

Proverbs Study 3

Read Proverbs 11-15

Assignments on Proverbs 11

Please read Proverbs 11

1. Explain the significance of a false balance as compared to a just weight – 11:1. List other passages that teach the importance of honesty in business dealings.
2. List some ways that pride can lead to shame – 11:2. Explain why humility is wise.
3. How does Solomon contrast the nature of the upright person as compared to the unfaithful person in 11:3? Explain why this is so.
4. What advantage does righteousness have over riches according to 11:4? Give examples that illustrate this limitation of what wealth can accomplish.
5. Application: Give examples in which unfaithfulness may cause a person to be ensnared by their own lusts – 11:5,6. How does righteousness deliver people from these problems?
6. Do wicked people have hopes and expectations – 11:7,8? List some they might have. What does Solomon say happens to these hopes and expectations?
7. What are some ways that people may harm others by their speech – 11:9? How can righteousness deliver people from such problems?

8. Application: How should the people of a city view those who are righteous as compared to those who are wicked? List some ways that upright people are a blessing to a society as compared to the harm caused by wicked people.

9. How does wisdom or the lack thereof affect how people use private information – 11:12,13? Is it always wrong to reveal such information about other people? Explain.

10. What advantage does obtaining advice from others have – 11:14? Explain some ways this may be true. (Note: See 6:14 for a discussion about surety – 11:15.)

11. What kind of woman truly deserves to be honored – 11:16? How does this contrast to the way people often view women?

12. Who ultimately benefits when a person is merciful or suffers if he is cruel – 11:17? Explain some ways this may be true.

13. Explain some ways in which wickedness is deceptive – 11:18-20? How does this contrast to the reward of righteousness?

14. Explain some ways that wicked people may try to work together to avoid punishment – 11:21. What is the proper way to be delivered from punishment?

15. How is the loveliness or beauty of some women illustrated in 11:22? Explain.

16. What characterizes the desires of righteous people – 11:23? Regardless of the desires of wicked people, what can they expect?

17. Special Assignment: Who benefits when a person is generous and who suffers when a person is stingy according to 11:24-26? Explain the sense in which this is true and give examples.

18. List other passages about the danger of trusting in riches – 11:28. State some reasons why riches cannot be trusted.

19. What are some ways in which wicked people sometimes cause trouble for their own families – 11:29? What consequences often follow?

20. What is one of the most important ways that righteous people can be a blessing to other people – 11:30? List other passages about the importance of leading other people to the truth.

21. What are some ways that righteous people are sometimes recompensed even on the earth in contrast to sinners – 11:31?

Assignments on Proverbs 12

Please read Proverbs 12

1. Why should instruction be valued – 12:1? What does this mean about reproof?

2. What are wicked devices – 12:2? How does this relate to our relationship to God?

3. What benefit does righteousness have that wickedness does not have according to 12:3 & 7? In what sense is this true?

4. Application: What effect can a wife have for good or bad on her husband – 12:4? What should we learn about choosing a spouse and how we should treat our spouses?

5. How does the thinking of good people compare to that of evil people according to 12:5? Explain the importance of this principle.

6. How does the speech of good people compare to that of evil people according to 12:6? Give examples.

7. How should people view a man of wisdom as compared to a man of a perverse heart – 12:8? How does this compare to the views of our society?

8. What is more important according to 12:9 than whether or not one is honored or esteemed in the eyes of others? Think of examples that illustrate the point.

9. Special Assignment: What does 12:10 teach about attitudes towards animals? List other passages about our relationship with animals, then give examples of applications.

10. What benefit comes from hard work – 12:11,12? What lesson should be learned about pursuing goals of relatively little value?

11. What can cause a snare to the wicked person according to 12:13,14? How does this contrast to the results of the speech of good men?

12. How does a fool view his conduct – 12:15? Is this the correct view? What should he do instead? Give examples.

13. What kind of conduct is foolish according to 12:16? List other passages about controlling our anger.

14. How is our character revealed in our speech according to 12:17,18? What consequences can our speech have?

15. Truthful speech leads to what consequences – 12:19,20? When people who devise evil speak, what is the result?

16. What principles that we have studied in the book of Proverbs are stated again in 12:21,22?

17. Application: Explain and give examples that show when it is wise to conceal knowledge rather than to proclaim everything that we think – 12:23.

18. What are the consequences of laziness versus diligence according to 12:24?

19. What benefit can good words accomplish according to 12:25? What should we learn?

20. Why is the influence that friends have on one another important – 12:26? List other passages about the importance of influence.

21. How is the lazy man described in 12:27? Explain.

Assignments on Proverbs 13

Please read Proverbs 13

1. What will wisdom lead a child to do – 13:1? Give examples of influences that may lead a child not to listen.
2. In what ways may a man benefit from his own speech – 13:2? On what does an unfaithful man feed?
3. What should a person do with his speech – 13:3? What benefits does it produce?
4. What consequence does laziness lead to as compared to diligence – 13:4?
5. How should we view lying – 13:5? How does this contrast to wicked men? (We have seen verses like verse 6 several times before.)
6. Explain how one can be rich yet have nothing, and another can be poor and yet have great riches – 13:7.
7. What may a rich man be required to use his riches for – 13:8? What advantage does a poor man have?
8. What do you think the words “light” and “lamp” refer to in 13:9? Explain the verse.
9. What problem does pride cause according to 13:10? Explain how this can happen. What can lead to wisdom instead?

10. How does dishonest wealth contrast to honest labor in 13:11? Explain the point.
11. How does the pain of waiting for a desired event compare to the joy of receiving it – 13:12?
12. How should we view God's word according to 13:13? What consequence follows if we do not?
13. Application: What blessings do wisdom and understanding lead to according to 13:14,15? List some examples that illustrate the difficulties that may come to those who are unfaithful.
14. Explain how a prudent man acts – 13:16. What does a foolish person do instead?
15. Explain how a wicked messenger can cause trouble in contrast to a faithful ambassador – 13:17.
16. What are the advantages of correction and reproof according to 13:18? Explain.
17. What benefit comes from fulfilling a desire – 13:19? How do foolish people act instead?
18. Application: What lessons should we learn about choice of companions according to 13:20? List other passages and give examples to illustrate the lesson.
19. Explain what inheritance a good man leaves for future generations – 13:22. What happens instead to the wealth of sinners? Explain how this is so. (Verse 21 is similar to other verses we have already studied.)

20. How might a poor man meet his needs – 13:23? What happens instead because of injustice?

21. Application: How should parents train their children according 13:24? List other similar passages. Summarize what the Bible teaches about spanking.

22. What advantages does righteousness have over wickedness according to 13:25?

Assignments on Proverbs 14

Please read Proverbs 14

1. How does a wise woman differ from a foolish woman according to 14:1? Give examples of ways this is true.

2. What application would 14:2 have to those who deny that obedience to God is essential in order to be acceptable before Him?

3. How does the effect of foolish speech compare to the effect of wise speech – 14:3?

4. Explain the illustration of the oxen in 14:4. List some other applications where the same principle is true.

5. What distinction does 14:5 make between witnesses?

6. Application: What happens when a scoffer attempts to find wisdom – 14:6? What advantage does a wise man have? Give some examples that illustrate this difference.

7. Application: What applications can we make from 14:7 regarding seeking advice from people who have demonstrated that they do not properly understand the word of God?

8. How do foolish people view sin – 14:8,9? Give some examples from real life.

9. What can one person never fully appreciate about another person – 14:10?

10. Though wicked people may appear to prosper in this life, what can we be sure will be the end result – 14:11?

11. Application: According to 14:12, what is the danger of following human wisdom? Give some examples that illustrate how people often follow what seems right to them rather than following the word of God.

12. What may be true of people even as they laugh and appear happy – 14:13?

13. Where does backsliding begin and what is the consequence – 14:14?

14. As compared to a simple person, how does the wise person respond differently to the things he hears– 14:15? Explain why this is especially important in spiritual matters.

15. Why is it that a foolish person often cannot be convinced to change his ways – 14:16? How does this differ from a wise person?

16. What problems are caused by quick temper – 14:17? Give illustrations. (Note: Verse 18 teaches principles we have studied a number of other places.)

17. How will evil people sooner or later treat good people – 14:19? How does this differ from the way good people are often treated in this life?

18. How do people often treat those who are poor as compared to those who are rich – 14:20,21? Explain why this is so.

19. How does devising good differ from devising evil – 14:22? Is it enough to want to do good, or is more required in order to actually do good? Explain the lessons we can learn.

20. What sometimes hinders people from laboring profitably – 14:23? What lesson should we learn?

21. Are riches always bad – 14:24? Who knows how to properly benefit from riches? Explain some ways this may be true.

22. What benefit can speaking the truth have according to 14:25? In what ways can this be true especially spiritually?

23. Describe some blessings that come from properly serving the Lord – 14:26,27.

24. What does a king need to have honor and avoid a downfall – 14:28? Explain.

25. What does 14:29 teach about anger? Is anger always sinful? What is the danger of anger?

26. Define envy. What effect does it have according to 14:30? List some things for which people sometimes envy others.

27. How should we treat the poor according to 14:31? What is the consequence of failing to do so? Explain.

28. What is the effect of foolishness and wickedness according to 14:32,33? What is the effect of righteousness and wisdom? Explain the meaning.

29. Application: What is the effect of righteousness or sin upon a nation – 14:34? List some Bible examples that illustrate the point. What lesson should we learn for today?

30. How should rulers treat those who are wise as compared to those who cause shame – 14:35? Do rulers always follow this rule? What should we learn?

Assignments on Proverbs 15

Please read Proverbs 15

1. Why is a soft answer important – 15:1?

2. Application: Does verse 1 mean we should never rebuke sin or speak firmly? Explain and give examples of the proper application of the principle.

3. Give examples of right use of knowledge (vs. foolish speech). Note 15:2,4, & 7.

4. What does God observe? Note 15:3 and 15:11. What should we learn?

5. What attitude should a child have toward his parents' instructions – 15:5?

6. What reward does wickedness lead to – 15:6? So, what kind of treasure does righteousness bring to a house?

7. Special Assignment: How does God view the worship of the wicked as compared to the prayers of the upright – 15:8,9? Explain some lessons we can learn about worship and give examples. (See also 15:26 and 15:29.)

8. What consequences come to those who forsake the way and hate correction – 15:10?

9. How does a scoffer respond to correction – 15:12? Give examples.

10. How do cheerfulness and sorrow affect a person? Note 15:13,15,30.

11. How is a person's character demonstrated by what he feeds upon – i.e., the interests he pursues – 15:14? Give examples.

12. What is more important than wealth/treasure – 15:16,17,27? Explain why.

13. What problems are caused by being quick-tempered (vs. slow to anger) – 15:18?

14. What problem does a lazy man face (vs. an upright man) – 15:19? Explain.

15. How does a child bless or trouble his parents – 15:20?

16. How does a person who lacks discernment view foolishness – 15:21? How does our society illustrate this truth? (Note that the lesson of verse 22 has already been studied in 11:14.)

17. What is meant by a word spoken in due season – 15:23? How can this cause joy?

18. In what direction does the life of a wise man lead – 15:24? Explain.

19. What advantage does a widow have over a proud person – 15:25? Why?

20. Application: What lessons can we learn about speech from 15:28? Give some examples that apply the principle.

21. What is the benefit of heeding reproof as compared to disdainful instruction – 15:31,32?

22. What is necessary in order to receive instruction in true wisdom, and what is necessary in order to receive true honor – 15:33? Is this what our society generally believes? Explain

Extra Study

Proverbs Study 4 – Training in Wisdom through Discipline
Read Proverbs 3:1-12

1. Where do the wise find wisdom?

2. What does the Lord use to keep those he loves on a straight path?

Read Proverbs 4

3. How is self-control a “whole of body” discipline?

Read Proverbs 6:20-23, 15:10-14, 15:31-33, 19:16-18 and 29:15-19

4. What responsibility do parents have in setting their children on the right path?

5. Why does a wise parent discipline their child?

Read Hebrews 12:4-13

6. How is God like a parent in His discipline? What is the purpose of His discipline?

7. How does our understanding of godly discipline help us to grow through hardship?

Recommended Reading: Proverbs 4, 15, 19 and 29