

Pondering Proverbs



Twenty-six lessons covering the Proverbs of Solomon, Lemuel and Agur found in the Old Testament Book of Proverbs. The study is designed to consider the various proverbs in their contextual setting. However, an effort is made to collect the proverbs into a topical arrangement as the class progresses.

Pondering Proverbs

Lesson One: *The Proverbs of Solomon*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 1:1-19

Lesson Aim: To become acquainted with the design and purpose of the Old Testament Book of Proverbs written by Solomon the son of David.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 1:7

■ *Introduction—*

The word *proverb* (1:1) is from a Hebrew word that indicates a brief, pithy saying that expresses wisdom--strictly speaking, it is a representation or comparison, noting likeness in unlike things.

The content of the *Book of Proverbs* is attributed to three men: Solomon, for the most part (1:1; 10:1; 25:1), Agur (30:10), and Lemuel, the king (3:1). In I Kings 4:32, we learn that Solomon evidently spoke many proverbs which were not recorded. The Proverbs are inspired of God, regardless of who is said to be the author.

Compare the following New Testament writings with the Proverbs: Romans 3:15 and Proverbs 1:16, Hebrews 12:5 and Proverbs 3:11, 1 Peter 4:8 and Proverbs 10:12, 1 Peter 4:18 and Proverbs 11:31, 1 Peter 5:5 and Proverbs 3:34, 2 Peter 2:22 and Proverbs 26:11.

In our study, we will find the book broken up into several sections; the first sets forth "The Praise of Wisdom" (Proverbs 1: 1 – 9:18). Verses 1-6 of the first chapter is an introduction assigning the book the purpose of imparting divine wisdom and knowledge. Verses 7-19 give a restatement of the theme and warnings against sins of violence.

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What does the writer say a study of this book will do for the simple? To the young man?
2. What does he say a wise man will do?
3. What is the beginning of knowledge?
4. What class of persons will despise wisdom and instruction?
5. The son is exhorted to hear what people?
6. How is he to react to the enticement of sinners?
7. In what ways may sinners try to entice him?

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Lesson Two: *Wisdom Personified*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 1: 20-2:22

Lesson Aim: See the compiler urge upon his auditors the inculcation of wisdom through personification as he portrays wisdom as a woman crying out her warnings in the streets and places of judgment.

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. As wisdom cries out, her warnings and exhortation may be heard in what places?
2. As she cries out, what question does she ask the simple ones? The scorners? The fools?
3. As a result of rejecting her counsel, what things will come upon them?
4. When it is too late they will call upon her and seek her, but she will not answer because they had hated what? They had refused to choose what?
5. When they are punished for having rejected her counsel and reproof, she says they actually are only eating of what?
6. Along this same line, what will cause the destruction of the simple? The fools? What shall be the reward of those who hearken unto her?
7. What are the 4 sets of parallel causes given here as prerequisites of our receiving the promise that “we shall understand the fear of the Lord, and find the knowledge of God”? (See: John 17:3)
8. What is the source of this wisdom that we are to seek?
9. Discretion shall preserve and understanding shall keep what class of people? From what class of men shall these people be delivered?
10. Wisdom will deliver one from “the strange woman,” who uses what to entice us?
11. In contrast with the upright, who shall dwell in the land (of their fathers)? We are told that the wicked and transgressors shall receive what fate?

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Lesson Three: *The Blessings of True Wisdom*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 3:1-35

Lesson Aim: Learn about God's promised blessings to those that seek divine wisdom.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3: 9, 10

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What three blessings shall be added to one who will forget not my law but rather lets his "heart keep My commandments"?
2. We shall find favor in the sight of God and man if we possess what two character traits?
3. In opposition to "leaning unto our own understanding," we are exhorted to do what?
4. God will direct our paths if we will do what?
5. Since one of the greatest hindrances to true wisdom is the feeling we have already attained it, we are exhorted to "be not wise" in whose eyes?
6. "Thy barns shall be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine," was an assurance given unto what people? (cf. 2 Corinthians 9:6-11)
7. Why should we not "despise the chastening of the Lord, or be weary of his correction"? (cf. Hebrews 12:6)
8. The value of wisdom and understanding is said to be greater than that of what substances?
9. The Lord founded the earth by what? By what did He establish the heavens?
10. What will sound wisdom and discretion do for one who keeps them from departing from him?
11. When and unto whom are we to do good? (cf. Galatians 6:10 and Romans 13:7)
12. We are exhorted to not envy the oppressor; for, regardless of what man thinks of him, how does God feel about him?
13. What will be the inheritance of the wise? Of fools?

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Lesson Four: *Hear, Ye Children, the Instruction of a Father*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 4:1-5:23

Lesson Aim: Study these practical admonitions from a father to his son concerning morality, especially faithfulness in marriage.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 4:23

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. Having gotten “wisdom and understanding” what things should we not do? What things should we do with wisdom? (4:1-6)
2. What is the “principal thing”?
3. What will wisdom do for us if we exalt her?
4. What will be true of us in our “journey of life,” if we have been taught in the way of wisdom? (4:12)
5. What four things are we told to do concerning the way of wicked men? (See Proverbs 4:15)
6. What expressions does the writer use to show the contrast between “the paths of the just” and the “way of the wicked”? (4:18,19)
7. Why is it important to keep our heart with all diligence? (cf. Matthew 12:35, Proverbs 23:7)
8. In warning his son against the wiles of the harlot (strange woman), how does the writer describe her words? How does he describe the end result of being deceived by her?
9. What will happen to the son who inclines his path after the strange woman? (5:9-12)
10. In contrast to this, the writer compares the true and faithful wife with what?

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Lesson Five: *Say Unto Wisdom, "Thou Art My Sister!"*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 6:1–7:27

Lesson Aim: Learn the sorrow and misfortune that comes upon the man that rejects the wisdom of God concerning an appropriate life.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 7:4,5

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What does Solomon say has happened to one who has become surety for his friend or for a stranger?
2. What does he suggest this person do?
3. What example does Solomon suggest the sluggard follow?
4. What questions does he ask the sluggard? What will the result of his refusal to work be?
5. What does the writer say the naughty person (the wicked man) will do?
6. What seven things does the Lord hate?
7. What actions and characteristics of the "evil woman" is the young man warned against?
8. To what end will such a woman lead a man?
9. In warning against adultery, the writer compares the act to what?
10. Although men can forgive a thief who steals to satisfy his hunger, when he repays what he has stolen, he will not forgive a man who commits what sin?
11. The writer encourages the young man to take wisdom and understanding as his kinswoman that they might keep him from whom?
12. With what does he compare the young man who is enticed by the strange woman and caused to yield unto her?

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Lesson Six: *Dining at Wisdom's Table*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 8:1–9:18

Lesson Aim: Learn the consequences of sinning against Wisdom.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 9:9

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. The openness and availability of wisdom's teaching is shown by "her" teaching and crying out unto all who will listen in what places? Unto whom does she call?
2. In pleading with them to hear, she points out what characteristics in regard to the things she will teach?
3. Wisdom, knowledge and instruction are to be preferred over what other things? (cf. Proverbs 3:14, 15)
4. "Wisdom" possessing "the fear of the Lord," hates what characteristics? Who does "wisdom" say she loves?
5. What type of inheritance does she have to offer those who love her?
6. How long has God possessed wisdom?
7. To stress the point that "wisdom" was a possession of God before the creation, she says she existed prior to what things? She says she was there when He did what things?
8. As opposed to one who finds wisdom and thereby obtains favor of the Lord, what is the condition of one who sins against, or hates, wisdom?
9. After wisdom made ready her house and prepared a feast, whom did she invite to partake of this feast? Who did she send forth to extend the invitation? (cf. Matthew 22:1-4)
10. Who else extends an invitation unto these?
11. What does she tell them to entice them to come to it?
12. What reaction can we expect when we reprove a scorner? When we rebuke a wise man?
13. What are the end results of teaching a wise, or just, man?

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Lesson Seven: *Various Proverbs Useful in Producing a Happy, Prosperous Life*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 10:1-32

Lesson Aim: Consider the wisdom of Solomon concerning all that God showed him.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 10:16

■ *Introduction—*

With this lesson we begin the second section of the book that covers 10:1 through 22:16. This section consists of miscellaneous Proverbs of Solomon with each verse containing a complete proverb (mostly containing two members). In this section the happier aspects of life predominate. Prosperity seems to prevail and virtue is rewarded. Many of these proverbs warn against the wrong use of the tongue.

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What contrast is made between a wise and a foolish son? (Read also 15:20; 17:21,25; 29:15)
2. Contrast the one that is diligent and the one who “deals with a slack hand.”
3. What contrast is made between one who sleeps through the harvest and one who gathers?
4. What two things are contrasted to the “violence [that] covereth the mouth of the wicked”?
5. What contrast is made between love and hatred?
6. What contrast is drawn between the wise man that lays up knowledge and the mouth of the foolish? (See also 18:7; 21:23)
7. What is said concerning one who cherishes hatred?
8. The righteous by their lips feed (teach, or nourish) many, what is said concerning the fool?
9. What is said to be “as sport to a fool”?
10. With what does the writer compare the “duration of the wicked”? On the other hand, what is said to be true concerning the “righteous”?
11. The “sluggard” sent to do something is compared unto what irritating things?
12. What shall happen to the expectations of the wicked? What of the righteous?
13. What is said to be “strength to the upright”?
14. What shall be destruction to the workers of iniquity?

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Lesson Eight: *More Comparisons Between Good and Evil*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 11:1-31

Lesson Aim: Learn the characteristics of the righteous man whom God shall deliver.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 11:28

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. In teaching honesty in business, what does the writer contrast with “a just weight”?
2. What result goes along with false pride?
3. Of what time, is it said, “riches will profit not” (be of no value)? What will profit then?
4. Although the wicked seems to prosper, his expectation and hope will perish at what time?
5. Under what circumstances is it said a city will rejoice?
6. What type of person will despise his neighbor?
7. What shall happen to one who becomes surety for a stranger?
8. Who really profits most when a man is merciful?
9. What promise is made regarding one who sows righteousness? (See: Galatians 6:8,9)
10. What is the end result of pursuing evil?
11. With what does the writer compare a beautiful woman that is without discretion?
12. What assurance is given unto the liberal (one who gives freely and fully) soul?
13. What reward will one receive who seeks mischief?
14. What will happen unto one who trusts in his riches?
15. What does the writer say in regard to “one who winneth souls”? (See: James 5:20)

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Lesson Nine: *The Prudent Man and the Fool Contrasted*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 12 and 13

Lesson Aim: Receive advice concerning our relationships with family, friends, strangers and brethren.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 13:24

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. Whose favor does the good man obtain?
2. What does the writer say concerning a virtuous woman?
3. What is said concerning the thoughts of the righteous?
4. What fact is stated concerning the house of the righteous?
5. What will happen to one who is of a perverse heart?
6. What reward is assured those who till their land (are industrious)?
7. The wicked snared by what?
8. The way of the fool seems right unto whom?
9. What is said concerning “the lip of truth”?
10. With what shall the wicked be filled?
11. What is proclaimed by the heart of fools?
12. Who will not hear (or heed) a rebuke?
13. What truth is stated concerning one who “keepeth his mouth”? See James 3:21
14. What is hated by the righteous?
15. What will happen to the lamp of the wicked?
16. What will happen to wealth gotten by vanity?
17. What shall come to him that refuseth instruction?
18. What will happen to a companion of fools?
19. What will a father do who loves his son?

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Lesson Ten: *A Sound Heart Is the Life of the Flesh*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 14

Lesson Aim: Receive advice concerning the tongue, our temper, thrift, riches and righteousness.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 14:12

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What class of people are said to “fear the Lord”? What class despises Him?
2. What type of witness will not lie?
3. What class of persons will not find wisdom even when he seeks it?
4. Deceit (self deceit) is said to be the folly of what class?
5. What shall happen to the house of the wicked? To the tabernacle of the upright?
6. He who falls away from God in his heart, shall be filled with what?
7. What class of persons will believe anything he is told?
8. Who will fear and depart from evil?
9. What type person is “crowned with knowledge”?
10. The writer states a fact that is true concerning people in general (but not Christians) by stating that what class is hated even of his own neighbor?
11. What is true regarding him that despises his neighbor? The one who has mercy on him?
12. What is said concerning one who oppreseth the poor?
13. What contrast is made between empty speech and real effort (or labor)?
14. What assurance is given the children of the Lord?
15. What is said to be a fountain of life?
16. What characteristic of man is said to exalt (lift up or display) folly?
17. What will exalt any nation? What will bring them reproach?

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Lesson Eleven: *A Merry Heart*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 15

Lesson Aim: Learn what is essential to possessing a merry heart.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 15:1

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What does the writer say to emphasize the fact that God sees and knows all we do?
2. What attitude will a fool manifest toward the instruction of his father?
3. What is dispersed from the lips of the wise?
4. What is said to be a delight to the Lord?
5. Unto what class is correction grievous?
6. What class of persons does not love one who reproves him?
7. To have “the fear of the Lord” and only the necessities of life, is said to be better than what? (See: Matthew 6:33 and 1 Timothy 6:6)
8. A stalled ox (a fatted calf) coupled with hatred is less desirable than what?
9. Folly is said to be joy to what class of persons?
10. What will happen to “the house of the proud”?
11. What does the writer say concerning the thoughts of the wicked?
12. What is said concerning one who is greedy of gain?
13. What contrast is made between the mouth of the wicked and the heart of the righteous? (See: 1 Peter 3:15)
14. Whose prayer will the Lord hear? See also John 9:31.
15. Of what type person is it said, “He abideth among the wise”?

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Lesson Twelve: *On the Highway of the Upright*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 16

Lesson Aim: Obtain instruction regarding the right way to go in life in order to preserve the soul.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 16:17,18

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What expression is used by the writer in pointing out “we are blind to our own faults”?
2. Upon whom are we told to transfer our burdens? (See: 1 Peter 5:7)
3. Who is said to be an abomination unto the Lord.
4. By what is iniquity purged?
5. When men please God, what effects will that have upon his enemies?
6. To be righteous, having only a little of this world’s goods, is more important than what?
7. What expression is used to teach that honesty is to prevail in business?
8. Civil government (the throne) is established by what? (See: Romans 13:1)
9. We are told that it is more important to get wisdom than what other things?
10. What is said to be the highway of the upright?
11. How will one feel that trusts in the Lord?
12. What is said to be a “wellspring of life” unto the person who has it?
13. Unto what are pleasant words compared?
14. What expression is used to teach that we should not rely on our own feelings to direct us?
15. What does the writer say a whisperer will do?
16. Under what circumstances is the hoary head a crown of glory?
17. The person that is able to control his temper (and rule his spirit) is better than whom?

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Lesson Thirteen: *How to Be Thought of as Wise*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 17

Lesson Aim: Learn there is as much wisdom or more in silence as in speech.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 17:28

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. A dry morsel coupled with quietness is said to be better than what?
2. With what is the “trying of our hearts by the Lord” compared? (See: 1 Peter 1:6,7)
3. Who does one reproach when he mocks the poor?
4. What is said to be the crown of old men?
5. A person is said to seek (procure) love when he does what? In contrast, a person who continually dwells on an offence is guilty of what?
6. A wise man is awed more by a simple reproof than a fool is by what?
7. What will happen to one who rewards evil for good?
8. What two types of people are said to be an abomination to the Lord?
9. A person that loves strife is said to love what else?
10. What fact is stated concerning “the father of a fool”?
11. What is said to work a good healing (do good like a medicine)?
12. What means is often used by wicked men to pervert the ways of judgment?
13. What effect does a foolish son have on his father? His mother?
14. What is said concerning the speech of one who has knowledge? (See: James 1:19)

Pondering Proverbs

Lesson Fourteen: *The Lips of a Fool*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 18

Lesson Aim: Learn the mouth may become a snare to the soul; therefore, guard your lips.

Memorize: Proverbs 18:24

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What type person has no delight in understanding?
2. With what does the writer compare a flowing brook?
3. What does the writer say will “enter into contention”?
4. What is the snare of the fool’s soul?
5. The slothful is said to be a brother to whom?
6. What is said to be a strong tower?
7. What is the condition of a man’s heart before destruction? Before honor?
8. What is said concerning one who answers a matter before he even hears it?
9. What will the ear of the wise seek?
10. What fact is set forth concerning a brother that has been offended?
11. What is said to be in the power of the tongue?
12. What contrast is made between the entreaties of the poor and the rich?

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Lesson Fifteen: *Better Is the Poor that Walketh in His Integrity*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 19:1-29

Lesson Aim: Learn rules for the proper use of wealth in service to the poor.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 19:18

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. With whom does the writer compare one who has integrity even though he is poor?
2. The foolish person who brings failure upon himself is said to murmur against whom?
3. What shall come upon a false witness and one who speaks lies?
4. What is said to be the fate of the poor?
5. What is said concerning one that gets and keeps wisdom and understanding?
6. What effect does discretion (or prudence) have on a man?
7. With what is a king's wrath compared? His favor?
8. With what does the writer compare the contentions of a wife?
9. What effect does slothfulness and idleness have on one?
10. When we give unto the poor, who will repay us? (cf. Matthew 25:40)
11. When are we to chasten our children? (cf. 23:13; 29:17; 13:24)
12. What advice are we given to enable us to "be wise in the latter end"?
13. What will a "fear of the Lord" do for us?
14. Who profits (or learns a lesson) when a scorner is punished?
15. Who benefits when a person of understanding is reproved?
16. Judgments and stripes await what classes?

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Lesson Sixteen: *Wine Is a Mocker!*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 20:1-30

Lesson Aim: Learn some general rules for conduct in our intercourse with men.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 20:1

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What is said of the person who allows himself to be deceived by wine and strong drink?
2. What can the sluggard expect of his refusal to work when he should be plowing?
3. With what does the writer compare “counsel in the heart of man”?
4. What does the writer say most men are willing to proclaim?
5. Who benefits from the integrity of just men?
6. What is said to be an abomination to the Lord?
7. What fact is stated so concerning “the doings of a child”?
8. What kind of eyes and ears has God given to us?
9. Stressing vigilance, he says we will come to poverty if we love what?
10. With what are “the lips of knowledge “ compared?
11. Although gain gotten by deceit may seem sweet at first, what is the end result?
12. What advice are we given in regard to one “who flattereth with his lips”?
13. In contrast to the attitude of “I’ll get even with you,” what should be our attitude? (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:15; 1 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:17-19)
14. What things are said to preserve the king?
15. What is said to be the glory of young men?

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Lesson Seventeen: *He that Soweth Iniquity Shall Reap Vanity*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 21 and 22:1-16

Lesson Aim: Learn those rules for living that will help us have a happy home life.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 22:1

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. Although men justify their actions in his own eyes, God looks upon what?
2. What had God rather have from us than sacrifices? (cf. 1 Samuel 15:22)
3. With what does the writer contrast “the thoughts of the diligent”?
4. To live alone on the roof, or in the wilderness is better than sharing a house with whom?
5. Who is made wise when the scorner is punished?
6. What shall happen to one who refuses to hear the cry of the poor?
7. What will happen to the man who wanders out of the way of understanding?
8. What will happen to one who loves pleasure and wine?
9. What type of person will find life, righteousness and honor?
10. We will be spared from troubles if we learn to control what members? (cf. James 3:2)
11. The slothful covets greedily all day long, what is said regarding the righteous?
12. What does the writer say concerning the sacrifice offered by the wicked?
13. What characteristic is a man who speaks against the Lord lacking?
14. What should we desire far above riches?
15. What is one thing the rich and the poor have in common?
16. In regard to evil, what distinction is made between the prudent and the simple?
17. What relationship is there between the borrower and the lender?
18. What is the reward of those who give bountifully unto the poor? (2 Corinthians 9:6)
19. What will drive away foolishness from the heart of a child?

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Lesson Eighteen: *The Words of the Wise*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 22:17-23:35

Lesson Aim: Learn some more general rules concerning riches, drink and conduct.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 23:13,14

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. These “excellent things” have been made known unto us that we might trust in whom?
2. What “reward” can one expect who robs the poor and oppresses the afflicted?
3. What reason is given for not making friendship with an angry man or associating with a furious man?
4. We are warned that even our bed from under us can be taken if we do what?
5. We are warned not to remove what things?
6. What are we exhorted to do in the event we are invited to eat with a ruler?
7. What expression demonstrates riches do not endure and should not be the goal in life?
8. What will be the result of trying to teach a fool?
9. What reason is given for our not withholding correction from our children?
10. Of what are we reminded to keep us from envying sinners when they seem to prosper.
11. What is the end result of drunkenness and gluttony?
12. The writer exhorts his son to buy what things.
13. Give several results of “tarrying long at the wine.”
14. How does the writer describe the effects of wine on one who drinks it? What will it cause him to do?

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Lesson Nineteen: *The Responsibilities of the Wise*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 24:1-34

Lesson Aim: Learn the duties the wise have to those about them.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 24:15,16

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. Name some actions which are characteristic of evil men as set forth by the writer.
2. The writer says a house (figurative of the whole life) is built through what? Established by what? Filled by what?
3. How is the person described that “deviseth to do evil”?
4. What warning is given against our failing to take a stand or pleading ignorance when faced with adversity, or unrighteous tyranny?
5. The honey and honeycomb, which was figurative of the physical diet, is compared unto what in relation to the soul?
6. What attitude are we warned against when we see our enemy stumble or fall?
7. What is said in regard to the reward of the evil and wicked that should keep us from envying them?
8. What end result may be expected if we tell the wicked, “thou are righteous”? If we rebuke the wicked?
9. What are we told we should do before we set out to build our house?
10. What expression does the writer here use to teach the lesson we often hear referred to as “The Golden Rule”?
11. How does the writer describe the field or vineyard of the slothful man, the man who is void of understanding?

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Lesson Twenty: *A City Broken Down and Without Walls*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 25:1-28

Lesson Aim: Learn how to conduct ourselves in the presence of kings and other men.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 25:28

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What marked contrast is made between God and the kings of earth? (cf. Rom. 11:33)
2. How may a king establish his throne in righteousness? With what does the writer compare this? (cf. II Tim. 2:21)
3. What expression is here used to teach us that we should humble ourselves rather than exalt self? (cf. Luke 14:8-11)
4. What good reason (even from a human standpoint) does the writer here give for one not plunging into litigation (being hasty to strive) with his neighbor?
5. With what is a word fitly spoken compared?
6. With what is “a faithful messenger” compared?
7. With what is a person who promises much but performs little or nothing compared?
8. What are we to withdraw from our neighbors’ house lest “wear out our welcome”?
9. What type person is compared with a maul (sledge hammer)? A sword and an arrow?
10. Having confidence in an unfaithful man in times of trouble is compared to what?
11. How should we treat our enemy?
12. Dwelling alone in the corner of the housetop is said to be better than what?
13. With what does the writer compare cold water to a thirsty soul?
14. One who has no rule over his own spirit is compared to what?

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Lesson Twenty-one: *As Snow in Summer*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 26:1-28

Lesson Aim: Learn by comparison many practical truths about men and things.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 26:20

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. Honor for a fool is said to be as strange (or unusual) as what other happenings?
2. Under what circumstances should we not answer a fool according to his folly? Why?
3. Under some circumstances, the fool should be properly answered, for what purpose?
4. What is said to be the result of sending a message by a fool?
5. Unto what is “a parable in the mouth of fools” compared?
6. A parable in the mouth of fools is likened unto what?
7. A fool who returns to his folly, after leaving it, is likened unto what? (cf. II Pet. 2:20-22)
8. What class of person is more hopeless than even a fool?
9. With what does the writer compare “a door turning on it’s hinges”?
10. A sluggard is said to be wiser, in his own eyes, than whom?
11. What is a person who meddles with strife, which is none of his business, likened to?
12. A person who would hurt his neighbor by deceit (or lying) and then claims he was only having fun, or meant no harm, is likened unto what type person?
13. Strife will cease in the absence of what type person?
14. The words of a talebearer are like unto what?
15. What is the result of a flattering mouth?

Pondering Proverbs

Lesson Twenty-two: *A Stone Is Heavy, and the Sand Weighty*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 27:1-27

Lesson Aim: Some common sense applications for living based on ordinary observations.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 27:2

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. With what does the writer compare a “contentious woman”?
2. What reward should one expect who “keeps the fig tree” or “who waits on his master”? (cf. I Cor. 9:7,13)
3. What fact is set forth concerning the “lust of the eyes” (the eyes of man)?
4. What expression does the writer use to show that we can’t separate a fool from his folly no matter how hard we try?
5. What reasons are we given for not being too confident of what we shall do in the future? (cf. James 4:13-16 and Luke 12:18-20)
6. What advice are we given concerning self-praise?
7. Although wrath and anger are undesirable characteristics, what seems to be even worse?
8. What contrast does the writer make between “the full” and the “hungry” soul?
9. We are cautioned not to forsake what people?
10. What contrast is made between a man who is prudent and one who is simple in connection with “evil”?

Pondering Proverbs

Lesson Twenty-three: *The Wicked Flee When No Man Persueth*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 28:1-28

Lesson Aim: Understand these common observations on impiety and religious integrity.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 28:13

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What will happen to cause the righteous to go astray in an evil way?
2. Who is said to be “wise in his own conceits”?
3. Upon what class of persons will God have mercy? (cf. I Jno. 1:8-10)
4. Unto what does the writer liken “a wicked ruler over the poor people”?
5. In contrast to the perverse people who shall fall, what is stated concerning one who walks uprightly?
6. What type person shall “abound with blessings”?
7. If we rebuke a person who is in error, we shall afterward find more favor in his eyes than a person who does what?
8. What is stated concerning one who trusts in his own heart?
9. What do we know concerning one who gives unto the poor?
10. What is true of the wicked in contrast with “the righteous being bold as a lion”?
11. With what does the writer compare a poor man who oppresses the poor?
12. What class of people praises the wicked?
13. The poor that walks in uprightness is said to be better than what class?
14. What is true concerning one who turns away his ear from hearing the law? (cf. Jno. 9:31)

Pondering Proverbs

Lesson Twenty-four: *The Righteous Doth Sing and Rejoice*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 29:1-27

Lesson Aim: Learn why the unjust man is an abomination to the just and vice versa.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 29:15,17

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. What will happen to the people where there is no vision?
2. What is said concerning a man who is hasty in his words?
3. What does the writer say an angry man will do? A furious man?
4. What will pride do to a man who possesses it?
5. What truth is stated concerning one who puts his trust in the Lord?
6. Rather than obtaining the favor of kings, we should prepare to face what judgment?
7. What difference in attitude exists between those ruled righteously and those wickedly?
8. With whom does the writer contrast “the king who by judgment establishes the land”?
9. What warning are we given concerning a man that flattereth his neighbor?
10. What contrast is made between the righteous and the wicked in relation to the poor?
11. What is the end result of a wise man trying to teach (contend with) a foolish man?
12. What contrast is made between a fool and a wise man?
13. What is said regarding the servants of a ruler who will hearken to lies?
14. What will be the end result when a child is left to himself?
15. What assurance is given a parent who will correct his son?

Pondering Proverbs

Lesson Twenty-five: *The Words of Agur, the Son of Jakeh*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 30:1-33

Lesson Aim: Comprehend these words of wisdom uttered by a true believer in God.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 30:5,6

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. King Augur begins his confession by admitting he did not have what?
2. What questions does Augur ask? Whom is he like in this regard?
3. To what conclusion did Augur come concerning God and His Word?
4. What warning is given regarding God's word? (Deuteronomy 4:2; Revelation 22:18, 19)
5. In the prayer that follows, Augur prays that he may be neither poor nor rich, and then gives what reasons for making the request? (Matthew 6:11)
6. What reason is given for not accusing (hurting with your tongue) a servant to his master?
7. What accusation does the writer make concerning "a generation pure in their own eyes"?
8. What things are said to never be satisfied?
9. What is the end result of an eye that mocks his father and despises to obey his mother?
10. What four things leave the writer to wonder (leave no trace behind them)?
11. Of what four things is said, "The earth cannot bear it" (it is intolerable)?
12. What is said regarding the ant? The conies? The locusts? The spider?
13. A king (against whom there is no rising up) is compared to what three animals?
14. Under what circumstances does the writer suggest you "lay thy hand upon thy mouth"?
15. What will be brought forth by the forcing of (brooding over) wrath?

Pondering Proverbs

Lesson Twenty-six: *The Words of King Lemuel*

Lesson Text: Proverbs 31:1-31

Lesson Aim: Learn the qualities possessed by the God approved woman.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 31:10

■ *Questions for Review—*

1. King Lemuel's mother taught him to not give his strength to whom?
2. In advising her son not to drink strong drink, she points out it will cause him to do what?
3. To whom did she say he should give strong drink?
4. In contrast to engaging in these two besetting sins of most of the Eastern monarchs, she urged Lemuel to plead whose cause?
5. In setting forth the praise of a virtuous woman is said to be more valuable than what?
6. What does he say concerning "the heart of her husband"?
7. What is said about her in comparing her with merchant ships?
8. What is said regarding her feeding her household?
9. What will she do for the poor and needy?
10. What is said to be her clothing?
11. What are the attitudes of her children and husband toward her?
12. What type of woman shall be praised?
13. With what does the writer compare cold water to a thirsty soul?
14. One who has no rule over his own spirit is compared to what? (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:15: 1 Peter 3:9; Romans 12:17-19)