

Proverbs 10 – 15 October 2026

“Character Determines Conduct”

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

Today, in chapter 10, we'll mostly discuss the contrast between the righteous & the wicked

*We'll discuss diligent ones and lazy ones as well as the power of the mouth

*Through it all we must see that our *character will determine our conduct*

No outline today – just listen for the Lord to speak to you one verse at a time

Read 10:1

1. A child has a great ability to make their father *die proud* or to make their mother *cry aloud*
2. There's an inseparable link between a child's growth and the emotions of the parents

Read 10:2

1. Read Matt 6:19-20 – Wickedness can only gain us *temporary treasures*
2. The righteousness of Jesus within us will gain us *liberty & life*

Read 10:3

1. The souls or the inner man will not be in want for those that are following the Lord
 - a. II Cor 4:16 says though the outward man is perishing, the inner man is renewed day by day
2. Not so for the wicked – they find the things that they're craving to be elusive & unattainable

Read 10:4

1. Notice that it's not speaking of those that don't work – here, it's about those that work lazily
2. Christians should be known as the hardest working employees on the job
3. Is our work diligent or negligent?

Read 10:5

1. We say, “make hay while the sun shines”
2. There is a moment, a season when we must spring into action
3. The changes to excel don't come everyday

Read 10:6

1. Like two young brothers; the righteous one will naturally be blessed for doing what's right
 - a. The other has wrongdoing ‘written all over his face’

Read 10:7

1. People will naturally remember you, if you've been a blessing to them

2. Jesus is unforgettable for how He's blessed us

Read 10:8

1. This is b/c the wise know how to receive help
 - a. Read Jam 1:19 - slow to speak, swift to hear
2. Fools always want to talk (Read Prov 12:23)

Read 10:9

1. Simple obedience to God's good plan protects
2. But when walking in the way of the wicked, many wicked things can attach themselves to you

Read 10:10

1. Temptress allures w/ the wink of an eye indicating a double meaning to their 'innocent' words
2. "Why don't you come to my house" wink wink

Read 10:11

1. Do we use our mouth to bless others w/ truthful, helpful sayings? (Read Jam 3:11)

Read 10:12

1. Not every minor fault of your friends and family needs addressed (Read Prov 19:11)

2. Sometimes just have patience and let them work on it

Read 10:13

1. Spiritual wisdom is instilled in a physical way
 - a. We must push to learn the Word's wisdom
 - b. Those that aren't, need a sting for correction
2. As a child grows, we find different things that 'sting' or 'get their attention'
 - a. We must inflict small pain to prevent great pain later that comes by living unwise

Read 10:14

1. Your ability to speak & act in wisdom will have an effect your future circumstances
2. Speaking foolishly will affect job opportunities, ability to make friends & relationships

Read 10:15

1. Wisdom will gain a measure of material riches
 - a. Lacking wisdom will lead toward poverty

2. There is no sin in having money
 - a. There is sin however in *trusting* money as your source of endurance (Read Prov 11:28)
 - b. It's best not to be rich or poor (Prov 30:8-9)

Read 10:16

1. There is a reward coming no matter how you choose to live; that reward is either good or evil

Read 10:17

1. God's correction to us thru His Word is designed to keep us on the good path toward life
2. Isn't it the loving thing to do to correction someone that's heading toward death? Yes

Read 10:18

1. To "Hide hatred" isn't to say that we should be open with our hatred
 - a. It means that hatred is often in the heart long before it comes out of our lips
2. Don't allow hatred to remain & spread – kill it

Read 10:19

1. The more words that come out, the greater the possibility that there's sin in there
 - a. If we're speaking Bible – go big, it's right!
 - b. If we're speaking opinion – limit it!

Read 10:20-21

1. The righteous can bless others, the wicked can't
2. For all these negative phrases – praise God if that's you, you can change
 - a. God wants to give each of us a new heart
 - b. God wants to correct us, so we don't become fools

Read 10:22

1. If you're rich, it's a blessing that came from God, not the govt or self or family
 - a. James (1:17) says every good gift comes down from the God of heaven
 - b. Riches isn't a problem; *trusting them* is the problem (Mar 10:24, I Tim 6:17, Prov 30:8-9)

2. There is a way to have riches *without* sorrow (Abraham); & a way to have riches *with* sorrow (Lot)

Read 10:23

1. Wickedness to a fool & wisdom to a man of discernment – it's what they love in their nature

Read 10:24-25

1. The righteous & the wicked are all running forward in life w/ sin's whirlwind behind them
 - a. The wicked obtain their goal & find it to be the very whirlwind of sin they were running from
 - b. The righteous obtain their goal & find a place to stand forever

Read 10:26

1. An irritant
2. Lazy people irritate their manager more than themselves
3. If your boss, authority, pastor or group leader picks everyone else before you – ask why
 - a. May be b/c you're lazy which irritates them

Read 10:27

1. Humanity is always looking for ways to gain slight improvements in diet, cardio, & conditioning
 - a. The greatest way to improve the quality & quantity of our life is to *obey the Lord*
 - b. This reverent obedience takes faith

Read 10:28

1. The substance of our trust & hope matters
 - a. Both righteous & wicked expect good to come, but only the righteous will be rewarded
 - b. B/c their hope was in the right substance

Read 10:29-30

1. To follow the Lord is to have a life built on the rock, but the wicked are building on sand
2. The day of judgement will reveal the strength of Christ in the believer & the vanity of the wicked

Read 10:31-32

1. Read Luk 6:45 – Fix the heart & you'll fix the mouth

2. Only way to fix the heart is a heart transplant

Conclusion

1. So, our character from the heart will determine our conduct
2. How's your *conduct*?
3. How's your *mouth*?
4. Have you received a *new heart* from Jesus?
5. Do it today!