

Proverbs 24

Theme: Wisdom for Righteous Living, Perseverance, and Integrity

I. Do Not Envy Wicked People — Proverbs 24:1–2: “Do not be envious of evil men...”

- Do not desire the company or lifestyle of wicked people.
- Their hearts are set on violence and destruction.
- Their conversation is focused on causing trouble.

**Never envy someone whose success comes at the expense of righteousness.*

II. Wisdom Builds a Strong Life — Proverbs 24:3–4: “Through wisdom a house is built...”

- Wisdom establishes the home.
- Understanding makes it secure.
- Knowledge fills life with valuable things.

A strong life is not primarily built through money, possessions, or status, but through **wisdom, understanding, and knowledge.*

III. The Strength of Wisdom — Proverbs 24:5–6: “A wise man is strong...”

- Wisdom produces spiritual and practical strength.
- Knowledge increases effectiveness.
- Wise people recognize the value of counsel.
- Victory is often connected to receiving godly advice.

**You become stronger when you are willing to learn from others.*

IV. The Fool Cannot Handle Wisdom — Proverbs 24:7: “Wisdom is too lofty for a fool...”

- Wisdom is beyond the reach of someone who refuses correction.
- The fool has nothing worthwhile to contribute in a position of leadership.

**Wisdom requires humility.*

V. The Character of a Wicked Person — Proverbs 24:8–9

- Those who plan evil become known as schemers.
- Foolish thoughts produce sinful actions.

- Mocking and contempt for wisdom are condemned.

**Sin begins in the thoughts and intentions before it appears in actions.*

VI. Do Not Give Up in Adversity — Proverbs 24:10: “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small.”

This is one of the chapter's central verses.

- Difficult circumstances reveal our strength.
- Adversity tests our faith.
- The righteous must learn perseverance.

VII. Defend Those in Danger — Proverbs 24:11–12: “Deliver those who are drawn toward death...”

- God calls His people to protect those who are vulnerable.
- We cannot excuse ourselves by claiming ignorance.
- God knows the heart and motives of every person.

**Knowing about injustice creates a responsibility to respond.*

VIII. The Sweetness of Wisdom — Proverbs 24:13–14: “My son, eat honey because it is good...”. Honey illustrates the sweetness of wisdom.

- Wisdom is good for the soul.
- Wisdom provides hope for the future.
- A wise life has a desirable outcome.

**What is good for the soul should be valued more than temporary pleasures.*

IX. Do Not Attack the Righteous — Proverbs 24:15–16: “For a righteous man may fall seven times and rise again...”

- The wicked may seek to destroy the righteous.
- The righteous may fall.
- Falling does not mean failure is final.
- The righteous **rise again**.

X. Do Not Rejoice When Your Enemy Falls — Proverbs 24:17–18

- Do not celebrate the downfall of your enemy.
- Do not allow your heart to rejoice over someone's judgment.
- God cares about the condition of our hearts even toward those who oppose us.

**Victory should not produce vindictiveness.*

XI. Do Not Fret Over Evildoers — Proverbs 24:19–20

- Do not become angry because wicked people seem to prosper.
- Their prosperity is temporary.
- Their future has no lasting hope.

**Don't let the temporary success of the wicked disturb your confidence in God.*

XII. Fear God and Respect Authority — Proverbs 24:21–22 “My son, fear the LORD and the king...”

- Maintain reverence for God.
- Respect legitimate authority.
- Avoid unnecessary rebellion and association with troublemakers.
- Judgment can come suddenly.

**Wisdom respects both God's authority and proper human authority.*

XIII. Justice Must Be Impartial — Proverbs 24:23–26: Wisdom in judgment:

- Do not show partiality.
- Do not declare the wicked righteous.
- Speak truthfully.
- Honest correction can ultimately produce favor.

**Integrity requires telling the truth even when the truth is uncomfortable.*

XIV. Prepare Before You Build — Proverbs 24:27: “Prepare your outside work, make it fit for yourself in the field; and afterward build your house.”

- Establish priorities.
- Do the necessary preparation first.
- Don't build prematurely.

Preparation should precede expansion.

- Marriage
- Ministry
- Business
- Finances
- Leadership
- Family

XV. Do Not Bear False Witness — Proverbs 24:28–29

- Don't testify against someone without cause.
- Don't deceive your neighbor.
- Don't repay evil with evil.

“I will do to him just as he has done to me.”

**Don't allow someone else's wrong behavior to determine your character.*

XVI. The Lesson of the Lazy Man's Field — Proverbs 24:30–34

Solomon observes:

- A neglected field becomes overgrown.
- Thorns and weeds take over.
- Poverty comes through gradual neglect.
- Laziness often produces consequences slowly rather than instantly.

***Small areas of neglect eventually create large problems.**