

## Study 6

Read Proverbs 26-31

### **Assignments on Proverbs 26**

Please read Proverbs 26

1. How does Solomon illustrate giving honor to fools – 26:1 and 8? Are spiritually foolish people ever honored in our society? Explain.
2. What does Solomon say about an unfounded curse – 26:2? Should we fear such curses? Explain.
3. What does it sometimes take to get fools to do right – 26:3? Explain.
4. Special Assignment: In 26:4,5, Solomon makes seemingly contradictory statements. Notice the reasons that he gives in each case, then explain and illustrate the point.
5. Relying on a fool as a messenger is compared to what in 26:6? Explain the point.
6. What happens when a foolish person tries to speak wisely – 26:7 and 9? Explain the illustrations and give examples.
7. Translations of 26:10 vary widely. Study translations and explain the meaning.
8. Special Assignment: Where is 26:11 quoted in the New Testament? Explain the illustration, then illustrate the application of both passages.

9. Bad as foolishness is, what is worse according to 26:12? Explain why this is so.
  
10. In what way is a lazy man like a door – 26:14? Explain how this is true. (Note that 26:13 is the same as we already studied in 22:13 and 26:15 is the same as 19:24.)
  
11. How does the lazy man view his own conduct – 26:16? Illustrate how this is true.
  
12. Meddling in quarrels that do not involve us is compared to what – 26:17? How do you harmonize this with New Testament passages that teach us to be peacemakers?
  
13. Application: What does Solomon teach about deceiving others in 26:18,19? Explain lessons we should learn about deceit and about humor.
  
14. What warning does Solomon give about slander and contention in 26:20,21? Explain how this may happen. (Note that 26:22 is the same as 18:8.)
  
15. List other passages about people who speak good things but their heart is wicked. What does Solomon say about them in 26:23?
  
16. When a person hates others, how will he act – 26:24? Why do they this way?
  
17. How should we view people who act deceitfully because of hatred – 26:25? Why?
  
18. What would eventually happen to the man who acts so deceitfully – 26:26?

19. What happens when a person plots harm to others according to 26:27? Give some examples of how this might happen.

20. What do we learn about lies and flattery according to 26:28? What is the relationship between lying and flattery?

### **Assignments on Proverbs 27**

Please read Proverbs 27

1. Application: How should we view the future according to 27:1? Explain some applications we should make regarding both physical and spiritual concerns.

2. If we receive praise, from where should it come – 27:2? Explain why this is so and give applications. (Think: Should we manipulate others into complimenting us?)

3. The wrath of a fool is compared to what – 27:3? State ways this may be true.

4. In what ways might jealousy be worse than wrath – 27:4? Give some examples.

5. What is better than concealed love – 27:5? Why? Is concealed love truly love?

6. Compare the wounds of a friend to the kisses of an enemy – 27:6. How would this apply in a society and religious context that discourages criticizing other beliefs?

7. How does a hungry man differ from one whose hunger is satisfied – 27:7? Explain what this means, not just in physical matters, but also in spiritual matters.

8. To what is a wanderer compared in 27:8? Explain how this is true and applied especially spiritually.

9. How do friends delight one another, and to what is this compared in 27:9? How does this compare to other lessons we have learned even in this chapter?

10. What does 27:10 teach about the value of friends? What mistakes do people sometimes make in this regard? (Note that 27:11,12,13 have already been discussed in our studies.)

11. What should be avoided in praising a friend – 27:14? Why is there danger in this?

12. What is it like to try to restrain a contentious woman – 27:15,16? Where else have we discussed similar topics?

13. How else is the relationship of friends described in 27:17? What should we learn?

14. One who respectfully serves those in authority is compared to what – 27:18? What applications can we make in various authority relationships that the Bible has ordained?

15. In what way is the character of a man made known – 27:19? How can we know the heart of a man? What should we learn?

16. How does Solomon illustrate the discontentment of people – 27:20? Give examples of ways that people are often never satisfied.

17. How are gold and silver refined 27:21? How does this compare to the reputation of people? Can we always tell if a person is good or bad by what other people say? Explain.

18. How hard is it to remove the foolishness from a fool – 27:22? So what conclusions should be reached?

19. Special Assignment: What can we know about diligence and industriousness in our work according to 27:23,24? Why is this important? In what areas should we apply this besides caring for animals?

20. What will be the result for those who are diligent in their work – 27:25-27?

### **Assignments on Proverbs 28**

Please read Proverbs 28

1. How does Solomon describe the courage of righteous people as compared to one who is wicked – 28:1? Explain what reasons may cause this difference.

2. What effect does transgression have on a land, and what can a man of understanding accomplish – 28:2? Why are these things true?

3. What happens when a poor man oppresses other poor people – 28:3? Explain.

4. Application: How does the way wicked people treat other wicked people differ from the way good people treat them – 28:4? If we seek to be good, what should we learn?

5. What do godly people understand that evil men do not – 28:5? Explain why this is true. (Note that 28:6,7 are similar to other passages we have studied before.)

6. How do greedy people sometimes mistreat the poor – 28:8? What is the effect in the long run? Explain.

7. What consequence follows when someone turns away from hearing God's law – 28:9? Explain why this should be so.

8. What happens to those who lead good people astray – 28:10? Explain how this could happen.

9. How do rich people often view themselves – 28:11? How are poor people sometimes wiser?

10. How does the exaltation of wicked people differ from that of righteous people – 28:12? Give some examples.

11. Special Assignment: How should we deal with our sins according to 28:13? List other passages. Illustrate the difference between covering sin and confessing and forsaking it.

12. Define reverent. How does the effect of reverence differ from that of hardening one's heart – 28:14?

13. What characteristics of rulers are discussed in 28:15,16? What can we learn?

14. What is the significance of bloodshed in 28:17? How should we treat one who is guilty?

15. What consequences come from frivolity as compared to one who tills his land – 28:19? Explain some examples of frivolity that can lead to this consequence. (Again, we have earlier studied the principles taught in 28:18,20,22.)

16. Define partiality. What error does it lead to – 28:21?

17. Rebuking a man is contrasted to what in 28:23? Which is more favorable? Why?

18. How do some people view the practice of stealing from their parents – 28:24? How should we view the practice? (Note that we already studied the principles taught in 28:25,28.)

19. Give examples that illustrate the error of trusting in one's own heart – 28:26. What should we do instead?

20. What consequences follow if we help the poor as compared to if we neglect them – 28:27?

### **Assignments on Proverbs 29**

Please read Proverbs 29

1. What effect will rebuke have on some people – 29:1? What will the consequence be?

2. When rulers practice justice, what effect does it have – 29:4? What effect does it have when they accept bribes?

3. What effect does flattery have – 29:5? Illustrate by giving some examples.

4. Describe the effects of transgression as compared to the effects of righteousness – 29:6. Explain how sin ensnares people. (The principle of 29:2,3,7 has been discussed already.)

5. What effect do scoffers have – 29:8? What can wise men do instead? Give examples.

6. What are the results when a wise man contends with a foolish man – 29:9? Explain what causes these effects.

7. How does Solomon say different people treat those who are blameless or innocent – 29:10? Give examples from the Bible or from real life.

8. Application: What do we need to learn about feelings according to 29:11? Give examples of people who allow their feelings to control them rather than the other way around.

9. What further advice does Solomon give to rulers in 29:12? In what ways does this verse teach the truth? (What is the lesson taught in 29:13?)

10. Application: What happens when a child is left to himself – 29:15? What ought to be done instead? List ways that children sometimes are left to themselves.

11. What happens when wicked people prevail in a society – 29:16? What promise can we be sure will result in the end?

12. What assurance are we given about properly trained children – 29:17? Where else has the book made similar statements?

13. What happens when people are not guided by God's instructions – 29:18? What happens when they keep the law? How does this explain problems that we see in our society?

14. Why are words alone sometimes not enough to control a servant – 29:19? Explain what else may be needed. What lesson does this teach for other authority relationships?



15. What often causes people to make mistakes in their speech – 29:20? Give examples of how this can cause problems.

16. What happens when a servant is pampered – 29:21? What possible applications could this have? (Note that 29:22,23 teach lessons that have already been discussed in the book.)

17. What happens when one is a partner with a thief – 29:24?

18. Special Assignment: What can happen when we have too much fear of people – 29:25? Give examples of problems that can be caused. What should we do instead?

19. What is the ultimate source of justice – 29:26? Where else do people often turn? Does this mean it is wrong to seek justice from rulers? Explain.

20. How do good people view those who are unjust, and how do wicked people view those who are upright – 29:27? List other passages showing our responsibility to hate evil.

### **Assignments on Proverbs 30**

Please read Proverbs 30

1. Who spoke the Proverbs found in this chapter – 30:1? To whom did he speak them?

2. How did the author view his own understanding – 30:2? How did his knowledge compare to that of God – 30:3?

3. What is the point of the questions in 30:4? Who has done the things referred to here?

4. Special Assignment: How does the author view God's word – 30:5? What does this mean about how we should treat His word – 30:6? List other similar passages.
  
5. What two requests does the author make of God in 30:7,8?
  
6. What consequence does he fear from riches – 30:9? What consequence does he fear from poverty? What lessons should we learn?
  
7. How should we treat a servant – 30:10? What lessons should we learn today?
  
8. How do those of an evil generation treat their parents – 30:11? List other similar passages. What application should we make?
  
9. How do those of an evil generation view their own conduct – 30:12,13? How do they tend to view themselves?
  
10. How does the evil generation treat those who are poor or needy – 30:14? What illustration does the author use to describe this?
  
11. What things does the author list that never say, "Enough" – 30:15,16? What lesson should we learn from this? (Does 27:20 help?)
  
12. How does 30:17 describe stubborn, rebellious children? What will the consequence be? What application should we make?
  
13. What four things does the author not understand – 30:18,19? What do these things have in common?

14. Application: What application does the author make in 30:20 of the things he stated in the previous verses? How does this compare to the modern so-called “safe sex” concept?

15. What four things create a burden on the world around them – 30:21-23?

16. Explain how each of these four things create a burden.

17. What four animals or insects demonstrate great wisdom – 30:24-28?

18. Explain how each of these four things demonstrates wisdom. What we can learn?

19. What four things are majestic or stately in how they walk – 30:29-31? What application do you believe the author intends to make?

20. What errors does the author describe in 30:32? What does he say we should do if we have committed these errors? Explain.

21. How does the author illustrate the problems created by anger in 30:33? What should we learn?

### **Assignments on Proverbs 31**

Please read Proverbs 31

1. To whom were these words addressed – 31:1,2? Who taught him these principles?

2. What warning is given in 31:3? Explain some dangers that may be involved.

3. What danger should kings avoid – 31:4,5? What consequences can the practice lead to? (Think: In order to do right, do Christians need the clarity of thought that kings need?)
  
4. According to 31:6,7, strong drink might be appropriate in what limited case? Note: Does the passage say a person should decide on his own to use alcoholic drinks for social purposes or personal pleasure? Explain. Compare 1 Timothy 5:23.
  
5. Instead of practicing the bad habits that have been discussed, what responsibilities do rulers have – 31:8,9? Explain the meaning.
  
6. How is the value of a virtuous wife described – 31:10? What should husbands learn?
  
7. What blessings does a husband receive through a virtuous wife – 31:11,12? Explain some ways that husbands and wives should be able to trust one another.
  
8. What work does the virtuous woman do according to 31:13,19,21 & 22? What attitude characterizes her work?
  
9. According to 31:14,15, what does she provide for her household? How is her diligence in her work described?
  
10. What work does she do according to 31:16? Give modern examples that would be similar to raising such a vineyard.
  
11. Case Study: Some use this example to authorize typical modern women's employment outside the home. Questions: Who owned her location of work and controlled her hours and working conditions: her/his family or the owners of a business company? Did she neglect her family/housework? Did she leave her children long hours daily for others to supervise?

12. How are the virtuous woman's diligence and abilities described in 31:17,18?
13. Her concern extends, not just to her family, but also to whom else – 31:20?
14. What effect does her work and diligence have on her husband – 31:23? Explain how this can happen.
15. What else did she do with the garments that she has made – 31:24? Note: Ask and answer again the questions listed under assignment number 11 above.
16. What clothing is more important to her than what she wears physically – 31:25? What other passages teach this concept?
17. What characterizes her speech – 31:26? Explain specifically what it takes to learn such wisdom.
18. Where does the work of a virtuous woman focus – 31:27? List other passages about the role of wives as homemakers.
19. Application: How should her family respond to her diligence – 31:28,29? List specific lessons for husbands and children to learn.
20. What is the ultimate emphasis and motivation behind the work of the virtuous woman – 31:30? What is not the primary way to judge the character of a woman?

## Extra Study

### Proverbs Study 7 – The Wife of Noble Character

Read Proverbs 31:10-31

1. How does the wife described in Proverbs 31 spend her time and energies?
2. What responsibility does she take for her household and neighbours?
3. How does she bring honour to her family?
4. How is she valued by her husband?
5. What does the godly woman deserve?

Read 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

6. What are the “Lord’s affairs” and what advantage does Paul claim an unmarried person has in pursuing them?
7. How can we balance the concerns of God, work and family? How are they interrelated?

Recommended Reading: Proverbs 31