



Go for God!

The Book of PROVERBS

Chapter 14

“Stay Wise!”

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(v1) **A wise woman: (1) Prays for the salvation of her family - Acts 16:11-15; (2) Embraces Christian character - Titus 2:3-6- the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things-- that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.; (3) Disciples her children & grandchildren - 2 Timothy 1:3-5- I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as my forefathers did, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.**

(v2) **“Walk in uprightness,” which is RIGHTEOUSNESS** - Holy and upright living, in accordance with God's standard. The word righteousness comes from a root word that means "straightness." It refers to a state that conforms to an authoritative standard. Righteousness is a moral concept. God's character is the definition and source of all righteousness (Gen 18:25; Deut 32:4; Rom 9:14). Therefore, man's righteousness is defined in terms of God's.

In the Old Testament the term righteousness is used to define man's relationship with God (Ps 50:6; Jer 9:24) and with other people (Jer 22:3). In the context of relationships, righteous action is action that promotes the peace and well-being of human beings in their relationships to one another. For example, Adam and Eve would have acted righteously in their relationship with God if they had obeyed Him, because His commands defined that relationship. The Ten Commandments and related laws defined Israel's relationship with God. To obey those laws was to act righteously, because such obedience maintained the covenant relationship between God and His people.

The cross of Jesus is a public demonstration of God's righteousness. God accounts or transfers the righteousness of Christ to those who trust in Him (Rom 4:3-22; Gal 3:6; Phil 3:9). We do not become righteous because of our inherent goodness; God sees us as righteous because of our identification by faith with His Son. (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(v3) **Wise lips:** *A careless word may kindle strife;
A cruel word may wreck a life.
A bitter word may hate instill;
A brutal word may smite and kill.
A gracious word may smooth the way;
A joyous word may light the day.
A timely word may lessen stress;
A loving word may heal and bless.*

(v4) **Work ethic:** **Barnes writes,** “Labor has its rough, unpleasant side, yet it ends in profit. So also, the life of contemplation may seem purer, “cleaner “than that of action. The outer business of the world brings its cares and disturbances, but also “much increase.” There will be a sure reward of that activity in good works for him who goes, as with “the strength of the ox,” to the task to which God calls him.”

(v5) **Truth talk:** **Jesus said in John 3:20-21** - *For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”*

(v6-9) Wisdom seeks knowledge: ***KNOWLEDGE*** is the truth or facts of life that a person acquires either through experience or thought. The greatest truth that a person can possess with the mind or learn through experience is truth about God (Ps 46:10; John 8:31-32). This cannot be gained by unaided human reason (Job 11:7; Rom 11:33). It is acquired only as God shows Himself to man-in nature and conscience (Ps 19; Rom 1:19-20); in history or providence (Deut 6:20-25; Dan 2:21); and especially in the Bible (Ps 119; Rev 1:1-3).

Mental knowledge by itself, as good as it may be, is inadequate; it is capable only of producing pride (1 Cor 8:1; 13:2). Moral knowledge affects a person's will (Prov 1:7; Phil 3:11-12; 1 John 4:6). It is knowledge of the heart, not the mind alone. The Book of Proverbs deals primarily with this kind of knowledge. Experiential knowledge is that gained through one's experience (Gen 4:1; 2 Cor 5:21; 1 John 4:7-8). The apostle Paul's wish for the church at Colosse was that they might increase in the "knowledge of God" (Col 1:10). (From Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary)

(v10) Watch out for "bitterness" – Acts 8:14-25; Hebrews 12:14-15 - *Pursue peace with all people, and holiness, without which no one will see the Lord: looking carefully lest anyone fall short of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up cause trouble, and by this many become defiled;*

(v11-13) YOU are soooo right, you're WRONG! – Matthew 7:13-14; Matthew 23 (Woe! Hypocrites!)

(v14) Backslider – BACKSLIDE - To revert to sin or wrongdoing; to lapse morally or in the practice of religion. "Backsliding" is a term found mainly in the Book of Jeremiah (2:19; 31:22; 49:4). It refers to the lapse of the nation of Israel into paganism and idolatry. Jeremiah 2:19 - *Your own wickedness will correct you, and your backslidings will rebuke you. Know therefore and see that it is an evil and bitter thing that you have forsaken the LORD your God, and the fear of Me is not in you," Says the Lord GOD of hosts.*

(v15-22) Character traits of a wise man devises GOOD!

(v23-24) Wise labor PROFITS!

(v25) A true witness (Paul at Ephesus - Acts 19:21-41)

(v26-27) Wisdom in the FEAR OF THE LORD!

(v28) Leadership leads people to CHRIST!

(v29-33) Wise advice!

(v34) A wise nation - United States Supreme Court 1892 Church of the Holy Trinity v. United States- "Our laws and our institutions must necessarily be based upon and embody the teachings of the Redeemer of mankind. It is impossible that it should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent our civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian." **Alexis de Tocqueville-** "Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because America is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, America will cease to be great."

(v35) A wise servant - Matt 20:25-28- *But Jesus called them to Himself and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and those who are great exercise authority over them. Yet it shall not be so among you; but whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant. And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave-- just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."*