

# WISDOM

“Who is wise? Let him give heed to these things, and consider the lovingkindness of the Lord” (Ps. 107:43)

## Nature of Wisdom

- The Lord created wisdom before he created anything else (Prov. 8:22-26; 1Cor. 2:7)
- With wisdom, the Lord founded the earth (Gen. 1:1) (Prov. 3:19; 8:27-31; Ps. 104:24; Jer. 10:12; 51:15)
  - By understanding, He established the heavens (Gen. 1:1) (Prov. 3:19; 8:27; Ps. 136:5; Jer. 10:12; 51:15)
  - By His knowledge, the deep fountains burst forth, and the clouds poured down rain (Gen. 7:11) (Prov. 3:20)
- It calls the simple-minded to come and listen to it, and it will make them wise (Prov. 1:20-21; 8:1-5; 9:3-6)
  - It has prepared a place for everyone to come and feast with it (Prov. 9:1-3)
  - It calls often, but they don't come (Prov. 1:24, 9:4-6)
  - It reaches out, but they pay no attention (Prov. 1:24, 8:5)
  - They ignored its advice and rejected its correction (Prov. 1:25; 12:15)
    - All who hate wisdom, love death (Prov. 8:36)
  - Then when disaster strikes, it is too late, it will not answer their cries (Prov. 1:26-33)
- Its words are plain to those who have understanding; who want to learn (Prov. 8:9)
  - Everything it says is right (Prov. 8:6)
  - It speaks the truth and hates all deception (Prov. 8:7)
  - Its advice is wholesome and good. It is not crooked or twisted (Prov. 8:8, 14)
- Wisdom is vindicated by its deeds (**Matt. 11:19**)
- All its ways are satisfying (Prov. 3:17)
- True wisdom from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, reasonable, full of mercy and good fruits, unwavering, and without hypocrisy (James 3:17)
- With wisdom comes prudence, knowledge, and discretion (Prov. 8:12)
- It loves all who love it (Prov. 4:6; 8:17)
- Wisdom is sweet to your soul like honey to the mouth (Prov. 2:10; 14:33; 24:13-14)
- It hates pride, arrogance, corruption and perverted speech (Prov. 8:13)
- Wisdom excels folly (Eccl. 2:13)
- Jesus Christ is wisdom from God (1Cor. 1:30)
- Those who diligently search for wisdom will find it (Prov. 2:4-5; 8:17b; James 1:5)

## Benefits of Wisdom

- Getting wisdom is one of the most important things you can do (Prov. 4:7)
  - Whatever else you do, get good judgment (Prov. 4:7)
  - Get wisdom; also get discipline and discernment (Prov. 3:21; 23:23)
  - Love wisdom and insight like family members (Prov. 7:4)
- If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit (Prov. 9:12)
  - **Scriptural Example: Daniel (Dan. 1:17-20; 2:46-49)**
  - If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer (Prov. 9:12)
    - **Scriptural Example: Rehoboam (1Kings 12:1-20)**
- **If you listen to wisdom:**
- It will save you from the immoral woman (Prov. 2:16-19, 6:24, 7:5)
  - **Scriptural Example: Joseph (Gen. 39:7-23)**
- It offers joy (Prov. 2:10)
- It offers happiness (Prov. 3:13, 18, 8:32,34)
- It offers life (Prov. 3:16,18; 4:4, 13, 22; 8:35; 16:22; 22:4; Eccl. 7:12)
  - A long, good life (Prov. 3:2, 16; 4:10; 9:11; 1Kings 3:12-14)
    - **Scriptural Example: Solomon (1Kings 3:5-14)**
  - It offers life to your soul (Prov. 3:22)
- It offers health (Prov. 3:8, 4:22; 12:18)
- It offers peace (Prov. 3:2,17)
  - **Scriptural Example: the woman at Abel (2Sam. 20:13-22)**
- It offers honor (Prov. 3:16, 35, 4:8-9, 8:18; 22:4; 1Kings 3:12-13; 2Chr. 1:12; Dan. 12:3)

- Scriptural Example: Joseph (Acts 7:9-10)
- It offers riches (Prov. 3:16, 8:18, 21; 22:4; 24:4; 1Kings 3:12-13; 2Chr. 1:12; Ps. 112:2-3; Ezek. 28:4-5, 12-13; Zech. 9:2-3)
  - Scriptural Example: the King of Tyre (Ezek. 28:12-14)
- It offers good advice (Prov. 8:14)
  - Scriptural Example: Ahithophel (2Sam. 16:31)
- It offers safety and protection from harm (Prov. 1:33, 2:11-12; 3:24-26; 4:6; 11:9; 28:26; Eccl. 7:12)
  - Scriptural Example: the poor wise man (Eccl. 9:13-18)
- It offers success (Prov. 8:14 (NLT); Eccl. 10:10)
- It leads to eternal salvation (2Tim. 3:15)
- It offers good insight (Prov. 2:9; 8:14)
- It offers a good reputation (Prov. 3:4)
- It offers strength (Prov. 4:22; 8:14; 21:22; 24:5; Eccl. 7:19)
- It offers stability (Eccl. 12:11)
- It offers justice (Prov. 8:18; 1Kings 3:16-28)
- It offers hope for a bright future (Prov. 23:17-18; 24:14)
- Because of wisdom, rulers make just laws and righteous judgments (Prov. 8:15-16; 2Chr. 1:10)
  - Scriptural Example: Solomon (1Kings 3:16-28)

### **How do you get it ? Where can you find it ? (Job 28:12,20)**

- All who search for it will surely find it (Prov. 2:4-5; 8:17; James 1:5)
- The Lord grants wisdom (Prov. 2:6; Ex. 28:3; 31:3, 6; 35:31, 35; 36:1-2; 1Kings 3:5-12; 4:29; 5:12; 10:24; 2Chr. 1:10-12; 9:23; Job 32:8; Ps. 51:6; Eccl. 2:26; 12:11; Dan. 1:17; 2:21,23; Acts 7:9-10; 1Cor. 12:8; Eph. 1:17; James 1:5)
  - Scriptural Example: Bezalel and Oholiab (Ex. 31:2-6)
  - Wisdom and understanding belong to God (Job 12:13)
  - In Christ is hidden all wisdom and knowledge (Is. 11:2; 1Cor. 1:24, 30; Col. 2:2-3)
  - He will pour out His Spirit on you and make His Word known to you (Prov. 1:23; 1Cor. 12:8)
    - Scriptural Example: the Apostles (Acts 2:1-4)
    - For His Word is able to give you wisdom (2Tim. 3:15)
    - From His mouth come knowledge and understanding (Prov. 2:6)
  - He grants good sense to the godly (Prov. 2:7)
  - Seek His will and He will direct your paths (Prov. 3:6)
- Tune your ears to it, concentrate on understanding, cry out for insight (Prov. 2:2-3; 22:17)
  - Listen as wisdom and understanding call out to you (Prov. 1:20-21; 8:1-3; 9:3)
  - Search for them as you would for lost money or a hidden treasure (Prov. 2:4)
  - Then you will understand what it means to fear the Lord (Prov. 2:5)
    - Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (Prov. 1:7, 2:5, 3:7, 9:10; 15:33; Job 28:28; Ps. 111:10; Micah. 6:9)
    - Scriptural Example: Job (Job 1:1)
- It lives together with good judgment (Prov. 8:12)
  - It knows where to find knowledge and discernment (Prov. 8:12)
  - It walks in righteousness, in paths of justice (Prov. 8:20)
- Listen to what your father teaches you and not neglecting your mothers teaching that you may gain understanding (Prov. 1:8, 4:1-2, 10-11, 20; 5:1-2; 6:20-23)
  - Wisdom is with the aged; with long life is understanding (Job 12:12)
    - However, wisdom doesn't necessarily come with old age (Job 32:7-8)
- Follow in the steps of goodness, stay on the paths of the righteous (Prov. 2:20-21)
- Keep and do God's commandments, for that is your wisdom (Deut. 4:6; Ps. 19:7; 111:10; 119:104, 130)
  - Scriptural Example: David (Ps. 119:98-100)
- Whoever walks with the wise, will become wise (Prov. 13:20)
  - The mouth of the righteous speaks wisdom (Prov. 10:13; Ps. 37:30)
  - The words of the godly lead to life (Prov. 10:11; 13:14)
    - Their words are like sterling silver (Prov. 10:20)
  - Wise words come from those with understanding (Prov. 10:13)

- Listen to the words of the wise (Prov. 5:1-2; 22:17)
- Wisdom comes along with humility (Prov. 11:2)
- If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise (Prov. 15:5, 31)
  - You will grow in understanding (Prov. 15:32)
- To acquire wisdom is to love oneself (Prov. 19:8)

### What it is worth ?

- Man does not know the value of wisdom (Job 28:13)
- The profit of wisdom is better than silver, and its wages are better than gold (Prov. 3:14, 8:10,19; 16:16; Job 28:15-17,19)
- It is more precious than rubies (Prov. 3:15, 8:11; Job 28:18)
  - Wise speech is rarer and more valuable than gold and rubies (Prov. 20:15)
- Wisdom is better than strength (Prov. 21:22; Eccl. 9:16)
  - It is better than weapons of war (Eccl. 9:18)
- Nothing can compare to it (Prov. 3:15, 8:11)

### PROVERBS

- The purpose of the proverbs is to teach people wisdom and discipline. (Prov. 1:2)
- Through the proverbs, people will receive:
  - instruction in discipline,
  - good conduct, and
  - doing what is right just and fair. (Prov. 1:3)
- Will make the simple minded clever (Prov. 1:4)
- Will give knowledge to young people (Prov. 1:4)
- Will make the wise, wiser (Prov. 1:5)
- Will give guidance to those who understand (Prov. 1:5)
- Will crown you with grace and clothe you with honor (NLT) (Prov. 1:9)
- The teaching of the proverbs will help you trust in the Lord (Prov. 22:19)
  - They teach the truth (Prov. 22:21)
- It is good to keep them deep within yourself, always ready on your lips (Prov. 22:18)
- In the mouth of a fool, a proverb becomes as limp as a paralyzed leg (Prov. 26:7)
  - It is as dangerous as a thornbush brandished by a drunkard (Prov. 26:9)

### Lessons in Wisdom

- **Abilities (natural abilities; see also Spiritual Gifts)**
  - All of our abilities come from God (Ex. 31:3-6; 35:31,35; 36:1-2; 1Kings 7:14)
    - [Scriptural Example: Hiram \(1Kings 7:14\)](#)
    - God also gives us the ability to teach our abilities to others (Ex. 35:34)
- **Abortion (the life of the unborn)**
  - **The Bible Clearly Considers the Unborn a Human Being Equal in Right to Each of Us**
  - The Lord cares for the unborn (Ex. 21:22-25)
    - [Scriptural Example: David \(Ps. 139:13-16\)](#)
    - He is our God even from our mother's womb (Ps. 22:9-10)
    - Even before we were in the womb, God knew us (Jer. 1:5)
    - He calls us to do His will from the womb (Is 49:1, 5; Jer 1:5)
      - [Scriptural Example: Paul \(Gal. 1:13-17\)](#)
  - The unborn are aware of their surroundings (Luke 1:41, 44)
  - The child that dies at birth goes to the same place as kings and princes who have already died (Job 3:11-15)
  - The stillborn child is at rest with both the small and the great (Job 3:16-19)
    - The stillborn child has more rest than a man who lived a long life but has never seen goodness (Eccl. 6:3-6)
- **Adultery**

- You shall not commit adultery (Ex. 20:14; Lev 18:16,20; Deut. 5:18; 22:22; **Matt. 19:18**)

- **Definition**

- Whoever looks at another woman in lust commits adultery in his mind (**Matt 5:27-28**)

- Whoever divorces his wife except for unfaithfulness commits adultery (**Matt 5:31-32; 19:9; Luke 16:18**)

- If you divorce someone and marry another, you commit adultery (**Mark 10:11-12; Luke 16:18**)

- But after the spouse has died, they are free and can re-marry (Rom.7:3)

- Also, whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery (**Matt 5:31; Mark 10:12; Luke 16:18**)

- Sleeping with an engaged person is also considered adultery by God (Deut. 22:23-24)

- **Consequences**

- The Lord is a ready witness against adulterers (Jer. 29:23; Mal. 3:5; Heb. 13:4)

- **Scriptural Example: David (2Sam. 11:2-5; 12:1-12)**

- The person who commits adultery is an utter fool (Prov. 6:32)

- An adulterous woman can satisfy her sexual desires and then say, "What's wrong with that?" (Prov. 30:20)

- She leaves the companion of her youth (sim. Mal. 2:14-15), and forgets the covenant of her God (Gen. 2:24) (Prov. 2:17)

- They will not go unpunished (Prov. 6:29)

- They will destroy their own soul (Prov. 6:32)

- The adulterer will not inherit the kingdom of God (1Cor. 6:9-10)

- Their shame will never be erased (Prov. 6:33)

- The other's spouse will have no mercy on them (Prov. 6:34-35)

- It may cost them their life (Prov. 6:26; Lev. 20:10; Job 24:15-17)

- **but...**

- The sin of adultery can be forgiven (John 8:1-11)

- **Scriptural Example: Gomer (Hosea 3:1-5)**

- **Spiritual Adultery**

- You commit adultery when you worship anything other than God (Ezek. 23:37)

- **Advice**

- **Good advice**

- *Where can you get it ?*

- God will guide you with His counsel (Ps. 32:8; 73:24)

- He is great in counsel (Jer. 32:19)

- Jesus is the Wonderful Counselor (Is. 9:6; 28:29)

- God's testimonies are our counselors (Ps. 119:24)

- The wise and the godly give good advice (Prov. 10:21, 31-32)

- Though good advice lies deep within a person's heart, the wise will draw it out (Prov. 20:5)

- From pastors or priests (Mal. 2:7)

- *Why should you get it ?*

- Those who take advice are wise (Prov. 13:10)

- They avoid the snares of death (Prov. 13:14)

- Timely advice (a word fitly spoken-NKJV) is as lovely as golden apples in a silver basket (Prov. 15:23; 25:11)

- Many counselors bring success (Prov. 11:14; 15:22)

- Plans succeed through good counsel (Prov. 20:18)

- Plans go wrong for lack of advice (Prov. 11:14; 15:22)

- **Bad advice**

- The advice of the wicked is treacherous (Prov. 12:5; 2Chr. 10:9-10)

- **Scriptural Example: King Ahaziah (2Chr. 22:2-9)**

- Do not follow the advice of the wicked (Ps. 1:1)

- **Scriptural Example: Rehoboam (2Chr. 10:1-19)**

- Don't waste your breath on fools, for they despise the wisest advice (Prov. 23:9)

- **Aging**

- The righteous will still yield fruit in old age (Ps. 92:12-14)

- Older men are to be temperate, dignified, sensible, sound in faith, in love, and in perseverance (Titus 2:2)

- Older women are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, (Titus 2:3)

- They should encourage the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be dishonored (Titus 2:4-5)
- Wisdom is with the aged; with long life is understanding (Job. 12:12)
- Even in your old age, God will carry and deliver you (Is. 46:4)
- Gray hair is a crown of glory (Prov. 16:31)
  - It is gained by living a godly life (Prov. 16:31)
  - The gray hair of experience is the splendor of the old (Prov. 20:29)
- One who has been blessed by God will not consider the years of his life because God keeps him occupied with the gladness of his heart (Eccl. 5:20)
- Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged (Prov. 17:6)
  - [Scriptural Example: Jacob \(Gen. 48:11-20\)](#)
- Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren (Prov. 13:22; Ezra 9:12)

### **- Anger and self-control**

- The Lord is slow to anger and rich in unfailing love (Ex. 34:6; Num. 14:18; Neh. 9:17; Ps. 86:15; 103:8; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; Nahum 1:3)

#### **- General**

- Anger resides in the bosom of fools (Eccl. 7:9)
  - Anger kills the foolish person (Job. 5:2)
- Do not be eager in your heart to be angry (Eccl. 7:9)
  - Cease from anger, and forsake wrath (Ps. 37:8; Eph. 4:31; Col. 3:8)
- Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood (Prov. 27:4)
  - Anger does not achieve the righteousness of God (James 1:20)
  - Anger gives the devil an opportunity (Eph. 4:26-27)
- Anger causes quarrels (Prov. 10:12; 29:22; 30:33)
- Keep away from angry, short-tempered people or you will learn to be like them and endanger your soul (Prov. 22:24-25)
- Do not let the sun go down on your anger (Eph. 4:26)
- Be angry, but do not sin (Ps. 4:4; Eph. 4:26)

#### **- People Who Control Their Anger**

- Those who control their anger will have great understanding (Prov. 14:29; 17:27)
- People with good sense restrain their anger (Prov. 19:11; 29:8,11; James 1:19)
  - They earn esteem by overlooking wrongs (Prov. 19:11)
  - The wise stay calm when insulted (Prov. 12:16; 2Tim. 2:24)
    - [Scriptural Example: Jesus \(Matt. 27:11-14\)](#)
  - A cool-tempered person tries to stop fights (Prov. 15:18)
    - Composure allays great offenses (Eccl. 10:4)
      - [Scriptural Example: Abigail \(1Sam. 25:24-33\)](#)
    - Let him give his cheek to the smiter (Lam. 3:30; [Matt 5:39](#); [Luke 6:29](#))
      - [Scriptural Example: Jesus \(Is. 50:6-7\)](#)
- It is better to have self control than to conquer a city (Prov. 16:32)
- A relaxed attitude (sound heart) lengthens life (is life to the body) (Prov. 14:30; 15:13)

#### **- People Who Don't Control Their Anger**

- A fool is quick-tempered upon being insulted (Prov. 12:16)
  - A fool gives full vent to anger (Prov. 29:11)
    - [Scriptural Example: Cain \(Gen. 4:1-8\)](#)
  - Those who are short-tempered do foolish things (Prov. 14:17,29; Eccl. 7:9)
  - Short-tempered people must pay their own penalty (Gen. 49:5-7). If you rescue them once, you will have to do it again (Prov. 19:19)
- A hothead starts fights (Prov. 15:18; 26:21; 29:22)
- A person without self-control is as defenseless as a city with broken down walls (Prov. 25:28)

### **- Arguments**

- The Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome (1Tim. 3:3; 2Tim.2:24)
- [Who Starts Them ?](#)
- Any fool can start a quarrel (Prov. 20:3)
  - Foolish and ignorant speculations can start quarrels (2Tim. 2:23)
- Fools get into constant quarrels; they are asking for a beating (Prov. 18:6)

- Anyone who loves to quarrel loves sin (Prov. 17:19)
- They are started by your source of pleasures...you lust and envy, and you cannot have, so you argue and fight (James 4:1-2)
- How Do You Prevent Them ?
- Beginning a quarrel is like opening a floodgate (Prov. 17:14)
- Be like the deaf and dumb man who does not hear, and in whose mouth are no arguments (Ps. 38:13-14)
- Drop the matter before a dispute breaks out (Prov. 17:14)
- What Do You Do While Arguing ?
- When arguing with fools, use good judgment. Say just enough so they do not become wise in their own estimation, but not so much as to become as foolish as they are (Prov. 26:4-5)
  - **WWJD: Jesus Answers the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matt. 16:1-4)**
- How Do You Stop Them ?
- Quarrels disappear when gossip stops, just as fire goes out for lack of fuel (Prov. 26:20)
  - Drive out the scoffer, and contention will go out (Prov. 22:10)
- **Consequences Of Arguments**
- Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with iron bars (Prov. 18:19)
  - It is harder to make amends with an offended friend than to capture a fortified city (Prov. 18:19)
  - Woe to the one who quarrels with his Maker (Is. 45:9)
- **Interfering In Another Person's Argument**
- Interfering with someone else's argument is as foolish as yanking a dog's ears (Prov. 26:17)
- **Astrologers (Psychics, Sorcerers, Diviners)**
- Faith in astrologers is useless (Is. 47:9, 12-15)
  - God makes fools out of diviners (Is. 44:24-25)
  - **Scriptural Example: Nebuchadnezzar's astrologers (Dan. 2:10-11)**
- You shall not practice divination or soothsaying (Lev. 19:26; Deut. 18:10-12,14)
  - You will be punished (Ex. 22:18; Lev. 20:27; 2Kings 23:24; 1Chr. 10:13-14; 2Chr. 33:6; Jer. 27:9-10; Ezek. 13:20-23; Mal. 3:5)
  - **Scriptural Example: Israel (2Kings 17:17-18)**
- Do not turn to mediums or spiritists (Lev. 19:31; 1Chr. 10:13-14); Jer. 27:9)
  - **Scriptural Example: Saul (1Sam. 28:6-20)**
  - God will turn His face against you if you do (Lev. 20:6)
    - **Scriptural Example: King Manasseh (2Kings 21:6, 11-12; 2Chr. 33:6,11)**
  - Why consult a spiritist? Why consult the dead on behalf of the living? Consult God instead (Is. 8:19)
- **Baptism**
- If you believe that Jesus is the Son of God with all your heart then you may be baptized (Acts 8:36-7)
  - No one can refuse water for these to be baptized (Acts 10:47-48)
- Men baptize with water, but Jesus baptizes with the Holy Spirit (Matt. 3:11; Mark. 1:8; Luke 3:16; John 1:33; Acts 1:5; 11:16)
- Jesus Himself was baptized (Matt. 3:15-16)
- Baptism saves you - not the one that washes the dirt off of you, but the one that comes through the appeal to God for a clear conscience - through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1Peter 3:21)
- **Bribes**
- **General**
- The Lord will not take a bribe (Deut. 10:17)
- You shall not take a bribe (2Chr. 19:7), for a bribe blinds the clear-sighted and subverts the cause of the just (Ex. 23:8; Deut. 16:19)
- Those who hate bribes will live (Prov. 15:27; Ps. 15:5)
- **Those Who Give Bribes**
- Bribes seem to work like magic for those who give it (Prov. 17:8; Eccl. 7:7)
  - They (who give bribes) succeed in all they do (Prov. 17:8)
  - A secret bribe pacifies fury (Prov. 21:14)
- **Those Who Accept Bribes**
- The wicked accept secret bribes to pervert justice (Prov. 17:23; 1Sam. 8:3; Is. 5:23; Amos 5:12)
- They are cursed by God (Deut. 27:25)

## - Business

- Develop your business first before building your house (NLT) (Prov. 24:27; sim. 27:23-27)
- The Lord demands fairness in every business deal; He sets the standard (NLT) (Prov. 16:11; Lev. 19:36)
- If the godly compromise (falter before-NKJV) with the wicked, it is like polluting a fountain or muddying a stream (NLT) (Prov. 25:26)
- Do not have a partnership with an unbeliever; the two of you have no part together (2Cor. 6:14-18)

## - Cheating

- Ill gotten gain has no lasting value (Prov. 10:2)
- The Lord hates cheating (a false balance-NKJV) (Prov. 11:1)

## - Children

- Behold, children are a gift of the Lord (Ps. 127:3)
- Rejoice during your childhood, and follow the impulse of your heart and the desire of your eyes. Yet know that God will bring you to judgment for these things (Eccl. 11:9)
- **Children's Responsibilities To Their Parents**
- Honor your father and mother (Ex. 20:12; Lev. 19:3; Deut. 5:16; **Matt. 15:4; Mark 7:10**; Eph. 6:2)
- Listen to what your father teaches you and not neglecting your mothers teaching (Prov. 1:8; 3:1; 4:1-2,10-11,20; 6:20-23; 7:1,24; 23:22,26; Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20)
  - Obey, guard, and be reminded constantly of their advice (Prov. 7:2-4)
  - Do not turn away from their words (Prov. 4:5; 5:7)
    - You will be sorry if you do (Prov. 5:12-14)
  - Their teaching is a lamp to light the way ahead of you (Prov. 6:23)
- *When Will Your Parents Teach You ?*
- When you sit at home, they will talk to you (Deut. 6:7; 11:19)
- Wherever you walk, their counsel will lead you (Prov. 6:22; Deut. 6:7; 11:19)
- When you sleep, they will protect you (Prov. 6:22; Deut. 6:7; 11:19)
- When you wake up, they will advise you (Prov. 6:22; Deut. 6:7; 11:19)
- Children need to be taught to fear the Lord, and to know His law (Deut. 31:12-13)
- *What Happens To Children That Mistreat Their Parents ?*
- Cursed are those who dishonor their father or mother (Deut. 21:18-21; 27:16; Is. 45:10)
- They are some people who curse their parents (Prov. 30:11)
- If you withhold help to your parents in time of need you are breaking God's commandment (Mark 7:11-13)
  - Children who mistreat their parents are a public disgrace and an embarrassment (Prov. 19:26)
  - Robbing from your parents and then saying, "What's wrong with that?" is as serious as committing murder (a companion to a destroyer-NKJV) (Prov. 28:24)
- **General Conduct Of Children**
- Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the evil days come and the years draw near when you say, "I have no delight in them" (Eccl. 12:1)
- Even children are known by the way they act, whether their conduct is pure and right (Prov. 20:11)
  - A young person keeps his way pure by keeping it according to God's Word (Ps. 119:9)
- Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged (Prov. 17:6)
- The glory of the young is their strength (Prov. 20:29)
- A servant who is pampered from childhood will later become a rebel (will be a son in the end-NKJV) (Prov. 29:21)
- **Wise Children**
- A wise child brings joy to its parents (Prov. 10:1; 15:20; 23:15,24; 27:11; 29:3)
  - So give your parents joy (Prov. 23:25)
  - A wise child accepts his parents discipline (Prov. 13:1)
  - A wise youth works hard (Prov. 10:5)
  - Young people who obey the law are wise (Prov. 28:7)
- **Foolish Children**
- A foolish child brings grief to its parents (Prov. 10:1; 15:20; 17:21,25; 19:13)
  - A young mocker refuses to listen to his parents (Prov. 13:1)
  - A lazy youth brings shame (Prov. 10:5)
  - Those who seek out worthless companions bring shame to their parents (Prov. 28:7)
- **Children From A Godly Family**
- Blessed are the children of the godly (Prov. 20:7; Deut. 28:4; Ps. 37:26; 112:2)

- The children of the godly will be delivered (from punishment) (Prov. 11:21)
- **Grandchildren**
- Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged (Prov. 17:6)
  - **Scriptural Example: Jacob (Gen. 48:11-20)**
- Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren (Prov. 13:22; Ezra 9:12)
- **the Church**
- I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the Lord." (Ps. 122:1)
- The church is the pillar and support of the truth (1Tim. 3:15)
- **Pastors**
- They should guard knowledge (Mal. 2:7)
- People should go to them for instruction (Mal. 2:7)
- Some preach Christ out of envy and strife, but some preach with good will (Phil. 1:15)
  - The latter do it out of love (Phil. 1:16)
  - but...
  - The former do it out of selfish ambition, rather than pure motives (Phil. 1:17)
- This position should not be filled by a woman (1Tim. 2:12)
- **Elders**
- An elder must be:
  - Above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, prudent, respectable, hospitable, able to teach, able to refute those who contradict, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious combative in nature), gentle, uncontentious, free from the love of money (not fond of sordid gain), a good manager of his household (keep his children under control), not a new Christian, have a good reputation with those outside the church, loving of what is good, just, devout, holding fast the faith, a shepherd, eager (1Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9; 1Peter 5:1-4)
- Let the elders who serve well receive double honor (1Tim. 5:17-18)
- Do not receive an accusation against an elder except on the basis of two or three witnesses (1Tim. 5:19)
- **Deacons**
- Deacons must be:
  - Men of dignity, not double-tongued, not addicted to wine, not fond of sordid gain, holding to the mystery of faith with a clear conscience, beyond reproach, husbands of one wife, good managers of their children and household (1Tim. 3:8-10,12)
- Those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus (1Tim. 3:13)
- **Comfort and Courage**
- In the world you will have tribulation, but Jesus has overcome the World (**John 16:33**)
- Just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ (2Cor. 1:5)
  - He comforts us so that we may comfort others (2Cor. 1:4)
- Peace I leave with you; let not your heart be troubled, nor let it be fearful (**John 14:27**)
- Come to Jesus all who are weary and heavy-laden, and He will give you rest (Jer. 31:25; **Matt. 11:28-30**)
- It is better to take refuge in the Lord than to trust in man (Ps. 118:8-9)
  - God is the God of comfort (2Cor. 1:3)
- Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted (**Matt 5:4**)
- Be still and know that He is God (Ps. 46:10)
- If you search for the Lord with all your heart and all your soul, you will find Him (Deut. 4:29; 1Chr. 28:9; Jer. 29:13)
  - The Lord is near to all who call upon Him (Ps. 145:18; James 4:8)
- Do not fear, for the Lord is with you (Ps. 118:6; Is. 41:10; Hag. 2:5), and He will protect you wherever you go (Prov. 3:25-26; 18:10; 30:5; Gen. 26:24; 28:15; 35:3; Ex. 14:13; Deut. 31:6; Josh. 1:9; 1Sam. 2:9; 1Chr. 28:20; Job 5:21)
  - I will fear no evil, for God is with me (Ps. 23:4)
    - He will protect you from all evil (Ps. 121:7)
    - He rides the heavens to your help (Deut. 33:26)
    - He watches over you night and day; God does not sleep (Ps. 121:3)
- Do not fear man (Prov. 29:25; Num. 14:9; Deut. 1:17; 1Sam. 15:24; Is. 51:7; Ezek. 2:6)
  - What can mere man do to you ? (Ps. 56:4,11; 118:6; Heb. 13:6)
  - Man can only kill the body, not the spirit (**Matt. 10:28; Luke 12:4**)

- Call on Him and He will rescue you in your day of trouble (Ps. 50:15; 55:16)
- He is not far from each one of us (Acts 17:27)
- If He is for us, who can be against us (Rom. 8:31)
- He will deliver you from your enemies (1Sam. 17:45-50; 2Sam. 22:4; 2Kings 17:39; Ezra 8:31; Ps. 18:16-19,48; 27:1-3; 97:10; Jer. 15:20-21)
- God will never leave you, nor forsake you (Deut. 31:6,8; Josh. 1:5; 1Sam. 12:22; 1Kings 8:57; 1Chr. 28:20; Ezra 9:9; Neh. 9:19,31; Ps. 37:28; 97:14; Heb. 13:5)
  - He who began a good work in you will be faithful to complete it (Phil. 1:6)
  - He is with us, even to the end of the age (**Matt. 28:20**)
  - He will not fail you (Deut. 4:31)
    - If you forsake Him, then He will forsake you (1Chr. 28:9; 2Chr. 12:5; 24:20; Ezra 8:22)
  - His going forth is as certain as the dawn (Hos. 6:3)
  - The very hairs on our heads are all numbered by God (**Matt. 10:30; Luke 12:7**)
  - God will supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:19)
- God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28)
  - All things does include bad things (Dan. 11:35)
- He who listens to God shall live securely (Prov. 1:33)
  - You can lay down and sleep, and awake, for the Lord sustains you (Prov. 3:24; Lev. 26:6; Ps. 3:3-6; 4:8; Zeph. 2:7; 3:13)
  - You need not fear, for the Lord is fighting for you (Deut. 1:28-30; 3:22; 20:1,3-4; 2Chr. 20:15; 32:7; Neh. 4:20)
    - He executes vengeance for me (Ps. 18:47)
    - The One with us is greater than the one with them (2Chr. 32:7)
  - He is the refuge for the afflicted (Ps. 14:6; 18:27; 73:26)
    - Blessed is the man who takes refuge in Him (Ps. 34:8)
  - Cast your burden upon the Lord, and He will sustain you (Ps. 55:22)
- If you suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled (1Peter 3:14)
- **READ: Psalm 91 for assurance of God's comfort and protection!**
- **READ: Psalm 139:1-16 for God's closeness and comfort!**

## - The Commandments (God's Law)

- The Ten Commandments (Ex. 20:3-18; Deut. 5:6-21)
  - The commandments dealing with God are summed up in one commandment; "you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart soul and might" (Deut. 6:4-5)
  - The Commandments not dealing with God are summed up in the one commandment; "Love your neighbor as yourself" (Rom. 13:9)
- The law of the Lord is perfect, sure, right and pure (Ps. 19:7-8)
- Whatever is commanded by God, let it be done with zeal (Ezra 7:23)
- Hearers of the law are not just before God, but doers of the law will be justified (Rom. 2:13)
- God's commandments are not burdensome (1John 5:3)
- Write the commandments on your heart, on your hand, and on your home (Deut. 6:6, 8-9; 11:18-20)
- **If You Accept God's Law...**
- Keep the commandments (Lev. 19:37; 20:8,22; 22:31; 25:18; Num. 15:39; Deut. 4:40; 6:8,17; 11:1,8; 12:32; 13:4; 26:16; 27:1, 10; Ps. 78:7; Eccl. 12:13; Ezek. 20:19), and keep your life (Prov. 13:13; 19:16; Lev. 18:5; Deut. 8:1; 1Kings 3:14; Neh. 9:29; Ezek. 18:9; 20:11,13,21), and succeed in all you do (Deut. 5:29-33; 6:2-3; 7:11; 8:6; 1Kings 2:3; 1Chr. 22:12-13)
  - Whoever keeps and teaches the commandments will be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven (**Matt. 5:19**)
  - These commandments are not out of reach, they are very near to us, in our mouths and in our hearts, so that we may observe them (Deut. 30:11-14)
  - If you love Jesus, you will keep His commandments (**John 14:15,21,23**)
    - This is how you can tell if you are a child of God (1John 5:2)
- The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to turn them away from the snares of death (Prov. 13:14)
  - They will make you wiser than your enemies (Ps. 119:98)
- To obey the law is to fight the wicked (Prov. 28:4)

- Whoever obeys the law is happy (Prov. 29:18; Ps. 119:165; **John 13:17**)
  - Because God shows His lovingkindness to those who love Him and keep His commandments (Ex. 20:6; Deut. 5:10)
- Blessed are they who keep the ways of the Lord (Prov. 8:32; 2Sam. 22:21-22; Ps. 18:20-21; 19:11; **Matt. 7:24-25; Luke 6:48**)
- Young people who obey the law are wise (Prov. 28:7)
- **If You Reject God's Law...**
- People who despise the word will find themselves in trouble (Prov. 13:13; Num. 15:31; **Matt. 7:26-27; Luke 6:49**)
  - Whoever annuls one of the least of these commandments and so teaches others, shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven (**Matt 5:19**; James 2:10)
- Despising them leads to death (Prov. 13:13; 19:16; Lev. 26:14-45)
- To reject the law is to praise the wicked (Prov. 28:4)
- The prayers of a person who ignore the law are despised (Prov. 28:9)
  - The Israelites disobeyed the law by offering defiled sacrifices, and the Lord did not accept them (Mal. 1:7-14)(See Lev. 22:20,22; Deut. 15:21 for proper sacrifices)
- **Complaining**
  - Do all things without grumbling or disputing (Phil. 2:14; 1Peter 4:9)
    - Why? so that you may prove yourselves to be true children of God (Phil. 2:15)
- **Confession of sins (and Repentance)**
  - If people cover over their sins they will not prosper (Prov. 28:13; Ps. 32:3-5)
    - but...**
  - If we confess our sins (Neh. 1:6; 9:2-3; Jer. 3:13), God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from EVERY wrongdoing (Prov. 28:13; 2Sam. 12:13; Ps. 32:5; 1John 1:9)
  - Each time we become guilty of a sin, we need to confess it to God for forgiveness (Lev. 5:5)
    - If we don't confess our sins, the Lord will be preparing to punish us (Ps. 7:12-13)
  - Now therefore make confession to the Lord and do His will (Ezra 10:11)
  - **Repentance**
    - Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand (**Matt. 4:17; Mark 1:15**)
      - Repent for the forgiveness of your sins (Acts 2:38; 3:19; 17:30)
    - In repentance and rest you shall be saved (Is. 30:15)
    - God takes no pleasure in the death of any, but He wishes that all would turn from their wicked ways and live (Ezek. 18:23,32; 33:11)
      - The kindness of God leads you to repentance (Rom. 2:4)
    - Examine and probe your ways, and return to the Lord (Lam. 3:40)
      - Return to the Lord with all your heart (Joel 2:12-13), and He will return to you (Deut. 4:30-31; 30:1-4; 2Chr. 30:9; Jer. 15:19; Zech. 1:3; Mal. 3:7)
    - If a wicked man turns from his sins and observes God's statutes, he will surely live and not die (Ezek. 18:21-23,27-28,30-32; 33:14-16,19)
    - *What happens if you do not confess your sins to God?*
    - **Scriptural Example: David (Ps. 32:3-5)**
    - unless you repent, you will perish (Luke 13:1-5)
- **Conscience**
  - Do your best to maintain a blameless conscience both before God and before men (Acts 24:16)
  - **READ: Rom. 14, and 1Cor. 8, for a better understanding of your and other people's consciences**
  - **The Importance Of A Clear Conscience**
  - Keep a good conscience so that in the thing in which you are slandered, those who revile your behavior in Christ are put to shame (1Peter 3:16)
  - Blessed are those who have a tender conscience (NLT) (feareth alway-KJV) (are always reverent-NKJV) (Prov. 28:14)
  - To the unbeliever, nothing is pure, but both their mind and their conscience is defiled (Titus 1:15)
  - **The Results Of A Guilty Conscience**
  - A murderers tormented conscience will drive him into the grave (Prov. 28:17)
  - Cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God (Heb. 9:14)
- **Court**
  - Don't take a fellow Christian to court to be judged by an unbeliever (1Cor. 6:1-7)

- Don't be in a hurry to go to court. You might go down before your neighbors in shameful defeat. (Prov. 25:8)
  - Discuss the matter with them privately. Don't tell anyone else, or others will accuse you of gossip. Then you will never regain your good reputation. (Prov. 25:9-10)
    - If they listen and confess to you, you have gained a brother (**Matt. 18:15**)
- If a wise person takes a fool to court, there will be ranting and ridicule, but no satisfaction (Prov. 29:9)
- When people go to court, and the judge rightly condemns the guilty, they will be punished (Deut. 25:1-2)

## - Criticism

### - Accepting Criticism

- Valid criticism is as treasured by the one who heeds it as jewelry made from the finest gold (Prov. 25:12)
- If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise (Prov. 15:5,31)
  - You will grow in understanding (Prov. 15:32)
  - If you accept criticism, you will be honored (Prov. 13:18)

### - Rejecting Criticism

- If you reject criticism, you only harm yourself (Prov. 15:32)
  - If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace (Prov. 13:18)
  - You will suddenly become broken beyond despair (Prov. 29:1)

## - Death

- The death of a godly person is precious in God's sight (Ps. 116:15)
  - For the Christian, to live is Christ, but to die is gain (Phil. 1:21)
  - Don't be misinformed about Christians who are dead:
    - If we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so will God bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus (1Thess. 4:13-14; 2Tim. 2:11)
    - In fact, the dead in Christ will rise first at the Lord's coming (1Thess. 4:16-18)
- Death is a result of the first sin and the Curse (Gen. 3:19)
- When we die, we take nothing with us (Job 1:21; Ps. 49:17; 1Tim. 6:7)
- We cannot bring back the dead. We will go to them (2Sam. 12:23)
- Death (the grave) is never satisfied (Prov. 27:20; 30:15-16; Is. 5:14)

## - Deceit

### - Who Is Doing The Deceiving ?

- Deceit fills hearts that plot evil (Prov. 12:20; Jer. 5:26-27)
- Fools deceive themselves (Prov. 14:8)
- A deceitful tongue crushes the spirit (Prov. 15:4)
- The deceitful walk a thorny, treacherous road (Prov. 22:5)
- How Does God Feel About Deception ?
- The Lord abhors the man of deceit (Ps. 5:6)
- The Lord ruins the plans of the deceitful (NLT) (transgressor-KJV) (faithless-NKJV) (treacherous-NASB) (Prov. 22:12)
- The tongue that deceives will be cut off (Prov. 10:31)
- What Will Happen If You Listen To Those Who Deceive ?
- Wicked people deceive their companions; leading them down a harmful path (Prov. 12:26; 16:29; Gen. 12:10-20)

### - Instructions

- Beware of false prophets (**Matt 7:15-23**; Col. 2:8)
  - You will know them by their fruits (Matt 7:16,20)
    - A bad tree cannot bear good fruit (**Matt 7:17-18**)
- Whoever values life will stay away from the deceitful (Prov. 22:5)

## - Discipline (Punishment)

### - Discipline From The Lord

- Happy is the man whom God reproves (Job 5:17; Ps. 94:12)
- Don't ignore the Lord's discipline, or be discouraged when He corrects you (Prov. 3:11; Job 5:17; Heb. 12:5-6)
  - He corrects those He loves (Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:6; Rev. 3:19)
  - He corrects as a father corrects his children (Prov. 3:12; Deut. 8:5; 2Sam. 7:14; Heb. 12:6)
  - When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild (Prov. 29:18)
  - Those who abandon the right path will be severely punished (Prov. 15:10)

- The Lord wounds, and also heals (Job 5:18)
- If we do not heed His correction, He will punish us even more (Lev. 26:18, 21, 23-24, 27-28)
- All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness (Heb. 12:11)
- **Scriptural Example: the Maccabees (Dan. 11:35)**

#### **Discipline From Parents**

- A wise child accepts his parents discipline (Prov. 13:1)
- Only a fool despises a parent's discipline (Prov. 15:5)
- Discipline your children while there is hope. If you don't, you will ruin their lives (Prov. 19:18)
  - A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness, but discipline will drive it away (Prov. 22:15; 29:15)
  - Physical punishment may save them from death (hell) (Prov. 23:13-14)
- If you refuse to discipline your children, it proves you don't love them (Prov. 13:24)
  - If you love them, you will be prompt to discipline them (Prov. 13:24)
- For a servant (child), mere words are not good enough-discipline is needed (Prov. 29:19)
  - Though the words are understood, they are not heeded (Prov. 29:19)
- Discipline In General
- The correction of discipline is the way to life (Prov. 6:23, 10:17)
- Physical punishment cleanses away evil; such discipline purifies the heart (Prov. 20:30)
- If you punish a mocker, the simpleminded will learn a lesson (Prov. 19:25; 21:11)
- Discipline is wasted on fools (Prov. 16:22)
- Why Should You Be Disciplined ?
- Whoever learns from correction is wise (Prov. 13:18; 15:5,31-32)
- Discipline for the purpose of godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds the promise for the present life and also for the life to come (1Tim. 4:7-8)
- What Happens When You Don't Respond To Discipline ?
- It is stupid to hate correction (Prov. 12:1)
  - Whoever hates correction will die (Prov. 15:10)
  - Those who ignore it will lead others astray (Prov. 10:17)

#### **- Discretion (Taste)**

- A beautiful woman without discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout (Prov. 11:22)

#### **- Dishonesty**

- The Lord hates double standards (dishonest scales) of all kinds (Prov. 11:1; 20:10,23; Lev. 19:35-36; Deut. 25:13-16)
- Those who are crooked will be destroyed (Prov. 11:3; 28:18)
- It is better to be poor than dishonest (Prov. 19:22)

#### **- Divorce**

- God HATES divorce (Mal. 2:16)
  - From the beginning it was never meant to be for a couple to divorce (**Matt. 19:8**)
- It covers one's garment with violence (~ it [covers, overwhelms] one's [wife] with [wrong, unjust]) (Mal. 2:16)
- Whoever divorces his wife except for unfaithfulness commits adultery (**Matt 5:31-32; 19:9; Luke 16:18**)
  - Also, whoever marries a divorced woman commits adultery (**Matt 5:31; Luke 16:18**)

#### **- Drinking**

- What Does the Bible Say About Alcohol ?
- Wine is a mocker (Prov. 20:1; Gen. 9:21; Is. 28:7; Lam. 4:21; Hab. 2:5)
  - Wine takes away the understanding (Hos. 4:11)
- Liquor leads to brawls (Prov. 20:1)
- Wine is not the way to riches (Prov. 21:17)
- Wine enslaves the heart (Hos. 4:11)
- Don't let the sparkle and smooth taste of wine deceive you (Prov. 23:31)
  - In the end it bites like a poisonous snake (Prov. 23:32)
    - You will see hallucinations (Prov. 23:33; Is. 28:7)
    - You will say crazy things (Prov. 23:33)
    - You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea (Prov. 23:34; Ps. 60:3; Is. 28:7)
    - You won't know what hit you, and you will wake up and want another drink (Prov. 23:34)

23:35; see Is. 5:11)

- Liquor is for the dying, and wine for those in deep depression (Prov. 31:6)
  - Let them drink to forget their poverty and remember their troubles no more (Prov. 31:7)
- Rulers should not crave wine or liquor (Prov. 31:4; Eccl. 10:17)
  - If they drink they may forget their duties and be unable to give justice to the oppressed (Prov. 31:5)

#### - Is It Okay For Christians to Drink ?

- The Lord makes wine which makes the heart glad (Ps. 104:15)
  - Even our Lord Jesus drank a little wine (**Matt. 11:19; Luke 7:34**)
- Drink a little wine for the sake of your stomach and your frequent sicknesses (1Tim. 5:23)
  - but:**
  - Do not be drunk with wine (Is. 28:1), which causes ruin, but be filled with the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18)
  - Do not carouse with drunkards and gluttons (Prov. 23:20)
  - And, if you believe in good conscience that it is okay to have a drink, don't do it in front of a Christian who doesn't feel that way. You may cause him to stumble and sin (Rom. 14:21-22)

#### - Punishment For Drunkenness

- Whoever is led astray by them cannot be wise (Prov. 20:1)
- Those who brag about their drinking will be punished (Is. 5:22)
- Those who wake up early and drink all day (Eccl. 10:16-17) will be punished (Is. 5:11)
  - **Scriptural Example: Ben-Hadad, King of Aram (1Kings 16:16-21)**
  - Woe to those who stay up late in the night and drink to get drunk (Is. 5:11)
- Drunkards are on their way to poverty (Prov. 23:21)
- Those who spend long hours in the bars trying out new drinks have anguish, sorrow, are always fighting, always complaining, unnecessary bruises, and bloodshot eyes (Prov. 23:29-30)

### **- Education**

- To learn, is to love discipline (Prov. 12:1)
- A student is never above his teacher, but will eventually be like him (**Matt. 10:24-25; Luke 6:40**)
- Be warned: the writing of many books is endless, and excessive devotion to books is wearying to the body (Eccl. 12:12)
- It is senseless to pay tuition to educate a fool who has no heart for wisdom (Prov. 17:16)

#### - Teaching

- God puts in our hearts the ability and desire to teach (Ex. 35:34)
  - **Scriptural Example: Bezalel (Ex. 35:30-35)**

### **- Fairness and justice**

#### - How the Lord Judges

- The Lord judges the peoples (Deut. 1:17; 1Sam. 2:10; 1Chr. 16:33; Ps. 7:8; 135:14; Is. 3:13; 2Tim. 4:1; Heb. 10:30)
  - God will bring every act to judgment, whether good or bad (Eccl. 3:17; 12:14; Ezek. 18:30; 2Cor. 5:10)
    - We shall all give an account of our lives before God (1Peter 4:5)
    - He will render to each man according to his work (Prov. 24:12; Job 34:11; Jer. 17:10; **Matt. 16:27**; Rom. 2:6; 2Tim. 4:14; Rev. 2:23; 20:12; 22:12)
    - If we judge ourselves rightly, we will not be judged (1Cor. 11:31)
  - He does not show partiality in judgment (Deut. 10:17; Ps. 96:10; 98:9; Is. 11:3; Acts 10:34; Rom. 2:11; Gal. 2:6; Eph. 6:9)
  - He will do no injustice (Zeph. 3:5)
  - He is a righteous judge (Ps. 7:11; 9:8; 19:9; 67:4; 96:13; 98:9; Is. 11:4; Rev. 19:2)
  - By no means will the Lord let the guilty go unpunished (Ex. 34:7; Num. 14:18)
  - He executes justice for the oppressed (Ps. 146:7)

#### - What is the Lord's View on Fairness ?

- The Lord demands fairness in every business deal; He sets the standard (NLT) (Prov. 16:11; Lev. 19:36; Deut. 23:13-15)
- The Lord despises those who acquit the guilty and condemn the innocent (Prov. 17:15; Ex. 23:7; Lam. 3:35-36)
  - We tire the Lord by suggesting that He favors evildoers (Mal. 2:17)
    - Cursed is he who thinks good is evil and evil is good (Is. 5:20)
      - (If God favors evildoers, then He curses Himself)

- He is a ready witness against those who oppress widows, orphans, and foreigners (Ex. 22:21-23; Mal.3:5)
- Blessings will be showered on those who convict the guilty (Prov. 24:25)
- **General Rules Concerning Fairness**
- Justice comes from the Lord (Prov. 29:26)
  - You shall pursue justice (Deut. 16:18-20; Is. 1:17; Hos. 12:6)
  - You shall judge with truth and for peace (Zech.. 8:16)
- There shall be one standard (judgment) for all people (Lev. 24:22; Num. 9:14; 15:15-16)
- The Law does not judge a man, unless it first hears from him and knows what he is doing (John 7:51)
- Showing partiality is never good (Prov. 28:21; 2Chr. 19:7; James 2:9)
  - Be partial to no one (Job 32:21; 1Tim. 5:21)
  - Showing partiality in judgment is wrong (Prov. 18:5; 24:23-26; Lev. 19:15; Deut. 1:17; 16:19; 24:17; Ps. 82:2)
  - God will reprove you if you show partiality (Job. 13:10)
  - Do not judge according to appearance (James 2:2-4), but judge with righteousness (**John 7:24**)
- It is wrong to punish the godly for being good (Prov. 17:26)
- On the evidence of two or more witnesses shall a matter be confirmed (Num. 35:30; Deut. 17:6; 19:15; 2Cor. 13:1)
- **Lessons in Justice**
- \*A few proverbs speak of how a king should judge the people. The word judge has been substituted to show the proverb's relevance to today.
- A judge (the king) speaks with divine wisdom; he must never judge unfairly (Prov. 16:10)
  - When a judge (king) judges, he carefully weighs all the evidence (Prov. 20:8)
    - He removes the wicked as a silversmith removes the dross from sterling (Prov. 25:4-5; Mal. 3:2-3 [Christ])
  - His job (reign) is made secure by justice (Prov. 16:12; 25:5; 29:14; Jer. 22:15)
    - **WWJD: With righteousness He (Jesus) shall judge the poor (Is. 11:4)**
- Don't protect murderers (Prov. 28:17)
- Speak up for the speechless, poor, and helpless, and see that they get justice (Prov. 31:8-9; Job 29:15-16; Ps. 82:3-4; Jer. 22:16)
  - But do not be partial to the poor in their dispute (Ex. 23:3)
- Justice is a joy to the godly (Prov. 21:15)
- The innocent travel a straight road (Prov. 21:8)
- Those who follow the Lord understand justice completely (Prov. 28:5)
- **Those Who Pervert Justice**
- Evil people don't understand justice (Prov. 28:5)
- Justice causes dismay among evildoers (Prov. 21:15)
- The guilty walk a crooked path (Prov. 21:8)
- Cursed are those who pervert justice to the foreigner, orphan or widow (Deut. 27:19)

## - Faith

- Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen (Heb. 11:1)
  - We walk by faith, not by sight (2Cor. 5:7)
  - Our faith is the victory that has overcome the world (1John 5:4)
- Have faith in God (**Mark 11:22**; 1Cor. 2:5)
  - For without faith it is impossible to please God (Rom. 8:8; Heb. 11:6)
- In Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything, but faith working through love (Gal. 5:6)
- We are found righteous because of our faith (Gen. 15:6; Neh. 9:8; Rom. 3:28; 4:3; 9:22-24; Gal. 3:6-7)
  - By faith, and not by good works alone (Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9)
- The righteous will live by his faith (Hab. 2:4; Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38; 11(all))
  - What use is it if you have faith but no works, that faith is dead (James 2:14-26)
    - \* If you just believe in God, but do not follow Him, your faith is useless (James 2:19-20), for when we are truly saved, He will give us a new heart and give His Spirit that will cause us to walk in His ways (Ezek. 36:26-27), so then as you therefore have received Christ, so walk in Him (Col. 2:6)
- We are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus (Gal. 3:26)
- Unless you have the faith of a child, you will not enter into the Kingdom of God (**Matt. 18:3; 19:14**;

Mark 10:13-15; Luke 18:17)

- If we ask Jesus for something, we need to have faith that He will give it to us (Matt 7:7-11; 8:5-13; Mark 11:24; James 1:5-6)
  - **Scriptural Example: The Centurion** (Matt. 8:5-13)
  - All things are possible to him who believes (Mark 9:23)
  - If your faith is lacking, you won't receive anything (James 1:6-8)
- When Jesus comes back, will he find faith on the earth? (Luke 18:8)

## - Family

### - God's Family

- Anyone who does the will of God is part of God's family (Matt. 12:50; Mark 3:35; Luke 8:21; Philem. 16)

### - You're Earthly Family

- A brother is born to help in time of need (Prov. 17:17)
- Fight for your brothers, sons, daughters, wives and your houses (Neh. 4:14)
- If any member of your family entices you to serve other 'gods', turn away, and do not pity them (Deut. 6-8)

- Even if your parents forsake you, God will take you up (Ps. 27:10)

- If you love any family member more than God, you are not worthy of Him (Matt. 10:37)

### - What Can Happen if a Family Splits ?

- A house divided against itself cannot stand (Matt. 12:25; Mark 3:25; Luke 11:17)

- Those who bring trouble on their families will inherit only the wind (Prov. 11:29)

- A person who strays from home is like a bird that strays from its nest (Prov. 27:8)

### - Building a Family (House)

- Unless the Lord builds a house, they labor in vain who build it (Ps. 127:1)

- A house is built by wisdom (Prov. 24:3)

- It becomes strong through good sense (Prov. 24:3)

- Through knowledge its rooms are filled with riches and valuables (Prov. 24:4)

- **but...**

- Through indolence the rafters sag, and through slackness the house leaks (Eccl. 10:18)

- Develop your business first before building your house (NLT) (Prov. 24:27; 27:23-27)

- Woe to him who builds his house without righteousness (Jer. 22:13)

- If your neighbor helps you; pay him (Jer. 22:13)

- As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Josh. 24:15; Micah 4:5)

- Make your house safe for everyone who comes by (Deut. 22:8)

## - Fear (see Comfort)

### - Fearing the Lord

- Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him (Ps. 85:9)

- The fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever (Ps. 19:9)

### - What Does Fearing the Lord Mean ?

- Tune your ears to wisdom, then you will know what fearing the Lord means (Prov. 2:2-5)

- Sometimes God tests us so that we may learn to fear Him (Ex. 20:20)

- God blesses us, that all the ends of the Earth may fear Him (Ps. 67:7)

- He forgives us that we may fear Him (Ps. 130:4)

- Those who follow the right path fear the Lord (Prov. 14:2; 1Sam. 12:14)

- Learn to fear Him by following His commandments (Deut. 17:19)

- All who fear the Lord will hate evil (Prov. 3:7; 8:13; Ps. 97:10; Jer. 32:40)

### - The Benefits of Fearing the Lord

- He will fulfill the desire of all who fear Him (Ps. 145:19)

- Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom and knowledge (Prov. 1:7, 2:5, 3:7-8, 9:10; 15:33; Job 28:28; Ps. 111:10; Micah 6:9)

- Evil is avoided by fear of the Lord (Prov. 16:6; Gen. 39:7-9; Ex. 1:15-17; Neh. 5:15; Job 1:1,8)

- **Scriptural Example: Assyrian settlers** (2Kings 17:24-26)

- God will instruct those who fear Him in the ways they should choose (Ps. 25:12)

- Is not your fear of the Lord your confidence? (Job 4:6)

- God hears those who fear Him and do His will (John 9:31)

- In every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is welcome to Him (Acts 10:35)

- God blesses those who fear Him (Ex. 1:21; Ps. 103:11,17; 112(all); 115:13; 128:1-4; Luke 1:50)

- He favors those who fear Him (Ps. 147:11)
- It will be well for those who fear Him (Eccl. 8:12)
- For those who fear Him, there is no want (Ps. 34:9; 111:5)
- The Lord makes known His secrets to those who fear Him (Ps. 25:14)
- Fear of the Lord is a life-giving fountain (Prov. 10:27; 14:27)
  - It gives life, security and protection from harm (Prov. 14:26-27; 19:23; 29:25; Ex. 9:18-20; 2Kings 17:39; Ps. 33:18-19; 34:7; Mal. 2:5)
    - Those who fear the Lord are written in the Book of Remembrance (Mal. 3:16)
    - They will be saved from the Day of the Lord (Mal. 3:17; 4:2)
  - True humility and fear of the Lord leads to riches, honor and long life (Prov. 22:4; Ps. 25:12-13)
- Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised (Prov. 31:30)

#### **- General Views**

- The Lord Most High is to be feared (Ps. 47:2; 76:7,11; 96:4; Jer. 10:8)
- Fearing the Lord is something Christians should do (Prov. 24:21; Lev. 19:14,32; 25:17,36,43; Deut. 6:13, 24; 8:6; 10:12; 13:4; Josh. 4:24; 24:14; 1Sam. 12:24; 2Kings 17:36,39; 2Chr. 19:7; Neh. 5:9; Ps. 2:11; 34:9; Eccl. 3:14; 5:7; 12:13; Is. 8:13; **Matt. 10:28**; **Luke 12:5**; Rom. 11:20; 1Peter 2:17; Rev. 14:7)
  - It is sound wisdom to fear Him (Micah 6:9)
  - It is for our own good and survival to fear the Lord (Deut. 6:24; 2Kings 17:25)
  - God-fearing men should be chosen to lead God's people (church) (Ex. 18:21)
  - Tremble and do not sin (Ps. 4:4)
- It is better to have little with fear of the Lord than to have great treasure with turmoil (Prov. 15:16; Ps. 37:16)
- Fear the Lord as opposed to hanging out with the wicked (Prov. 23:17; 24:21-22)
- Do not test God (Deut. 6:16)

#### **- Other Fearing the Lord References...**

- (Gen. 42:18; Ex. 14:31; 1Kings 18:3,12)

### **- Fighting**

- Avoiding a fight is a mark of honor (Prov. 20:3)
- A quarrelsome person starts fights as easily as hot embers light charcoal or fire lights wood (Prov. 26:21)
  - Throw out the mocker, and fighting, quarrels, and insults will disappear (Prov. 22:10)
  - Fools get into constant quarrels; they are asking for a beating (Prov. 18:6)
  - The Lord will do our fighting for us (Deut. 1:30; 3:22; 20:4; Josh. 23:10)

### **- Flattery**

- Flattery causes ruin (Prov. 26:28; 29:5)
  - In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery (Prov. 27:5; 28:23)
  - To flatter people is to lay a trap for their feet (Prov. 29:5)
- May the Lord cut off all flattering lips (Job; 32:21-22; Ps. 12:2-3)

### **- Foolish living**

- A little foolishness is weightier than wisdom and honor (Eccl. 10:1)
- **General Views**
  - If you search for evil, it will find you (Prov. 11:27)
    - Trouble chases sinners (Prov. 13:21)
  - Evil actions are sin (Prov. 21:4)
  - Only simpletons believe everything they are told (Prov. 14:15)
    - Any story sounds true until someone sets the record straight (Prov. 18:17)
  - Fools plunge ahead with great confidence (Prov. 14:16)
  - The story of folly (Prov. 9:13-18)
    - It is loud, brash and ignorant and doesn't know it (and knows nothing-NKJV) (Prov. 9:13)
    - It tempts people with lies and its ways lead to the grave (Prov. 9:14-18)
      - Much the same as wisdom calls, so does folly (compare Prov. 9:3-5 and 9:14-17)

#### **- Penalties For Foolish Living**

- The fool will be a servant to the wise (Prov. 11:29; 14:19)
- People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the Lord (Prov. 19:3)

## - Fools

### - Characteristics of Fools

- The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God" (Ps. 14:1; 53:1)
  - Because, that which is evident about God was made known to them by God (Rom. 1:19)
- The fool walks in darkness (Eccl. 2:14)
- Fools despise wisdom and discipline (Prov. 1:7)
- A fool's eyes wander to the ends of the earth (Prov. 17:24)
- To slander is to be a fool (Prov. 10:18)
- The effort of fools yields only folly (Prov. 14:18,24; 1Sam. 25:25; Ps. 14:1)
  - Babbling fools fall flat on their faces (NLT)(Prov. 10:8, 10)
- A fool's voice is known by his many words (Eccl. 5:3; 10:14)
  - Fools broadcast their folly (proclaim foolishness) (Prov. 12:23; 13:16; 15:2; Eccl. 10:3; Is. 32:6)
  - They only want to air their own opinions (Prov. 18:2; 3John 9-10)
  - When the leaders gather, a fool has nothing to say (Prov. 24:7)
  - Eloquent speech is not fitting for a fool (Prov. 17:7)
    - The beginning of their talk is folly, and the end of it is wicked madness (Eccl. 10:13)
- Fools deceive themselves (NLT)(Prov. 14:8)
- Fools have no interest in understanding (Prov. 18:2; Job 21:14)
- A fool is quick-tempered upon being insulted (Prov. 12:16)
  - A fool gives full vent to anger (Prov. 29:11)
  - vexation slays the foolish man (Job 5:2)
- Just as a dog returns to his vomit, so a fool repeats his folly (Prov. 26:11; 2Pet. 2:22)

### - Punishment for Fools

- Fools will be punished (Prov. 19:29; 26:3)
- Fools are put to shame (Prov. 3:35)
  - It isn't right for a fool to live in luxury (Prov. 19:10)
    - People can't stand it when a fool prospers (Prov. 30:22)
    - The resentment caused by a fool is heavier than both sand and stones (Prov. 27:3)
- The babbling of a fool invites trouble (Prov. 10:14; 18:7; Eccl. 10:12)
- They will be destroyed for lack of wisdom (Prov. 10:21; Ps. 49:13-14; Hos. 4:6)
  - They will die for lack of instruction (Prov. 5:23; Job 4:21)
- The talk of fools is a rod for their backs (NLT) (Prov. 14:3)
- How Should You Act Around a Fool?
- When arguing with fools, use good judgment. Say just enough so they do not become wise in their own estimation, but not so much as to become as foolish as they are (Prov. 26:4-5)
  - **WWJD: Jesus Answers the Pharisees and Sadducees (Matt. 16:1-4)**
- It is safer to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than to confront a fool caught in folly (Prov. 17:12)
- Stay away from fools, for you won't find knowledge there (Prov. 14:7; 15:7)
  - Wisdom is too much for a fool (Prov. 14:33(NLT); 24:7)
- You cannot separate fools from their foolishness even though you try very hard (Prov. 27:22)
- Whoever walks with fools will suffer harm (Prov. 13:20)

## - Forgiveness

- Though your sins are as scarlet, they will be as white as snow (Is. 1:18)
- How blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered (Ps. 32:1; Rom. 4:7-8)
- Forgiveness From God
- God is a God of forgiveness (Neh. 9:17)
  - If God should mark our iniquities, who could stand? But God is a God of forgiveness (Ps. 130:3-4)
  - Jesus has the authority to forgive us of our sins (**Matt. 9:1-8; Mark 2:1-12; Luke 5:18-25; Acts 5:31; Col. 13-14**)
    - Everyone who believes in Him will have his sins forgiven (Acts 10:43)
- If people cover over their sins they will not prosper (Prov. 28:13; Ps. 32:3-4)
  - but...**
- If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from EVERY wrongdoing (Prov. 28:13; Ps. 32:5; 65:3; Jer. 36:3; 1John 1:9)
  - The Lord is good, and ready to forgive (Ps. 86:5)
  - Every sin can be forgiven (except rejection of Christ) (**Matt. 12:31-32; Mark 3:28-29; Luke**

## 12:10)

- God's unfailing love and faithfulness cover sin (In mercy and truth, atonement is provided for iniquity-NKJV) (Prov. 16:6; Ex. 34:7; Num. 14:18-19; Dan. 4:27)
- The life of flesh is in the blood; by reason of the life, the blood shed on the alter (the sacrifice) makes atonement for our souls (Lev. 17:11)
  - Without shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22)
  - In Christ, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the richness of His grace (Rom. 5:9; Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5)
- The righteous escape from their sins, shouting for joy (NLT)(Prov. 29:6)
- Once forgiven, our sins will be remembered no more by God (Is. 43:25; Heb. 8:12)
  - As far as the East is from the West, so far has He removed our transgressions from us (Ps. 103:12)
  - He will cast all our sins behind His back (Is. 38:17)
  - He will cast all our sins into the depths of the sea (Micah 7:19)
- **Remembering that Christ Died to Forgive Us of Our Sins (Communion)** (1Cor. 11:20-34)
- Jesus said to drink from the cup for it is the Blood of the Covenant (Ex. 24:8; 1Cor. 11:25) which is poured out for many for forgiveness of sins (**Matt. 26:27-28; Mark 14:23-24; Luke 22:20**)
  - He is the bread of life (**John 6:48**), he who comes to Him will never hunger (**John 6:35,50-51**)
    - Unless you eat the flesh of Christ (the bread of life) and drink His blood (the forgiveness of our sins) there is no life in you (**John 6:53-58**)
    - If you do this, you will live forever (**John 6:54**)
    - As often as you do this, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes (1Cor. 11:26)
    - Examine yourself before you do it however (1Cor. 11:28)
    - If you do this in an unworthy manner, you are guilty of the bloodshed of the Lord (1Cor. 11:27,29)

## - **Forgiving Others**

- When ever you pray, forgive, if you have anything against anyone (**Mark 11:25**)
- If you forgive others, your Heavenly Father will forgive you (**Matt. 6:14**)
  - Forgive others as many times as they wrong you (**Matt. 18:21-22; Luke 17:4**)
  - If they sin...rebuke. If they repent...forgive (**Luke 17:3-4**)
- Forgive others as Christ has forgiven you (Eph. 4:32; Col. 3:13)
- If you do not forgive others, God will not forgive you (**Matt. 6:15; 18:23-35; Mark 11:26**)

## - **Friends**

- For the despairing man there should be kindness from his friend (Job 6:14)
- **True Friends**
- We are friends of Jesus if we do what he says (**John 15:14-15**)
- The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense (Prov. 27:9)
- As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend (Prov. 27:17)
- Never abandon a friend. (Prov. 27:10)
  - Then in your time of need, you won't have to ask your relatives for assistance (Prov. 27:10)
  - It is better to go to a neighbor than a relative who lives far away (Prov. 27:10)
- Wounds from a friend are better than many kisses from an enemy (Prov. 27:6)
- The righteous should choose their friends carefully (Prov. 12:26)
- **How Can You Tell if a Person is a True Friend ?**
- They are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother (Prov. 17:17; 18:24; Ruth 1:16-17; 1Sam. 20:14-17; 2Sam. 15:21)
- **Bad "Friends"**
- Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is really faithful (Prov. 20:6; Job 19:14; Ps. 41:9)
- Do not follow, stand around with, or join in with sinners (Ps. 1:1)
  - Why? because bad company corrupts good morals (1Cor. 15:33)
- Gossip separates the best of friends (Prov. 16:28)

## - **Giving**

- It is more blessed to give than to receive (**Acts 20:35**)
- When you give, do it in secret, for God, who sees in secret, will repay you (**Matt. 6:2-4**)
- Give and it will be given unto you (**Luke 6:38**)

### - **God's Giving**

- For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son (John 3:16)

### - **Giving Back to God**

- All that we give to God is from God and belongs to Him (1Chr. 29:16)

- Should a man rob God? (Mal. 3:8)

- We should give back to God a portion of what He gives to us to show our love for Him (Gen. 28:22)

- From every man whose heart moves him you shall raise an offering to God (Ex. 25:2; 35:5,21-22;

2Kings 12:4; 1Chr. 29:6-7; 2Cor. 9:7)

- If you give (cheerfully not grudgingly, 2Cor. 9:7) to the Lord, He will pour out a blessing so great that you won't have enough room to take it all in (Mal. 3:10)

- **Scriptural Example: the Israelites in the wilderness (Ex. 36:5-7)**

- If you give cheerfully to God, you will experience great joy (1Chr. 29:9,17)

- If you give freely to God, the gift will be accepted (Gen. 4:4)

**but...**

- God loathes the sacrifice (prayer) of an evil person, especially when it is brought with ulterior motives (Prov. 15:8; 21:27; Jer. 6:19-20; Mal. 1:10)

- God will not accept these sacrifices (or answer these prayers) (Is. 1:15; James 4:3)

- Keep dirty money (from prostitution) out of your offerings (Deut. 23:18)

### - **Giving to One Another**

- Freely you have received, freely give (**Matt. 10:8**)

- The godly love to give (Prov. 21:26; Ps. 37:21)

- We should freely and generously give to the less fortunate (Deut. 15:7-11; Ps. 112:9)

- Give to him who asks of you (**Matt. 5:42; Luke 6:30**)

- The generous prosper and are satisfied (Prov. 11:25)

- Blessed are the generous, because they feed the poor (Prov. 19:7; 22:9)

- Those who refresh others will be refreshed (Prov. 11:25)

- Those who sell to those in need will be blessed (Prov. 11:26)

- It is possible to give freely and become more wealthy (Prov. 11:24; 2Cor. 9:6)

- Giving a gift works wonders; it may bring you before important people (Prov. 18:16)

- A secret gift calms anger (Prov. 21:14)

### - **God's dislikes**

- That which is highly esteemed among men is detestable to God (**Luke 16:15**)

- The seven things the Lord detests (Prov. 6:16-19)

- Haughty eyes (A proud look) (Prov. 6:17; 8:13; 16:5)

- A lying tongue (Prov. 6:17)

- Hands that kill the innocent (Prov. 6:17)

- A heart that plots evil (Prov. 6:14,18)

- The Lord hates people with twisted hearts (Prov. 11:20; Ps. 101:4)

- The Lord despises the thoughts of the wicked (Prov. 15:26)

- Feet that race to do wrong (Prov. 1:16; 6:18; Is. 59:7; Rom. 3:15)

- A false witness who pours out lies (Prov. 3:30; 6:19)

- Why does God hate false witnesses? (see Prov. 25:18)

- a person who sows discord among brothers (Prov. 3:29; 6:14,19)

- God HATES divorce (Mal. 2:16)

- God loathes the sacrifice of an evil person, especially when it is brought with ulterior motives (Prov. 15:8; 21:27; Jer. 6:19-20; Mal. 1:10)

- The Lord is a ready witness against adulterers (Mal. 3:5)

- God hates cheating (a false balance-NKJV) (Prov. 11:1; 20:10,23; Deut. 25:13-16)

- The Lord despises those who acquit the guilty and condemn the innocent (Prov. 17:15; Ex. 23:7)

### - **God's likes**

- He delights in those with integrity (blameless-NKJV) (Prov. 11:20)

- He loves justice (Ps. 37:28; Is. 61:8)

- He loves righteousness (1Chr. 29:17; Ps. 11:7; 33:5; 45:7; 146:8; Jer. 9:24)

- He loves those who pursue godliness (Prov. 15:9)

- He loves a cheerful giver (2Cor. 9:7)

- He delights in the prayers of the upright (Prov. 15:8,29; Ps. 145:18)

- The Lord delights in pure words (Prov. 15:26)

## - God's nature

- His anger is but for a moment, His favor is for a lifetime (Ps. 30:5)
- **Biblical Descriptions of God**
- He is All-Knowing:
  - There is no wisdom, understanding or counsel against the Lord (Prov. 19:21; 21:30; Job 9:4; 42:2; Ps. 33:11; Nahum 1:9)
  - Who can be God's counselor? (Is. 40:13; Rom. 11:34; 1Cor. 2:16)
  - It is the glory of God to conceal things (Prov. 25:2; Deut. 29:29)
  - God alone can interpret dreams (Gen. 40:8; 41:16; Dan. 2:27-28)
- He is an Awesome God (Deut. 7:21; Neh. 1:5; 4:14; Ps. 68:35)
- He is Blameless (2Sam. 22:26,31; Ps. 18:25,30)
- He is a Caring God (Ex. 3:16; Ps. 8:3-5)
  - The Lord hears the pleas of the godly (Ex. 2:23-25; 3:7; 6:5; Ps. 28:6)
  - And He answers them in their day of distress (Gen. 35:3)
  - He gives grace to the afflicted (humble) (Prov. 3:34; Deut. 4:31; 1Sam. 2:8; Ps. 18:27; 22:24; 113:7; Is. 41:7; 1Peter 5:5)
- He is Compassionate (Ex. 34:6; 2Chr. 30:9; Neh. 9:17,31; Ps. 78:38; 103:8; 111:4; 116:5; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2; James 5:11)
- He is the wonderful Counselor (Is. 9:6)
- He is my Deliverer (2Sam. 22:2,51; 2Kings 13:4-5; Ps. 40:17; 68:20; 70:5; 144:2)
- He is The Everlasting (Gen. 21:33; Ps. 9:7; 10:16; 19:9; 29:10; 90:2; 135:13; Jer. 10:10; Rev. 15:7)
  - He shall reign forever and ever (Ex. 15:18; Ps. 145:13; 146:10; Rev. 11:15)
- He is Faithful (Deut. 7:9; 32:4; Ps. 33:4; 36:5; Lam. 3:23; 1Cor. 10:13; 2Thess. 3:3; 1John 1:9; Rev. 19:11)
  - If we are faithless, He is still faithful (2Tim. 2:13)
- He is our Father (Ps. 89:26; Is. 9:6; 63:16; 64:8)
- He is a consuming Fire (Heb. 12:29)
- He is a strong Fortress; (Prov. 18:10; 2Sam. 22:2,33; Ps. 9:9; 31:3; 61:3; 71:3; 91:2; 144:2)
- He is Gracious (Ex. 34:6; 2Chr. 30:9; Neh. 9:17,31; Ps. 103:8; 110:4; 116:5; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2)
- He is Great (Deut. 7:21; 2Sam. 7:22; Neh. 4:14; Ps. 135:5)
  - His greatness is unsearchable (Ps. 145:3)
- He is the Great I AM (Ex. 3:14)
- He is a Healer (Ex. 15:26; 23:25; Deut. 7:15; 32:39; 2Kings 20:1-5; Ps. 30:2; 41:3; 103:3; Is. 19:22; Hos. 6:1)
  - When we are sick we should consult trust God over physicians (2Chr. 16:12)
- He is my Help (Ps. 33:20; 40:17; 54:4; 63:7; 70:5; 115:9-11; Heb. 13:6)
- He is Holy (Ps. 22:3; 77:13; 99:3,5; Is. 5:16; Rev. 15:4)
- He is my Hope (Ps. 71:5)
- He is Immortal (1Tim. 1:17)
- He is Judge (Judg. 11:27; 1Chr. 16:33; Ps. 36:5; 50:6; 75:7; Is. 33:22)
- He is Just (Deut. 32:4; Neh. 9:33; 1John 1:9)
- He is my Keeper (Ps. 121:5)
- He is Kind (2Sam. 22:26)
- He is King (Ps. 29:10; 44:4; 47:2,6-7; 74:12; 95:3; Is. 33:22; 1Tim. 1:17)
- He is the Law Giver (Is. 33:22)
- He is a Light (2Sam. 22:29; Ps. 18:28; 27:1; 1John 1:5)
- He is Love (1John 4:8,16)
- He shows Lovingkindness (Ex. 20:6; 34:6-7; Num. 14:18; Deut. 7:8-9, 12-13; 2Sam. 22:51; 1Kings 8:23; Neh. 9:32; Job 10:12; Ps. 18:25; 25:6-7,10; 33:22; 36:5; 59:7; 130:7; 145:8; Joel 2:13; Jonah 4:2)
  - His lovingkindness is everlasting (1Chr. 16:41; 2Chr. 5:13; 7:3,6; 20:21; Ezra 3:11; Ps. 52:1; 103:17; 106:1; 107:1; 118:1-4,29; 136 (all); 138:8; Jer. 33:11; Lam. 3:22)
  - His lovingkindness is better than life (Ps. 63:3)
  - He calls (reaches) out to sinners but they do not answer (Prov. 1:24; Is. 65:2,12; 66:4; Jer. 7:13; 35:17; Zech. 7:11-13; Rom. 10:21)
    - They also neglect his counsel (advice) (Prov. 1:25,30; Job 21:14; Ps. 81:11; 107:11)

- So then He will laugh at their calamity (Prov. 1:26; Ps. 2:4)
- They will then call on Him, but He will not answer (Prov. 1:28; 1Sam. 8:18; 28:6; 2Sam. 22:42; Job 27:8-9; 35:12; Ps. 18:41; Is. 1:15; Jer. 11:11; 14:12; Ezek. 8:18; Hos. 5:6; Micah 3:4; Zech. 7:13)
- He is Majestic (Ps. 76:4)
- He is Merciful (Ps. 145:8; Eph. 2:4; James 5:11)
- He is Mighty (Is. 9:6)
- He is Omnipotent (Ps. 24:1)
  - Nothing is too difficult for God (Gen. 18:14; Job 42:2; Jer. 32:17,27)
  - For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things (Rom. 11:36)
- He is Omnipresent:
  - "Do I not fill the heavens and the earth?" declares the Lord (Jer 23:24)
  - God is watching everywhere (Deut. 4:39); keeping his eye on both the evil and good (Prov. 15:3; Gen. 16:13; 2Chr. 16:9; Job 28:24; 34:21; Ps. 66:7; Jer. 16:17; Zech. 4:10)
  - Truly, the Lord is magnified far beyond our borders (Mal. 1:5)
    - **Scriptural Example: Naaman of Aram (2Kings 5:1)**
  - Surely the Lord is in this place, even though you may not realize it (Gen. 28:16)
    - \* (Wherever you may be while reading this...the Lord is right beside you!)
- He is the Only God (Deut. 4:35,39; 32:39; 2Sam. 7:22; 1Kings 8:60; 1Chr. 17:20; 1Tim. 1:17)
- He is Perfect (Deut. 32:4; Ps. 19:7)
- He is the Prince of Peace (Is. 9:6)
- He is a Promise Keeper (Ex. 6:5; Num. 23:19; Josh. 21:45; Neh. 9:32)
  - The Lord does not change (1Sam. 15:29; Ps. 110:4; Mal. 3:6)
- He is Pure (2Sam. 22:27; Ps. 18:26; 19:8)
- He is my Redeemer (Ps. 78:35; Is. 54:8)
- He is my Refuge (2Sam. 22:3; Ps. 46:1; 59:16; 61:3; 62:8; 71:7; 91:2; 94:22; 142:5)
- He is Right (Ps. 19:8)
- He is Righteous (Deut. 32:4; Ezra 9:15; Neh. 9:8; Ps. 11:7; 19:9; 36:5; 116:5; 119:137; 129:4; 145:17; Rev. 16:5)
  - His righteousness is an everlasting righteousness (Ps. 119:142; 2Cor. 9:9)
- He is the Rock (2Sam. 22:2-3,32,47; Ps. 28:1; 31:3; 35:3; 42:9; 62:2,6; 71:3; 78:35; 144:1)
- He is my Salvation (Ex. 15:2; Ps. 25:5; 27:1,9; 37:39; 38:22; 62:2,6; 68:19; 118:14,21; Is. 12:2)
- He is my Savior (2Sam. 22:3)
- He is my Shepherd (Gen. 48:15; 49:24; Ps. 23:1; 28:9; 78:72; 80:1)
- He is a Shield (2Sam. 22:3,31; Ps. 3:3; 18:2,30; 28:7; 33:20; 84:11; 115:9-11; 119:114; 144:2)
- He is my Song (Ps. 118:14; Is. 12:2)
- He is the Spirit (**John 4:24**)
- He is my Strength (Ps. 28:7; 31:4; 37:39; 46:1; 118:14; Is. 12:2; Hab. 3:19)
- He is my Stronghold (2Sam. 22:3; Ps. 48:3; 59:16-17; 62:2,6; 94:22; 144:2)
- He is a Sun (Ps. 84:11; Rev. 21:23)
- He is my Support (2Sam. 22:19)
- He is True (Ps. 19:7; **John 3:33**; 1John 5:20; Rev. 19:11)
- He is a Warrior (Ex. 15:3)

## **- God's Word**

- All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness (2Tim. 3:16-17)
  - The Word of God is both living and active and able to judge the intentions of the heart (Heb. 4:12)
- Heaven and earth will pass away, but God's words will not (**Matt. 24:35; Luke 21:33**)
- Man does not live by bread alone (**Luke 4:4**), but everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord (Deut. 8:3; **Matt. 4:4**)
  - Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life (**John 6:27**)
- The words of the Lord are pure words (Ps. 12:6)
- Search the Scriptures and you find that they bear witness to Jesus (**John 5:39**)
- In His Word we have hope (Ps. 130:5)
  - If anyone keeps His Word, they shall never see death (**John 8:51**)

- His Word is a lamp for our feet and a light for our paths (Ps. 119:105)
- His words are a joy and a delight to the heart (Jer. 15:16)
- The more you pay attention to His Word, the more you will understand (Ps. 119:130; **Mark 4:24-25**)
- Blessed are those who hear God's Word and put it into practice (**Luke 11:28**)
- Do not add to God's words, or he may rebuke you, and you will be found a liar (Prov. 30:6; Deut. 4:2; 12:32)

## **- Godly, Wise People**

### **- How God Treats the Godly**

- The Lord has set apart the godly man for Himself (Ps. 4:3)
- God will offer friendship to the godly (Prov. 3:32)
  - His blessing is on the home of the upright (Prov. 3:33, 10:6; 13:21; 14:11; Ex. 23:25; Deut. 28:1-14; Job 8:6; Ps. 5:12)
    - The godly will surely be rewarded (Prov. 11:18; 14:14; 1Sam. 26:23; Ps. 18:20)
    - His blessings will make you rich (Prov. 10:22; Gen. 24:35; 26:12; Deut. 8:18; 2Chr. 17:5)
      - There is treasure in the house of the godly (Prov. 15:6)
      - His blessings contain no sorrow (Prov. 10:22)
  - The godly flourish like leaves in the spring (Prov. 11:28; 2Kings 18:5-7; Ps. 1:3; 92:12; Jer. 17:8)
    - You will prosper in all your ways when the Lord is with you (1Sam. 18:14)
- He will not let the godly starve to death (Prov. 10:3; Ruth 1:1,6; 1Kings 17:12-16; Ps. 37:25; 111:5; Is. 33:16)
  - The godly eat to their heart's content (Prov. 13:25; Ps. 34:10)
  - He will never allow the righteous to be shaken (Ps. 55:22; 112:6)
- He hears the prayers of the righteous (Prov. 15:8,29; Ps. 4:3; 145:18)
- He protects the godly (Prov. 2:7-8; 10:29-30, 11:8; 12:21; 18:10; 1Sam 2:9; 2Sam. 22:2-3; Ps. 7:10; 66:8-9; 84:11)
  - If you listen to Him, you will live securely and not fear evil (Prov. 1:33; Ps. 112:7)
  - When you lie down, you will not be afraid (Prov. 3:24; Ps. 3:5)
  - The godly may trip seven times, but each time they will rise again (Prov. 24:16; Ps. 37:24; Jer. 8:4; Micah 7:8)
  - The godly have a lasting foundation (Prov. 10:9,25; 12:3,7; **Matt. 7:24-25**)
  - The godly will never be disturbed (removed (from earth or country)) (Prov. 10:30)
    - The godly will inherit the earth (Prov. 2:21; Ps. 37:22,29; Jer. 7:5-7)
  - Sometimes the godly will die to save them from evil, for when they die they are at peace (Is. 57:1-2)
- He delights in those with integrity (Prov. 11:20)
  - No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly (Ps. 84:11)
  - The godly walk with integrity (Prov. 20:7)
- He loves those who pursue godliness (Prov. 15:9)

### **- General Characteristics of Godly People**

- The godly are as bold as lions (Prov. 28:1)
- Godly people find life (through righteousness) (Prov. 11:19; 12:28)
- The way of the righteous is light (Prov. 4:18)
  - The life of the godly is full of light and joy (Prov. 13:9)
- The wise are glad to be instructed (Prov. 10:8; 12:15)
- The godly are like trees that bear life-giving fruit (Prov. 11:30; 12:12; Ps. 1:3)
- Good people are guided by their honesty (Prov. 11:3, 5)
- The godly know the rights of the poor (Prov. 29:7)
- Wise people don't make a show of their knowledge (Prov. 12:23; Jer. 9:23)
- The hopes of the godly will all come true (Prov. 10:24; 23:18)
  - They desire only good things (NKJV) (Prov. 11:23)
  - They can look forward to happiness (Prov. 10:28(NLT); 11:23)
  - The godly have a refuge when they die (Prov. 14:32)
    - The path of the wise leads to life above (Prov. 15:24; Phil. 3:20)
- They will behold His face (Ps. 11:7)

### **- The Words of Godly People**

- The godly give good advice (Prov. 10:21, 31-32; 12:26)
  - Though good advice lies deep within a person's heart, the wise will draw it out (Prov. 20:5)
  - The words of the wise bring healing (Prov. 12:18; 18:4)
  - The words of the wise are like goads (they pierce the heart) (Eccl. 12:11)
    - **Scriptural Example: Peter and the Apostles (Acts 2:37)**
  - Words from the mouth of the wise are gracious (Eccl. 10:12)
  - The words of the godly save lives (Prov. 12:6; 14:3)
  - The lips of the wise disperse knowledge (Prov. 15:7; Ps. 37:30)
  - Good people enjoy the positive results (fruit) of their words (Prov. 13:2)
  - Words of true wisdom are as refreshing as a bubbling brook (Prov. 18:4)
- The godly are not trapped by their words (Prov. 12:13)
  - The words of the wise keep them out of trouble (Prov. 14:3)
  - The Lord delights in pure words (Prov. 15:26)

#### **Actions of Godly People**

- Wise people think before they act (act with knowledge) (Prov. 13:16)
  - The godly think before speaking (study how to answer) (Prov. 15:28; 1Pet. 3:15)
- The wise look ahead to see what's coming (Prov. 14:8)
- The wise conquer the city of the strong and level their trusted fortress (Prov. 21:22)
  - A wise man is mightier than a strong man (Prov. 24:5)
  - A man of knowledge is more powerful than a strong man (Prov. 24:5)
- A wise person will seek and acquire knowledge (Prov. 10:14; 18:15)
  - They make learning a joy (NLT) (Prov. 15:2)
- **The Godly vs. the Wicked**
- The godly despise the wicked (Prov. 29:27)
- The righteous will live to see the downfall of the wicked (Prov. 29:16; Ps. 37:34; 58:10-11; 73:17)
- The wise stay calm when insulted (Prov. 12:16)
- A wise slave will rule over the master's shameful sons and share their inheritance (Prov. 17:2)

#### **People's View of the Godly**

- When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice (Prov. 29:2; Esth. 8:15-16)
- The whole city celebrates when the godly succeed (Prov. 11:10; 28:12; 1Sam. 18:6)
  - Upright citizens bless a city and make it prosper (Prov. 11:11)
- People have happy memories of the godly (Prov. 10:7; Ps. 112:6)
- Everyone admires a person with good sense (Prov. 12:8; 13:15; 1Sam. 18:30)

### **- Gossip**

- Gossip goes around revealing secrets (Prov. 11:13; 20:19)
  - You shall not go about as a slanderer (Lev. 19:16)
- Gossip separates the best of friends (Prov. 16:28)
- As surely as a wind from the North brings rain, so a gossiping tongue causes anger (Prov. 25:23)
- Quarrels disappear when gossip stops, just as fire goes out for lack of fuel (Prov. 26:20)
- What dainty morsels rumors are; but they sink deep into one's heart (Prov. 18:8; 26:22)

### **- Government**

- What great nation is there that has a god so near to it as is the Lord our God, whenever we call on Him (Deut. 4:7)
- Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord (Ps. 33:12)
- If we obey God, He will set us above the other nations of the world (Deut. 28:1)
- **Conduct of Nation Leaders**
- \*A few of the Proverbs mention the reign of the king. Since we don't have a king, the President is substituted into the Proverbs that apply to America's leader.
- Godless men should not rule, nor be snares to the people (Job 34:30)
- Without wise leadership, a nation will fall (Prov. 11:14)
- With wise and knowledgeable leaders, there is stability (Prov. 28:2)
- With many counselors there is safety (Prov. 11:14)
  - Don't go to war without the advice of others (Prov. 20:18; 24:6)
  - Victory depends on many counselors (Prov. 24:6)
- Lies are not fitting for the President (a ruler) (Prov. 17:7)
- If the President (a ruler) honors liars, all his advisers will be wicked (Prov. 29:12)
- The President (a king) who demands bribes destroys his nation (Prov. 29:4)

- Only a stupid president (prince) will oppress his people (Prov. 28:16)

- **Conduct of Citizens**

- You shall not curse the President (ruler of your people) (Ex. 22:28)

- Do not curse them even in your own bedroom, because a little bird may carry the sound and make the matter known (Eccl. 10:20)

- You should be subject to rulers, to authorities, to be obedient, to be ready for every good deed, to malign no one, to be uncontentious, gentle, showing every consideration for all men (Rom. 13:1-5; Titus 3:1-2; Heb. 13:17; 1Peter 2:13-15)

- The government topples easily when there is moral rot within a nation (Prov. 28:2)

- Godliness exalts a nation (Prov. 14:34)

- Sin is a disgrace to any people (Prov. 14:34)

- **Grace**

- Through Christ we have received grace (John 1:16-17; Rom. 1:5; 2Cor. 9:8)

- His grace is sufficient for me (2Cor. 12:9)

- And by grace we have been saved (Acts 15:11; Rom. 5:21; Eph. 2:5,8-9)

- We are justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus (Rom. 3:24)

- Where sin increases, grace increases all the more (Rom. 5:20)

- **Greed (Selfishness) (see also: Wants)**

- Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed (Luke 12:15)

- Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind let each of you regard one another as more important than yourself (1Cor. 10:24; Phil. 2:3-4)

- Why? because Christ had this same attitude (Phil. 2:5-8)

- The greedy man curses and spurns the Lord (Ps. 10:3)

- Lazy people are always greedy for more (Prov. 21:26)

- A greedy person tries to get rich quick, but it only leads to poverty (Prov. 28:22)

- Those who are greedy for gain (dishonest money) brings trouble to his house (Prov. 15:27)

- A recluse (one who isolates himself) is self-indulgent (seeks his own desire), snarling at every wise judgment (Prov. 18:1)

- People curse those who holdout for higher prices (Prov. 11:26)

- **Grief**

- Laughter conceals a heavy heart, but when the laughter ends, the grief remains (Prov. 14:13)

- **Guilt**

- The godly acknowledge guilt and seek reconciliation (NLT) (Prov. 14:9)

- Fools make fun of guilt (Prov. 14:9)

- Guilt teaches your mouth the language of the crafty (Job 5:15)

- **Hatred**

- **General**

- You shall not hate your brother (friend, neighbor) (Lev. 19:17-18)

- Hate evil, love good (Amos 5:15)

- **Consequences of Hatred**

- Those who hate the Lord would pretend obedience to Him, but their time of punishment will be forever (Ps. 81:15)

- He repays those who hate Him to their faces, to destroy them; He will not delay (Deut. 7:10)

- Those who hate the righteous will be condemned (Ps. 34:21)

- Hatred stirs up quarrels (Prov. 10:12)

- Harsh words stir up anger (Prov. 15:1)

- People with hatred in their hearts may sound pleasant enough, but don't believe them. Though they pretend to be kind, their hearts are full of all kinds of evil (seven abominations-NASB; see Prov. 6:16-19; Ps. 62:4). While their hatred may be concealed by trickery, it will finally come to light for all to see (Prov. 10:18; 26:24-26; Ps. 41:6)

- **Health (see also: Strength)**

- Good news makes for good health (Prov. 15:30; 25:25)

- The human spirit can endure a sick body (Prov. 18:14)

- **Heart and soul**

- Let your heart therefore be wholly devoted to the Lord our God (1Kings 8:61)

### **- The Lord Knows Your Heart**

- God knows all hearts and keeps watch over your soul (Prov. 24:12; 1Kings 8:39; 2Chr. 6:30; Jer. 20:12; **Luke 16:15**; Acts 15:8; Rev. 2:23)
- The Lord sees your motives clearly and examines your paths (Prov. 5:21; 1Chr. 28:9; Job 14:16; 31:4; 34:21; 1Cor. 4:4)
  - People may think they are doing what is right, but the Lord examines the heart (Prov. 15:11; 16:2; 21:2; 1Sam. 2:3; 1Chr. 28:9; 1Thess. 2:4)
  - The Lord tests the heart just as fire tests the purity of silver (Prov. 17:3; 1Chr. 29:17; Ps. 7:9; 26:2; 66:10; Jer. 11:20; 17:10)
  - The Lord's searchlight penetrates the human spirit, exposing every hidden motive (Prov. 20:27; Job 7:18; Ps. 44:21; 90:8)
  - Sometimes the Lord will test you to see all that is in your heart (2Chr. 32:31)

### **- General Instructions**

- Keep your heart on the right course (Prov. 23:19)
  - Give heed and keep your soul diligently (Deut. 4:9)
- It is good for the heart to be strengthened by grace (Heb. 13:9)
- Meditate in your heart upon your bed, and be still (Ps. 4:4)
- A cheerful look brings joy to the heart (Prov. 15:30)
- No one can discover the height of heaven, the depth of the earth, or all that goes on in the human mind (Prov. 25:3)
  - The inward thought and the heart of a man are deep (Ps. 64:6)
- Each heart knows its own bitterness (Prov. 14:10)

### **- Importance of Keeping a Clean Heart**

- Above all else, guard your heart. It affects every thing you do (Prov. 4:23; **Matt. 12:34; 15:18-19; Luke 6:45**)
- He who has a pure heart shall receive a blessing from the Lord (Ps. 24:4-5; **Matt. 5:8**)
- The heart reflects the person the same as a face is reflected in water (Prov. 27:19; **Matt. 12:35**)
  - A glad heart makes a happy face (Prov. 15:13)
  - A cheerful heart is good medicine (Prov. 17:22)
- Nothing that enters in from the outside can defile you, but the things that come out of you can defile you (**Matt. 15:11; Mark 7:15**)
  - What enters in does not enter the heart, only the stomach (**Mark 7:19**)
  - What comes out of you, comes from the heart (evil thoughts, adultery, sexual immorality, murder, theft, envy, wickedness, deceit, eagerness for lustful pleasure, blasphemy, pride, and foolishness) (**Matt. 15:18-20; Mark 7:20-23**)
- Your own soul is nourished when you are kind (Prov. 11:17)
  - You destroy yourself when you are cruel (Prov. 11:17)
- For the happy heart, life is a continuous feast (Prov. 15:15)
- Wisdom is enshrined in an understanding heart (Prov. 14:33)

### **- Broken Hearts**

- The sacrifice God desires is a broken spirit (Ps. 51:17)
- The Lord is near to the brokenhearted, and saves those who are crushed in spirit (Ps. 34:18)
  - He heals the broken hearted (Ps. 147:3)
  - He comforts the depressed (2Cor. 7:6)
  - He restores the soul (Ps. 23:3)
- A broken heart crushes the spirit (Prov. 15:13; Ps. 109:22)
  - Who can bear it if the spirit is crushed (Prov. 18:14)
  - A broken spirit saps a person's strength (Prov. 17:22; Ps. 69:20)
- A deceitful tongue crushes the spirit (Prov. 15:4)

### **- Evil Hearts**

- The heart of a fool is worthless (Prov. 10:20)
  - The crooked heart will not prosper (Prov. 17:20)
- The backslider in heart will have the fill of his own ways (Prov. 14:14; Ps. 109:17)

### **- General**

- No one else can fully share the joy in your heart (Prov. 14:10)

## **- Holy Spirit**

- Those who believe in Christ receive the Holy Spirit (**John 7:38-39**; Acts 2:38)

- People in the Old Testament were filled with the same Holy Spirit
  - **Scriptural Examples:** Joseph (Gen. 41:38); Bezalel (Ex. 31:3); Moses (Num. 11:17); 70 Elders (Num. 11:25); Eldad and Medad (Num. 11:26); Balaam (Num. 24:2); Joshua (Num. 27:18); Othniel (Judg. 3:10); Gideon (Judg. 6:34); Jephthah (Judg. 11:29); Samson (Judg. 14:6); Saul (1Sam. 10:10); David (1Sam. 16:13); Saul's messengers (1Sam. 19:20); Amasai (1Chr. 18:12); Azariah (2Chr. 15:1); Jahaziel (2Chr. 20:14); Zechariah (2Chr. 24:20); Job (Job 27:3); Jesus (Is. 11:2); Ezekiel (Ezek. 11:5); Micah (Micah 3:8)
- The Lord pours His Spirit on people without measure (Num. 11:17,25-26,29; 24:2; 27:18; Judg. 3:10; 6:34; 11:29; 13:25; 14:6,19; 15:14; 1Sam. 10:6,10; 11:6; 16:13; 19:20,23; 1Chr. 12:18; 2Chr. 15:1; 20:14; 24:20; Ezek. 2:2; 3:24; 11:5; 36:27; 37:14; 39:29; Joel 2:28-29; Luke 1:15,41,67; **John 3:34**; Acts 2:4; 4:31; Titus 3:5-6)
  - The Holy Spirit is our Helper (**John 14:16-17,26; 15:26; 16:7-11**)
  - He gives His Spirit to instruct us (Neh. 9:20; **John 16:13-15**)
  - The Holy Spirit gives us strength (**Acts 1:8**)
  - God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline (2Tim. 1:7)
- The Spirit is abiding in your midst; do not fear (Hag. 2:5)
- Walk by the Spirit, and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh (Gal. 5:16-24)
  - The fruit of the Spirit is: love (**John 3:16**), joy (Ps. 16:11), peace (**John 14:27**), patience (1Tim. 1:16), kindness (Ps. 63:3), goodness (Ps. 31:19), faithfulness (Lam. 3:23-24), gentleness (**Matt. 5:21**), and self-control (Ex. 34:6)(Gal. 5:22-23)

## - Honesty

- What is the Lord's View on Honesty?
- The Lord delights in honesty (Prov. 11:1)
- **The Importance of Honesty**
- It is an honor to receive an honest reply (Prov. 24:26)
  - In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery (Prov. 28:23)
- The honest will inherit good things (Prov. 28:10)
- The honest will be protected from harm (Prov. 28:18)
- Good people are guided by their honesty (Prov. 11:3, 5)
- **General**
- The bloodthirsty hate the honest (Prov. 29:10; 1John 3:12)
- The upright seek out the honest (Prov. 29:10)
- It is better to be poor and honest than to be a fool and dishonest (Prov. 19:1,22)

## - Honor

- **Honoring the Lord**
- A son honors his father, and a slave honors his master. God is your Father and Master, where is the honor He deserves (Mal. 1:6)
- Those who honor God will be honored by God (1Sam. 2:30; **John 16:26**)
  - If you don't honor the Lord, even your blessings will be cursed (1Sam. 2:30; Mal. 2:2)
- How Can You Receive Honor?
- Honor comes from the Lord. It is in His hands to make one great (1Chr. 29:12)
- Humility precedes honor (Prov. 15:33; **Luke 14:10-11**)
- The wise will inherit honor (Prov. 3:35; 1Sam. 18:30; Ps. 112:9; Dan. 12:3)
- **General**
- Honor doesn't go with fools any more than snow with summer or rain with harvest (Prov. 26:1)
- Honoring a fool is as foolish as tying a stone to a slingshot (Prov. 26:8)
- A gracious woman keeps her honor (Prov. 11:16)

## - Hope

- My hope is from Him (Ps. 62:5)
- My hope is in Him (Jer. 14:22; Lam. 3:24)
  - In Jesus' name we have hope (Matt. 12:21; Rom. 15:12)
  - I would have despaired unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the Lord in land of the living (Ps. 27:13)
- In His Word we have hope (Ps. 130:5)
- Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord his God (Ps. 146:5)
- Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful (Heb. 10:23)

### **- Hope of the Godly**

- The integrity of your ways will be your hope (Job 4:6)
- The hopes of the godly will all come true (Prov. 10:24; 23:18; Ps. 145:19; Rom. 5:5; 1John 5:15)
  - They can look forward to happiness (Prov. 10:28, 11:23; Ps. 27:13)
  - The godly have a refuge when they die (Prov. 14:32)
    - Though He slay me, I will hope in Him (Job 13:15)
    - The path of the wise leads to life above (Prov. 15:24; Phil. 3:20)
    - God will wipe tears away from all faces (Is. 25:8)
  - Rejoice in this hope (Rom. 12:12)
- Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1Pet. 3:15)

### **- Hope of the Wicked**

- The fears of the wicked will all come true (Prov. 10:24; Is. 66:4)
  - Their expectations are all in vain (Prov. 10:28; 24:20)
    - They can expect only wrath (Prov. 11:23)
    - When the wicked die, their hopes all perish, for they rely on their own feeble strength (Prov. 11:7; Ps. 112:10)
      - Wickedness never brings stability (Prov. 12:3; 13:15)
      - One calamity is enough to lay the wicked low (Prov. 24:16)

### **- General**

- Hope that is seen is not hope (Rom. 8:24-25)
- Hope deferred make the heart sick (Prov. 13:12)
- When dreams come true, there is life and joy (Prov. 13:12,19)

## **- Humility**

- Cloth yourselves with humility towards one another (1Peter 5:5)
- Do not think more highly of yourself than you ought to think; but think so as to have good judgment, as God has allotted to each a measure of faith (Rom. 12:3)
- **Importance of Being Humble**
- Blessed are the gentle (humble), for they shall inherit the earth (**Matt. 5:5**)
- Whoever humbles himself as a child will be greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven (**Matt. 18:4**)
  - Whoever wishes to become great will be a servant (**Matt. 20:26-28; Mark 9:35; 10:43-45; Luke 9:48**)
- The Lord shows favor (gives grace) to the humble (afflicted) (Prov. 3:34; 1Kings 21:29; 2Chr. 12:6-7; 32:36; 34:27-28; Job 22:29; Ps. 138:6; James 4:6; 1Peter 5:5)
  - Seek humility, perhaps you will be hidden in the day of God's anger (Zeph. 2:3)
- True humility and fear of the Lord leads to riches, honor and long life (Prov. 22:4; Ps. 37:11)
- With humility comes wisdom (Prov. 11:2; Ps. 25:9)
- Humility precedes honor (Prov. 15:33; 18:12; 29:23; Job 5:11; **Matt. 23:12; Luke 1:52; 14:10-11; 18:4; James 4:10; 1Peter 5:6**)
  - **Scriptural Example: Moses (Num. 16:1-7)**
    - Many who are first will be last, and last, first (**Matt. 19:30; 20:16; Mark 10:31; Luke 13:30**)
- The proud will be destroyed, only the humble will be left to take refuge in the Lord (Zeph. 3:11-12)
- **General**
- It is better to live humbly with the poor than to share plunder with the rich (Prov. 16:19)

## **- Husbands (see also men)**

### **- God's Instructions to Husbands**

- Stay with (1Cor. 7:11), and rejoice in your wife (Prov. 5:15, 18-19)
  - Reserve your love for each other (Prov. 5:17)
  - Remain faithful to your wife (Mal. 2:14-16)
  - Why would you share your love with anyone else (Prov. 5:16, 20)
- Love your wives, and do not be embittered against them (Col. 3:19)
  - Love your wives as Christ loves the church; even to die for her as Christ died for you (Eph. 5:25-33)
- Live with your wives in an understanding manner, and grant her honor as a fellow heir of the grace of life (1Peter 3:7)
- Reward your wife for all she has done (Prov. 31:31)
  - Give her happiness (Deut. 24:5)

### - About Your Wife

- The man who finds a wife finds a treasure and receives favor from the Lord (Prov. 18:22)
  - Enjoy life with the woman whom you love, for this is your reward in life (Eccl. 9:9)
  - Compared to other women, she is like a lily among thorns (Song 2:2)
  - There are many capable women in the world, but she surpasses them all (Prov. 31:29)
  - Parents can provide their sons with an inheritance, but only the Lord can provide an understanding wife (Prov. 19:14)
- It is better to live alone in the corner of an attic than with a contentious wife in a lovely home (Prov. 21:9; 25:24)
  - It is better to live alone in the desert than with a crabby, complaining wife (Prov. 21:19)

### - **Idolatry**

- Flee from idolatry (1Cor. 10:14)
- You shall not have any other god's before God (Ex. 20:3-5,23; 23:13,24,32; 34:14,17; Lev. 19:4; 26:1; Deut. 4:15-19; 5:7-9; 6:14; 12:30; 27:15; 2Kings 17:35; Ps. 81:9; Jer. 25:6)
  - Or God will surely be a snare to you (Ex. 23:33; 32:35; Deut. 4:23-24; 8:19; Josh. 23:16; 24:20; Judg. 2:12-14; 1Kings 9:6-9; 14:9-10; Ps. 16:4; 106:36)
- You have a choice of whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord (Josh. 24:15; Micah 4:5)
- Put away you gods and incline your hearts to the Lord (Josh. 24:23)
- What profit is an idol, they are man-made (Hab. 2:18-20)

### - **Instruction**

- Where Can You Receive Instruction?
- You can receive instruction from the Lord (Ps. 25:8; 32:8)
  - His Spirit will instruct you (Neh. 9:20)
- People should go to priests for instruction (Mal. 2:7)
- If You Listen to it...
- Get all the instruction you can, and be wise the rest of your life (Prov. 19:20)
  - The wise are glad to be instructed (Prov. 10:8; 12:15)
  - A wise person learns from instruction (Prov. 19:25; 21:11)
- Those who listen to instruction will prosper (Prov. 16:20)
- If You Do Not Listen to it...
- If you stop listening to instruction, you have turned your back on knowledge (Prov. 19:27)
- General
- Take firm hold of instruction; do not let go (Prov. 4:13)
  - Apply your heart to instruction (Prov. 22:17)
  - Commit yourself to instruction (Prov. 23:12)
- You may reprove your neighbor, but do not incur sin by hating him (Lev. 19:14)
- Instruction is appreciated if it is well presented (Prov. 16:21)

### - **Jealousy**

- You shall not covet you neighbor's house (possessions) (Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21; Gal. 5:26)
- Do not envy violent people (Prov. 3:31; 23:17; 24:1,19; Ps. 37:1)
  - Because the triumphing of the wicked is short (Job 20:5)
- **READ: Ps. 73:3-17**
- Jealousy is a husbands fury (Prov. 6:34; Song 8:6)
- Consequences of Jealousy
- Jealousy rots away your life (Prov. 14:30)
  - For where jealousy exists, there is disorder and every evil thing (James 3:16)
- Who can survive the destructiveness of jealousy? It hurts more than anger and wrath (Prov. 27:4)

### - **Jesus**

- Jesus is the Son of God (Ps. 2:7; Matt 3:17; 8:29; 14:33; 16:16; 17:5; 27:54; Mark 1:1,11; 3:11; 5:7; 9:7; 15:39; Luke 1:32,35; 3:22; 4:41; 8:28; 9:35; **22:70**; John 1:34,49; 3:16-18; **10:36**; 11:27; 20:31; Acts 8:31; 9:20; 13:33; Rom. 1:3-4; 1Cor. 1:9; 2Cor. 1:19; Heb. 1:5; 5:5; 2Peter 1:17)
- Jesus is God (John 1:1-5,9-18; **John 10:30**; Col. 2:9)
- Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us (John 1:14)
- He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8)
- He is full of grace and truth (John 1:14, 16-17)

- He did not come to destroy men's lives but to save them (Luke 9:56; John 3:17; 4:42)
  - He has come to seek and to save that which was lost (Luke 19:10)
  - He is the lamb of God who takes away all our sins (John 1:29)
  - He is, to those who obey Him, the source of eternal life (Heb. 5:9)
  - He came so we may have life, and have it more abundantly (John 10:10)
- Blessed are they who take refuge in the Son (Ps. 2:12)
  - He is with us, even to the end of the age (Matt. 28:20)
- It is He who will save His people from their sins (Matt. 1:21; 9:1-8)
- He died, but yet He is alive! (Rev. 1:18)

### - Joy

- In God's presence is fullness of joy (Ps. 16:11)
- God can give us great joy (Neh. 12:43; Eccl. 2:26)
  - His testimonies are the joy of our hearts (Ps. 119:111)
  - Jesus came and spoke to us that we may have joy, and that our joy may be made full (John 15:7-11)
- Rejoice always (Phil. 4:4; 1Thess. 5:16)
  - Rejoice in all the good things which the Lord has given you (Deut. 26:11)

### - Jumping to conclusions

- What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts (Prov. 18:13)
- Zeal without knowledge is not good (Prov. 19:2)
- A person who moves too quickly may go the wrong way (Prov. 19:2)

### - Knowledge

- Where Can You Receive Knowledge?
- The Lord preserves knowledge (Prov. 22:12; Eccl. 2:26)
- Knowledge of the Lord is better than sacrifices (Hos. 6:6)
- Knowledge comes easily to those with understanding (Prov. 14:6)
  - A wise person is crowned with knowledge (Prov. 14:18)
- Stay away from fools, for you won't find knowledge there (Prov. 14:7)
- General
- Attune your ears to the words of knowledge (Prov. 23:12)
- Wise people treasure knowledge (Prov. 10:14; 18:15)
  - They make learning a joy (Prov. 15:2)
  - The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly (NKJV) (Prov. 15:2)
- BE CAREFUL: Knowledge makes arrogant, but love edifies (1Cor. 8:1)

### - Laziness

- Do not lag behind in diligence, but be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord (Rom. 12:11)
- Characteristics of Lazy People
- Lazy people consider themselves smarter than seven wise counselors (Prov. 26:16)
- Lazy people want much but get little (Prov. 13:4)
  - Lazy people are always greedy for more (Prov. 21:26)
- As a door turns back and forth on its hinges, so a lazy person turns in bed (Prov. 26:14)
- Lazy people are full of excuses saying, "If I go outside, I may be killed" (meet a lion) (Prov. 22:13; 26:13)
- Lazy people don't even cook the game they catch (Prov. 12:27)
- Some people are so lazy that they won't even lift a finger to feed themselves (Prov. 19:24; 26:15)
- Consequences of Laziness
- A lazy person has trouble all through life (Prov. 15:19)
- The desires of the lazy will be their ruin, for their hands refuse to work (Prov. 21:25)
  - Through laziness the rafters sag, and the house leaks (Eccl. 10:18)
- Lazy people are soon poor (Prov. 10:4; Eccl. 11:4)
- A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest - and poverty will pounce on you like a bandit (Prov. 6:10-11; 24:33-34; Eccl. 4:5)
  - If you love sleep, you will end in poverty (Prov. 20:13; 23:21)
    - A lazy person sleeps soundly-and goes hungry (Prov. 19:15; 20:4)
    - Keep your eyes open, and there will be plenty to eat (Prov. 20:13)
  - Playing around brings poverty (Prov. 28:19)

- Mere talk leads to poverty (Prov. 14:23)
- Hasty shortcuts lead to poverty (Prov. 21:6)
- Be lazy and become a slave (Prov. 12:24)
- A youth who sleeps away an opportunity brings shame (Prov. 10:5)
- General Instructions on Laziness
- A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things (Prov. 18:9)
- Only fools idle their time away (Prov. 12:11)
- Lazy people are a pain to their employer (Prov. 10:26)

## - Life

- Who can live except God has ordained it? (Num. 24:23; Job 24:22)
  - God grants us life (Job 10:12; 33:4; Acts 17:25; 1Tim. 6:13)
  - It is the Spirit who gives life (**John 6:63**)
    - Christ's words are spirit and life (**John 6:63**)
- He who wishes to save his life will lose it, but he who loses it for Christ's name's sake will save it (**Matt. 10:39; 16:25; Luke 9:24; John 12:25**)
- The life of any living being is in the blood (Lev. 17:11)
- In life, you have to take the good with the bad (Job 1:21; 2:10; Eccl. 7:14)

## - Love

- Love is the perfect bond of unity (Col. 3:14)
- Let all things be done in love (1Cor. 16:14)
- **God's Love for Us**
- Indeed God loves the people (Deut. 33:3; 2Chr 2:11; **John 3:16; 16:27**; 2Thess. 2:16; 1John 3:1; 4:9-10; Rev. 1:5; 3:9)
  - He demonstrates this love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us (Rom. 5:8; Eph. 2:4-5)
  - His love for us surpasses all knowledge (Eph. 3:19)
- **Our Love for God**
- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might (Deut. 6:5; 10:12; 11:1,13,22; 19:9; 30:6,16; Josh. 22:5; 23:11; Ps. 31:23; **Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:29-34; Luke 10:27**)
  - Sometimes He will test our love for Him (Deut. 13:1-4)
- If you love God, you will keep His commandments (**John 14:15,21,23**)
- Love Between Husband and Wife
- How a man loves a woman is a great mystery (Prov. 30:19)
- **Love for Our Neighbors**
- We love because He first loved us (1John 4:19)
- Love one another as Christ loves us (**John 13:34; 15:12,17**; Eph. 5:2; 1John 3:11,23; 4:7,11,20-21; 2John 5)
  - By this, all men will know we are His disciples (**John 13:35**)
  - Be devoted to one another in brotherly love (Rom. 12:10; 1Peter 1:22)
  - Through love serve one another (Gal. 5:13)
  - If we love one another, God abides in us (1John 4:12)
- Love your neighbor as yourself (Lev. 19:18,34; **Matt. 22:39; Mark 12:31; Luke 10:27**; Rom. 13:9; Gal. 5:14; James 2:8)
  - *Who is our neighbor?* (**Luke 10:29-37**)
  - He who loves his neighbor fulfills the law because each of the commandments (except ones pertaining to God) can be summed up into this one (Rom. 13:8-10)
  - He who loves his brother, there is no cause for stumbling in him (1John 2:10)
  - Also love your enemies (**Matt. 5:43-47**)
  - Show your love to the foreigner among you (Deut. 10:19)
- Godliness leads to love for other Christians (2Peter 1:7)
  - This leads to a genuine love for everyone (2Peter 1:7)
- A bowl of soup with someone you love is better than a steak with someone you hate (Prov. 15:17; 17:1)
- **Characteristics of Love**
- Love is:
  - Patient, kind, not jealous, does not brag, not arrogant, does not act unbecomingly, does not seek its own, not provoked, does not take into account a wrong suffered, does not rejoice in

unrighteousness, rejoices in truth, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, never fails (1Cor. 13:4-8)

- Love makes time seem meaningless (Gen. 29:20)
- Love covers all offenses (Prov. 10:12; 1Peter 4:8)
- There is no fear in perfect love (1John 4:18)
- Love is as strong as death, and its jealousy is as enduring as the grave. Love flashes like fire, the brightest kind of flame. Many waters cannot quench love; neither can rivers drown it. If a man tried to buy love with everything he owned, his offer would be utterly despised (Song 8:6-7)
- Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends (John 15:13)
  - Christ laid down His life for us, we should do the same for our Christian brothers and sisters (1John 3:16)

- **General**

- Let love be without hypocrisy (Rom. 12:9)
- Do not love the world; if you love the world, the love of the Father is not in you (1John 2:15)
- Disregarding another person's faults preserves love (Prov. 17:9)

- **Lying**

- **God's View on Lying**

- God is not a man that He should lie (Num. 23:19; 1Sam. 15:29; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18)
- He knows false men (Job 11:11)
- Lying lips are an abomination to the Lord (Prov. 12:22)
  - The Lord is a ready witness against liars (Mal. 3:5)
  - He will punish them (liars) (Prov. 19:5,9; Ps. 5:6)
  - And do not love perjury, for God hates it (Zech. 8:17)
- Do not add to God's words (Deut. 4:2; Rev. 22:19), or he may rebuke you, and you will be found a liar (Prov. 30:6)
- Those who are godly hate lies (Prov. 13:5; 30:7-8)

- **General Instructions**

- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (Ex. 20:16; 23:1; Deut. 5:20)
  - A false witness tells lies (Prov. 12:17; 14:5,25)
  - A corrupt witness makes a mockery of justice (Prov. 19:28)
  - A false witness will not go unpunished (Prov. 19:5,9; 21:28; Lev. 6:3-5; Deut. 19:16-19)
- Nor shall you join a wicked man to be a malicious witness (Ex. 23:2)
- You shall not lie to one another (Lev. 19:11; Col. 3:9)
  - A lying tongue hates its victims (Prov. 26:28)
  - Telling lies about others is as harmful as hitting them with an axe, killing them with a sword, or shooting them with a sharp arrow (Prov. 25:18)
- Stop lying and tell your neighbor the truth, because we belong to each other (Zech. 8:16; Eph. 4:25)

- **General**

- Satan is the father of lies (John 8:44)
- Those who speak lies go astray from birth (Ps. 58:3)
- Lies are soon exposed (Prov. 12:19)
  - The mouths of those who speak lies will be stopped (Ps. 63:11)
- To hide hatred is to be a liar (Prov. 10:18; 26:24)
  - To lie is to be a fool (Prov. 10:18)
- The twisted tongue tumbles into trouble (Prov. 17:20)
- The buyer haggles over the price saying, "it's worthless," then brags about getting a bargain (Prov. 20:14)

- **Marriage**

- **God's Holy Plan of Marriage**

- God's plan from the beginning was for a man to leave his parents and be joined to his wife (Gen. 2:24; Matt. 19:4-5; Mark 10:6-8; Eph. 5:31)
  - What God has joined together, let no man separate (Matt. 19:6; Mark 10:8-9)
- You are made one with each other in body and spirit (Gen. 2:24; Mal. 2:15; Matt. 19:5)
  - The Purpose for the joining is to produce godly offspring (Mal. 2:15)
- Let marriage be held in honor among all (Heb. 13:4)
- Marriage is to be held above all other duties (Deut. 24:5)
- **Instructions in Marriage**

- Remain faithful to each other to death (Ruth 1:16-17; Mal. 2:15-16)
  - God will not pay attention to your offerings if you are unfaithful to each other (Mal. 2:13-14)
- Do not be married to an unbeliever (2Cor. 6:14-18)
  - If you are though, stay with them that they may be positively influenced by you (1Cor. 7:12-16)

#### - **Sex After Marriage**

- Let the marriage bed be undefiled (Heb. 13:4)
- Do not deprive each other of sex, lest Satan tempt you with someone else (1Cor. 7:3-5)

#### - **Engagement**

- It is important to God that, once a couple is engaged, they are to get married (Deut. 20:7)
- It is considered adultery to sleep with an engaged person (Deut. 22:23-24)

### - **Men**

- God created man in His image (Gen. 1:26-27; 5:1; 9:6)
- The Lord has sought out for Himself a man after His own heart (1Sam. 13:14)
- **God's Instructions for Men**
- And you shall be holy men to God (Ex. 22:31)
- Young men should be sensible; in all things show yourself to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach, in order that the opponent may be put to shame, having nothing bad to say about you (Titus 2:6-8)
- Walk in the way of good men, and keep to the paths of righteousness (Prov. 2:20; Heb. 6:12)

### - **Money**

- The rich and the poor have this in common: The Lord made them both (Prov. 22:2; 1Sam. 2:7; Job 34:19)
- Some who are poor pretend to be rich; others who are rich pretend to be poor (Prov. 13:7)
- **Interest**
- Do not charge interest to your brothers (Deut. 23:19-20; Neh. 5:7; Ps. 15:5)
- If you lend money to the poor, do not charge interest (Ex. 22:25; Lev. 25:36-37)
- A person who makes money by charging interest will lose it (Prov. 28:8; Neh. 5:7-13)
  - It will end up in the hands of someone who is kind to the poor (Prov. 28:8)
- **Loans**
- Do not turn away from him who wants to borrow from you (**Matt. 5:42**)
  - It will be well for the one who is gracious and lends (Ps. 112:5)
  - If you loan and do not expect anything in return, your reward will be great (**Luke 6:35**)
- Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender (Prov. 22:7)
- If you co-sign a loan, or guarantee the debt of a stranger - if you've trapped yourself by an agreement and are caught by what you said; get out of it if you possibly can (Prov. 6:1-3, 11:15; 22:26-27)
  - Be sure to get collateral from anyone who guarantees the debt of a stranger (Prov. 20:16; 27:13)
    - Give it back if it's all he has, though (Ex. 22:26-27)
  - Swallow your pride, and beg to have your name erased (Prov. 6:3)
  - Don't put it off, do it now, save yourself (Prov. 6:4-5)
  - It is better to refuse than to suffer later (Prov. 11:15)
  - If you can't pay the loan, even your bed will be snatched away from you (Prov. 22:27; Ps. 109:11; Hab. 2:7)
- It is poor judgment to co-sign a friend's note, or to become responsible for a neighbor's debt (Prov. 17:18)
- The wicked borrows and does not pay back (Ps. 37:21)
  - Woe to him who makes himself rich with loans (Hab. 2:6)
- **Where Does the Money Come From?**
- God gives us the power to make wealth, it doesn't come from our own work (Deut. 8:17-18; 1Chr. 29:12; Hos. 12:8-9)
- We should ask God for just enough money to satisfy our needs (Prov. 30:7-8)
  - If we have too much he may get proud and say, "Who is the Lord?" (Prov. 30:9; 2Chr. 26:16)
    - Whoever does this shall surely perish (Deut. 8:12-19)
  - If we have too little, we may steal and insult God's Holy name (Prov. 30:9)
- **What Should You Do With Your Money?**
- Honor the Lord with your wealth (Prov. 3:9)
  - Then you will be blessed greatly (Prov. 3:10)
    - The reward of the godly will last (Prov. 11:18)
  - The earnings of the godly enhance their lives (Prov. 10:16)

- The wise have wealth and luxury (Prov. 21:20)
  - But do not let this lead to pride (Ezek. 28:3-10; 16-17)
- Why should you spend your money on what is not food and what does not satisfy (Is. 55:2)
- **Dishonest Money**
- Wealth gained from dishonesty quickly disappears (Prov. 10:2; 13:11; 21:6; Job 20:18-19; Jer. 17:11)
  - People who want to get rich quick will only get into trouble (Prov. 20:21; 21:5; 28:20,22; 2Kings 5:20-27)
- A person who gets ahead by showering gifts on the rich will end in poverty (Prov. 22:16)
- Dishonest money brings grief to the whole family (Prov. 15:27; Hab. 2:9-11)
  - **Scriptural Example: Gehazi (2Kings 5:20-27)**
- Those who hate bribes will live (Prov. 15:27)
- **The Love of Money**
- Let your character be free from the love of money, being content with what you have (Heb. 13:5)
- The love of money is the root of all sorts of evil (1Tim. 6:10)
- You cannot serve two masters; God and money (**Matt. 6:19-24; Luke 16:13**)
- He who loves money will not be satisfied with money (Eccl. 5:10)
- Don't weary yourself by trying to get rich (Prov. 23:4)
  - Those who desire to be rich fall to temptation (1Tim. 6:9-10)
  - The lure of wealth can prevent us from bearing fruit (being good witnesses) (**Matt. 13:22; Mark 4:19; Luke 8:14**)
  - Riches can disappear as though they had the wings of a bird (Prov. 23:5; 27:24; Job 20:15; James 5:1-3)
  - Don't lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, but rather treasures in heaven (**Matt. 6:19-20; Luke 12:16-21; 1Tim. 6:19**)
    - Wherever your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matt. 6:21; Luke 12:34)
    - When you die, you can't take it with you anyway (Ps. 49:17; Eccl. 5:15)
- Trust in your money and down you go (Prov. 11:28; Ps. 52:5-7; Ezek. 28:5-8)
- Riches won't help you on the day of judgment (Prov. 11:4; Ps. 49:16,19; Ezek. 7:19; Zeph. 1:18)
- If riches increase, do not set your heart upon them (Ps. 62:10; 1Tim. 6:17)
  - **Scriptural Example: Tyre (Ezek. 28:5-8)**
  - Violent men hang on to their riches (Prov. 11:16)
    - Instead, be rich in good works; be generous and ready to share (1Tim. 6:18)
- It is better to be poor and godly, than rich and dishonest (Prov. 15:16; 16:8; 19:1; 28:6; Ps. 37:16)
- **General**
- The rich can pay a ransom, but the poor won't even get threatened (Prov. 13:8)
- The wealth of the rich is their fortress (Prov. 10:15)
  - The rich think of their wealth as an impregnable defense; a high wall of safety (Prov. 18:11; Rev. 3:17)
  - The rich picture themselves as wise, but their real poverty is evident to the poor (Prov. 28:11)
    - The full stomach of the rich man does not allow him to sleep (Eccl. 5:12)
  - The rich have many "friends" (Prov. 14:20; 19:4)
    - Everyone is the "friend" of a person who gives gifts (Prov. 19:6)
    - Many beg favors from a prince (Prov. 19:6)
  - It is easier for a camel to walk through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to get into heaven (**Matt. 19:23-24; Mark 10:23-25; Luke 18:25**)
    - Woe to you who are rich... you are receiving your comfort in full (Luke 6:24)
- The poverty of the poor is their calamity (Prov. 10:15)
  - A wicked ruler is as dangerous to the poor as a lion or a bear (Prov. 28:15)
  - For the poor, every day brings trouble (Prov. 15:15)
  - The poor are despised even by their friends (Prov. 14:20; 19:4,7)
    - The poor call after them, but they are gone (Prov. 19:7)
  - Even the relatives of the poor may despise them (Prov. 19:7)
  - The poor person's farm may produce much food, but injustice sweeps it all away (Prov. 13:23)
  - The poor plead for mercy, but the rich answer with insults (Prov. 18:23)
- **but...**
  - Blessed are the poor, for they shall inherit the Kingdom of God (**Luke 6:20-21**)
- Develop your business first before building your house (Prov. 24:27; 27:23-27)

- Wealth from hard work grows (Prov. 13:11)
- Wealth is a crown for the wise (Prov. 14:24)
- Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren (Prov. 13:22)
- Fools spend whatever they get (Prov. 21:20)
  - The earnings of the wicked bring trouble (Prov. 15:6)
  - If you hang around with prostitutes, your wealth will be wasted (Prov. 6:26; 29:3)
- The sinner's wealth passes to the godly (Prov. 13:22; Job 27:16-17; Eccl. 2:26)

## - Murder

- You shall not commit murder (Ex. 20:13; Deut. 5:17)
- The Lord abhors the man of bloodshed (2Kings 24:3-4; Ps. 5:6)
- **Death Penalty**
- Whoever shed's man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed (Gen. 9:6; Ex. 21:12,14; Lev. 24:17,21; Num. 35:16-21,30-31,33; Deut. 19:11-13,21; Judg. 9:53-56; 2Sam. 2:16; 1Kings 2:31-34)
  - A man of bloodshed will only live out half his days (Ps. 55:23)
- **General**
- It is not God's will that unintentional murderers be put to death (Num. 35:11-12,15,22-25; Deut. 19:4-6)
- Don't protect murderers (Prov. 28:17)

## - Obedience

- **If You Obey...**
- Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice (1Sam. 15:22; Hos. 6:6)
- If you obey the Lord, He will be an enemy to your enemies (Ex. 23:22)
  - He will show us His lovingkindness and His blessings (Deut. 7:11-15; 11:26-28; 28:1-14; Is. 1:19)
- **If You Disobey...**
- Those who hate the Lord would pretend obedience to Him, but their time of punishment will be forever (Ps. 81:15)
- Rebellion is as the sin of divination (1Sam. 15:23)
- Disobedience to God brings about punishment (1Kings 11:1-11; 13:11-24; Is. 1:19; Jonah 1(all))
  - *Scriptural Example: Israel* (2Kings 18:11-12)
- If you depart from God's ways, He will curse you (Deut. 11:26-28; 27:26; 28:15-68; 30:17-18; Is. 5:24-25; Mal. 2:8-9)

## - Parents

- Behold, children are a gift of God (Ps. 127:3-5)
- **Parent's Responsibilities to God**
- **Parent's Responsibilities to Their Children**
- If your children ask you about God's commandments, be ready to answer their questions (Deut. 6:20-21)
  - It is important to teach them all that God has done in your life (Deut. 4:9-10)
- Teach your children to choose the right path (Eph. 6:4), and when they are older, they will remain upon it (Prov. 22:6)
- Children need to be taught to fear the Lord, and to know His law (Deut. 4:9; 31:12-13; Ps. 78:5)
- Do not exasperate your children, that they may not lose heart (Col. 3:21)
- **When Should You Teach Your Children ?**
- When they sit at home, talk to them (Deut. 6:7; 11:19)
- Wherever they walk, your counsel will lead them (Prov. 6:22; Deut. 6:7; 11:19)
- When they sleep, you will protect them (Prov. 6:22; Deut. 6:7; 11:19)
- When they wake up, you will advise them (Prov. 6:22; Deut. 6:7; 11:19)
- Parents are the pride of their children (Prov. 17:6)
- **Disciplining Your Children**
- If you refuse to discipline your children, it proves you don't love them (Prov. 13:24)
  - A parent is disgraced by an undisciplined child (Prov. 29:15)
  - Failing to punish you children means that you honor them over God (1Sam. 2:29)
    - He who honors his children over God is not worthy of God (**Matt. 10:37**)
  - Parents will be punished for not punishing their children (1Sam. 3:12-13)
- To discipline and reprimand a child produces wisdom (Prov. 29:15)
  - If you love them, you will be prompt to discipline them (Prov. 13:24)
  - Discipline your children (Eph. 6:4) and they will give you happiness and peace of mind (Prov. 29:17)

- Don't fail to correct your children; they won't die if you spank them (Prov. 23:13)
- Physical punishment may well save them from death (Prov. 23:14)
- For a servant (child), mere words are not good enough-discipline is needed (Prov. 29:19)
  - Though the words are understood, they are not heeded (Prov. 29:19; 1Sam. 2:22-25)

#### - **Spoiling Your Children**

- A servant who is pampered from childhood will later become a rebel (Prov. 29:21)

#### - **General**

- A wise child brings joy to its parents (Prov. 10:1; 15:20; 23:15,24; 27:11)
  - There is no greater joy than to see your children walking in the Truth (3John 4)
- A foolish child brings grief to its parents (Prov. 10:1; 15:20; 17:21,25; 19:13)
- **Grandchildren: (Ps. 128:6)**
- Grandchildren are the crowning glory of the aged (Prov. 17:6)
  - [Scriptural Example: Jacob \(Gen. 48:11-20\)](#)
- Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren (Prov. 13:22; Ezra 9:12)

### - **Patience**

- No one who waits for the Lord will be ashamed (Ps. 25:3; Is. 49:23; Lam. 3:25-26; Zeph. 3:8-13)
  - If you wait for the Lord, He will hear your cry (Ps. 40:1)
  - So, wait for the Lord (Hos. 12:6). Be strong and take courage (Ps. 27:14; 37:7,34)
  - You have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised (Heb. 10:36)
- Be patient with all men (1Thess. 5:14)
- The testing of your faith produces endurance (James 1:2-3)
  - Patient endurance leads to godliness (James 1:4; 2Peter 1:6)
- It is better to be patient than powerful (Prov. 16:32; Eccl. 7:8)
- Patience can persuade a prince (Prov. 25:15)

### - **Peace**

- God is not a God of confusion, but of peace (1Cor. 14:33)
  - Christ Himself is our peace (Eph. 2:14)
- The peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus (Phil. 4:7)
  - Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, and be thankful (Col. 3:15)
- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God (**Matt. 5:9**)
  - The seed whose fruit is righteousness is sown in peace by those who make peace (James 3:18)
- Seek peace and pursue it (Ps. 34:14; Rom. 14:19)
  - Live in peace with one another (1Thess. 5:13; Heb. 12:14)
  - Pray for peace (Ps. 122:6-8)
- The Lord will give peace to His people (Ps. 29:11; **John 14:27**)
  - Having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:1)
- The man of peace will have posterity (Ps. 37:37)
- A dry crust eaten in peace is better than a great feast with strife (Prov. 17:1)
- There is no peace for the wicked (Is. 48:22)

### - **Physical appearance (The Body)**

- Present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God (Rom. 12:1)
  - Your body is not your own, but a temple of the Holy Spirit (1Cor. 6:19)
- A beautiful woman without discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout (Prov. 11:22)
- People judge by outward appearance, the Lord looks at their heart (1Sam. 16:7)
- Loyalty makes a person attractive (Prov. 19:22)
- Ears to hear and eyes to see-both are gifts from the Lord (Prov. 20:12; Ex. 4:11)

### - **Planning for the future**

- In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight (Prov. 3:6; Is. 30:21; Jer. 42:2-3)
- We can make our plans, but the Lord determines our steps (Prov. 3:6; 16:1,9; 19:21; Ps. 37:23; Jer. 10:23)
  - We may throw the dice, but the Lord determines where they fall (Prov. 16:33)
  - How can we understand the road we travel? It is the Lord who directs our steps (Prov. 20:24;

Philem. 10-16)

- The Lord will guide us until death (Ps. 48:14)
- There is a path before each person that seems right, but it ends in death (Prov. 14:12; 16:25)
- **The Path of the Godly**
- The path of the righteous is like the light of dawn that shines brighter and brighter until the full day (Prov. 4:18; Job 17:9; **Matt. 5:14**; Phil. 2:15)
- The path of the wise leads to life above (Prov. 15:24)
- The plans (thoughts) of the godly are just (Prov. 12:5)
- The wise look ahead to see what's coming (Prov. 14:8)
  - A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions (Prov. 14:15-16; 21:29; 22:3; 27:12)
- The path of the upright leads away from evil (Prov. 16:17)
  - Whoever follows it is safe (Prov. 16:17)
  - The path of the upright is easy (free of trouble)(Prov. 15:19)
- **Importance of Good Planning**
- Narrow is the gate that leads to life, take it! (**Matt. 7:13-14**)
- If you plan good, you will be granted unfailing love and faithfulness (Prov. 14:22)
- Don't lose sight of good planning and insight (Prov. 3:21, 7:4)
  - Look straight ahead and stay on that safe path. Don't get sidetracked (Prov. 4:25-27; Deut. 5:32; Job 23:11; Heb. 12:13)
    - A sensible person stays on the right path (Prov. 15:21)
    - They fill you with life and bring you honor and respect (Prov. 3:22)
- Good planning leads to prosperity (Prov. 21:5)
- **The Path of the Wicked**
- The path of the wicked leads to destruction (Job 8:11-13; Ps. 1:6)
- Those who take the wrong path despise the Lord (Prov. 14:2)
  - Whoever abandons the right path will be severely punished (Prov. 15:10; Num. 14:42-45)
- The transgressor will stumble in the ways of the Lord (Hos. 14:9)
- Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained (Prov. 29:18; Ezek. 13:9-10)
  - The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences (Prov. 22:3; 27:12)
- **General**
- Plans go wrong for lack of advice (Prov. 15:22)
  - Plans succeed through good counsel (Prov. 20:18)
- **Pleasure**
- There is a proper time and procedure for every delight, when a man's trouble is heavy upon him (Eccl. 8:6)
- In God's right hand are pleasures forever (Ps. 16:11)
  - Who can have enjoyment without Him (Eccl. 2:25)
- Luxury is not the way to riches (Prov. 21:17)
  - Those who love pleasure become poor (Prov. 21:17)
- When dining with a ruler, pay attention to what is put in front of you. Don't crave the delicacies because deception may be involved (Prov. 23:1-3)
- **Popularity**
- Don't push for a place in the presence of the great. It is better to wait for an invitation than to be sent to the end of the line publicly disgraced (Prov. 25:6-7; **Luke 14:7-11**)
- Woe to you when all men speak well of you (**Luke 6:26**)
- **Possessions**
- What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his soul (**Matt. 16:26; Mark 8:36-37; Luke 9:25**)
- All of our possessions belong to God (Lev. 25:23)
  - The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away (Job 1:21)
- When the Lord is with us, we do not lack a thing (Deut. 2:7)
- It is better to be a nobody with a servant, than self-important with no food (Prov. 12:9)
- The godly are concerned with the welfare of their animals (Prov. 12:10; 27:23; Deut. 25:4)
- People can get many good things by the words they say (Prov. 12:14; 13:2; 15:23; 18:20)
- **Praise**

- The Lord is Worthy to be praised (Ps. 18:3)
- This is the day that the Lord has made, rejoice and be glad in it (Ps. 118:24)
- Sing praise to the Lord, you His godly ones (Ps. 30:4; Is. 12:5)
- Exalted be the God of my salvation (Ps. 18:46)

## - Prayer

- In the days of Enosh (grandson of Adam), people first started to pray (Gen. 4:26)
- The effective prayer of a righteous man can accomplish much (James 5:16)
- Devote yourselves to prayer (Rom. 12:12), keeping alert in it with an attitude of thanksgiving (Col. 4:2)
- Prayer comes from the heart, not the mouth (1Sam. 1:12-15)
- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God (Phil. 4:6)
- Pray without ceasing (1Thess. 5:17)
- Jesus often went out alone to pray (Mark 1:35; 6:46; Luke 5:16)
- How Should I Pray?
- **Do Not**
- Don't pray to be seen, or to impress other people (Matt. 6:5)
- Don't use meaningless repetition (Matt. 6:7)
- **Do**
- Rather pray in your room in secret, for God, who sees in secret will repay you (Matt. 6:6)
- Pray with the idea that God will answer it (Ps. 17:6; 1John 5:14)
  - Ask God for anything in Jesus' name and He will give it to you (Matt. 7:7-11; 21:22; Luke 11:9-10; John 14:13-14; 15:7,16; 16:23)
  - Persistence is the key (Luke 11:5-8; 18:1-8)
- Pray for God's will not your own (Matt. 26:39,42; Luke 22:42)
- Pray that you don't fall to temptation (Matt. 26:41; Mark 14:38; Luke 22:40,46)
- Prayers of the Wicked
- The prayers of a person who ignore the law are despised (Prov. 28:9; Ps. 66:18; Job 35:13; Ps. 109:7; sim. Prov. 15:8)

## - Pride

- Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord (Ps. 20:7; 34:2; Jer. 9:24; 1Cor. 1:31; 2Cor. 10:17)
- What is the Lord's View on Pride?
- The Lord despises pride (Prov. 16:5)
  - Boast no more (Ps. 75:4-5), for the Lord weighs all actions (1Sam. 2:3)
  - No one who has a haughty look and an arrogant heart will be tolerated by God (Ps. 101:5)
    - He will rebuke the arrogant (Ps. 119:21)
  - Be assured that the proud will be punished (Prov. 16:5; Ps. 5:5; Is. 3:16-17; 5:15; 10:12; 13:11; Hos. 13:6-8)
    - Haughty eyes are made low by God (Ps. 18:27; Dan. 4:36)
  - The Lord destroys the house of the proud (Prov. 15:25; Lev. 26:19; 2Chr. 32:25; Ezek. 16:50)
    - A man in his pomp will perish (Ps. 49:12,20)
- Haughty eyes, and a proud heart are sin (Prov. 21:4)
- Consequences of Pride
- Pride leads to disgrace (Prov. 11:2; 16:18; 17:19; 18:12; 29:23; 2Kings 14:10-12; Jer. 48:7; Zeph. 2:8-10; Matt. 23:12; Luke 14:11; 18:14)
  - The pride of a man will be humbled (Is. 2:11-17)
    - Scriptural Example: King Amaziah (2Kings 14:8-14)
- Pride leads to arguments (Prov. 13:10; 28:25)
- General Characteristics of Pride
- A description of the proud (Prov. 30:11-14; Ps. 10:3-11)
  - They curse their parents (Prov. 30:11)
    - Punishment...(Ex. 21:17)
  - They feel pure, but they are filthy (Prov. 30:12)
    - Punishment...(Luke:18:10-14)
  - They are proud beyond description and disdainful (Prov. 30:13)
    - Punishment...(Prov. 11:2; 16:18; 17:19; 18:12; 29:23)
  - They devour the poor and destroy the needy (Prov. 30:14)
    - Punishment...(Amos 8:4-10)

- Their soul is not right within them (Hab. 2:4)
- Mockers are proud and haughty; they act with boundless arrogance (Prov. 21:24)
- **General Instructions on Pride**
- What is man that he should be esteemed? (Is. 2:22)
  - Let no one boast in man (1Cor. 3:21)
- A person is tested by being praised (Prov. 27:21)
  - Beware, when things are going well, not to forget the Lord (Deut. 8:11-14)
- Do not be haughty (Jer. 13:15)
- Wisdom hates pride and arrogance (Prov. 8:13)
- Don't be wise in your own eyes (Prov. 3:7; Is. 5:21; Rom 12:16)
  - Do not depend on your own understanding (Prov. 3:5)
  - There is more hope for fools than for those who think they are wise (Prov. 26:12)
  - Don't boast in your wisdom (Jer. 9:23)
- Don't brag about tomorrow (Is. 56:12), since you don't know what the day will bring (Prov. 27:1; James 4:13-16)
- Just as it is not good to eat too much honey (Prov. 25:16), it is not good for people to think of all the honors they deserve (Prov. 25:27)
  - Don't praise yourself; let others do it (Prov. 27:2; Ps. 49:18-19)
    - For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends (2Cor. 10:18)
- If you have been a fool by being proud or plotting evil, cover your mouth with your hand in shame (Prov. 30:32; Job 21:5; Micah 3:7; 7:16)

#### - Promises

- It is dangerous to make a rash promise to God before counting the cost (Prov. 20:25; Deut. 23:21-23; Judg. 11:30-35; Eccl. 5:2; **Matt. 5:33**)
  - You are obligated to carry out these promises to God (Num. 30:2; Ps. 76:11; Eccl. 5:4)
  - You're better off not making any vows to God (Deut. 23:22; Eccl. 5:5; **Matt. 5:33-35**; James 5:12)
- Cursed is the cheat who promises a healthy sacrifice, but offers a defective one (Mal. 1:14)
- A person who doesn't give a promised gift is like clouds and wind that don't bring rain (Prov. 25:14)

#### - Rape

- Rape is a serious crime in God's eyes; comparable to murder (Deut. 22:25-29; 2Sam. 13:1-29)

#### - Rebuke

- It is better to listen to the rebuke of a wise man than the song of fools (Eccl. 7:5)
- **Rebuking the Wise**
- If you rebuke the wise they will love you all the more (Prov. 9:8; Ps. 141:5)
  - Teach the wise and they will be wiser (Prov. 9:9)
  - Teach the righteous and they will learn more (Prov. 9:9)
  - A single rebuke does more for a person with understanding than a hundred lashes on the back of a fool (Prov. 17:10)
    - If you reprove the wise, they will be all the wiser (Prov. 19:25)
- An open rebuke is better than hidden love (Prov. 27:5; 28:23)
- **Rebuking the Wicked**
- Don't rebuke the wicked, they will only hate you (Prov. 9:8; 15:12; Amos 5:10; **Matt. 7:6**)
  - Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get a smart retort (Prov. 9:7)
    - A quick retort can ruin everything (Prov. 13:3)
  - Anyone who rebukes the wicked will get hurt (Prov. 9:7)
  - Leave the rebuking to God (Jude 9)

#### - Reputation

- A good reputation is better than riches (Prov. 22:1; Eccl. 7:1)

#### - Revenge

- Don't say, "I will get even for this wrong." (Lev. 19:18) Wait for the Lord to handle the matter (Prov. 20:22; Rom. 12:19)
  - Don't even hold a grudge against the person (Lev. 19:18)
- Don't get your neighbor back by testifying spitefully against him (Prov. 24:28-29)
- Do not rejoice when your enemies fall into trouble (Prov. 24:17)

- For the Lord will be displeased with you and turn His anger away from them (Prov. 24:18)

### **- Right living (godliness) (Rom. 12:9-21)**

- And you shall do what is right and good in the sight of the Lord (Deut. 6:18)

- Whatever you do, do all to the glory of God (1Cor. 10:31; 15:58)

- Christ died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf (2Cor. 5:15)

- To him who orders his ways aright I shall show the salvation of God (Ps. 50:23)

#### **- Right Living According to God**

- This will be righteousness for us... if we are careful to observe all the commandments before the Lord our God (Deut 6:25)

- The Lord requires us: to fear the Lord; to walk in all His ways; to love Him; to cling to Him; and to serve Him with all our heart and soul (Deut. 5:33; 10:12; 11:22; 13:4; 19:9; 30:16; Josh. 22:5; 23:8; 24:14; 1Sam. 12:24)

- He also requires us to: do justice, love kindness, and to walk humbly before Him (Micah 6:8)

- And to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith love, perseverance, and gentleness (1Tim. 6:11; 2Tim. 2:22)

- Practice these things: whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, anything of excellence, and anything worthy of praise (Phil. 4:8-9; 2Peter 1:5-10)

- It will be righteousness for us if we follow His commandments (Deut. 6:25)

- For we were created for good works (Eph. 1:4; 2:10)

- Abstain from every form of evil (1Thess. 5:22)

- Abhor what is evil (Rom. 12:9)

- We are to seek the Lord continually (1Chr. 16:11; 22:19; Ps. 105:4; Is. 55:6; Hos. 10:12; Amos 5:4,6; Zeph. 2:3; Zech. 8:21)

- Let us press on to know the Lord (Hos. 6:3)

- If you seek Him, He will let you find Him (2Chr. 15:2; Jer. 29:13)

- The Lord's hand is favorably disposed on those who seek Him (2Chr. 31:21; Ezra 8:22; **Luke 12:31**)

- Though we may not be pure and clean, if we seek God with all our hearts, He will cleanse us (2Chr. 30:18-20)

- We are to walk before God and be blameless (Gen. 17:1; Deut. 18:13; 2Peter 3:14; sim. Gen. 6:9), even perfect (**Matt. 5:48**)

- To be blameless means that people can't find any dirt on you (Dan. 6:4; **Matt. 26:59-60; Mark 14:55-59**)

- He shows lovingkindness to those who walk before Him with all their heart (2Chr. 6:14)

- The righteous will walk in the ways of the Lord (Ps. 119:3; Hos. 14:9)

- We are to be holy-for the Lord is holy (Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; 20:7,26; Num. 15:40; 1Pet. 1:15-16)

- Dedicate yourselves today to the Lord in order that He may bestow a blessing upon you (Ex. 32:29)

- Whoever pursues godliness and unfailing love will find life, godliness, and honor (Prov. 21:21; Amos 5:14; **Matt. 5:6**)

- Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding (Num. 15:39; Deut. 12:8; Judg. 17:6; 21:25). In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight (Prov. 3:5-6)

- When Jesus comes back, let Him find you practicing these things (**Matt. 24:45-51**)

- Be on the alert (**Mark 13:33-37; Luke 12:35-40**)

- Do not follow the ways of the wicked (Prov. 3:31, 4:14-15; Ex. 23:2; Num. 16:26; Deut. 18:9; Ps. 1:1) **BUT...**

- Do not practice righteousness to be seen (**Matt. 6:1**)

**AND...**

- If you know the right thing to do and don't do it, it is a sin (James 4:17)

- Therefore, don't just do what is right in your own eyes (Deut. 12:8)

#### **- Benefits of Right Living**

- God will not reject a man of integrity (Job 8:20)

- Right living is a safeguard against death (Prov. 10:2, 11:4; Gen. 7:1; Ps. 37:18; Dan. 3:15-30)

- The Lord will repay each man for his righteousness and his faithfulness (Prov. 11:18; 1Sam. 26:23; 2Chr. 6:23; Ps. 62:12; Is. 3:10; Hos. 10:12)

- The godliness of good people rescues them (Prov. 11:6; 13:6)
- If you search for good, you will find favor (Prov. 11:27)
  - The Lord approves of those who are good (Prov. 12:2; Gen. 4:7)
- The Lord is more pleased when we do what is right than when we give Him sacrifices (Prov. 21:3; ISam. 15:22; Ps. 40:6-8; 51:16-17; Jer. 7:22-23)
  - He desires compassion and not sacrifice (Hos. 6:6; **Matt. 9:13; 12:7**)
- When your ways please the Lord, He makes even your enemies live at peace with you (Prov. 16:7; Lev. 26:3,6; 2Sam. 7:1; 2Chr. 14:2-6; 15:15; Dan 1:9)
- Better is a little with righteousness than much with the wicked (Prov. 16:8; Ps. 37:16)
- **READ: Ps. 15 for instructions on right living.**
  - **BUT...**
- Do not be excessively righteous and wise; why ruin yourself (Eccl. 7:16)
- **Be Prepared**
- You will be hated on the account of Christ (1John 3:13), but the one who endures will be saved (**Matt. 10:22; 1Peter 2:20**)
  - If the world hates you, know that it is just because the world hates Jesus (**John 15:18-19**)
- Many are the afflictions of the righteous (**John 15:20; Acts 14:22**), but the Lord will deliver him from all of them (Ps. 34:19; 2Cor. 4:8-12; 2Tim. 3:11-12)
  - To us it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake (Phil. 1:29)
  - Tribulation leads to perseverance which leads to proven character which leads to hope which is from God and will not disappoint (Rom. 5:3-5)
  - So gird yourselves with strength (the full armor of God) (Eph. 6:10-17)
  - Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world (1John 4:4)
- If you suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled (James 1:2; 1Peter 3:14; 4:14)
  - Blessed are you when they insult you for God's sake (**Matt. 5:10-11; Luke 6:22**)
    - Rejoice (Acts 5:41; 1Peter 4:13), be glad, for your reward in heaven will be great (**Matt. 5:12; Luke 6:23; James 1:12**)
    - The sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Rom. 8:18)

## - Salvation

- O Lord, you have pleaded the case for my soul; You have redeemed my life (Lam. 3:58)
- The Lord is my Salvation (Ex. 15:2)
  - Salvation belongs to the Lord (Ps. 3:8)
  - Salvation is from the Lord (Ps. 62:1; Jonah 2:9)
    - The Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Rom. 1:16)
    - God has chosen gladly to give us His Kingdom (**Luke 12:32**)
  - Surely His salvation is near to those who fear Him (Ps. 85:9)
  - He redeems us in His Lovingkindness (Ex. 15:13; Is. 63:9)
  - There is no other savior besides the Lord (Hos. 13:4)
  - My salvation is forever (Is. 51:6)
- It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners (1Tim. 1:15)
- Who Can Be Saved?
- It is for all the ends of the earth (Is. 45:22; John 11:52; Acts 2:39; Titus 2:11)
  - Jesus didn't come only for Israel, but His salvation is to reach the end of the earth (Is. 49:6; Joel 2:32; **John 3:16-17; 12:47; Rom. 10:12-13**)
    - There is no distinction (Rom. 3:22), He is the savior of all men, but especially those who believe (1Tim. 4:10)
- It is not God's desire that any should die, but that all should repent and live (Ezek. 18:23,32; 33:11; 1Tim. 2:4; 2Peter 3:9)
- Jesus stands at the door of your heart and knocks, hoping that you will let Him in (Rev. 3:20)
- **Salvation is our Choice**
- We have two choices; life and prosperity, or death and adversity (Deut. 30:15; Jer. 21:8)
  - Choose life, in order that you may live (Deut. 30:19-20)
  - The road is narrow, but strive to take it (**Luke 13:24**)

- The unsaved are satisfied with leaving their children an inheritance, while the saved will be satisfied with God's likeness when they awake (or when Christ appears) (Ps. 17:14-15; 1John 3:2)
- We are without excuse because God's creation proclaims the eternal power and divine nature of God (Ps. 19:1-6; 50:6; 97:6; Rom. 1:18-20)
- What Does it Mean to be Saved? (Rom. 6 (all))
- If we return to the Lord (Hos. 14:1), He will circumcise our hearts (Rom. 2:29; Col. 2:11) in order that we may live (Deut. 30:2,6; Job 22:23)
- He will give us a new heart and give His Spirit that will cause us to walk in His ways (Ezek. 36:26-27; 2Cor. 5:17)
- For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not die but have eternal life (Mark 16:16; John 3:15-16,36; 5:24; 6:40,47; 11:25-26; Acts 16:31)
  - As many as have received Him, to them He gave the right to be called children of God (Deut. 14:1; Rom. 8:16; John 1:12)
  - He is the bread of life (John 6:48), he who comes to Him will never hunger (John 6:35,50-51)
    - Unless you eat the flesh of Christ (the bread of life) and drink His blood (the forgiveness of our sins (Matt. 26:27-28; Mark 14:23-24; Luke 22:20)) there is no life in you (John 6:53-58)
      - If you do this, you will live forever (John 6:54)
  - He is the light of the world, he who follows Him will not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life (John 8:12)
  - He who believes in Him will not be judged (John 3:18; Rom. 8:1)
    - All who come to Him will certainly not be cast out (John 6:37)
  - If you don't believe, you will be condemned (Mark 16:16)
    - You have already been judged for your unbelief (John 3:18)
  - Being justified by God's grace we are made heirs according to the hope of eternal life (Titus 3:7)
- The life of flesh is in the blood; by reason of the life, the blood shed on the alter (the sacrifice) makes atonement for our souls (Lev. 17:11)
  - Without shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness (Heb. 9:22)
  - In Christ, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our sins, according to the richness of His grace (Rom. 5:9; Eph. 1:7; Rev. 1:5)
- He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds we are healed (1Peter 2:24)
- You have been bought with a price (Ps. 31:5; 1Cor. 6:20; 7:23), purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28; Eph. 1:7; Rev. 5:9)
  - He gave His life a ransom for many (Mark 10:45; 1Tim. 2:6)
  - He who receives Jesus, receives God who sent Him (Matt. 10:40)
  - The Lord redeems the soul of His servants; and none of those who take refuge in Him will be condemned (Ps. 34:22; Titus 2:14)
    - With Him is abundant redemption (Ps. 130:7)
    - Everyone who is redeemed by Him belongs to Him (Is. 43:1)
- Everyone who is recorded in the Book of Life is holy and will live in the New Jerusalem (Is. 4:3; Dan. 12:1; Rev. 21:27)
- Just as God lived among the people in His Sanctuary (Ex. 25:8), so we as Christians are sanctuaries, and the Holy Spirit lives within us (1Cor. 3:16; 6:19; 2Cor. 6:16)
- Even after our skin is destroyed, yet from our flesh we will see God (Job 19:26)
- How Can We Be Saved?
- You cannot buy God's gift of salvation (Acts 8:19-20)
  - And you cannot work your way to salvation (Rom. 3:20; Eph. 2:8-9)
- Truly I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God (John 3:3,5)
  - That which is born of flesh is flesh, that which is born of the Spirit is spirit (John 3:6)
- God's plan of salvation is not far away, it is in our mouths and in our hearts that we may observe it (Deut. 30:11-14) This is righteousness through faith. If we confess with our mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead, we shall be saved (Rom. 10:6-10)
  - For God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not die but have eternal life (Mark 16:16; John 3:15-16,36; 5:24; 6:40,47)

- For in no other name than Jesus can we be saved (Acts 4:12)
- We are saved by grace through faith, not by our good works (Rom. 3:24; Gal. 2:16; Eph. 2:8-9; 2Tim. 1:9; Titus 3:5)
  - If we could be saved by good deeds, then Christ died for no reason (Gal. 2:21)
- Say to God, "Take away all iniquity, and receive us graciously" (Hos. 14:2)
  - Because Christ died for your sins (1Cor. 15:3)
  - And God will be faithful to forgive you of your sins (Eph. 1:7; 1John 1:9)
- After our sins are forgiven, if we turn from our wicked ways to walk in God's ways, we will live and not die (Ezek. 18:21-23,27-28,30-32; 33:11-12,14-16,19)
  - Because, in repentance you shall be saved (Is. 30:15)
    - Sorrow that is according to the will of God produces repentance without regret that leads to salvation (2Cor. 7:10)
    - If you don't repent, you will perish (**Luke 13:3,5**)
- There is much joy in heaven when even one sinner repents and is saved (**Luke 15:7,10,11-32**)
- **Assurance of Salvation**
- If you believe in Jesus as the Son of God, the witness of your salvation is in you, that you may know you have eternal life (1John 5:10-13)
- You know you are His when you desire to keep and follow His Word (1John 2:5-6)
- **Security of Salvation**
- NOTHING CAN SEPARATE US FROM THE LOVE OF JESUS! (Rom. 8:35-39)
  - Nothing will ever snatch you out of His hand (**John 10:28-29**)
- Having believed in Christ, you were sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory (Eph. 1:13)
- The gifts and calling of God are irrevocable (Rom. 11:29)
- What now?
- If you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is (Col. 3:1-2)
- As you therefore have received Christ, so walk in Him (Col. 2:6; 1John 2:5-6)
- Now then, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for His good pleasure (Phil. 2:12-13)
- **And When We Die...**
- Go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days (Dan. 12:13)
- And the dust (body) will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it (Eccl. 12:7)
- **READ: Job 33:23-28 for the story of a lost man saved**

## - Secrets

- It is God's privilege to conceal things and (our) privilege to discover them (Prov. 25:2)
  - There is nothing covered up that will not be revealed (**Matt. 10:26; Luke 12:2**)
- It is God who reveals the hidden things (Dan. 2:22,28)
- God will not do anything unless He reveals His secrets beforehand (Amos 3:7)

## - Sexual Immorality

- This is the will of God, that you abstain from sexual immorality (1Thess. 4:3)
  - That you rather possess a wife in sanctification and honor (1Thess. 4:4)
- **General Instructions**
- The body is not for immorality (1Cor. 6:13,18)
- Stay away from the immoral woman (Prov. 2:16; 5:3-20; 6:24; 1Cor. 6:15-16)
  - The mouth of the immoral woman is a deep pit (Prov. 22:14; 23:27)
    - Those living under the Lord's displeasure will fall into it (Prov. 22:14; Eccl. 7:26)
    - The godly will escape from her (Eccl. 7:26)
  - Run from her, don't go near her door (Prov. 5:8)
  - She is very tempting (Prov. 5:3)
  - Don't let your heart stray away towards her (Prov. 7:25)
  - Don't lust for her beauty (in your heart-NKJV) (Prov. 6:25; **Matt. 5:28**)
  - Don't let her seduce you (Prov. 6:25)
  - Don't wander down her wayward path (Prov. 7:25)
  - She will destroy you (Prov. 2:18; 5:4-6; 7:26-27)

- You will lose your wealth (Prov. 6:26)
- You will lose everything you worked for in life (Prov. 5:9-10)
- You will lose honor (Prov. 5:9)
- You will groan when disease consumes your body (Prov. 5:11)
- The story of the immoral woman (Prov. 7:6-23)
  - The stalking of her prey (Prov. 7:6-12; 23:28)
  - The seduction of her prey (Prov. 7:13-21)
  - The trapping of her prey (Prov. 7:22)
  - The punishment of her prey (Prov. 7:23)
- **Incest**
  - Lev. 18:6-18; 20:17,19-21; Deut. 22:30; 27:20,22-23
- **Homosexuality**
  - Lev. 18:22; 20:13
  - It is unnatural, degrading, and indecent (Rom. 1:26-27)
- **Bestiality**
  - Lev. 18:23; 20:15-16; Deut. 27:21
- **Cross-Dressing**
  - Deut. 22:5
- **Sex Before Marriage (Fornication)**
  - Do not awaken love until the time is right (Song 2:7; 3:5; 8:4)
    - (The word "awaken" means literally to become aware of someone's nakedness, or to be aroused, in the Hebrew language)
  - We are given two choices: being a wall (chaste) or a door (promiscuous) (Song 8:9)
    - The young woman in Song of Solomon chose chastity, and it greatly pleased Solomon, her lover (Song 8:10)
      - Don't give in to promiscuity (Rom. 13:13)
      - Flee from youthful lusts (Rom. 13:14; 2Tim. 2:22)
  - Abstain from fornication (Acts 15:20,29)
    - For God will judge the fornicators (Heb. 13:4)
  - If a man lies with a virgin who is not engaged, according to Old Testament law, they had to get married because he violated her. They could not get divorced (Deut. 22:28-29)
  - If you can't control yourselves, get married; it's better than living in your sin (1Cor. 7:9)
- **Sin**
  - The Lord sees iniquity without investigating (Job 11:11)
  - If you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it (Gen. 4:7; Rom. 6:12; 1Pet. 5:8)
    - Sin will not master over you, because you are living under God's grace (Rom. 6:14)
  - Jesus gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us out of this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father (Gal. 1:4)
  - **Who Sins?**
    - Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart; I am pure and free from sin"? (Prov. 20:9; Job 14:4; 1John 1:8,10)
    - For all have sinned (1Kings 8:46; 2Chr. 6:36; Eccl. 7:2; Rom. 3:9; 5:12) and come short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23)
  - **Consequences of Sin**
    - Lord, if you should mark iniquities, who could stand? (Ps. 130:3)
    - You are responsible for your own sin (Deut. 24:16; Ezek. 18 (all))
    - Everyone who commits sin is the slave of sin (**John 8:34**)
    - Your sin will find you out (Prov. 10:9; Num. 32:23; 1Tim. 5:25)
    - Your sin will cause you physical and mental anguish (Ps. 38:3-8, 18)
    - He who sins against God injures himself (Prov. 8:36; Is. 3:9)
    - The Lord will punish the sinful (Ex. 32:33-34; Is. 1:28; Hos. 8:13; 9:9)
      - If a person sins defiantly, they are blaspheming against God, and will be punished severely (Num. 15:30-31)
      - If a person is unaware that they are sinning, they are still guilty and will be punished (Lev. 5:17; Num. 15:27-28)
  - The wages of sin is death (Ezek. 18:4,20; Rom. 6:23)

### - **Instructions**

- If Jesus never would have come to us, we would have an excuse for our sins, but now there are no excuses (**John 15:22**)
- Repent for the Kingdom of God is at hand (**Matt. 4:17**)
  - Return to the Lord with all your heart (Joel 2:12-13), and He will return to you (Deut. 4:30-31; 30:1-4; 2Chr. 30:9; Jer. 15:19; Lam. 3:40; Zech. 1:3; Mal. 3:7)
  - If you turn from your evil ways you will live and not die (Ezek. 18:21-23,27-28,30-32; 33:11-12,14-16,19)
  - Where sin increases, grace increases all the more (Rom. 5:20)

### **HOWEVER...**

- If we go on sinning willfully after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins (Rom. 6:1-2,15-16; Heb. 10:26)

### - **Spiritual Gifts**

- There are a variety of gifts; but one Spirit (1Cor. 12:4)
- To each one is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good (1Cor. 12:7)
  - For we are all individual parts of the body of Christ. No part is more important than another part, and each part is crucial to the body (1Cor. 12:12-27)
- Seek gifts that edify the church (1Cor. 14:12)

### - **Stealing**

- You shall not steal (Ex. 20:15; Lev. 19:11,13; Deut. 5:19)
- Do not vainly hope in robbery (Ps. 62:10)
- Don't steal your neighbor's property by moving the boundary markers (Prov. 22:28; Deut. 19:14; 27:17)
  - Nor steal land from defenseless orphans in the same way, for their Redeemer is strong and will bring their charges against you (Prov. 23:10-11)
- Robbing from your parents and then saying, "What's wrong with that?" is as serious as committing murder (NLT) (they are a companion to a destroyer-NKJV) (Prov. 28:24)
- For a piece of bread man will transgress (Prov. 28:21; Ezek. 13:19)
  - Stealing food because you're starving might sound ok, but you will be fined heavily (Prov. 6:30-31)
  - Stolen bread tastes sweet, but it turns to gravel in the mouth (Prov. 20:17)
- If you assist a thief you are only hurting yourself (Prov. 29:24)
  - You will be punished if you report the crime (NLT) (Prov. 29:24)
  - You will be cursed if you don't report the crime (NLT) (Prov. 29:24; Lev. 5:1)

### - **Stinginess**

- Those who are stingy will lose everything (Prov. 11:24)
- Don't eat with people who are stingy. "Eat and drink," they say, but do not mean. They are always thinking about how much it costs. You will have to take back your words of appreciation for their "kindness" (Prov. 23:6-8)

### - **Strength**

- I love Thee, O Lord, my strength (Ps. 18:1)
- **General Characteristics of Strength**
- Not by might shall a man prevail (1Sam. 2:9)
  - Wisdom is better than strength (Eccl. 9:16)
  - A wise man is strong (Eccl. 7:19); a man of knowledge increases strength (Prov. 24:5)
  - The wise conquer the city of the strong and level their trusted fortress (Prov. 21:22)
  - The horses are prepared for battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord (Prov. 21:31; 1Sam. 17:47; Ps. 33:17; sim. Ps. 44:3)
- Do not spend your strength on women (Prov. 31:3)
- **How Can We be Strengthened?**
- God gives us strength (1Sam. 30:6; 2Sam. 22:40; 1Chr. 29:12; Ezra 7:28; Ps. 18:32,39; 29:11; 138:3; Is. 41:10; 2Tim. 4:17)
  - Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary (Is. 40:31)
  - The Holy Spirit can give us strength (Judg. 14:5-6; 15:14; 16:28-30)
  - The Lord will strengthen the heart of the afflicted (Ps. 10:17; Is. 40:29)
  - The joy of the Lord is your strength (Neh. 8:10)

- The Lord will be your confidence (Prov. 3:26; Job 4:6)
- And you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you (Phil. 4:13)
- Strength comes with wisdom (Prov. 8:14), but wisdom is better (Eccl. 9:16)
- In quietness and trust is your strength (Is. 30:15)
- If you fail under pressure, your strength is not very great (Prov. 24:10)
  - Remember how Christ suffered for you so you will not become weary (Heb. 12:3)
- Good news refreshes and strengthens you (Prov. 15:30; 25:25)
- **Consequences of Weakness**
- The fainthearted can make others fainthearted (Deut. 20:8)

## - Stubbornness

- The stubborn are headed for serious trouble (Prov. 28:14)

## - Suffering

- In the world you will have tribulation, but Jesus has overcome the World (**John 16:33**)
- **Reasons For Our Suffering**
- The Lord may humble you to test what is in your heart, whether you will keep His commandments or not (Deut. 8:2-3)
  - **Discipline From The Lord**
  - Happy is the man whom God reproves (Job 5:17; Ps. 94:12)
  - Don't ignore the Lord's discipline, or be discouraged when He corrects you (Prov. 3:11; Job 5:17; Heb. 12:5-6)
    - He corrects those He loves (Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:6; Rev. 3:19)
    - He corrects as a father corrects his children (Prov. 3:12; Deut. 8:5; 2Sam. 7:14; Heb. 12:6)
    - When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild (Prov. 29:18)
    - Those who abandon the right path will be severely punished (Prov. 15:10)
    - The Lord wounds, and also heals (Job 5:18)
  - If we do not heed His correction, He will punish us even more (Lev. 26:18, 21, 23-24, 27-28)
  - All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness (Heb. 12:11)
    - **Scriptural Example: the Maccabees (Dan. 11:35)**
- To do us good in the end (Deut 8:16)
  - God causes all things to work together for good to those who love Him, to those who are called according to His purpose (Rom. 8:28)
    - All things does include bad things (Dan. 11:35)
- If you suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled (1Peter 3:14)
  - Blessed are you when they insult you for God's sake (**Matt. 5:10-11; Luke 6:22**)
    - Rejoice (Acts 5:41; 1Peter 4:13), be glad, for your reward in heaven will be great (**Matt. 5:12; Luke 6:23; James 1:12**)
    - The sufferings of the present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us (Rom. 8:18)
- You will be hated on the account of Christ (1John 3:13), but the one who endures will be saved (**Matt. 10:22; 1Peter 2:20**)
  - If the world hates you, know that it is just because the world hates Jesus (**John 15:18-19**)
- Many are the afflictions of the righteous (**John 15:20; Acts 14:22**), but the Lord will deliver him from all of them (Ps. 34:19; 2Cor. 4:8-12; 2Tim. 3:11-12)
  - To us it has been granted for Christ's sake, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake (Phil. 1:29)
  - Tribulation leads to perseverance which leads to proven character which leads to hope which is from God and will not disappoint (Rom. 5:3-5)
  - So gird yourselves with strength (the full armor of God) (Eph. 6:10-17)
  - Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world (1John 4:4)
- **What Can We Do to Avoid/End Suffering?**
- Keep God's commandments (Deut 8:6 in context of vv. 2-5)
- Come to Jesus all who are weary and heavy-laden, and He will give you rest (Jer. 31:25; **Matt. 11:28-30**)
- **Who Can Comfort Us?**
- Just as the sufferings of Christ are ours in abundance, so also our comfort is abundant through Christ

(2Cor. 1:5)

- He comforts us so that we may comfort others (2Cor. 1:4)
- He is the refuge for the afflicted (Ps. 14:6; 18:27; 73:26)

### - Swearing

- Do not take the Lord's Name in vain (Ex. 20:7; Lev. 18:21; 19:12; 24:10-16; Deut. 5:11)
  - Do not curse God (Ex. 22:28)
- Avoid perverse speech (Prov. 4:24)
- Perverse speech is a sin, whether it was to do good or bad (Lev. 5:4)
- Wisdom hates perverted speech (Prov. 8:13)
- Rewards for Controlling Your Language
- Those who control their tongue will have a long life (Prov. 13:3)

### - Talking

- The mouth speaks that which fills the heart (**Matt. 12:34; Luke 6:45**)
- The tongue can kill or nourish life (Prov. 12:13; 13:3; 18:21; **Matt. 12:37**; James 3:9-10)
  - If we can control our mouths, we can control the rest of our body (James 3:2-8)
- We can gather our thoughts, but the Lord provides the answer (Prov. 16:1; Ex. 4:12,15; **Matt. 10:19-20; Mark 13:11; Luke 12:11-12**)
- Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only ones that are good for edification according to the need of the moment (Eph. 4:29)

#### - Talk of the Wise

- From a wise mind comes wise speech (Prov. 10:13; 16:23; Ps.37:30)
  - Wise speech is persuasive (Prov. 16:23; 25:15; Eccl. 10:4)
  - Wise speech is rarer and more valuable than gold and rubies (Prov. 20:15)
  - Wise speech heard in quietness is better than the shouting of a ruler among fools (Eccl. 9:17)
  - Words from a wise mouth are gracious (Eccl. 10:12)
- The godly think before speaking (Prov. 15:28; Ps. 39:1-3; James 1:19)
- A truly wise person uses few words (Prov. 10:19; 17:27; Job 15:1-2; Eccl. 5:2; James 1:19)

#### - Importance of Wise Speech

- Those who control their tongue are wise (Prov. 10:19; 13:3; James 1:19)
  - If you guard your mouth (Ps. 141:3), you will stay out of trouble (Prov. 21:23)
- A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth (NKJV) (Prov. 12:14; 13:2; 18:20)
- Encouraging words cheer a person up (Prov. 12:25)
- Kind words are like honey - sweet to the soul and healthy for the body (Prov. 16:24; 18:20)
- Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time (Prov. 15:23; 25:11)
  - A gentle answer turns away wrath (Prov. 15:1; 2Chr. 10:7; 2Tim. 2:25-26)
  - Gentle words (a wholesome tongue) bring life and health (Prov. 15:4)
  - The right words on a person's lips bring satisfaction (Prov. 18:20)
  - Soft speech can crush strong opposition (Prov. 25:15)

#### - Talk of the Wicked

- A fool's voice is known by his many words (Eccl. 5:3)
- Even fools are thought to be wise when they keep silent; when they keep their mouths shut, they seem intelligent (Prov. 17:28; Job 13:5)

#### - Consequences of Wicked Speech

- There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking (Prov. 29:20)

#### - Talking Too Much

- Fools multiply words (Eccl. 10:14)
- Talking too much fosters sin (Prov. 10:19; 2Tim. 2:16)
- Don't hang around with someone who talks too much (Prov. 20:19)
- For in many words there is emptiness (Eccl. 5:7)

#### - General Instructions

- Let your speech always be with grace, so that you may know how you should respond to each person (Col. 4:6)
- Keep your tongue from evil, and your lips from deceit (Ps. 34:13)
- You shall not go out as a slanderer (Lev. 19:16)
- There shall be no silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks (Eph. 5:4)

### - Temptation

### Tempting

- Do not tempt or test the Lord (Deut. 6:16; Ps. 78:18-22,41,56; **Matt. 4:7; Luke 4:12**)
  - **Scriptural Example: Israelites in the Wilderness (Ps. 106:13-15)**

### Being Tempted

- You are tempted when you are carried away and enticed by your own lust (James 1:14)
  - This will then lead to sin and then to death (James 1:15)
- Since Jesus was tempted by Satan, He knows how we feel (Heb. 2:18)
- Pray that you don't fall to temptation (**Matt. 26:41; Mark 14:38; Luke 22:40,46**)
  - God can rescue you from temptation (2Peter 2:9)
- If sinners entice you (Prov. 1:14), turn your back on them (Prov. 1:10-16; 3:7; Deut. 13; Matt. 4:1-11; Eph. 5:11)
  - Restrain your feet from their path (Prov. 1:15; Ps. 119:101)
- Let no one say, "I am being tempted by God"; He will not tempt anyone (James 1:13)
- God will not allow you to be tempted beyond that which you can handle (1Cor. 10:13)

### **- Thanksgiving**

- Consider what great things He has done for you (1Sam. 12:24)
  - Since we have received the kingdom of God, let us show gratitude (Heb. 12:28)
- In everything give thanks (Ps. 30:4; 50:14,23; 92:1); for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus (1Thess. 5:18)
  - Give thanks when the Lord delivers you from your enemies (Ps. 18:48-49)
- Giving thanks to the Lord pleases Him more than sacrifices (Ps. 69:30-31)

### **- Thoughts**

- Meditate on God's works in your heart upon your bed, and be still (Ps. 4:4; 63:6; 77:6,12; 119:15,48,97,99,148; 145:5)
- Think on these things: whatever is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, of good repute, anything of excellence, and anything worthy of praise (Phil. 4:8)
- Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on the Earth (Col. 3:2)
- The Lord knows the thoughts of man (Ps. 94:11; 139:1; Ezek. 11:5; Matt. 9:4)
  - Nobody knows your thoughts but you (and God) (1Cor. 2:11)
- Do not call to mind former things, or ponder things in the past (Is. 43:18)
  - No one who looks back after deciding to follow Jesus is worthy of Him (Luke 9:62)

### **- Treatment of others**

- If possible, so far as it depends on you, be at peace with all men (Rom. 12:18)
- Do unto others as you would have done unto you (**Matt. 7:12; Luke 6:31**)
  - You shall not wrong one another (Lev. 25:17)
- What Does the Lord Expect from Us?
- What is desired in a man is kindness (NKJV) (Prov. 19:22; Hos. 12:6; Zech. 7:9; Eph. 4:32)
  - Do not let kindness and truth leave you (Prov. 3:3)
- Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and to good deeds (Heb. 10:24)
- Helping Others in Time of Need
- Encourage others in God (1Sam. 23:16; 2Chr. 35:2; 1Thess. 5:11)
- Help meet the needs of the saints (believers), and be given to hospitality (Rom. 12:13)
- Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy (Prov. 11:17; **Matt. 5:7; Luke 6:36**)
- Those who save lives are wise (Prov. 11:30)
- Do not withhold good from those who deserve it (Prov. 3:27; Gal. 6:10)
  - If you can help them now; do it. Don't put it off until tomorrow (Prov. 3:28)
  - It is easy to look on the needy with contempt when times are good (Job 12:5; Ps. 123:4)
- Rescue those who are unjustly being taken away to death; don't stand back and let them die (Prov. 24:11; 1Sam. 19:1-2,11-12)
  - Don't avoid responsibility by saying you didn't know about it (Prov. 24:12)
    - For God knows you knew, and he will judge all people according to what they do (Prov. 24:12; 1Sam. 20:13; Ps. 62:12)
- Do not plot against your neighbors (Prov. 3:29; 6:19; Lev. 19:13,16; Deut. 27:24; Ps. 15:3)
  - You will lose their trust (Prov. 3:29)
  - Evil words destroy one's friends (Prov. 11:9)
  - It is foolish to belittle your neighbor (Prov. 11:12)
    - To slander is to be a fool (Prov. 10:18; Lev. 19:16)

- Those who slander will not be tolerated (Ps. 101:5)
- A person with good sense remains silent (Prov. 11:12)
- It is a sin to despise your neighbors (Prov. 14:21)
- Render to all what is due them: tax, to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor (Rom. 13:7)
- **Lying About Other People**
- You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor (Ex. 20:16; Deut. 5:20)
  - Who is your neighbor? (Luke 10:29-37)
- Telling lies about others is as harmful as hitting them with an axe, killing them with a sword, or shooting them with a sharp arrow (Prov. 25:18)
  - Telling lies about them and the saying "I was only joking," is as dangerous as a mad man shooting a lethal weapon (Prov. 26:18-19)
- Do not testify spitefully against innocent neighbors (Prov. 24:28)
- Do not make accusations against someone who hasn't wronged you (Prov. 3:30, 6:19)
- **Consequences of Mistreating Others**
- To God, calling someone a fool is like murder (Matt. 5:21-22)
- You cannot curse whom God did not curse (Num. 23:8; 2Sam. 16:10)
  - Scriptural Example: Balak (Num. 22:1-24:5)
  - Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an unfair curse will not land on its intended victim (Prov. 26:2; Deut. 23:5; 1Sam. 18:20-27)
  - If you love to curse, you will be cursed (Ps. 109:17)
- If you set a trap for others, you will get caught in it yourself (Prov. 26:27; 28:10; Esth. 7:9-10; Ps. 7:14-16; 9:15-16; 10:2; 57:6; Eccl. 10:8)
  - Scriptural Example: Haman (Esth. 7:9-10)
- As you have done, it will be done to you (Obad. 15)
  - Scriptural Example: Adoni-bezek (Judg. 1:6-7)
- If you repay evil for good (1Sam. 19:4; Ps. 38:20; 109:4-5), evil will never leave your house (Prov. 17:13; 1Sam. 25; Is. 33:1)
- Judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy (James 2:13)
- **Treatment of Fellow Christians**
- If your brother sins, reprove him whether he listens or not (Matt. 18:15-17; Luke 17:3-4)
  - If he repents, forgive him (Luke 17:3-4)
  - Forgive others as many times as they wrong you (Matt. 18:21-22; Luke 17:4)
- Whatever you do to help even the least of your brothers you do to Christ (Matt. 25:35-46)
- Bear one another's burdens (Rom 12:13), and thus fulfill the law of Christ (Gal. 6:2)
- **Treatment of the Elderly**
- Honor the elderly (Lev. 19:32)
- Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, and an older woman as a mother (1Tim. 5:1-2)
- **Treatment of Employees**
- Never slander a person to his employer (Prov. 30:10)
  - If you do, the person will curse you, and you will pay for it (Prov. 30:10)
- **Treatment of Your Enemies**
- Love your enemies (Matt. 5:43-47; Luke 6:27-28,32-35)
  - Bless those who persecute you, and do not curse them (Rom 12:14)
- If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink (Prov. 25:21; 2Chr. 28:15; Ps. 35:11-14; Rom. 12:20)
  - Scriptural Example: Elisha (2Kings 6:21-23)
  - You will heap burning coals on their heads and the Lord will reward you (Prov. 25:22)
- Do not rejoice when your enemies fall into trouble (Prov. 24:17; Job 31:29-30; Obad 12-13)
  - The Lord will then take their troubles away from them (Prov. 24:18)
  - Those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished (Prov. 17:5; Micah 7:8-9)
- If someone slaps you, turn the other cheek (Lam. 3:30; Matt 5:38-41; Luke 6:29)
  - Repay no one evil for evil (Rom. 12:17)
- Always pray for them no matter what they do to you (Ps. 109:4; Luke 6:28)
  - Scriptural Example: David (Ps. 35:11-16)
- **Treatment of Fools**

- Guide a fool with a rod to his back (Prov. 26:3)
- **Treatment of the Handicapped**
- The deaf, dumb, seeing and the blind: The Lord made them all (Ex. 4:11; Ps. 94:9)
- Cursed is he who misleads a blind person (Lev. 19:14; Deut. 27:18)
- **Treatment of the Poor**
- The poor and the oppressor have this in common: the Lord gives light to the eyes of both (Prov. 22:2; 29:13)
- Blessed are those who help the poor (Prov. 14:21; 22:9; Ps. 41:1-3; Is. 58:10-11)
  - The godly know the rights of the poor (Prov. 29:7; Ps. 72:12-14)
    - The wicked don't care to know (understand such concern-NASB) (Prov. 29:7)
  - Those who help the poor (Deut. 15:7), honor the Lord (Prov. 14:31; Is. 58:7-8)
    - Speak up for the speechless, poor, and helpless, and see that they get justice (Prov. 31:8-9)
      - This is what it means to know God (Jer. 22:16)
  - Those who help the poor will lack nothing (Prov. 28:27)
  - If you help the poor, you are lending to the Lord-and He will repay you (Prov. 19:17; Luke 14:12-14)
- Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker (Prov. 14:31; 17:5)
  - A poor person who oppresses the poor is like a pounding rain that destroys the crops (Prov. 28:3; **Matt. 18:28-30**)
  - A person who gets ahead by oppressing the poor will end in poverty (Prov. 22:16; Job 20:18-19)
    - He will injure anyone who injures them (Prov. 22:23)
  - Do not rob the poor or exploit the needy in court, for the Lord is their Defender (Prov. 22:22-23; Ex. 23:6; Ps. 109:31; Is. 25:4; Jer. 50:33-34; Mal. 3:5)
    - Don't be surprised if you see this happening though (Eccl. 5:8)
  - Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need (Prov. 21:13)
    - A curse will come upon those who close their eyes to poverty (Prov. 28:27)
- **Treatment of the Poor in Spirit**
- Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven (**Matt. 5:3**)
- Singing cheerful songs to a person whose heart is heavy is as bad as stealing someone's jacket in cold weather or rubbing salt in a wound (Prov. 25:20)
  - But rather, weep with those who weep (Rom. 12:15)
- Do not afflict the widow's and orphans (Ex. 22:22; Ps. 82:3; Zech. 7:10)
  - Defend the orphan and the widow (Is. 1:17)
    - Honor the widow (1Tim. 5:3)
  - The Lord protects the property of widows (Prov. 15:25)
- Encourage the fainthearted (1Thess. 5:14)
- Those who are strong should bear the weaknesses of those without strength (Rom. 15:1)
- Always keep a little extra in case misfortune happens upon someone else (Eccl. 11:2)
- **Treatment of Strangers**
- Do not oppress any foreigners in your land (Ex. 22:21; 23:9; Lev. 19:33-34; Deut. 10:18-19; Zech. 7:10)
- Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by this some have entertained angels without knowing it (Heb. 13:2)
- **General Instructions**
- While we have the opportunity, let us do good to all men, and to especially to those who are of the household of faith (Gal. 6:10)
- If you learn that you have done someone wrong, drop everything and make it right (**Matt. 5:23-26**)
- Do not judge (Rom. 14:4,13), lest you be judged yourself (**Matt. 7:1-5; Luke 6:37**; Rom. 2:1-4; James 2:1-9)
  - Disregarding another person's faults preserves love (Prov. 17:9)
    - Telling them about their faults separates close friends (Prov. 17:9)
  - Who are you to judge your neighbor? (James 4:12)
- The Lord despises those who acquit the guilty and condemn the innocent (Prov. 17:15)
  - It is wrong to punish the godly for being good (Prov. 17:26)
- Don't visit your neighbors too often, or you will wear out your welcome (Prov. 25:17)
  - If you shout a pleasant greeting to your neighbor too early in the morning, it will be counted as

a curse (Prov. 27:14)

## - Trust

- Blessed is the man who makes the Lord his trust (Ps. 40:4)
- **Trusting in the Lord**
- Trust in the Lord forever, for in God we have an everlasting rock (Is. 26:4)
- Trust in the Lord with all your heart (Ps. 37:3,5; 62:8), and lean not on your own understanding (Prov. 28:26) (Prov. 3:5)
- Those who trust in the Lord will be happy (Prov. 16:20; Ps. 2:12; 9:10; 32:10; 33:21; 34:8; 84:12; Jer. 17:7)
  - Trusting the Lord leads to prosperity (Prov. 28:25; 1Chr. 5:20-22)
    - **Scriptural Example: King Hezekiah (2Kings 18:5-7)**
  - Put your trust in the Lord and you will be established (2Chr. 20:20; Ps. 125:1; Jer. 39:18)
  - Trust in the Lord for protection from harm (Dan. 6:23)
- Cursed is the man who trusts in mankind and makes flesh his strength (Jer. 17:5; 1Cor. 1:5)
  - In mortal man there is no salvation (Ps. 146:3-4)
- **A Trustworthy Person**
  - **Scriptural Example: Temple Workers (2Kings 12:15; 22:4-7)**
- The trustworthy will get a rich reward (Prov. 28:20)
- Those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence (Prov. 11:13)
- The Lord delights in those who do keep their word (Prov. 12:22)
- A reliable messenger brings healing (Prov. 13:17; 25:13)
- **An Untrustworthy Person**
- The Lord hates those who do not keep their word (Prov. 12:22)
  - A person who does not give a promised gift is like clouds and wind that do not bring rain (Prov. 25:14)
- An unreliable messenger stumbles into trouble (Prov. 13:17)
- Putting confidence in an unreliable person is like chewing with a toothache or walking on a broken foot (Prov. 25:19; Job 15:31)
  - It is like cutting off one's feet or drinking poison (Prov. 26:6)
- Backsliders will get what they deserve (Prov. 14:14)

## - Truth

- Every word of God proves true (Prov. 30:5; Josh. 23:14; 2Sam. 7:28; 22:31; Ps. 12:6; 18:30; **John 17:17**)
  - The testimony of the Lord is sure (Ps. 93:5), making wise the simple (Ps. 19:7)
  - The ways of the Lord are right (Prov. 10:29; Hos. 14:9)
    - And His works are true (Dan. 4:37; **John 7:17-18**)
    - If you abide in Him, you are truly His disciples; you shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free (**John 8:31-32**)
  - The truth of the Lord is everlasting (Ps. 117:2)
- He who practices the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God (**John 3:21**)
- Tell the truth to each other (Zech. 8:16; Eph. 4:25)
- Truth stands the test of time (Prov. 12:19)
  - For we can do nothing against the truth; only for the truth (2Cor. 13:8)
- The Lord delights in those who deal truthfully (Prov. 12:22)
- A wise person is hungry for truth (Prov. 15:14)
  - Get truth and don't ever sell it (Prov. 23:23)
- An honest witness tells the truth (Prov. 12:17; 14:5)
  - An attentive witness will be allowed to speak (testify) (Prov. 21:28)
  - A truthful witness saves lives (Prov. 14:25)

## - Understanding

- The breath of the almighty gives us understanding (Job 32:8; 1John 5:20)
  - The Lord's understanding is infinite (Ps. 147:5)
- We can gather our thoughts, but the Lord gives us the right answer (Prov. 16:1)
  - Do not depend on your own understanding (Prov. 3:5; Hos. 10:13)
- The wise are known by their understanding (Prov. 10:23 (NKJV); 16:21)
- People who cherish understanding will prosper (Prov. 19:8)
- A person with understanding is even-tempered (Prov. 17:27)

- Understanding is a life-giving fountain to those who possess it (Prov. 16:22)
- Wisdom is in the sights of those who have understanding (Prov. 17:24)
- The person who strays from understanding will end up in the company of the dead (Prov. 21:16; Ezek. 18:24; Hos. 4:14)

### - Wants

- Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied (Hab. 2:5), so human desire is never satisfied (Prov. 27:20; Eccl. 1:8)
  - People aren't satisfied with money (Prov. 27:20; Eccl. 4:8; 5:10)
- Delight yourself in the Lord, and He will give you the desires of your heart (Ps. 37:4)
- The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want (Ps. 23:1; 34:9-10)
  - If you have food and covering, be content with that (1Tim. 6:8)
    - **Scriptural Example: Paul (Phil. 4:11-13)**

### - Wicked people

- God made men upright, but they have sought out many devices (Eccl. 7:29)
- The Lord and wicked people:
  - They are an abomination to the Lord (Prov. 3:32; 11:20; 15:9; Ps. 5:4,6)
  - The Lord mocks at mockers (Prov. 3:34; Ex. 10:2; Ps. 2:4; 37:13; 59:8; James 4:6)
  - The curse of the Lord is on the house of the wicked (Prov. 3:33; Lev. 26:14-16; Deut. 11:28; Zech. 5:3-4; Mal. 2:2)
  - The Lord lets the wicked fall into trouble (Prov. 1:31; 11:8)
    - He lets the wicked continue their shameful acts (Ps. 50:21; 81:11-12; Eccl. 8:11; Rom. 1:24-25)
  - You can be sure that they will be punished (Prov. 11:21, 31; 17:11; 19:29; Lev. 26:15-17; Ps. 11:6; Is. 3:11)
    - Those who plant seeds of wickedness will harvest disaster (Hos. 8:7; 10:13), and their reign of terror will end (Prov. 22:8; Job 4:8)
      - They will eat of the fruit of their way (Prov. 1:31; Jer. 6:19)
    - The Lord refuses to satisfy the needs of the wicked (Prov. 10:3)
      - He is far from the wicked (Prov. 15:29; Ps. 34:16)
      - The belly of the wicked goes hungry (Prov. 13:25)
    - They will have their fill of trouble (Prov. 12:21)
    - They will be punished with a rod (Prov. 10:13)
    - They will suddenly be broken beyond all hope of healing (Prov. 6:15; 10:25; Job 21:13; Ps. 58:9; 73:19)
    - The wicked come to shame and disgrace (Prov. 13:5; 18:3)
    - He who perverts his ways will be found out (Prov. 10:9; 1Tim. 5:25)
    - They will be removed from the land (earth or country) (Prov. 2:22; 10:30; Deut. 28:63; 1Sam. 12:25; Ps. 37:22,28; 52:5; Is. 13:9)
    - They will be condemned at the time of judgment (Ps. 1:5)
    - Sometimes the wicked are punished to save the godly (Prov. 11:8; 21:18)
    - The Lord created the wicked for punishment (Prov. 16:4; Job 21:30)
      - **Scriptural Example: Ben-hadad (1Kings 20:42)**
      - They only flourish so that they may be destroyed forevermore (Ps. 92:7)
  - The Lord destroys the wicked (Prov. 10:29, 12:2; 13:6; Gen. 19:1-25; Ex. 15:7; Judg. 19:25-20:35; Ps. 9:5; Mal. 4:1,3)
    - He knows what goes on in their lives, and He will destroy them (Prov. 21:12)
      - The sinner's light will be snuffed out (Prov. 13:9; 20:20; 24:20; Job 18:5)
      - Because they fail to do what is just, their violence boomerangs and destroys them (Prov. 21:7; Ps. 37:12-15)
    - Their years will be cut short (Prov. 1:12, 19, 31-32; 2:22; 10:27; 11:19; 1Kings 1:50-52; Ps. 55:23; Eccl. 7:17)
      - Their days are cut short because they do not fear God (Eccl. 8:13)
    - The house of the wicked will perish (Prov. 14:11; Ps. 37:20)
    - When the wicked are destroyed, the godly multiply (Prov. 28:28)
    - The name of the wicked person rots away (Prov. 10:7; 12:7; Job 18:17; 24:20; Ps. 9:6; 34:16; 109:13; Is. 14:20)
- **Definition of worthless and wicked people** (Prov. 6:12-15; Job 18:5-21; Rom. 1:28-32)

- With their mouth, they speak proudly (Ps. 17:10; 94:4)
  - [Scriptural Example: Rabshakeh \(2Kings 18:17-35\)](#)
- What they do is crooked, and their ways are wrong (Prov. 2:15)
  - The way of the wicked is darkness (Prov. 2:13; 4:19; Job 18:18; Jer. 13:16)
- They walk with a perverse mouth (lies, corrupt speech) (Prov. 6:12; 10:32; Ps. 50:19)
- Their feet run to evil (Prov. 1:16; 6:18; Is. 59:7; Rom. 3:15)
- They signal their true intentions to their friends by bodily gestures (Prov. 6:13; 10:10; 16:30; Ps. 35:19)
- Their perverted hearts plot evil (Prov. 6:18; 16:30; 24:2; Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Job 15:35; Ps. 37:12; 140:2)
  - If you plot evil, you will be lost (Prov. 14:22)
  - Deceit fills hearts that plot evil (Prov. 12:20)
  - They do deceptive work (NKJV) (Prov. 11:18)
- They stir up trouble constantly (sows discord-NKJV) (Prov. 6:14,19)
- They are quick-tempered (Prov. 12:16)
- Violent people deceive their companions; leading them down a harmful path (Prov. 12:26; 16:29; 24:22)
- They will not rest until they have done an evil deed (Prov. 4:16; Ps. 36:4)
  - Woe to those who work out evil on their beds, and then do it in the morning (Micah 2:1)
- Mockers search for wisdom but never find it (Prov. 14:6)
- The wicked despise the godly (Prov. 29:27; Ps. 94:21; Amos 5:10)
  - Sinners have no place among the righteous (Ps. 1:5)
  - They stay away from the wise (Prov. 15:12)
- They are jealous of each other's loot (Prov. 12:12)
- They rejoice in doing wrong (Prov. 2:14; 10:23; 15:21; 21:10; Ps. 12:8; 50:18; 52:3)
  - Those who are treacherous crave violence (Prov. 13:2)
  - They delight in falsehood (Ps. 62:4)
  - Scoundrels hunt for scandal (Prov. 16:27)
  - Evil people seek rebellion (Prov. 17:11)
  - They will not turn from evil (Prov. 13:19)
- They cover up their harmful intentions (violence covers their mouth-NKJV) (Prov. 10:6,11; Ps. 62:4)
  - Like an earthen vessel overlaid with silver dross, are burning (fervent-NKJV) lips and a wicked heart (NASB) (Prov. 26:23)
    - \* Dross is an impurity in a metal that is removed by melting
- The wicked put up a bold front (Prov. 21:29)
- The kindness of the wicked is cruel (Prov. 12:10)
- The neighbor of the wicked gets no mercy from them (Prov. 21:10)
- An evil man is held captive by his own sins (Prov. 5:22; 29:6)
  - Their own sin speaks to their heart and flatters them in their own eyes (Ps. 36:1-2)
  - They feed on trash (Prov. 15:14)
  - They shall eat the fruit of their own way (Prov. 1:31-32; 11:5; 14:32; 22:8; Job 4:8; 18:7; Ps. 34:21; 94:23; Is. 3:11; Jer. 6:19)
  - They squander their money on sin (Prov. 10:16)
  - Their ambition traps them (Prov. 11:6; Ps. 9:16)
- The fears of the wicked will all come true (upon him) (Prov. 10:24; Job 15:21)
  - The wicked run away when no one is chasing them (Prov. 28:1; Lev. 26:17,36-37; 2Kings 7:6-7; Ps. 53:5)
  - Their expectations are all in vain (Prov. 10:28; 24:20; Job 8:13)
    - They can expect only wrath (Prov. 11:23)
    - Their hope is to breathe their last (Job 11:20)
    - When the wicked die, their hopes all perish (Prov. 11:7; Job 27:8)
      - Wickedness never brings stability (Prov. 12:3; 13:15)
      - One calamity is enough to lay the wicked low (Prov. 24:16)
- The wicked spout evil words (Prov. 15:28; Ps. 5:9; 52:2-4; 59:7)
  - Some people make cutting remarks (Prov. 12:18; 30:14; Ps. 57:4)

- They have set their mouth against the heavens (Ps. 73:9)
- Their words are always stirring up trouble (Prov. 24:2; Ps. 52:2)
- The words of the wicked are like a murderous ambush (Prov. 12:6)
- The talk of the wicked tears the city apart (Prov. 11:11; 2Chr. 10:9-16)
- The words of a scoundrel are a destructive blaze (Prov. 16:27)
- A troublemaker plants seeds of strife (Prov. 16:28)
- They speak peace while evil is in their hearts (Ps. 28:3; 62:4; Jer. 9:8)
- Wrongdoers listen to evil talk (Prov. 17:4)
  - Liars pay attention to destructive talk (Prov. 17:4)
  - The mouth of the wicked gulps down evil (Prov. 19:28; Job 15:15-16)
- Their own words trap them (Prov. 12:13; 18:7; Job 15:6; Ps. 59:12; 64:8)

**- People's views on the wicked**

- When the wicked take charge, people go into hiding (Prov. 28:12,28)
  - When the wicked are in power, the people groan (Prov. 29:2)
  - Sin increases when the wicked are in authority (Prov. 29:16)
  - But the godly will live to see the tyrant's downfall (Prov. 29:16)
- Mockers can get a whole town agitated (Prov. 11:11; 29:8)
- The whole city will shout for joy when the wicked die (Prov. 11:10)
- A warped mind is despised by everyone (Prov. 12:8)
- Schemers are hated (Prov. 14:17; 24:9; Ps. 64:7-8)
- A person who plans evil will get a reputation as a troublemaker (Prov. 24:8)

**- Witnessing**

- He who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his soul from death (James 5:20)
- **The Best Witness**
- Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven (**Matt. 5:16**)
- **Verbal Witness**
- Jesus sends us out as sheep among wolves to witness to others (**Matt. 10:16-20; Luke 10:3**)
- Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation (**Matt. 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-16; Luke 9:60**)
  - Repentance for forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in Jesus' name to all the nations (**Luke 24:47**)
  - We are appointed as watchmen. If we know of salvation through Jesus Christ and refuse to tell others, they will go to hell and we will be responsible. If we tell them and they refuse Him, they will go to hell and they will be responsible (Ezek. 3:17-21; 33:1-9)
- If you teach transgressors His ways, they will be converted to Him (Ps. 51:13)
- Proclaim good tidings of His salvation from day to day (1Chr. 16:23; Ps. 96:2)
  - Do not hide His righteousness in your heart, proclaim it (Ps. 40:9-10)
- Tell everyone all the wonderful things God has done for you (1Chr. 16:8,24; Ps. 9:11; 26:7; 105:1; Is. 12:4; **Mark 5:19; Luke 8:39**)
  - Speak to them whether they listen or not (Ezek 2:7)
    - The one who listens to you, listens to Christ; the one who rejects you, rejects Christ (**Luke 10:16**)
- The harvest (people) is plentiful, but the workers (Christians) are few (**Matt. 9:37; Luke 10:2**)
  - Pray that the Lord will send out workers into the harvest (**Matt. 9:38; Luke 10:2**)
- Do not be ashamed to speak of God's testimonies (Ps. 119:46)
- Always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear (1Pet. 3:15)

**- Wives (see also women)**

- Let her deeds publicly declare her praise (Prov. 31:31)
  - **Scriptural Example: Ruth (Ruth 2:10-13)**
- **The Wise Wife**
- A worthy wife is her husband's joy (Prov. 12:4)
- A wise woman builds her house, but a foolish woman tears it down with her bare hands (Prov. 14:1)
- **About Your Husbands**
- You should not leave your husbands as long as he lives (1Cor. 7:10,39)
- Submit to your husbands (Eph. 5:22; Col. 3:18; 1Peter 3:1-2)
  - Because he is head of the wife, just as Christ is head of the church (Eph. 5:23-24)

- Respect your husbands (Eph. 5:33)
- **The Shameful Wife**
- A shameful wife saps her husbands strength (Prov. 12:4; Judg. 16:15-19)
- A nagging wife annoys like a constant dripping (Prov. 19:13; 27:15; Judg. 14:16-17; 16:16)
  - Trying to stop her complaints is like trying to stop the wind or hold something with greased hands (Prov. 27:16)
- **A wife of noble character** (Prov. 31:10-31)
  - She is worth more than precious rubies (Prov. 31:10)
  - Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life (Prov. 31:11)
    - She will not hinder him, but help him (Prov. 31:12)
  - She willingly works with her hands (Prov. 31:13)
  - She wakes up early to prepare breakfast and plan the day's activities (Prov. 31:15)
  - She is energetic and strong, a hard worker (Prov. 31:17)
  - She watches for bargains (NLT) (Prov. 31:18)
  - Her light burns late into the night (Prov. 31:18)
  - She extends her helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy (Prov. 31:20)
  - She is clothed with strength and dignity (Prov. 31:25)
  - She laughs with no fear of the future (Prov. 31:25)
  - When she speaks, her words are wise (Prov. 31:26)
  - The teaching of kindness is on her tongue (Prov. 31:26)
  - She carefully watches all that goes on in her household (Prov. 31:27)
  - Her husband and children bless her (Prov. 31:28)

#### - **Women**

- Women must be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things (1Tim. 3:11)
- Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised (Prov. 31:30)
  - Godly women should adorn themselves in good works rather than gold and costly garments (1Tim. 2:9-10; 1Peter 3:3-4)
- A gracious woman keeps her honor (Prov. 11:16)

#### - **Working Hard**

- Is not man forced to labor on earth, and are not his days like the days of a hired man? (Gen. 3:17-19; Job 7:1)
- Commit your work to the Lord, and then your plans will succeed (Prov. 16:3; Ps. 37:5)
- **General Instructions**
- Whatever your hand finds to do, do with all your might (Eccl. 9:10)
- Learn from the ants, and be wise (Prov. 6:6-8)
  - They have no ruler, but they work hard all summer for the winter (Prov. 6:7-8; 30:25)
- The diligent make use of everything they find (have? or gain?) (the substance of a diligent man is precious-KJV) (Prov. 12:27)
- It is good for a worker to have an appetite; an empty stomach drives him on (Prov. 16:26; Eccl. 6:7)
- Two workers are better than one, because if one falls the other will lift him up (Eccl. 4:9-10)
- A wise youth works hard all summer (Prov. 10:5)
- **Benefits of Hard Work**
- Rejoice in the labor of your hands, for it is a gift from God (Eccl. 2:24; 3:13; 5:18-19)
- Hard work means prosperity (Prov. 10:4; 12:11,14; 13:4; 21:5)
  - The worker is worthy of his support (**Matt. 10:10; Luke 10:7**)
  - Wealth from hard work grows (Prov. 13:11)
  - God has empowered us to eat from the wealth we have gained from our labor. This is our reward for our hard work (Eccl. 5:19)
  - Work brings profit (Prov. 14:23)
- Hard workers have plenty of food (Prov. 28:19)
  - The sleep of the working man is pleasant whether he eats little or much (Eccl. 5:12)
- Work hard and become a leader (Prov. 12:24)
- Consequences of Not Working Hard (See also Laziness)
- If anyone will not work, neither let him eat (2Thess. 3:10)
- An empty stable stays clean, but no income comes from an empty stable (Prov. 14:4)
 

**however,**

- It is vain for you to rise up early, to retire late, to eat the bread of painful labors; for God gives to his beloved even in their sleep (Ps. 127:2)

## **- Workplace**

- May the Lord reward your work, and your wages be full from the Lord, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge (Ruth 2:12)

### **- Employers**

- Do not oppress a hired servant (employee) (Deut. 24:14)
  - Be just and fair to your employees, because you, too have a boss in heaven (Eph. 6:9; Col. 4:1)
- You shall give him (the employee) his wages on his payday (Deut. 24:15)
  - The Lord is a ready witness against employers who cheat employees out of wages (Mal. 3:5; James 5:4)
- An employer who hires a fool or a bystander is like an archer who shoots recklessly (Prov. 26:10)

### **- Employees**

- Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men (Eph. 6:6; Col. 3:23)
  - Because it is from the Lord that you will receive your reward (Col. 3:24)
- Submit yourselves to those in authority (Gen. 16:9; Titus 2:9)
  - Even if your boss is being unreasonable (1Peter 2:18)
  - Obey your boss with sincerity of heart (Eph. 6:5; Col. 3:22)
    - Be well-pleasing, not argumentative, not pilfering, but showing all good faith that you may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in every respect (Titus 2:9-10)
  - Insubordination is as iniquity and idolatry (1Sam. 15:23)
  - If your boss is a Christian, respect them all the more (1Tim. 6:2)
- Workers who protect their employer's interests will be rewarded (NLT) (Prov. 27:18)
- A truly competent worker will serve kings rather than ordinary people (Prov. 22:29; 1Kings 11:28)
- Lazy people are a pain to their employer (Prov. 10:26)

## **- Worry**

- Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God (Phil. 4:6)
  - Cast all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you (1Peter 5:7)
- Worry weighs a person down (Prov. 12:25)
- Worry doesn't add a minute to your life (**Matt. 6:27; Luke 12:25**)
  - Do not worry about what to eat, drink, wear or about tomorrow for tomorrow will care for itself. God will take care of you (**Matt. 6:25-34; Luke 12:22-30**)
    - Seek His kingdom first, and all these things will be added unto you (**Luke 12:31**)
- Do not fret because of evil doers (Prov. 24:19; Ps. 37:1)
  - It only leads to evil doing (Ps. 37:7)