

"Proverbs 12" Part 1

Proverbs 12:1-15

- The Proverbs are a great place to spend time
 - They dispense wisdom sentence by sentence
 - They address the practical things of life and tell us what God has to say about them
 - They are brief, but deep
 - Well-known, but worth returning to again and again
 - Today we'll work through a diverse collection of thoughts from Proverbs 12
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- Let's get right into our text

Proverbs 12:1

1 Whoso loveth instruction loveth knowledge: but he that hateth reproof is brutish.

- The word for instruction here means discipline, chastening, or correction
 - While not always enjoyable
 - This may be the most permanent kind of instruction we receive
 - And the man who genuinely loves to be prompted back to the right path
 - Because he knows this is the best path for him, really learns
 - He obtains the knowledge he needs
 - He's better off
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- But the man that hates reproof (this is reproof or chastisement)
 - That is, he resists it, avoids it, refuses to learn from it
 - Is "brutish" - this is the same word for stupid or foolish
 - He learns nothing
 - He is always worse off

Proverbs 12:2

2 A good man obtaineth favour of the LORD: but a man of wicked devices will he condemn.

- What kind of man is this "good" man?
 - He is pleasant and agreeable
 - He is good in the broadest sense of the word
 - His goodness gains "favour"
 - That is, he delights the Lord
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- Of course, we know that goodness is "of" the Lord
 - He empowers His people to have it
 - But when we learn to obey, perhaps from the chastening we heard about in verse 1, we delight Him
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- But a man who is crafty and mischievous, in an evil way, He condemns

Proverbs 12:3

3 A man shall not be established by wickedness: but the root of the righteous shall not be moved.

- The ERV may help us to understand this verse, it says...

"Evil people are never safe, but good people remain safe and secure."

- There is danger in wickedness
- Doing wrong complicates life
- It brings uncertainty and hardship

- While righteousness, doing God's will, provides a solid foundation

Proverbs 12:4

4 A virtuous woman is a crown to her husband: but she that maketh ashamed is as rottenness in his bones.

- Relationships are tremendously important
- Between husband and wife - the most important
- The character of our spouse will make such a profound difference to us
- If they are Godly, all of our lives will be better
- A woman of virtue will be a crown to her husband
- But a shameful wife is like a cancer
- Her shameful behavior will only harm

Proverbs 12:5

5 The thoughts of the righteous are right: but the counsels of the wicked are deceit.

- Before we can take the advice of any man, we must know his character
- Men who do right - who do God's will - have good judgement
- They can tell us what is right

- But guidance we receive from the wicked will be questionable
- Wicked men are prone to deception - they cannot be trusted

Proverbs 12:6

6 The words of the wicked are to lie in wait for blood: but the mouth of the upright shall deliver them.

- The ERV may come in handy to explain this verse too...

"Evil people use their words to hurt others, but the words from good people can save others from danger."

- We all know people that use words to hurt

- This comes from something broken inside a man
- But men who know God - who are yielded to God - can build up
- Instead of harming and endangering us, they help

Proverbs 12:7

7 The wicked are overthrown, and are not: but the house of the righteous shall stand.

- A man can obtain wealth and power and comfort in life, but if he is evil, he is not safe
- The foundations beneath him are shaky
- We know for certain his character will not stand up to scrutiny
- And he is bound for destruction
- Those that are amongst the righteous
- Who have a relationship with God
- Will have a legacy
- They will stand
- If God has saved them by grace through faith, they will live with Him eternally
- This is as safe and secure as any man can ever be

Proverbs 12:8

8 A man shall be commended according to his wisdom: but he that is of a perverse heart shall be despised.

- The word here for commend is "shine"
- The wise man shines
- Someone with prudence, insight, and understanding stands out
- But there are others who have a twisted inner man
- They are bound by sin - a slave to it
- And they will gather to themselves contempt

Proverbs 12:9

9 He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread.

- This is the way the ERV says it...

"It is better to appear unimportant and have a servant than to pretend to be important and have no food."

- The person who "keeps up appearances" can make himself poor
- The things he buys to maintain his reputation bankrupt him - financially and spiritually
- Perhaps the man who has no reputation
- The man who makes no name for himself has just enough
- Or even more than enough

Proverbs 12:10

10 A righteous man regardeth the life of his beast: but the tender mercies of the wicked are cruel.

- Men of righteous character have regard for others
- They are not just thinking about themselves
- They are concerned for man and beast
- Their cattle, their domestic animals are cared for
- They don't neglect their responsibilities toward God's creatures

- There are others, though, than can never muster better than cruelty
- The best of their behavior is cruelty

Proverbs 12:11

11 He that tilleth his land shall be satisfied with bread: but he that followeth vain persons is void of understanding.

- The man who works hard in the field eats
- Someone wrapped up with vanity
- Wasting their time on things of no value have no understanding
- His pursuit of these worthless things will cost him
- They reveal he has little sense
- He may go hungry

Proverbs 12:12

12 The wicked desireth the net of evil men: but the root of the righteous yieldeth fruit.

- Theft and ill-gotten gain can be tempting
- And the wicked man may want what someone else gains dishonestly

- But it is the man who does right and works hard that yields the most
- In the long-term it is right - never wrong - that pays

Proverbs 12:13

13 The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

- The evil man has such a hard time guarding his tongue
- It is always giving him away and revealing what is inside of him
- This ensnares him
- His own mouth sets traps

- But those who do right and tell the truth remove themselves from trouble

Proverbs 12:14

14 A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.

- This is a good principle
- The ERV helps us to understand...

"People get good things for the words they say, and they are rewarded for the work they do."

- If we follow God, do His will, trust Him, and do the hard work that He requires, we will see fruit for our labors
- He is a good father and gives good things
- Speaking and doing right are their own reward
- But there is often an abundant blessing for those who are consistent in them

Proverbs 12:15

15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.

- We know people who have all the answers
- People who are always right
- This is the way of fools - always right

- But the wise man acts in quite a different way
- He listens to others
- He knows that he doesn't know everything
- Others know more
- Have seen what he hasn't seen
- Have done what he hasn't done
- And can help
- He listens to them
- And does what they say

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