

Study 5

Read Proverbs 21-25

Assignments on Proverbs 21

Please read Proverbs 21

1. How does Solomon illustrate God's ability to influence people in 21:1? Explain the illustration. (Think: Does God violate man's free will?)
2. How do people tend to view their own conduct – 21:2? Explain what ultimately determines what is right or wrong.
3. What does God value more than sacrifice – 21:3? Explain how this applies today.
4. How does God view pride and haughtiness – 21:4? How does this compare to how proud people tend to view themselves?
5. How do the effects of diligence compare to the effects of hastiness – 21:5?
6. When people are hasty to get rich, what is one sin they may commit – 21:6?
7. Whom do wicked people seek to harm, but whom ultimately do they destroy – 21:7 and 10? Explain why. (Note that we have studied the principle of 21:8,11 elsewhere.)
8. Application: What would be better than living with a contentious woman – 21:9 and 19? Explain how a contentious woman acts. What lessons should we learn?

9. What does God do regarding wicked men – 21:12? What assurance does this give us about people who appear in this life to escape the consequences of their evil?

10. What happens to those who refuse to hear the cries of poor people – 21:13? Explain how this may happen. (Note that 21:14 is similar to 18:16, which we already studied.)

11. Application: How do righteous people view righteous practices – 21:15? Are people truly good if they view goodness as a burden they wish to avoid? What should we learn?

12. What kind of person is described in 21:17? What are the consequences? Explain how this can happen. (Note that 21:16 repeats a principle that we studied often before.)

13. Define ransom. Who serves as a ransom for whom in 21:18? Explain what this could mean.

14. What advantage does a wise man have over a foolish man according to 21:20? What applications does this have, especially spiritually?

15. What advantage does wisdom have over strength according to 21:22? Explain applications, especially spiritually. (Note: 21:21,23,24,28 repeat principles we already studied.)

16. In what sense does a lazy man have desires? What consequences does laziness lead to – 21:25?

17. Define covet. In contrast to covetousness, how does the righteous man act – 21:26? (Think: Can a person covet that which already belongs to him? Explain.)

18. Case Study: Some people say it does not matter how you worship God so long as you worship Him. Explain the application of 21:27 to this concept. List other such passages.

19. What does it mean to harden one's face – 21:29? How does wickedness lead to this condition, and how does righteousness avoid it?

20. How is the overruling power of God described in 21:30,31? What lesson should we learn?

Assignments on Proverbs 22

Please read Proverbs 22

1. How valuable is a person's good name – 22:1? Explain the meaning and its importance.

2. What do rich people and poor people have in common – 22:2? What should we learn?

3. How does the simple man differ from the prudent man according to 22:3? State some ways this is true, especially in spiritual matters.

4. What blessings come to those who humbly fear the Lord – 22:4? What problems come to those that are perverse – 22:5?

5. Special Assignment: What promise does 22:6 give to those who properly train their children? Explain why it is important for parents to believe and apply this principle.

6. What consequence does borrowing lead to – 22:7? Explain why this is true and tell what we should learn. (Note that we elsewhere studied the principles taught in 22:8,9.)

7. What problems does a scoffer cause, and what should we do about it – 22:10? How should we apply this principle today?

8. What kind of person should rulers befriend – 22:11? Do rulers always practice this principle properly? Explain.

9. What will God do for those who have knowledge and with those who speak faithlessly – 22:12? How should we use this principle when wicked people appear to prosper?

10. What excuse does a lazy man use why he cannot work – 22:13? Give examples in which people today sometimes make excuses that are just as foolish.

11. How is an immoral woman illustrated in 22:14? Explain the illustration. Where else have we studied about such women?

12. How do children naturally tend to act, and what solution is required – 22:15? Explain why corporal punishment helps in such situations.

13. What will happen to one who gains wealth by oppressing poor people and seeking the favor of those who are rich – 22:16?

14. What should a person do with words of wisdom – 22:17,18? How would we apply these verses?

15. What can teaching, such as is contained in the book of Proverbs, accomplish for us – 22:19-21? Explain how such teaching can benefit us in our service to God.

16. What does God warn us against doing in 22:22,23? What consequences come if we mistreat such people?

17. Application: What kind of person are we warned about in 22:24,25? How should we treat such a person? Explain the importance of principles such as this.

18. What practice are we warned against in 22:26,27? What reason is given to?

19. What is a landmark? Why is it important to respect them – 22:28?

20. What benefits come to one who is diligent in his business – 22:29? Explain why this is usually true.

Assignments on Proverbs 23

Please read Proverbs 23

1. What principles should a person follow when in the presence of a ruler according to 23:1-3? Explain the consequences.

2. What danger of riches is discussed in 23:4,5? What characteristic of riches are we warned against?

3. Application: List other passages about the danger of overemphasizing possessions. Explain the lessons we should learn.

4. What should we remember when a miser offers us a meal – 23:6-8? What might be some reasons why he might offer such a meal?

5. Explain the significance of the expression, “as he thinks in his heart, so is he.” What should we learn about the importance of the heart?

6. What is the consequence of trying to speak wisdom to a fool – 23:9? What lessons should we learn? (Note that the principle of verse 12 is discussed in other passages we studied.)

7. Whose property should specifically be respected according to 23:10,11? What reason is given why this should be done? (Think: Why might some people try to get away with mistreating such people as are mentioned here?)

8. Application: What reasons are given to justify spanking of children in 23:13,14? Explain how spanking accomplishes these purposes.

9. What characteristics of a child will cause a parent to rejoice – 23:15,16? Explain why.

10. What reasons are given why we should not envy sinners – 23:17-19? What are some ways that people are sometimes guilty of envying sinners?

11. Application: How should we treat winebibbers and gluttons – 23:20,21? What reasons are given? List some lessons we should learn?

12. How should we treat parents according to 23:22? How do people sometimes show that they despise an elderly mother?

13. Explain the meaning of buying and selling as used in 23:23. What lessons should we learn?

14. What must a child do in order to give his parents joy – 23:24-26?

15. What is a seductress compared to in 23:27? How does 23:28 explain the meaning?

16. What subject is discussed in 23:29-35?

17. Application: Make a list of the problems that alcoholic beverages can cause in the life of the drinker based on these verses. For each one, explain how drinking can cause it.

18. What solution does Solomon give to the drinking problem in 23:31? Think carefully and comment on what this means regarding how we should avoid the problems of alcohol.

19. What is the final outcome of drinking – 23:32? If alcoholic beverages are like a serpent and a viper, how should a Christian treat them?

20. Study carefully 1 Peter 4:1-4. What terms does the passage use that include drinking? Define them. How does a Christian properly apply passages such as this?

Assignments on Proverbs 24

Please read Proverbs 24

1. What are we taught again about our attitude and association with evil people – 24:1,2? What reason is given?

2. What advantage does wisdom have – 24:3,4? How can this be applied spiritually?

3. In what other ways does wisdom have an advantage – 24:5,6? What application does this have spiritually?

4. Why do fools not obtain wisdom – 24:7? In what sense does he not open his mouth in the gate?

5. What aspect of evil is rebuked in 24:8,9? Explain the meaning and give applications.

6. What can we know if a person faints in the face of adversity – 24:10? What can we learn about overcoming hardship and about sympathizing with those who have troubles?

7. What should we do when we know people are facing catastrophe – 24:11,12? Can we excuse ourselves by claiming ignorance?

8. Application: What are some situations in which the people face catastrophe, so it becomes our responsibility to help rescue them?

9. What is the knowledge of wisdom compared to in 24:13,14? Explain.

10. What warning is given to wicked people in 24:15,16? Why might wicked people be tempted to treat righteous people in this way? What do the verses say will be the result?

11. What attitude should we avoid toward enemies – 24:17,18? What reason is given?

12. Why should we not worry about or envy wicked people – 24:19,20? Why do good people sometimes worry about those who do evil?

13. What kind of people should we avoid according to 24:21,22? Why is this so? What should we learn?

14. What does impartiality in judgment require of us 24:23-25? What are the consequences of rebuking or not rebuking those who are wicked?

15. How does God view those who give a right answer – 24:26? What does this show about those who say that people who rebuke sin are guilty of hate?

16. What do we learn about proper priorities in 24:27? What application can we make in physical and spiritual matters?

17. What principle should we follow regarding testifying against a neighbor – 24:28? Explain the relationship between 24:29 and a similar teaching of Jesus.

18. How does Solomon describe the property of the lazy man – 24:30,31? What problems would these conditions cause?

19. What kind of conduct causes these problems – 24:32,33? What are the consequences – 24:34?

20. Application: List some applications we should make regarding laziness both in physical matters and in spiritual matters.

Assignments on Proverbs 25

Please read Proverbs 25

1. Who spoke these proverbs – 25:1? Who copied them?
2. How does God differ from kings – 25:2? Explain ways this may be so.
3. How is the heart of kings described – 25:3? How may this be important to us?
4. How is a king's throne like silver – 25:4,5? What lessons should rulers learn?
5. Special Assignment: How should we express humility in the presence of great people – 25:6,7? See also verse 27. Where does the New Testament teach a similar idea? What applications should we make?
6. What does Solomon teach about making light and frivolous court suits – 25:8? What should we learn about many of the court suits of our own day?
7. What should we do when we have a difference with a neighbor – 25:9,10? What reason does Solomon give?
8. How does Solomon illustrate the value of proper speech in 25:11? Give examples that illustrate speaking fitly as compared to not speaking fitly.
9. How does Solomon illustrate a wise rebuker in 25:12? So, what is the responsibility of one who gives the rebuke and of one who receives a rebuke?

10. Explain what a faithful messenger is like – 25:13. What application should we make, especially to gospel teaching?

11. Explain what a boaster is like – 25:14. Give examples of people who may be guilty.

12. What advice is given in 25:15 about persuading a ruler? Why is this good advice?

13. How should one eat honey – 25:16? What application should we make?

14. What advice does Solomon give about visiting – 25:17? What should we learn?

15. How does Solomon illustrate a man who bears false witness – 25:18? Explain.

16. What is an unfaithful man like – 25:19? What does this mean about those in whom we put our trust and about our own trustworthiness?

17. What mistake should we avoid when people have a heavy heart – 25:20? How does Solomon illustrate it?

18. Special Assignment: How should we treat an enemy according to 25:21,22? Where does the New Testament teach this? Explain applications and lessons for us.

19. How does Solomon illustrate the consequences of backbiting – 25:23? Give examples to illustrate how this can happen. (Note that 25:24 is the same as we studied in 21:9.)

20. Explain how Solomon illustrates good news in 25:25.

21. What danger should we avoid according to 25:26? How does Solomon illustrate it? Give examples of how this may happen.

22. A person without self-control is like what – 25:28? Give examples that demonstrate the illustration.

Extra Study

Proverbs Study 6 – The Tongue: A power for life and death

Read Proverbs 1:9-14

1. What examples are given in Proverbs 11 of the destructive power of words?

2. In contrast, how does a godly person use words to build up and protect?

Read Proverbs 12:6 and 12:13-23

3. How can we recognise sinful words and foolish talk?

4. What is wise speech and how is it rewarded?

Read Proverbs 15:1-4, 15:18, 15:23, 15:30, 16:13 and 16:23-28

5. How can the tongue bring life and health?

6. How can it stir up trouble?

Read Proverbs 17:9, 17:14 17:27-28, 18:2, 18:6-8, 18:13 and 18:20-21

7. What advice does Proverbs 17 and 18 give about speaking and listening?

Read James 1:26-27

8. How can we keep a “tight rein” on our tongues?

Recommended Reading: Proverbs 12 and 16-18