

## "Proverbs 12" Part 2

Proverbs 12:16-28

- As we mentioned in Part 1, the Proverbs are a valuable 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 the second half of Proverbs 12
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- Let's get right into our text

Proverbs 12:16

16 A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.

- A fool reacts with anger and frustration when he is confronted
- But the man who is prudent ignores an insult
- Both men may be insulted, only one strikes back in wrath
- And whatever may be happening inside these men
- Whether they are feeling hurt or angry or sad is known
- For the prudent man, it is known only to him and God
- But for the foolish man, everyone around may know!

Proverbs 12:17

17 He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.

- Truth-speaking is the province of the righteous
- This is what righteous people do
- The ESV phrases the verse this way...

"Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit."

- If a witness is needed in a court of law, everyone involved desires a credible witness
- No jury can be expected to determine the truth by listening to deceitful witnesses
- They want people to tell them exactly what was seen and heard with no hint of dishonesty
- Essentially, they are looking for righteousness - rightness

Proverbs 12:18

18 There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health.

- When some people speak, they seem only to harm
- Their words are like sword thrusts
- Perhaps they harm others because their own lives are so filled with damage
- (Probably as the result of sin)

- Or perhaps they do so out of pride, because they think they are better
- Whatever the case, the wise are not so
- They speak health
- They are skilled in words of healing
- They have enough grace and enough kindness in their speech to build up, rather than harm

#### Proverbs 12:19

19 The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

- There is no end-point for truth
- Truth - in the form of God's word - will endure forever
- Anything that is true endures for the long-term
- What was true when Adam was created is still true
- Lies may endure for a period
- We may be fooled into believing lies have become truth, but this is an illusion
- Deceit is but for a moment
- Lies will be exposed one day
- God is never confused - He knows the difference
- He sees everything with clarity

#### Proverbs 12:20

20 Deceit is in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counsellors of peace is joy.

- A man may plan to do something wrong, hoping to get a good outcome for himself
- This is a myth
- He is deceived
- Trouble and ultimately destruction is the final outcome
- But those who work for peace
- Who make plans that promote peace
- Whether than be the absence of conflict with God or men
- Or a tranquil state of spirit
- Live a life of joy

#### Proverbs 12:21

21 There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief.

- The ESV says it this way...

"No ill befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble."

- Those who know God and follow God and trust Him are protected
- He is our tower and our hiding place

- He watches over those that are His
- The wicked live a troubled life
- Their behavior brings danger and hardship and confusion
- They cast aside God's protection
- Their rebellion puts them outside His protective boundaries

#### Proverbs 12:22

22 Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.

- An "abomination" is something that is unclean or impure
- The word is used often to describe those who worship idols
- It is moral abhorrence
- Those who lie makes themselves impure before Him
- He hates a lying tongue
- On the other hand, He delights in those that tell the truth
- Honesty is right
- He is pleased with truth-telling

#### Proverbs 12:23

23 A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness.

- We know people, maybe we are the kind of people, that tell everything we know
- This is not a good trait
- Foolish people, speak foolishly
- They speak at the wrong time, have the wrong attitude, speak to the wrong people
- They use poor judgement in their selection of words
- Say things that ought not to be said
- Go on too long
- Raise their voices or speak in a whisper
- Reveal private things publicly
- Speculate, accuse, or take wild guesses
- This is not pleasing to God
- Prudent men do none of this
- They wait to speak
- They gather the facts
- They make sure whatever they say needs to be said
- They have regard for the feelings of others, speaking appropriately
- And they leave out information that ought to be left out

#### Proverbs 12:24

24 The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute.

- Those who work hard and make good choices are selected for leadership positions
- They are respected, well-regarded by those around them
- When responsibilities are being handed out they receive a share
- They can be trusted with things that matter
- There is evidence they won't let people down
  
- Those who are slothful, lazy, without a proper work ethic, are the opposite
- They will borrow and be slave to the lender
- They will not have enough, because they have not worked enough
- They are not looking for a hand-up, but rather a hand-out
- They want something for nothing
- This will mean hardship in life

#### Proverbs 12:25

25 Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.

- The heaviness of anxiety weighs a man down
- The man who worries stoops
- It is like a heavy weight upon him
  
- The good news is that a hopeful word, a kind word lightens that load
- When someone else speaks a good word to us, our hearts are lifted

#### Proverbs 12:26

26 The righteous is more excellent than his neighbour: but the way of the wicked seduceth them.

- I wasn't sure about how to understand this verse a first
- The ESV helped, it says...

"One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray."

- A neighbor - a good neighbor - helps to guide others
- He desires to (and indeed does) lead them in the right direction
  
- Left on their own, the wicked go astray
- They need neighbors to help
- Neighbors that are Godly
- That have embraced God's word and God's path
- Otherwise they become lost on the broad road

#### Proverbs 12:27

27 The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

- The slothful man may have enough enterprise to go hunting, but he is too lazy to cook the meat

- He lets things go to waste
- He is presumptuous about getting more food tomorrow
- Maybe he hunts just to make others think he provides for his family, then he lets the meat rot
  
- There is a totally different attitude in the diligent man
- He believes all the fruit of the hunt is precious
- He lets nothing (or very little) go to waste
- He makes no assumption about how successful his hunt will be tomorrow
- He plans to make all he can out of what he has today

Proverbs 12:28

28 In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

- If we are following the righteous pathway - God's pathway - it has a sure end
- That end is eternal life
- It is life in heaven with Him
- He has provided a Savior in Jesus Christ
- And it is through Him (and Him alone) that we have life

*Christopher Harper, Take Note 2021*