

Proverbs – A Study of Some Key Passages

Week 3 – Chapters 10-15: Wisdom for Everyday Life

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Opening Prayer: Lord, teach us to use our words wisely and to live faithfully in our daily callings. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. (Week 2 Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23)

Key Passage #1 – The Way of Righteousness:

Proverbs 10:9 “One who walks in integrity [of heart, guiltlessness, good faith] walks securely, But one who perverts his ways [walks crooked paths] will be found out.”

Teaching:

- Proverbs repeatedly contrasts the righteous with the wicked. Integrity means living honestly before God and others. It does not mean sinless perfection, but rather a sincere desire to walk according to God's will.
- Those who live deceitfully may appear to prosper for a time, but eventually their sin is exposed. In contrast, those who walk in integrity enjoy the peace that comes from knowing they are living according to God's Word.
- As Christians, our integrity grows out of our relationship with Christ. We are not saved by our good works, but because Christ has made us His own, we seek to live lives that honor Him in our homes, workplaces, and communities.

Discussion:

1. What does integrity look like in everyday life?
2. How does faith in Christ motivate us to live with integrity?
3. What blessings come from living honestly before God and others?

Key Passage #2 – Receiving Correction:

Proverbs 12:1 “One who loves discipline loves knowledge [knowing God's truth in a way that shapes a person's life], But one who hates rebuke is stupid.”

Teaching:

- One mark of wisdom is a willingness to receive correction. Because of our sinful nature, we often become defensive when someone points out our faults. Proverbs reminds us that loving correction is a sign of spiritual maturity.
- God lovingly disciplines His children through His Word, through fellow Christians, and sometimes through the circumstances of life. His purpose is not to punish but to lead us to repentance, strengthen our faith, and help us grow in Christ.
- Jesus always received His Father's will perfectly. Through His forgiveness, we are freed from pride and enabled to receive correction with humble and thankful hearts.
- See [Proverbs 9:8-9](#)

Discussion

1. Why is it often difficult to accept correction?
2. How should Christians offer correction to others?
3. What does this proverb teach us about humility?

Key Passage #3 – The Power of Words:

Proverbs 12:18 “There is one who speaks rashly like the thrusts of a sword, But the tongue of the wise brings healing.”

Teaching:

- Words can wound or heal.
- God calls Christians to speak truth in love.

Discussion

1. How have the words of others affected your life?
2. Why is controlling the tongue difficult?
3. How can Christians speak healing words (see [Ephesians 4:29](#))?

Key Passage #4 – Gentle Answers:

Proverbs 15:1 “A gentle answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Teaching:

- Conflict often escalates because of harsh responses.
- Wisdom seeks peace.

Key Passage #5 – Reverence Before Honor:

Proverbs 15:33 “The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor comes humility.”

Teaching:

- The world seeks honor first.
- God teaches humility first.

Discussion:

1. Why is humility difficult?
2. How did Jesus model humility?
3. Why does God value humility?

Law and Gospel:

- **Law:** We have misused our words and sought our own glory (see [Matthew 12:36-37](#)).
- **Gospel:** Jesus used His words perfectly and died for our sins of speech.

Summary of Today's Passages:

1. **10:9** — Integrity brings security.
2. **12:1** — Wise people gladly receive correction.
3. **12:18** — Wise words bring healing.
4. **15:1** — Gentle answers promote peace.
5. **15:33** — Humility precedes honor.

Those passages provide a well-rounded picture of what "wisdom for everyday life" looks like in our:

- Speech
- Character
- Humility
- Willingness to grow in God's instruction

Application: Spend one day intentionally encouraging others.

Memory Verse:

NAS 2020 **Proverbs 15:1** “A gentle answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.”

Week 4 Preparation: Read [Proverbs 16-21](#)