

**A**S snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honor is not seemly for a fool.

2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.

**25:19** A broken tooth or a foot out of joint cause the most pain when they are put under pressure. How do we react when we are put under pressure to share our faith?

**25:28** We allow the enemy entrance when we give the flesh free reign, having no self-control over our spirit.

4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest you also be like unto him.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

6 He that sends a message by the hand of a fool cuts off the feet, and drinks damage.

7 The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

8 As he that binds a stone in a sling, so is he that gives honor to a fool.

9 As a thorn goes up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouths of fools.

**10** The great God that formed all things both rewards the fool, and rewards transgressors.

11 As a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool returns to his folly.

**12** See a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

13 The slothful man says, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

14 As the door turns upon his hinges, so does the slothful upon his bed.

15 The slothful hides his hand in his bosom; it grieves him to bring it again to his mouth.

16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

**17** He that passes by, and meddles with strife belonging not to him, is like one that takes a dog by the ears.

18 As a mad man who casts firebrands, arrows, and death,

19 So is the man that deceives his neigh-

bor, and says, Am not I in sport?

20 Where no wood is, there the fire goes out: so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceases.

21 As coals are to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

22 The words of a talebearer are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly.

23 Burning lips and a wicked heart are like a potsherd covered with silver dross.

24 He that hates dissembles with his lips, and lays up deceit within him;

25 When he speaks fair, believe him not: for there are seven abominations in his heart.

26 Whose hatred is covered by deceit, his wickedness shall be showed before the whole congregation.

27 Whoso digs a pit shall fall therein: and he that rolls a stone, it will return upon him.

28 A lying tongue hates those that are afflicted by it; and a flattering mouth works ruin.

## CHAPTER 27

**B**OAST not yourself of tomorrow; for you know not what a day may bring forth.

2 *Let another man praise you, and not your own mouth; a stranger, and not your own lips.*

3 A stone is heavy, and the sand weighty; but a fool's wrath is heavier than them both.

**26:10** The word "great" cannot describe how great God is. Worship takes over where words fail. Our God formed *all* things. They didn't evolve after a big bang.

**26:12** **New Age blasphemy.** The inevitable result of man's darkened understanding is that he will think that he is God. His pride takes over his brain.

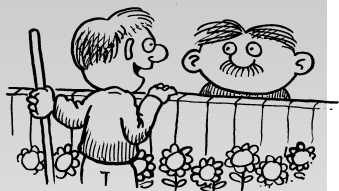
"We no longer feel ourselves to be guests in someone else's home and therefore obliged to make our behavior conform with a set of preexisting cosmic rules. It is our creation now. We make the rules. We establish the parameters of reality. We create the world, and because we do, we no longer feel beholden to outside forces. We no longer have to justify our behavior, for we are now the architects of the universe. We are responsible to nothing outside ourselves, for we are the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever and ever." *Jeremy Rifkin, Algeny*

**26:17** This is wonderful guidance for the sincere Christian on what not to do. He who meddles will get hurt.

## QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

**27:10**

**“How do I reach my neighbors with the gospel?”**



Neighbors are like family. We don't want to offend them unnecessarily, because we have to live with them. We need to be rich in good works toward all men, but especially our neighbors. The Bible reveals that this is a legitimate means of evangelism. Jesus said, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 5:16). It is God's will that "with well doing you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men" (1 Peter 2:15). Sinners may disagree with what you believe, but seeing your good works makes them think, "I don't believe what he believes, but *he* sure does. He certainly is sincere in his faith."

A friendly wave, a gift for no reason, fresh-baked goods, etc., can pave the way for evangelism. Offer to mow your neighbors' lawn or help do some painting. Volunteer to pick up their mail and newspapers while they're on vacation. Compliment them on their landscaping and ask for gardening tips. Invite them over for a barbecue or dessert. Pray for an opportunity to share the gospel, and be prepared for it when it comes.

4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

**5** *Open rebuke is better than secret love.*

6 Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.

7 The full soul loathes an honeycomb; but to the hungry soul every bitter thing is sweet.

8 As a bird that wanders from her nest, so is a man that wanders from his place.

9 Ointment and perfume rejoice the heart: so does the sweetness of a man's friend by hearty counsel.

**10** Your own friend, and your father's friend, forsake not; neither go into your brother's house in the day of your calamity: for better is a neighbor that is near than a brother far off.

11 My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproaches me.

12 A prudent man foresees the evil, and hides himself; but the simple pass on,

and are punished.

13 Take his garment that is surety for a stranger, and take a pledge of him for a stranger woman.

14 He that blesses his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.

15 A continual dropping in a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike.

16 Whosoever hides her hides the wind, and the ointment of his right hand, which bewrays itself.

17 Iron sharpens iron; so a man sharpens the countenance of his friend.

18 Whoso keeps the fig tree shall eat the fruit thereof: so he that waits on his master shall be honored.

19 As in water face answers to face, so the heart of man to man.

**20** Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.

21 As the fining pot for silver, and the furnace for gold; so is a man to his praise.

**27:1** The only thing we can be sure of is the breath going into our lungs at this moment. We can't be sure of the next breath. That comes only by the permission of God. See James 4:13–16 and Luke 12:20 footnote.

**27:5** We openly rebuke those in the world for their sin because we love them and are concerned for their eternal welfare.

22 Though you should bray a fool in a mortar among wheat with a pestle, yet will not his foolishness depart from him.

23 Be diligent to know the state of your flocks, and look well to your herds.

24 For riches are not for ever: and does the crown endure to every generation?

**25** The hay appears, and the tender grass show itself, and herbs of the mountains are gathered.

26 The lambs are for your clothing, and the goats are the price of the field.

27 And you shall have goats' milk enough for your food, for the food of your household, and for the maintenance for your maidens.

### CHAPTER 28

**T**HE wicked flee when no man pursues: but the righteous are bold as a lion.

2 For the transgression of a land many are the princes thereof: but by a man of understanding and knowledge the state thereof shall be prolonged.

3 A poor man that oppresses the poor is like a sweeping rain which leaves no food.

**4** They that forsake the law praise the

wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.

**5** Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

6 Better is the poor that walks in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

7 Whoso keeps the law is a wise son: but he that is a companion of riotous men shames his father.

8 He that by usury and unjust gain increases his substance, he shall gather it for him that will pity the poor.

**9** He that turns away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.

10 Whoso causes the righteous to go astray in an evil way, he shall fall himself into his own pit: but the upright shall have good things in possession.

11 The rich man is wise in his own conceit; but the poor that has understanding searches him out.

12 When righteous men do rejoice, there is great glory: but when the wicked rise, a man is hidden.

**27:20** Men can never satisfy lust. It is an unquenchable inferno. The more it is given fuel, the more it continues to burn. Desire will make him crave sexual pleasure, money, fame, and power. He will continue to "want" until the Lord becomes his shepherd. See Psalm 23:1.

**27:25** Marijuana advocates often point to Genesis 1:11 ("Let the earth bring forth grass") and other verses (Genesis 1:29; 3:18) to justify the smoking of what they refer to as "grass." They claim that God declared marijuana "good." However, He also made sand (which is good), but if we eat it by the spoonful we shouldn't complain if we get sick. Those who inhale the burning fumes of a weed shouldn't complain when it mentally impairs them. It is called "dope" for a reason.

**28:4** When the Church forsakes the proclamation of God's Law, iniquity floods the land. *Daniel Webster* stated: "If truth is not diffused, error will be. If God and His Word are not known and received, the devil and his works will gain the ascendancy. If the evangelical volume does not reach every hamlet, the pages of a corrupt and licentious literature will.

"If the power of the gospel is not felt throughout the length and breadth of this land, anarchy and misrule, degradation and misery, corruption and darkness will reign without mitigation or end."

**28:5** "God's justice stands forever against the sinner in utter severity. The vague and tenuous hope that God is too kind to punish the ungodly has become a deadly opiate for the consciences of millions. It hushes their fears and allows them to practice all pleasant forms of iniquity while death draws every day nearer and the command to repent goes unregarded. As responsible moral beings, we dare not so trifle with our eternal future." *A. W. Tozer, The Knowledge of the Holy*

**28:9** If a professing Christian thinks that he can willfully serve sin by transgressing the Moral Law and still have peace with God, he is deceived.

**13 He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.**

14 Happy is the man that fears always: but he that hardens his heart shall fall into mischief.

15 As a roaring lion, and a ranging bear; so is a wicked ruler over the poor people.

16 The prince that wants understanding is also a great oppressor: but he that hates covetousness shall prolong his days.

17 A man that does violence to the blood of any person shall flee to the pit; let no man stay him.

18 Whoso walks uprightly shall be saved: but he that is perverse in his ways shall fall at once.

19 He that tills his land shall have plenty of bread: but he that follows after vain persons shall have poverty enough.

20 A faithful man shall abound with blessings: but he that makes haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

21 To have respect of persons is not good: for for a piece of bread that man will transgress.

22 He that hastens to be rich has an evil eye, and considers not that poverty shall

come upon him.

23 *He that rebukes a man afterwards shall find more favor than he that flatters with the tongue.*

24 Whoso robs his father or his mother, and says, It is no transgression; the same is the companion of a destroyer.

25 He that is of a proud heart stirs up strife: but he that puts his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

**26 He that trusts in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walks wisely, he shall be delivered.**

27 He that gives unto the poor shall not lack: but he that hides his eyes shall have many a curse.

28 When the wicked rise, men hide themselves: but when they perish, the righteous increase.

## CHAPTER 29

**H**E, that being often reproved hardens his neck, shall suddenly be destroyed, and that without remedy.

2 When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked bears rule, the people mourn.

3 Whoso loves wisdom rejoices his fa-

**28:13** Sin cannot be covered from the eyes of a holy Creator. Biblical conversion not only comes from confessing sin to God, but also from forsaking sin. Those who do that and trust the Savior partake in the mercy of God.

**Confessing our sins.** "Whereas, it is the duty of nations as well as of men to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God, to confess their sins and transgressions in humble sorrow yet with assured hope that genuine repentance will lead to mercy and pardon, and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history: that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord..."

"We have been the recipients of the choicest bounties of Heaven. We have been preserved these many years in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation has ever grown. But we have forgotten God. We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own.

"Intoxicated with unbroken success, we have become too self-sufficient to feel the necessity of redeeming and preserving grace, too proud to pray to the God that made us!

"It behooves us then to humble ourselves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness." *Abraham Lincoln*, 1863, in declaring a day of national fasting, prayer, and humiliation

**28:26** Never give in to the temptation to trust your feelings over God's promises. See Proverbs 3:5,6.



ther: but he that keeps company with harlots spends his substance.

4 The king by judgment establishes the land: but he that receives gifts overthrows it.

5 A man that flatters his neighbor spreads a net for his feet.

6 In the transgression of an evil man there is a snare: but the righteous does sing and rejoice.

7 The righteous considers the cause of the poor: but the wicked regards not to know it.

8 Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath.

9 If a wise man contends with a foolish man, whether he rage or laugh, there is no rest.

10 The bloodthirsty hate the upright: but the just seek his soul.

11 A fool utters all his mind: but a wise man keeps it in till afterwards.

12 If a ruler hearken to lies, all his servants are wicked.

13 The poor and the deceitful man meet together: the LORD lightens both their eyes.

14 The king that faithfully judges the poor, his throne shall be established for ever.

15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself brings his mother to shame.

16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases: but the righteous shall see their fall.

17 Correct your son, and he shall give you rest; yes, he shall give delight unto your soul.

18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keeps the law, happy is he.

19 A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer.

20 See a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

21 He that delicately brings up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.

22 An angry man stirs up strife, and a furious man abounds in transgression.

23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honor shall uphold the humble in spirit.

24 Whoso is partner with a thief hates his own soul: he hears cursing, and bewrays it not.

25 The fear of man brings a snare: but whoso puts his trust in the LORD shall be

**29:1** It is a fearful thought that God would lose patience with those who harden their hearts against Him. Jesus spoke of a man to whom God said, "This night your soul shall be required of you" (Luke 12:20). It is prudent to warn sinners that God may lose patience with them and let death seize them, as He did with Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5:1-10).

**29:2 Righteous authority.** When believers fulfill their responsibility to elect righteous leaders, the entire country benefits.

"In selecting men for office, let principle be your guide. Regard not the particular sect or denomination of the candidate—look to his character. . . . It is alleged by men of loose principles, or defective views of the subject, that religion and morality are not necessary or important qualifications for political stations. But the Scriptures teach a different doctrine. They direct that rulers should be men who rule in the fear of God, able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness. . . .

"When a citizen gives his vote to a man of known immorality, he abuses his civic responsibility; he sacrifices not only his own interest, but that of his neighbor; he betrays the interest of his country." *Noah Webster*

**29:9** It has been well said that a wise man will learn more from a fool's question than a fool will learn from a wise man's answer.

**29:15** A child doesn't learn to do evil; he naturally knows how to be selfish and lie. However, he must be taught to share and truthful. See Proverbs 20:11.

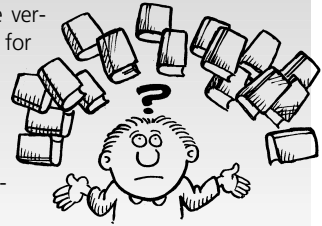
**29:25** See Psalm 56:11 footnote.

## QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

**30:5**

**“The fact that there are so many versions proves that the Bible has mistakes. Which one is right?”**

True, there are many different versions of the Bible. There are versions in Chinese for the Chinese. There are versions in Russian for the Russian people. There are actually thousands of versions of the Bible—some are in modern languages, some in foreign languages, and some are in old English. Few, in the printing age, can claim that they don't have access to the Scriptures in their own language. However, each translation is based on the original biblical texts. See Psalm 119:105 footnote.



safe.

26 Many seek the ruler's favor; but every man's judgment comes from the LORD.

**27** *An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.*

### CHAPTER 30

**T**HE words of Agur the son of Jakeh, even the prophecy: the man spoke unto Ithiel, even unto Ithiel and Ucal,

**2** Surely I am more brutish than any man, and have not the understanding of a man.

**3** I neither learned wisdom, nor have the knowledge of the holy.

**4** Who has ascended up into heaven, or descended? who has gathered the wind in his fists? who has bound the waters in a garment? who has established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son's name, if you can tell?

**5** **Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in**

**him.**

**6** Add not unto his words, lest he reprove you, and you be found a liar.

**7** Two things have I required of you; deny me them not before I die:

**8** Remove far from me vanity and lies; give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me:

**9** Lest I be full, and deny you, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain.

**10** Accuse not a servant unto his master, lest he curse you, and you be found guilty.

**11** There is a generation that curses their father, and does not bless their mother.

**12** There is a generation that are pure in their own eyes, and yet is not washed from their filthiness.

**13** There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up.

**14** There is a generation, whose teeth are as swords, and their jaw teeth as knives, to devour the poor from off the earth, and the needy from among men.

**29:27** This is why the world hates the Christian. See John 15:18,19.

**30:1,2** This is the foundational key to learning. See 1 Corinthians 1:21; 3:18.

**30:4** His name is "I AM" and His Son's name is Jesus Christ. See Psalm 2:12.

**30:5** All Scripture is given by inspiration of God (2 Timothy 3:16), and is His complete revelation to mankind. Many religions accept the words of Scripture, but consider them to be only part of the truth. Those who have added anything to God's Holy Word are in great error.

**30:11,12** What better description do we have of this lawless generation? By transgressing the Fifth Commandment, it reaps the fearful consequences of disobedience and fails to receive the promise given in Ephesians 6:1–3. Because they have been left without the light of the Moral Law, they consider themselves pure and have therefore become a law unto themselves.

**15** The horseleach has two daughters, crying, Give, give. There are three things that are never satisfied, yes, four things say not, It is enough:

**16** The grave; and the barren womb; the earth that is not filled with water; and the fire that says not, It is enough.

**17** The eye that mocks at his father, and despises to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

**18** There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yes, four which I know not:

**19** The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid.

**20** Such is the way of an adulterous woman; she eats and wipes her mouth, and says, I have done no wickedness.

**21** For three things the earth is disquieted, and for four which it cannot bear:

**22** For a servant when he reigns; and a fool when he is filled with meat;

**23** For an odious woman when she is married; and an handmaid that is heir to her mistress.

**24** There be four things which are little upon the earth, but they are exceeding wise:

**25** The ants are a people not strong, yet they prepare their meat in the summer;

**26** The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks;

**27** The locusts have no king, yet go they forth all of them by bands;

**28** The spider takes hold with her hands, and is in kings' palaces.

**29** There be three things which go well, yes, four are comely in going:

**30** A lion which is strongest among beasts, and turns not away for any;

**31** A greyhound; an he goat also; and a king, against whom there is no rising up.

**32** If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself, or if you have thought evil, lay your hand upon your mouth.

**33** Surely the churning of milk brings forth butter, and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood: so the forcing of wrath brings forth strife.

### CHAPTER 31

**T**HE words of king Lemuel, the prophecy that his mother taught him.

**2** What, my son? and what, the son of my womb? and what, the son of my vows?

**3** Give not your strength unto women, nor your ways to that which destroys kings.

**4** It is not for kings, O Lemuel, it is not for kings to drink wine; nor for princes strong drink:

**5** Lest they drink, and forget the law, and pervert the judgment of any of the afflicted.

**6** Give strong drink unto him that is ready to perish, and wine unto those that be of heavy hearts.

**7** Let him drink, and forget his poverty, and remember his misery no more.

**8** Open your mouth for the dumb in the cause of all such as are appointed to destruction.

**9** Open your mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

**10** Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

**30:15,16** Perhaps one more can be added to this list of those who never say "It is enough"—the money-hungry television preacher. See 2 Peter 2:1–3.

**30:20** Some people seem to have no conscience. In truth, they have a *seared* conscience (see 1 Timothy 4:2)—one that has become so hardened that it has lost its ability to function. A correct use of the Law will resurrect it. When you speak directly to the conscience of a hardened sinner by saying, "You *know* that it's wrong to steal, to lie, to commit adultery, etc.," the conscience affirms the truth of the Commandment. See Romans 2:15.

**30:25–28** Here are four virtues needed to be an effective witness: initiative (1 Corinthians 15:58); wisdom (Matthew 7:24); unity (Philippians 1:27); and persistence (Acts 4:18–20).

## QUESTIONS & OBJECTIONS

**31:10**

### *“Christianity oppresses women by making them submit to their husbands!”*

The Bible does say, “Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord,” but it also instructs, “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it” (Ephesians 5:22,25). A man who understands that Jesus Christ sacrificed His life’s blood for the Church will likewise love his wife sacrificially and passionately. He will honor her, respect her, protect, love, and cherish her as much as he does his own body, as he is instructed to do (Ephesians 5:28). He will never say or do anything to harm or demean her. It is in this atmosphere of love and security that a godly wife willingly submits herself to the protective arms of her husband. She does this not because he is better than she is, but simply because this is God’s order for His creation.

A godless world rejects the God-given formula to make marriage work. It thinks it knows best, and suffers the heartbreaking consequences of destroyed marriages and ruined lives. The Christian ideal of marriage is not one of an authoritarian and chauvinistic male holding his cringing wife in submission like an obedient dog. It’s the very opposite. While most of the great religions treat women as inferior to men, the Bible gives them a place of dignity, honor, and unspeakable worth, expressed so evidently in Proverbs 31.



11 The heart of her husband does safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.

12 She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

13 She seeks wool, and flax, and works willingly with her hands.

14 She is like the merchants’ ships; she brings her food from afar.

15 She rises also while it is yet night, and gives meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens.

16 She considers a field, and buys it: with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

17 She girds her loins with strength, and strengthens her arms.

18 She perceives that her merchandise is good: her candle goes not out by night.

19 She lays her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff.

20 She stretches out her hand to the poor; yes, she reaches forth her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of the snow for her

household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

22 She makes herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.

24 She makes fine linen, and sells it; and delivers girdles unto the merchant.

25 Strength and honor are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come.

26 She opens her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness.

27 She looks well to the ways of her household, and eats not the bread of idleness.

28 Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her.

29 Many daughters have done virtuously, but you excel them all.

30 Favor is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that fears the LORD, she shall be praised.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.