**Proverbs Chapter 19 (Lesson #20)**

**29** 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.

**Proverbs Chapter 19: The Conduct of Fools**

Reading through Proverbs 19 feels like walking through a house filled with folly. Solomon vividly warns against a variety of foolish behaviors, introducing us to characters such as the false witness, the foolish son, the idle person, the hot-tempered man, the sluggard, the violent, and the worthless witness.

This chapter doesn’t just highlight foolishness—it reveals the consequences awaiting those who refuse to turn from it. The end for the fool is grim, and Solomon’s message is clear: do not follow in their footsteps.

While many of the proverbs in this chapter serve as warnings against sin, Solomon also weaves in examples of those who live with integrity, wisdom, generosity, discipline, faithfulness, and reverence for the Lord. Their outcomes stand in stark contrast to those of the foolish.

Special attention should be given to God’s heart for the poor and needy, especially in verses 1, 4, 7, 17, and 22. Though the world may neglect or mistreat them, God does not. He stands in solidarity with the righteous poor and lifts them above the house of fools.

***Vs 1 - Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.***

Proverbs 19:1 teaches us that moral integrity is more valuable than wealth or cleverness used foolishly. It states that a poor person who lives honestly and uprightly is better off than someone who speaks deceitfully and lacks wisdom.

This verse challenges the common assumption that success or intelligence alone defines a person's worth. Instead, it emphasizes that true honor comes from living with integrity, even if one lacks material riches. The proverb warns against using speech to manipulate or deceive, highlighting that such behavior, especially when coupled with foolishness, leads to ruin. Ultimately, it calls us to pursue righteousness over riches and wisdom over cunning.

**CONSDIER:** (Pr 16:8; Pr 28:6).

*“Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues with injustice.” (Pr 16:8 ESV)*

***Vs 2 - Desire without knowledge is not good, and whoever makes haste with his feet misses his way.***

This verse highlights the danger of acting impulsively without understanding. It teaches that zeal or ambition, when not guided by wisdom or knowledge, can lead to poor decisions and misdirection.

The phrase “desire without knowledge” warns against pursuing goals blindly, while “makes haste with his feet” refers to rushing into action without careful thought. Together, the proverb emphasizes that **wisdom must guide our passions and decisions**, or we risk going astray. It encourages **thoughtful planning** and discernment over impulsiveness and reckless enthusiasm.

**CONSIDER:** (Ho 4:6; Ro 10:2; Php 1:9).

*“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge; because you have rejected knowledge, I reject you from being a priest to me. And since you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.” (Ho 4:6 ESV)*

***Vs 3 - When a man’s folly brings his way to ruin, his heart rages against the LORD.***

This verse reveals a common human tendency: blaming God for the consequences of one's own poor choices. It teaches that foolish behavior—acting without wisdom, discipline, or moral guidance—can lead to personal ruin.

Yet instead of recognizing their own responsibility, people often turn their frustration toward God, as if He were the cause of their troubles. The proverb warns against this misplaced anger and encourages self-reflection.

It reminds us that accountability is essential, and that blaming God for the results of our own folly is both unjust and spiritually misguided. True wisdom involves recognizing our role in our circumstances and seeking God's guidance rather than blaming Him.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 1:29-33).

***Vs 4 - Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.***

This proverb highlights a timeless truth about human nature and social dynamics. It suggests that people are often drawn to those who have material wealth, not necessarily out of genuine affection, but because of the benefits or status that association might bring. Conversely, those who are poor may find themselves abandoned or overlooked, even by those who once claimed to be close. The proverb serves as a caution against placing too much trust in relationships built on material gain, and it invites reflection on the authenticity of our friendships and the values that guide them.

**CONSIDER:** (Pro 19:6; Pr 14:20).

This is very similar to a proverb we will read in two verses:

*“Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.” (Pr 19:6 ESV)*

***Vs 5 - A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.***

Here Solomon outlines a proverb we would do well to remember.

This verse emphasizes the moral and spiritual consequences of dishonesty, particularly in the context of bearing false testimony. It warns that deceit, especially when used to harm others or manipulate justice, will ultimately lead to punishment. The imagery of someone “breathing out lies” suggests a habitual or deliberate pattern of dishonesty, not just a one-time misstep. The proverb assures that even if a liar seems to escape accountability for a time, justice—whether divine or earthly—will eventually catch up. It serves as a strong reminder of the value of truth and integrity in all aspects of life.

This proverb is very similar to 19:9:

*“A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish.” (Pr 19:9 ESV)*

***Vs 6 - Many seek the favor of a generous man, and everyone is a friend to a man who gives gifts.***

This is a couplet to verse four and once again is a reflection by Solomon on the nature of human behavior and human relationships, especially how generosity can attract attention and admiration. It points out that people are often drawn to those who are giving or wealthy, not necessarily because of genuine friendship, but once again, because of the benefits they hope to receive. The proverb subtly critiques this tendency, suggesting that such friendships may be superficial or self-serving. It invites readers to consider the sincerity of their relationships and to value integrity and loyalty over material gain.

This proverb is very similar to 19:4.

***Vs 7 - All a poor man’s brothers hate him; how much more do his friends go far from him! He pursues them with words, but does not have them.***

Once again, Solomon reflects upon human nature and human relationships in the area of wealth, and he brings it into the family setting.

This is a sobering picture of how poverty can lead to social isolation. It suggests that even close family members may distance themselves from someone who is struggling financially, and friends may abandon him altogether. The image of the poor man chasing after them with words—perhaps pleading or trying to maintain connection—underscores his desperation and the painful reality of being ignored and even rejected. This proverb doesn’t just highlight the cruelty of such rejection; it also invites reflection on the integrity of our relationships and challenges us to show compassion, especially to those in need.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 19:4; Pr 14:20).

*“Wealth brings many new friends, but a poor man is deserted by his friend.” (Pr 19:4 ESV)*

***Vs 8 - Whoever gets sense loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will discover good.***

Proverb 19:8 highlights the deep personal value of pursuing wisdom and understanding. To seek wisdom is to care for oneself—not just intellectually, but spiritually and emotionally—because wisdom leads to life, peace, and well-being.

The phrase “loves his own soul” suggests that true self-care involves cultivating discernment and moral insight. Moreover, maintaining understanding—living by what one has learned—results in experiencing goodness, both in character and in life outcomes. This proverb encourages a lifelong commitment to learning and living wisely (God’s wisdom) as a path to true fulfillment.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 8:35; Pr 8:36).

*“For whoever finds me finds life and obtains favor from the LORD,” (Pr 8:35 ESV)*

***Vs 9 - A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will perish.***

This proverb reinforces the message from verse 5, emphasizing the serious consequences of dishonesty, especially in legal or relational contexts.

A “false witness” refers to someone who deliberately distorts the truth, often to harm others or gain personal advantage. The repetition of this warning in Proverbs underscores how deeply God values truth and justice. The phrase “will perish” intensifies the warning, suggesting not just punishment, but potentially ruin or destruction. The Hebrew word Solomon chooses is **אבד** **(‘abad)**, it means to perish or to be destroyed, it emphasizes loss and brokenness.

This proverb serves as a strong moral reminder that lies may offer short-term gain, but they ultimately lead to destruction and loss. As we said, this proverb is very similar to 19:5:

*“A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who breathes out lies will not escape.” (Pr 19:5 ESV)*

***Vs 10 - It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury, much less for a slave to rule over princes.***

This verse highlights two things that disrupt the natural or expected order in society.

The first part suggests that luxury and indulgence are inappropriate for someone who lacks wisdom or discipline, as they are likely to misuse or squander it. The second part intensifies the idea by pointing to a situation where someone of low status or poor character gains authority over those traditionally seen as noble or wise.

The proverb isn’t condemning social mobility (consider David or the apostles), but rather warning against the dangers and disorder that can arise when positions of influence are given to those unprepared or unworthy. It reflects a concern for justice, wisdom, and the proper use of power.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 30:21-23; ICo 1:27).

*“21 Under three things the earth trembles; under four it cannot bear up: 22 a slave when he becomes king, and a fool when he is filled with food; 23 an unloved woman when she gets a husband, and a maidservant when she displaces her mistress.” (Pr 30:21-23 ESV)*

***Vs 11 - Good sense makes one slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook an offense.***

This proverb reminds us of a repeated theme here in the proverbs, namely with wisdom comes restraint and the ability to control one’s emotions.

Rather than reacting impulsively to insults or wrongs, a wise person chooses to respond with calm and grace. The ability to overlook an offense—especially when one has the power to retaliate—is portrayed not as weakness, but as a mark of strength and honor. It reflects a heart that prioritizes peace, humility, and understanding over pride or vengeance. In essence, this proverb encourages us to rise above petty conflicts and to see forgiveness and patience as noble virtues.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 14:29; Pr 16:32; Jas 1:19).

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

***Vs 12 - A king’s wrath is like the growling of a lion, but his favor is like dew on the grass.***

In Solomon’s time King’s were the ultimate and final authority, keep this in mind as you consider this proverb.

Here Solomon uses vivid imagery to contrast the power of a ruler’s anger with the gentleness of his approval. The roar of a lion symbolizes fearsome authority and the potential for destruction—just as a king’s wrath can bring severe consequences. On the other hand, his favor is compared to dew, which nourishes and refreshes, bringing life and blessing.

The proverb serves as a reminder of the weight that leaders carry in their words and actions, and it encourages wisdom in how one relates to those in authority. It also reflects the broader biblical theme that righteous leadership should balance justice with mercy.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 16:14; Pr 16:15; Pr 20:2).

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

***Vs 13 - A foolish son is ruin to his father, and a wife’s quarreling is a continual dripping of rain.***

At first glance the two things mentioned together here do not seem to have any connection. What Solomon is doing is presenting two vivid images to illustrate sources of deep personal distress within the family. A foolish child brings shame and sorrow to a father, undermining his legacy and causing emotional pain. The second part compares a contentious spouse to the relentless dripping of water—an annoyance that wears down peace and stability over time.

Together, the proverb highlights how dysfunction within the home—whether through immaturity or constant conflict—can erode joy and well-being. It serves as a reminder of the importance of wisdom, harmony, and mutual respect in family relationships.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 17:21; 17:25; Pr 10:1).

*“He who sires a fool gets himself sorrow, and the father of a fool has no joy.” (Pr 17:21 ESV)*

***Vs 14 - House and wealth are inherited from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.***

This verse draws a contrast between material and relational blessings. While property and riches can be passed down through human means—such as inheritance—a wise and discerning spouse is portrayed as a special gift from God.

The proverb emphasizes that while earthly possessions have value, the true treasure lies in a relationship marked by wisdom, character, and mutual respect. It elevates the importance of choosing a life partner not just based on external factors, but on godly qualities which will in the end help contribute to a strong and peaceful home.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 18:22; Pr 31:10; Pr 31:31).

*“He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.” (Pr 18:22 ESV)*

***Vs 15 - Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep, and an idle person will suffer hunger.***

Once again Solomon picks up the common theme and associated warnings of slothfulness or laziness. Here Solomon warns against the consequences of idleness and lack of initiative. The “deep sleep” symbolizes not just physical rest, but a state of complacency to the point of neglect, where one becomes disconnected from responsibility and productivity.

The second part reinforces the idea that those who refuse to work or take action will ultimately suffer lack and hardship. It’s a call to diligence and discipline, showing that effort and purpose are essential for provision and well-being. The proverb reflects the broader biblical theme that hard work leads to reward, while laziness leads to ruin.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 10:4; Pr 10:5; Pr 19:24).

*“A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich.” (Pr 10:4 ESV)*

***Vs 16 - Whoever keeps the commandment keeps his life; he who despises his ways will die.***

This proverb underscores the life-preserving power of obedience to God's instructions. It teaches that following divine guidance leads to protection, stability, and ultimately life—both physically and spiritually. In contrast, those who disregard or despise God's ways place themselves in danger, inviting consequences that can lead to ruin or death. The proverb serves as a strong reminder that wisdom is not just about knowledge, but about living in alignment with moral and spiritual truth. It calls for reverence toward God’s commands as a path to flourishing.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 13:13; Pr 15:32; Pr 3:1).

*“Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.” (Pr 13:13 ESV)*

***Vs 17 - Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.***

This proverb presents a powerful truth about generosity and divine justice. It teaches that acts of compassion toward those in need are not just social or moral duties—they are seen by God as personal investments. Helping the poor is likened to lending to God Himself, implying that such kindness will not go unnoticed or unrewarded. The proverb encourages believers to care for the vulnerable with confidence that God values and honors their generosity, promising a return that reflects His faithfulness and grace.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 14:21, Pr 28:27).

*“Whoever despises his neighbor is a sinner, but blessed is he who is generous to the poor.” (Pr 14:21 ESV)*

***Vs 18 - Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.***

Here Solomon emphasizes the importance of loving correction in parenting. It teaches that guiding children through discipline is not harsh or punitive, but rather a hopeful act that can steer them away from destructive paths. The second part warns that neglecting discipline—or refusing to correct harmful behavior—can lead to serious consequences, even ruin. The proverb calls parents to take an active role in shaping their children’s character, recognizing that timely correction is a vital expression of care and responsibility.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 13:24; Pr 22:15; Pr 29:15).

*“Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.” (Pr 13:24 ESV)*

***Vs 19 - A man of great wrath will pay the penalty, for if you deliver him, you will only have to do it again.***

This proverb offers a warning about the consequences of unchecked anger and the futility of enabling destructive behavior. It teaches that those who frequently lose their temper will inevitably face consequences for their actions—whether in damaged relationships, lost opportunities, or other forms of personal loss or punishment. The second part cautions against repeatedly rescuing such individuals from the fallout of their own behavior, as doing so may only encourage a cycle of irresponsibility. True help, the proverb implies, involves allowing people to face the results of their actions so they can learn and grow.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 25:28; Pr 29:22).

*“A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.” (Pr 25:28 ESV)*

***Vs 20 - Listen to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom in the future.***

Here Solomon highlights the importance of humility and teachability in the pursuit of wisdom. It encourages individuals to be open to correction and guidance, recognizing that wisdom is not innate but cultivated through learning and growth. By accepting discipline and listening to wise counsel, a person positions themselves for long-term success and respect.

The proverb affirms that wisdom is the fruit of a life shaped by instruction, and that those who embrace it will ultimately be honored for their discernment and maturity.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 2:1-7).

*“1 ¶ My son, if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God. 6 For the LORD gives wisdom; from his mouth come knowledge and understanding; 7 he stores up sound wisdom for the upright; he is a shield to those who walk in integrity,” (Pr 2:1-7 ESV)*

***Vs 21 - Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.***

This verse reminds us of the limits of human control and the sovereignty of God. While people may have countless ideas, ambitions, and strategies for their lives, ultimately it is God's will that determines the outcome, it is God’s sovereign will that will stand.

The proverb doesn’t discourage planning, but it encourages humility and trust in divine guidance. It teaches that true wisdom lies in aligning our desires with God’s purpose (revealed will), recognizing that His plans are higher, wiser, and enduring. This verse offers comfort and perspective, especially when life takes unexpected turns.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 16:9; Pr 21:30).

*“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.” (Pr 16:9 ESV)*

***Vs 22 - What is desired in a man is steadfast love, and a poor man is better than a liar.***

This proverb speaks to the deep human longing for genuine, steadfast love—something more valuable than wealth or status. It suggests that integrity and truthfulness are worth more than material gain, even if that means living in poverty.

The contrast between being poor and being a liar highlights the moral weight of honesty and the emptiness of deceit. Ultimately, the proverb teaches that love and truth are foundational to a meaningful life, and that character should never be compromised for personal advantage.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 19:1).

*“Better is a poor person who walks in his integrity than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool.” (Pr 19:1 ESV)*

***Vs 23 - The fear of the LORD leads to life, and whoever has it rests satisfied; he will not be visited by harm.***

This verse highlights the profound peace and security that come from living in reverent awe of God. “Fear of the Lord” here refers not to terror, but to deep respect, trust, and submission to God's authority and wisdom. Such a posture leads to a life that is spiritually grounded and morally guided, resulting in true contentment.

The promise of being “untouched by trouble” doesn’t mean a life free from hardship, but rather a soul that remains unshaken and secure even in the midst of challenges and hardships. It’s a call to seek God first, knowing that doing so brings lasting peace and protection.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 10:27; 14:26; 14:27).

*“The fear of the LORD prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short.” (Pr 10:27 ESV)*

***Vs 24 - The sluggard buries his hand in the dish and will not even bring it back to his mouth.***

This Proverb uses vivid imagery to highlight the extreme laziness of a person who is so idle that even the simplest task—feeding himself—is too much effort. It serves as a warning against complacency and a lack of initiative. The proverb emphasizes that laziness can become so deeply ingrained that it leads to self-neglect and missed opportunities. It’s not just about physical inactivity, but also about a mindset that avoids responsibility and effort, ultimately leading to personal and spiritual stagnation and decline.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 19:15; Pr 12:27).

***Vs 25 - Strike a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence; reprove a man of understanding, and he will gain knowledge.***

This verse contrasts two types of people—the scoffer or the mocker and the discerning (the person of understanding)—and how they respond to correction. A mocker is someone who resists wisdom and scoffs at instruction, often needing harsh consequences to provoke any change.

In contrast, a discerning person is open to correction and grows wiser through gentle rebuke. The proverb also points out that even those who are "simple" or inexperienced can learn by observing the consequences others face. It highlights the value of correction as a tool for growth and the importance of being teachable.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 21:11; Pr 9:9).

*“When a scoffer is punished, the simple becomes wise; when a wise man is instructed, he gains knowledge.” (Pr 21:11 ESV)*

***Vs 26 - He who does violence to his father and chases away his mother is a son who brings shame and reproach.***

This verse strongly condemns dishonoring one’s parents, especially through selfish or abusive actions. To do violence to a father may refer to taking resources, inheritance, or support unjustly, while "chasing away" a mother suggests rejection or mistreatment.

In ancient Hebrew culture, honoring one’s parents was a foundational moral duty, and violating that duty was seen as deeply shameful. The proverb warns that such behavior not only harms the family but also brings lasting disgrace upon the one who commits it. It’s a call to uphold respect, gratitude, and responsibility within the family structure.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 10:1; Pr 17:25).

*“The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is a sorrow to his mother.” (Pr 10:1 ESV)*

***Vs 27 - Cease to hear instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.***

What a proverb to end on! This proverb serves as a warning about the danger of turning away from wise counsel and instruction. It implies that learning and growth are ongoing processes—once a person stops seeking wisdom, they begin to drift away from truth and understanding.

The phrase “stray from the words of knowledge” suggests a gradual but inevitable decline into error or foolishness when one becomes complacent or resistant to guidance. It’s a reminder that wisdom requires continual attention and humility, and that neglecting instruction leads to spiritual and moral wandering. Wisdom is more than something we obtain it is a lifelong pursuit.

**CONSIDER:** (Pr 8:33; Pr 15:32; Ec 4:13).

*“Hear instruction and be wise, and do not neglect it.” (Pr 8:33 ESV)*

**Proverbs 19** presents a vivid gallery of foolish characters—false witnesses, idle individuals, hot-tempered men, and more—each serving as a warning against destructive behavior. Solomon’s message is clear: foolishness leads to ruin, and those who refuse correction face dire consequences. Yet, woven among these warnings are glimpses of wisdom, integrity, and godly fear, offering a stark contrast to the fate of fools. The chapter also highlights God’s compassion for the poor, showing that while the world may reject them, God honors and defends them. Ultimately, Proverbs 19 calls us to examine our own tendencies and seek the Lord’s help in walking the path of wisdom.