

Proverbs Study 4

Read Proverbs Chapters 16-20

Assignments on Proverbs 16

Please read Proverbs 16

1. What do we learn about the plans that people make according to 16:1 and also verses 9,33? List examples of people whose plans failed because God had other plans.
2. How does the way that people see themselves often differ from the way the Lord sees them – 16:2? Describe some methods people often use to try to justify themselves.
3. What does it mean to commit our works to the Lord – 16:3. How does it benefit?
4. What do we learn about God's work as Creator according to 16:4? In what sense is it true that He made the wicked for the day of doom?
5. How does God view pride – 16:5? Describe some ways that proud people sometimes plot to get their own way and still avoid suffering the consequences.
6. Name 2 things that are necessary for our atonement according to 16:6. Explain how both of these work together. What is also required of man?
7. What does God do for those who please Him according to 16:7? Give some Bible examples. Is this always true, or are there exceptions?
8. What characterizes the speech of rulers according to 16:10? What responsibility does this place on them? What lesson should the rulers learn from this?

9. Application: What lesson should rulers learn according to 16:12? List some examples of ways in which this applies to rulers in our society today.

10. What should kings love and delight in – 16:13? Again, what application does this have to rulers today?

11. How is the wrath of the ruler compared to his favor – 16:14,15? What application does this have to us as citizens? (Note: 16:8,11,16 restate principles we have already studied.)

12. What path do the upright follow – 16:17? What blessing do they receive?

13. Application: Give some Bible examples of people whose pride led to a downfall – 16:18,19. What lessons should we learn?

14. What blessings come from trusting in God and heeding His word – 16:20? How does this relate to pride as compared to humility in verses 18,19?

15. What are the benefits of wisdom and sweetness of lips according to 16:21 and verse 23? Explain in what sense this is true.

16. What does it take to correct a fool – 16:22? What advantage does a person with understanding have? Explain how folly corrects a fool.

17. What are the benefits of pleasant words – 16:24? How can they properly be compared to a honeycomb? (Note that 16:25 is the same as 14:12, which we have already studied.)

18. In what way can a man's appetite benefit him – 16:26? Explain.

19. What characterizes ungodly people according to 16:27? What are the consequences – 16:28? Give examples of this kind of conduct.

20. How does a violent man treat his neighbor – 16:29? Does 16:30 relate to 16:29? Explain.

21. Application: What is the significance of silver hair – 16:31? Under what circumstances can it be an honor? What lessons should be learned by older people and by younger people?

22. Application: What is more difficult and more important than being a great warrior and conquer – 16:32? What lessons should we learn about self-control?

Assignments on Proverbs 17

Please read Proverbs 17

1. What is more important than material prosperity according to 17:1? How does wealth often lead to strife?

2. What advantage might a servant have over one who is born into a family – 17:2? What lessons should we learn?

3. Explain how the refining of silver and gold illustrates how God deals with our hearts – 17:3. Notice 1 Peter 1:7.

4. How does our service to God influence what we are willing to listen to – 17:4? Give examples to explain the point.

5. How should we view the suffering of others, especially those who are poor, according to 17:5? What lessons should we learn?

6. What family relationships are described in 17:6, and how should we view them? Explain some ways that these concepts contrast with the views of a society that devalues family relationships like ours does.

7. What kinds of speech are unbecoming according to 17:7? Explain why each of these examples of speech is unbecoming. (Note that verse 8 can refer either to a gift or a bribe, depending on translation. What might be the meaning?)

8. Special Assignment: What does it mean to cover a transgression – 17:9? List other passages about covering sin. Explain how this is an act of love. What consequences may follow from repeating a matter? How does this verse harmonize with passages that say to rebuke error?

9. What difference exists between how a wise man learns and a fool learns according to 17:10? What should you and I learn?

10. Define rebellion. What does it take to restrain a rebel – 17:11? Explain.

11. What should be preferred over the foolishness of a fool – 17:12. Explain the illustration.

12. Give examples that illustrate how people sometimes return evil for good – 17:13. List other passages showing what Christians should do instead.

13. What is the best time to stop a quarrel – 17:14? How does Solomon illustrate the point?

14. Application: Give examples in which people may be guilty of justifying the wicked or condemning the righteous – 17:15. How does God view both kinds of conduct?

15. What is wasted on a fool according to 17:16? Explain why this is so.

16. What should characterize the relationship of friends and of brothers – 17:17? How might people fail in these relationships? (Note that 17:18 is like verses already discussed.)

17. Explain how wickedness and strife often go together – 17:19. Give examples. Does this mean Christians should not speak out when others sin?

18. What does 17:20 teach us about evil thoughts and evil speech? In what sense are these things true? (Note that the teaching of 17:21 repeats what we have often studied earlier.)

19. What can serve like a medicine according to 17:22? What dries the bones instead? Give examples.

20. List other passages about bribes. What wicked consequences come from accepting a bribe – 17:23? (What are the possible meanings of 17:24?)

21. What are ways people sometimes punish the righteous or cause problems for rulers who do right – 17:26? (Note that we have studied the principle of 17:25 in earlier verses.)

22. Application: What are some advantages of holding one's peace according to 17:27,28? Give examples in which people sometimes get in trouble from talking too much.

Assignments on Proverbs 18

Please read Proverbs 18

1. What does an unwise man do according to 18:1? What motivates him? (Think: From what is it improper to isolate oneself?)
2. To a foolish person, what is more important than gaining understanding – 18:2? Give examples that illustrate this kind of person.
3. What are associated with wickedness and dishonor – 18:3? How might this happen?
4. The speech and wisdom of a man are compared to what – 18:4? Explain.
5. Define partiality. How do people sometimes show partiality to those who are wicked or give unfair judgments against those who are righteous – 18:5?
6. What errors does a foolish person make with his speech – 18:6? Why is this true? What consequences follow from his speech – 18:7?
7. How does Solomon illustrate the words of a talebearer – 18:8? What should we learn?
8. Explain how a lazy man is like a destroyer – 18:9.
9. Application: How does the protection of the righteous compare to that of a rich man – 18:10,11? What are some advantages the righteous man would have over the rich man?
10. What problem does Solomon describe in 18:13? Why is this a problem? Give examples as illustrations. (Note that 18:12 is the same as other proverbs we have studied.)

11. How does a person's attitude affect his health – 18:14? Explain.

12. What does a wise person want to acquire – 18:15? So why do many people not obtain true knowledge?

13. What value can giving gifts have – 18:16? Explain some ways the giver is blessed by the gifts that he gives.

14. Special Assignment: What principle does 18:17 teach us about controversy? How does verse 17 connect to verse 13?

15. What is involved in casting lots – 18:18? What benefit could it have in resolving controversy?

16. How does Solomon illustrate the problems that conflict can cause – 18:19? What should this mean to us?

17. What problems can speech cause – 18:20,21? Give examples. How does verse 20 relate?

18. Application: List several lessons that husbands should learn from 18:22. How should we apply this teaching?

19. How does prosperity affect the way people treat other people – 18:23? Why?

20. What does friendship require of us – 18:24? What should we learn about how to treat our friends?

Assignments on Proverbs 19

Please read Proverbs 19

1. What does it mean to hasten with the feet – 19:2? How does this lead to sin? How does it relate to the lack of knowledge? (Note: We have seen before the principle taught in 19:1.)
2. When people suffer the consequences of their sins, what do they often do – 19:3? Think of examples that illustrate the point.
3. How are wealthy people often treated differently from poor people – 19:4 and 7? What does this teach us about friendship?
4. What kind of conduct leads to sure punishment – 19:5 and 9? In contrast, what do people in our society often think when they participate in this conduct?
5. How do people act towards those who give gifts – 19:6? Is this always bad or always good? Explain. (Note: Verse 8 expresses ideas we have studied many times before.)
6. What two things are not fitting – 19:10? Why are these things unsuitable?
7. What will discretion teach us about our reaction when we have been wronged – 19:11? How should we harmonize this with passages that teach us to speak out against sin?
8. How are the reactions of a ruler illustrated in 19:12? What should we do as a result?
9. What problems may we find in our family relationships – 19:13? Does this mean a wife should never express her views?

10. Application: In contrast to verse 13, how are wives viewed in 19:14? List some specific lessons that husbands should learn.

11. How does a lazy person act – 19:15? What are the consequences?

12. What is the benefit of obedience – 19:16? What is the consequence of carelessness? What should we learn about neglect as compared to diligence?

13. How does God react to people who care for those who are poor – 19:17? How does this differ from the way people often think?

14. Case Study: Some people say that parents should not train their children in religion but should allow them to choose their own beliefs as they grow up. Explain the principles of 19:18 and apply them to this philosophy.

15. What will happen to a man given to anger – 19:19? What problem does he create for those around him? (Note: We have studied elsewhere the principles taught in 19:20,21.)

16. What quality is admired in 19:22? Toward whom should we show kindness?

17. What blessings come to those who fear the Lord 19:23?

18. How lazy are some people according to 19:24? How does this relate to 2 Thessalonians 3:10?

19. What does 19:25 teach about the way people learn lessons? What should we learn?

20. What does 19:26 teach about how children treat their parents? Explain how this applies in a society of rebellion and family violence. (Note: 19:27 is like verses already studied.)

21. How does 19:28 describe those who are false witnesses or wicked? Explain how these statements are true.

22. What treatment should fools and scoffers expect according to 19:29.

Assignments on Proverbs 20

Please read Proverbs 20

1. Application: What problems do wine and strong drink cause according to 20:1? Describe examples of ways they often lead people astray.

2. How do honorable men and foolish men differ in how they view quarreling – 20:3? Discuss the circumstances under which one should or should not continue a disagreement.

3. Explain the relationship between laziness, plowing, and harvesting – 20:4 and 13. How does this apply in our service to God? (Note: 20:2,5 are like verses already studied.)

4. How do most people view their goodness – 20:6 and 9? How many people really are faithful? Explain. (Note that we studied the principle of 20:8,10,16,23 before.)

5. Special Assignment: Based on these proverbs, how should we expect people to react when they first hear the gospel? Does this mean a person can never be pure from sin? Explain. (Think: Does this mean that people have an inherited sin nature that compels them to sin?)

6. How should children view godly parents – 20:7? How are righteous parents a blessing?

7. How should we judge the character of a child – 20:11? Explain the point. Does this principle apply to older people as well?

8. What is the origin of the senses of hearing and seeing – 20:12? If this is true, what should we learn about how we should use our eyes and ears?

9. How do people often treat a product that they really want to buy – 20:14? How would this contrast to what sellers often do? Explain how this relates to honesty in business.

10. How should one value knowledge – 20:15? What does this mean about speech?

11. What are the consequences of gaining possessions by means of deceit – 20:17? What is the significance of the sweetness and of the gravel?

12. 20:18 again discusses the value of receiving counsel and advice from others, but here is applied to waging war. What lesson should we learn today?

13. How does a talebearer act – 20:19? How should we respond to such a person? How would such a response help resolve the problem?

14. What lesson should children learn about respect for their parents in 20:20? How would this principle benefit our society?

15. What is meant by an inheritance that was gained hastily – 20:21? Explain why it might not be blessed.

16. Instead of taking personal vengeance, what should we do – 20:22? List other passages about taking vengeance.

17. In what sense are man's steps of the Lord – 20:24? What does this mean about our future conduct? What lesson should we learn?

18. What mistake do people sometimes make regarding their promises or vows – 20:25? How important should our promises be? Give examples of applications.

19. What responsibility do rulers have in dealing with citizens – 20:26 and 28? Why are mercy and truth both important to them?

20. In what sense is a man's spirit the lamp of the Lord – 20:27? How does the ability of God to know our hearts compare to our ability to know the hearts of others?

21. Application: What advantage do young men have, and what advantage do old man have? What lessons should be learned by those who are young and by those who are old?

22. What benefit can come from blows and stripes – 20:30? What should parents learn about discipline of children?

Extra Study

Proverbs Study 5 – Wisdom, Wealth and Poverty

Read Proverbs 8:1-21, 10:1-4, 10:22 and 11:24-31

1. What relationship does Proverbs imply exists between wisdom and wealth?
2. Are verses like 10:22-23 and 11:31 promises from God or general principles? How can this help us when we apply Proverbs to our own situation?

Read Proverbs 11:1, 11:4, 11:28 and 28:27

3. How are the wealthy encouraged to act?

Read Proverbs 13:8 and 19:1-7

4. What disadvantages are there in poverty? What risks do the wealthy face?

Read Proverbs 28 and 30:7-9

5. What temptations come with poverty and wealth?

Read 1 Timothy 6:3-10 and 6:17-21

6. How is the desire for money a trap?
7. How can we honour God with our money?
8. What does Paul urge Christians to pursue?

Recommended Reading: Proverbs 8, 10, 11 and 28