

Partners in Proverbs

Week 3

Chapters 15-21

January 2021

Questions for Reflection and Application

Chapter 15

1. Why does a gentle answer turn away wrath and a harsh word stir up anger? How have you seen this verse play out in your own life?
2. In verse 13, what is the effect of a glad heart? How does the truth of the gospel make one's heart glad, even in difficult circumstances?
3. How does verse 19 contrast the way of the sluggard and the way of the upright? What makes someone upright?

Chapter 16

1. Verse 2 says, "All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the Lord weighs the spirit." What does this verse say about the state of a man's heart and the power of God?
2. Verse 18, "Pride goes before destruction and a haughty spirit before a fall." Why does pride precede destruction? What are some other scriptures that reinforce this truth?
3. What is a "whisperer" (as described in verse 28)? How does this person separate close friends? What might motivate someone to be a "whisperer"? How can you guard against listening to a whisperer and being a whisperer?

Chapter 17

1. How does verse 3 suggest the Lord tests hearts?
2. What does verse 10 say about the character of the fool and the character of the man with understanding?
3. Verse 24 says that the discerning set their face toward wisdom, but the eyes of the fool are on the ends of the earth. How can you set your face toward wisdom based on previous Proverbs (Chapter 4)?

Chapter 18

1. What is the danger of isolating yourself (verse 1)?

2. What are the repercussions of speaking foolishly, found in verses 2, 6, and 7?
3. What is being contrasted in verses 10 and 11? Why is a rich man tempted in this way? What hope does verse 10 give to the Christian?
4. Based on verse 21, what impact can our speech have? Can you think of an instance when someone's words brought "life" to you? What affect did that have on your soul? What is the ultimate life giving word that we can speak?

Chapter 19

1. Verse 11 says, "Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offence." How does Christ's death and resurrection impact the way we relate to others with whom we are offended?
2. What effect does a wife's quarreling have on a home (verse 13)? How does the cross apply when we are tempted to be quarrelsome?
3. Verses 16-23 give a list of some important aspects of wise living. What are they?
4. Verse 23 says that "whoever fears the Lord rests satisfied". What is the basis of our satisfaction in Christ? Why can we "rest"?

Chapter 20

1. Why is the purpose in a man's heart like "deep water" (verse 5)? Why does it take a man of understanding to draw it out?
2. What do verses 22-25 reveal about God?

Chapter 21

1. Verse 13 says, "Whoever closes his ear to the cry of the poor will himself call out and not be answered." Who might fit this description of "the poor" or someone in need?
2. What encouragement does verse 30 provide the Christian?