



Bible study: Proverbs, Session 4 (Proverbs 10, 11, 12 & 13)

Opening Prayer: Almighty God, you divide the day from the night. Drive far from us all wrong desires, incline our hearts to keep your law, and guide our feet in the way of peace. And having done your will with cheerfulness while it is day, grant that when evening comes, we may rejoice in giving you thanks. Amen.

Opening Hymn

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus CW 452

Let us ever walk with Jesus, Follow his example pure,
Flee the world which would deceive us And to sin our souls allure.
Ever in his footsteps treading, Body here, yet soul above,
Full of faith and hope and love, Let us do the Father's bidding.
Faithful Lord, abide with me. Savior, lead; I follow thee.

Let us suffer here with Jesus, To his image e'er conform;
Heaven's glory soon will please us, Sunshine follow on the storm.
Though we sow in tears of sorrow, We shall reap in heav'nly joy,
And the fears that now annoy Shall be laughter on the morrow.
Christ, I suffer here with thee; There, oh, share thy joy with me.

Let us also die with Jesus. His death from the second death,
From our soul's destruction, frees us, Quickens us with life's glad breath.
Let us mortify, while living, Flesh and blood and die to sin,
And the grave that shuts us in Shall but prove the gate to heaven.
Jesus, here I die to thee, There to live eternally.

Let us gladly live with Jesus; Since he's risen from the dead,
Death and grave must soon release us. Jesus, thou art now our head.
We are truly thine own members; Where thou livest, there live we.
Take and own us constantly, Faithful Friend, as thy dear brethren.
Jesus, here I live to thee, Also there eternally.

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Proverbs 10

¹ *The proverbs of Solomon: A wise son brings joy to his father, but a foolish son grief to his mother.*

- ² *Ill-gotten treasures are of no value, but righteousness delivers from death.*
- ³ *The LORD does not let the righteous go hungry but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.*
- ⁴ *Lazy hands make a man poor, but diligent hands bring wealth.*
- ⁵ *He who gathers crops in summer is a wise son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son.*
- ⁶ *Blessings crown the head of the righteous, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.*
- ⁷ *The memory of the righteous will be a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.*
- ⁸ *The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.*
- ⁹ *The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.*
- ¹⁰ *He who winks maliciously causes grief, and a chattering fool comes to ruin.*
- ¹¹ *The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life, but violence overwhelms the mouth of the wicked.*
- ¹² *Hatred stirs up dissension, but love covers over all wrongs.*
- ¹³ *Wisdom is found on the lips of the discerning, but a rod is for the back of him who lacks judgment.*
- ¹⁴ *Wise men store up knowledge, but the mouth of a fool invites ruin.*
- ¹⁵ *The wealth of the rich is their fortified city, but poverty is the ruin of the poor.*
- ¹⁶ *The wages of the righteous bring them life, but the income of the wicked brings them punishment.*
- ¹⁷ *He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.*
- ¹⁸ *He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.*
- ¹⁹ *When words are many, sin is not absent, but he who holds his tongue is wise.*
- ²⁰ *The tongue of the righteous is choice silver, but the heart of the wicked is of little value.*
- ²¹ *The lips of the righteous nourish many, but fools die for lack of judgment.*
- ²² *The blessing of the LORD brings wealth, and he adds no trouble to it.*
- ²³ *A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.*
- ²⁴ *What the wicked dreads will overtake him; what the righteous desire will be granted.*
- ²⁵ *When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever.*
- ²⁶ *As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him.*
- ²⁷ *The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.*
- ²⁸ *The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing.*
- ²⁹ *The way of the LORD is a refuge for the righteous, but it is the ruin of those who do evil.*
- ³⁰ *The righteous will never be uprooted, but the wicked will not remain in the land.*
- ³¹ *The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out.*
- ³² *The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.*

1. What are two ways that parents can feel about the behavior of their children (verses 1,5)?

2. What does verse 2 say about righteousness and unrighteousness? How does verse 22 expand the thought?

3. Verses 4 and 26 deal with diligence and laziness. Explain the pictures that Solomon used.

4. Solomon often speaks about the speech of the righteous and the wicked. What do you picture in your mind when you read verse 8?

5. What important truth does verses 12 teach?

6. How would you summarize the advice that Solomon gives in this chapter?

Proverbs 11

- ¹ *The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.*
- ² *When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.*
- ³ *The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.*
- ⁴ *Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.*
- ⁵ *The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.*
- ⁶ *The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.*
- ⁷ *When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing.*
- ⁸ *The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead.*
- ⁹ *With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape.*
- ¹⁰ *When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.*
- ¹¹ *Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.*
- ¹² *A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.*
- ¹³ *A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.*
- ¹⁴ *For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.*
- ¹⁵ *He who puts up security for another will surely suffer, but whoever refuses to strike hands in pledge is safe.*
- ¹⁶ *A kindhearted woman gains respect, but ruthless men gain only wealth.*
- ¹⁷ *A kind man benefits himself, but a cruel man brings trouble on himself.*
- ¹⁸ *The wicked man earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.*
- ¹⁹ *The truly righteous man attains life, but he who pursues evil goes to his death.*
- ²⁰ *The LORD detests men of perverse heart but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.*
- ²¹ *Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free.*
- ²² *Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.*
- ²³ *The desire of the righteous ends only in good, but the hope of the wicked only in wrath.*
- ²⁴ *One man gives freely, yet gains even more; another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.*
- ²⁵ *A generous man will prosper; he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed.*
- ²⁶ *People curse the man who hoards grain, but blessing crowns him who is willing to sell.*
- ²⁷ *He who seeks good finds goodwill, but evil comes to him who searches for it.*
- ²⁸ *Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.*
- ²⁹ *He who brings trouble on his family will inherit only wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise.*

³⁰ *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who wins souls is wise.*

³¹ *If the righteous receive their due on earth, how much more the ungodly and the sinner!*

1. Can you name a time in your life when you experienced a situation when weights and measures were use against you?
2. How could pride lead to disgrace (verse 2)?
3. What point does Solomon make in verse 4?
4. According to verse 10, who benefits from righteousness?
5. Look at verse 16. What is more valuable, respect or money?
6. What is the point of comparison between “A gold ring in a pig’s snout” (verse 22) and a beautiful woman who shows poor judgment?
7. Verses 24-26 talk about generosity. What observations does Solomon make? What general instruction is there for us in his words?

Proverbs 12

¹ *Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.*

² *A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but the LORD condemns a crafty man.*

³ *A man cannot be established through wickedness, but the righteous cannot be uprooted.*

⁴ *A wife of noble character is her husband’s crown, but a disgraceful wife is like decay in his bones.*

⁵ *The plans of the righteous are just, but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.*

⁶ *The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the speech of the upright rescues them.*

- ⁷ *Wicked men are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous stands firm.*
- ⁸ *A man is praised according to his wisdom, but men with warped minds are despised.*
- ⁹ *Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant than pretend to be somebody and have no food.*
- ¹⁰ *A righteous man cares for the needs of his animal, but the kindest acts of the wicked are cruel.*
- ¹¹ *He who works his land will have abundant food, but he who chases fantasies lacks judgment.*
- ¹² *The wicked desire the plunder of evil men, but the root of the righteous flourishes.*
- ¹³ *An evil man is trapped by his sinful talk, but a righteous man escapes trouble.*
- ¹⁴ *From the fruit of his lips a man is filled with good things as surely as the work of his hands rewards him.*
- ¹⁵ *The way of a fool seems right to him, but a wise man listens to advice.*
- ¹⁶ *A fool shows his annoyance at once, but a prudent man overlooks an insult.*
- ¹⁷ *A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies.*
- ¹⁸ *Reckless words pierce like a sword, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.*
- ¹⁹ *Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.*
- ²⁰ *There is deceit in the hearts of those who plot evil, but joy for those who promote peace.*
- ²¹ *No harm befalls the righteous, but the wicked have their fill of trouble.*
- ²² *The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.*
- ²³ *A prudent man keeps his knowledge to himself, but the heart of fools blurts out folly.*
- ²⁴ *Diligent hands will rule, but laziness ends in slave labor.*
- ²⁵ *An anxious heart weighs a man down, but a kind word cheers him up.*
- ²⁶ *A righteous man is cautious in friendship, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.*
- ²⁷ *The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.*
- ²⁸ *In the way of righteousness there is life; along that path is immortality.*

1. Look at the words in this chapter that are used to describe who thinks and acts in God-pleasing ways. What is Solomon demonstrating and encouraging?

2. In contrast, look at the words that describe the person who lives and acts contrary to God's will. What is Solomon's purpose in doing this? What does that reveal about God?

3. Discuss some of the practical advice that Solomon gives. How is this helpful for our daily life?

4. What word in verse 22 expresses how God feels about a person who lies? What does that teach us?

Proverbs 13

- ¹ *A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.*
- ² *From the fruit of his lips a man enjoys good things, but the unfaithful have a craving for violence.*
- ³ *He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin.*
- ⁴ *The sluggard craves and gets nothing, but the desires of the diligent are fully satisfied.*
- ⁵ *The righteous hate what is false, but the wicked bring shame and disgrace.*
- ⁶ *Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.*
- ⁷ *One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing; another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.*
- ⁸ *A man's riches may ransom his life, but a poor man hears no threat.*
- ⁹ *The light of the righteous shines brightly, but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out.*
- ¹⁰ *Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*
- ¹¹ *Dishonest money dwindles away, but he who gathers money little by little makes it grow.*
- ¹² *Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a longing fulfilled is a tree of life.*
- ¹³ *He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.*
- ¹⁴ *The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.*
- ¹⁵ *Good understanding wins favor, but the way of the unfaithful is hard.*
- ¹⁶ *Every prudent man acts out of knowledge, but a fool exposes his folly.*
- ¹⁷ *A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy brings healing.*
- ¹⁸ *He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.*
- ¹⁹ *A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil.*
- ²⁰ *He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm.*
- ²¹ *Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous.*
- ²² *A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, but a sinner's wealth is stored up for the righteous.*
- ²³ *A poor man's field may produce abundant food, but injustice sweeps it away.*
- ²⁴ *He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.*
- ²⁵ *The righteous eat to their hearts' content, but the stomach of the wicked goes hungry.*

1. Watching carefully what you say is a major theme in Proverbs. How does guarding one's lips to serve to guard one's life (verse 3)?
2. Why do you think Solomon says the sluggard "craves" but the diligent person "desires" (verse 4)?
3. Verse 7 says that some people pretend to be rich, some to be poor. Why?
4. According to verse 8, what is the advantage of being poor?

5. Verse 23 reminds us that poor people can be victims of circumstances beyond their control. What verses in this chapter point out how some are poor through their own fault?

6. What does verse 20 tell us about choosing friends?

7. Spanking has become politically incorrect, but God's Word recommends it in verse 24. For what situations is spanking appropriate? When is it not appropriate?

Closing Hymn

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage CW 293

God's Word is our great heritage
And shall be ours forever;
To spread its light from age to age
Shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way;
In death it is our stay.
Lord, grant, while worlds endure,
We keep its teachings pure
Throughout all generations.
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Closing Prayer:

Gracious Father, you have assured us that we will receive strength for every day through your Word. Grant us both the desire and the will to spend our days as your children, trusting in your goodness and remembering with thankfulness your mercies which are new each day, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.