

## **Proverbs 22 — Wisdom for a Godly Life, Relationships, and Leadership**

### **I. Value of Character Over Wealth — vv. 1–4 v.1 — A good name is better than riches**

- Reputation and integrity have lasting value.
- Character is more valuable than material success.

#### **v. 2 — Rich and poor are equal before God**

- God is the Creator of all people.
- Wealth does not determine a person's worth.

#### **v. 3 — Wisdom recognizes danger**

- The prudent person sees danger and takes precautions.
- The naive person ignores warning signs.

#### **v. 4 — Humility and fear of the Lord bring blessing**

- True prosperity begins with humility and reverence for God.

### **II. Wisdom in the Way We Live — vv. 5–9 v. 5 — The path of the crooked is difficult**

- Sin creates unnecessary trouble.
- Those who guard their souls avoid destructive paths.

#### **v. 6 — Train your children in God's ways**

- Spiritual formation begins early.
- Parents have a responsibility to teach and model righteousness.

#### **v. 7 — Debt can create bondage**

- The borrower becomes a servant to the lender.
- Financial decisions can affect personal freedom.

#### **v. 8 — What we sow, we reap**

- Wickedness eventually produces consequences.

#### **v. 9 — Generosity brings blessing**

- God honors those who share with the needy.

### **III. Wisdom in Relationships and Work — vv. 10–16 v. 10 — Remove the scoffer**

- Some conflict is removed when destructive influences are confronted.

#### **v. 11 — Purity of heart produces favor**

- People are naturally drawn to those who speak with grace.

#### **v. 12 — God protects truth**

- The Lord preserves knowledge and exposes deceptive schemes.

#### **v. 13 — The lazy make excuses**

- Fear and excuses often disguise unwillingness to act.

#### **v. 14 — Sexual immorality is dangerous**

- Proverbs warns against falling into sexual temptation.

**v. 15 — Discipline corrects foolishness**

-Children need loving correction and instruction.

**v. 16 — Exploiting the poor is ultimately self-defeating**

-God sees injustice toward the vulnerable.

**IV. Listen to Wise Instruction — vv. 17–21 A call to receive and apply wisdom**

**v. 17 — Incline your ear**

-Wisdom requires humility and attentiveness.

**v. 18 — Store wisdom within**

-Truth should become part of our inner life.

**v. 19 — Trust in the Lord**

-Biblical wisdom is ultimately designed to produce faith/confidence in God.

**v. 20 — Treasure wise counsel**

-God gives wisdom for practical living.

**v. 21 — Know truth so you can communicate truth**

-Wisdom equips us to give reliable answers to others.

**V. Justice and Treatment of the Vulnerable — vv. 22–23 v. 22 — Do not exploit the poor**

-Poverty does not make someone less valuable.

-God cares deeply about justice.

**v. 23 — God defends the oppressed**

-The Lord Himself stands as advocate for those who are mistreated.

**VI. Choose Your Relationships Carefully — vv. 24–25**

**v. 24 — Do not make close companions with an angry person**

-Anger can become contagious.

**v. 25 — Bad associations can corrupt character**

-What we repeatedly surround ourselves with influences who we become.

**VII. Wisdom With Money and Commitments — vv. 26–27**

**v. 26 — Be careful about guaranteeing another person's debt**

-Don't make financial commitments without considering the consequences.

**v. 27 — Irresponsible commitments can cost you what you possess**

-Wisdom requires understanding the risks of financial obligations.

**VIII. Boundaries and Principles — vv. 28–29 v. 28 — Do not move an ancient landmark**

-Respect rightful boundaries and established property.

-The principle extends to honesty, justice, and respect for what belongs to others.

**v. 29 — Excellence brings opportunity**

-Skillful, diligent work can bring a person before people of influence.