

## **Proverbs Chapter 16 –**

**“The Heart of Wisdom” \*God in His sovereignty directs life, while wisdom calls people to humility, righteousness, and wise speech.**

### **I. The Lord Directs Human Plans (16:1–9)**

#### **A. God examines the heart (vv. 1–2)**

- Man prepares, but God gives the answer. (*James 1:19*)
- Man justifies his ways, but God evaluates motives. (*Jer. 17:9-10*)

#### **B. Commit your works to the Lord (v.3)**

- Commit (roll over onto the Lord) and trust God with every plan. (*James 4:13-16*)

#### **C. God rules over all things (v.4)**

- Everything was created for God and by God. (*Col. 1:16-17*)

#### **D. Pride is condemned (v.5)**

- God opposes/detests the proud. (*Ps.2*)

#### **E. Mercy and truth overcome sin (vv.6-7)**

- Jesus is Mercy and Truth for our atonement. (*Heb.9:26-28*)
- When our ways please the Lord, He makes even our enemies at peace.

#### **F. Better little with righteousness (v.8)**

- Integrity/righteousness is greater than dishonest gain. (*Phil. 4:11-12*)

#### **G. God establishes our steps (v.9)**

- People make plans, but God directs their steps.

### **II. Wisdom in Leadership and Justice (16:10–15)**

#### **A. Rulers should govern justly (vv. 10–12)**

- Leadership must reflect righteousness.

#### **B. Honest speech pleases leaders (v.13)**

- Truthful words are valued and bring favor.

### **C. Wise responses calm authority (vv.14–15)**

- Favor from a king brings blessings.

## **III. Wisdom is Better Than Wealth (16:16–24)**

### **A. Wisdom surpasses gold and silver (v.16)**

- Spiritual understanding is priceless.

### **B. The righteous avoid evil (v.17)**

- Wise living stays on the right path and keeps you safe.

### **C. Pride leads to destruction (vv. 18–19)**

- Pride leads to a crash.

### **D. Trusting God brings blessing (v.20)**

### **E. Wise speech brings healing (vv. 21–24)**

- Pleasant words encourage and strengthen.

## **IV. The Danger of Foolishness and Evil (16:25–30)**

### **A. Some paths seem right but lead to death (v.25)**

- Human judgment alone is unreliable.

### **B. Labor motivates effort (v.26)**

### **C. Evil speech destroys relationships (vv. 27–30)**

- Gossip, conflict, and deceit spread harm.

## **V. Patience, Self-Control, and God's Sovereignty (16:31–33)**

### **A. Righteous aging is honorable (v.31)**

### **B. Self-control is true strength (v.32)**

- Self-control is greater than conquering a city.

### **C. God rules over every outcome (v.33)**

- Nothing happens outside His authority. (Acts 1:26)