
CHRISTIAN WORKER BIBLE STUDY SERIES

PRESENTED BY:

Proverbs

STUDY NUMBER NINETEEN
DONATION

Name _____

Date _____ Score _____

THE CHRISTIAN WORKER BIBLE STUDY PROGRAM

The vision of the Christian Worker Program is that all who hunger and thirst for the truth of God's word should be filled. In offering these Bible studies, we hope to meet the need of those who desire to become more acquainted with the Word of God. As you study, we pray that your faith will be strengthened and that your desire for the deeper things of God will be increased.

The Christian Worker Bible Studies Series is basically designed for individual study; however, group study is also encouraged. Many times a deeper search is made into God's word if more than one participate. The only additional text used is the Bible.

Each study contains questions along with blank spaces for your written answer. Comments are added both to clarify and to stimulate interest. The Introductory booklet should be studied first in order to better grasp the full potential of the Christian Worker Program.

A small donation is requested for each study to cover basic costs.

A certificate of award is available upon completion of this study. Please contact your #1 link or Mini-Bible School Director for your certificate.

SUGGESTIONS FOR STUDY:

Only your Bible is needed to complete this study.

(Note: Additional Bible versions often give you greater insight.)

Pray before you begin and ask the Lord to enlighten your spiritual understanding.

Read the question carefully and then read the Bible text at least twice.

(Reading the text aloud is of great value.)

Work on your study regularly. If you lay it aside, you will lose the flow and continuity of the lesson.

As you complete each lesson or chapter, mentally summarize what you have just learned.

Other helps such as commentaries or devotional books can add greater depth to your studies.

A DEFINITE PRINCIPLE IS INVOLVED IN STUDYING GOD'S WORD. THE BENEFITS RECEIVED ARE DIRECTLY PROPORTIONAL TO THE TIME AND EFFORT INVESTED. GOD BLESS YOU IN YOUR STUDIES.

©, 1979, Global Youth Evangelism
www.globalyouthevangelism.org

**No part of this material may be reproduced in any form or by any means.
Printed in U. S. A.**

THE PROVERBS

The apostle James might have had Solomon in mind when he wrote, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally..." (James 1:5) Solomon asked and God did indeed give liberally; He gave Solomon wisdom "as measureless as the sand on the seashore"! (I Kings 4:29, N.I.V.)

Solomon imparted much of his wisdom in the form of short, two-lined, easy-to-remember sentences called proverbs. These proverbs have been recorded and included in the book of the Proverbs for our benefit and admonition.

Although Solomon is the principal author (Chapters 1-29--see 1:1, 10:1, 25:1), other contributors are Agur, who wrote Chapter 30, and Lemuel, who shared his mother's teaching in Chapter 31. The proverbs of Solomon in Chapters 25-29 were collected and copied later by the men of King Hezekiah of Judah (25:1). Although several authors, collectors and copiers were involved in the creation of Proverbs, the Holy Spirit was the inspiration and master editor of the entire book.

The Bible only mentions Agur, Lemuel and the men of Hezekiah in one brief instance, but the life of Solomon, the son of David, is given a place of prominence. Read about the reign of Solomon in I Kings 3; 4:20-34, 10:23, 24 and answer the following ten questions.

1. Write out Solomon's request in 3:9. _____

2. What was God's response to Solomon's request? 3:10 _____

3. For what other three things could Solomon have asked? 3:11 _____

4. In answer to his request, God gave Solomon a _____ and an _____
heart. 3:12
5. What else did God give Solomon? 3:13 _____
6. What did all Israel recognize in Solomon that caused them to fear him? 3:28 _____

7. Whose wisdom did Solomon's excel? 4:30 _____

8. Was any man wiser than Solomon? 4:31 _____
9. How many proverbs did he speak? 4:32 _____
10. Who sought Solomon to hear his wisdom? 10:24 _____
Please answer the next three questions from I Kings 10:1-10.
11. Why did the Queen of Sheba go to see Solomon? v. 1 _____

12. After Solomon answered all her questions and showed her his kingdom, what did the Queen of Sheba say of the report she had heard in her own land? v. 6 _____

13. What was the Queen's initial reaction to the report, and what was her final conclusion about Solomon? v. 7 _____

14. Jesus Christ recognized the greatness of Solomon (Matthew 6:29 and Luke 12:27), but what did He say of Himself in Luke 11:31? _____

Many Israelites proved Jesus with hard questions, but unlike the Queen of Sheba, they did not admit to His greatness nor give Him the honor He deserved.

God was exceedingly and abundantly gracious to Solomon. His peaceful and prosperous reign allowed him time to exercise the gift of wisdom God had given, the fruit of which has been passed on to us in the Proverbs.

PART I: CHAPTERS 1-9, THE INTRODUCTION

The first nine chapters of Proverbs were written by Solomon as an introduction to his main body of proverbs in Chapters 10-29. These first chapters contain a strong exhortation about the pursuit of wisdom and the avoidance of evil.

CHAPTER 1 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. What five purposes in verses 2-4 did Solomon give as the basis for sharing his proverbs? _____

2. Who will hear (give heed to) these proverbs in order to increase his learning? v. 5 _____

3. According to verse 6, the wise man who gives heed will also learn to _____
a proverb and the _____
4. What is the "beginning" or the initial precept that must be learned in order to gain knowledge? v.7

The phrase "fear of the Lord" is mentioned 14 times in the Proverbs. This phrase means an exceeding, dreadful, and reverential fear of God for who He is. Such fear does not deny us an affectionate, loving relationship with God. This proverb simply teaches that without a true fear of the Lord, wisdom cannot be attained.

5. Who despises wisdom and instruction? v. 7 _____
6. What advice is given in verses 10 and 15? _____

7. Those who seek gain by robbing and doing harm to others are only injuring themselves. They actually lay wait for their own _____, and they lurk privily for their own _____.
v. 18

God has provided an alternative to the certain death that sin brings. The way of salvation is woven into every book of the Bible. In Proverbs, **wisdom** leads the way to salvation. Throughout the introduction, wisdom is personified as a woman.

8. From verses 20 and 21, list five places where wisdom cries and utters her voice. _____

9. According to Mark 16:15, where is the gospel to be preached? _____
10. If we turn to wisdom, what two things does she say she will do? v. 23 _____

11. What is the result to those who reject the counsel and reproof of wisdom? v. 28 _____

12. What choice determined the destiny of those who rejected wisdom? v.29b _____

13. What is the promise to those who hearken to wisdom? v. 33 _____

CHAPTER 2 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

In verses 1-4, we are presented with the diligent and wholehearted search that is prerequisite to finding wisdom. See Hebrews 11:6.

1. What does this search involve? List eight actions from verses 1-4. _____

2. What is the reward of this diligent search? v. 5 _____

3. In addition, what six things are discovered about God? vv. 6-8 _____

4. When wisdom enters our hearts, and knowledge is pleasant to our souls, from what are we delivered? vv. 12a, 16 _____

5. The way of the evil man leads through the wide gate to _____. Matt.7:13

6. To where does the way of the good man lead? Matt. 7:14 _____

In Proverbs 2:16, we are introduced to wisdom's opposite, the strange woman. She is also known as the adulteress, the foolish woman, and the evil woman. She stands for everything that is against God. She draws man away from God and leads him to eternal destruction. The strange woman is the enemy of man's soul, the spirit of Satan in the world.

God and Satan have been in competition for souls since the fall of man. God's wisdom and Satan's strange woman both have a voice; man chooses whom he will hear and follow.

7. What does the strange woman do with her words? v. 16 _____

8. What happens to those who follow the strange woman? v. 19 _____

CHAPTER 3 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Choosing God's way of salvation not only delivers us from the strange woman and resulting destruction, it also gives us the opportunity to receive many benefits.

1. When we keep God's commandments, _____,
_____ and _____ will be added to us. vv.1,2

2. If we bind mercy and truth about our necks, and write them upon our hearts, what will we find?
vv. 3,4 _____

3. What can we do to insure that God will direct our paths? vv. 5,6 _____

4. If we honor God with our substance (offerings) and the first fruits of all our increase (tithes), then shall _____
_____ vv. 9,10

5. What are two less popular benefits from the Lord? v. 11 _____

6. We can find great consolation in knowing that whom the Lord _____
He corrects. v. 12

7. According to verses 13 and 18, _____ is the man that finds and retains wisdom.

As we **keep** sound wisdom and discretion (verse 21), we can expect the further benefits of safe travel (verse 23), peaceful sleep (verse 24), exclusion from God's wrath (verse 25), and confidence in God's protection (verse 26).

Right conduct toward others as exemplified in verses 27-30 should be a natural outflow of our thankfulness for God's bountiful provision.

8. Verse 31 tells us not to envy the oppressor nor his seeming prosperity. Why? v. 33 _____

CHAPTER 4 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Solomon began this chapter (verses 1-4) as a father speaking lovingly and earnestly to his children. He realized the importance of teaching others, even as his father, the godly King David, had taught him (verse 4).

Spiritual heritage is passed down from generation to generation. Every Christian should feel a strong responsibility to be a solid link between the generations within the body of Christ. The responsibility of each Christian is to learn from the elders and to teach those younger in the Lord. Read Ephesians 6:4, II Timothy 2:2, and Titus 2:3,4.

1. The burden upon Solomon's heart and his cry to succeeding generations, repeated in verses 5 and 7, was _____

2. Get wisdom. Get wisdom! Why? v. 7 _____

The New International Version translates Proverbs 4:7 as, "Wisdom is supreme: therefore get wisdom. Though it cost all you have...."

3. What did the merchant do when he found the one pearl of great price? Matt. 13:46 _____

Wisdom is **supreme**. The acquisition of wisdom, of true knowledge, must overshadow all other accomplishments, desires, goals, and ambitions.

4. Write out Philippians 3:8. _____

The knowledge of Christ is the greatest goal. **CHRIST** is supreme! Before the fullness of time came when Christ should be revealed, He was hidden in the Old Testament, seen mostly through innumerable types, shadows and prophecies. In Proverbs, wisdom, which is personified as a woman, foreshadows our precious Saviour.

In the New Testament, Christ is declared to be "the wisdom of God" (I Corinthians 1:24). Christ is the wisdom of God made manifest in the flesh. In Proverbs, Solomon cried earnestly, "Hear wisdom!" Centuries later, God Himself cried out from heaven, "This is my beloved Son: hear Him" (Mark 9:7).

5. Once wisdom is heard and received, what four things can be done to maintain her presence? vv. 6,8 _____

As we are faithful to Christ, embracing Him, loving and exalting Him, truly He will preserve us and raise us to the greatest honor. We will be brought into communion with Him as we hear the words He spoke in Matthew 25:21, "Enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

6. What will wisdom give? v. 9 _____

The remaining verses in Chapter 4 contrast the paths of the wicked with the righteous (verses 10-19) and give instruction on how to stay on the righteous path (verses 20-27).

7. Describe the path of the just. v. 18 _____

8. Describe the way of the wicked. v. 19 _____
9. From verses 23-27, choose two suggestions that you feel are particularly helpful for a person trying to stay on the path of righteousness. _____

CHAPTER 5 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 5 demonstrates that consistent, sound teaching is necessary to keep believers from being drawn aside by the deception of the enemy.

1. Describe the lips and mouth of the strange woman. v. 3 _____

2. In his letter to the Colossians, Paul strove to teach the truth of the gospel lest _____
_____. Col. 2:4
3. Many things may **seem** to be right and worthy of acceptance, but of what four things does Paul warn us to beware in Colossians 2:8? _____

4. Where do the footsteps of the strange woman lead? v. 5 _____
5. In the face of sound teaching and explicit warnings, what would be the reasons for failure? Read verses 7-14 and answer from verses 12 and 13. _____

Verses 15-21 contain an exhortation to fidelity within marriage. This instruction applies just as strongly to the union between God and His people.

6. God was understandably jealous and angry with the nation of Israel when she forsook Him to go after strange gods. According to Jeremiah 2:13, what did Israel forsake when she forsook Jehovah God? _____
7. What did they use as a poor substitute for the divine waters? Jeremiah 2:13 _____

The people of Israel had the Source, the great I AM, in their midst. Yet, they chose to serve strange gods who could do nothing for them.

Our well, our Source, is Jesus Christ. "In Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily, and ye are complete in him..." (Colossians 2:9,10). To search for fulfillment outside of Christ and His all-encompassing provision is foolishness.

8. A fitting question is asked in Proverbs 5:20. Please write it out. _____

9. Again, in the face of instruction, how will a man go astray? v. 23 _____

CHAPTER 6 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 6 lists many of the pitfalls which can snare a person who is not walking in wisdom's perfect way: indebtedness (verses 1-5), lethargy and sloth (verses 6-11), corrupt and wicked communication (verses 12-15), abominable sins (verses 16-19), and adultery (verses 20-35).

Read Proverbs 11:15, 17:18, 22:26, and then reread 6:1-5.

1. What is the advice of Solomon to one who has made himself surety for another's debts? v. 5

- In other words, try to get out of it! A man may have noble and kind intentions in standing behind a friend and guaranteeing his debt, but Solomon considered such an arrangement hazardous. If the friend could not pay, according to Old Testament law, the one who placed himself as surety could lose everything, including his family (to bond slavery).
2. In spite of the great cost, there was a man who made a "surety" commitment. Who was he and what did it cost him for the debt his friends could not pay? Romans 5:6-8 _____

3. What advice did Jesus receive in Matthew 27:39,40? _____

Jesus remained on the cross for our sakes. Jesus was the only man worthy and able to pay the supreme price for the redemption of man's sinful soul. Aren't you glad Jesus made such a commitment?

4. What shall come upon the sluggard who prefers slumber to hard work? v. 11 _____
- In the material realm, slothfulness results in poverty. Similarly, slothfulness in the service of God results in **spiritual** poverty. The Christian who neglects the calls and urgings of the Holy Spirit to serve God will come to spiritual poverty and want. The Amplified Version describes this poverty as coming "with slow but surely approaching steps" and this want "as an armed man making you helpless."
5. What does a naughty and wicked person walk with? v. 12 _____
 A froward mouth is perverse and corrupt, one that is turned away from what is right and good.
6. What does this frowardness sow? v. 14 _____
7. Sowing discord among the brethren is listed as one of seven sins that God hates and finds abominable. From verses 16-19, list the other six sins. _____

8. What three things will God's word do if it is continually upon the heart (directing the conscience) and tied around the neck (directing the speech)? vv. 20-22 _____

God's Word not only guides and preserves, it also provides companionship, for "it shall talk with thee." What a wonderful promise, especially to the lonely soul!

9. What are the reproofs of instruction? v. 23 _____
10. The purpose of God's Word and His reproofs is to keep us from _____
from the flattery of the tongue of _____ v. 24
11. Destruction of the human soul is Satan's evil intent. According to verse 26, what does the adulteress hunt for? _____
12. An apprehended thief, although required to restore sevenfold, is not despised by men if _____
_____. v. 30
13. But what will the adulterer get, and what will not be wiped away? vv. 32,33 _____

Our recollection of David as the sweet psalmist of Israel, the Goliath-slayer, and the man after God's own heart are clouded by the thought of David in his adulterous sin with Bathsheba. Although forgiven, cleansed, and even honored by God, David received a grievous wound. Dishonor and a haunting reproach marred his earthly life. Oh, that David had not strayed, had not let the commandment of God slip away from his heart!

CHAPTER 7 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. The same important exhortation given in Chapter 6:20-24 is repeated here in verses 1-5. What is the purpose of keeping God's commandments and drawing near to wisdom? v. 5 _____

A sad story is told in verses 6-23 of a youth who strayed and, without the protection of God's word, was snared by the strange woman.

2. This young man was void of _____ v. 7
3. When was he passing near the strange woman's house? v. 9 _____
4. According to Jesus Christ, how will a man stumble? John 11:10 _____
5. Describe the heart of this woman who was dressed as a harlot. v. 10 _____
6. How is the serpent described in Genesis 3:1? _____
7. In the end, how did the woman force the youth and cause him to yield? v. 21 _____

8. Hopelessly lured, how did he go to her? v. 22 _____

9. What was he ignorant of? v. 23 _____
10. What are we not ignorant of? II Corinthians 2:11 _____
11. Describe the house of the strange woman. v. 27 _____

CHAPTER 8 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

Chapter 8 offers a wonderful contrast to the oppressive darkness of the previous chapter. **Wisdom speaks**; she shines forth her goodness, her worth, her authority, and her bounty toward men.

1. The young man in Chapter 7 suffered his fate needlessly. Why? v. 1 _____

2. Many voices clamor for attention. Wisdom can be heard above them all. Where does she stand? v. 2a _____

Jesus Christ is above the gods and great men of the world. He stands at the top and reigns supreme--King of Kings and Lord of Lords! Some mistakenly believe and proclaim that "all (spiritual) paths lead to God." Scripture plainly teaches that there is only **one way** to God and that all other paths lead to destruction. (John 14:6, 10:1, 7-9; 3:17,18; Acts 4:12; I John 2:22,23)

3. Because God is not willing that any should perish, He makes wisdom accessible to all by stationing her _____ in the places of the common _____. v.2b
4. To whom does wisdom call? v. 4 _____

The New International Version translates verse 4, "I raise my voice to all mankind." God's love and seeking power know no bounds; wisdom's voice reaches into all the earth.

5. The strange woman spoke flattery and deceit. What does wisdom speak? vv. 6,7 _____

6. How do kings reign, princes decree justice, and leaders rule? vv. 15,16 _____

7. What is better than fine gold and choice silver? v. 19 _____

8. What does wisdom promise to those who love her? v. 21 _____

The claims of wisdom and the truth of her words are supported by what she reveals about herself in verses 22-31. Wisdom is an essential characteristic of the nature of God. The Lord possessed wisdom and brought her forth as an expression of His nature when He conceived and executed the plans of creation. Reread verses 22-31.

9. Wisdom brings her discourse to a close in verses 32-36. What are her first five words in verse 32?

10. Who is a blessed man? v. 34 _____

11. In finding wisdom, what else does one find and obtain? v. 35 _____

12. Those who hate wisdom love _____. v. 36

CHAPTER 9 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

The introduction to Proverbs is concluded in Chapter 9 with two invitations. Both wisdom and the strange woman have prepared feasts; man's choice of which he will attend determines his eternal destiny.

1. Wisdom has prepared a place for her feast. What has she built and hewn out? v. 1 _____

Seven is God's number of perfection and completion. The seven pillared house may represent a perfect dwelling place where man will be completely satisfied and fulfilled. Read John 14:1-4 and Revelation 21:4.

2. The meat has been prepared, the wine mixed, and the table set. Whom does she send forth with invitation? v. 3 _____ Read Matt. 22:1-4.
3. What is wisdom's invitation? v. 5 _____
 _____ Read Matt. 26:26-28.
4. What is the beginning of wisdom? v. 10 _____
5. Most modern versions of the Bible translate "holy" in verse 10 as "the Holy One." Using this meaning, what is understanding? v. 10 _____

6. While wisdom stands at the top, the foolish woman (strange woman, evil woman, adulteress, etc.) sits on a seat in the high places calling to passersby. What is her invitation? v. 17 _____

7. The bread and water offered by the foolish woman are illicit and impure, yet she describes them as being "sweet" and "pleasant." Sin does give certain private pleasures for a season, but ultimately where can the guests who feast at sin's banquet table be found? v. 18

PART II: CHAPTERS 10-29, THE PROVERBS OF SOLOMON

By the end of Solomon's introduction, hopefully the reader has chosen the path of wisdom and is ready to receive godly instruction for daily living. An open and teachable spirit is necessary in order to benefit from the proverbs.

The proverbs are presented seemingly without order or logical sequence. Each one stands alone, an individual gem worthy of private examination. Scattered throughout the chapters, however, are proverbs which share common themes or subjects. For this study of Solomon's proverbs, five topics have been chosen: children and parenting, slothfulness and diligence, speech, relationships with others, and building godly character.

Before proceeding to the first topic, please read Chapters 10-15. Notice the frequent use of proverbs which **compare** and **contrast**. Most easily recognizable are the ones which use the conjunction "but"; for example, "The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: **but** the desire of the righteous shall be granted" (10:24).

CHILDREN AND PARENTING

1. Solomon's first proverb regards the parent-child relationship. What makes a glad father? 10:1

2. God is pleased when His sons and daughters are wise, when they govern their lives by His Word and by His Spirit. What does the Spirit of God say in Proverbs 23:15? _____

3. What is a foolish son to his father and mother? 17:25 _____
In the Proverbs, God has given definite and practical instruction for raising children--wise children who cause their parents joy and not grief. Strongly emphasized is the necessity for **training** and **discipline**.
4. Children are not naturally wise. In fact, what is bound in the heart of a child? 22:15 _____
5. What will drive this foolishness far from him? 22:15 _____
6. What happens when a child is "left to himself"? 29:15 _____

7. How is the fruit of wisdom brought forth in a child? 29:15 _____

8. What two things will a corrected child give to his parents? 29:17 _____

9. Consistent disciplining can be difficult and distasteful, but the Bible plainly declares in Proverbs 13:24 that he who spares the rod _____
10. Early training becomes ingrained within a person's character. What promise is given in Proverbs 22:6? _____

SLOTHFULNESS AND DILIGENCE

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might."(Eccl. 9:10) The Lord intends us to apply this instruction diligently in both material and spiritual matters. God is not at all lenient concerning slothfulness, for they that would not fill their vessels with oil were denied when the bridegroom came (Matthew 25:1-12).

1. Who is a wise son? 10:5 _____

2. Who is a son that causes shame? 10:5 _____
3. What is a sluggard to them that send him? 10:26 _____

4. Whose hand makes rich? 10:4 _____
5. Whose hand will rule and not be under tribute? 12:24 _____
6. The slothful man is a brother to him that is a _____. 18:9
7. The slothful man is so lazy and wasteful that he will not even _____
_____. 12:27
8. Proverbs 13:4 states that the soul of the sluggard desires, yet has nothing. According to 21:25, why does the desire of the slothful kill him? _____

9. Describe the way of the slothful man and the way of the righteous. 15:19 _____

10. The slothful cannot bear inconvenience or discomfort. Why does the sluggard refuse to plow? 20:4 _____
11. What will happen to him later in harvest? 20:4 _____

12. What does the slothful man say? 22:13 _____

Fear, real or feigned, can be used as an excuse to keep a person from doing something for God. The slothful man becomes preoccupied with imaginary difficulties, thereby preventing himself from using and multiplying the talents that God has given.

13. Why should we not love sleep? 20:13 _____
14. What must we do in order to have our need for bread and other necessities satisfied? 20:13 _____

15. What will happen to a man who is diligent in his business? 22:29 _____

Before continuing to the next topic, please read Chapters 16-22. Rather than using contrast, many of the proverbs in this section use **repetition** and **addition** to emphasize the truth. These proverbs are most easily recognized by their use of the conjunction "and." For example, "Pride goeth before destruction, **and** an haughty spirit before a fall" (16:18); "A man's gift maketh room for him, **and** bringeth him before great men" (18:16).

SPEECH

Our speech is so important that over 65 proverbs deal with this subject!

1. What are in the power of the tongue? 18:21 _____

2. Our tongue is a very powerful instrument. Used destructively, it can cut and kill like the _____
but the kind tongue of the wise is _____. 12:18
3. The lips of the righteous _____. 10:21
4. Read John 21:15-17. In Spirit-led obedience to the Lord's command, Peter fed many on the day of Pentecost by his anointed preaching (Acts 2:14-41). According to verse 41, how many were fed? _____
5. What is the mouth of a righteous man? Prov. 10:11 _____
6. What is in the mouth of the foolish? 14:3 _____
7. What are the mouth and lips of a fool? 18:7 _____
8. What is in the lips of an ungodly man? 16:27 _____
9. A wholesome tongue brings healing and reconciliation, for it is a _____. 15:4
10. Divine wisdom has perfect timing. How good is a word spoken in _____! 15:23
11. Many times God's good word arrives at the point of greatest need, when all hope is seemingly gone. Read Luke 7:11-15. What were the words of Jesus spoken in verse 14 that lifted this weeping mother's heart? _____
12. Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, _____
and _____. Prov. 16:24
The Bible is full of pleasant words that, if taken in, will yield sweetness and health to our souls.
Read Psalm 19:7-10.
13. Who shows forth righteousness? 12:17 _____
14. What shall be established for ever? 12:19 _____
15. What are an abomination to the Lord? 12:22 _____
16. He that _____ shall not escape. 19:5
17. Read about the lying deceit of Ananias and Sapphira in Acts 5:1-11. Their sin was planned in private, yet was detected and exposed by the Spirit of God. Ananias and Sapphira may have thought they were lying to men, but to whom were they actually lying? vv. 3,4

18. The bread of deceit (or lying) may be sweet to a man, but what will happen afterwards? 20:17

19. God has reserved severe judgment for liars. They will have their part in _____. Revelation 21:8
20. A wise person is one who _____. 10:19

21. Who keeps his life and his soul from troubles? 13:3, 21:23 _____

22. From Proverbs 29:11, describe the fool and the wise man. _____

23. When is even a fool counted wise? 17:28 _____
24. The heart of the righteous _____ . 15:28
25. Who reveals secrets? 11:13 _____
26. A person who is of a _____ spirit _____ the matter. 11:13
27. A _____ separates chief friends. 16:28
28. Describe the words of a talebearer. 18:8, 26:22 _____
29. According to James 3:6, the tongue is a fire that _____ the whole body.
30. The fire of strife ceases where there is no _____. 26:20
31. As the north wind drives away rain, what will drive away a backbiting tongue? 25:23 _____

32. A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a dangerous weapon that is capable of inflicting deadly wounds. How is such a man described in 25:18? _____

33. How can we help to deliver souls from the binding power of Satan and from eternal damnation? Read Mark 16:15,16; Luke 24:46-48; Romans 1:15,16 and then answer from Proverbs 14:25.

Surely, as this brief study of speech in Proverbs has shown, we hold the power of life and death in the wise or unwise use of our tongues. Let us use our tongues wisely and be a tree of life to ourselves and others!

Before continuing to the next topic, please read Chapters 23-29. Note the chapters (25-29) which were copied later by the men of Hezekiah.

RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHERS

As Christians, our actions and attitudes toward all those with whom we deal must be carefully considered and regulated. So important is the testimony we project, that the New Testament describes us as epistles, "known and read of all men" (II Corinthians 3:2)

1. What covers all sins? 10:12 _____
2. Who loves at all times? 17:17 _____
3. Who do you think the friend is that sticks closer than a brother? Prov. 18:24 and John 15:13-15

4. The sweetness of a friend's good counsel is like _____
and _____ that rejoice the heart. 27:9

5. What makes a heavy heart glad? 12:25 _____
 No better remedy can be found for a heavy heart than the good news of the gospel. The good Word of God is filled with promises and encouragement for the soul in need.
6. In order to be truly helpful, sensitivity to the needs of others is important. What is a person like who sings songs to a heavy heart? 25:20 _____

 (Nitre is soda.)
7. Who is harder to be won than a strong city? 18:19 _____
8. We can become dull without stimulation and challenge from others. As iron sharpens iron, so does a man _____ . 27:17
9. Whom are we not to forsake? 27:10 _____

10. What is better than a stalled ox (fatted calf) with hatred? 15:17 _____

11. Why will the man with a bountiful eye be blessed? 22:9 _____

12. He that honoreth his Maker has _____ on the poor. 14:31
13. Who sins and is void of wisdom? 11:12, 14:21 _____
14. Who is of great understanding? 14:29 _____
15. What turns away wrath? 15:1 _____
16. Who is better than the mighty and than one who takes a city? 16:32 _____

17. With whom are we not to make friendship and why? 22:24,25 _____

18. Who shall be wise? 13:20 _____
19. How can a prince (or one in authority) be persuaded? 25:15 _____
20. Faithfulness is required of a steward (I Corinthians 4:2). What kind of a messenger refreshes the soul of his masters? 25:13 _____
21. Confidence in an unfaithful man in time of trouble is like _____
 and _____. 25:19
22. What is rottenness of the bones? 14:30 _____
23. What are we not to do when our enemy stumbles and falls? 24:17 _____

24. What are we to do if our enemy is hungry or thirsty? 25:21 _____

25. What will be the results of our kindness? 25:22 _____

BUILDING GODLY CHARACTER

Closely related to controlling our speech and improving our relationships with others is the challenge of building a godly character. The speech that is uttered and the relationships that are maintained proceed forth from the condition of a man's heart (Luke 6:45). External behavior can never truly be corrected until the heart condition is made right.

As you study the following proverbs, consider each quality carefully and let the Holy Spirit minister to you.

1. Initially and repeatedly a godly person must choose between the values of this world and God's kingdom of righteousness. What will not profit in the day of wrath? What delivers from death? 11:4

2. Choosing God and His will is always the best decision. Having holiness and a good conscience are of far greater value than any amount of worldly goods. Little with fear of the Lord is better than _____ . 15:16
3. What comes before honor? 15:33 _____
4. Why should we refrain from putting ourselves forth in the presence of the king or from standing the place of great men? Answer in your own words. 25:6,7 _____

5. What will bring a man low? Whom will honor uphold? 29:23 _____

6. A prudent man not only foresees evil, he also _____ himself from it. 22:3
7. How do people depart from evil? 16:6 _____
8. What are we to be in all the day long? 23:17 _____
The godly person continually looks to God, acknowledging Him in every detail of daily life.
9. What will happen if we commit our works unto the Lord? 16:3 _____

10. What two things does God ask of us? 23:26 _____

11. What enters more into a wise man than a hundred stripes into a fool? 17:10 _____
12. Who shall have mercy? 28:13 _____
13. The Lord's delight is the _____ . 15:8
14. More acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice is _____
_____ . 21:3
15. The wicked may flee when no man pursues, but the righteous are _____
_____ . 28:1

16. What benefit comes to a man whose ways please the Lord? 16:7 _____

We hope the proverbs that were chosen for this topical study have challenged your heart. Further benefit will be gained from your continued study of and prayerful meditation upon the Proverbs. God's Word has the power to change our undesirable character traits and ingrained habits.

PART III: CHAPTERS 30 AND 31, THE WORDS OF AGUR AND LEMUEL

CHAPTER 30 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. To whom did Agur speak the words of this prophecy? v. 1 _____

2. Agur was important enough to be included in scripture, yet he was a humble man. What four things does he say about himself? vv. 2,3 _____

3. Although Agur confessed that he did not have knowledge of the Holy One (see page 10, question 5), his questions in verse 4 indicate a desire to know personally the mighty God and His Son. What was Agur's last question in verse 4? _____

We have reason to rejoice! Because of the cross, we have been reconciled to God and can therefore personally know Him and His Son.

4. What two confessions of faith does Agur make in verse 5? _____

5. What two things does Agur earnestly ask of God? vv. 7,8 _____

6. Why does he want his needs met, with no more, nor less? v. 9 _____

7. List the four things that are never satisfied, that never say, "It is enough." vv. 15,16 _____

8. What will happen to the eye that mocks his father and despises to obey his mother? v. 17 _____

9. What four things are a mystery to Agur? vv. 18,19 _____

The set of proverbs in verses 21-23 lists achievements that may seem significant, but are actually intolerable.

10. In contrast, the next set of proverbs lists four seemingly insignificant creatures whose achievements are exceedingly wise. What are these creatures? vv. 24-28 _____

The coney is a hyrax or rock badger that lives in the rocky niches in the deserts, hills, and mountains of Africa and Southwest Asia.

11. Name the four things in Agur's final set of proverbs that he considered stately and majestic. vv. 29-31 _____

CHAPTER 31 - READ THE CHAPTER FIRST

1. What are the words of King Lemuel? v. 1 _____
Verses 2 through 9 contain warnings and wise counsel to the king.
2. Why are kings and princes not to drink wine or strong drink? vv. 4,5 _____

3. When a king opens his mouth, what two things should he do? v. 9 _____

Wisdom and the strange woman were presented in Chapters 1 through 9. Here in verse 10, the third woman in Proverbs is introduced--the virtuous woman. She may be a representation of Lemuel's mother. She definitely typifies the ideal for which godly men ought to seek and the pattern which godly women ought to emulate. She also symbolizes God's virtuous woman, the church, in full maturity, strength and power.

4. The price of a virtuous woman is far above _____. v. 10
5. What did the church cost God? I Peter 1:18,19; Acts 20:28 _____
6. What is one quality of the virtuous woman? v. 11 _____
7. How does she treat her husband? v. 12 _____

8. What does the virtuous woman do with her hands? v. 13 _____
9. What does she perceive about her merchandise? v. 18 _____

10. To whom does she reach out? v. 20 _____
11. Read Matthew 25:34-40. The Lord has instructed His followers also to reach out to the poor and

needy. List three of the ministries Jesus has directed us to perform. _____

12. Although presently clothed with strength and honor, when shall the virtuous woman rejoice? v.25

13. Describe the speech of the virtuous woman. v. 26 _____

14. What does she refrain from eating? v. 27 _____

15. How do her children and husband treat her? v. 28 _____

16. _____ is deceitful and _____ is vain. v. 30

17. What woman will be praised? v. 30 _____

18. The final picture of the virtuous woman portrays her standing in the city gates receiving praise. What will praise her in the gates? v. 31 _____

The portrait of the virtuous woman aptly draws Proverbs to a close, for the entire book then becomes a progressive portrait of a believer's journey from innocence to full maturity. In Chapters 1-9, the innocent youth is presented with a choice--good or evil, wisdom or the strange woman, Christ or the devil. Once the right choice is made, Chapters 10-30 provide the maturing believer with a rich and unflinching guide to righteous Christian living. If taken to heart and given full application, this "instruction in righteousness" will lead the believer unto perfection, the perfection exemplified by the life of the virtuous woman. A New Testament passage outlining this three-stage progression from innocence to full maturity is found in II Timothy 3:15-17.

Our burning desire should be to come into full maturity where we are victorious and "thoroughly furnished unto all good works." Like the virtuous woman, we too will receive a great reward. Our works will be praised in the heavenly gates; and as the virtuous woman was a crowned tribute to wisdom, we will be a crowned tribute to Christ! In great joy we will remove our jewel-studded crowns and cast them at the feet of Him whose love and grace wrought for us such a reward.

Let us go on unto perfection! Hebrews 6:1

I have answered all questions to the best of my ability.

Name _____

Address _____

Date _____