

The Lips of the Righteous

Proverbs 10:24-32

- We're discussing one of the Proverbs of Solomon today
- He speaks a father to a son
- And his words of wisdom transition freely from subject to subject
- We'll talk about the fear of the Lord today
- The hope of the righteous
- The way of the Lord
- And our theme phrase "The Lips of the Righteous"
- It's Proverbs 10:24-32 today
- We see a contrast between wickedness and righteousness throughout this chapter
- And in this section as well
- And the real-world consequences of doing wrong versus the blessing of doing right
- Notice our first verse of the day...

Proverbs 10:24

24 The fear of the wicked, it shall come upon him: but the desire of the righteous shall be granted.

- The wicked person dreads what will come upon him
- And he has good reason for this
- Evil complicates his life
- It makes everything worse
- It gives him an initial feeling of enjoyment or success, but eventually crashes
- Sin makes him unhappy in the long-term
- And solves none of the short-term problems the enemy deceives him into thinking it can
- The tenuous nature of a wicked life causes anxiety
- But the desire of the righteous will be granted
- To clear up any confusion, a righteous person tends to have righteous desires
- Never sinful desires
- Never selfish and self-centered desires
- Those that are righteous
- Those God is eager to grant
- And does so, by His grace

- The wicked have another issue to deal with...

Proverbs 10:25

25 As the whirlwind passeth, so is the wicked no more: but the righteous is an everlasting foundation.

- This is a key point about wickedness
- It leads to destruction
- To soon loss of life
- And eternal death, never eternal life
- Those who are declared righteous, because of Jesus' sacrifice for sin
- Have their lives built upon an eternal foundation
- Which cannot fall
- We look ahead to everlasting life with Him
- A tempest passing may shake our house, but the foundation will hold
- This provides tremendous confidence for everyone who believes
- A Proverbs change of topic...

Proverbs 10:26

26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.

- A lazy person causes quite real irritation
- There is pain and frustration for the righteous and diligent working with a sluggard
- We can almost feel the sensations in the text
- The boss expects work to be completed, but the lazy man fails
- These Proverbs of Solomon go on...

Proverbs 10:27

27 The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

- There are genuine benefits for the man who recognizes who the Lord really is
- Who has a clear enough (and Biblical enough) picture of Him to gain proper reverence
- This will mean adjusting our attitudes and our actions to conform to His will

- When this happens, life will be prolonged
- Not just because of the physical-world benefits of righteous living
- But because God makes the pro-active promise to the God-fearing
- The wicked are not so
- Evil shortens life
- And makes the short time men have much worse
- Any wicked person who makes it to old age does so, by the grace of God
- There are other benefits to fearing the Lord...

Proverbs 10:28

28 The hope of the righteous shall be gladness: but the expectation of the wicked shall perish.

- The hope God grants to every righteous person brings gladness
- That hope is what every believer clings to
- It is not a vain hope in the unknown, but a confident assurance of the truth
- Which is provided by scripture
- That our future is secure in Christ
- And this is true
- The wicked may have a fanciful hope in many things
- That good works will be enough to save
- Though this is false
- That membership in an organization or keeping of some catechism or dogma will save
- But it does not
- Only Christ saves
- Whatever expectation a wicked man has perishes with him
- For it is not based upon the truth
- Next...

Proverbs 10:29

29 The way of the LORD is strength to the upright: but destruction shall be to the workers of iniquity.

- There is strengthening and energizing in righteous living
- The way of the Lord is the right way
- It is not a way of no resistance - there is often much resistance

- But it is the way of blessing and joy
- The very opposite comes to those walking the evil way
- Doing iniquity
- More proverbs of Solomon

Proverbs 10:30

30 The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth.

- There is a constancy to righteousness that the wicked can never have
- It is the firm foundation believers stand upon
- It is the stronghold they have in God
- It is the promised future - eternal life in Christ
- It is the confidence in God's word that tells us the truth about ourselves and about God
- We remain, because God's grace and Christ's sacrifice make it possible
- But a future of eternal death awaits the wicked
- We return to a familiar theme of this chapter next...

Proverbs 10:31

31 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

- There is wisdom in the mind and heart of the just, of the right
- And therefore wisdom in their speaking
- A perverse tongue, it says here, will be cut out
- We speak what is in our hearts
- And God hears and responds accordingly
- Our final bit of wisdom in Proverbs 10...

Proverbs 10:32

32 The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable: but the mouth of the wicked speaketh frowardness.

- When we know God

- When we are walking in His ways
 - Understanding His words
 - There is an understanding of exactly what to say
 - What is acceptable to speak
 - What is right to speak
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- There is only perverseness in the mouth of the wicked
 - A crookedness, a twisted nature to their words
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- Of course, this does not mean the righteous only speak righteously
 - And the wicked only speak wickedly
 - But this is their pattern
 - Believers in Christ speaking that which is acceptable to God
 - And those outside Christ, walking their own way
 - Speaking in their own way, which can only be twisted and perverse
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- How are we speaking?
 - Where do we find ourselves?
 - Righteous, because Christ has made it possible?
 - Or remaining in our wickedness?

*Christopher Harper, **Take Note** 2025*