Proverbs 13 – 5 November 2026
"Listen & Live"

Introduction

*The Book of Proverbs is broken into 5 sections
    *Chap 1-9 (Solomon – the only long form)
    *Chap 10-24 (Solomon – short form)
    *Chap 25-29 (Solomon – compiled later by Hez)
    *Chap 30 (Unknown man Agur)
    *Chap 31 (Unknown King Lemuel)
    *Chap 1:1-7, 31:10-31 (Unknown book compiler)

*1st section (Chap 1-9) was entirely about wisdom
*Chap 10 began the verse-by-verse short form help

Today, in chapter 13, much of the discussion is centered around the On/OFF nature of wisdom

*We are either choosing to receive God's Word or not

*No outline today – just listen for the Lord to speak to you one verse at a time
*Ask the Lord which individual verses you need to hold on to

Read 13:1

1. A foolish son won't listen & stays foolish
2. A wise son listens & grows even more wise
3. Wisdom's throttle is either all on or all off

Read 13:2

1. A wise one can sustain himself from the production coming from his wisdom into use

Read 13:3

1. Many things ***could*** come out of our mouth, but the question is, "what ***should*** come out"
2. James says the tongue is like fire (Jam 3:6)
    a. Recognize that power & limit it to only good

Read 13:4

1. Both the lazy & diligent crave blessings, but only the diligent takes steps to acquire the blessing
2. It's gross to see the sluggard saying, "why don't I ever get the blessing"

Read 13:5

1. Most literally, lying stinks!
2. Lying is the gateway drug or sin
    a. If you're in adultery, you've probably lied getting there
    b. If you've stolen, you've probably lying about it
3. Some treat it as a small sin, yet it leads to worse

Read 13:6

1. Like a grossly top heavy, out of balance train, the wicked simply can't stay on the good track

Read 13:7

1. Canon Camera used to have the slogan, "image is everything" – it drew out the flesh of humanity
2. This tells us that people want an esteemed image whether they have it in reality or not
    a. This is pride – the humble focuses on substance instead

Read 13:8

1. Poverty has its advantages; wealth the opposite
2. The rich will find they've become a target to which their money must bail them out
3. Poor aren't targeted; they have nothing to give

Read 13:9

1. Light is always an expression of godliness; darkness always of evil
2. There's something sinful within a person that loves all things of the night, darkness or death

Read 13:10

1. Someone cannot receive counsel unless they're humble enough to receive it
2. If there is contention & arguing, there's pride within one or more of the people involved

Read 13:11

1. There is wealth obtained without working for it

a. Inheritance, lottery winnings, kid's allowance, welfare from the state

2. When there's no skin in the game, it general gets squandered – didn't cost anything to obtain it
3. Teach your kids to earn their way (Gal 6:4-5)

Read 13:12

1. If we don't have any reason to believe that the Lord will keep His promises it gets desperate
   a. But when there's true hope we can continue
2. 1950s "Learned Hope Rat Utopia Experiment"
   a. Rats put in water would drown
   b. Rats pulled out just before drowning could endure way longer when put in the water again
3. We have excellent reasons to believe Jesus will keep Him promises – have hope, endure!

Read 13:13-15

1. Reject God's Word to receive trampled, trapped & troubled
2. Receive the Word to gain fruit, freedom & favor

3. The question is, “Do you believe this”?

Read 13:16

1. The wise act intentionally on their wisdom
2. The fool spreads his foolishness just by walking into the room passively
3. There’s an intentionality about the wise to help and not harm others

Read 13:17

1. Who do you represent? Wicked men or godly
2. We will experience rewards or consequences for whomever our hearts are working for or serving
    a. Let us be ambassadors for Christ

Read 13:18

1. Allowing ourselves to be changed by God’s instruction keeps us from poverty & brings honor
2. We must come face to face w/ God’s Word & then choose to incorporate it into our life

Read 13:19

1. The fool's evil ways keep him stuck in the here & now & he doesn't plan for the future
    a. It's all about gaining a high today
2. Don't grow weary in well doing & ***then*** we'll reap the harvest (Gal 6:9)

Read 13:20

1. Who do we surround ourselves with
2. Know if you're walking w/ the wise or fools
    a. When you're around that person, who has the influence over who, you or them?

Read 13:21

1. Our actions shall come back to us in results

Read 13:22

1. A sinner forfeits even what good he has to others, whether thru poor spending or wasting talents
2. But a good man passes on wisdom, skills and resources to the people he's investing his life into

Read 13:23

1. Don't mismanage our resources
2. Famine exists in this world, not b/c there isn't enough food, but b/c of politics
3. We're called to be good steward of God's resources & to give as we can

Read 13:24

1. Disciplining our kids is a sign of love
   a. Prov 22:5 – "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child" so discipline is for them all
   b. But do it while there's time (Read 19:18)
2. Correcting them brings peace

Read 13:25

1. The righteous can expect good things to come from their lifestyle, the wicked cannot
2. The righteous have humble, realistic expectations, therefore they can become satisfied
   a. The wicked one's expectations are so high, they're never satisfied

Conclusion

1. So, there you have Proverbs chapter 13
2. What did God impress on you individually?
3. Are we truly listening to God's advice?
4. What new principle or lesson do you need to incorporate into your life today?