

**Proverbs - Chapter 19**  
**Part II**

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**v.12** – One of Solomon’s rules of wisdom is proper submission to leaders. They can hurt or help us. The roar of a lion, which can be heard from some distance away, puts fear in the hearts of people in the jungle, not knowing exactly where this animal is located. An angry ruler can put the same fear in the hearts of people, knowing that he has full power over the people, but unsure of what his next order might be.

However, just as the morning dew nourishes and refreshes the ground, a ruler’s favor can bring success. The rule here is to honor and obey civil rulers and all in authority for the obvious advantages this brings.

Rebellion against a leader brings pain and trouble. Honoring and obeying civil government is practically wise, but it is also a law of God. We are expected to “render to Caesar the things which are Caesar’s, but to God, the things that are God’s.” We are to be obedient to our employers. And most of all, we are to honor, obey, and respect our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Scripture has already told us that He can be our Savior and coming King, or He can be our Judge. He can be the dew that nourishes and refreshes us, or He can be the lion that brings fear in our hearts for what is to come. The choice is ours...and this proverb begs for us to submit to His authority and gain His favor.

**v.13** – Although this proverb is written from the man’s point of view (since Solomon was writing this to his son), this can also be from a woman’s point of view as well.

There are two matter Solomon addresses here – shameful children and an unhappy marriage. One is bad enough, but the two together bring a great deal of pain and suffering.

A foolish son is a horrible thing in the life of a man. Solomon calls it a calamity, a very grievous adversity, a deep distress, misery, or trouble. What should be a blessing has turned into a source of sadness.

The contentious wife is one who does not respect her husband's authority as head of the household, does not obey him, does not receive correction in love and appreciation, and puts on airs outside of the home to make others think she is something she is not. This proverb states that these contentions are as a "continual dropping". To illustrate what this means, have you ever tried to sleep with a dripping faucet nearby? That continual, repetitive noise leaves you with no peace and quiet. You can't relax, and you can't stop it. It will drive you crazy. Solomon states that it's the same way with a contentious wife.

Every man who has good sons and a good wife should thank God for these blessings.

**v.14** – This proverb provides the foundational rule for building a long-term, Godly family.

Good fathers will leave an inheritance for their children. If every father would do this, every generation would be better off. If every family only allowed virtuous women sent from God, each generation would improve in Godliness.

Fathers provide for their children by working hard and using their money wisely, not being foolish with investments or squandering it, and by not being lazy. But great families need more than financial security to be successful. They need the blessings of a virtuous woman who can help their families through their reputation, character, and training. Finding an average wife is easy, but finding a Godly woman is like searching for hidden treasure.

I spoke with a man the other night who mentioned he was already praying for the man his grandchild would grow up and marry...and she's only a couple years old. He has the right idea. A Godly spouse is one that is sent from God.

The bottom line of this proverb is that preparation by the father and leadership in the home by the mother are two rules for marital and family wisdom.

**v.15** – Slothfulness is a lazy attitude and effort toward work. This laziness saps our energy...and it seems to grow on itself and get worse until it finally puts us to sleep, when we do nothing at all.

The consequences of this are shown to be hunger. An idle soul, a person not moving and working, will suffer hunger. Because of their

laziness, employers will not hire them or they will not earn up to their fullest potential.

We all have times when there is a job to be done and we just don't want to tackle it. For example, the lawn needs to be mowed, but it's July, 100+ degrees outside, and you're inside your comfortable air-conditioned home. We can either make excuses why we can't get the job done, or we can get up, take care of it, and have it behind us. Instead of thinking about reasons why we can't do something, why not be thankful we have our health and strength to do the job, thankful we have a riding mower to cut it with instead of a push mower, thankful we have money to put the gas in the mower, and thankful we even have a yard to cut? It certainly doesn't make the actual job any easier, but it just might remind us that we can't fall into the trap of laziness.

It's all about attitude and our attitude is a choice we make. God does not want us to be a lazy and slothful people. Jesus and Paul, as examples, were hard workers. They put their hands to the will of God and did it with all their might...just as we should attack the various assignments that God has given to all of us.

**v.16** – The commandment (singular) that we are told to keep in this proverb refers both to the Ten Commandments in [Exodus 20](#), as well as to all of God's other instruction included in various passages. The obey God's teachings is self-preserving, but to disobey them is self-destructive.

The commandment to keep your soul is keeping all of God's commandments, regardless of what part of life each one applies to. We can't pick and choose. It also includes the fear (or respect) of the Lord that causes us to want to keep the other commandments.

This proverb states that the person keeping the commandments of God is doing something good for their soul. They are pursuing wisdom and all of the benefits it brings to life.

**Proverbs 16:17** **“The highway of the upright is to depart from evil. He that keepeth His way preserveth his soul.”**

**Proverbs 21:23** **“Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from trouble.”**

However, a person despises the ways of God when they reject the counsel of God we find all through the Bible in favor of doing things

their own way. This proverb, and other related scripture, states that the end result and penalty for despising the ways of God is death.

**Proverbs 14:12 “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”**

Moses, in talking with the children of Israel, said the same thing many years before Solomon wrote this, just in a different way:

**Deuteronomy 5:33 “Ye shall walk in all the ways which the Lord your God hath commanded you, that ye may live, and that it may be well with you, and that ye may prolong your days in the land which ye shall possess.”**

This proverb gives us sound counsel for a good life. Humble ourselves before the Lord, and have respect for His ways.

**Proverbs 3:5-6 “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.”**

**v.17** – In this proverb, Solomon is trying to teach us an important lesson about those who are poor, or less fortunate than us. In the bigger scheme of things, there is little difference between the rich and the poor, because God made both of them. The fact that one has more than the other is God’s choice. But the rich should never mock or do harm to the poor.

Jesus Himself identified with the poor ([Matthew 25:31-46](#)). As our Creator, God values all of us, regardless of our social or financial standing in life.

When we help the poor, we show honor to both God and to His creation. This proverb shows that God accepts our help as if we had offered it directly to Him.

The Lord sometimes brings these people to cross our path so that we may be blessed by helping them. The Good Samaritan in the New Testament did not go to the “hood” looking for a wounded Jewish person that he could help. But when he encountered this man by way of the Lord’s providence, he was more than willing to help.

The poor Solomon is referring to here are ones such as orphans, widows, or others affected under acts of God. This does not refer to

the foolish or lazy who would otherwise have enough financial stability to function if they were wise with their money or would work.

And this proverb reminds us that we will never miss or lose one dime given cheerfully for the work of the Lord, including our tithes. We need never forget that the Lord, who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, became poor for me and for you so that we could become joint heirs with Him to all that Heaven offers. He gave the very best He had for us. Shouldn't we give the very best we have for Him?

**v.18** – To “chasten” means to “...inflict disciplinary or corrective punishment on; to visit with affliction for the purpose of moral improvement; to correct, discipline, or chastise.”

This proverb speaks to us as adults training our children and correcting them (chastening) when they do wrong. Chastening is the enforcement of training.

We are to train our children today...before it is too late. There will come a day, as it does with all of us, where they will grow beyond training and then our efforts will be too late. At that point, efforts to train or correct them only provoke them and make them angry.

This proverb makes two strong points. Training and chastening of our children must be done early in life, and it must be done without hesitation even when they cry.

Training our children is not an option – it is a commandment ([Proverbs 22:6](#), [Ephesians 6:4](#)). Also, chastening is not an option – it is also a commandment ([Proverbs 23:13-14](#)).

The longer we wait to train our children, the more set in rebellion they become. Even so, parents can do the best job they possibly can, and children can still rebel. However, the Bible makes us a promise that when they are older, they will see the error of their ways because of the training provided to them at an early age.

No Godly parent enjoys chastening their children, but they do it because they realize that correction is needed for good habits to form. In much the same way, God chastens us when we go astray. Certainly it makes Him sad to see how we live sometimes, with no regard for His love and His sacrifice for us. But when chastening and hard times come along that cause us to turn back to Him, it's worth it...for Him

and for us. As Christians, we are His adopted children. And He loves us enough to take the time to correct us when we fail.

For that reason, we should view God's chastening as a blessing.

**v.19** – There are people that cannot stay out of trouble. They go from one argument to another. Even if you step in and help them get out of one mess, they quickly find themselves in another. They have not learned to control their tempers or their spirit and trouble seems to follow them wherever they go.

The lessons here are simple. If we don't control our anger, we will be punished for our temper. Also, if you help this person and they don't change this character flaw, you'll be needing to help them again very soon.

Wrath spoken of here is defined as violent anger. This comes out in people who need to get their way constantly or who feel that they are offended by most everyone. This character flaw leads to sins of speech, action, and thought.

These types of people are a burden to deal with. You want to help them and you try to help them...but instead of learning from their mistakes, they continue to get themselves in conflicts over and over again.

What they need is to replace this violent anger with the love spoken of in 1 Corinthians...a love that is patient, kind, and not easily provoked – the kind of love that Jesus Christ has for all of mankind. It was on display during His trial and crucifixion.

If we as Christians are to be "Christ-like", shouldn't we exhibit this same type of love in the place of wrath? Certainly, it is easier said than done, but this should be our goal.

**v.20** – We've been going through this study of Proverbs for a reason – to make us wiser and to learn of things that we need to change or shore up in our lives. The question of this proverb is have we learned from this?

A Godly person desires to grow in wisdom and knowledge. We know this doesn't happen overnight, but we can grow to be wiser in our latter end (later years) than we are right now.

In essence, this proverb calls for a self-examination of where we are in our pursuit of Godly wisdom. Are we better off than we were a year ago, or have we remained static? Is our speech softer and kinder than is used to be? Are we slower to get angry than we used to be? Are we seeking counsel from people more than we used to?

Peter told people to desire the sincere milk of the Word so that they could grow.

As Christians, God does not want us remaining in the same spiritual position we were when we came to Him. He wants us to grow and mature, and we do this effectively by gaining and applying wisdom as we get older.

[v.21](#) – None of us know what tomorrow will bring. Sure, we have plans for tomorrow, the rest of the month, and even months or years from now. I am already looking toward the time when I can retire. But the fact is that I am not guaranteed one more moment. If I live to face tomorrow or any other day, it is only by God's grace that I do so.

In the end, we have many plans and desires in our hearts, but ultimately, God rules them all. Scripture states that even a sparrow does not fall to the ground without Him knowing about it. So even though we may not know what the future will bring, we know the One who does.

This proverb insists that we put our complete trust and faith in God, because in the end, He will be all that is left. Only His Word will stand firm. Friends will fail us, our bodies will fail us, our jobs and income will fail us – but He will always be.

Understand, this is not a license for us not to pray, not to live a Godly life, or to go through life haphazardly knowing that only God knows the future. He's still our Father, and He still wants us to call on Him, bring our needs to Him, and worship Him for who He is. But if we put our complete faith and trust in God, we should not be so preoccupied by disturbing news reports, enemies coming against us, health problem that come our way, or anything else that threatens to take our focus away from Christ.

He will stand – He will not change. That's the one thing we can always depend on.

**v.22** – The next time you're standing in line at the grocery store, you will undoubtedly see magazines showing actors and actresses and other famous people that someone has determined are attractive or desirable. But what really makes a person attractive or desirable?

According to this proverb, it is kindness. There is a limit to what all of us can do with our outward appearance. We can put on makeup to hide blemishes. We can put on cologne to smell sweet and good. We can dress us in the best clothes we can afford. But in the end, all of this can't hide who the true person is underneath all of these trappings.

What we can do to be a more desirable person is to develop our character and disposition. When we stop to think about it, do we spend as much time developing our heart as we do our outward appearance?

Jesus told the religious rulers that they were just whitewashed tombs – they appeared religious and holy on the outside, but their lack of kindness toward all people (especially the poor and downtrodden) revealed that they were just dead on the inside.

Thankfully, our Saviour looks at the heart and not what's on the outside.

**v.23** – Those who trust in God are often spared from harm because of their habits and their lifestyle. Sometimes they are spared through God's intervention, even when they do not realize it.

Even so, the fear and respect of the Lord is not a guarantee to be free from harm and difficult times. The Lord does not always protect us from harm in this life. Evil things still happen to good people and people who trust God.

This verse is not a universal promise but a guideline. It describes what we as Christians will be enjoying in the future – a world without sin, a new earth where there is no more pain or suffering. This will be a time where believers in God will be under His protection forevermore.

**v.24** – *[Fold your arms across your chest.]* This is the sarcastic example that Solomon uses to show how lazy a slothful person really is. They are so lazy that they will fold their arms across their chest and will not even use their hands to feed themselves.

We've heard similar sayings just as "He's just standing around with his hands in his pockets."

God Himself gave us a desirable work ethic when He worked for six days to form the earth and then rested on the seventh day. Even when He formed Adam, part of his work was dressing or taking care of the Garden of Eden. Work is not a curse – it is a blessing.

Paul commanded that those who were able to work but not willing to do so not be allowed to eat ([2 Thessalonians 2: 10](#)) and Solomon commanded that food not be given to lazy people even if there was plenty (Proverbs 20: 4).

There is a difference between Christian charity and helping to reinforce a lazy attitude.

Getting out of a lazy attitude is harder than getting in to it...and the only way to do so is to be about the job that is before us. This includes work in our church. We all have lives away from church, and we work hard. But we should give a portion of our time and energy to God's work. It's easy to wait for someone else to do something....but maybe we are the one who could do the job most effectively.

I've always found that if your heart is in it, God will provide the strength. As long as we make the effort, God will always make a way.

[v.25](#) – In this proverb, Solomon was stating that if you punished a scorner, it would not only provide correction for them, but also serve as a warning to other who were considering doing the same thing. He also states by correcting a person who is wise, he will grow in knowledge.

There is a difference between the person who learns from criticism and the person who refuses correction. How we respond to criticism determines whether or not we grow in wisdom.

Just as punishing a scorner can have ancillary benefits to prevent someone else from making the same mistake, so too a wise person accepting constructive criticism and using this to be a better and wiser person can have ancillary benefits to others around them.

[v.26](#) – Again, Solomon is speaking about a child who is ungrateful and rebellious toward their parents. A child wastes his father by spending

his money on things that are ungodly (i.e., the Prodigal Son). They waste their father by being a burden to him.

A child chases their mother away by ignoring her warnings and direction, arguing with her, living a lifestyle she doesn't approve of, and doing everything they can to push her away.

This type of child brings shame and reproach on their father, their mother, their entire family, and their own name...and through all of this, they have no regard for how they are making their family feel or what they are putting them through.

Think about this in terms of our relationship with our Heavenly Father as His children. Are we wasting His blessing on us, or having no regard for His warnings and corrections? If so, we are this child, and we need to repent.

[v.27](#) – We need to be cautious of who we hang around with and who we listen to. Unless what we listen to agrees with the Word of God, we need to set it aside.

**[Psalm 101:3-4](#) “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes. I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me. A forward heart shall depart from me; I will not know a wicked person.”**

The bottom line is that God's Word is compromised in most area of American society today. But we as Christians cannot afford to entertain that type of thinking. If God's Word says it, it's true – no discussion, no debate.

This proverb alludes to the fact that false instruction will cause a person to err from what they know to be the truth. All you have to do is look at “cults” that have been in the news over the last couple of decades – Jim Jones in Jonestown, Guyana or the Branch Dividians in Waco, TX. Many people who followed these men instead of God are dead today.

We need to always follow the standards and counsel of the One we know to be true and holy – Jesus Christ.

[v.28-29](#) – Our Lord is a God of truth ([Deuteronomy 32:4](#)). In all of our dealings, He expects us to be honest and truthful. We must tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth, especially when speaking of

others. If we do not, or when we deceive or lie, we show our scorn for God and for justice.

When we are asked, for example, about our opinion of someone, we make a choice that reflects on our character. We either tell the truth or we compromise the truth – no matter what the rationale behind our answer might be.

Scripture states that the devil is the father of all lies and is a liar himself. When we engage in this, we are actually obeying the devil.

One of God's Commandment was that we not bear false witness against our neighbor ([Exodus 20:16](#)). Our legal system has a remedy for perjury and one who lies on the witness stand.

Those who lie have no regard for justice, fairness, or equity – so God labels them as scorners. Their mouths are described as devouring iniquity (willful sin).

We need never forget that we serve a righteous and holy God who will one day truthfully read all of our life's activities from the Book of Life. There will be no need for Him to lie to show our guilt before Him. But praise God we will be deemed holy and righteous before Him if our sins are covered by the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ.

The final verse in this chapter states that there will be an ultimate judgment for those considered to be scorners. While the wise do not need a beating for them to realize their errors (since they welcome correction, advice, and constructive criticism), scorners and fools only understand this method of punishment. Solomon understood that these people only respond to one thing – pain.

This ultimate punishment is the responsibility of God. And unless fools and scorners repent, they will one day meet their judgment at the hands of Almighty God.