

- I) **V1-5 INTRO:** The king's heart is in the hand of the Lord like the rivers of water He turns it
- II) **NOTICE:** Like the rivers of waters, which speaks of channels or a watercourse
Channels are used to regulate the flow and direction of water
Even so, God directs kings
- III) **The decisions of the king are under God's control:** He directs the king as it pleases Him
- IV) **POINT:** No human ruler is ultimately supreme, God is: He is Sovereign
Dan 4:35 All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand or say to Him, "What have You done?
Pr 16:9 A man's heart plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.
- V) **V2 EVERY WAY:** Of a man is right in his own eyes but the Lord weighs the hearts
- VI) **THIS PROVERB:** Is similar to one found in chapter sixteen
Pr 16:2 People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives
- VII) **POINT:** People defend their way of living, and make excuses for their sinfulness
They believe themselves better than they really are
Pr 30:12 There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness.
- VIII) **Without the Spirit's conviction, we would never understand our lost condition**
- IX) **THOUGH WE:** May think our motives are pure, God sees our true motives
Gen 6:5 Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
Jer 17:9-10 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; Who can know it? I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.
- X) **V3 TO DO:** Righteousness and justice is more acceptable to the Lord than sacrifice
1 Sa 15:22 But Samuel replied: "Does the LORD delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? To obey is better than sacrifice, and to heed is better than the fat of rams.
- XI) **OBEDIENCE FROM THE HEART:** Is acceptable, and ceremonial worship is not
It is not the outer works alone, but the motives of the heart that reveals faith

- I) **GOD: Never teaches that works alone can save a person**
Good works distinguish the life of a believer, but do not created spiritual life

- II) **GOD COMMANDS: Believers to live properly because of obedience, gratitude, and faith**
Mic 6:6-8 With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God

- III) **THERE ARE MILLIONS: Attending churches throughout the world who are lost**
Many think that their good works are sufficient, but they are not if not done in faith
Mt 7:22-23 Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

- IV) **V4 A: Haughty look, a proud heart and the plowing of the wicked are sin**
Arrogance and pride are pictured as seeds being planted:
The fruit of arrogance and pride will always be sin
Ps 18:27 For You will save the humble people, but will bring down haughty looks.

- V) **V5 THE PLANS: Of *the diligent* lead surely to plenty but those of everyone who is hasty**
Plans and patience will pay higher dividends then quick decisions

- VI) **Long range plans with patience is necessary (Marie's stock we cashed out)**
Relying on credit cards and bonuses to pay them off is unwise
Refinancing homes for weddings and college could be avoided by proper planning
Invest, and don't pull out the money before it matures

- VII) **V6 GETTING: Treasures by a lying tongue is the fleeting fantasy of those who seek death**
Finances gained deceitfully never brings total satisfaction
Ultimately, when caught for this fraud penalties can be severe
Pr 13:11 Wealth gained by dishonesty will be diminished, But he who gathers by labor will increase

- VIII) **V7 THE VIOLENCE: Of the wicked will destroy them because they refuse to do justice**
What they have done to others shall return upon their own heads:
They have refused to do justly for others, and will reap the consequences
Pr 1:19 So are the ways of everyone who is greedy for gain; It takes away the life of its owners

- I) **V8 THE:** Way of a guilty man is perverse; but as for the pure his work is right
Ungodly men do things to make a profit, but godly men have integrity
- II) **V9 IT:** Is better to dwell in a corner of a housetop than in a house shared with a
Rooftops were flat, and used for exercise, sleeping, or devotions and prayer (Ac 10)
Hiding in the corner of the rooftop is better than strife in the house
- III) **AN ARGUMENTATIVE WIFE:** Can be very difficult to be married to
Pr 27:15-16 A continual dripping on a very rainy day and a contentious woman are alike. Whoever restrains her restrains the wind, And grasps oil with his right hand
- IV) **PROVERBS:** Closes with the words of King Lemuel
Jewish and Christian scholars believe this is Solomon, with Bathsheba giving advice
Pr 31:26 (The virtuous woman) opens her mouth with wisdom, and on her tongue is the law of kindness
- V) **V10 THE SOUL:** Of the wicked *desires* evil; his neighbor finds no favor in his eyes
The wicked person's heart is set on evil and he has no concern for others
- VI) They see bad happen in the neighborhood and mind their own business
Lu 6:31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.
- VII) **V11 WHEN:** The scoffer is punished the simple is made wise; but when the wise is
People learn what is right in various ways, and do what is right for various reasons
- VIII) **SOME:** Do the right things simply because they want to avoid punishment
Others may do what is right because of personal benefit, or because it is right in their society, or they want to be considered a good person
Some develop the mentality that, if it is legal it is also moral, and others think that good things are done in order to benefit the most people
- IX) **IN THIS PROVERB:** Solomon points out that some people do good to avoid punishment
This would be the lowest ethical standard
- X) On the other hand, the wise receives instruction because his moral base is strong
The wise decides what to do based on religious faith that has built a foundation
- XI) A mature believer does not need to have lessons constantly given but learns quickly
Pr 19:25 Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.

- I) **V12 THE: Righteous God wisely considers the house of the wicked overthrowing the God is a righteous judge Who will ultimately judge wickedness**
2 Pe 2:9 The Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to reserve the unjust under punishment for the day of judgment
Jn 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him--the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day
- II) **V13 WHOEVER: Shuts his ears to the cry of the poor will also cry himself and not be Those who have received mercy will be merciful: If you have been helped, help others**
Zech 7:9 Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'Execute true justice, Show mercy and compassion everyone to his brother.
- III) **THIS: Can be illustrated through a question Peter asked Jesus**
Mt 18:21-22 Peter came to Him and said Lord how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times? Jesus said to him, I do not say to you, up to seven times, but up to seventy times seven
- IV) **HIS QUESTION: How far am I supposed to go? What if he *habitually* sins against me? How much mercy am I supposed to show a brother?**
- V) **WHY SEVEN TIMES: Because this shows great mercy on his part**
Seven times represents more than twice the amount required by Jewish tradition
Amos 1:3 This is what the LORD says: "For *three sins* of Damascus, even for four, I will not turn back my wrath. Because she threshed Gilead with sledges having iron teeth
RABBIS REASONED: If God only forgives three times, and punishes on the fourth, it would be arrogant for man to forgive more than God!
- VI) **V22 NOTICE JESUS' RESPONSE: I do not say to you, up to 7 times, but up to 70 x 7**
PROBLEM: Peter was still thinking as fallen human nature is inclined to think
He did not have an understanding of God's merciful grace
- VII) **JESUS INTENDS TO TEACH THE DISCIPLES: About true forgiveness**
The spirit of forgiveness is not a matter of calculations, but rather a matter of the heart
1 Co 13:4-5 Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, is not easily angered, *it keeps no record of wrongs*
- VIII) **THOUGHT: Genuine forgiveness has no boundaries: Be forgiving and merciful *always***
- IX) **V14 A GIFT: In secret pacifies anger and a bribe behind the back, strong wrath**
A gift in secret can make someone live at peace, something like a peace offering
A bribe can also cause someone to look the other way, by being bought off

- I) **V15 IT: Is a joy for the just to do justice, but destruction will come to the workers of Serving the Lord is a joy, while avoiding living lives pleasing to Him end up in judgment**
Ps 40:8 I delight to do Your will, O my God, And Your law is within my heart."
1 Jn 5:3 This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome
- II) **V16 A MAN: Who wanders from the way of understanding will rest in the congregation of It is possible to *cut your life short*: Errant man will destroy himself before his time**
2 Ti 4:7 I have fought the good fight, I have *finished the race*, I have kept the faith.
- III) **V17 HE: Who loves pleasure will be a poor man; he who loves wine and oil will not be rich**
Spending your money on excessive luxuries reveals a carnal heart
The Ainsworth NYC, \$1000 for 50 chicken wings and a bottle of champagne
- IV) **This is called a greedy lifestyle: Some TV preachers say God gave you this desire Louisiana televangelist Jesse Duplantis is asking his followers to donate \$54 million so he can buy a private jet to help him preach the gospel "to the world." His ministry has already paid for three others.**
I really believe that if the Lord Jesus Christ was physically on the Earth today, he wouldn't be riding a donkey," Duplantis said in a video posted on his ministry's website, "He'd be in an airplane flying all over the world."
- V) **V18 THE WICKED: Shall be a ransom for the righteous and the unfaithful for the upright God will cause to fall on their own heads, that which they intended against the just He does this by delivering the just and putting the wicked in their places**
Pr 11:8 The righteous is delivered from trouble, And it comes to the wicked instead.
- VI) **V19 IT: Is better to dwell in the wilderness than with a contentious and angry woman**
- VII) **V20 THERE: Is desirable treasure and oil in the dwelling of the wise, but a foolish man The wise person prepares for the future, carefully planning how to live comfortably Fools use up whatever resource there is, and is left with nothing**
- VIII) **V21 HE: Who follows righteousness and mercy finds life, righteousness and honor Virtue has its own rewards: When you love others, they in turn will bless your life**
- IX) **V22 A WISE MAN: Scales the city of the mighty and brings down the trusted stronghold The walls are what the inhabitants trust in: A wise man plans properly and has victory This also applies to learning how to share our faith with others**

- I) **V23 WHOEVER:** Guards his mouth and tongue keeps his soul from troubles
Learn to be quiet and resist the temptation to speak back and have the last word
Pr 10:19 In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips *is* wise.
- II) **V24 A:** Proud and haughty man—Scoffer is his name; he acts with arrogant pride
An irreligious man denies the God who bought him and lives in self righteous pride
- III) **V25-26 THE:** Desire of the slothful kills him for his hands refuse to labor. He covets
A lazy person comes to ruin because they are always looking for an easy way out
- IV) **On the other hand:** A righteous person thinks of giving rather than getting
Lu 6:38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you.
- V) **V27 THE:** Sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination; how much more when he brings it
Someone still bent on being wicked, yet pretending to worship God is an abomination
Donating equipment and asking for a receipt for a tax write-off
- VI) **V28 A FALSE:** Witness shall perish; but the man who hears him will speak endlessly
The First part is obvious: Liars are judged
- VII) **The second part:** The man who listens carefully and repeats accurately speaks truth
His words will continue on into the future, because they are true and are established
He does not contradict himself, always affirming the same thing
- VIII) **V29 A:** Wicked man *hardens his face* but as for the upright he establishes his way
Puts up a bold front, but that is all: Hardened faces reveal hardened hearts
- IX) **THE UPRIGHT:** Establishes his way
Orders his steps properly, and does not turn to the left or the right and honors God
- X) **V30: THERE:** Is no wisdom or understanding or counsel against the Lord
Job 5:13 He catches the wise in their craftiness, and the schemes of the wily are swept away.
1 Co 1:20 Where is the wise person? Where is the teacher of the law? Where is the philosopher of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world?

- XI) V31 The horse is prepared for the day of battle but deliverance is of the Lord
Success comes from God, not just our plans: Zech 4:6