

## A Wise Son

### Proverbs 10:1-10

- Anyone looking for wise counsel on life should make their way often to the Proverbs
- The proverbs of Solomon we'll address today are useful in youth and old age
- They deliver invaluable reminders
- About our daily needs
- Finances
- Work
- Our character
- And our speech, among other things
  
- A person who takes to heart these words and ideas can be called "A Wise Son"
- Which is our theme today
- From Proverbs 10:1-10
  
- The difficulty of study in Proverbs is the subject changes from verse to verse
- A topical thread sometimes holds each section together
- But often, the verses are self-contained units of wisdom
- Some take a lot of thought to process
- Others make instant sense
  
- Proverbs 10 has a little of both
- Like other proverbs of Solomon, they read as a father's address to a son
- But the messages to the reader vary widely
- We begin considering one part of life
- Then quickly switch to another
  
- These are all things a father may tell a son
- But they read like a random list
- This is a somewhat common way for us to communicate (especially online) today
- "Here are my top ten pieces of fatherly advice" the headline may read
- In other words, the format works
  
- Let's take a closer look at each of these 10 verses...

### Proverbs 10:1

1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.

- This is one of those "instantly relatable" proverbs
- Parents are glad when their children make wise decisions
- They celebrate prudence and good judgement
- Because prudence and good judgement are best for their children
- They produce good outcomes for life

- And while wisdom doesn't make everything great forever
- It provides the very best opportunity for joy and fulfillment
- Foolishness does exactly the opposite
- It causes grief, and stress, and pain in a parent's life
- It weighs the parent down
- Because the complexity that foolishness inevitably brings makes everything worse
- This foolish son may be dull of senses, but they are also likely arrogant
- That's how the word in our text is often used
- That's a person making terrible decisions, but doing so with pride
- Our next proverb...

### Proverbs 10:2

2 Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

- These "treasures of wickedness" are ill-gotten gains
- They are riches obtained by doing wrong
- And the reason they profit nothing is because they are not earned
- While they may be enjoyed temporarily, reality catches up with us
- God sees the dishonesty and the evil
- They lead first to guilt, then to destruction
- Righteousness is different
- This is doing things justly or rightly
- And whether it be in regard to financial gains or anything else
- Righteousness delivers us
- It helps us avoid dangerous consequences in this life, no doubt
- But when we have faith in Christ and He is our righteousness
- He provides a way for us to avoid eternal death in hell
- These proverbs of Solomon go on...

### Proverbs 10:3

3 The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

- Here is another way to say this verse...

"The Lord will not allow the righteous to hunger, but He will reject [or thrust away] the craving of the wicked."

- It is well-known that God takes care of the needs of His people
- David was young and became old and had not seen the righteous forsaken, nor His seed begging bread
- Whether it is food for the body or food for the soul, God provides

- But the wicked desire and have their desire thrust away by God
- Evil leads to problems and difficulties and hardships and complexities
- While every man has some of each, wickedness invites them
- And ensures that they will stay
- That means want for the belly and want for the soul
- And this want can only be satisfied by God
- Let's continue...

#### Proverbs 10:4

4 He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich.

- Not every lazy person is poor
- And not every diligent person is rich
- This is not a hard and fast rule
- But we all know this tends to be the way of things
- A slack hand is a lazy hand or an idle hand
- And when men refuse to work, they suffer need
- Laziness brings poverty
- And that is true just as much today, as it was in this context
- But diligent effort provides financial reward
- Everyone observing honestly can see the difference between laziness and diligence
- And the employers and customers of the world pay for diligence
- They reward consistent, hard work
- It is of value, so they are eager to pay for it
- This proverb is somewhat connected to the next one...

#### Proverbs 10:5

5 He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.

- Wisdom and diligence are again contrasted with laziness here
- The wise son makes his father glad
- But the lazy son causes shame
- Crops do not harvest themselves
- And the man who sleeps instead of harvesting is without food and without honor
- Wisdom means planning ahead
- It means working ahead
- It means doing all the labor that needs to be done
- Without taking shortcuts
- Without sleeping in

- What else?

#### Proverbs 10:6

6 Blessings are upon the head of the just: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.

- Those who are just, who are righteous, can expect blessing
- Choosing right, as we commented earlier, doesn't guarantee everything is great
- But it gives us the best opportunity to enjoy that which is good in the world
- That which God has provided for us
  
- The wicked person often finds themselves muzzled
- They conceal the violence they have committed already, or plan to commit
- The evil are certainly not quick to confess it
  
- But how are people remembered?

#### Proverbs 10:7

7 The memory of the just is blessed: but the name of the wicked shall rot.

- When people remember the righteous, they do so with fondness
- Their justice is worth remembering
- They have done that which pleases God
- And it is a blessing to experience and to remember
  
- The wicked are not so
- They cannot be remembered fondly
- Their names are forgotten or decried
- Their evil leaves a stain, a scar
  
- What about the heart?

#### Proverbs 10:8

8 The wise in heart will receive commandments: but a prating fool shall fall.

- Commandments are often rejected by men
- We don't want to be told what to do
- But a wise man receives them
- And does so willingly
- If they are from God, He knows they will benefit him
  
- But a babbling fool will come to ruin
- The babbling may be about how the fool wants his own way
- How the commandments weigh him down
- How they don't make sense to him

- How they are too much for God to ask
- But none of this is legitimate
- And ruin is the only outcome for a person like this
- There is a confidence rightness provides...

Proverbs 10:9

9 He that walketh uprightly walketh surely: but he that perverteth his ways shall be known.

- Here is a restatement of this verse...

"Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but he who makes his ways crooked will be found out."

- There is a security in integrity
- There are no lies to remember
- No tracks to cover
- No bad choices to clean up
- A person walking rightly can walk in confidence
- Confidence before God and before men
- Liars and cheaters
- Those walking the crooked way have no confidence
- In fact, God says they will be found out
- Their evil is not hidden
- It was seen by God
- And it is likely to be seen by the world
- This means trouble is ahead for the crooked
- Familiar words in verse 10...

Proverbs 10:10

10 He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow: but a prating fool shall fall.

- Maybe this explanation will help...

"If you fail to speak the truth, trouble will follow. If you speak openly, peace will come."

- Failing to tell the truth
- Worse, lying, leads to trouble
- We learn this early in life
- When we refuse to live by, and refuse to speak truth
- Negative outcomes result
- The opposite can be said of truth-tellers

- They have the best possible chance to obtain and walk in peace
- Because they obtain that truth from the Giver of Peace
- And that is God
- Who demands integrity from those who follow Him

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