

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## PROVERBS 18-21

A proverb is a pithy saying. It's a terse statement phrased in a clever way to communicate a vital truth. Here're a few English proverbs...

"All that glitters isn't gold."

"A penny saved, is a penny earned."

"Out of sight, out of mind."

"Different strokes for different folks."

"A picture is worth a thousand words."

I also found a few new Internet proverbs...

"You can't teach a new mouse, old clicks."

"The geek shall inherit the earth."

"A chat has nine lives."

"Don't byte off more than you can view."

"What boots up must come down."

"Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day - teach him to use the internet and he won't bother you for weeks."

"The e-mail of the species is more deadly than the mail."

Tonight we continue our study of the Hebrew proverbs in chapter 18...

Verse 1 **"A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire; he rages against all wise judgment."** I've been a pastor for 29 years now and I've observed that one of Satan's prime strategies is isolation. If he can cut a believer off from other Christians, he can manipulate his downfall.

The devil will see to it your feelings get hurt... or you get too

busy... or you're the victim of a misunderstanding... or you just grow neglectful...

Before long you're no longer hanging out. Your life becomes an island. And once communication gets cut off there's no way to call for back-up.

Griffith Thomas writes, "If we forsake our fellow Christians, it may easily lead to our forsaking Christ." Hebrews 10:24 puts it, "Consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another..." The more we stick together the stronger we become.

Verse 2 "A fool has no delight in understanding, but in expressing his own heart." All that matters to a fool is to spout out his opinion. All he wants is to be heard. He never bothers to listen and understand you.

Listen to the tombstone that was found in an English graveyard...

"Beneath this stone, a lump of clay, lies Arabella Young - who, on the 24<sup>th</sup> of May, began to hold her tongue."

Apparently, a new experience...

"When the wicked comes, contempt comes also; and with dishonor comes reproach." There are people who just like to stir up trouble.

"They rock the boat and then convince you there's a storm at sea."

Verse 4 "The words of a man's mouth are deep waters..." And what do you find in a stagnant pond? *Fungus, algae,*

*mosquitoes, pollution...*

But “the wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook.” In contrast to man’s wisdom God’s wisdom is clean, and pure, and alive, and refreshing.

“It is not good to show partiality to the wicked, or to overthrow the righteous in judgment. A fool's lips enter into contention, and his mouth calls for blows.” When a fool opens his mouth you know there’s going to be a fight. He loves to argue. The conversation may just come to blows.

“A fool's mouth is his destruction, and his lips are the snare of his soul.

The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles, and they go down into the inmost body.” A “talebearer” is a gossip. He or she cooks up “tasty trifles.” Gossip is like sweet pastries baked in an evil imagination.

Verse 9 “He who is slothful in his work is a brother to him who is a great destroyer.” A lazy man is a danger to himself and family. How many wives and kids suffer because the man they’re depending on is just plain lazy.

“The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.” There’s power in the name of Jesus! It is “a strong tower.”

Throughout the NT, at the name of Jesus miracles happen - demons flee, blind eyes see, lame legs walk... There’s authority in His name.

In Acts 4:12 Peter spoke of the name of Jesus to the hostile Jews in Jerusalem, “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by

which we must be saved."

Whenever I'm face to face with evil I invoke the name of Jesus. I lift up the banner under which I march – "Jesus." And here's my precedent, the name of Jesus is "a strong tower; the righteous run to it and are safe."

"The rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his own esteem." Riches provide some limited protection, but the world's richest man is no better off spiritually than the poorest. He may be worse off.

Verse 12 "Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty, and before honor is humility..." Riches have made many a humble person haughty.

In that sense a rich man's wealth becomes his liability.

"He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him." Don't rush to judgment. Take your time before you speak.

Ever tried to talk to a person who finished your sentences? Rather than listen, they assume what you're about to say and jump in mid-sentence.

In the same way, people make assumptions about the church and its leaders without first asking their questions and getting all the facts...

Once I was counseling a couple who were living together. The girl said she was sleeping upstairs. The guy claimed to be sleeping downstairs.

I thought, "*Sure, I've heard that one! How gullible do they think I am?*"

Later in the conversation the fellow told me how his finance' had recently been raped and was scared to be in the house by herself.

Suddenly, instantly, my whole perspective changed. I had a new view. As Solomon puts it, “(don't) answer a matter before (you) hear it.”

Verse 14 “The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness, but who can bear a broken spirit?” When a person faces a terminal illness their will-to-live is probably the single greatest determiner of their survival – whereas a person with no hope is far more likely to die from their sickness.

Medical doctors are becoming more and more sensitive to how *the condition of the human spirit* impacts *the health of the human body*.

“The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. A man's gift makes room for him, and brings him before great men.” Approach a person thinking of only what they can do for you and they'll ignore you. Come with a gift and it gets their attention.

Next time you want to see your senator or congressman tell them you have a campaign donation, and see how quickly they return your call.

Verse 17 “The first one to plead his cause seems right, until his neighbor comes and examines him.” There're two sides to a story.

I've talked to the wife and thought the husband was vile and vicious... until I spoke to the husband, and concluded the wife

was vengeful.

Remember it takes two to tango. Rarely is a conflict completely one sided. Usually both parties share some of the blame. Both are at fault.

**“Casting lots causes contentions to cease, and keeps the mighty apart.”**

Wisdom finds impartial ways to settle arguments... *Pick a number... Rock, paper, scissors...* nobody can argue the outcome was unfair.

Verse 19 **“A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city, and contentions are like the bars of a castle.”** Be polite and diplomatic. For once you offend someone you drive a wedge between you and them.

Verse 20 **“A man's stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth, from the produce of his lips he shall be filled.”** This piggy-backs verse 19... Often success is determined by our ability to communicate.

Keep channels open, don't create unnecessary interference.

Verse 21 **“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”** Words are powerful - they can kill or give birth.

Verse 22 **“He who finds a wife finds a good thing, and obtains favor from the LORD.”** No one wants to go through life lonely and alone.

What a joy it is to find someone with whom you can share life.

Shortly after we were married Kathy and I got into a big spat. I went over to my dad's house for advice. It was a hot, summer day and dad was in his backyard tilling his garden. He never stopped the tiller.

When I started complaining about Kathy, he cut me off...  
"Son, I don't want to hear it! I've lived with you for 20 years. I know how hard it is to put up with you. Be thankful God found someone who'd put up with you!

Now whatever you've done, go home and tell her you're sorry."

Then he turned around and kept tilling his garden. I've never been back to my dad for marital advice, but I've never forgotten what he told me.

"He who finds a wife finds a good thing..." I hate to point this out, but ladies it doesn't say, "*He who finds a husband finds a good thing...*"

We assume the reverse is true, but it's not mentioned.

Verse 23 "The poor man uses entreaties, but the rich answers roughly."

A poor man hasn't paid much so he doesn't expect much. He's polite and gracious. A rich man demands what he pays for and talks roughly.

Verse 24 "A man who has friends must himself be friendly..." If you want friends – then you need to take the initiative and be friendly.

There's truth in the little jingle, "I went out to find a friend, and could not find one there. I went out to be a friend, and

friends where everywhere!”

Rather than complain that nobody from church invites you over to their house – you be the one to extend the invitation. Initiate friendship and people will reciprocate. You know the vitamin that creates friends, **B1**.

Notice the rest of the verse, “**But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.**” That friend is Jesus. He’s the friend who never lets you down.

Our tie to Jesus is thicker than friendship or family. It’s spirit. Jesus tells us in John 15:15, “**No longer do I call you servants... but I have called you friends...**” He’s our Creator, Sustainer, Lord, Master, Savior... *our Friend*.

Chapter 19, “**Better is the poor who walks in his integrity than one who is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.**” *Dignity* is more valuable than *dollars*.

“**Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge, and he sins who hastens with his feet.**” Get in a hurry – act before you think – be impulsive and you’ll end up in sin. The motto “**If it feels good do it**” leads to disaster.

Verse 3 “**The foolishness of a man twists his way, and his heart frets against the LORD.**” Sin complicates. “**O what tangled webs we weave!**”

Years ago I bought a 100 foot extension cord. It was a mistake. Every time I use it I spend 30 minutes getting it untangled. It gets twisted.

Foolishness – lack of wisdom – sin - causes a life to get twisted.



People spend 20, 30 years complicating their lives – then they come to God and expect Him to get it untwisted in five minutes at the altar... God will work miracles, but it often takes a little time to straighten out a life.

“Wealth makes many friends, but the poor is separated from his friend.

A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies will not escape. Many entreat the favor of the nobility, and every man is a friend to one who gives gifts.” As long as you do favors you’ll have lots of so-called friends. It’s when you need a favor that you find out your true friends.

Verse 7 “All the brothers of the poor hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him!” Everyone tends to turn his back on a poor man.

“He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him.”

James 2 warns the church about our attitude toward the poor. **Show no partiality.** A person’s economic status shouldn’t effect how we treat him.

A well-dressed man in expensive clothes could actually be a spiritual pauper - whereas, a homeless day laborer could be royalty - clothed with the righteousness of Christ. Look past his wallet to his heart.

“He who gets wisdom loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will find good. Verse 9 “A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who speaks lies shall perish.” The dogs licked up Ahab’s blood in the same spot he lied about Naboth – and had him stoned to steal his vineyard.

You can perjure yourself to cover-up up the truth, but God knows...

Verse 10 “Luxury is not fitting for a fool, much less for a servant to rule over princes.” A fool with luxury and power will lose and abuse it.

“The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, and his glory is to overlook a transgression.” A mark of God’s glory is a forgiving spirit.

“Have tough skin and a soft heart – not soft skin and a hard heart.”

“The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.” The king’s wrath is ferocious, but his favor is refreshing.

Verse 13 “A foolish son is the ruin of his father, and the contentions of a wife are a continual dripping.” Ever had a dripping faucet?

It’s not a pleasant sound. It drives you nuts. It’s a serious irritation.

This is how wartime armies interrogate their prisoners, and pry from them national secrets. A contentious wife is like water-board torture.

Ladies let me say this once. For your sake I hope you take heed!

All men – big men, little men, short men, tall men, skinny men, fat men, black men, white men... All men - even your man - hates to be nagged!

Your nagging, pestering, and pushing - may on occasion

achieve some temporary results, but in the long run it's does far more harm than good.

A wife drips because she wants attention, but most husbands respond to a dripping faucet in one of two ways... He *shuts it out or turns it off*.

And neither reaction is what a wife desires.

A wise wife learns how to effectively speak to her husband. She learns his language – what makes him tick. How and when to communicate...

Better yet she learns how to influence her husband with pleasant demeanor! 1Peter 3:1 encourages wives to act in ways toward their husband so “That even if some (husbands) do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wife.”

Verse 14 “Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.” “Prudent” means “wise.”

I’ve heard it said, “Whether a fellow winds up with a nest egg or a goose egg depends a lot on the kind of chick he married.”

Verse 15 “Laziness casts one into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger. He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, but he who is careless of his ways will die. He who has pity on the poor lends to the LORD, and He will pay back what he has given.” A donation to the poor is a loan to the Lord – and God pays tremendous interest.

Verse 18 “Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.” Discipline your child while he or she is young.

It’s been noted that by the time a child is 5 years old, 50% of their character formation has been completed. This is why it’s been said, “The best time to tackle a minor problem is before he grows up.”

Susanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley, founders of Methodism said the following about child-rearing. “When my children turned a year old they were taught to fear the rod and to cry softly...”

I’ll always remember when Nick was three years-old I put him to bed and settled down to watch the football game. All of a sudden he comes sashaying through the room. I said, “What are you doing out of bed?”

He looked up at me, and snarled, “Dad, mind your own business!”

I proceeded to let my son know exactly what my business was...

A child learns self-discipline by the discipline they receive from their parents. Boxer, Mike Tyson, grew up without loving parents. He had zero discipline as child. As a result he grew up an angry young man.

His rage burned out of control, and he ended up destroying his life.

It’s been said, “When parents don't mind that their children don't mind - then the children won't mind.” Chasten your child while there’s hope.

Verse 19 “A man of great wrath will suffer punishment; for if you rescue him, you will have to do it again.” This is why a bail out can be a curse not a blessing. If God is using difficult circumstances to discipline a person - and we help them escape – they fail to learn God’s lesson.

And... they have to go through the tough times again and again.

Verse 20 “Listen to counsel and receive instruction, that you may be wise in your latter days. There are many plans in a man's heart, nevertheless the LORD's counsel - that will stand.”

We all have our dreams – stuff we’d like to do one day do. What’s on your *bucket list*? The things you’d like to do before you kick the bucket.

Man has plans, but what matters is God’s counsel. In the end I may leave with some unmet dreams, but I want to be sure to do God’s will.

Verse 22 “What is desired in a man is kindness, and a poor man is better than a liar. The fear of the LORD leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil.

“A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.” Here’s a man who’s hungry, yet he’s too lazy to even bring his hand to his mouth. The same phenomenon occurs spiritually.

Our soul is famished, while an unused Bible sits on our shelf.

“Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary (a little punishment and he’ll smarten up); rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern knowledge. He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

Verse 27 “Cease listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge. A disreputable witness scorns justice, and the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.” Chapter 19 closes, “Judgments are prepared for scoffers, and beatings for the backs of fools.”

Proverbs 20 “Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise.” Shakespeare once wrote, “O thou invisible spirit of wine, if thou hast no name to be known by, let us call thee devil!”

At the outset of prohibition evangelist Billy Sunday commented, “Good-bye, booze. You were God's worst enemy. You were hell's best friend.”

I’ll never forget the fellow I led to Jesus on his deathbed. He was dying from cirrhosis of the liver. He was nothing but skin and bones, and in terrible agony. At his funeral only 3 people showed up...

Today this guy is in heaven, but his life on earth was empty and painful for himself and the people around him. And I’ve seen his story repeated time after time. Alcohol is a destroyer. It ruins lives and breaks up families.

Remember, you’ll never be an alcoholic if you don’t take the first drink.

“The wrath of a king is like the roaring of a lion; whoever provokes him to anger sins against his own life. It is honorable for a man to stop striving, since any fool can start a quarrel.” Verse 4 “The lazy man will not plow because of winter; he will beg during harvest and have nothing...”

He doesn't work because it's too cold, but when it warms up it's too late. A lazy man is full of excuses that derail his potential. It's been said, “The road to success is marked by many tempting parking places.”

Verse 5 “Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water, but a man of understanding will draw it out.” When it comes to your teens I've heard it put, “Listen in a way that makes them want to talk, and talk in a way that makes them want to listen.” The point is to be sensitive and intentional.

The human psyche is like a deep well. It takes love and patience to draw out the feelings, and assumptions, and desires, and thoughts.

“Most men will proclaim each his own goodness, but who can find a faithful man?” People love to sing each other's praise – and toot each other's horn. But who among us is faithful enough to speak the truth?

“The righteous man walks in his integrity; his children are blessed after him. A king who sits on the throne of judgment scatters all evil with his eyes.” He keeps close watch and deals quickly when the sin he sees.

Verse 9 “Who can say, “I have made my heart clean, I am

pure from my sin"? No one! Only in Christ and through Christ can we be pure.

“Diverse weights and diverse measures, they are both alike, an abomination to the LORD.” God hates corrupt business practices.

Verse 11, “Even a child is known by his deeds, whether what he does is pure and right.” If you want to know your child, take time to study their behavior. *A child’s conduct shines a light on the child’s identity.*

“The hearing ear and the seeing eye, the LORD has made them both.” God gave us the capacity to hear and see, so let’s not be naïve – listen and look, be alert, pay attention to what’s going on around you.

“Do not love sleep, lest you come to poverty; open your eyes, and you will be satisfied with bread.” Get out of bed and go to work. Paul says in 2Thessalonians 3:10, “If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.”

Verse 14 “It is good for nothing,” cries the buyer; but when he has gone his way, then he boasts.” Here’s a guy who goes to the car lot, picks out a car, points out all its flaws, badmouths the car to the salesman.

Finally, he gets the low-ball price he wants – then he drives his new car over to his friend’s to brag about the great car he found. *What a deal!*

There’s something disingenuous and unfair about this guy’s actions.

“There is gold and a multitude of rubies, but the lips of



knowledge are a precious jewel. Take the garment of one who is surety for a stranger, and hold it as a pledge when it is for a seductress.” Again, don’t be naïve.

If you loan someone money take some collateral. Get his garment...

“Bread gained by deceit is sweet to a man, but afterward his mouth will be filled with gravel.” God sees to it you don’t enjoy dishonest gain.

“Plans are established by counsel; by wise counsel wage war.” Before a nation, or business, or person goes to war get some wise counsel. Think it through. Is there’re another way. War of any kind is costly and bloody.

Verse 19 “He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets; therefore do not associate with one who flatters with his lips.” Recall, “If a friend will talk to you about another person, she’ll talk to another person about you.”

“Whoever curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in deep darkness. An inheritance gained hastily at the beginning will not be blessed at the end.” Give a kid too much too soon – a trust fund for which the kid didn’t have to work - and he or she will squander it away.

Verse 22 “Do not say, "I will recompense evil"; wait for the LORD, and He will save you. Diverse weights are an abomination to the LORD, and dishonest scales are not good.” It’s been said, “A wise man is one who is never afraid to ask the salesperson to show him something cheaper.”

“A man's steps are of the LORD; how then can a man understand his own way?” This is why our 10 and 20 year plans are of little value. Only God knows the future. He'll bring it to pass. We need to be flexible.

Verse 25 “It is a snare for a man to devote rashly something as holy, and afterward to reconsider his vows.” Keep your promises, especially your vows to God. Ecclesiastes 5:5 tells us, “Better not to vow than to vow and not pay.” Christians should be people of their word.

“A wise king sifts out the wicked, and brings the threshing wheel over them.” In other words, he judges the wicked and brings just punishment.

“The spirit of a man is the lamp of the LORD, searching all the inner depths of his heart.” Solomon is probably speaking of our conscience. It's an inner lamp that reveals the intents of the human heart.

Verse 28 “Mercy and truth preserve the king, and by lovingkindness he upholds his throne.” A king that's a tyrant loses the people's support.

“The glory of young men is their strength, and the splendor of old men is their gray head.” When my hair starts to turn gray I have no intention of hiding it with Grecian formula. Gray hair is the splendor of old men.

“Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.” The blows of life can hurt. Life can punch you in the mouth. Yet the “*blows that hurt cleanse away evil.*” Tough times have a purifying effect.

Proverbs 21:1 is a great verse, “The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, like the rivers of water; He turns it wherever He wishes.” For the last 2½ months C316 has been dealing with the Barrow Commission.

We’re trying to resolve a zoning issue that’s blocked our plans.

And every time I get discouraged I remember this verse. The king’s heart – even the commissioner’s heart – is in the hand of the Lord. No human government is truly in control. Ultimately, God calls the shots.

Verse 2 “Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the hearts.” Our perspective is limited. We listen to someone’s words, and watch their actions, but never know what’s in their heart.

Only God has X-ray vision. He alone can see beneath the surface.

“To do righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the LORD than sacrifice.” As Samuel said to Saul “To obey is better than sacrifice.”

“A haughty look, a proud heart, and the plowing of the wicked are sin.” Of the three, plowing isn’t a sin per se’, but when it’s done with “a haughty look” and “a proud heart” you know the man’s motives can’t be pure.

Wickedness in a person’s heart pollutes everything he does.

Verse 5 “The plans of the diligent lead surely to plenty, but those of everyone who is hasty, surely to poverty.” Don’t be

rash and impulsive.

For the wise man it's **ready-aim-fire**. For the fool is **ready-fire-aim...**

**“Getting treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death.”** Getting grades by a lying tongue is also fleeting and deadly.

**“The violence of the wicked will destroy them, because they refuse to do justice. The way of a guilty man is perverse; but as for the pure, his work is right. “Better to dwell in a corner of a housetop, than in a house shared with a contentious woman.”** The OKJ translates **“contentious”** with the word **“brawling.”** She's nagging, argumentative, quarreling.

It reminds me of the husband who thought of his wife as an angel. He commented, **“She's always up in the air harping on something.”**

Ladies, there's nothing your husband hates more than your nagging – *burn his meals... run up his credit cards... ask your mom to move in...* but don't nag. He'd rather live on a sweltering rooftop than listen to you nag.

I'm not saying your marriage doesn't need work – and no doubt your husband is a part of the problem – but nagging is not the answer.

It builds resentment. It kills his initiative. It drives him away. It backfires. Nagging is counterproductive - it produces the opposite of what you want.

Your husband needs to love you and show some sensitivity. It's been said, **“Treat your wife like a thoroughbred and she won't be a nag.”** There is a lot your husband should do, but

trust me, nagging won't get it done.

Verse 10 “The soul of the wicked desires evil; his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes.” An evil man can't get along with his neighbors.

“When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise; but when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.” A wise person is teachable.

“The righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked, overthrowing the wicked for their wickedness. Whoever shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be heard.”

Be kind to the poor. One day you might be one of them.

“A gift in secret pacifies anger, and a bribe behind the back, strong wrath. It is a joy for the just to do justice, but destruction will come to the workers of iniquity. A man who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the assembly of the dead. He who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich.” Love pleasure and wine - you'll be poor. Love work and initiative - you'll be rich.

Verse 18 “The wicked shall be a ransom for the righteous, and the unfaithful for the upright. Better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and angry woman.”

Here's Solomon's common refrain...

If he can't get away from her on a housetop he'll move to the desert. Wherever he has to go isn't too far to leave behind a nagging wife.

Years ago the Memphis Cook Book was published with an interesting recipe for good husbands. I'll read it, "A good many husbands are utterly spoiled by mismanagement in cooking and so are not tender and good.

Some women keep them constantly in hot water; others let them freeze by carelessness and indifference. Some keep them in a stew with irritating ways and words. Some keep them pickled - others waste them shamefully.

It cannot be supposed that any husband will be tender and good when so managed, but they are really delicious when prepared properly."

Verse 20 "There is desirable treasure, and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man squanders it." Don't waste your blessings.

"He who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness and honor. A wise man scales the city of the mighty, and brings down the trusted stronghold." Rather than through the gate, a wise man climbs over the wall. He takes the city through wisdom not brute strength.

"Whoever guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles. A proud and haughty man - "Scoffer" is his name; he acts with arrogant pride.

The desire of the lazy man kills him, for his hands refuse to labor. He covets greedily all day long, but the righteous gives and does not spare."

A lazy man *wants*, but he won't *work*. But notice the orientation of the righteous - *he works to give*. Apparently,

*giving* not *getting* is the highest motivation. The harder I work the more I can give to other people.

Verse 27 “The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it with wicked intent! A false witness shall perish, but the man who hears him will speak endlessly.” Here’s the danger of a false witness. The lie outlives the liar. He dies, but his lie lives on.

Verse 29 “A wicked man hardens his face, but as for the upright, he establishes his way. There is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the LORD. The horse is prepared for the day of battle, but deliverance is of the LORD.” The strength of an army isn’t found in weapons, or arsenal, or strategy - but in its faith in the Lord.