PROVERBS 15

- **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!

Seeking Wisdom…

- **1st – Wise Words… vs. 1-7**
  - 1st – Wise Answers… vs. 1-2
    - A soft answer turns away wrath - BUT a harsh word stirs up anger.
    - The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly - BUT the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness!
    - This is a simple verse that we would be wise to REMEMBER every day…
    - When we give a GENTLE answer to others - it CAUSES [hiphil] them to turn from their ANGER…
    - BUT [וְ] - when we respond with HURTFUL words - it CAUSES [hiphil] them to get UPSET…
    - Therefore - the TONGUE of the WISE knows to be CAREFUL with what they say…
    - BUT [וְ] - the MOUTH of the FOOL overflows with their FOOLISHNESS!
    - Just because something is in our HEADS - does NOT mean it needs to come out our MOUTH…
    - In the MOMENT we often are full of EMOTION - and need to COOL down before we speak…
    - Because if we let HURTFUL words come out - they WILL do DAMAGE…
    - But if we respond instead in LOVE - then we will bring HEALING!
    - **Ephesians 4:29** - "Let everything [we] say be good and helpful - so that our words will be an encouragement to those who hear them." [NLT]
  - 2nd - Wise Actions… vs. 3
    - The eyes of the LORD are in every place - Keeping watch on the evil and the good!
    - The LORD sees EVERYTHING [כֹּל] - He sees both the EVIL and the GOOD [טוֹב]!
    - All things are NAKED and OPEN to the eyes of God – **Hebrews 4:13**
    - Why should we be careful what we SAY - not REACT in ANGER…
    - Because God is watching us - to see if we will do GOOD or EVIL!
    - We may THINK that we can get away with HARSH remarks…
    - We can every justify it by saying that is just us - it is our personality…
    - But God KNOWS everything we do – EVERYTHING we say - **Matthew 12:36**
    - And we will one day have to give an account for our WORDS…
    - Therefore we are WISE to ask the LORD to tame our TONGUE

- **Psalm 141:3** – "Take control of what I say - O LORD - and guard my lips." [NLT]

- 3rd - Wise Words… vs. 4
  - A wholesome tongue is a tree of life - BUT perverseness in it breaks the spirit!
  - A HEALING [רָפָא] tongue - is like the TREE of LIFE!
  - The Tree of Life was lost to man when Adam and Eve sinned - **Genesis 3:22**
  - But when we get to the New Jerusalem - we will have access to the Tree again!
  - **Revelation 22:2** - "The leaves of the tree [are] for the healing of the nations!"
  - When we use our WORDS the way God intended - to encourage people…
  - We are LIKE the Tree of Life - we bring HEALING to them!
  - BUT [וְ] - the one who TWISTS their words - in them is a broken SPIRIT!
  - If we buy a TOOL - we expect it to act a certain way…
  - If it does NOT - then we consider it BROKEN - because it is not working properly!
  - God gave us a mouth so that we could use it to BLESS others…
  - But when someone instead uses their WORDS to HARM…
  - It is the evidence that something is WRONG - it shows they are BROKEN!
  - **I John 4:20-21** – "If someone says I love God - but hates his brother - he is a liar. For he who does not love his brother whom he has seen - how can he love God whom he has not seen? And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also."
- 4th - Wise Instruction… vs. 5
  - A fool despises his fathers instruction - BUT he who receives correction is prudent!
  - The person who does NOT use his words well needs to be CORRECTED…
  - Yet the FOOL will not LISTEN - he IGNORES [imperfect] the instruction of his Father…
  - BUT [וְ] - the WISE will always RECEIVE [imperfect] correction!
  - Too often we REPEAT the same MISTAKES over and over…
  - We use our WORDS in ANGER - and once things calm down we are SORRY for what we said…
  - BUT the next time we get UPSET - we do it AGAIN…
  - Our Father in heaven is PATIENT - He will REPEAT a lesson as many times as needed…
  - But it is WISDOM for us to LEARN - be CORRECTED - so we can change!
- 5th - Wise Wealth… vs. 6

- In the house of the righteous there is much treasure - BUT the revenue of the wicked is trouble!
- In the HOME of the RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק] is a LOT [רַב] of RICHES…
- BUT [וְ] - in the HOME of the WICKED there is only increasing TROUBLE!
- Elon Musk - the richest man in the world - has ELEVEN kids with THREE women…
- Jeff Bezos [Amazon] - divorced his wife of SIXTEEN years…
- Bill Gates [Microsoft] - divorced his wife of almost THIRTY years!
- There is more than one way to measure WEALTH…
- People can have a LOT of money - but be POOR in peace and joy…
- Whereas people might not have much MONEY - but be full of friendships and family!

  - 6th - Wise Message… vs. 7
    - The lips of the wise disperse knowledge - BUT the heart of the fool does not do so!
    - The WORDS [lips] of the WISE disperse KNOWLEDGE to all who are around them…
    - BUT [וְ] - the HEART of the FOOL has nothing to GIVE!
    - The wise man KNOWS to be GENTLE in his answers - because the LORD is watching…
    - He uses his words to HEAL - and is willing to be CORRECTED when he is wrong…
    - He is a man who has TRUE wealth - his house is full of PEACE and JOY…
    - And he SHARES these WISE words with all who are around him…
    - BUT FOOLS have nothing to give - because their hearts [and home] are EMPTY…
    - Except perhaps to serve as a WARNING - do NOT follow their example!
    - **Romans 16:17** - "[Avoid] people who cause divisions and upset people… Stay away from them!"

- **2ND – WISE WAY… VS. 8-19**
  - 1st – Way of Wisdom… vs. 8-9
    - The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD…
    - BUT the prayer of the upright is His delight.
    - The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD…
    - BUT He loves him who follows righteousness!
    - The LORD does NOT accept the SACRIFICES of the WICKED…
    - Because He does NOT approve [abomination] of the WAY of the WICKED…

- BUT [וְ] - the LORD will always LISTENS [accepts] the PRAYERS of the RIGHT [יָשָׁר]
- Because He LOVES those who walk the WAY of RIGHTEOUSNESS [צַדִּיק]!
- God commanded King Saul to destroy all of the Amalekites - even their animals…
- But Saul did NOT obey the Lord - he spared the BEST of the sheep [valuable]
- He justified that he could offer them as a SACRIFICE to the LORD!
- **I Samuel 15:22** - "Behold - to obey is better than sacrifice."
- It is easy to JUSTIFY our choices in life - we can put a CHRISTIAN veneer on them…
- People give LARGE gifts [sacrifices] to God - to try and make themselves LOOK good…
- But God does not LOOK at the outside - He looks at our HEART…
- And God will NOT accept the SACRIFICES of those whose hearts are far from Him…
- But God will always LISTEN to and LOVE those who FOLLOW Him!
- **I Peter 3:12** - "The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous - His ears are open to their prayers."

o 2nd - Way of Correction… vs. 10-12

- Way of Death… vs. 10
  - Harsh discipline is for him who forsakes the way - he who hates correction will die.
  - God will PUNISH evil people who LEAVE the way of the LORD…
  - Sadly - those who HATE that CORRECTION will end up in HELL [death]!
  - SIN has consequences - those who REJECT the way of the LORD will be punished…
  - But God does NOT punish people because He is ANGRY with them…
  - He is trying to save them from HELL - turn them back to the WAY of life!
  - **Galatians 6:7** – "God is not mocked. Whatever a man sows that he will also reap."
- Way of Hell… vs. 11
  - Hell and Destruction are before the LORD. How much more the hearts of the sons of men!
  - God sees EVERYTHING - even those who have DIED [שְׁאוֹל] - those in the Lake of Fire [אֲבַדּוֹן]
  - DESTRUCTION [אֲבַדּוֹן] is the name used in Revelation to describe satan - **Revelation 9:11**
  - Therefore - God certainly KNOWS what is in the HEARTS of the sons of ADAM [אָדָם]
  - God SEES what is waiting for those who REJECT the way of LIFE [death and Hell]
  - He created the Lake of Fire as final PRISON of satan and his angels - **Matthew 25:41**
  - And the last thing He wants is for ANY person to end up there…
  - Therefore knowing what is in the heart of MEN - it tries to get them to TURN!
- No love… vs. 12
  - A scoffer does not love one who corrects him - nor will he go to the wise!
  - BUT - the PROUD will NOT love the LORD - because He CORRECTS them…
  - And they will AVOID wise men who do come to the LORD!
  - Sadly people STUBBORNLY insist on walking down the BROAD road - **Matthew 7:13**
  - They do NOT see their consequences as the GRACE of God trying to SAVE them…
  - So they refuse to LOVE the LORD - and avoid anyone who reminds them of Him!

- 3rd - Way of Joy… vs. 13-15
  - Broken heart… vs. 13
    - A merry heart makes one cheerful - BUT by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken!
    - It is true that a HEART that is filled with JOY puts [hiphil] a SMILE on our face…
    - BUT [וְ] - a HEART that has been HURT will break [hiphil] our SPIRIT [רוּחַ]
    - We might think it is BETTER to have a heart filled with JOY…
    - But often what is NEEDED is to be HURT - so we can be BROKEN…
    - God allows the HARDSHIPS in life so that - if we will listen - He can HUMBLE us!
  - Wise heart… vs. 14
    - The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge.
    - BUT the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness!
    - The WISE heart understands that being BROKEN is a GIFT…
    - They KNOW [niphal] God is trying to get their attention - and SEEK answers from Him…
    - BUT [וְ] - the FOOL ignores the warning and instead continues on in their FOOLISH ways!
    - Jeroboam was the FIRST king of the NORTHERN kingdom - but he was WICKED…
    - He set up the golden CALVES that led Israel away from the LORD…
    - When he was confronted by a MAN of God - he tried to ARREST him!
    - **I Kings 13:4** - "Then his hand - which he stretched out toward him - withered!"
    - I was asked the other day what to do for someone who was HARDENED to God…
    - The answer is simple - PRAY that God gets them - BREAKS them no matter what it takes…
    - Let the LORD fight for them - and try and HUMBLE them…
    - Because the HOPE is that they chose HUMILITY - so they can receive GRACE - **James 4:6**
  - Happy Heart… vs. 15
    - All the days of the afflicted are evil - BUT he who is of a merry heart has a continual feast!
    - While it is TRUE it is NOT fun [evil] to be HUMBLED [עָנִי]
    - BUT [וְ] - once God does a work and make our heart GOOD [וְטוֹב־לֵב]
    - It means we get to come to the EVERLASTING feast of the LORD!
    - **Revelation 19:9** - "[Happy] are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!"
    - If we ask HOW long do we have to go through TRIALS…
    - The answers is a MAXIMUM of SEVENTY to EIGHTY years [not long]
    - But know that what comes in the END - make the HARD days worth it…
    - God is working on our lives desiring to make us GODLY…
    - And the result in the END - is that we will have ETERNAL Joy!
    - **Hebrews 12:11** - "No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening it is painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way." [NLT]
- 4th - Simple Way… vs. 16-17
  - Better is a little with the fear of the LORD - than great treasure with trouble.
  - Better is a dinner of herbs where love is - than a fatted calf with hatred!
  - It is BETTER [טָוֹב] - to have a LITTLE and FEAR the LORD…
  - Rather than to have a LOT [רַב] - but end up with a life of CHAOS…
  - It is BETTER [טָוֹב] - to eat a SALAD for dinner surrounded by those who LOVE us…

- Rather than have LECHON [fatten ox] for dinner surrounded by those who HATE us!
- The question becomes what do we WANT most from LIFE…
- If we seek MONEY and THINGS - we may get them - but at what COST…
- If it means our life becomes CHAOTIC - and people HATE us - is it worth it…
- In contrast if we seek GOD - even if that means we are NOT rich…
- Knowing Him and being surrounded by those who LOVE Him - is a BETTER life!
- **Mark 8:36** - "What will it profit a man if he gains the whole world - and loses his own soul."

  - 5th - Way of Peace… vs. 18
    - A wrathful man stirs up strife - BUT he who is slow to anger allays contention!
    - The man who gets ANGRY - will cause [piel] LOTS of problems…
    - BUT [וְ] - the man who is SLOW to react - will bring [hiphil] PEACE!
    - There is WISDOM is holding back ANGRY words…
    - Give it a few moments - wait TEN minutes - before responding…
    - Because once the EMOTIONS of the moment passes - we can think CLEARLY!
  - 6th - The High Way… vs. 19
    - The way of the lazy man is like a hedge of thorns - BUT the way of the upright is a highway!
    - The WAY of the LAZY man always seems to be HARD…
    - They have EXCUSES [thorns] that always seem to keep them from SUCCESS…
    - BUT [וְ] - the man who follows the LORD walks down a HIGHWAY…
    - There is NOTHING in his way - and it is EASY for him to get things done!
    - It is easier to travel down a HIGHWAY - then to go OFFROAD up a mountain…
    - Yet the ease of the path we are on - depends on who we are following…
    - The LAZY man is chasing after the world - and has a HARD path…
    - BUT the GODLY man is following the LORD - who cleared the path for him!

- **3RD - WISE TRUTH… VS. 20-27**
  - 1st – Walking in Truth… vs. 20-21
    - A wise son makes a father glad - BUT a foolish man despises his mother.
    - Folly is joy to him who is destitute of discernment.
    - BUT a man of understanding walks uprightly!

- The WISE son is a JOY to his Father - he makes GOOD choices…
- Because he is a MAN who UNDERSTANDS [בִּין] life is about walking [piel] with God…
- BUT [וְ] - the FOOLISH man [אָדָם] - does NOT even think about his Mother…
- Because he has no HEART for God - therefore he ENJOYS [שִׂמְחָה] being FOOLISH!
- Every parent wants their CHILD to be successful - to have a GOOD life...
- We give them the best education we possibly can - teach them to work hard...
- But so often we miss the key ingredient - teach them to KNOW Jesus...
- The TRUTH is the only way our kids will be successful - is for them to WALK with Christ!

o 2nd - Asking for Truth… vs. 22

- Without counsel plans go awry - BUT in the multitude of counselors they are established!
- When we do NOT [אֵין] seek Godly counsel [singular] - our ideas will FAIL [hiphil]
- BUT [וְ] - when we ask for LOTS of Godly advice - our plans will STAND!
- When PAUL was looking for where to go on his SECOND missionary journey…
- He hit LOTS of walls - he was NOT allowed into Bithynia or Asia…
- But then he had a dream from of a MAN from MACEDONIA [Greece]
- He shared it with the Godly men with him - and they decided it was from the Lord - **Acts 16:10**
- Too often we make a CHOICE - then afterwards ask God if it was the right one…
- The TRUTH is we need to ask for His COUNSEL before we make our decisions…
- And if we are NOT sure if we are hearing from the LORD…
- Then WISDOM says to confirm it with other GODLY people around us!

o 3rd - Answer from Truth… vs. 23-24

- A man has joy by the answer of his mouth - AND word spoken in due season how good it is.
- The way of life winds upward for the wise - that he may turn away from hell below!
- There is JOY when we give the RIGHT answer…
- A word that is SPOKEN at the RIGHT moment is very GOOD [טוֹב]
- But what is the QUESTION that we are giving the RIGHT answer to…
- To CHOSE the WAY of LIFE that leads us UP and makes us [hiphil] wise…
- So that we TURN from our SIN - and from HELL [שְׁאוֹל] below!

- The TRUTH is our salvation is as simple as a CONFESSION of Jesus - **Romans 10:9**
- When is the RIGHT time to make our CONFESSION - right now is GOOD…
- So that we can saved from HELL - and be lifted up to HEAVEN!
- **II Corinthians 6:2** - "Now is the accepted time. Behold now is the day of salvation."

- 4th - Humility in Truth… vs. 25-26
  - The LORD will destroy the house of the proud - BUT will establish the boundary of the widow.
  - The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD…
  - But the words of the pure are pleasant!
  - The LORD will always [imperfect] tear down the house of the PROUD…
  - Because even the THOUGHTS of the EVIL [רָע] are an ABOMINATION to Him…
  - BUT [וְ] - the LORD will protect [hiphil] the PROPERTY of the humble WIDOW…
  - Because PURE are the words of those who are KIND!
  - PRIDE was the original sin – PRIDE was the SIN of satan…
  - Satan rebelled against God - believing that he was equal with God - **Isaiah 14:12-14**
  - The TRUTH is PRIDE is dangerous - it will destroy us [as it did satan]
  - Better to be HUMBLE - like a lowly WIDOW - who is PURE and KIND…
  - Because God RESISTS the PROUD - but give GRACE to the HUMBLE - **I Peter 5:5**
- 5th - Bribes hide Truth… vs. 27
  - He who is greedy for gain troubles his own house - BUT he who hates bribes will live!
  - The person who is GREEDY for MONEY - will only bring TROUBLE to his house…
  - BUT [וְ] - the one who HATES gifts [bribes] will find LIFE!
  - Paul was held in PRISON for TWO years by the governor - **Acts 24:26**
  - Flix was hoping Paul would BRIBE him so that he would let him go…
  - But Paul refused to give him a GIFT - instead choosing to TRUST in the LORD!
  - The TRUTH is - the end NEVER justifies the means - we are NOT to give BRIBES…
  - The problem is we are trusting in ourselves to get things done – NOT in the Lord…
  - It is just as important HOW we get there – as WHERE we are going!
  - **Exodus 23:8** - "Take no bribes… A bribe makes even a righteous person twist the truth." [NLT]

- **4TH - WISE LIFE… vs. 28-33**
  - 1st – Speaking Wisdom… vs. 28
    - Heart of the righteous studies how to answer - BUT the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil!
    - The HEART of the RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק] desires to constantly [imperfect] LEARN…
    - BUT [וְ] - the only thing that comes out [hiphil] of the mouth of the WICKED is EVIL!
    - How do we LEARN how to tell people about Jesus…
    - The answer is not complex - WISDOM comes from STUDYING the Bible…
    - The catch is we will NEVER be able to LEARN everything - we will always be GROWING!
    - **II Timothy 2:15 -** "Study to shew yourself approved unto God - a workman that needs not to be ashamed - rightly dividing the word of truth."
  - 2nd - Hearing Wisdom… vs. 29
    - The LORD is far from the wicked - BUT He hears the prayer of the righteous!
    - The LORD stays far away from the WICKED - but will always HEAR the RIGHTEOUS [צַדִּיק]!
    - Jesus died for our SINS so that we could be RIGHTEOUS…
    - But unrepentant SIN will keep the Lord from hearing us – leaves prayers unanswered…
    - Our prayers hit the ceiling of our sin - and we end up talking to ourselves…
    - But the moment we repent – turn back to Jesus – we will find He is eager to listen!
    - **Psalm 66:18** – "If I had… sin in my heart - my Lord would not have listened."
  - 3rd - Seeing Wisdom… vs. 30
    - The light of the eyes rejoices the heart - AND a good report makes the bones healthy!
    - When our EYES see the LIGHT [Jesus] - it makes our HEART happy [piel]
    - And hearing the GOOD [טוֹב] report allow us to stand [stand] STRONG!
    - The ONLY thing that matter in this life - is knowing one day we will SEE Jesus…
    - And on that day we will HEAR the most important of all WORDS!
    - **Matthew 25:21 -** "Well done good and faithful servant… Enter into the joy of your lord!"
  - 4th - Receiving Wisdom… vs. 31-32
    - The ear that hears the rebukes of life will abide among the wise.
    - He who disdains instruction despises his own soul…
    - BUT he who heeds rebuke gets understanding!
    - The one who LISTENS to CORRECTION - will be at HOME among the WISE…

- And because he is willing to be REBUKED - he will get a new HEART [לֵב]
- BUT [וְ] - the one who REJECTS correction - HATES his own soul!
- There is a tendency in our culture – to avoid confrontation…
- If someone does something wrong – the accepted response it to IGNORE it…
- We can even EXCUSE it and say – God will deal with it – we do NOT need to!
- Ignoring SIN – is NOT the solution for SIN – we are CALLED to HELP…
- When we see a brother or sister caught up in the world – not living for Jesus…
- It is our responsibility to come alongside them to see if we can CONFRONT them…
- If they want to continue in SIN - we pray God CONVICTS them…
- If they are overwhelmed by their SIN – we can help to carry their burden!
- **Galatians 6:1-2** – "If a man is overtaken in any trespass - you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness… Bear one another burdens - and so fulfill the law of Christ."

- 5th - Fear is Wisdom… vs. 33
  - The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom - [but] before honor is humility!
  - It is WISE to FEAR of the LORD - because we KNOW that He will CORRECT us…
  - BUT [וְ] - before we can receive HONOR [כָּבוֹד] - we must be HUMBLED [עָנָו]
  - We are all going to make mistakes - we are SINNERS…
  - But the Lord is faithful to CORRECT us - give us His WISDOM…
  - Because in order for us to get to HEAVEN [כָּבוֹד] - we need to be HUMBLED…
  - So we can see that that the WAY - TRUTH - and LIFE - all point us to Jesus!
  - **John 14:6** - "I am the way - the truth - and the life."