

# THROUGH THE BIBLE STUDY

## PROVERBS 14-17

Beginning in Proverbs 10 King Solomon lists 700 proverbs gathered and arranged for the benefit of his son and the people of his kingdom.

Ecclesiastes 12:9-12 tell us, “Because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yes, he pondered and sought out and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright – words of truth. The words of the wise are like goads, and the words of a scholar are like well-driven nails...”

I like the two pictures... wise words are like goads and well-driven nails.

A “goad” is a cattle prodder. It’s a shaft with a pointed end that sticks, and hurts, and gets an animals attention. In modern times it’s a rod that releases an electrical current and shocks the beast into submission.

When a dumb beast deviates from a desired path it needs a jab.

Likewise, when a believer strays we need a poke from a proverb.

And a proverb is like “a well driven nail.” It strikes its target and drives into the wood with a few, deep, hard-driven hits. It secures the board.

Likewise wise, Spirit-led words hit their target accurately and forcefully. A proverb can reattach a loose believer to the wall God intends to build.

Tonight's chapters are full of "goads" and "well-driven nails."

Chapter 14 begins, "The wise woman builds her house, but the foolish pulls it down with her hands." Feminists may rebel, but the Bible is clear - God holds a wife and mom responsible for the health of her home.

In fact, Paul writes to Titus and instructs him to encourage the older women to teach the younger women, "To be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet (watch their words), chaste (modest), keepers at home (literally, guardians of their home), good, obedient to their own husbands, that the Word of God be not blasphemed."

Christian wives and moms should have a *homeward orientation* - men a *marketplace orientation*. Women can help men make the money – just as men can help women with the home, but it's about focus and emphasis.

Solomon says a wise woman builds her home. She gives most of her time and attention to her kids. She makes her home a shelter – even an oasis. While a foolish woman ignores her home and pursues a career.

Anthropologist Ashley Montague writes about the role of women.

"Women have great gifts... the qualities of love, compassion and beauty of spirit... No man can ever play as important a role in the life of humanity as a woman... In short, a good homemaker is the most important of all occupations in the world. It cannot be too often pointed out that the making of human beings is a far more important vocation than the making of anything else, and in the formative years of a

child's life, the mother is best equipped to provide those firm foundations...”

I like the Phillips Translation of Titus 2:4-5. Older women should teach younger women, “To love their husbands and their children, to be sensible and chaste, home-lovers, kind-hearted and willing to adapt themselves to their husbands - a good advertisement for the Christian faith.”

Verse 2 “He who walks in his uprightness fears the LORD, but he who is perverse in his ways despises Him.” Our *walk* either confirms or denies our *talk*. Here’s a great definition for a hypocrite, “He’s the man who complains there’s too much sex and violence on his DVD player.”

Don’t say you love God then walk in a perverse or twisted way. A person who sins despises God. To love God is to please Him.

Verse 3 “In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, but the lips of the wise will preserve them.” Pay attention to verse 4, “Where no oxen are, the trough is clean; but much increase comes by the strength of an ox.”

This is one of my favorite verses. Here’s how I justify a cluttered desk.

A messy trough – or desk (*Einstein’s desk*) is a sign there’s an ox in the stable, and the fields are getting ploughed. If you want a clean trough - get rid of the ox. You can’t have both a clean stable and ploughed fields.

Here’s the life lesson... If you want a smooth, uncomplicated life – then never get married - never have kids

- never try to accomplish anything important... You'll stay squeaky clean, but you'll have an empty life.

The only person who never errs is the person who never tries.

Imagine baking a cake, without making a mess in your kitchen. It's impossible. If you want a delicious cake, you've got to endure a mess.

The same is true in church. A ministry that's always tidy and neat isn't accomplishing much. Do something big for God, and the stable will get messy. Working with people gets messy. Manure is a part of ministry.

Verse 5 **"A faithful witness does not lie, but a false witness will utter lies.**

**A scoffer seeks wisdom and does not find it, but knowledge is easy to him who understands."** There's an insightful old saying, **"Man's wisdom has to be understood to be loved. God's wisdom has to be loved to be understood."** That's why it's hidden from the scoffer and mocker.

Verse 7 **"Go from the presence of a foolish man, when you do not perceive in him the lips of knowledge."** A fool will only cause trouble.

**"The wisdom of the prudent is to understand his way, but the folly of fools is deceit."** A fool is a victim of self-deception. This is why his lies are so convincing – he believes them himself. He's blind to the truth.

**"Fools mock at sin, but among the upright there is favor. The heart knows its own bitterness, and a stranger does not share its joy."** A fool laughs publically, but privately he's gripped with

bitterness and guilt.

“The house of the wicked will be overthrown, but the tent of the upright will flourish.” And notice verse 12. Here’s an important verse, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”

Verse 12 reminds me of Roy Riegals, the man who made the 1929 Rose Bowl the most famous game in that Bowl’s storied history.

Roy played for the University of California, and in the first half of the game against Georgia Tech, Roy picked up a fumble, and raced for the goal line. Riegals ran 65 yards until he was finally tackled by his own teammate. You see, Roy ran down the field in the wrong direction.

For 65 yards Roy thought he was going to score a touchdown - he’d be a hero. Instead those 65 yards were the worse mistake in Roy’s football career. Tech ended up beating California to win that year’s game.

Don’t be a Wrong-way Roy. You think the path you’re on will lead to victory – it feels good – it seems right – your friends agree - but you could be headed toward death. Only God’s Word will tell the truth.

Verse 13 “Even in laughter the heart may sorrow, and the end of mirth may be grief.” Sometimes we laugh because if we didn’t we’d cry.

A jovial disposition may just be a front for a heart that hurts.

“The backslider in heart will be filled with his own ways...”  
The first step away from God is pride – the backslider is a man who’s full of himself.

“But a good man will be satisfied from above.” God fills his heart.

“The simple believes every word, but the prudent considers well his steps.” Don’t believe everything you hear. Check it out.

Verse 16 “A wise man fears and departs from evil, but a fool rages and is self-confident.” Cross or confront a proud man and he erupts. “A quick-tempered man acts foolishly, and a man of wicked intentions is hated.”

“A quick-tempered man...” It’s said, “The emptier the pot, the quicker it boils.” The answer for a short boil is to fill your heart with God’s love.

Verse 18 “The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge. The evil will bow before the good, and the wicked at the gates of the righteous. The poor man is hated even by his own neighbor, but the rich has many friends. He who despises his neighbor sins; but he who has mercy on the poor, happy is he.” *Am I my brother's keeper?* You bet I am!

“Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.” Verse 23, “In all labor there is profit...”

I got an email entitled, “*The Ten Rules For Teens.*” Here’s Rule # 5, “Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your grandparents had a different word for burger flipping. They called it “opportunity”.”

Whether it’s flipping burgers, or sweeping floors, or digging

ditches, or washing cars, or mowing grass... **“In all labor there is profit.”** Hey, a job is a job. A humble man won't be out of works as long as a proud man.

The verse concludes, **“But idle chatter leads only to poverty.”** Spend your employer's time on break, or at lunch, or talking on the phone - and you won't have a job for long. Nobody gets paid for **“idle chatter.”**

Verse 24 **“The crown of the wise is their riches, but the foolishness of fools is folly. A true witness delivers souls, but a deceitful witness speaks lies. In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence, and His children will have a place of refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to turn one away from the snares of death. In a multitude of people is a king's honor, but in the lack of people is the downfall of a prince.”**

I've always heard the best way to know if you're a leader is to turn around from time to time and see if there's anyone following you!

**“He who is slow to wrath has great understanding, but he who is impulsive exalts folly.”** Grow a long fuse. Don't jump to conclusions.

**“A sound heart is life to the body, but envy is rottenness to the bones.”** Jealousy is a cancer that eats a person up from the inside out.

**“He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker...”** Humans bear God's image. We show our respect and love for God by how we treat each other. **“But he who honors Him has mercy on the needy.”** Jesus said, **“As you've done it**

unto least of these you've done it unto me!"

“The wicked is banished in his wickedness, but the righteous has a refuge in his death.” For a righteous man death is a final victory.

Verse 33 “Wisdom rests in the heart of him who has understanding, but what is in the heart of fools is made known.” Verse 34 applies to any nation including the United States, “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people.” Here’s an explanation for America’s past prosperity. But I’m it may also explain our future impoverishment.

“The king's favor is toward a wise servant (a wise servant is never jobless for long), but his wrath is against him who causes shame.”

Chapter 15, “A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” Once we had an old cat that slept on the hood of my neighbor’s new truck. When he saw the paw prints he yelled at Kathy and the kids.

That night he and I had a talk. I knew as mad as he was - if I had an angry tone and used stern words we’d end up in a fist-a-cuffs. Instead I was as polite as possible. And I was amazed at his reaction. He ended up telling me, “Man, it is okay. I need to buy a tarp for my truck anyway.”

In 1 Samuel 26 when the scoundrel named Nabal infuriates David with his rudeness – Nabal’s wife, Abigail, diffuses David’s anger. She saves her husband from a beat down by approaching David with soft words.

It’s been said, “Diplomacy is the art of telling your friend he

has an *'open mind'* instead of *'a hole in his head'*." How you say, what you say, can make a huge difference. "A soft word turns away wrath."

Verse 2 "The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. The eyes of the LORD are in every place, keeping watch on the evil and the good." God is omnipresent. He's in all places at all times. Nothing happens that God does not see or hear.

"A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit." Harsh, hateful words can do extreme damage to the human spirit.

"A fool despises his father's instruction, but he who receives correction is prudent. In the house of the righteous there is much treasure, but in the revenue of the wicked is trouble." It's been said, "A wise man desires no more than what he can get justly, use soberly, distribute cheerfully, and leave contently." Give a wicked man a little money and it destroys him.

Verse 7 "The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so. The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is His delight." Wicked people try to buy God's favor with their sacrifices! God is never fooled by a fool.

*A religious deed is never a substitute for a repentant heart.*

"The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, but He loves him who follows righteousness. Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates correction

will die.” Tough on crime is godly.

Verse 11 “Hell and Destruction are before the LORD; so how much more the hearts of the sons of men.” If God can peer into the pit of hell – don’t think for one moment He can’t see into your innermost thoughts.

“A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, nor will he go to the wise.” A fool runs from rebuke. He doesn’t want to be corrected.

Verse 13 “A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken. The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

All the days of the afflicted are evil, but he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast.” Life can be a party or a funeral. It’s all about your attitude.

Verse 16 “Better is a little with the fear of the LORD, than great treasure with trouble. Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a fatted calf with hatred.” I’d rather eat beans and salad in a home full of happiness than T-bone steaks in a house filled with friction. A 1200 square foot house with peace inside is far better than a 4000 square foot prison.

“A wrathful man stirs up strife, but he who is slow to anger allays contention.” The word “allays” means to “take the edge off.”

“The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns, but the way of the upright is a highway.” A man who habitually does right gets somewhere.

Verse 20 “A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish man despises his mother. Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment...” To some people everything’s a joke. “But a man of understanding walks uprightly.”

“Without counsel, plans go awry, but in the multitude of counselors they are established.” Good counsel is extremely valuable. It’s a safeguard.

Don’t let somebody else try to tell you God’s will for your life, but good counsel had been a check. It helps you be sure you’re on the right track.

It’s said, “A wise man seeks much counsel... a fool listens to it all.”

Vs 23 “A man has joy by the answer of his mouth, and a word spoken in due season, how good it is!” The right word at the right time is powerful.

“The way of life winds upward for the wise, that he may turn away from hell below.” God’s wisdom creates an upward, heaven-bound trajectory.

Pride is a sure ticket to destruction. “The LORD will destroy the house of the proud, but He will establish the boundary of the widow.

The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but the words of the pure are pleasant. He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house, but he who hates bribes will live.” The man who conducts business *under the table* ends up *having trouble around his table!*

Apparently his kids witness his hypocrisy and rebel against

him.

Verse 28 “The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil.” In short, *think before you talk.*

“The LORD is far from the wicked, but He hears the prayer of the righteous. The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and a good report makes the bones healthy.” We all need good news from time to time.

“The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise.

He who disdains instruction despises his own soul, but he who heeds rebuke gets understanding. The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom, and before honor is humility.” God will honor the humble.

Chapter 16:1, “The preparations of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.” In Mark 13:11 Jesus told His disciples, “Do not worry beforehand, or premeditate what you will speak. But whatever is given you in that hour, speak that; for it is not you who speak, but the Holy Spirit.” The Holy Spirit will give us the words.

Here Solomon is making the same promise.

We need to prepare, but when pressed to speak under unexpected or difficult circumstances “the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.” We can count on the Spirit to give just the right words at just the right time.

Verse 2 “All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirits.” My estimation of myself is

worthless! It doesn't matter one iota what I think of myself, all that matters is God's estimation of me!

God weighs the spirit. How God sees me is how I need to see myself. Real repentance begins when I'm willing to see me through God eyes!

Verse 3 **“Commit your works to the LORD, and your thoughts will be established.”** Don't wait until you feel like obeying God to obey Him.

If you wait until you feel like praying, or tithing, or witnessing to do so – you'll wait forever. Commit your works to God then feelings will follow!

**“The LORD has made all for Himself, yes, even the wicked for the day of doom.”** The believer praises God's grace by embracing His salvation.

But the wicked also praise Him – His judgment. They provide God an opportunity to demonstrate His justice. Read Romans 9-11 for a fuller commentary on verse 4. Even **“the day of doom”** will bring God glory.

**“Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; though they join forces, none will go unpunished.”** Only fools gang up against God.

The only unifying force for some people is their opposition to God.

Verse 6 **“In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity; and by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil. When a man's ways please the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him. Better is a little with**

righteousness, than vast revenues without justice.”

Verse 9 “A man's heart plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.” As the old saying goes, “Man purposes, but God disposes!”

Man makes his plans, but the providence of God ultimately prevails. This is why we need to be firm in our faith, but flexible with our plans.

Verse 10 “Divination is on the lips of the king; his mouth must not transgress in judgment.” The king is supposed to speak for God.

Here superstition and curses are on his lips. God will judge him.

“Honest weights and scales are the LORD's; all the weights in the bag are His work.” In ancient Israel buying and selling were done on a set of scales. Thus, an honest businessman calibrated his scales accurately.

Verse 12 “It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness, for a throne is established by righteousness.” At least a king should be honest.

“Righteous lips are the delight of kings, and they love him who speaks what is right. As messengers of death is the king's wrath, but a wise man will appease it.” The government's job is to use force if necessary to maintain order. Only a fool deliberately defies this authority.

Don't go around picking on the cops. Try to be nice.

Verse 15 “In the light of the king's face is life, and his favor

is like a cloud of the latter rain. How much better to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver. The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; he who keeps his way preserves his soul.

Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” Underline verse 18. The man who *boasts* usually ends up *toast*.

“Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud. He who heeds the word wisely will find good, and whoever trusts in the LORD, happy is he.” What a great verse!

Verse 21 “The wise in heart will be called prudent, and sweetness of the lips increases learning.” Here’s the value of a good teacher!

It’s a pastor’s job to not just deal out bland information, but to teach the truth in an appealing way – “sweetness of the lips increases learning.”

Often, how it’s said, is as important as what is said.

I’ve heard it put, “A mediocre teacher tells. A good teacher explains. A superior teacher demonstrates. A great teacher inspires.”

Verse 22 “Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it. But the correction of fools is folly. The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and adds learning to his lips. Pleasant words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the bones.” Well chosen words are impactful. They can impart sweetness and health and wisdom.

Verse 25 is 14:12 verbatim. It's repeated to stress its importance.

**“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”** What makes sense to me – what appears logical and rational from my perspective – may not be truth. Sin warps the lens through which we see life. As Paul put it, **“Now we see in a mirror dimly...”**

In Isaiah 55:8 God says, **“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways.”** Often folks reject doctrines like the Trinity, or the Deity of Jesus, or miracles - not because they aren't taught in the Bible, but because they don't make sense logically or rationally. This is why **the source of our doctrine needs to be revelation not reason.**

Vs 26 **“The person who labors, labors for himself, for his hungry mouth drives him on.”** It's amazing what you'll do when you get hungry enough.

Notice verses 27-28. **“An ungodly man digs up evil, and it is on his lips like a burning fire. A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates the best of friends.”** Some people love to dig up gossip on other people.

Once, a mischievous husband looked out the window at his neighbor's house, and remarked to his wife, **“Look at Beverly, she's in her car kissing some man.”** The wife raced to the window to get a peek. She turned back to her husband, and shouted, **“That's not funny. It's just her husband.”**

Charles Swindoll says when a person calls him, and comments, **“Did you hear about so and so...”** He immediately asks, **“Can I quote you on this?”** If the answer is *“no”* he won't

listen. That's a good tactic!

Verse 29 “A violent man entices his neighbor, and leads him in a way that is not good. He winks his eye to devise perverse things; he purses his lips and brings about evil. The silver-haired head is a crown of glory, if it is found in the way of righteousness.” Gray hair is a crown of glory. A sign of old age is honorable provided the head it belongs to has walked with God.

Verse 32 is a great verse. “He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.” It's often more difficult to manage the heart of the ruler than the city he rules.

Verse 33 “The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.” In other words, there is no such thing as luck, or fate, or chance.

Every roll of the dice, or bounce of the football, is ultimately governed by God. There's a Greek proverb, “The dice of the gods are loaded.”

As Christians we believe in providence – God's overarching intervention in the affairs of man. God is behind the scenes arranging circumstances to carry out His will with or without our cooperation. John Darby pens, “God's ways are behind the scenes, but He moves the scenes that He is behind.”

Chapter 17 begins, “Better is a dry morsel with quietness, than a house full of feasting with strife.” I'll trade you *lobster and fighting* for *oatmeal and peace* any day. As Solomon said

in 15:16, "better is a dinner of herbs..."

“A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame, and will share an inheritance among the brothers.” This is the opposite of nepotism.

Some employers will honor a wise servant over a shameful son. A fair man will value wisdom and faithfulness as much as blood and birth.

“The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold, but the LORD tests the hearts.” Gold and silver are purified through a process.

The medals are melted with tremendous heat - which causes the impurities to rise to the surface where they're skimmed off the top.

Likewise God uses a similar process to purify His people.

1 Peter 1:6-7, “In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while... you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it be tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ...” God allows us to go through the *cauldron of crisis* – He turns up the heat on us to expose our impurities and skim off the scum.

Verse 4 tells us, “An evildoer gives heed to false lips; a liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue. He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker; he who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

Verse 6 **“Children's children are the crown of old men...”**  
And man, am I looking forward to the grandkids. I hear they are great fun. The whole idea of play, play, fun, fun – then, here they are mom and dad – appeals to me.

One reason Kathy and I had four kids is to get lots of grandkids!

Notice the end of the verse, **“and the glory of children is their father.”**

An old man's joy is his grandkids, but a child's joy is his dad! Mom is always on duty. She nurtures and disciplines and feeds and clothes.

Then at the end of the day dad walks in and the kids flock to him like a covey of quail. They come running and dive into his arms. These kids who take mom for granted respond to dad like he's got an “S” on his chest.

Oh, what a child will do to win his father's approval.

**“Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool, much less lying lips to a prince.”** Usually wisdom does come from a fool, or a lie from royalty.

Verse 8 **“A present is a precious stone in the eyes of its possessor; wherever he turns, he prospers.”** He uses his gift wisely.

**“He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends.”** When a word of gossip reaches you the friendly and loving thing to do is to let it end with you.

**“Rebuke is more effective for a wise man than a hundred**

**blows on a fool.”** A wise man learns from a rebuke what a beating can't teach a fool.

**“An evil man seeks only rebellion; therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.”** Verse 12, **“Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs, rather than a fool in his folly.”** A fool is more dangerous than an angry bear. A fool in his folly is an *unbearable* person to deal with.

**“Whoever rewards evil for good, evil will not depart from his house.”**

Look at verse 14, it applies to marriage, friendships, and church - all facets of life. **“The beginning of strife is like releasing water; therefore stop contention before a quarrel starts.”** Once grumbling begins it's extremely difficult to shut it off. It's best to deal with it at the outset.

Allow yourself, or a child, or a church friend to be critical and negative and you end up with a cascading waterfall of discontent and anger.

Verse 15 **“He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just, both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD... Why is there in the hand of a fool the purchase price of wisdom, since he has no heart for it?”** Wisdom is accessible to a fool, but not valuable enough to him to attain.

**“A friend loves at all times, and a brother is born for adversity.”** A true friend, like a brother, sticks with us through thick and thin. He's always faithful - in up times and down times. As Solomon says, **“at all times.”**

Verse 18 along with a host of other proverbs forbids co-

signing for a loan, “A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge, and becomes surety for his friend.” He collateralizes his friend’s loan.

“He who loves transgression loves strife, and he who exalts his gate seeks destruction.” “*Exalt his gate...*” means “brag about himself.”

Verse 20 “He who has a deceitful heart finds no good, and he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil. He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.” Verse 22, “A merry heart does good, like medicine, but a broken spirit dries the bones.”

Medical studies are showing that laughter relaxes muscles, and stimulates organs, and releases chemicals that aid in healing.

In other words, “A chuckle a day keeps the doctor away.”

Doctors say even a forced laugh has beneficial mental and physical side-effects... *which is one more reason you should laugh at Pastor Sandy’s jokes!* They don’t have to be funny to be good for you.

Verse 23 “A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back to pervert the ways of justice.” Kick-backs and pay-offs pervert justice. It’s been said, “A good lawyer knows the law. A clever lawyer knows judge.”

“Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding, but the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth.” He’s easily distracted. “A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him. Also, to punish the righteous is not good, nor to strike princes for their uprightness.”

Verse 27 is a great proverb. “He who has knowledge spares his words, and a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.” It’s said, “There’s nothing wrong with having nothing to say - unless you insist on saying it.

Verse 28, “Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace; when he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive.” Remember the old saying, “Keep your mouth shut, and folks will wonder if you’re a fool. Open it and you’ll remove all doubt.” *When your mind goes blank, turn off the sound!*