

PROVERBS 15 - Wise Sayings of Solomon!

1/11/25 – Sat. Morn. Prayer - P. Twente, 714 425-9221; ptwente@gmail.com www.ptwente.com

(Deu 30:1-10) The Blessings of Returning to God

(Eze 18:30-32) Turn and Live [32] For I have no pleasure in the death of one who dies," says the Lord GOD. "Therefore turn and live!"

(Eze 33:11) Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Pro 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath, But a harsh word stirs up anger.

- *A soft answer turns away wrath.* One of the best ways to end a fight is to give a soft answer. We remember when Gideon had gone out against the Midianites, and God delivered the Midianites into the hands of Gideon. The men from the tribe of Ephraim came, and they said, “Why didn’t you call us to go out with you!,” you know, and they were really upset. Gideon just gave to them a very soft answer. The Ephraimites went away all settled, and happy!
- There could have been real bitterness over that. There could have been real strife over that. In fact, later on, these same Ephraimites came to Jephtha in a similar situation, and they said, “Why didn’t you call on us?” and Jephtha said, “You rats! You did not turn out!.” You know, and they had a big confab! I mean they really got into it!
- *But a harsh word stirs up anger.* The Bible deals with life, and the issues of life, and how to best get along in life. This is just an excellent rule to mollify troubled waters. A soft answer turns away wrath. Try it this week.

Pro 15:2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness.

- So, there is the contrast here between the wise using knowledge aright, whereas the fools, their tongue pours out just, foolishness. Interesting proverb, the third one here.

Pro 15:3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Keeping watch on the evil and the good.

- Wisdom understands that we are always under the eye of God. He sees us *in every place*, even when we are hidden to human eyes.
- *Keeping watch on the evil and the good:* God takes note of *both the evil and the good*. He will deal with the *evil* according to His righteous judgment, and He will bless and reward the *good*. Among men, *evil* is often unpunished and *good* is often unrewarded, but God sees and notes all!

Pro 15:4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, But perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

- Again, going back to the tongue, this is just sort of thrown in between some of these verses on the tongue. *The wholesome tongue is a tree of life.* We had the tongue of the wise, now the wholesome tongue. It tends towards life, goodness, *but perverseness in it*, that is, in the tongue, *breaks the spirit*. You can break a person’s spirit with your tongue.

Pro 15:5 A fool despises his father's instruction, But he who receives correction is prudent.

- The next verse is a contrast between a fool and the prudent. *A fool* would despise the wisdom that comes from a godly parent and God’s word.
- *He who receives correction is prudent:* Learning wisdom is more than learning facts; it is to receive *correction*. If what we learn *only* confirms what we already know, it probably isn’t wisdom we are learning..

Pro 15:6 In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, But in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.

- *In the house of righteousness is much treasure.* God rewards, and blesses those who follow His commands. In fact, the commands of the Lord are intended to bring you prosperity. When Moses turned the reins over to Joshua, he encouraged Joshua to meditate in that law, to remain in the law.

“And thus, shalt thou make thy way prosperous, and you will have good success!” The law of the Lord, it is the law of prosperity and success!

- *But in the revenue of the wicked is trouble.* Money that is gotten by wickedness. There is all kinds of trouble involved. Again, contrast between the wise and the foolish, and it is in their lips, or in their tongue again.

Pro 15:7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, But the heart of the fool does not do so.

- Contrast between the wicked and the upright. What comes out of my lips?

Pro 15:8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

- Without godliness, religious ritual, such as *sacrifice*, can be an *abomination* to God. As Samuel said to Saul, *Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice.*
- *The prayer of the upright is His delight:* The godly man or woman delights God with their *prayer*. The *wicked* one goes to the trouble and expense of offering a *sacrifice*, but it does not *delight* God in the way the *prayer of the upright* does.

Pro 15:9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But He loves him who follows righteousness.

- This is a similar kind of a proverb to the previous one. There is, there is a lot of similarity, the wicked, whether it be a sacrifice, or the way of the wicked, they are an abomination to God. The righteous, He delights in his prayer, and He loves those who follow in the path of righteousness.

Pro 15:10 Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, And he who hates correction will die.

- Now for a little bit we won't be having contrasts, but just proverbs that deal with wisdom, and observations. The person who has forsaken the way of the Lord so often hates correction. But, if they hate that reproof, they will die.

Pro 15:11 Hell and Destruction are before the LORD; So how much more the hearts (plan, purpose of humanity) of the sons of men.

- This ties together with David's 139th Psalm again. “Though I descend into hell, You are there.” “Hell, and destruction are before the Lord. How much more than the hearts of the children of men?” God knows your heart.

Pro 15:12 A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise.

Pro 15:13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, But by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

- So, the scoffer will not appreciate reproof. He will not seek wise counsel. This is interesting.
- *A merry heart.* There are several proverbs that deal with a merry heart, good to have a merry heart! God wants you to have a merry heart! God wants you to enjoy Him, life.

Pro 15:14 The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

- The contrast between the heart of those who seek understanding, and the fool.

Pro 15:15 All the days of the afflicted are evil, But he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.

- The merry heart, just your life is like a continual feast.

Pro 15:16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, Than great treasure with trouble.

- There are a lot of proverbs that will deal with, “it's better this, than that.” This is one of the first. We will be getting many as we progress into the Proverbs, there will be many that have this interesting contrast.

Pro 15:17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, Than a fatted calf with hatred.

- Eating around a table where there's love, you do not have enough money to buy steak, but we got love, and we are eating carrots. You know, that is great! “Better is a dinner of herbs where love is,”

- *Than a fatted calf with hatred. It is better* to eat with love, than to have the contention and the strife, than a fatted calf.

Pro 15:18 *A wrathful man stirs up strife, But he who is slow to anger allays* (calms, quiets) *contention.*

- There are, there are people who are like nitroglycerine. Any little shaking, and they will explode. You know, and you have so careful around them. You just realize, hey walk softly, you do not want to, too much vibration, this thing will go off, you know! “The wrathful man stirs up strife”...
- *But he who is slow to anger allays contention.* Oh God help us to be slow to anger, God give us control, and give us a smooth, even disposition, so that I am not easily provoked, slow to anger. He makes peace.

Pro 15:19 *The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, But the way of the upright is a highway.*

- Those who are **lazy** may not see it in themselves, but they more easily see the *result* of their laziness, which is a life filled with constant trouble and irritations. *It is like a hedge of prickly thorns.*

Pro 15:20 *A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish man despises his mother.*

Pro 15:21 *Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment, But a man of understanding walks uprightly.*

- An interesting one to contemplate! People get their joy many times in foolishness, but the Bible says, “they’re destitute of wisdom.” Often things are not brought to fruition, because of the lack of counsel, the lack of good counsel. It could have been done, had you just sought some wise counsel.

Pro 15:22 *Without counsel, plans go awry, But in the multitude of counselors they are established.* (Isa 9:6) *Mighty God, Wonderful, Counselor!*

Pro 15:23 *A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, And a word spoken in due season (timely), how good it is!*

- Correct and wise words have the potential and power to bring great **joy** to one’s self and to others.
- *A word spoken in due season, how good it is:* The value in a *good word* is often not only found in its *content* but also in its *timing*. The right word at the right time (*in due season*) is a powerful force for good.

Pro 15:24 *The way of life winds upward for the wise, That he may turn away from hell below.*

- Now no contrast here, it is just an amplification. “*The way of life winds upward for the wise,*” that is, we are guided. It is from above. It is the path that God establishes. It causes us to depart from hell beneath, it will keep us in that way of eternal life.

Pro 15:25 *The LORD will destroy the house (household) of the proud, But He will establish the boundary of the widow.*

- Pride comes before destruction,” the Lord will destroy the house of the proud.

Pro 15:26 *The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, But the words of the pure are pleasant.*

- If you are wicked, you are an abomination to God! Everything about you, even if you try to sacrifice unto Him, it is abomination! So, “the thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord.”
- *But the words of the pure are pleasant.* Again, God takes delight in the prayers, in the words. If you are walking with the Lord, He delights in everything about you. He is just delighted with everything about you when you are walking in fellowship with Him. It is not that glorious! The way God just sort of delights in you? Because, you are His child! Just like we delight in our children.

Pro 15:27 *He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.*

- “Seek not to be rich,” the Bible says, “and if riches increase, set not your heart upon them.” If you are greedy for gain, you are going to have trouble. Your whole family will be troubled.
- A person who is just willing to work, not to try to distort judgment with gifts is life. Righteous and the wicked.

Pro 15:28 The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.

- Do not just give a snap answer off the top of your head! Think about it before you answer. Study your answer.

Pro 15:29 The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

- That is in the sense of, God surrounds the wicked, He is not far distance wise. He is just far from the moral standpoint. I mean, you are walking in wickedness, you are far from God, you are far from the path of God.

Pro 15:30 The light of the (messenger's) eyes rejoices the heart, And a good report makes the bones healthy.

Pro 15:31 The ear that hears the rebukes of life Will abide among the wise.

Pro 15:32 He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, But he who heeds rebuke gets understanding.

- All the way along, the encouragement to receive reproof. The encouragement to hear what people have to say to you. To be open to instruction.

Pro 15:33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility.

- A common and foundational theme in Proverbs is repeated here. *The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom: Wisdom begins in the fear of the Lord*, and true wisdom flows from it.
- *Before honor is humility*: An essential aspect of *the fear of the Lord* is *humility*. To properly fear God is to see and recognize Him as He really is. When we see and recognize who we really are, *humility* comes.

NEAR TO THE HEART OF GOD – Cleland McAfee; Tom Fetke (2:06)

Heart used 81x in Proverbs (Chapter 15:7 11,13,14,15,28)

There is a place of quiet rest, Near to the heart of God;

A place where sin cannot molest, Near to the heart of God.

Refrain:

O Jesus, blest Redeemer, Sent from the heart of God;

Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.

There is a place of full release, Near to the heart of God;

A place where there is joy and peace, Near to the heart of God. (Refrain)

Hold us, who wait before Thee, Near to the heart of God.

Cleland McAfee

*This hymn was born out of tragic circumstances. Cleland McAfee (1866-1944) suffered the loss of two infant nieces to diphtheria in 1903. McAfee was preacher and choir director of the campus Presbyterian church at Park College, Parkville, Mo. His daughter described the account in her book, *Near to the Heart of God*. Hymnologist William J. Reynolds quotes the account: "The family and town were stricken with grief. My father often told us how he sat long and late thinking of what could be said in word and song on the coming Sunday.... So he wrote the little song. The choir learned it at the regular Saturday night rehearsal, and afterward they went to Howard McAfee's home and sang it as they stood under the sky outside the darkened, quarantined house. It was sung again on Sunday morning at the communion service.... The hymn was first included in *The Choir Leader*, October, 1903."*

PRAY FOR OUR CHURCH/PERSECUTED CHURCH; SCHOOLS; POLICE/MILITARY;

ISRAEL:

FOR STATES POSTING THE TEN COMMANDMENTS! LOUISIANA! TENNESSEE!

OKLAHOMA (Bible in schools - State Supt. Public Instruction, Ryan Walters)! OTHER STATES?

PRESIDENT TRUMP AND THE NEW ADMINISTRATION