

Proverbs 2:1-15 (Benefits of Wisdom)

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,
⁸ guarding the paths of justice
and watching over the way of his saints.
⁹ Then you will understand righteousness and justice
and equity, every good path;
¹⁰ for wisdom will come into your heart,
and knowledge will be pleasant to your soul;
¹¹ discretion will watch over you,
understanding will guard you,
¹² delivering you from the way of evil,
from men of perverted speech,
¹³ who forsake the paths of uprightness
to walk in the ways of darkness,
¹⁴ who rejoice in doing evil
and delight in the perverseness of evil,
¹⁵ men whose paths are crooked,
and who are devious in their ways.

Proverbs 16

- 16** The plans of the heart belong to man,
but the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.
- ² All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes,
but the LORD weighs the spirit.
- ³ Commit your work to the LORD,
and your plans will be established.
- ⁴ The LORD has made everything for its purpose,
even the wicked for the day of trouble.
- ⁵ Everyone who is arrogant in heart is an abomination to
the LORD; be assured, he will not go unpunished.
- ⁶ By steadfast love and faithfulness iniquity is atoned for,
and by the fear of the LORD one turns away from evil.
- ⁷ When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his
enemies to be at peace with him.
- ⁸ Better is a little with righteousness
than great revenues with injustice.
- ⁹ The heart of man plans his way,
but the LORD establishes his steps.
- ¹⁰ An oracle is on the lips of a king;
his mouth does not sin in judgment.
- ¹¹ A just balance and scales are the LORD'S;
all the weights in the bag are his work.
- ¹² It is an abomination to kings to do evil,
for the throne is established by righteousness.
- ¹³ Righteous lips are the delight of a king,
and he loves him who speaks what is right.
- ¹⁴ A king's wrath is a messenger of death,
and a wise man will appease it.
- ¹⁵ In the light of a king's face there is life, and his favor is
like the clouds that bring the spring rain.
- ¹⁶ How much better to get wisdom than gold!
To get understanding is to be chosen rather
than silver.
- ¹⁷ The highway of the upright turns aside from evil;
whoever guards his way preserves his life.
- ¹⁸ Pride goes before destruction,
and a haughty spirit before a fall.
- ¹⁹ It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor
than to divide the spoil with the proud.
- ²⁰ Whoever gives thought to the word will discover
good, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.
- ²¹ The wise of heart is called discerning,
and sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.
- ²² Good sense is a fountain of life to him who has it,
but the instruction of fools is folly.
- ²³ The heart of the wise makes his speech judicious
and adds persuasiveness to his lips.
- ²⁴ Gracious words are like a honeycomb,
sweetness to the soul and health to the body.
- ²⁵ There is a way that seems right to a man,
but its end is the way to death.
- ²⁶ A worker's appetite works for him;
his mouth urges him on.
- ²⁷ A worthless man plots evil,
and his speech is like a scorching fire.
- ²⁸ A dishonest man spreads strife,
and a whisperer separates close friends.
- ²⁹ A man of violence entices his neighbor
and leads him in a way that is not good.
- ³⁰ Whoever winks his eyes plans dishonest things;
he who purses his lips brings evil to pass.
- ³¹ Gray hair is a crown of glory;
it is gained in a righteous life.
- ³² Whoever is slow to anger is better than the mighty,
and he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city.
- ³³ The lot is cast into the lap,
but its every decision is from the LORD.