**Proverbs Chapter 16 (Lesson #17)**

**33** Additional Proverbs from the Pen of Solomon

As we have discussed, the book of Proverbs is broken into **Seven** different sections.

We finished **section I** chapters 1-9, months ago and we have started our journey in **SECTION II,** this is the largest section of the Proverbs and extends from **10:1** all the way to **22:16**. So it is a little longer than Section I.

Scholars tell us that it contains **375 proverbs**. So far we have looked at (32+31+28+25+35+33) **184** of those proverbs. Today we look at an additional **(33 proverbs).**

In the first **184** proverbs from chapters **10 - 15**, most of the proverbs were **contrasting statements, this but not that**.

In chapter 16 Solomon shifts from contrasting statements to comparisons. The “but, but, but” from chapters 10-15 are replaced with “and, and, and.”

These comparison sayings often state one basic idea and then look at it from a different angle.

This chapter continues to frequently use God’s covenant name, *Yahweh*. Of the 375 proverbs of Solomon (10:1-22:16) only 55 use the name *Yahweh*, and nearly half of those are in these two chapters (9 times in chapter 15, 11 times in chapter 16).

This collection of proverbs has **three main sections**:

1. Wisdom for living before *Yahweh*(verses 1-9)
2. Wisdom for how to behave in the presence of a king (verses 10-15)
3. Wisdom for getting along in God’s world (16-33)

Finally, notice the recurring theme of God’s sovereignty that’s peppered throughout, interspersed in verses 1 and 9 as well as verses 25 and 33. The underlying point is clear: Don’t forget, People make many plans, but God has the final say.

Once Again, we are going to spend about a **minute** on each of these proverbs, **just scratching the surface**, for each is a **treasure chest** worthy of our **individual** **meditation**.

**OK Ready?**

**16:1 - - The plans of the heart belong to man, but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.**

Here we see the first comparison of **Man’s autonomy** and **God’s authority**.

What man plans in his heart belongs to man. Men think freely and they speak freely, after all God has created man with a free will, although the fall has contaminated that free will (Rom 3:10-18; I Cor 2:14).

**Man plans... But**, the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

What is Solomon saying? Solomon is reminding us that the sovereign Creator has often overridden men’s hearts to accomplish His will.

God never causes men to sin, but He has often used sinful men to accomplish His will.

**CONSIDER:**

“The king’s heart is a stream of water in the hand of the LORD; he turns it wherever he will.” (Proverbs 21:1 ESV)

“A man’s steps are from the LORD; how then can man understand his way?” (Pr 20:24 ESV)

**Vs 2 - All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the spirit.**

Here again, we see the autonomy of man. In this text we are reminded that every man thinks he is right, he sees his actions and activities in a very positive light. Man by nature defaults to self-righteousness.

Men may think they know themselves, but Jeremiah reminds us the fall has marred our ability to truly see ourselves as God sees us:

“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick; who can understand it?” (Jeremiah 17:9 ESV)

“Who can discern his errors? Declare me innocent from hidden faults.” (Psalm 19:12 ESV)

So the ways of man are pure in his own eyes...

**BUT**, the Lord weighs the spirit.

This is both a reassuring thought for the believer, a one day a horror for the lost.

But it is the Lord who will put all men in the balance.

Do you possess the righteousness that is freely given in Christ, Paul said it best:

“Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!” (2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV)

**Vs 3 - Commit your work to the LORD, and your plans will be established.**

**If you are like me you love good advice**, I mean those great recommendations, you know the kind I mean, you look back and go **wow**, that was a **great recommendation**. **Here is one.**

Commit your work to the Lord, **put all of your activities** in the hands of the Lord, **roll the care and responsibility of your activities to the Lord**.

**AND...** Your plans will be established, they will be achieved.

Here is the secret sauce to a successful life. Put God in charge of your life, make Him the king, and what you plan will happen, for it is His plans for your life!

**CONSIDER:**

“4 Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act.” (Ps 37:4-5 ESV)

“Cast your burden on the LORD, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved.” (Ps 55:22 ESV)

“casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.” (1Pe 5:7 ESV)

**Vs 4 - The LORD has made everything for its purpose, even the wicked for the day of trouble.**

Here we are reminded of the sovereignty of our God. He has a purpose for everything He has created.

Even the wicked, which may seem like they are operating outside God’s control are not. They are on a leash, that will one day lead them to the day of trouble the day of judgment.

“"Worthy are you, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created."” (Re 4:11 ESV)

**Vs 5 - Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.**

**Verse 5 reminds us of two important points that we should never forget.**

1. **God hates pride**

“**5b** God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.” **6** Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you,” (1 Peter 5:5–6 ESV)

“**16** There are six things that the LORD hates, seven that are an abomination to him: **17** haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood, **18** a heart that devises wicked plans, feet that make haste to run to evil, **19** a false witness who breathes out lies, and one who sows discord among brothers.” (Proverbs 6:16–19 ESV)

1. **We can rest assured that** pride will not go unpunished**,** in this life or the life to come**.**

We will read this in a moment, but it is fitting here:

“Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.” (Proverbs 16:18 ESV)

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.” (Proverbs 11:2 ESV)

**One who is never broken before the Lord in this life, will ultimately be broken by the Lord in the next.**

**Vs 6 - By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for, and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.**

This may well be the most difficult Proverb in the book of proverbs.

Even if a man could show perfect love and perfect fidelity, how could that atone for sin.

If on the other hand Solomon is speaking prophetically and saying it is by a perfect love and perfect findelity that atonement is made, then we see here a promise that can only be fulfilled in the God-man Jesus Christ.

If Solomon is saying by steadfast love and faithfulness men turn away from sins.

**AND**, by the fear of Yahweh yet another method that causes one turns away from evil.

Then I agree.

This first clause is very difficult, this second clause is an oft repeated theme in the book of proverbs, namely, a reverent fear of God has the affect of turning men away from doing evil.

**CONSIDER:**

“The fear of the LORD is hatred of evil. Pride and arrogance and the way of evil and perverted speech I hate.” (Pr 8:13 ESV)

“One who is wise is cautious and turns away from evil, but a fool is reckless and careless.” (Pr 14:16 ESV)

“O you who love the LORD, hate evil! He preserves the lives of his saints; he delivers them from the hand of the wicked.” (Ps 97:10 ESV)

**Vs 7 - When a man’s ways please the LORD, he makes even** his enemies to be at peace with him.

Have you ever wondered what can calm my enemy down? What can cause this person who hates me to be at peace?

The answer is surprising:

**When a man’s ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.**

But you might say, surely Paul’s ways pleased the Lord and yet he had tons of enemies and they went after him.

That of course is true, but think of how many in the Bible were at peace with their enemies because they pleased the Lord.

Solomon was initially at peace with all around him. Joseph was at peace with his master, jailer, Pharoah, and ultimately even his brothers. God ultimately brought peace to Mordecai in spite of Haman’s murderous plans.

Here we have a general rule, of which there are always exceptions.

**Vs 8 - Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.**

What could really improve our lives? More money or more righteousness? Of course, most in the world would immediately say more money, but that is the response of a fool.

OH, to be more like Jesus. That is the real way to improve our lives. What if my wife saw more Jesus in me, what might that work in her, what if my colleagues at work saw more Jesus in me, what might that work in them. What if my Sunday School class saw more Jesus in me…

This is another example of a thought that is repeated multiple times in the proverbs, namely.

You are much better off to have little and the Lord, then lots and no Lord.

I realize this goes contrary to our culture, but God is telling us that if you want the good life, pursue Jesus above all else, that is how one secures the good life.

**CONSIDER**

“Better is a little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble with it.” (Pr 15:16 ESV)

“Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity than a rich man who is crooked in his ways.” (Pr 28:6 ESV)

**Vs 9 - The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.**

Here again, we see the sovereignty of God and the autonomy of man.

The heart of a man plans his way, it maps his course, it plots his travel plans. Man makes many plans. After all, man is a free autonomous unit.

**BUT, the Lord establishes his steps.**

God is the sovereign over his entire creation.

Man proposes, God disposes.

Man devises, God directs.

Man plans, God determines.

We serve a sovereign God!

**Vs 10 - An oracle is on the lips of a king; his mouth does not sin in judgment.**

An oracle, a divine declaration is on the lips of a king. We would assume Solomon is referring to a good king, although once again this is the rule, and with every king, even good ones there are exceptions.

This good king’s mouth does not sin in judgment.

BUT… There is one king, who is 100% righteous and a divine sentence is on His lips, and He never transgresses in his judgment.

**CONSIDER:**

“**6** ¶ Your throne, O God, is forever and ever. The scepter of your kingdom is a scepter of uprightness; **7** you have loved righteousness and hated wickedness. Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions;” (Ps 45:6-7 ESV)

“**5** "Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. **6** In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell securely. And this is the name by which he will be called: ‘The LORD is our righteousness.’” (Jer 23:5-6 ESV)

**Vs 11 - A just balance and scales are the LORD’s; all the weights in the bag are his work.**

This is a reminder that our God is a just God. False balances and deceptive weights are an abomination to our God.

A little sluff here or there may not seem like anything to the average person, but a just balance and honest weights are of the Lord.

He does not have any trick weights in his bag.

**CONSIDER:**

“A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, but a just weight is his delight.” (Pr 11:1 ESV)

“Unequal weights and unequal measures are both alike an abomination to the LORD.” (Pr 20:10 ESV)

**Vs 12 - It is an abomination to kings to do evil, for the throne is established by righteousness.**

This proverb is **not so much descriptive** as it is **prescriptive**.

God is the one who has ordained governments (kings) and Solomon reminds us that it is an abomination for a king to do evil, God has ordained them for good.

The throne God has established in righteousness.

**CONSIDER:**

“Steadfast love and faithfulness preserve the king, and by steadfast love his throne is upheld.” (Pr 20:28 ESV)

“take away the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness.” (Pr 25:5 ESV)

“If a king faithfully judges the poor, his throne will be established forever.” (Pr 29:14 ESV)

**Vs 13 - Righteous lips are the delight of a king, and he loves him who speaks what is right.**

**Are you looking for a promotion?** Solomon says that our speech can promote us, our words can win us favor with the king.

Gracious words, seasoned with time (the right word at the right time) is wisdom and according to Solomon righteous lips are a delight to the king.

**AND**, the king loves him who speaks what is right.

**CONSIDER:**

“A servant who deals wisely has the king’s favor, but his wrath falls on one who acts shamefully.” (Pr 14:35 ESV)

“I will look with favor on the faithful in the land, that they may dwell with me; he who walks in the way that is blameless shall minister to me.” (Ps 101:6 ESV)

“No one who practices deceit shall dwell in my house; no one who utters lies shall continue before my eyes.” (Ps 101:7 ESV)

**Vs 14 - A king’s wrath is a messenger of death, and a wise man will appease it.**

Solomon continuing on with the subject of kings.

Of course kings had a great deal more power than your supervisor, your governor, or the mayor.

The king had absolute authority, so he had absolute power.

When a king was angry at you, it is wisdom to appease the king’s wrath.

But the underlying truth behind this proverb is still relevant.

**CONSIDER:**

“The terror of a king is like the growling of a lion; whoever provokes him to anger forfeits his life.” (Pr 20:2 ESV)

“Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and you perish in the way, for his wrath is quickly kindled. Blessed are all who take refuge in him.” (Ps 2:12 ESV)

“If the anger of the ruler rises against you, do not leave your place, for calmness will lay great offenses to rest.” (Ec 10:4 ESV)

**Vs 15 - In the light of a king’s face there is life, and his favor is like the clouds that bring the spring rain.**

We have already discussed how important it is to win favor with the king.

Kings rule with absolute authority, so winning their favor is a great idea and avoiding their disfavor even more important.

Think of how some of the saints in the Bible handled kings. Daniel, Esther, even David with Saul. They were faithful, they submitted to their authority, they behaved wisely.

God ordained authority in all areas of our life. At work, at home, in the church, and in our government.

As true as it is that in the light of a king’s face there is life, how much truer of King Jesus. The one who freely offers all who will submit to his authority eternal life!

**CONSIDER:**

“A king’s wrath is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.” (Pr 19:12 ESV)

“A king’s wrath is a messenger of death, and a wise man will appease it.” (Pr 16:14 ESV)

“**9** Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, **10** not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.” (Tit 2:9-10 ESV)

**Vs 16 - How much better to get wisdom than gold! To get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.**

What do you really desire? More money or more wisdom. Our answer to this question says a great deal about us spiritually.

For, according to Solomon, getting wisdom is better than getting riches. Getting חָכְמָה‎ chokmah *khok-maw’* is better than getting gold.

Getting understanding or discernment is to be chosen over silver.

Keep in mind this advice is coming from possibly the richest man who ever lived.

**CONSIDER:**

“**15** She is more precious than jewels, and nothing you desire can compare with her. **16** Long life is in her right hand; in her left hand are riches and honor. **17** Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace. **18** She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her; those who hold her fast are called blessed.” (Pr 3:15-18 ESV)

“The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.” (Pr 4:7 ESV)

“**10** Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold, **11** for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.” (Pr 8:10-11 ESV)

**The knowledge of the gospel is of greater value than all the treasures of the earth. Never forget that!**

**Vs 17 - The highway of the upright turns aside from evil; whoever guards his way preserves his life.**

If you are like me, when you travel you use GPS to make sure you are on the right road. The Bible is like a spiritual GPS, and it declares, through the pen of Solomon, that the highway of the upright turns aside from evil!

The one who is careful about his path is actually preserving his life.

Wondering off the highway of the upright can bring great misery into our lives, while living a life on that highway can bring great peace, satisfaction, and joy.

**CONSIDER:**

“In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.” (Pr 12:28 ESV)

“**14** ¶ Do not enter the path of the wicked, and do not walk in the way of the evil. **15** Avoid it; do not go on it; turn away from it and pass on.” (Pr 4:14-15 ESV)

“The simple inherit folly, but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.” (Pr 14:18 ESV)

**Vs 18 - Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall.**

Here it is, one of my **life verses.**

Pride is what we call in the business world a lead indicator, the lag indicator of pride is destruction. When you see pride (lead indicator) you can be certain (destruction) the lag indictor is on the way.

One commentator called pride: “A force stronger than gravity that brins men down.”

**Pride goes before destruction... And,** the same truth stated a second time, but in a different way. And, a haughty spirit comes (or is the lead indicator) for a fall!

**Pride is like rat poison** to the **heart**, **soul**, and **mind**. It hardens, cauterizes, calcifies, blinds, and corrupts.

**CONSIDER:**

“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.” (Pr 11:2 ESV)

“Before destruction a man’s heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.” (Pr 18:12 ESV)

“One’s pride will bring him low, but he who is lowly in spirit will obtain honor.” (Pr 29:23 ESV)

**Vs 19 - It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor than to divide the spoil with the proud.**

Solomon sets before us a choice, which will we choose:

First, humility with the poor, to be humble with the poor of this world, or, to be rich with the proud.

This should be an easy choice, for, God hates the proud (Pro 6:17), God will destroy the house of the proud (Pro 15:25), the one who has a proud heart is an abomination to God (Pro 16:5), and pride will bring a man low (Pro 25:23).

This is meant to be an easy choice, but in our culture, pride is not that big of a sin, and riches are the most important thing of all.

**The better choice is always to avoid pride!**

**Vs 20 - Whoever gives thought to the word will discover good, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.**

We face decisions, choices, problems, and issues every day.

The one who give thought to the word, the one who seeks guidance from God’s word, the one who makes decisions and responds to daily choices will find good.

AND... Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.

Here is the secret sauce of life. Following God’s word and faith in God.

Solomon is telling you and I the way to be successful in life, first by following the wisdom found in His Word, and second by faith (trusting) in Jesus and His finished work at the cross.

**CONSIDER:**

“5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5–6 ESV)

 “This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.” (Joshua 1:8 ESV)

“For God so loved the world,that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” (John 3:16 ESV)

**Vs 21 - The wise of heart is called discerning, and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.**

The wise of heart is also called those who discern, the wise of heart are those who understand.

OHHH, to be able to discern, yet Solomon tells us that comes with those who possess **חָכָם‎ chakam *khaw-kawm’****,* in their inner being!

Two observations, wisdom is in the heart, not so much in the head.

The outgrowth of this wisdom is not brilliance, but instead discernment.

This wisdom is not knowledge, but discernment.

**AND,** sweetness of speech increase persuasiveness.

Just as harsh words can incite anger the opposite is true, sweetness of speech, kindness in the tongue can increase reception of what is taught.

The lesson here is that wisdom should most often be communicated with gracious words and sweet speech!

**CONSIDER:**

“To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!” (Pr 15:23 ESV)

“The lips of the wise spread knowledge; not so the hearts of fools.” (Pr 15:7 ESV)

**Vs 23 - The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious and adds persuasiveness to his lips.**

Here Solomon seems to be saying that wise men cannot hide their wisdom, quite the opposite, the wise of heart teach with their mouths, their speech shows sound judgment, and they persuade with their lips.

Wise men’s words are seasoned with grace and time. The right thing at the right time. **It is the wisdom behind the words that add to their persuasiveness.**

**CONSIDER:**

“A gentle tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.” (Proverbs 15:4 ESV)

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” (Proverbs 18:21 ESV)

“Take away the dross from the silver, and the smith has material for a vessel;” (Proverbs 25:4 ESV)

**Vs 24 - Gracious words are like a honeycomb, sweetness to the soul and health to the body.**

What is your favorite desert? The words from the wise, grace fill words are like that desert. Grace filled words enter the ear and enliven the soul and body!

Even words of correct, can be gracious words. But words can also be weapons. **Remember:**

“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Proverbs 12:18 ESV)

Men, are our words like this? Do they refresh the soul of the listener?

**CONSIDER:**

“11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver. 12 Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprover to a listening ear.” (Proverbs 25:11–12 ESV)

“Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.” (Proverbs 18:21 ESV)

**Vs 25 - There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.**

Fallen man naturally assumes he is right, every lost man believes he is proceeding down the correct path. That is the lostness of being lost, that is the condition of the fallen nature.

**But...** The **end of that way**, the way that men assume is correct, is **death**.

This is a repeated proverb for Solomon wanted his sons to understand that ultimate truth, ultimate reality does not have its begging in in us.

What we believe, what we assume, what we think, apart from the illumination of the Holy Spirit and the Word, is likely leading us to destruction.

**CONSIDER:**

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” (Pr 14:12 ESV)

“Every way of a man is right in his own eyes, but the LORD weighs the heart.” (Pr 21:2 ESV)

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.” (Pr 12:15 ESV)

**Vs 26 - A worker’s appetite works for him; his mouth urges him on.**

This is simple observable wisdom by Solomon and one we should never forget. Apart from the sluggard, the lazy person, what drives a person to hard work is survival.

Keep this in mind...

Sometimes people need a hand-up, but they rarely need a hand-out. For when we simply continue to give we short-circuit what God has built within man and that is the desire to survive.

**Vs 27 - A worthless man plots evil, and his speech is like a scorching fire.**

The Hebrew word translated “plots” means to dig. It is of course true that a worthless man plots evil.

But it is also true, and this is what I believe Solomon is getting at is that a worthless man digs up evil on others.

The worthless person, the wicked person loves to find faults, failures, sins in others. In fact, the dig for them. These worthless men and women rejoice when others fall.

AND... his or their speech is like a scorching fire. They dig up evil on others and broadcast it far and wide.

**CONSIDER:**

“There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.” (Pr 12:18 ESV)

“A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.” (Pr 16:28 ESV)

“Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.” (Pr 11:13 ESV)

**Vs 28 - A dishonest man spreads strife, and a whisperer separates close friends.**

A dishonest man, a lying man spreads strife by his lies

**And...** A whisperer, a gossiper separates close friends.

Here Solomon highlights two sins, that are both done with our lips that destroy men’s reputations and ruin the relationships.

Simply put, avoid using lies and gossip, which can destroy men, and which God hates both.

**CONSIDER:**

“The one who conceals hatred has lying lips, and whoever utters slander is a fool.” (Pr 10:18 ESV)

“Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.” (Pr 11:13 ESV)

“The words of a whisperer are like delicious morsels; they go down into the inner parts of the body.” (Pr 18:8 ESV)

**Vs 29 - A man of violence entices his neighbor and leads him in a way that is not good.**

When I read this proverb, the first thing that came to mind was a modern proverb that teaches this same point, namely: **Bad behavior corrupts good character.**

This of course is Biblical, Paul said it this way to the church in Corinth:

“Do not be deceived: "Bad company ruins good morals."” (1Co 15:33 ESV)

This is exactly what Solomon is teaching here.

Here Solomon warns his sons about violent men. Men who are corrupt (in it various forms) entice their neighbors to follow along in that corruption.

And... Men who are corrupt lead those around them in the way that is not good.

As parents we understand this principle, I hope we understand it as adults. Our close friends should be those who are walking in a similar path as us.

**CONSIDER:**

“10 ¶ My son, if sinners entice you, do not consent. 11 If they say, "Come with us, let us lie in wait for blood; let us ambush the innocent without reason; 12 like Sheol let us swallow them alive, and whole, like those who go down to the pit; 13 we shall find all precious goods, we shall fill our houses with plunder; 14 throw in your lot among us; we will all have one purse" — ” (Pr 1:10-14 ESV)

“Do not envy a man of violence and do not choose any of his ways,” (Pr 3:31 ESV)

**Vs 30 - Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things; he who purses his lips brings evil to pass.**

This is a little tough, but I believe what Solomon is saying is the one who closes his eyes to evil is the one who is also planning evil. Solomon could be saying the one who winks at sin, is a planner of dishonest things himself.

The one who purses his lips, the one who uses his mouth to convince others to bring evil to pass.

Evil men shut their eyes to the evil around them and uses their lips to persuade others to evil.

**CONSIDER:**

“12 ¶ A worthless person, a wicked man, goes about with crooked speech, 13 winks with his eyes, signals with his feet, points with his finger,” (Pr 6:12-13 ESV)

“An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble.” (Pr 12:13 ESV)

“Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.” (Pr 12:22 ESV)

**Vs 31 - Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.**

Most of us, in this group have gray or graying hair.

Does our wisdom make our graying hair a complimentary crown, an insult, or a contradiction?

If you have the amount of wisdom as you do gray hairs, your gray hair is a crown, it was gained through a righteous life that glorifies Jesus.

If on the other hand you have loads of gray hair and little wisdom. You are a contradiction and thus behaving like a fool.

May our gray hairs each be gained by a life lived committed to following Jesus. May our get hair serve as a badge for wisdom and experiences that are lived out.

**CONSIDER:**

“1 ¶ But as for you, teach what accords with sound doctrine. 2 Older men are to be sober-minded, dignified, self-controlled, sound in faith, in love, and in steadfastness.” (Tit 2:1-2 ESV)

“Wisdom is with the aged, and understanding in length of days.” (Job 12:12 ESV)

“Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained in a righteous life.” (Pr 16:31 ESV)

**Vs 32 - Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty, and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.**

Here is wisdom that is repeated multiple times in the Proverbs, a wise person is one who is able to rule his spirit and emotions.

Solomon would tell us that one of the best tests of our spiritual condition is how, through the power of the Spirit, we rule our emotions.

How would we score on managing, ruling over our spirits?

**CONSIDER:**

“Whoever is slow to anger has great understanding, but he who has a hasty temper exalts folly.” (Pr 14:29 ESV)

“Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.” (Pr 19:11 ESV)

“**19** ¶ Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; **20** for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.” (Jas 1:19-20 ESV)

**Vs 33 - The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the LORD.**

We use words like luck, chance, coincidence, or even accident.

Our God is sovereign, He is not only ruling His world, He is also ruling and directing our lives**.**

**CONSIDER:**

When the flood came or how long it lasted, luck or a sovereign God.

The formation of the nation of Israel, luck or a sovereign God.

How long the nation of Israel was in Egypt, luck or a sovereign God?

Joseph’s rise to power, luck or a sovereign God.

Daniel’s rise to prominence, luck or a sovereign God.

Remember:

“28 And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 ¶ For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers.” (Ro 8:28-29 ESV)

Either this is true, God is sovereign, He is in control, or nothing is true. I have heard enough, I have seen enough they God I pray to has me in His hand and He is in control!

I asked Copilot to sum up the teachings of Proverbs 16 in one or two sentences. Here is the response: *Proverbs 16 teaches that while humans may make plans, it is ultimately* ***God who directs their steps****, weighing motives and guiding outcomes. The chapter emphasizes the value of humility, righteousness, and wisdom over pride and wealth, urging us to align our actions with divine purpose for a life of peace and integrity.*