

GOD'S WILL
AND
THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

OLD TESTAMENT / PROVERBS EDITION
Third Edition

This document is a compilation of teachings found in Proverbs organized according to important themes.

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God's Will And The Purpose Of Life
Old Testament / Proverbs Edition
Third Edition

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Introduction

The Old Testament book of Proverbs is a treasure chest filled with God's infinite and perfect Wisdom. In the book of Proverbs, God has given us a guide for how to live according to His Will. In addition, Proverbs helps us understand the purpose of our lives by explaining why we should strive to live in a way that pleases Him. The reason is **ETERNAL SALVATION!** The Lord loves us and He wants to save us by giving us the gift of eternal life in His presence. This wonderful gift of Salvation is found in the book of Proverbs and its flawless teachings.

This document, based on the book of Proverbs, can be helpful to all people regardless of religious background as it can help everyone better understand God's Will and the purpose of their lives. For Christian readers, there is additional insight resulting from a careful study of the Proverbs that is both amazing and divine. The Proverbs show us that **Jesus Christ actually IS God's perfect Wisdom.** This abstract concept is difficult to grasp but it is critical for increasing our Christian understanding of the nature of God and the Holy Trinity.

If you are a Christian, as you read this document, you will notice a remarkable resemblance between the teachings of Jesus Christ and the perfect Wisdom found in Proverbs. This is no simple coincidence! As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God; the human expression of our Creator in words, teachings, actions and beliefs so that mankind can have knowledge and understanding of God and His Will. In a form that is both human and divine, Jesus Christ is God's perfect and absolute Wisdom coming to mankind in the most personal way possible.

Our Christian faith teaches us that God consists of three Persons in one divine nature; the Father, Jesus Christ the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Proverbs clearly reveal that God's Word has existed as perfect Wisdom for all eternity and before the beginning of all creation. This revelation is manifested in Chapter 8 of the book of Proverbs where "WISDOM" speaks to us directly. As mentioned above, it is no simple coincidence that the teachings of Christ are so similar to the teachings in Proverbs. God inspired the Wisdom inscribed in Proverbs and God's Wisdom is the Person of Jesus Christ that came to us approximately 2,000 years ago. In essence, **GOD'S PERFECT WISDOM is JESUS CHRIST** – the Living Word of God and one of the three divine Persons of the Holy Trinity which is Almighty God.

In the book of Proverbs, God's teachings focus on the following important themes:

Living According to God's Will

- **Respect, Trust and Fear of the Lord** – The Foundation of Wisdom
- **Seek Wisdom** – Find Knowledge of God and Live By It
- **Be Good To Others** – Love, Kindness, Consideration, Mercy, and Fairness
- **Be Humble** – Teachings Against Arrogance, Mockery and Pride
- **Be Truthful** – Teachings Against Dishonesty and Deceit
- **Be Peaceful** – Teachings Against Anger
- **Be Patient and Prudent** – Teachings Against Hastiness
- **Be Good Sons and Daughters** – Honor Your Father and Mother
- **Be Strict With Your Children** – Use Discipline to Raise Them Well
- **Be a Good Wife** – Proverbs That Describe a Good Wife
- **Be Faithful To Your Spouse** – Teachings Against Adultery
- **Don't Be Selfish** – Teachings Against Greed and Envy
- **Don't Be Lazy** – Teachings Against Laziness
- **Don't Be Indulgent** – Teachings Against Drunkenness, Gluttony and Excess
- **Don't Be Led Astray** – Avoid Bad Influences

Salvation – The Purpose of Life

- **Righteousness, Wickedness and Justice** – God Saves the Righteous and Condemns the Wicked
- **Repent; Be Sorry For Your Sins and Trust in God** – God Has Mercy on Those Who Repent
- **Proverbs Chapter 8** – God's Word is Perfect Wisdom and Wisdom is Jesus Christ

The words and teachings found in Proverbs contain absolute **TRUTH** that can only come from one source **God Himself!** May this compilation help you to better understand God's Will and assist you in seeking His gift of eternal salvation!

Living According To God's Will

Respect, Trust and Fear of the Lord – The Foundation of Wisdom

Chapter 1

⁷The fear of Yahweh¹ is the beginning of knowledge;
but the foolish despise wisdom and instruction.

Chapter 3

⁵Trust in Yahweh with all your heart,
and don't lean on your own understanding.

⁶In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make your paths straight.

⁷Don't be wise in your own eyes.
Fear Yahweh, and depart from evil.

⁸It will be health to your body,
and nourishment to your bones.

¹¹My son, don't despise Yahweh's discipline,
neither be weary of his reproof:

¹²for whom Yahweh loves, he reproves;
even as a father reproves the son in whom he delights.

²⁵Don't be afraid of sudden fear,
neither of the desolation of the wicked, when it comes:

²⁶for Yahweh will be your confidence,
and will keep your foot from being taken.

Chapter 9

¹⁰The fear of Yahweh is the beginning of wisdom.
The knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

Chapter 10

²⁷The fear of Yahweh prolongs days,
but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.

Chapter 13

¹³Whoever despises instruction will pay for it,
but he who respects a command will be rewarded.

Chapter 14

²He who walks in his uprightness fears Yahweh,
but he who is perverse in his ways despises him.

²⁶In the fear of Yahweh is a secure fortress,
and he will be a refuge for his children.

²⁷The fear of Yahweh is a fountain of life,

turning people from the snares of death.

Chapter 15

¹⁰There is stern discipline for one who forsakes the way:
whoever hates reproof shall die.

¹⁶Better is little, with the fear of Yahweh,
than great treasure with trouble.

³³The fear of Yahweh teaches wisdom.
Before honor is humility.

Chapter 16

³Commit your deeds to Yahweh,
and your plans shall succeed.

⁶By mercy and truth iniquity is atoned for.
By the fear of Yahweh men depart from evil.

⁹A man's heart plans his course,
but Yahweh directs his steps.

²⁰He who heeds the Word finds prosperity.
Whoever trusts in Yahweh is blessed.

Chapter 19

²³The fear of Yahweh leads to life, then contentment;
he rests and will not be touched by trouble.

Chapter 20

²²Don't say, "I will pay back evil."
Wait for Yahweh, and he will save you.

Chapter 22

⁴The result of humility and the fear of Yahweh
is wealth, honor, and life.

Chapter 23

¹⁷Don't let your heart envy sinners;
but rather fear Yahweh all the day long.

¹⁸Indeed surely there is a future hope,
and your hope will not be cut off.

Chapter 28

¹⁴Blessed is the man who always fears;
but one who hardens his heart falls into trouble.

²⁵One who is greedy stirs up strife;
but one who trusts in Yahweh will prosper.

Chapter 29

²⁵The fear of man proves to be a snare,
but whoever puts his trust in Yahweh is kept safe.

¹A name that means God. Yahweh is a modern reconstruction of YHWH, the ancient Hebrew name for God.

Seek Wisdom – Find Knowledge of God and Live By It

Chapter 2

- ¹My son, if you will receive my words,
and store up my commandments within you;
²So as to turn your ear to wisdom,
and apply your heart to understanding;
³Yes, if you call out for discernment,
and lift up your voice for understanding;
⁴If you seek her as silver,
and search for her as for hidden treasures:
⁵then you will understand the fear of Yahweh,
and find the knowledge of God.
⁶For Yahweh gives wisdom.
Out of his mouth comes knowledge and understanding.

Chapter 3

- ¹My son, don't forget my teaching;
but let your heart keep my commandments:
²for length of days, and years of life,
and peace, will they add to you.
- ¹³Happy is the man who finds wisdom,
the man who gets understanding.
¹⁴For her good profit is better than getting silver,
and her return is better than fine gold.
¹⁵She is more precious than rubies.
None of the things you can desire are to be compared
to her.
¹⁶Length of days is in her right hand.
In her left hand are riches and honor.
¹⁷Her ways are ways of pleasantness.
All her paths are peace.
¹⁸She is a tree of life to those who lay hold of her.
Happy is everyone who retains her.
¹⁹By wisdom Yahweh founded the earth.
By understanding, he established the heavens.
²⁰By his knowledge, the depths were broken up,
and the skies drop down the dew.
²¹My son, let them not depart from your eyes.
Keep sound wisdom and discretion:
²²so they will be life to your soul,
and grace for your neck.
²³Then you shall walk in your way securely.
Your foot won't stumble.
²⁴When you lie down, you will not be afraid.
Yes, you will lie down, and your sleep will be sweet.
- ³⁵The wise will inherit glory,
but shame will be the promotion of fools.

Chapter 4

- ⁵Get wisdom.
Get understanding.
Don't forget, neither swerve from the words of my
mouth.

- ⁶Don't forsake her, and she will preserve you.
Love her, and she will keep you.
⁷Wisdom is supreme.
Get wisdom.
Yes, though it costs all your possessions, get
understanding.

- ¹⁰Listen, my son, and receive my sayings.
The years of your life will be many.
¹¹I have taught you in the way of wisdom.
I have led you in straight paths.
¹²When you go, your steps will not be hampered.
When you run, you will not stumble.
¹³Take firm hold of instruction.
Don't let her go.
Keep her, for she is your life.

- ²⁰My son, attend to my words.
Turn your ear to my sayings.
²¹Let them not depart from your eyes.
Keep them in the midst of your heart.
²²For they are life to those who find them,
and health to their whole body.
²³Keep your heart with all diligence,
for out of it is the wellspring of life.

Chapter 9

- ⁸Don't reprove a scoffer, lest he hate you.
Reprove a wise man, and he will love you.
⁹Instruct a wise man, and he will be still wiser.
Teach a righteous man, and he will increase in learning.

Chapter 10

- ⁸The wise in heart accept commandments,
but a chattering fool will fall.
¹⁷He is in the way of life who heeds correction,
but he who forsakes reproof leads others astray.

Chapter 11

- ¹⁴Where there is no wise guidance, the nation falls,
but in the multitude of counselors there is victory.

Chapter 12

- ¹Whoever loves correction loves knowledge,
but he who hates reproof is stupid.
⁸A man shall be commended according to his wisdom,
but he who has a warped mind shall be despised.

- ¹⁵The way of a fool is right in his own eyes,
but he who is wise listens to counsel.

Chapter 13

- ¹⁴The teaching of the wise is a spring of life,

to turn from the snares of death.

¹⁸Poverty and shame come to him who refuses discipline,
but he who heeds correction shall be honored.

Chapter 14

¹²There is a way which seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.

²⁴The crown of the wise is their riches,
but the folly of fools crowns them with folly.

Chapter 15

¹²A scoffer doesn't love to be reproved;
he will not go to the wise.

¹⁴The heart of one who has understanding seeks knowledge,
but the mouths of fools feed on folly.

²²Where there is no counsel, plans fail;
but in a multitude of counselors they are established.

³¹The ear that listens to reproof lives,
and will be at home among the wise.

³²He who refuses correction despises his own soul,
but he who listens to reproof gets understanding.

Chapter 16

²²Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it,
but the punishment of fools is their folly.

²³The heart of the wise instructs his mouth,
and adds learning to his lips.

Chapter 17

¹⁰A rebuke enters deeper into one who has understanding
than a hundred lashes into a fool.

Chapter 18

¹⁵The heart of the discerning gets knowledge.
The ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

Chapter 19

⁸He who gets wisdom loves his own soul.
He who keeps understanding shall find good.

²⁰Listen to counsel and receive instruction,
that you may be wise in your latter end.

²⁵Flog a scoffer, and the simple will learn prudence;
rebuke one who has understanding, and he will gain
knowledge.

Chapter 20

¹⁸Plans are established by advice;
by wise guidance you wage war!

Chapter 21

¹¹When the mocker is punished, the simple gains wisdom.
When the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge.

Chapter 22

¹⁷Turn your ear, and listen to the words of the wise.
Apply your heart to my teaching.

¹⁸For it is a pleasant thing if you keep them within you,
if all of them are ready on your lips.

Chapter 23

⁹Don't speak in the ears of a fool,
for he will despise the wisdom of your words.

¹²Apply your heart to instruction,
and your ears to the words of knowledge.

Chapter 24

⁵A wise man has great power;
and a knowledgeable man increases strength;

⁶for by wise guidance you wage your war;
and victory is in many advisors.

Chapter 25

¹²As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold,
so is a wise reprover to an obedient ear.

Chapter 30

⁵Every word of God is flawless.
He is a shield to those who take refuge in him.

Be Good To Others – Love, Kindness, Consideration, Mercy and Fairness

Chapter 3

³Don't let kindness and truth forsake you.
Bind them around your neck.
Write them on the tablet of your heart.

⁴So you will find favor,
and good understanding in the sight of God and man.

²⁷Don't withhold good from those to whom it is due,
when it is in the power of your hand to do it.

²⁸Don't say to your neighbor, "Go, and come again;
tomorrow I will give it to you,"
when you have it by you.

²⁹Don't devise evil against your neighbor,
seeing he dwells securely by you.

³⁰Don't strive with a man without cause,
if he has done you no harm.

Chapter 10

¹²Hatred stirs up strife,
but love covers all wrongs.

Chapter 11

¹²One who despises his neighbor is void of wisdom,
but a man of understanding holds his peace.
¹³One who brings gossip betrays a confidence,
but one who is of a trustworthy spirit is one who keeps a
secret.

¹⁷The merciful man does good to his own soul,
but he who is cruel troubles his own flesh.

Chapter 12

²⁵Anxiety in a man's heart weighs it down,
but a kind word makes it glad.

Chapter 14

²¹He who despises his neighbor sins,
but blessed is he who has pity on the poor.
²²Don't they go astray who plot evil?
But love and faithfulness belong to those who plan
good.

³¹He who oppresses the poor shows contempt for his Maker,
but he who is kind to the needy honors him.

Chapter 15

¹A gentle answer turns away wrath,
but a harsh word stirs up anger.

¹⁵All the days of the afflicted are wretched,
but one who has a cheerful heart enjoys a continual
feast.

¹⁷Better is a dinner of herbs, where love is,
than a fattened calf with hatred.

Chapter 17

⁵Whoever mocks the poor reproaches his Maker.
He who is glad at calamity shall not be unpunished.

⁹He who covers an offense promotes love;
but he who repeats a matter separates best friends.

¹³Whoever rewards evil for good,
evil shall not depart from his house.

Chapter 18

⁵To be partial to the faces of the wicked is not good,
nor to deprive the innocent of justice.

Chapter 19

¹⁷He who has pity on the poor lends to Yahweh;
he will reward him.

²²That which makes a man to be desired is his kindness.
A poor man is better than a liar.

Chapter 21

¹⁰The soul of the wicked desires evil;
his neighbor finds no mercy in his eyes.

¹³Whoever stops his ears at the cry of the poor,
he will also cry out, but shall not be heard.

²¹He who follows after righteousness and kindness
finds life, righteousness, and honor.

Chapter 22

⁹He who has a generous eye will be blessed;
for he shares his food with the poor.

²²Don't exploit the poor, because he is poor;
and don't crush the needy in court;

²³for Yahweh will plead their case,
and plunder the life of those who plunder them.

Chapter 24

²⁹Don't say, "I will do to him as he has done to me;
I will render to the man according to his work."

Chapter 25

⁹Debate your case with your neighbor,
and don't betray the confidence of another;

¹⁰lest one who hears it put you to shame,
and your bad reputation never depart.

¹⁷Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house,
lest he be weary of you, and hate you.

²¹If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat.
If he is thirsty, give him water to drink:

Chapter 26

¹⁷Like one who grabs a dog's ears
is one who passes by and meddles in a quarrel not his
own.

Chapter 28

²⁷One who gives to the poor has no lack;
but one who closes his eyes will have many curses.

Chapter 29

⁷The righteous care about justice for the poor.
The wicked aren't concerned about knowledge.

Chapter 31

⁸Open your mouth for the mute,
in the cause of all who are left desolate.

⁹Open your mouth, judge righteously,
and serve justice to the poor and needy.”

Be Humble – Teachings Against Arrogance, Mockery and Pride

Chapter 3

³⁴Surely he mocks the mockers,
but he gives grace to the humble.

Chapter 11

²When pride comes, then comes shame,
but with humility comes wisdom.

Chapter 12

⁹Better is he who is lightly esteemed, and has a servant,
than he who honors himself, and lacks bread.

Chapter 13

⁷There are some who pretend to be rich, yet have nothing.
There are some who pretend to be poor, yet have great
wealth.

¹⁰Pride only breeds quarrels,
but with ones who take advice is wisdom.

Chapter 16

⁵Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to
Yahweh:
they shall certainly not be unpunished.

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

¹⁹It is better to be of a lowly spirit with the poor,
than to divide the plunder with the proud.

²⁵There is a way which seems right to a man,
but in the end it leads to death.

Chapter 18

¹²Before destruction the heart of man is proud,
but before honor is humility.

Chapter 19

²¹There are many plans in a man's heart,
but Yahweh's counsel will prevail.

Chapter 21

²Every way of a man is right in his own eyes,

but Yahweh weighs the hearts.

²⁴The proud and haughty man, “scoffer” is his name;
he works in the arrogance of pride.

Chapter 22

²The rich and the poor have this in common:
Yahweh is the maker of them all.

¹⁰Drive out the mocker, and strife will go out;
yes, quarrels and insults will stop.

Chapter 24

⁹The schemes of folly are sin.
The mocker is detested by men.

Chapter 25

⁶Don't exalt yourself in the presence of the king,
or claim a place among great men;

⁷for it is better that it be said to you, “Come up here,”
than that you should be put lower in the presence of the
prince,
whom your eyes have seen.

²⁷It is not good to eat much honey;
nor is it honorable to seek one's own honor.

Chapter 26

¹²Do you see a man wise in his own eyes?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Chapter 27

¹Don't boast about tomorrow;
for you don't know what a day may bring forth.

²Let another man praise you,
and not your own mouth;
a stranger, and not your own lips.

Chapter 28

²⁶One who trusts in himself is a fool;
but one who walks in wisdom is kept safe.

Chapter 29

²³A man's pride brings him low,
but one of lowly spirit gains honor.

Chapter 30

³²“If you have done foolishly in lifting up yourself,
or if you have thought evil,
put your hand over your mouth.

³³For as the churning of milk brings forth butter,
and the wringing of the nose brings forth blood;
so the forcing of wrath brings forth strife.”

Be Truthful – Teachings Against Dishonesty and Deceit

Chapter 11

¹A false balance is an abomination to Yahweh,
but accurate weights are his delight.

Chapter 12

⁶The words of the wicked are about lying in wait for blood,
but the speech of the upright rescues them.

¹³An evil man is trapped by sinfulness of lips,
but the righteous shall come out of trouble.

¹⁷He who is truthful testifies honestly,
but a false witness lies.

¹⁹Truth's lips will be established forever,
but a lying tongue is only momentary.

²⁰Deceit is in the heart of those who plot evil,
but joy comes to the promoters of peace.

Chapter 13

⁵A righteous man hates lies,
but a wicked man brings shame and disgrace.

Chapter 14

⁵A truthful witness will not lie,
but a false witness pours out lies.

²⁵A truthful witness saves souls,
but a false witness is deceitful.

Chapter 16

¹³Righteous lips are the delight of kings.
They value one who speaks the truth.

Chapter 19

¹Better is the poor who walks in his integrity
than he who is perverse in his lips and is a fool.

⁵A false witness shall not be unpunished.
He who pours out lies shall not go free.

⁹A false witness shall not be unpunished.
He who utters lies shall perish.

²⁸A corrupt witness mocks justice,
and the mouth of the wicked gulps down iniquity.

Chapter 20

¹⁷Fraudulent food is sweet to a man,
but afterwards his mouth is filled with gravel.

Chapter 21

⁶Getting treasures by a lying tongue
is a fleeting vapor for those who seek death.

Chapter 24

²⁸Don't be a witness against your neighbor without cause.
Don't deceive with your lips.

Chapter 25

¹⁴As clouds and wind without rain,
so is he who boasts of gifts deceptively.

¹⁸A man who gives false testimony against his neighbor
is like a club, a sword, or a sharp arrow.

Chapter 26

²⁴A malicious man disguises himself with his lips,
but he harbors evil in his heart.

²⁵When his speech is charming, don't believe him;
for there are seven abominations in his heart.

²⁶His malice may be concealed by deception,
but his wickedness will be exposed in the assembly.

²⁸A lying tongue hates those it hurts;
and a flattering mouth works ruin.

Chapter 28

⁶Better is the poor who walks in his integrity,
than he who is perverse in his ways, and he is rich.

Be Peaceful – Teachings Against Anger

Chapter 14

¹⁶A wise man fears, and shuns evil,
but the fool is hotheaded and reckless.

¹⁷He who is quick to become angry will commit folly,
and a crafty man is hated.

²⁹He who is slow to anger has great understanding,
but he who has a quick temper displays folly.

Chapter 15

¹⁸A wrathful man stirs up contention,
but one who is slow to anger appeases strife.

Chapter 16

³²One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty;
one who rules his spirit, than he who takes a city.

Chapter 17

¹Better is a dry morsel with quietness,
than a house full of feasting with strife.

²⁷He who spares his words has knowledge.
He who is even tempered is a man of understanding.

Chapter 19

¹¹The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger.
It is his glory to overlook an offense.

Chapter 29

¹¹A fool vents all of his anger,
but a wise man brings himself under control.

²²An angry man stirs up strife,
and a wrathful man abounds in sin.

Be Patient and Prudent – Teachings Against Hastiness

Chapter 10

¹⁹In the multitude of words there is no lack of disobedience,
but he who restrains his lips does wisely.

Chapter 11

²²Like a gold ring in a pig's snout,
is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.

Chapter 12

¹⁶A fool shows his annoyance the same day,
but one who overlooks an insult is prudent.

Chapter 13

³He who guards his mouth guards his soul.
One who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

¹⁶Every prudent man acts from knowledge,
but a fool exposes folly.

Chapter 14

¹⁵A simple man believes everything,
but the prudent man carefully considers his ways.

¹⁸The simple inherit folly,
but the prudent are crowned with knowledge.

Chapter 17

²⁸Even a fool, when he keeps silent, is counted wise.
When he shuts his lips, he is thought to be discerning.

Chapter 18

²A fool has no delight in understanding,
but only in revealing his own opinion.

⁶A fool's lips come into strife,
and his mouth invites beatings.

⁷A fool's mouth is his destruction,
and his lips are a snare to his soul.

¹³He who gives answer before he hears,
that is folly and shame to him.

Chapter 19

²It isn't good to have zeal without knowledge;
nor being hasty with one's feet and missing the way.

Chapter 21

⁵The plans of the diligent surely lead to profit;
and everyone who is hasty surely rushes to poverty.

²³Whoever guards his mouth and his tongue
keeps his soul from troubles.

Chapter 25

¹¹A word fitly spoken
is like apples of gold in settings of silver.

¹⁵By patience a ruler is persuaded.
A soft tongue breaks the bone.

Chapter 27

¹²A prudent man sees danger and takes refuge;
but the simple pass on, and suffer for it.

Chapter 29

²⁰Do you see a man who is hasty in his words?
There is more hope for a fool than for him.

Be Good Sons and Daughters – Honor Your Father and Mother

Chapter 1

⁸My son, listen to your father's instruction,
and don't forsake your mother's teaching:

⁹for they will be a garland to grace your head,
and chains around your neck.

Chapter 6

²⁰My son, keep your father's commandment,
and don't forsake your mother's teaching.

²¹Bind them continually on your heart.
Tie them around your neck.

²²When you walk, it will lead you.
When you sleep, it will watch over you.
When you awake, it will talk with you.

Chapter 10

¹A wise son makes a glad father;
but a foolish son brings grief to his mother.

Chapter 13

¹A wise son listens to his father's instruction,
but a scoffer doesn't listen to rebuke.

Chapter 15

⁵A fool despises his father's correction,
but he who heeds reproof shows prudence.

²⁰A wise son makes a father glad,
but a foolish man despises his mother.

Chapter 17

⁶Children's children are the crown of old men;
the glory of children are their parents.

²⁵A foolish son brings grief to his father,
and bitterness to her who bore him.

Chapter 19

²⁶He who robs his father and drives away his mother,
is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.

Chapter 20

²⁰Whoever curses his father or his mother,
his lamp shall be put out in blackness of darkness.

Chapter 23

¹⁵My son, if your heart is wise,
then my heart will be glad, even mine:

¹⁶yes, my heart will rejoice,
when your lips speak what is right.

²²Listen to your father who gave you life,
and don't despise your mother when she is old.

²⁴The father of the righteous has great joy.
Whoever fathers a wise child delights in him.

²⁵Let your father and your mother be glad!
Let her who bore you rejoice!

Chapter 28

⁷Whoever keeps the law is a wise son;
but he who is a companion of gluttons shames his
father.

²⁴Whoever robs his father or his mother, and says, "It's not
wrong."
He is a partner with a destroyer.

Chapter 30

¹⁷"The eye that mocks at his father,
and scorns obedience to his mother:
the ravens of the valley shall pick it out,
the young eagles shall eat it.

Be Strict With Your Children – Use Discipline to Raise Them Well

Chapter 13

²⁴One who spares the rod hates his son,
but one who loves him is careful to discipline him.

Chapter 19

¹⁸Discipline your son, for there is hope;
don't be a willing party to his death.

Chapter 22

⁶Train up a child in the way he should go,
and when he is old he will not depart from it.

¹⁵Folly is bound up in the heart of a child:
the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Chapter 23

¹³Don't withhold correction from a child.
If you punish him with the rod, he will not die.

¹⁴Punish him with the rod,
and save his soul from Sheol.

Chapter 29

¹⁷Correct your son, and he will give you peace;
yes, he will bring delight to your soul.

Be a Good Wife – Proverbs That Describe a Good Wife

Chapter 12

⁴A worthy woman is the crown of her husband,
but a disgraceful wife is as rotteness in his bones.

Chapter 14

¹Every wise woman builds her house,
but the foolish one tears it down with her own hands.

Chapter 19

¹⁴House and riches are an inheritance from fathers,
but a prudent wife is from Yahweh.

Chapter 21

⁹It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop,
than to share a house with a contentious woman.

¹⁹It is better to dwell in a desert land,
than with a contentious and fretful woman.

Chapter 27

¹⁵A continual dropping on a rainy day
and a contentious wife are alike:

¹⁶restraining her is like restraining the wind,
or like grasping oil in his right hand.

Chapter 31

¹⁰Who can find a worthy woman?

For her price is far above rubies.²

¹¹The heart of her husband trusts in her.

He shall have no lack of gain.

¹²She does him good, and not harm,
all the days of her life.

¹³She seeks wool and flax,
and works eagerly with her hands.

¹⁴She is like the merchant ships.
She brings her bread from afar.

¹⁵She rises also while it is yet night,
gives food to her household,
and portions for her servant girls.

¹⁶She considers a field, and buys it.
With the fruit of her hands, she plants a vineyard.

¹⁷She girds her waist with strength,
and makes her arms strong.

¹⁸She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.
Her lamp doesn't go out by night.

¹⁹She lays her hands to the distaff,
and her hands hold the spindle.

²⁰She opens her arms to the poor;
yes, she extends her hands to the needy.

²¹She is not afraid of the snow for her household;
for all her household are clothed with scarlet.

²²She makes for herself carpets of tapestry.
Her clothing is fine linen and purple.

²³Her husband is respected in the gates,
when he sits among the elders of the land.

²⁴She makes linen garments and sells them,
and delivers sashes to the merchant.

²⁵Strength and dignity are her clothing.
She laughs at the time to come.

²⁶She opens her mouth with wisdom.
Faithful instruction is on her tongue.

²⁷She looks well to the ways of her household,
and doesn't eat the bread of idleness.

²⁸Her children rise up and call her blessed.
Her husband also praises her:

²⁹"Many women do noble things,
but you excel them all."

³⁰Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain;
but a woman who fears Yahweh, she shall be praised.

³¹Give her of the fruit of her hands!
Let her works praise her in the gates!

Be Faithful To Your Spouse – Teachings Against Adultery

Chapter 2

¹¹Discretion will watch over you.

Understanding will keep you,

¹²to deliver you from the way of evil,
from the men who speak perverse things;

¹³who forsake the paths of uprightness,
to walk in the ways of darkness;

¹⁴who rejoice to do evil,
and delight in the perverseness of evil;

¹⁵who are crooked in their ways,
and wayward in their paths:

¹⁶To deliver you from the strange woman,
even from the foreigner who flatters with her words;

¹⁷who forsakes the friend of her youth,
and forgets the covenant of her God:

¹⁸for her house leads down to death,
her paths to the dead.

¹⁹None who go to her return again,
neither do they attain to the paths of life:

Chapter 5

³For the lips of an adulteress drip honey.

Her mouth is smoother than oil,

⁴But in the end she is as bitter as wormwood,
and as sharp as a two-edged sword.

⁵Her feet go down to death.
Her steps lead straight to Sheol.

⁶She gives no thought to the way of life.
Her ways are crooked, and she doesn't know it.

⁷Now therefore, my sons, listen to me.

Don't depart from the words of my mouth.

⁸Remove your way far from her.

Don't come near the door of her house,

⁹lest you give your honor to others,
and your years to the cruel one;

¹⁸Let your spring be blessed.

Rejoice in the wife of your youth.

¹⁹A loving doe and a graceful deer—
let her breasts satisfy you at all times.

Be captivated always with her love.

²⁰For why should you, my son, be captivated with an
adulteress?

Why embrace the bosom of another?

²¹For the ways of man are before the eyes of Yahweh.
He examines all his paths.

²²The evil deeds of the wicked ensnare him.

The cords of his sin hold him firmly.

²³He will die for lack of instruction.

In the greatness of his folly, he will go astray.

²31:10 Proverbs 31:10-31 form an acrostic, with each verse starting with each letter of the Hebrew alphabet, in order.

Chapter 6

- ²³For the commandment is a lamp,
and the law is light.
Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,
²⁴to keep you from the immoral woman,
from the flattery of the wayward wife's tongue.
²⁵Don't lust after her beauty in your heart,
neither let her captivate you with her eyelids.
²⁶For a prostitute reduces you to a piece of bread.
The adulteress hunts for your precious life.
²⁷Can a man scoop fire into his lap,
and his clothes not be burned?
²⁸Or can one walk on hot coals,
and his feet not be scorched?
²⁹So is he who goes in to his neighbor's wife.
Whoever touches her will not be unpunished.

³²He who commits adultery with a woman is void of
understanding.
He who does it destroys his own soul.
³³He will get wounds and dishonor.
His reproach will not be wiped away.
³⁴For jealousy arouses the fury of the husband.
He won't spare in the day of vengeance.
³⁵He won't regard any ransom,
neither will he rest content, though you give many gifts.

Chapter 7

- ⁴Tell wisdom, "You are my sister."
Call understanding your relative,
⁵that they may keep you from the strange woman,
from the foreigner who flatters with her words.

²⁵Don't let your heart turn to her ways.
Don't go astray in her paths,
²⁶for she has thrown down many wounded.
Yes, all her slain are a mighty army.
²⁷Her house is the way to Sheol,
going down to the chambers of death.

Chapter 22

- ¹⁴The mouth of an adulteress is a deep pit:
he who is under Yahweh's wrath will fall into it.

Chapter 23

- ²⁷For a prostitute is a deep pit;
and a wayward wife is a narrow well.
²⁸Yes, she lies in wait like a robber,
and increases the unfaithful among men.

Don't Be Selfish – Teachings Against Greed and Envy

Chapter 11

- ²⁴There is one who scatters, and increases yet more.
There is one who withholds more than is appropriate,
but gains poverty.
²⁵The liberal soul shall be made fat.
He who waters shall be watered also himself.
²⁶People curse someone who withholds grain,
but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.

Chapter 14

- ³⁰The life of the body is a heart at peace,
but envy rots the bones.

Chapter 15

- ²⁷He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house,
but he who hates bribes will live.

Chapter 21

- ²⁶There are those who covet greedily all day long;
but the righteous give and don't withhold.

Chapter 22

- ¹A good name is more desirable than great riches,
and loving favor is better than silver and gold.

Don't Be Lazy – Teachings Against Laziness

Chapter 6

- ⁶Go to the ant, you sluggard.
Consider her ways, and be wise;
⁷which having no chief, overseer, or ruler,
⁸provides her bread in the summer,
and gathers her food in the harvest.
⁹How long will you sleep, sluggard?
When will you arise out of your sleep?
¹⁰A little sleep, a little slumber,
a little folding of the hands to sleep:
¹¹so your poverty will come as a robber,
and your scarcity as an armed man.

Chapter 10

- ⁴He becomes poor who works with a lazy hand,
but the hand of the diligent brings wealth.
⁵He who gathers in summer is a wise son,
but he who sleeps during the harvest is a son who
causes shame.

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

Chapter 12

¹¹He who tills his land shall have plenty of bread,
but he who chases fantasies is void of understanding.

¹⁴A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth.
The work of a man's hands shall be rewarded to him.

²⁴The hands of the diligent ones shall rule,
but laziness ends in slave labor.

Chapter 13

⁴The soul of the sluggard desires, and has nothing,
but the desire of the diligent shall be fully satisfied.

Chapter 15

¹⁹The way of the sluggard is like a thorn patch,
but the path of the upright is a highway.

Chapter 18

⁹One who is slack in his work
is brother to him who is a master of destruction.

Chapter 19

¹⁵Slothfulness casts into a deep sleep.
The idle soul shall suffer hunger.

Chapter 20

⁴The sluggard will not plow by reason of the winter;
therefore he shall beg in harvest, and have nothing.

¹³Don't love sleep, lest you come to poverty.
Open your eyes, and you shall be satisfied with bread.

Chapter 21

²⁵The desire of the sluggard kills him,
for his hands refuse to labor.

Chapter 28

¹⁹One who works his land will have an abundance of food;
but one who chases fantasies will have his fill of
poverty.

Don't Be Indulgent – Teachings Against Drunkenness, Gluttony and Excess

Chapter 20

¹Wine is a mocker, and beer is a brawler.
Whoever is led astray by them is not wise.

Chapter 21

¹⁷He who loves pleasure shall be a poor man.
He who loves wine and oil shall not be rich.

Chapter 23

²⁰Don't be among ones drinking too much wine,
or those who gorge themselves on meat:

²¹for the drunkard and the glutton shall become poor;
and drowsiness clothes them in rags.

²⁹Who has woe?
Who has sorrow?
Who has strife?
Who has complaints?
Who has needless bruises?
Who has bloodshot eyes?

³⁰Those who stay long at the wine;
those who go to seek out mixed wine.

³¹Don't look at the wine when it is red,
when it sparkles in the cup,
when it goes down smoothly.

³²In the end, it bites like a snake,
and poisons like a viper.

³³Your eyes will see strange things,
and your mind will imagine confusing things.

³⁴Yes, you will be as he who lies down in the midst of the
sea,

or as he who lies on top of the rigging:

³⁵"They hit me, and I was not hurt!
They beat me, and I don't feel it!
When will I wake up? I can do it again.
I can find another."

Chapter 25

¹⁶Have you found honey?
Eat as much as is sufficient for you,
lest you eat too much, and vomit it.

Don't Be Led Astray – Avoid Bad Influences

Chapter 1

- ¹⁰My son, if sinners entice you, don't consent.
¹¹If they say, "Come with us,
Let's lay in wait for blood;
let's lurk secretly for the innocent without cause;
¹²let's swallow them up alive like Sheol³,
and whole, like those who go down into the pit.
¹³We'll find all valuable wealth.
We'll fill our houses with spoil.
¹⁴You shall cast your lot among us.
We'll all have one purse."
¹⁵My son, don't walk in the way with them.
Keep your foot from their path,
¹⁶for their feet run to evil.
They hurry to shed blood.

Chapter 12

- ²⁶A righteous person is cautious in friendship,
but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

Chapter 13

- ²⁰One who walks with wise men grows wise,
but a companion of fools suffers harm.

Chapter 14

- ⁷Stay away from a foolish man,
for you won't find knowledge on his lips.

Chapter 16

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

Chapter 20

- ¹⁹He who goes about as a tale-bearer reveals secrets;
therefore don't keep company with him who opens wide
his lips.

Chapter 22

- ²⁴Don't befriend a hot-tempered man,
and don't associate with one who harbors anger:
²⁵lest you learn his ways,
and ensnare your soul.

Chapter 24

- ¹Don't be envious of evil men;
neither desire to be with them:
²for their hearts plot violence,
and their lips talk about mischief.

³1:12 Sheol is the place of the dead.

Salvation – The Purpose of Life

Righteousness, Wickedness and Justice – God Saves the Righteous and Condemns the Wicked

Chapter 2

⁷He lays up sound wisdom for the upright.
He is a shield to those who walk in integrity;
⁸that he may guard the paths of justice,
and preserve the way of his saints.

²⁰that you may walk in the way of good men,
and keep the paths of the righteous.
²¹For the upright will dwell in the land.
The perfect will remain in it.
²²But the wicked will be cut off from the land.
The treacherous will be rooted out of it.

Chapter 3

³¹Don't envy the man of violence.
Choose none of his ways.
³²For the perverse is an abomination to Yahweh,
but his friendship is with the upright.
³³Yahweh's curse is in the house of the wicked,
but he blesses the habitation of the righteous.

Chapter 4

¹⁸But the path of the righteous is like the dawning light,
that shines more and more until the perfect day.
¹⁹The way of the wicked is like darkness.
They don't know what they stumble over.
²⁴Put away from yourself a perverse mouth.
Put corrupt lips far from you.
²⁵Let your eyes look straight ahead.
Fix your gaze directly before you.
²⁶Make the path of your feet level.
Let all of your ways be established.
²⁷Don't turn to the right hand nor to the left.
Remove your foot from evil.

Chapter 6

¹⁶There are six things which Yahweh hates;
yes, seven which are an abomination to him:
¹⁷haughty eyes, a lying tongue,
hands that shed innocent blood;
¹⁸a heart that devises wicked schemes,
feet that are swift in running to mischief,
¹⁹a false witness who utters lies,
and he who sows discord among brothers.

Chapter 10

²Treasures of wickedness profit nothing,

but righteousness delivers from death.

⁶Blessings are on the head of the righteous,
but violence covers the mouth of the wicked.
⁷The memory of the righteous is blessed,
but the name of the wicked will rot.

⁹He who walks blamelessly walks surely,
but he who perverts his ways will be found out.

¹⁶The labor of the righteous leads to life.
The increase of the wicked leads to sin.

²⁰The tongue of the righteous is like choice silver.
The heart of the wicked is of little worth.

²⁴What the wicked fear, will overtake them,
but the desire of the righteous will be granted.
²⁵When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more;
but the righteous stand firm forever.

²⁸The prospect of the righteous is joy,
but the hope of the wicked will perish.
²⁹The way of Yahweh is a stronghold to the upright,
but it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity.

³¹The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom,
but the perverse tongue will be cut off.
³²The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable,
but the mouth of the wicked is perverse.

Chapter 11

³The integrity of the upright shall guide them,
but the perverseness of the treacherous shall destroy
them.
⁴Riches don't profit in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.
⁵The righteousness of the blameless will direct his way,
but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.
⁶The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them,
but the unfaithful will be trapped by evil desires.
⁷When a wicked man dies, hope perishes,
and expectation of power comes to nothing.
⁸A righteous person is delivered out of trouble,
and the wicked takes his place.
⁹With his mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor,
but the righteous will be delivered through knowledge.

¹⁸Wicked people earn deceitful wages,
but one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.
¹⁹He who is truly righteous gets life.
He who pursues evil gets death.
²⁰Those who are perverse in heart are an abomination to
Yahweh,
but those whose ways are blameless are his delight.
²¹Most certainly, the evil man will not be unpunished,
but the seed of the righteous will be delivered.

²³The desire of the righteous is only good.
The expectation of the wicked is wrath.

²⁷He who diligently seeks good seeks favor,
but he who searches after evil, it shall come to him.

²⁸He who trusts in his riches will fall,
but the righteous shall flourish as the green leaf.

³⁰The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life.
He who is wise wins souls.

Chapter 12

²A good man shall obtain favor from Yahweh,
but he will condemn a man of wicked devices.

⁵The thoughts of the righteous are just,
but the advice of the wicked is deceitful.

⁷The wicked are overthrown, and are no more,
but the house of the righteous shall stand.

²¹No mischief shall happen to the righteous,
but the wicked shall be filled with evil.

²²Lying lips are an abomination to Yahweh,
but those who do the truth are his delight.

²⁸In the way of righteousness is life;
in its path there is no death.

Chapter 13

⁶Righteousness guards the way of integrity,
but wickedness overthrows the sinner.

⁹The light of the righteous shines brightly,
but the lamp of the wicked is snuffed out.

²¹Misfortune pursues sinners,
but prosperity rewards the righteous.

²⁵The righteous one eats to the satisfying of his soul,
but the belly of the wicked goes hungry.

Chapter 14

¹¹The house of the wicked will be overthrown,
but the tent of the upright will flourish.

¹⁴The unfaithful will be repaid for his own ways;
likewise a good man will be rewarded for his ways.

³²The wicked is brought down in his calamity,
but in death, the righteous has a refuge.

³⁴Righteousness exalts a nation,
but sin is a disgrace to any people.

Chapter 15

³Yahweh's eyes are everywhere,
keeping watch on the evil and the good.

⁹The way of the wicked is an abomination to Yahweh,
but he loves him who follows after righteousness.

²⁸The heart of the righteous weighs answers,
but the mouth of the wicked gushes out evil.

²⁹Yahweh is far from the wicked,
but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Chapter 16

⁸Better is a little with righteousness,
than great revenues with injustice.

Chapter 17

¹⁵He who justifies the wicked, and he who condemns the
righteous,
both of them alike are an abomination to Yahweh.

Chapter 18

¹⁰The name of Yahweh is a strong tower:
the righteous run to him, and are safe.

Chapter 20

⁷A righteous man walks in integrity.
Blessed are his children after him.

Chapter 21

³To do righteousness and justice
is more acceptable to Yahweh than sacrifice.

¹⁵It is joy to the righteous to do justice;
but it is a destruction to the workers of iniquity.

Chapter 24

¹⁰If you falter in the time of trouble,
your strength is small.

¹¹Rescue those who are being led away to death!
Indeed, hold back those who are staggering to the
slaughter!

¹²If you say, "Behold, we didn't know this;"
doesn't he who weighs the hearts consider it?
He who keeps your soul, doesn't he know it?
Shall he not render to every man according to his
work?

¹⁵Don't lay in wait, wicked man, against the habitation of the
righteous.

Don't destroy his resting place:

¹⁶for a righteous man falls seven times, and rises up again;
but the wicked are overthrown by calamity.

Chapter 28

¹The wicked flee when no one pursues;
but the righteous are as bold as a lion.

⁵Evil men don't understand justice;
but those who seek Yahweh understand it fully.

⁹He who turns away his ear from hearing the law,
even his prayer is an abomination.

¹⁸Whoever walks blamelessly is kept safe;
but one with perverse ways will fall suddenly.

Repent; Be Sorry For Your Sins and Trust in God – God Has Mercy on Those Who Repent

Chapter 1

²²“How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?
How long will mockers delight themselves in mockery,
and fools hate knowledge?”

²³Turn at my reproof.
Behold, I will pour out my spirit on you.
I will make known my words to you.

²⁴Because I have called, and you have refused;
I have stretched out my hand, and no one has paid
attention;

²⁵but you have ignored all my counsel,
and wanted none of my reproof;

²⁶I also will laugh at your disaster.
I will mock when calamity overtakes you;

²⁷when calamity overtakes you like a storm,
when your disaster comes on like a whirlwind;
when distress and anguish come on you.

²⁸Then will they call on me, but I will not answer.
They will seek me diligently, but they will not find me;

²⁹because they hated knowledge,
and didn't choose the fear of Yahweh.

³⁰They wanted none of my counsel.
They despised all my reproof.

³¹Therefore they will eat of the fruit of their own way,
and be filled with their own schemes.

³²For the backsliding of the simple will kill them.
The careless ease of fools will destroy them.

³³But whoever listens to me will dwell securely,
and will be at ease, without fear of harm.”

Chapter 14

⁹Fools mock at making atonement for sins,
but among the upright there is good will.

Chapter 20

⁹Who can say, “I have made my heart pure.
I am clean and without sin?”

Chapter 28

¹³He who conceals his sins doesn't prosper,
but whoever confesses and renounces them finds
mercy.

Proverbs Chapter 8 – God's Word is Perfect Wisdom and Wisdom is Jesus Christ

¹Doesn't wisdom cry out?

Doesn't understanding raise her voice?

²On the top of high places by the way,
where the paths meet, she stands.

³Beside the gates, at the entry of the city,
at the entry doors, she cries aloud:

⁴“To you men, I call!

I send my voice to the sons of mankind.

⁵You simple, understand prudence.

You fools, be of an understanding heart.

⁶Hear, for I will speak excellent things.

The opening of my lips is for right things.

⁷For my mouth speaks truth.

Wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

⁸All the words of my mouth are in righteousness.

There is nothing crooked or perverse in them.

⁹They are all plain to him who understands,
right to those who find knowledge.

¹⁰Receive my instruction rather than silver;
knowledge rather than choice gold.

¹¹For wisdom is better than rubies.

All the things that may be desired can't be compared to
it.

¹²“I, wisdom, have made prudence my dwelling.

Find out knowledge and discretion.

¹³The fear of Yahweh is to hate evil.

I hate pride, arrogance, the evil way, and the perverse
mouth.

¹⁴Counsel and sound knowledge are mine.

I have understanding and power.

¹⁵By me kings reign,
and princes decree justice.

¹⁶By me princes rule;
nobles, and all the righteous rulers of the earth.

¹⁷I love those who love me.

Those who seek me diligently will find me.

¹⁸With me are riches, honor,
enduring wealth, and prosperity.

¹⁹My fruit is better than gold, yes, than fine gold;
my yield than choice silver.

²⁰I walk in the way of righteousness,
in the midst of the paths of justice;

²¹That I may give wealth to those who love me.
I fill their treasuries.

²²“Yahweh possessed me in the beginning of his work,
before his deeds of old.

²³I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning,
before the earth existed.

²⁴When there were no depths, I was brought forth,
when there were no springs abounding with water.

²⁵Before the mountains were settled in place,
before the hills, I was brought forth;

²⁶while as yet he had not made the earth, nor the fields,
nor the beginning of the dust of the world.

²⁷When he established the heavens, I was there;
when he set a circle on the surface of the deep,

²⁸when he established the clouds above,

when the springs of the deep became strong,
²⁹when he gave to the sea its boundary,
that the waters should not violate his commandment,
when he marked out the foundations of the earth;
³⁰then I was the craftsman by his side.
I was a delight day by day,
always rejoicing before him,
³¹Rejoicing in his whole world.
My delight was with the sons of men.
³²“Now therefore, my sons, listen to me,
for blessed are those who keep my ways.
³³Hear instruction, and be wise.
Don't refuse it.
³⁴Blessed is the man who hears me,
watching daily at my gates,
waiting at my door posts.
³⁵For whoever finds me, finds life,
and will obtain favor from Yahweh.
³⁶But he who sins against me wrongs his own soul.
All those who hate me love death.”

Final Words

In the book of Proverbs, God gives us His perfect guidance for how to live according to His Will. He also tells us in a clear and compelling manner why we should strive to live this way. The reason is **ETERNAL SALVATION!** The Lord loves us and He wants to save us by giving us the gift of eternal life in His presence. After our physical death and God's final judgment, we will continue to exist in an immortal state of being. This state of being can be one of eternal punishment and suffering in the midst of all that is evil or it can be one of pure joy and happiness in the presence of Almighty God. The path to eternal salvation is found in the Book of Proverbs and its flawless teachings!

The Proverbs specify that God saves the "Righteous" and He condemns the "Wicked". This teaching is a major problem for mankind since we know we are sinners and we all fall short of achieving total righteousness. If all people to some extent are "Wicked", how then can we ever hope to be saved? Fortunately, God provides us the answer to this dilemma in the Proverbs. According to His guidance, there is much we can do to seek God's grace and His gift of salvation; ***we must have faith in God, repent of our sins and strive to respect His Will.***

It is by faith that we have hope for salvation. Faith in God does not mean that we will live perfect lives as we are only imperfect people. Faith is acknowledgement of God and hope in His promises. Faith is also love of God and a sincere desire to seek Him and His perfect Wisdom. In seeking Him, He blesses us with increased knowledge of what is right and wrong and with an increased desire to do what is right. When we sin and do what we know is wrong, we can choose to repent of our sin and strive to be better. When there is true faith in God, we repent and strive to become better because of the love and respect we have for Him. It is true that salvation is a gift from God and we can never be "good enough" to deserve this gift based on our actions since we all are sinners. However, our actions are an inseparable part of our faith in God, and only God, who sees and knows all, will pass final judgment on us after this physical life ends. This perspective on faith describes how having faith is a life-long and life-changing interaction with God that builds and strengthens our relationship with Him. As our faith grows, God's grace continuously transforms us and this transformation is evident in how we act. If we love and honor God with sincere faith and a repentant heart, He promises to have mercy and grant us the gift of eternal salvation despite our sinful nature.

In the Introduction, it was stated that ***the words and teachings found in Proverbs contain absolute TRUTH that can only come from God Himself!*** For those of you that are not Christians, if you've read through this document with an open mind, God has undoubtedly touched you with His magnificent and powerful Wisdom. Please don't turn away from Him! Use your sense of reason and listen to God as He speaks to your intellect and your soul. From this day forward, trust your heart, have faith in God and follow Him!

For us Christians, the Book of Proverbs can help us understand that **Jesus Christ actually IS God's perfect Wisdom.** In Chapter 8 of Proverbs, God's perfect Wisdom speaks to us in a direct and personal manner. In this direct address, Wisdom reveals itself as the eternal Word of God. As Christians, we know that Jesus Christ is the Living Word of God; the expression of our Creator in words, teachings, actions and beliefs so that mankind can have knowledge and understanding of God and His Will. The Proverbs allow us to see that Jesus is even more than the God-man that came to Earth 2,000 years ago in human form. He is God's eternal Word and His perfect Will and He consists of all Truth, Wisdom and Righteousness. Christ has always existed as one of the three divine Persons of the Holy Trinity but He was first known to mankind as GOD's PERFECT WISDOM before He came down from heaven in human form. What an awesome and loving God! By coming to Earth as Jesus Christ, God has come to us in the most personal and loving way possible.

For all readers of this compilation, please use it to help increase your knowledge and understanding of God's Will and the purpose of your life. Remember to always seek Wisdom. The better you learn and remember God's teachings, the more you can glorify Him by living according to His Will, and the greater will be your ability to seek the gift of eternal life in the presence of Almighty God.

May the Lord bless you with Wisdom and Discernment!