PROVERBS 16

- **REVIEW…**
  - Wise Sayings - **Proverbs 10:1-22:16**
    - A collection of sayings - laid out as individual truths [verses]
      - Often the statements are NOT connected – there is not much context or organization…
    - So we will look at and interpret each PROVERB individually!
      - Hebrew Poetry…
        - Proverbs is a book of Hebrew POETRY - which does not rhyme WORDS but IDEAS…

- CONTRASTING ideas [but] - COMPARING ideas [as - like] - COMPLIMENTING ideas [and]
- We will see a lot of this style of RHYMING as we come into the SECOND section!

Growing in Wisdom…

- **1st – From the Lord… vs. 1-9**
  - 1st – Plan of God… vs. 1-3
    - Wants… vs. 1
      - Preparations of the heart belong to man - BUT the answer of the tongue is from the LORD!
      - A MAN [אָדָם] makes his plans based on what he WANTS [heart]
      - BUT [וְ] - only the LORD can SAY [tongue] if it is the RIGHT answer!
      - We know that the BEST answers come from the Lord…
      - The PROBLEM - is trying to figure out what the Lord wants us to do…
      - Too often people do what they WANT - and then SAY it is from God…
      - But following our HEART - is NOT the same as following the LORD!
      - **Jeremiah 17:9** - "The heart is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked."
    - Motives… vs. 2
      - All the ways of a man are pure in his own eyes - BUT the LORD weighs the spirits!
      - Whatever [כָּל] a MAN does seem RIGHT [pure] to him…
      - BUT [וְ] - the LORD is the one who WEIGHS the MOTIVE [רוּחַ]!
      - As a child I LOVED to hear others say that I was a GOOD boy…
      - Therefore I would do GOOD things - so they would say GOOD things about me…
      - What I did LOOKED good - but my MOTIVE was wrong!
      - We are ALWAYS going to think our CHOICES are the BEST…
      - The PROBLEM is - we are NOT good at discerning if our MOTIVES are good…
      - We can make SELFISH choices - but convince ourselves [and others] our motives are pure!
    - Command… vs. 3
      - Commit your works to the LORD - AND your thoughts will be established!
      - Therefore - COMMIT [imperative] – literally to ROLL [גָּלַל] the same WAY with the LORD…
      - AND [וְ] - He will put [niphal] His PLANS in our HEAD [thoughts]!
      - The SOLUTION to our WANTS and selfish MOTIVES - is to recognize our WICKED heart…
      - If we know we CANNOT trust ourselves - it causes us to come to the LORD…
      - When we chose to ROLL with Him - He will put His will in our heart!
      - **Psalm 37:4** - "Delight… in the LORD - and He shall give you the desires of your heart."
  - 2nd - Judgement of God… vs. 4-5
    - The LORD has made all for Himself - YES even the wicked for the day of doom.
    - Everyone proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD.
    - Though they join forces - none will go unpunished!
    - EVERYTHING [כָּל] the LORD has made - will one day ANSWER to Him [לַ/מַּעֲנֵה/הוּ]
    - [וְ] Including the WICKED - they also will have to answer in the Day of Judgment [רַע]

- In that day - EVERYONE [כָּל] who has a PROUD heart will be an ABOMINATION to God…
- Even if they are a MAJORITY [hold hands] - they will NOT [לֹא] avoid the [niphal] the JUDGMENT!
- EVERYONE [כָּל] will one day have to STAND before God - **Revelation 20:11**
- It does not matter WHO we are - or if we think we are RIGHT [pride]
- It does not matter if EVERYONE else agrees with us - **Romans 3:4**
- God will JUDGE all men - even if it ends up being the MAJORITY…
- And ONLY those who chose to LIVE for Him to the END - will be SAVED!
- **Matthew 24:13** - "He who endures to the end shall be saved."

o 3rd - Grace of God… vs. 6

- In mercy and truth atonement is provided for iniquity.
- [BUT] by the fear of the LORD one departs from evil!
- Our HOPE is the TRUTH [אֱמֶת] that God LOVES [חֶסֶד] us - so He made ATONEMENT for our SIN…
- ATONEMENT [כָּפַר] – the word means to COVER…
- Even today the word for hat in Hebrew – KIPPA – comes from the word [כָּפַר]
- BUT [וְ] - although God COVERS our SINS - that is NOT an excuse to keep SINNING…
- We should FEAR the LORD - and DEPART from our SINFUL ways!
- In light of his choices - it is interesting that Solomon wrote this…
- Because although he started well - he did NOT depart from evil…
- He made POOR choices [1000 wives] that took his heart from the LORD - **I Kings 11:4**
- So that in the end we cannot say if Solomon made it to heaven!
- Sin does not KEEP us out of heaven - because Jesus died to take away [כָּפַר] our SIN…
- But those who continue to LIVE in unrepentant SIN are taking a huge RISK…
- Every time we SIN - we have the CHOICE to repent or HARDEN our heart…
- Those who chose NOT to repent - are in danger of walking away from God - **Hebrews 3:12**
- Our eternity is too important - we need to FEAR the LORD and TURN!
- **Romans 6:1-2** - "Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not!"

o 4th - Peace from God… vs. 7

- When a mans ways please the LORD - He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him!

- When we are doing what is ACCEPTABLE to the LORD…
- He will MAKE [hiphil] even our ENEMIES - into FRIENDS [שָׁלַם]!
- What does God call us to do to those who are our ENEMIES…
- He commands [imperative] us to LOVE [ἀγαπάω] them - **Matthew 5:44**
- Because the people who HATE us - our NOT our really our enemies…
- They are our MISSION field - they are the ones we are called to reach with the Gospel…
- And when we give it to them - if they receive it - they become FRIENDS!

- 5th - Blessing in God… vs. 8
  - Better is a little with righteousness - than vast revenues without justice!
  - It is BETTER [טוֹב] to be POOR but GODLY [צַדִּיק] - than be RICH but UN [לֹא] GODLY [מִשְׁפָּט]!
  - Monetary wealth is VERY short lived - it only last on EARTH…
  - But TRUE wealth comes from the RICHES we get in HEAVEN!
  - **Matthew 6:19-20** - "Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth… but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven."
- 6th - Directed by God… vs. 9
  - A mans heart plans his way - But the LORD directs his steps!
  - Men [אָדָם] are always THINKING [piel] about which way they should GO…
  - BUT [וְ] - it is the LORD who is the one who causes [hiphil] them to walk the RIGHT path!

  - As we follow and serve the Lord – God does not tell us to turn our brains off…
  - It is true that God works all things out – but He had given us a mind as well…
  - There is a balance between having FAITH in God – but also using COMMON sense…
  - We are called to be WISE – make GOOD choices – but ultimately TRUST in the Lord!

- **2ND – FOR THE KING… VS. 10-15**
  - 1st – Discernment… vs. 10
    - Divination is on the lips of the king. His mouth must not transgress in judgment!
    - God gives the gift of DISCERNMENT to LEADERS [מֶלֶךְ] - **I Corinthians 12:10**
    - So that when they have to JUDGE others - they do NOT make a mistake!
    - People do not HEAR the Lord - but they do LISTEN to their LEADERS [מֶלֶךְ]
    - Therefore - LEADERS receive greater judgment because of their influence over others...

- That is why we should PRAY for our LEADERS – pray God gives them DISCERNMENT…
- Pray - because if they are NOT listening to God – they will be held accountable!
- **I Timothy 2:2** - "[Pray] for kings and all who are in authority."

- 2nd - Honesty… vs. 11-12
  - Honest weights and scales are the LORDS. All the weights in the bag are His work.
  - It is an abomination for kings to commit wickedness.
  - For a throne is established by righteousness!
  - The LORD wants LEADERS [מֶלֶךְ] to be HONEST…
  - They are NOT to use FALSE scales - weights that are meant to CHEAT others - **Proverbs 11:1**
  - Because it is an ABOMINATION for LEADERS to do EVIL [רֶשַׁע]
  - Instead they should BUILD their HOUSE [throne] by being GODLY [צַדִּיק]!
  - There are TOO many false teachers who use the PULPIT as a way to make MONEY…
  - They tell people God will BLESS them if they give MORE money…
  - They tell people it is their FAULT people are going to hell - because they do NOT give…
  - But the TRUTH is they are being DISHONEST - and taking advantage of the SHEEP!
  - Leaders are NOT to use their position to PROFIT off of others…
  - They are called to be an EXAMPLE to them on how to follow Jesus!
  - **I Corinthians 11:1** - "Follow me as I follow Christ!"
- 3rd - Good words… vs. 13
  - Righteous lips are the delight of kings - AND they love him who speaks what is right!
  - LEADERS [מֶלֶךְ] rejoice in the WORDS [lips] of those who are GODLY [צַדִּיק]
  - AND [וְ] - they LOVE [אָהַב] those who SAY things that are TRUE!
  - Over the years - though MANY jobs - and LOTS of different bosses…
  - I have seen TWO approaches people take when it comes to their WORK…
  - Some try to kiss up to the BOSS - tell them what they want to hear…
  - And While that might bring short term rewards - it does NOT last…
  - Those who have lasting success are GODLY - they DO and SAY what is RIGHT!
- 4th - Wrath… vs. 14-15
  - As messengers of death is the kings wrath - BUT a wise man will appease it.

- In the light of the kings face is life - AND his favor is like a cloud of the latter rain!
- When a KING [מֶלֶךְ] is ANGRY - He becomes the ANGEL of DEATH [מַלְאֲכֵי־מָוֶת] - **Exodus 12:12**
- BUT [וְ] - the wise man knows how to COVER [כָּפַר] the ANGER of the KING…
- So that rather than WRATH - the KING [מֶלֶךְ] will shine His LIGHT and give LIFE…
- Being accepted by Him - is like the RAINS that come in the SPRING [later]!
- WhenPharoah hardened his heart - God brought the TENTH plague on Egypt…
- The Death Angel killed the FIRST born in every house…
- But those who had the BLOOD of the Lamb COVERING [כָּפַר] their door were spared…
- They were set FREE from bondage - so they could come before God [Mount Sinai]
- Anyone who tries to STAND before the KING in their own merit - will experience WRATH…
- But those who are WISE - know how to COVER their SIN [Jesus]
- So that rather than His WRATH - they get to stand in His LIGHT…
- They are REFRESHED - like the new rain after a LONG hot summer!
- **I Peter 1:18-19** - "Knowing that we were… redeemed with the precious blood of Christ."

- **3RD - FOR EVERYONE… VS. 16-24**
  - 1st – Depart from Evil… vs. 16-17
    - How much better to get wisdom than gold!
    - And to get understanding is to be chosen rather than silver.
    - The highway of the upright is to depart from evil. He who keeps his way preserves his soul!
    - It is BETTER [טוֹב] to have WISDOM - than to have GOLD or SILVER…
    - Because those who have WISDOM know to take the HIGH way…
    - They will TURN away from EVIL - and SAVE their SOUL!
    - No amount of MONEY will ever be able to PAY our DEBT to God…
    - The ONLY hope we have to get to HEAVEN - is to take the HIGH road…
    - Therefore it is WISDOM to TURN from our SIN - and CHOOSE to live for Jesus!
    - **Proverbs 3:13-14** - "Happy is the man who finds wisdom…for her [reward is] better than the profits of silver and her gain than fine gold."
  - 2nd - Be Humble… vs. 18-19
    - Pride… vs. 18

- Pride goes before destruction - AND a haughty spirit before a fall.
- PRIDE [גָּאוֹן] is a devastating sin - it is what caused Lucifer to be DESTROYED - **Isaiah 14:11**
- DESTROYED [שָׁבַר] - comes from the root verb - to be BROKEN…
- Those who CHOSE to walk in PRIDE - will always be BROKEN…
- AND [וְ] - because they have an ARROGANT [high] spirit…
- They will FALL [כָּשַׁל] - from the root verb - to be weak legged and unable to stand!
- PRIDE that makes us ARROGANT - has a cumulative effect…
- It BREAKS us - to that we learn that we cannot STAND on our own…
- It cause us to be HUMBLE so that we can receive the Grace of God!

▪ Humility… vs. 19

- Better to be of a humble spirit with the lowly - than to divide the spoil with the proud!
- It is BETTER [טָוֹב] to be LOW in spirit - and be counted among the HUMBLE [עָנִי]
- Then to have to share the FATE [reward] of the PROUD…
- Because God RESISTS the PROUD - but pours out His grace on the HUMBLE - **I Peter 5:5**
- We like to put LABELS on things in our life - either GOOD or BAD…
- If we are given MONEY we think that is a GOOD thing - if we get SICK it is a BAD thing…
- But MONEY can take our eyes off Jesus - and SICKNESS can cause us to cry out to Him…
- Everything God does has ONE purpose - to HUMBLE us so we can receive His GRACE!
- We are not the source of STRENGTH – we do not have the POWER change our lives…
- It is when we are HUMBLED - and realize we NEED Jesus – that we find His GRACE…
- Then God gets a hold of our lives – He changes our heart – and we are TRANSFORMED!

○ 3rd - Trust the Lord… vs. 20

▪ He who heeds the word wisely will find good - AND whoever trusts in the LORD happy is he!

▪ Anyone who comes to the WORD - will be made [hiphil] WISE and find GOOD [טָוֹב]

▪ AND [וְ] - anyone who TRUSTS [בָּטַח] in the LORD will be HAPPY [אַשְׁרֵ]!

▪ There is only ONE way to get to know someone - talk to them…

▪ The more time we spend with them - the stronger our relationship becomes!

▪ **Romans 10:17** - "Faith comes by hearing - and hearing by the Word of God."

▪ There is only ONE way to get to KNOW the LORD - through His WORD…

▪ Therefore we are WISE to send time reading His WORD…

▪ Because GOOD things - a HAPPY life - only come from the LORD - **James 1:17**

○ 4th - Wise Heart… vs. 21-22

▪ The wise in heart will be called prudent - AND sweetness of the lips increases learning.

▪ Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it - BUT the correction of fools is folly!

▪ Jesus is the WISDOM of God - **I Corinthians 1:24**

▪ Those who have Jesus [wisdom] in their HEART - will be called [niphal] SMART…

▪ AND [וְ] - when they share [lips] that sweet WISDOM - is causes [hiphil] others to LEARN…

- Because for those who UNDERSTAND - who embrace Jesus - it brings LIFE…
- BUT [וְ] - it is POINTLESS [foolish] to try and discipline a FOOL!
- We might not be that SMART - average intelligence at best…
- Yet when we speak the WISDOM of God - people will thing we are a GENIUS…
- And we are called to share the sweet TRUTH - tell other Jesus came to give us LIFE…
- But NOT everyone will listen - because part of the message is the need to REPENT…
- The FOOL will REJECT our words - because they REFUSE to be corrected!

  - 5th - Sweet words… vs. 23-24
    - The heart of the wise teaches his mouth - AND adds learning to his lips.
    - Pleasant words are like a honeycomb - sweetness to the soul and health to the bones!
    - The person with a WISE heart [לֵב] - has [hiphil] to share who they KNOW…
    - They use their MOUTH to teach [hiphil] others about Jesus…
    - Those words are SWEETER than a honeycomb to the SOUL because they HEAL [רָפָא]!
    - I was in Israel a number of years ago - and the hotel had a breakfast buffet…
    - There was all manner of food - but one stood out - a HONEYCOMB…
    - I have never eaten anything so sweet - it was addicting!
    - The WORD of God is most amazing thing anyone could every HEAR…
    - And those who have His WORD in their hearts - LONG to share it…
    - Because only His WORD has the power to HEAL the broken hearts of SINNERS!
    - **Psalm 147:3** - "He heals the brokenhearted - and binds up their wounds."

- **4TH - Blessed Life… vs. 25-33**
  - 1st – Wrong Way… vs. 25
    - There is a way that seems right to a man - BUT its end is the way of death!
    - There is a WAY [דֶּרֶךְ] that looks RIGHT [יָשָׁר] to a man…
    - BUT [וְ] - the END of the ROAD leads to DEATH [hell]!
    - A number of years ago - before Google maps - we were driving in New Jersey…
    - We were following the signs to find our way home - CERTAIN we were going the RIGHT way…
    - But the SIGNS were WRONG - and we got REALLY LOST…

- BECAUSE The problem with picking a ROAD - is they are LONG so we cannot see the END…
- We have to TRUST the SIGNS that tell us where we are going!
- It turns out there are a LOT of WAYS that seem to be right…
- There are a LOT of religions - LOTS of ideas people give on how to have a GOOD life…
- And people can be CERTAIN they are going the RIGHT way - and still be VERY wrong…
- Because there is ONLY one way that leads to HEAVEN - **John 14:6**
- Every other way is the WRONG way - and ends in DEATH - **Matthew 7:13**

o 2nd - Selfish motive… vs. 26

- The person who labors - labors for himself for his hungry mouth drives him on!
- The person [נֶפֶשׁ] who WORKS - is motivated by the desire to fill his mouth [hunger]
- But this should NOT be what MOTIVATES us - because life is NOT just about food!

- God allowed Israel to wander in the WILDERNESS for FORTY years [go hungry]
- There He would provide MANA for them to eat every day…
- So that He could show them life was NOT about FOOD!
- **Deuteronomy 8:3** - "He humbled you - allowed you to hunger - and fed you with manna… that He might make you know that man shall not live by bread alone - but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the LORD."
- If all we WORK for is MONEY - so we can buy FOOD - we live a EMPTY life…
- Ture life comes when we realize that we are called to WORK for the LORD!

o 3rd - Gossip… vs. 27-28

- An ungodly man digs up evil - AND it is on his lips like a burning fire.
- A perverse man sows strife - AND a whisperer separates the best of friends!
- The UNGODLY man [בְּלִיַּעַל] - to be worthless…
- Is the one who DIGS up evil [רַע] - and once he find it he MUST tell others [burning lips]
- His GOSSIP will cause [piel] DIVISION - his WISPER will divide [hiphil] FRIENDS!
- We might NOT think GOSSIP rates very high on the SIN list…
- It might get an honorable mention - but it is not on the same level as the BIG sins…
- Yet PAUL tells us - Jesus will have no PART with BELIAL [בְּלִיַּעַל] - **II Corinthians 6:15**

- And he would also say that GOSSIPS will not go to HEAVEN - **I Corinthians 6:10**
- When people GOSSIP they sow seeds of DIVISION within the church…
- Rumors that can TEAR the church apart - do lasting damage…
- And God does NOT take it lightly when people HARM His kids - **Luke 17:2**

- 4th - Not good… vs. 29-30
  - A violent man entices his neighbor - AND leads him in a way that is not good.
  - He winks his eye to devise perverse things. He purses his lips and brings about evil!
  - The VIOLENT [חָמָס] - to desire to DESTROY others…
  - Therefore he deceives [piel] his friend to go the WRONG way [לֹא־טוֹב]
  - He DECEIVES by CLOSING his eyes - so he does NOT think [evil] about where he is going…
  - And he SHUTS his mouth - and will NOT warn his friend EVIL l [רַע] is coming!
  - Did you ever wonder WHY satan wants to DESTROY our lives…
  - He made the CHOICE to rebel against the LORD - but why does he want us to follow him…
  - Because he is VIOLENT - and he wants to take others down with him!
  - It is the WORST kind of SIN - to deceive others to walk AWAY from the LORD…
  - It is BAD to reject the ONLY way to heaven - but it is EVIL to keep others from the WAY!
  - **Matthew 23:13** - "Woe unto you… for you shut the door of the Kingdom of Heaven in peoples faces. You will not go in yourselves and you do not let others enter either." [NLT]
- 5th - Silver hair… vs. 31
  - The silver-haired head is a crown of glory - if it is found in the way of righteousness!
  - Those who are OLD - silver hair [no hair] - have a CROWN of GLORY…
  - Because they have FOUND [niphal] the way of RIGHTEOUSNESS [צַדִּיק]!
  - It is a BLESSING when people come to Jesus at a YOUNG age…
  - But often it takes PAINFUL lessons - learned over the YEARS - to be broken…
  - Old saints have LEARNED the hard way - through years of many BAD choices…
  - Therefore we should LISWe TEN to those with a GREY crown…
  - Because if we do - we might get to avoid some of their HARD lessons!
- 6th - Slow to Anger… vs. 32
  - He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty -

- AND he who rules his spirit than he who takes a city!
- It is BETTER [טוֹב] to PATIENT - than to be POWERFUL…
- It is BETTER to have SELF control [רוּחַ] - than to conquer a CITY!
- We were talking to a nephew - about the need to SAVE money…
- Because the moment he gets even a LITTLE - he spends it…
- He ends up buying JUNK - because he does NOT have much to spend…
- But if he would use SELF control - he could buy NICE things!
- The WORLD says those who have POWER can control others…
- But the WORD says better to have PATIENCE - so we can control ourselves!

- 7th - Not random… vs. 33
  - The lot is cast into the lap - BUT its every decision is from the LORD!
  - Things seem to happen at RANDOM [dice cast into our lap]
  - BUT [וְ] - there are NO accidents with the LORD…
  - EVERYTHING [כָּל] that happens - does so according to His PLAN [מִשְׁפָּטוֹ]!
  - We may NOT like our LOT in life - we might want something BETTER…
  - But part of WALKING with the LORD - is TRUSTING in His PLAN…
  - He sees EVERYTHING - and knows what is BEST for our lives…
  - And that means that EVERYTHING He allows - is for our GOOD!