



10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom. 11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase. 12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life. 13 Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded. 14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death. 15 Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard. 16 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly. 17 A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health. 18 Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured. 19 The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil. 20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. 21 Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed. 22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just. 23 Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment. 24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. 25 The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want. (Prov 13:10-25)

The text begins today with Pride. Pride is a sin most hated by God. Pride even led to war in Heaven. *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.* (Rev 12:7-9) Prideful self sufficiency cannot exist in the presence of God. In fact, there is NO self sufficiency - all are dependent upon the grace and mercy of God for their next breath. So pride of self is enmity against the sovereignty of God. It is for this reason that we give thanks to God

for ALL things. As we read in Revelations, Satan fell from Heaven due to a rebellion motivated by pride: *How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.* (Isaiah 14:12-15) *These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him: A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief, A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren* (Prov 6:16-19) So our understanding of verse 10 of Proverbs 13 is enhanced by comparing other scriptural references. *Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.*

I have lived for 70 blessed years upon God's green earth and have not failed to observe that ill-gotten wealth leads always to misery and depravity. That wealth which has been gleaned from those who are rightful owners is vain. It spends quickly and leaves the vain one with only an empty void in the heart that cannot be filled by anything except temporary sensations. *11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.*

*12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.* Hope forlorn is a grievous condition. There seems no silver lining to any cloud. Each hopeful development seems to evaporate in dust. *While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain:* (Eccl 12:2) But what of hope fulfilled that is based on the sure foundation of Heaven? The Tree of Life will be in the Paradise of God. It offers every good fruit. This is the fruit of hope that is centered in Godly desires.

*13 Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.* Just as equally, we might say whosoever hates the Son of God shall be destroyed, for Jesus Christ is the Word that came down from God (John 1). Those who reverence the Commandments and Word of God (they are the same) shall be rewarded with an eternal blessing.

*14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.* Truly, faithfulness to God's Word gives life and is a defeat of our common enemy - death. Jesus defeated death and Hell at Calvary.

*15 Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.* God has not laid out His Word of Commandments for our sorrow, but for our joy. The Way, the Truth, and the Life is a Way filled with joy. But a life of transgressions is by no means easy - it is a HARD way. I will call to the bar other verses to clarify this verse in Proverbs. *It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks.* (Acts 9:5) *"But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it cannot rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. 'There is no peace,' said my God, 'to the wicked.'* (Isaiah 57:20, 21) *"Come unto Me, all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:29-30) *"And His commandments are not grievous."* (1 John 5:3) and *"Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace."* (Proverbs 3:17) The general doctrine, provided in a cross section of the Bible, is that the ways of sin are full of trouble, but that the ways of holiness are pleasant and peaceful. It will be my present object to illustrate this doctrine; to show that it must of necessity be true; and hence that whatever claims to be

true religion and yet dissents from this doctrine cannot be true.

**16 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.**  
**17 A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.** The wares of the wise is simply wisdom gleaned from the knowledge of God. Studying God's Word trains us to think with His Mind. The fool is brave in his folly, but when the roll is called, he does not make the cut. Those whose messages carry a false report will be destroyed by their own mischief. A faithful ambassador is one who represents his Heavenly Sovereign faithfully and according to His Will and not the personal desire of the ambassador.

**18 Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.** When we refuse to read the direction for projects we attempt, the result is always a mess. We refuse to stop and ask directions when lost (especially men), and we do not want to reveal our ignorance by reading instructions. After all else fails, in shame we turn to authoritative instructions. But those who are educated from the Book of Life need not wonder about the affairs of life. They will always be honored and respected - even by enemies.

**19 The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil.** It is not coincidental that fools love evil. Any person who does not love God is a fool in fact. To the fool, good is evil, and evil is good. **20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.** "Birds of a feather, flock together" do they not? The kinds of friends we associate with us will influence us to their values. This is one of the leading problems that has ruined the morality of young Americans. They are forced to attend public education where they are confronted with ONLY atheistic values to the detriment of any hint of Godly virtue. Moreover, the 'boiling pot' is comprised of every dreg of society - so what do we expect? When fools are allowed to comingle with the righteous, the fools will not become righteous - the righteous shall become fools. If you desire your son or daughter to possess Godly values, do more than simply having them attend church once per week. Teach them to observe prayer and study daily in a family worship hour, and do not send them to associate with the wicked as did Lot when he "*pitched his tent toward Sodom.*" (Genesis 13:12)

**21 Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed.** Truly, our natures are magnetic. We attract whatever rubbish our natures are inclined toward. There is a hidden manna of the righteous that rewards daily in times of draught. **Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days.** (Eccl 11:1) The nature of the righteous, being good, will attract a like nature.

The next verse presents a grievance to the modern American politicians, for they desire all things to be left to the state. Their hearts are evil. **22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.** When the government is righteous, the good man will be able to save and leave and inheritance to his children and succeeding generations. But the wealth of the sinner goes to others in the process of time. His wealth is a sure as the fate of Ozymandias. When governments operate with an unequal balance, they will attempt to reverse this Scriptural state of affairs giving the increase of the good to the slothful and lazy.

**23 Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.** In some parts of the world (perhaps in some parts of the US, too), the poor farmer eats far better food than the wealthy. In Korea of the 1960's, the poor ate brown

rice (with husk) while the wealthy class paid much more for 'polished' rice. Since it has been discovered that brown rice is far more healthy, the situation is reversed. The judgment of the modern mind is that anything touched by the hand of man is improved. So we eat poisons in the form of additives to our food that result in all manner of health issues. In Norway, all food is natural. The government there strictly enforces a policy that all foods be natural and contain no additives. The bread and vegetables are DELICIOUS there. The nature of vegetables are as perfect as God made them ere polluted by the hand of man.

How often have we heard that parents 'love their son too much to administer corporeal punishment? This, my friends, is a lie from the lips of Satan. If we fail to discipline a beloved son or daughter, we are creating a situation whereby they are failures in life. In actuality, we do not love enough if we do not discipline. **24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.** God loves us and, because of that, He chastens us. *For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.* (Heb 12:6) If we love our children, as God loves His children, we will chasten them in love.

**25 The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.** It is true that the belly of the wicked is never full just as the stomach of a roaming lion. No matter the wealth they swindle from others, they remain feverish for more and more. The righteous are satisfied with that which God gives - and that is ALWAYS enough! *I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.* (Psalms 37:25)

In view of the pros and cons of righteousness as opposed to wickedness given in this Proverb, I will choose righteousness. What about you, Reader?