

Series: Successful Living

Title: Contrasting Proverbs

Text: Proverbs 10

A Child's Conduct: (Vs 1)

(Pr 15:20; 17:21, 25; 19:13; 28:7; Ge 47:12; 48:2; 26:34-35; 27:42-46).

Righteousness Vs Wickedness: (Vs 2-3)

Treasures obtained by wickedness will eventually be unprofitable, (2Ki 5:20-27; Ps 49:6-8; Pr 11:4, 28; Lu 12:20; Ec 5:10; 1Ti 6:9; Mt 6:19-21; Mt 16:26).

Right standing with God, provides security in life and delivers from death. (Pr 11:4; 13:21; 14:32; Ro 6:23). (See also comment on (Pr 11:19).)

Diligence and Laziness: (Proverbs 10:4-5)

Verses 4-5 reveal the consequences of diligence and laziness. God has ordered that man should labor for his food and physical necessities, (Ge 3:19; 2Th 3:10); He that labors diligently in season will prosper, (Pr 13:4). The lazy and slack-handed will become poor and bring shame to the family, (Pr 6:6-11; 17:2; 19:15, 26; 24:30-34; 30:25; Ge 26:12-13).

The Just and the Wicked: (Proverbs 10:6-7)

Verses 6 and 7 declare blessings for the just (upright). These blessings are from the LORD (Vs. 22) and may, to some extent, have been asked for by grateful neighbors (compare (Pr 11:26; Job 29:12-13).

(Vs 7) Even the memory of these just ones is treasured.

(Pr 22:1; Ps 112:6).

Verses 6 and 7 also present the wicked in sad contrast. (Jude 1:11; 2Ki 10:30-37; Ac 12:21-23; Mt 27:3-5; Mt 12:35-36).

Wise and Foolish: (Proverbs 10:8-9)

Verse 8 declares that the wise will obey commandments and submit to proper authority, as did Abraham (Ge 22:1-10) and the widow (1Ki 17:13-16). The talkative know-it-all will talk big but not yield to divine authority. In the end he comes to ruin. (Ps 78:8, 37; 1Sa 15:23).

Verse 9 declares that he who walks uprightly (Isa 2:5; Mic 6:8; 2Co 5:7), walks surely. Like he who follows the good Shepherd, he has nothing to fear, (Ps 23:4). But he who perverteth his ways in ungodly pursuits cannot hide forever. He will be found out, (1Ti 5:25; Mt 10:26; Lu 12:2).

Speech and Influence (Proverbs 10:10-14)

Verse 10a declares that even a gesture can cause sorrow. Verse 10b is a duplicate of the latter part of verse 8. The LXX renders this part, "a frank rebuke will make for peace."

Verse 11 declares that the mouth or speech of the righteous is a well of life (spiritual life derived from the LORD, (Ps 36:7-9) and manifested in the conduct of the righteous, (Ps 37:30; Joh 8:12).

In contrast is the malice and mischief manifested in the speech of the wicked, (Pr 13:14; 16:22; Mt 12:35).

Verse 12 contrasts the tendency of hatred to provoke strife with the conciliating influence of love, (Ge 21:9-11; 27:41-12; Ac 13:50; Ge 40:15; 45:5-8; Phm 1:9-18; Jas 5:20; 1Pe 4:8; 1Co 13:7).

(Vs 12) Love Forgives and Forgets.

Verse 13 declares that wisdom is found in the words of one who has understanding, (Pr 2:2; 3:13; 4:7; 16:2). The LORD has promised to instruct and guide those who seek understanding (Ps 32:8),

(Vs. 13b) but there is a rod for those who ignore His offer (Pr 26:3; Ps 32:9; Mt 12:35).

14a Wise men lay up knowledge:

Verse 14a emphasizes that it is wise to store up knowledge of truth and understanding to meet legitimate needs as they arise, (Pr 15:2, 28; 1Pe 3:15).

14b but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction.

Verse 14b contrasts the tendency of the foolish who lay not up knowledge, yet are quick to speak unadvisedly on every subject, to the detriment of self and others, (Pr 13:16; 15:2; 18:6, 7; Ps 50:19-20; 52:2-4).

Poverty and Wealth (Proverbs 10:15)

Verse 15 contrasts wealth, regarded by the rich as their strength, with the ills to which poverty exposes the poor (see (Pr 14:20; 19:7; 22:7).

Job said if he regarded riches as his hope, it was an iniquity for which he would be punished, (Job 31:24, 18).

David warned of God's judgment on the man who made not God his strength, but trusted in his riches, (Ps 52:5-7).

Paul also urged Timothy to charge the rich to trust the living God rather than uncertain riches, (1Ti 6:17).

The lesson here is that one should face the reality of the disadvantages of poverty with trust in the LORD. This, however, is not an excuse for laziness, (Pr 6:6-11), nor despair, (Ps 37:25).)

Life and Influence: (Proverbs 10:16-17)

Verse 16 teaches that character, not poverty or wealth, governs the quality of one's life. The righteous use their assets to promote spiritual life. The wicked use their fruit or increase to indulge more and more in sin, (Pr 8:35-36; 9:6; 19:23; 14:34).

Verse 17 contrasts the blessings of those in the way of life who hold fast to instruction with the stubbornness of those who refuse reproof, erring themselves and also causing others to err, (Pr 1:8-9; 4:1, 10, 13, 20-22; 1:23-28; Mt 23:13; Lu 11:52).

Hatred (Proverbs 10:18)

Verse 18 reveals and reproves two evils of the hater. To hide hatred in the heart one must lie. To spread slander marks one as a fool. Both are condemned in (Ps 15:3; 101:5; Ex 20:16; De 5:20).

Warning About Words (Proverbs 10:19-21)

Verse 19 bids the wise to use words sparingly because in the multitude of words there is no lack of sin, (Ec 5:2-3; Jas 3:2).

Verse 20 contrasts the tongue, the instrument of the mind, with the heart or mind itself and reveals that one's words are an index to his own worth. The words of the just are of great value, as choice silver. The words of the wicked are of little worth, as a filing or scraping of worthless metal. (1Sa 1:13; Mt 12:34-35; Lu 6:45).

Verse 21 declares that wise words of the righteous nourish and guide many. Through the true witness of the gospel many find eternal life, (Ac 4:1-4). Through the teaching of the truth many are strengthened. (2Ch 30:22; Ga 6:6; 2Ti 2:2). The fool who likes his folly and cares not for the truth dies for the lack of wisdom, (Pr 1:20-22, 24-27; Lu 12:16-21).

Riches Bestowed By the Lord (Proverbs 10:22)

Verse 22 declares with emphasis that the blessing of the LORD maketh rich.

This is demonstrated in the blessing of Abraham, (Ge 24:36); Isaac, (Ge 25:11; 26:12-13); Solomon, (1Ki 3:13; Job, 42:10; 1:3).

This is not a blanket promise that all shall be made rich, neither does it imply that labor is not necessary. God has promised the righteous would not beg bread (Ps 37:25), subject to His decree that honest labor be performed (Ge

3:19; 2Th 3:10). God blesses with riches according to His wisdom and purpose. And when He does so bless He adds no sorrow such as befall those who acquire wealth by evil and dishonest means, (Pr 11:28; Jas 5:1-6; Ps 52:1-7; Mr 10:24; Lu 12:20-21).

Delight Justified Or Foolish (Proverbs 10:23)

Verse 23 affirms that the fool finds pleasure in evil conduct; but a man of understanding hath wisdom and delights in upright conduct, (Pr 14:9;15:21; Php 4:8-9).

Future Destiny (Proverbs 10:24-25)

Verse 24 declares that what the wicked seek to ignore, yet shrink from with dread, 'is ultimately inescapable.

They shall face the condemning judgment of God, (Job 15:20-21; 21:30; Ps 11:6; Pr 11:5; 16:4; 21:12).

Fulfillment of the desire of the righteous to see God is just as certain, but for them it will be the beginning of eternal and inexpressible glory, (Pr 3:34; Lu 17:24; Col 3:4; 1Pe 5:10; 1Jo 3:2).

(Ps 37:4)(1 Jn 3:22)x

Verse 25 emphasizes the suddenness of the calamity that will come upon the wicked in contrast with the enduring security of the righteous, (Pr 1:27; 6:15; 24:22; 29:1).

The Sluggard: (Proverbs 10:26)

Verse 26 suggests that as smoke irritates the eyes and vinegar hurts the teeth, so will the sluggard be a pain to the employer, (Pr 6:6-11; 13:4;18:9; 26:16).

Future Destiny: (Proverbs 10:27-30)

Verse 27 contrasts the longevity the LORD grants to those who fear Him with the shortened life of the wicked, (Pr 3:2, 16; 9:11; 11:19; Job 15:32-33; 22:15-16; Ps 55:23; Ec 7:17; Pr 1:7) on fear of the LORD.

Verse 28 assures that the righteous shall find the joy they desire, but the hopes of the wicked shall fail, (Pr 11:7; Job 8:13-14; 11:20).

Verse 29 declares that, what is a stronghold to the righteous, is destruction to the wicked.

(Job 17:9; Ps 28:7-8; Isa 40:31; Zec 10:12; Php 4:13; Pr 21:15; 29:1; Ps1:6; Joh 14:6).

Verse 30 repeats the divine law respecting occupancy of the earth; the righteous shall, the wicked shall not. (Ps 37:9, 11; Mt 5:5; Re 21:1-4, 8).

Use of the Tongue: (Proverbs 10:31-32)

Verse 31 declares that the just bring forth wisdom in their speech (buds of wisdom that expand), but the flow of perversity from wicked tongues shall be stopped, (Pr 2:12-15; 6:14; 8:13; 16:28, 30; 17:20).

Verse 32 declares that the righteous know and speak what is acceptable, but the wicked speak that which is perverse and distorted, (Pr 6:23; 8:13; Mt 12:35-37; Jas 3:6-8).