

Proverbs 11 - The Value of Righteousness

III. Solomon's Proverbs (Prov 10:1—22:16)

(1) Contrast between the wise righteous and the wicked foolish (Prov 10:1—15:33)

(C) Contrast between the wicked and the upright (Prov 11:1— 12:28)

(a) Honesty in business (11:1-3)

(b) Adversity (11:4-8)

(c) Societal relationships (11:9-15)

(d) Rewards (11:16-31)

Proverbs 11

(C) Contrast between the wicked and the upright (Prov 11:1— 12:28)

(a) Honesty in business (11:1-3)

1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.

1 A false balance is an abomination to the LORD, But a just weight is His delight.

1 The LORD hates false scales, but he delights in accurate weights.

1 A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight.

2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor; But with the humble there is wisdom.

2 When pride comes, then comes dishonor, But with the humble is wisdom.

2 When pride appears, disgrace accompanies it, but humility is present with wisdom.

2 When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

3 The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the perversity of the treacherous will destroy them.

3 The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them.

3 The integrity of the righteous guides them, but the hypocrisy of the treacherous destroys them.

3 The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.

(b) Adversity (11:4-8)

4 Riches do not benefit on the day of wrath, But righteousness rescues from death.

4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, But righteousness delivers from death.

4 Wealth won't help in the time of judgment, but righteousness will deliver from death.

4 Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivers from death.

5 The righteousness of the blameless will smooth his way, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

5 The righteousness of the blameless will smooth his way, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

5 The righteousness of the innocent creates a level path, but the wicked fall by their wickedness.

5 The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness.

6 The righteousness of the upright will rescue them, But the treacherous will be caught by *their own* greed.

6 The righteousness of the upright will deliver them, But the treacherous will be caught by *their own* greed.

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are trapped by their evil desires.

6 The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.

7 When a wicked person dies, *his* expectation will perish, And the hope of strong people perishes.

7 When a wicked man dies, *his* expectation will perish, And the hope of strong men perishes.

7 When a wicked person dies, his hope vanishes; and what he expected from his scheming comes to nothing.

7 When a wicked man dies, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perishes.

8 The righteous is rescued from trouble, But the wicked takes his place.

8 The righteous is delivered from trouble, But the wicked takes his place.

8 The righteous person is delivered from trouble; it comes upon the wicked instead.

8 The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked comes in his stead.

(c) Societal relationships (11:9-15)

9 With *his* mouth the godless person destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be rescued.

9 With *his* mouth the godless man destroys his neighbor, But through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

9 By what he says, the godless person can destroy his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape.

9 An hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered.

10 When things go well for the righteous, the city rejoices, And when the wicked perish, there is joyful shouting.

10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, And when the wicked perish, there is joyful shouting.

10 The city rejoices when the righteous prosper, and when the wicked perish there is jubilation.

10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting.

Why should the community rejoice in the prosperity of the righteous? Because both the way a righteous man gains his wealth and the way he uses it benefits society. The righteous businessman employs others, supports schools and government with his taxes and, in the OT tradition, shares generously.

Selling a product for no profit should be a crime. Why? Because I won't stay in business. It's a crime against my customers, because I won't be there when they come back for more. It's a crime against my suppliers, who need orders to stay in business. It's a crime against my investors, who invested in my business, but aren't getting a proper/fair return. It's a crime against my employees, because they will be without a job. If you don't sell a product at a profit, you're destroying value...the value that all of the above have put into the product.

11 By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, But by the mouth of the wicked, it is torn down.

11 By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, But by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down.

11 Through the blessing of the righteous a city is built up, but what the wicked say tears it down.

11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

12 One who despises his neighbor lacks sense, But a person of understanding keeps silent.

12 He who despises his neighbor lacks sense, But a man of understanding keeps silent.

12 Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but the discerning man controls his comments.

12 He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holds his peace.

13 One who goes about as a slanderer reveals secrets, But one who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

13 He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, But he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.

13 Whoever spreads gossip betrays secrets, but the trustworthy person keeps a confidence.

13 A talebearer reveals secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit conceals the matter.

14 Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in an abundance of counselors there is victory.

14 Where there is no guidance the people fall, But in abundance of counselors there is victory.

14 A nation falls through a lack of guidance, but victory comes through the counsel of many.

14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

15 One who is a guarantor for a stranger will certainly suffer for it, But one who hates being a guarantor is secure.

15 He who is guarantor for a stranger will surely suffer for it, But he who hates being a guarantor is secure.

15 Securing a loan for a stranger will bring suffering, but by refusing to do so, one remains safe.

15 He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hates suretiship is sure.

(d) Rewards (11:16-31)

16 A gracious woman attains honor, And ruthless men attain riches.

16 A gracious woman attains honor, And ruthless men attain riches.

16 A gracious woman attains honor, but ruthless men attain wealth.

16 A gracious woman retains honour: and strong men retain riches.

17 A merciful person does himself *good*, But the cruel person does himself harm.
17 The merciful man does himself good, But the cruel man does himself harm.
17 A gracious man benefits himself, but the cruel person damages himself.
17 The merciful man does good to his own soul: but he that is cruel troubles his own flesh.

18 A wicked person earns deceptive wages, But one who sows righteousness *gets* a true reward.
18 The wicked earns deceptive wages, But he who sows righteousness *gets* a true reward.
18 Evil people earn deceptive wages, but those who plant righteousness are truly rewarded.
18 The wicked works a deceitful work: but to him that sows righteousness shall be a sure reward.

19 One who is steadfast in righteousness *attains* life, But one who pursues evil *attains* his own death.
19 He who is steadfast in righteousness *will attain* to life, And he who pursues evil *will bring about* his own death.
19 Genuine righteousness leads to life, but whoever pursues evil will die.
19 As righteousness tends to life: so he that pursues evil pursues it to his own death.

20 The perverse in heart are an abomination to the LORD, But the blameless in *their* walk are His delight.
20 The perverse in heart are an abomination to the LORD, But the blameless in *their* walk are His delight.
20 Devious minds are abhorrent to the LORD, but those whose ways are innocent are his delight.
20 They that are of a froward heart are abomination to the LORD: but such as are upright in their way are his delight.

21 Be assured, the evil person will not go unpunished, But the descendants of the righteous will be rescued.
21 Assuredly, the evil man will not go unpunished, But the descendants of the righteous will be delivered.
21 Be sure of this: the wicked will not go unpunished, but the descendants of the righteous will go free.
21 Though hand join in hand, the wicked shall not be unpunished: but the seed of the righteous shall be delivered.

22 As a ring of gold in a pig's snout *So is* a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.
22 As a ring of gold in a swine's snout *So is* a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.
22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.
22 As a jewel of gold in a swine's snout, so is a fair woman which is without discretion.

23 The desire of the righteous is only good, *But* the expectation of the wicked is wrath.
23 The desire of the righteous is only good, *But* the expectation of the wicked is wrath.
23 The desire of the righteous is to seek good, but the hope of the wicked results in wrath.
23 The desire of the righteous is only good: but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

24 There is one who scatters, and *yet* increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, *and yet it results* only in poverty.
24 There is one who scatters, and *yet* increases all the more, And there is one who withholds what is justly due, *and yet it results* only in want.
24 Those who give freely gain even more; others hold back what they owe, becoming even poorer.
24 There is that scatters, and yet increases; and there is that withholds more than is meet, but it tends to poverty.

25 A generous person will be prosperous, And one who gives *others* plenty of water will himself be given plenty.
25 The generous man will be prosperous, And he who waters will himself be watered.
25 A generous person will prosper, and anyone who gives water will receive a flood in return.
25 The liberal soul shall be made fat: and he that waters shall be watered also himself.

26 One who withholds grain, the people will curse him, *But* blessing will be on the head of him who sells *it*.
26 He who withholds grain, the people will curse him, *But* blessing will be on the head of him who sells *it*.
26 People will curse whoever withholds grain, but blessing will come to whoever is selling.
26 He that withholds corn, the people shall curse him: but blessing shall be upon the head of him that selleth it.

27 One who diligently seeks good seeks favor, *But* one who seeks evil, evil will come to him.
27 He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, *But* he who seeks evil, evil will come to him.

27 The person seeking good will find favor, but anyone who searches for evil—it will find him!

27 He that diligently seeketh good procures favour: but he that seeketh mischief, it shall come unto him.

28 One who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like the *green* leaf.

28 He who trusts in his riches will fall, But the righteous will flourish like the *green* leaf.

28 The person who trusts in his wealth will fall, but the righteous will flourish like green leaves.

28 He that trusts in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.

29 One who troubles his own house will inherit wind, And the foolish will be servant to the wise-hearted.

29 He who troubles his own house will inherit wind, And the foolish will be servant to the wisehearted.

29 Whoever troubles his household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be a servant to the wise.

29 He that troubles his own house shall inherit the wind: and the fool shall be servant to the wise of heart.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And one who is wise gains souls.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, And he who is wise wins souls.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and the one who wins people is wise.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life; and he that wins souls is wise.

31 If the righteous will be repaid on the earth, How much more the wicked and the sinner!

31 If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, How much more the wicked and the sinner!

31 If the righteous receive what they are due here on earth, how much more will the wicked and the sinner.

31 Behold, the righteous shall be recompensed in the earth: much more the wicked and the sinner.