

Proverbs 16 - The Blessing of Wisdom

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Proverbs 16

(2) Proverbs promoting Godly living (Prov 16:1—22:16)

(A) God's sovereignty in human affairs (16:1-9)

1 The plans of the heart belong to a person, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

1 The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD.

1 People do the planning, but the end result is from the LORD.

1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

2 All the ways of a person are clean in his own sight, But the LORD examines the motives.

2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives.

2 Everything a person does seems pure in his own opinion, but the LORD weighs intentions.

2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the LORD weighs the spirits.

[Prov 14:12]

3 Commit your works to the LORD, And your plans will be established.
3 Commit your works to the LORD And your plans will be established.
3 Entrust your work to the LORD, and your planning will succeed.
3 Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.

4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.
4 The LORD has made everything for its own purpose, Even the wicked for the day of evil.
4 The LORD made everything answerable to him, including the wicked at the time of trouble.
4 The LORD has made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Be assured, he will not go unpunished.
5 Everyone who is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD; Assuredly, he will not be unpunished.
5 The LORD detests those who are proud; truly they will not go unpunished.
5 Every one that is proud in heart is an abomination to the LORD: though hand join in hand, he shall not be unpunished.

6 By mercy and truth atonement is made for wrongdoing, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.
6 By lovingkindness and truth iniquity is atoned for, And by the fear of the LORD one keeps away from evil.
6 Iniquity is atoned for by gracious love and truth, and through fear of the LORD people turn from evil.
6 By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

7 When a person's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He causes even his enemies to make peace with him.
7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.
7 When a person's ways please the LORD, even his enemies will be at peace with him.
7 When a man's ways please the LORD, he makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

8 Better is a little with righteousness Than great income with injustice.
8 Better is a little with righteousness Than great income with injustice.
8 A little gain with righteousness is better than great income without justice.

8 Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.

9 The mind of a person plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

9 The mind of man plans his way, But the LORD directs his steps.

9 A person plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.

9 A man's heart devises his way: but the LORD directs his steps.

(B) King's responsibilities before God (16:10-15)

(a) Justice (16:10)

10 A divine verdict is on the lips of the king; His mouth should not err in judgment.

10 A divine decision is in the lips of the king; His mouth should not err in judgment.

10 When a king is ready to speak officially, what he says should not err with respect to justice.

10 A divine sentence is in the lips of the king: his mouth transgresses not in judgment.

(b) Honesty (16:11)

11 A just balance and scales belong to the LORD; All the weights of the bag are His concern.

11 A just balance and scales belong to the LORD; All the weights of the bag are His concern.

11 Honest scales and balances are from the LORD; he made all the weights in the bag.

11 A just weight and balance are the LORD's: all the weights of the bag are his work.

(c) Righteousness (16:12-13)

12 It is an abomination for kings to commit wicked acts, Because a throne is established on righteousness.

12 It is an abomination for kings to commit wicked acts, For a throne is established on righteousness.

12 Kings detest wrongdoing, for through righteousness the throne is established.

12 It is an abomination to kings to commit wickedness: for the throne is established by righteousness.

13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings, And one who speaks right is loved.

13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings, And he who speaks right is loved.

13 Kings take pleasure in righteous speech; they treasure a person who speaks what is upright.

13 Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaks right.

(d) Acknowledge wisdom (16:14)

- 14 The fury of a king is *like* messengers of death; But a wise person will appease it.
- 14 The fury of a king is *like* messengers of death, But a wise man will appease it.
- 14 The king's wrath results in a death sentence, but whoever is wise will appease him.
- 14 The wrath of a king is as messengers of death: but a wise man will pacify it.

(e) Favor others (16:15)

- 15 In the light of a king's face is life, And his favor is like a cloud *with* the spring rain.
- 15 In the light of a king's face is life, And his favor is like a cloud with the spring rain.
- 15 When a king is pleased, there is life, and his favor is like a cloud that brings spring rain.
- 15 In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favor is as a cloud of the latter rain.

(C) Wise and wicked conduct (Prov 16:16—22:16)

(a) Wicked and proper living (16:16-17)

- 16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.
- 16 How much better it is to get wisdom than gold! And to get understanding is to be chosen above silver.
- 16 How much better than gaining gold is the acquisition of wisdom, the attainment of wisdom better than silver!
- 16 How much better is it to get wisdom than gold! and to get understanding rather to be chosen than silver!
- 17 The highway of the upright is to turn away from evil; One who watches his way protects his life.
- 17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who watches his way preserves his life.
- 17 The road of the upright circumvents evil, and whoever watches how he lives preserves his life.
- 17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keeps his way preserves his soul.

(b) Arrogance and humility (16:18-20)

- 18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.
- 18 Pride goes before destruction, And a haughty spirit before stumbling.
- 18 Pride precedes destruction; an arrogant spirit appears before a fall.
- 18 Pride goes before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.

19 It is better to be humble in spirit with the needy Than to divide the spoils with the proud.

19 It is better to be humble in spirit with the lowly Than to divide the spoil with the proud.

19 Better to be humble among the poor, than to share what is stolen with the proud.

19 Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.

20 One who pays attention to the word will find good, And blessed is one who trusts in the LORD.

20 He who gives attention to the word will find good, And blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.

20 Whoever listens to a word of instruction prospers, and anyone who trusts in the LORD is blessed.

20 He that handles a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusts in the LORD, happy is he.

(c) Speaking (16:21-24)

21 The wise in heart will be called understanding, And sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

21 The wise in heart will be called understanding, And sweetness of speech increases persuasiveness.

21 The wise-hearted person is told to be discerning, and that pleasant speech promotes instruction.

21 The wise in heart shall be called prudent: and the sweetness of the lips increases learning.

22 Understanding is a fountain of life to those who have it, But the discipline of fools is foolishness.

22 Understanding is a fountain of life to one who has it, But the discipline of fools is folly.

22 Anyone who has understanding is a fountain of life, but foolishness brings punishment to fools.

22 Understanding is a wellspring of life unto him that hath it: but the instruction of fools is folly.

23 The heart of the wise instructs his mouth And adds persuasiveness to his lips.

23 The heart of the wise instructs his mouth And adds persuasiveness to his lips.

23 A wise person's thoughts control his words, and his speech promotes instruction.

23 The heart of the wise teaches his mouth, and addeth learning to his lips.

- 24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.
 24 Pleasant words are a honeycomb, Sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.
 24 Pleasant words are honey from a honeycomb— sweet to the soul and healing for the body.
 24 Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.

(d) Human philosophy (16:25)

- 25 There is a way *which seems* right to a person, But its end is the way of death.
 25 There is a way *which seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.
 25 There is a road that seems right for a man to travel, but in the end it's the road to death.
 25 There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.
 [14:12]

(e) Industry (16:26)

- 26 A worker's appetite works for him, For his hunger urges him *on*.
 26 A worker's appetite works for him, For his hunger urges him *on*.
 26 The appetite of the laborer motivates him; indeed, his hunger drives him on.
 26 He that labors labors for himself; for his mouth craves it of him.

(f) Poor words and conduct (16:27-30)

- 27 A worthless person digs up evil, While his words are like scorching fire.
 27 A worthless man digs up evil, While his words are like scorching fire.
 27 A worthless person concocts evil gossip— his lips are like a burning fire.
 27 An ungodly man digs up evil: and in his lips there is as a burning fire.
- 28 A perverse person spreads strife, And a slanderer separates close friends.
 28 A perverse man spreads strife, And a slanderer separates intimate friends.
 28 A deceitful man stirs dissension, and anyone who gossips separates friends.
 28 A froward man sows strife: and a whisperer separates chief friends.
- 29 A person of violence entices his neighbor And leads him in a way that is not good.
 29 A man of violence entices his neighbor And leads him in a way that is not good.
 29 A violent man entices his companion and leads him on a path that is not good.
 29 A violent man entices his neighbour, and leads him into the way that is not good.
- 30 He who winks his eyes *does so* to devise perverse things; He who compresses his lips brings evil to pass.

30 He who winks his eyes *does* so to devise perverse things; He who compresses his lips brings evil to pass.

30 Whoever winks knowingly is plotting deceit; anyone who purses his lips is bent towards evil.

30 He shuts his eyes to devise froward things: moving his lips he brings evil to pass.

(g) Results of righteous living (16:31-33)

31 A gray head is a crown of glory; It is found in the way of righteousness.

31 A gray head is a crown of glory; It is found in the way of righteousness.

31 Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is obtained by following a righteous path.

31 The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.

32 One who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And one who rules his spirit, than one who captures a city.

32 He who is slow to anger is better than the mighty, And he who rules his spirit, than he who captures a city.

32 Whoever controls his temper is better than a warrior, and anyone who has control of his spirit is better than someone who captures a city.

32 He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that rules his spirit than he that takes a city.

33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

33 The lot is cast into the lap, But its every decision is from the LORD.

33 The dice is cast into someone's lap, but the outcome is from the LORD.

33 The lot is cast into the lap; but the whole disposing thereof is of the LORD.