

Proverbs 15 - How to Live Wisely; Contentment

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

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

(D) Contrast between the wise and the wicked (Prov 13:1— 15:33)

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Proverbs 15

(q) The tongue (15:1-2,4)

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

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

1 A gentle response diverts anger, but a harsh statement incites fury.

1 A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.

- 2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge pleasant, But the mouth of fools spouts foolishness.
- 2 The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.
- 2 The wise speak, presenting knowledge appropriately, but fools spout foolishness.
- 2 The tongue of the wise uses knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools pours out foolishness.

(r) Divine omniscience (15:3)

- 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.
- 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, Watching the evil and the good.
- 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, observing both the evil and the good.
- 3 The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.

- 4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.
- 4 A soothing tongue is a tree of life, But perversion in it crushes the spirit.
- 4 A gentle statement is a tree of life, but perverted speech shatters the spirit.
- 4 A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.

(s) Conduct (15:5-7)

- 5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who complies with rebuke is sensible.
- 5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible.
- 5 A fool rejects his father's instructions, but anyone who respects reproof acts sensibly.
- 5 A fool despises his father's instruction: but he that regards reproof is prudent.

- 6 Great wealth is *in* the house of the righteous, But trouble is in the income of the wicked.
- 6 Great wealth is *in* the house of the righteous, But trouble is in the income of the wicked.
- 6 The righteous house is itself a great treasure, but within the revenue of the wicked calamity is at work.
- 6 In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.

- 7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge, But the hearts of fools are not so.
- 7 The lips of the wise spread knowledge, But the hearts of fools are not so.
- 7 What the wise have to say disseminates knowledge, but it's not in the heart of fools to do so.
- 7 The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish does not so.

(t) Divine hatred and love (15:8-9)

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But the prayer of the upright is His delight.

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is detestable to the LORD, but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

8 The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But He loves the one who pursues righteousness.

9 The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD, But He loves one who pursues righteousness.

9 The lifestyle of the wicked is detestable to the LORD, but he loves those who ardently pursue righteousness.

9 The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loves him that follows after righteousness.

(u) Reproof (15:10-12)

10 There is severe punishment for one who abandons the way; One who hates a rebuke will die.

10 Grievous punishment is for him who forsakes the way; He who hates reproof will die.

10 Severe punishment awaits anyone who wanders off the path— anyone who despises reproof will die.

10 Correction is grievous unto him that forsakes the way: and he that hates reproof shall die.

11 Sheol and Abaddon *lie open* before the LORD, How much more the hearts of mankind!

11 Sheol and Abaddon *lie open* before the LORD, How much more the hearts of men!

11 Since Sheol and Abaddon lie open in the LORD's presence, how much more the hearts of human beings!

11 Hell and destruction are before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?

12 A scoffer does not love one who rebukes him; He will not go to the wise.

12 A scoffer does not love one who reproves him, He will not go to the wise.

12 The arrogant mocker never loves the one who corrects him; he will not inquire of the wise.

12 A scorner loves not one that reproves him: neither will he go unto the wise.

(v) Human heart (15:13-15)

13 A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.

13 A joyful heart makes a cheerful face, But when the heart is sad, the spirit is broken.

13 A happy heart enlightens the face, but a sad heart reflects a broken spirit.

13 A merry heart makes a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.

14 The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

14 The mind of the intelligent seeks knowledge, But the mouth of fools feeds on folly.

14 A discerning mind seeks knowledge, but the mouth of fools feeds on stupidity.

14 The heart of him that has understanding seeks knowledge: but the mouth of fools feeds on foolishness.

15 All the days of the needy are bad, But a cheerful heart *has* a continual feast.

15 All the days of the afflicted are bad, But a cheerful heart *has* a continual feast.

15 The entire life of the afflicted seems disastrous, but a good heart feasts continuously.

15 All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart has a continual feast.

(w) Strife (15:16-18)

16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD Than great treasure, and turmoil with the treasure.

16 Better is a little with the fear of the LORD Than great treasure and turmoil with it.

16 Better is a little accompanied by fear of the LORD than abundant wealth with turmoil.

16 Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.

17 Better is a portion of vegetables where there is love, Than a fattened ox *served* with hatred.

17 Better is a dish of vegetables where love is Than a fattened ox *served* with hatred.

17 A vegetarian meal served with love is better than a big, thick steak with a plateful of animosity.

17 Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.

18 A hot-tempered person stirs up strife, But the slow to anger calms a dispute.

18 A hot-tempered man stirs up strife, But the slow to anger calms a dispute.

18 The quickly angered man stirs up contention, but anyone who controls his temper calms a dispute.

18 A wrathful man stirs up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeases strife.

(x) Laziness (15:19)

19 The way of the lazy one is like a hedge of thorns, But the path of the upright is a highway.

19 The way of the lazy is as a hedge of thorns, But the path of the upright is a highway.

19 The lifestyle of the lazy is like a thorny hedge, but the path taken by the upright is an open highway.

19 The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.

(y) Prudence and foolishness (15:20-22)

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

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

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

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

21 Foolishness is joy to one who lacks sense, But a person of understanding walks straight.

21 Folly is joy to him who lacks sense, But a man of understanding walks straight.

21 Stupidity is the delight of the senseless, but an understanding man walks uprightly.

21 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

22 Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed.

22 Without consultation, plans are frustrated, But with many counselors they succeed.

22 Plans fail without advice, but with many counselors they are confirmed.

22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

(z) Speech (15:23)

23 A person has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!

23 A man has joy in an apt answer, And how delightful is a timely word!

23 An appropriate answer brings joy to a person, and a well-timed word is a good thing.

23 A man has joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

(aa) Attributes of the righteous (15:24-33)

(i) Life (15:24)

- 24 The path of life *leads* upward for the wise, So that he may keep away from Sheol below.
- 24 The path of life *leads* upward for the wise That he may keep away from Sheol below.
- 24 The way of life leads upward for the wise so he may avoid Sheol below.
- 24 The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

(ii) Security (15:25)

- 25 The LORD will tear down the house of the proud, But He will set the boundary of the widow.
- 25 The LORD will tear down the house of the proud, But He will establish the boundary of the widow.
- 25 The house of the proud the LORD will demolish, but he will protect the widow's boundary line.
- 25 The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.

(iii) Purity (15:26)

- 26 Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD, But pleasant words are pure.
- 26 Evil plans are an abomination to the LORD, But pleasant words are pure.
- 26 To the LORD evil plans are detestable, but pleasant words are pure.
- 26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.

(iv) Honesty (15:27)

- 27 He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.
- 27 He who profits illicitly troubles his own house, But he who hates bribes will live.
- 27 Those who are greedy for unjust gain bring trouble into their homes, but the person who hates bribes will live.
- 27 He that is greedy of gain troubles his own house; but he that hates gifts shall live.

(v) Caution (15:28)

- 28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.
- 28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, But the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

28 The mind of the righteous thinks before speaking, but the wicked person spews out evil.

28 The heart of the righteous studies to answer: but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

(vi) Prayerfulness (15:29)

29 The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

29 The LORD is far from the wicked, But He hears the prayer of the righteous.

29 The LORD is far away from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous.

29 The LORD is far from the wicked: but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

(vii) Cheerfulness (15:30)

30 Bright eyes gladden the heart; Good news refreshes the bones.

30 Bright eyes gladden the heart; Good news puts fat on the bones.

30 Bright eyes encourage the heart; good news nourishes the body.

30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart: and a good report makes the bones fat.

(viii) Accepting reproof (15:31-32)

31 *One whose* ear listens to a life-giving rebuke Will stay among the wise.

31 He whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof Will dwell among the wise.

31 Whoever listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.

31 The ear that hears the reproof of life abides among the wise.

32 One who neglects discipline rejects himself, But one who listens to a rebuke acquires understanding.

32 He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding.

32 Whoever ignores instruction hates himself, but anyone who heeds reproof gains understanding.

32 He that refuses instruction despises his own soul: but he that hears reproof gets understanding.

(ix) Fear of God (15:33a)

(x) Humility (15:33b)

33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor *comes* humility.

33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction for wisdom, And before honor *comes* humility.

33 The fear of the LORD teaches wisdom, and humility precedes honor.

33 The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honor is humility.

