

- Last week we continued our study in Proverbs. We looked at Proverbs 4 as a father advising his son. We then looked at Proverbs 6 where Solomon provides some general guidelines for wise behavior. We also looked at the fact that Solomon listed things the “Lord hates”: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” We also looked at Proverbs 8 and 9 where Solomon personifies wisdom and unwisdom and cautions us not to be seduced by the unwise.
- This time we’ll look at “Wisdom from the King” as expressed in Proverbs 10-22.
- The Proverbs that start in Chapter 10 express wisdom in diptichs – two phrases per verse, each expressing a full thought.
- In each verse, Solomon is usually contrasting wisdom and folly – he follows the same formula each time – first saying what a wise person does or is, and then expressing what foolishness is in the same circumstance.
- Occasionally, there are exceptions. 1) Sometimes the folly comes first ([Proverbs 10:23](#)) 2. Sometimes, both thoughts are of the same manner ([Proverbs 10:18](#))
- Proverbs 11 has two main themes: 1) the contrast of a righteous man and woman with an unrighteous man and woman 2) the benefit and wisdom to being a giving person, rather than a self-absorbed person.
- Paul attributes a quote along these same lines to Christ, that says “it is more blessed to give than receive.” ([Acts 20:35](#)) Note that this quote doesn’t appear in any of our gospel accounts, but Paul did not have those when he was writing. We know Paul was communicating directly with God and through visions, so if he wrote it, Jesus must have said it. (<http://apologeticspress.org/apcontent.aspx?category=6&article=1805>)
- Proverbs 12 put a lot of emphasis on process. Solomon specifically commends: 1) knowledge ([Proverbs 12:1](#)) 2. truth ([Proverbs 12:17; 19](#)) and righteousness ([Proverbs 12:26;28](#))
- These three things have something in common in that they are valued by almost all societies, which is a fundamental tenet of natural law, something that many philosophers have taught is a very biblical concept because it attributes these things to God and treats these as inalienable human rights (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Natural_law) It is interesting that Solomon writes the only book that we know of which focuses on how to obtain and cultivate these things.
- Proverbs 13 seems to focus on the value and benefit of industrious work and not being lazy.
- Proverbs 14 seems to focus largely on the value of humility before the Lord.
- Scripture often reemphasizes this point, that God is opposed to the proud but gives grace to the humble. ([Psalm 138:6; Proverbs 3:34; Proverbs 29:23; Matthew 23:12; Luke 1:52; James 4:6; 1 Peter 5:5](#))

- Proverbs 15 is about the tongue and the people listening. Solomon talks about how important it is to have firm, pure communication.
- James calls the tongue the rudder of the body and that failure to control this one little organ can cause a lot of harm. (James 3:3-12)
- Proverbs 16 is a lot about the inward spirit of man, and how that can manifest in righteousness or folly.
- As Solomon, will write later in the Proverbs, as a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. (Proverbs 23:7)
- Christ says we that we will be able to recognize true disciples of His because they will be doing good things to (Matthew 7:16)
- Proverbs 17 contains a lot of words about being wise, and concludes that a silent person, even if not wise, may be thought wise. (Proverbs 17:28).
- But, as an old saying goes “it is better to be silent and thought a fool, than to speak and remove all doubt.”
- Proverbs 18 continues with a lot of sayings about showing oneself wise, especially though speaking and urges again to be silent, or at least not to speak first and seem right then be examined and found wrong in that. (Proverbs 18:17)
- The theme of Proverbs 19 is essentially to remember that “what comes around goes around” so conduct ourselves with others as we want others to conduct themselves with us.
- This sounds a lot like the “Golden Rule” (Luke 6:31)
- There are some important concepts in Proverbs 20:
 1. Don’t be led astray by alcohol. (Proverbs 20:1)
 2. Don’t love to sleep. (Proverbs 20:13)
 3. Don’t take revenge. (Proverbs 20:22)
- Solomon defines what a “scorfer” is (a term used by both David and Solomon) – he calls it the name for “an arrogant, haughty man that acts with arrogant pride.” (Proverbs 21:24)
- In Proverbs 22: 1-16 Solomon says it is better to be a poor man with integrity than a wealthy man without integrity.

1. How does Solomon structure his expression of wisdom?
2. What does Solomon contrast in each verse?
3. What are two exceptions Solomon uses to his typical formula?
4. What are the two main themes of Proverbs 11?
5. What does Paul quote Jesus as saying regarding giving?
6. How do we know Paul was correct when he wrote that?
7. What does Proverbs 12 focus on and how do we know that?
8. What is natural law and what does it have to do with Proverbs?
9. What is the main theme of Proverbs 13?

10. What is the main theme of Proverbs 14?
11. What does God oppose and what does He give grace to?
12. What is the main theme of Proverbs 15?
13. Why does James compare the tongue to the rudder of a ship?
14. What is the main theme of Proverbs 16?
15. What is Solomon trying to say about keeping your heart pure?
16. How will we know if someone is thinking good things within?
17. Why is it better to be silent if we are in doubt about whether to speak up?
18. Why does Solomon say is it not desirable to speak first?
19. What is the main theme of Proverbs 19?
20. What does this remind us of?
21. What are three concepts found in Proverbs 20?
22. What does Solomon say a scoffer is?
23. What does Solomon say about the relationship between wealth and integrity?