

“Insights Into Glorifying God In Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 16:27-33

February 7, 2024

Titles of individual proverbs are adapted from *The Wisdom of Proverbs* by Bob Beasley

1. Beware of the Ungodly Slanderer – 27-30

Verse 27:

“worthless man” – means a person who is “good for nothing”.

The Hebrew word has a strong connotation of an evil person

“plots evil” – The Hebrew word has the idea of bringing evil to the surface

Verse 28:

“strife” – the opposite of what God wants in His people – Proverb 6:16-19

Verse 29:

“violence” – word used in Old Testament of extreme wickedness

Genesis 6:11, 13

Conclusion to verse 27-30: The wise person is alert to a person being a slanderer but he/she is also quick to beware of slander in his/her own mouth.

Ephesians 4:31-32; Philippians 4:8; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8a

The wise person instead of slandering will follow Galatians 6:1

2. Honor the Elder Saints in the Church – 31

In the culture of the Old Testament people revered and respected older people. Everyone assumed older people knew more than the young people and they had accumulated much wisdom – Job 32:1-7.

“righteous life” – gray hair as a crown of glory is only found in the older people who are righteous. Bob Beasley writing of the gray haired person who is righteous: “Each day speaks of the nearness of his face-to-face meeting with the Ancient of Days. He will complete the redemption that began so long ago”.

But of the non-righteous older person Beasley writes: “A gray head is a crown of pending doom to the old person who has rejected Jesus. Each day he or she waits for time on earth to end and eternity to begin, having only laid up for that eternity a store of God’s wrath (Romans 2:5)”.

Ecclesiastes 4:13

Psalm 92:12-15

3. Submit Your Anger to the Spirit’s Rule – 32

“slow to anger” – this is often used in Scripture to Describe God – Exodus 34:6; Numbers 14:18; Psalm 86:15

We are like God when we are slow to anger

James 1:19-20

Scripture tells us how to combat anger:

- Resist the Devil – James 4:7
- Stand with the whole armor of God – Ephesians 6
- Bridle the tongue – James 3:2

“better than the mighty” – illustration: Gideon – Judges 8:1-3

“takes a city” – “The capture of a city is child’s play, compared with the struggle with is “not against flesh and blood – Ephesians 6:13”. Charles Bridges

Ephesians 4:31-32

4. Worship God in His Sovereignty – 33

Chapter 16 ends where it began with the theme of God’s sovereignty – 16:1-9

Verse 1:

“belongs to man” – God gave man the ability to reason and think things through.

“answer of the tongue” – refers to more than a mere reply. It’s the correct and perfect response to the immediate situation.

“from the Lord” – while man may plan what he thinks is best – only God can put the perfect answer in a person’s mouth.

Verse 3:

“established” – God will lead us in the way He has planned

Verse 4:

“its purpose” – Everything is under God’s control and under His direction

“wicked” – even the wicked exist under God’s sovereign plan in order to fulfill His eternal purposes. Example: Joseph’s brothers

Verse 9:

“establishes his steps” – God will lead us in the way He has planned

Verse 33

“The lot is cast into the lap” – Lots (similar to dice) provided a yes or no answer to a question.

Used by the crew of Jonah’s ship to see who was responsible for the storm

Used by the apostles to choose Mathias

We don’t see believers using lots after the coming of the Holy Spirit. Plus we have the completed New Testament.