

## Proverbs 17-19

Good evening and thank you for joining us! Would you please turn in your Bibles to Proverbs 17?

Remember, a proverb is a short statement phrased in a clever way to communicate a vital truth. I bet you've used several english proverbs over the years.

**SHOW SLIDE** "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." **CLOSE SLIDE**

I bet we all know those, but how much better off would we be if we had some of these committed to memory! Tonight we continue our study in chapter 17-19. Let's pray before we begin.

**1 Better is a dry morsel with quietness,  
Than a house full of feasting[fn] with strife.** I'll trade you lobster and fighting for oatmeal and peace any day. We saw this last week in chapter 15 as well.

**2 A wise servant will rule over a son who causes shame,  
And will share an inheritance among the brothers.** A son has his natural place, but God doesn't hold that natural place as giving absolute right to lead. In fact leadership may be given to a wise servant instead of a son.

3 The refining pot is for silver and the furnace for gold,  
But the LORD tests the hearts. **SHOW PIC** 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. **CLOSE PIC**

Likewise God uses a similar process to purify His people. **1 Peter 1:6-7** 6 In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, 7 that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, 8 whom having not seen<sup>[fn]</sup> you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, 9 receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls.

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.  
4-6

4 An evildoer gives heed to false lips;  
A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue.

5 He who mocks the poor reproaches his Maker;  
He who is glad at calamity will not go unpunished.

6 Children's children are the crown of old men,  
And the glory of children is their father. And man, am I looking forward to the grandkids. I hear they are great fun. The whole

idea of play, and fun, then, here they are mom and dad – appeals to me.

Notice the end of the verse, “and the glory of children is their father.” It’s natural for children to glory in their father, and fathers should live and parent in such a way that would cause their children to glory in them.

7 Excellent speech is not becoming to a fool,  
Much less lying lips to a prince. Usually wisdom doesn’t come from a fool, and you expect royalty to deal faithfully

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

9 He who covers a transgression seeks love,  
But he who repeats a matter separates friends. When a word of gossip reaches you, the most loving thing to do is to let it end there and not repeat it

10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise man  
Than a hundred blows on a fool. A wise man learns from a rebuke, but even a beating can’t teach a fool.

11-12

11 An evil man seeks only rebellion;  
Therefore a cruel messenger will be sent against him.

12 Let a man meet a bear robbed of her cubs,

Rather than a fool in his folly. **SHOW PIC**. What a picture! A fool is more dangerous than an angry bear.

A fool in his folly is an unbearable person to deal with. **CLOSE PIC**

13-14

13 Whoever rewards evil for good,  
Evil will not depart from his house.

14 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. It won't be easier to deal with in time.

15-16

15 He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the just,  
Both of them alike are an abomination to the LORD.

16 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 try and attain it.

17 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 good  
times, bad times, or as Solomon says, "at all times."

18 A man devoid of understanding shakes hands in a pledge,  
And becomes surety for his friend. Verse 18 along with a host of  
other proverbs warns co-signing for a loan

19 He who loves transgression loves strife,  
And he who exalts his gate seeks destruction. Exalting gate is  
speaking of bragging. Hey any time we seek to brag, we're  
focusing on our flesh, which always leads to hardship  
20-22

20 He who has a deceitful heart finds no good,  
And he who has a perverse tongue falls into evil.  
21 He who begets a scoffer does so to his sorrow,  
And the father of a fool has no joy.

22 A merry heart does good, like medicine,[fn]  
But a broken spirit dries the bones. Medical studies are showing  
that laughter relaxes muscles, stimulates organs, and releases  
chemicals that aid in healing. In other words, "A chuckle a day  
keeps the doctor away."

Some doctors say even a forced laugh has beneficial mental and  
physical side-effects.

Which is one more reason you should laugh at my jokes! They  
don't have to be funny to be good for you.

23 A wicked man accepts a bribe behind the back[fn]  
To pervert the ways of justice. Kick-backs and pay-offs pervert  
justice.

24 Wisdom is in the sight of him who has understanding,

But the eyes of a fool are on the ends of the earth. The fool gets easily distracted.

25-28

25 A foolish son is a grief to his father,  
And bitterness to her who bore him.

26 Also, to punish the righteous is not good,  
Nor to strike princes for their uprightness.

27 He who has knowledge spares his words,  
And a man of understanding is of a calm spirit.

28 Even a fool is counted wise when he holds his peace;  
When he shuts his lips, he is considered perceptive. I like 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

## Chapter 18

1 A man who isolates himself seeks his own desire;  
He rages against all wise judgment. One of Satan's prime strategies is isolation. If he can cut a believer off from other Christians, he can manipulate their downfall.

The devil will see to it that 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 it gets really hard to call for back-up. When we forsake our fellow Christians, it becomes much easier to forsake Christ.”

Hebrews 10:24 24 And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, 25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

The more we stick together the stronger we become.

2 A fool has no delight in understanding,  
But in expressing his own heart. All that matters to a fool is to spout out their opinion. Their concern is that they’re always heard, and they never bother to listen and understand anyone else.

3 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.”

4 The words of a man’s mouth are deep waters;  
The wellspring of wisdom is a flowing brook. **SHOW PIC** what do you find when you come to a stagnant pond? Fungus, algae, mosquitoes, pollution...

**SHOW PIC** 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.

5-8

5 It is not good to show partiality to the wicked,  
Or to overthrow the righteous in judgment.

6 A fool's lips enter into contention,  
And his mouth calls for blows.

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

8 The words of a talebearer are like tasty trifles,[fn]  
And they go down into the inmost body. A "talebearer" is a  
gossip. Gossip is like sweet pastries baked in an evil imagination

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?

10 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 demons flee, blind eyes  
see, lame legs walk. There's authority in His name.

11-12

11 The rich man's wealth is his strong city,  
And like a high wall in his own esteem.

12 Before destruction the heart of a man is haughty,



**And before honor is humility.** Riches have made many a humble person haughty. Wealth actually becomes their liability.

**13 He who answers a matter before he hears it,  
It is folly and shame to him.** It's a reminder we shouldn't rush to judgment, to take our time before we speak. Too many people make statements and decisions before understanding the full picture.

**14 The spirit of a man will sustain him in sickness,  
But who can bear a broken spirit?** Medical doctors are becoming more and more sensitive to how the condition of the human spirit impacts the health of the human body. When a person faces a terminal illness, their will-to-live is probably the single greatest determiner of their survival.

But a person with no hope is far more likely to die from their sickness.

15-16

**15 The heart of the prudent acquires knowledge,  
And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.**

**16 A man's gift makes room for him,  
And brings him before great men.** Approach a person 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.

**17 The first one to plead his cause seems right,**

Until his neighbor comes and examines him. There're two sides to every story. I've talked to the wife and thought the husband was vile and vicious. Until I spoke to the husband, and realized the wife was vengeful. Rarely is a conflict completely one sided.  
18-19

18 Casting lots causes contentions to cease,  
And keeps the mighty apart.

19 A brother offended is harder to win than a strong city,  
And contentions are like the bars of a castle. It's important to be polite and diplomatic. Once you offend someone you drive a wedge between you and them.

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. Oftentimes our success is determined by our ability to communicate.

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue,  
And those who love it will eat its fruit. James 3 is all about the tongue

22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing,  
And obtains favor from the LORD. 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.

23 The poor man uses entreaties,

But the rich answers roughly. The poor are usually more polite than the rich, who often have a sense of entitlement.

24 A man who has friends must himself be friendly,[fn]

But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother. 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 were everywhere!"

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 bond to Jesus is thicker than friendship or family. It's spirit. Jesus tells us in John 15:15, 15 No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.

He's our Creator, Sustainer, Lord, Master, Savior... our Friend.

## Chapter 19

1 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.

2 Also it is not good for a soul to be without knowledge,  
And he sins who hastens with his feet. When we become  
impulsive its much easier to find ourselves in sin.

3 The foolishness of a man twists his way,  
And his heart frets against the LORD. It's tragic, 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 our choices have real natural  
consequences.

4-6

4 Wealth makes many friends,  
But the poor is separated from his friend.

5 A false witness will not go unpunished,  
And he who speaks lies will not escape.

6 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 who your true friends are.

7 All the brothers of the poor hate him;  
How much more do his friends go far from him!  
He may pursue them with words, yet they abandon him. James 2  
warns the church about our attitude toward the poor. A person's  
economic status shouldn't affect how we treat them.

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 the wallet to the heart.

8-9

8 He who gets wisdom loves his own soul;  
He who keeps understanding will find good.

9 A false witness will not go unpunished,  
And he who speaks lies shall perish. You can perjure yourself to cover-up the truth, but God knows.

10 Luxury is not fitting for a fool,  
Much less for a servant to rule over princes. A fool with luxury and power will use it and abuse it.

11 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.

Jesus tells us he who has been forgiven much, loves much.

12-13

12 The king's wrath is like the roaring of a lion,  
But his favor is like dew on the grass.

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's a serious irritation.

A contentious wife is like water-board torture.

Ladies all men – big men, little men, short men, tall men, skinny men, fat men, all men - even your man - hate to be nagged!

A wife's 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 wise wife learns how to effectively speak to her husband. She learns his language – what makes him tick. Better yet she learns how to influence her husband with pleasant demeanor! **1Peter 3:1**  
**Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives,"**

**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."  
15-17

**15 Laziness casts one into a deep sleep,**  
**And an idle person will suffer hunger.**

**16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul,**  
**But he who is careless[fn] of his ways will die.**

17 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.

18 Chasten your son while there is hope,  
And do not set your heart on his destruction.[fn] Discipline your  
child while he or she is young.

A child learns self-discipline by the discipline they receive from  
their parents. But it must be done in love, not with wrath or  
destruction in mind.

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.

20-21

20 Listen to counsel and receive instruction,  
That you may be wise in your latter days.

21 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. 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.

22-24

22 What is desired in a man is kindness,  
And a poor man is better than a liar.

23 The fear of the LORD leads to life,  
And he who has it will abide in satisfaction;  
He will not be visited with evil.

24 A lazy man buries his hand in the bowl,[fn]  
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.

This seems dramatic, but the same phenomenon occurs  
spiritually. People's souls are famished, while an unused Bible  
sits on their shelf.

25 Strike a scoffer, and the simple will become wary;  
Rebuke one who has understanding, and he will discern  
knowledge. (a little punishment and maybe he'll smarten up)  
26-27

26 He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother  
Is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

27 Cease listening to instruction, my son,  
And you will stray from the words of knowledge. We need to  
always be willing to learn. None of us have arrived.  
28-29

28 A disreputable witness scorns justice,



And the mouth of the wicked devours iniquity.

29 Judgments are prepared for scoffers,  
And beatings for the backs of fools. Those who disregard wisdom,  
will also have their penalty. Correction will come to them in its  
appointed way, and sadly — the correction will do little good for  
them.