

The Pathway to Eternal Wisdom

[Part 12]

Proverbs 10:23 [NIV] *“A fool finds pleasure in evil conduct, but a man of understanding delights in wisdom.”*

The Hebrew word translated “*pleasure*” is “*sechôq*” meaning derision or to mock at. This shows a total lack of respect towards the Creator God. This is the attitude of the fool in **Psalm 14:1** and doesn’t consider that they will ever be accountable to anyone for what they do in life.

This is the ultimate end result of accepting the delusion of evolution. [Please download and study our articles on evolution under heading ‘*Delusion of Evolution*’]

The person who uses their intelligence – Hebrew word translated “*understanding*” is “*tôwbûnâh*” referring to our intelligence that we have from the human spirit that separates us from animals. [**Job 32:8**]

The union of our human spirit with the Holy Spirit will make the study of God’s Word, the Christian Bible, God’s Wisdom a great delight. [I know this from personal experience, now that I am retired from active ministry I delight in spending several hours each day in the study of the Christian Bible.]

Proverbs 10:24-25 [NIV] *“What the wicked dreads will overtake him; what the righteous desire will be granted. When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm for ever.”*

There is **no** security for any person who continues to rebel against God’s lifestyle, the way of loving personal sacrifice and service.

Those who do **not** believe in a Creator God usually fear death with good reason.

What is being offered in these two verses is an eternal choice.

We can have either our fears or our desires come true.

We make this choice by rejecting God and living with our own way in life or by accepting the Creator God and desiring to live His way of life, as illustrated by the life of Jesus Christ. [**John 14:6**]

Proverbs 10:26 [NIV] *“As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is a sluggard to those who send him.”*

This is what we can expect if we employ a person who is lacking in motivation or any goals in life, and is totally self-centred.

Proverbs 10:27-30 [NIV] *“The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short. The prospect of the righteous is joy, but the hopes of the wicked come to nothing. The way of the LORD is a refuge for the righteous, but it is the ruin of those who do evil. The righteous will never be uprooted, but the wicked will not remain in the land.”*

Four more proverbs on the fate of the righteous and the wicked.

Length of life, that is eternal, in contrast to the very short physical life that is all the wicked person will experience.

To follow God’s way of life will bring joy, one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit [**Galatians 5:22-23**] which the future hopes of the wicked will never be experiencing.

The righteous receive eternal protection from the Creator God while the wicked face ultimate destruction in a lake of fire.

The righteous will continue to dwell on this earth after the Second Coming of Jesus Christ but the wicked will be just awaiting total separation from the Creator God.

Proverbs 10:31-32 [NIV] *“The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but a perverse tongue will be cut out. The lips of the righteous know what is fitting, but the mouth of the wicked only what is perverse.”*

This is about controlled or uncontrolled speech. The righteous have, before they speak, considered the effect their words will have on all who hear them. While the words of a perverse person will fail or be destroyed by the Godly Wisdom of the righteous. [**Luke 21:12-15**]

Proverbs 11:1 [NIV] *“The LORD abhors dishonest scales, but accurate weights are his delight.”*

This verse covers all business and commercial practice. Not giving a fair day’s work for a fair day’s pay. Cutting corners in the quality of work done to increase your profit. Any dishonest practice is included within these words.

The Creator God looks for and expects us to give good quality and quantity in all our dealings with other people. [**Luke 6:38**]

Leviticus 19:34-35 [NIV] *“The alien living with you must be treated as one of your native-born. Love him as yourself, for you were aliens in Egypt. I am the LORD your God. ‘Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight or quantity.’”*

This is how we show love to all other human beings both Christian and non-believers.

Proverbs 11:2 [NIV] *“When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.”*

The Hebrew word translated “pride” is “zâdôwn” meaning arrogance, insolent, presumptuous. The type of person who must have everything their own way.

There are many examples of this in the Christian Bible:

Pharaoh – [**Nehemiah 9:10**]

Israel – [**Nehemiah 9:16, 29**]

A false prophet – [**Deuteronomy 18:20**]

Psalms 19:13-14 [King David] *“Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression. Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O LORD, my strength, and my redeemer.”*

We should all fear this attitude of mind.

King David prayed to God that he would never act this way.

Micah 6:8 [NIV] *“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”*

For us to receive Godly Wisdom we have to apply these simple guidelines in our life.

People have tried all kinds of ways to please God, but God has made His wishes for all humanity very clear and simple. We need to examine our lives with this verse in mind on a regular basis.

Proverbs 11:3 [NIV] *“The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.”*

The Hebrew word translated “*integrity*” is “*tummâh*” meaning innocence, complete truth.

An interesting background to the use of this word and its roots, and parallel words.

Exodus 28:30 [NIV] *“Also put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastpiece, so they may be over Aaron’s heart whenever he enters the presence of the LORD. Thus Aaron will always bear the means of making decisions for the Israelites over his heart before the LORD.”*

The Hebrew word for Thummim is a parallel word to that translated “*integrity*” in Proverbs.

“*Tummîym*” means perfection and complete truth, a reminder to Aaron what should control the judgements he made as high priest. [**Ezra 2:63; Nehemiah 7:63-65** – examples of how the Urim and Thummim were used in decision making.]

There are indications that this method of decision making invoked asking God through the High Priest direct questions that could be answered by a ‘yes’ or ‘no’, the Urim from Hebrew “*ârar*” meaning to curse thus ‘no’ and Thummim meaning perfection a ‘yes’. [**1 Samuel 23:9-12**]

What we are being told in this proverb is that those who go to the Creator God for direction in their lives will be blessed. While those who are rebelling towards their Creator will end up destroyed.

Proverbs 11:4 [NIV] *“Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.”*

“*The day of wrath*” refers to the day when God settles accounts with all His created human beings. [**2 Corinthians 5:10**]

On this judgement day, each of us will stand alone, accountable for all we have done in our lives. [**Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**]

At that time, no amount of riches will buy reconciliation with God. Only our love for God and obedience to Him will count.

Proverbs 11:5 [NIV] *“The righteousness of the blameless makes a straight way for them, but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.”*

The contrast between two paths in life.

Psalms 119:105 [NIV] *“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path.”*

How?

God’s Word is the truth. [**Psalms 119:160; John 17:17**]. God’s Word the Christian Bible will teach us and correct us if we drift off course. [**2 Timothy 3:16**]

The wicked, Hebrew “*râshâ*” meaning ungodly, that is **not** being guided by the Creator God. But being led astray by Satan [**Revelation 12:9**], will stumble not being guided by God’s Word.

Romans 11:7-10 [NIV] *“What then? What Israel sought so earnestly it did not obtain, but the elect did. The others were hardened, as it is written: ‘God gave them a spirit of stupor, eyes so that they could not see and ears so that they could not hear, to this very day.’ And David says: ‘May their table become a snare and a trap, a stumbling-block and a retribution for them. May their eyes be darkened so they cannot see, and their backs be bent for ever.’”*

These verses describe the correction for hardness of heart predicted by prophet Isaiah. [Isaiah 6:9-13] If people refuse to hear God's Good News about what He has done for all humanity through Jesus Christ, they will eventually be unable to accept or understand it. Blinded by their own rebellion against their Creator God. [Ephesians 4:17-19; 2 Corinthians 3:13-18; 2 Corinthians 4:4; 1 John 2:10-11]

Proverbs 11:6 [NIV] *"The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires."*

The delivery of the righteous is out of trouble [v8]. What traps the "unfaithful" Hebrew "bâgad" meaning to act covertly or deceitfully, is their "desire" Hebrew "havvâh" meaning to covert eagerly for what is **not** theirs.

Proverbs 11:7-8 [NIV] *"When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing. The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead."*

God's people are **not** excluded from problems or struggles, they are part of our becoming mature Christians. [James 1:2-4; 1 Peter 1:7; 1 Peter 4:12-13; Hebrews 12:6-10]

If a person follows God's Wisdom, God can rescue them from trouble. Even if good people suffer, they can be sure they will be ultimately rescued from eternal death.

When the wicked, Hebrew "râshâ" meaning ungodly, morally wrong, actively bad dies, any hope of eternal life dies with them. Any traps they had set for the righteous will entrap them instead.

The expectations of the wicked rich is based on human resources, however powerful in life, they find only frustration at the time of their death.

There is no book in the Christian Bible that is more concerned with eschatology [destiny of human beings] than the Book of Proverbs.

Proverbs 11:9 [NIV] *"With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbour, but through knowledge the righteous escape."*

The Hebrew word translated "godless" is "chânêph" meaning pollute or profane impious or hypocrite.

The mouth can be used as a weapon or a helpful tool, hurting relationships or building them up. Sadly, it is often easier to destroy than to build, so most people have received more destructive comments than words that build them up.

Proverbs 11:10-11 [NIV] *"When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed."*

The righteous and the wicked both have their effect on public life. A city is ennobled by the presence within it of people who are Christians and are blessed by God, for they bring with their leadership Godly blessings.

The counsel or leadership of wicked people will destroy the prosperity of that city.

The city in mind is the Hebrew small local community with its local elders. The character of these local elders will affect all the community.

One of the prophecies of Isaiah tells of a future leadership that is lacking sound and Godly Wisdom.

Isaiah 3:1-3 [NIV] *"See now, the Lord, the LORD Almighty, is about to take from Jerusalem and Judah both supply and support: all supplies of food and all supplies of water, the hero and warrior,*

the judge and prophet, the soothsayer and elder, the captain of fifty and man of rank, the counsellor, skilled craftsman and clever enchanter.”

The fact that the list of leaders included an “*enchanter*”, a person using demonic sorcery, shows the level to which society has fallen.

Isaiah 3:4-5 [NIV] *“I will make boys their officials; mere children will govern them. People will oppress each other, man against man, neighbour against neighbour. The young will rise up against the old, the base against the honourable.”*

This sounds very much like the society in which we are living today. Immature leadership and teenage violence against the elderly.

Proverbs 11:12 [NIV] *“A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbour, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.”*

A person shows their lack of wisdom when the “*derides*” Hebrew “*buwz*” meaning to show contempt towards another person. Such a person is denying that the Creator God is the only competent judge of human worth. [**Psalms 139:1-6**]

The second line of the verse implies that this person blurts out their contempt of this other person.

In contrast, a person shows their Godly Wisdom by restraining any verbal judgement of another person.

Proverbs 11:13 [NIV] *“A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.”*

The Hebrew word translated “*gossip*” is “*râkîyl*” referring to a scandal-monger who spreads these slanderous tales about in a malicious manner. Such a person lacks any Godly Wisdom. Godly Wisdom is founded on love for other people [**1 Corinthians 13:4-8a**] and will never reveal confidences.

Proverbs 11:14 [NIV] *“For lack of guidance a nation falls, but many advisers make victory sure.”*

A good leader needs and uses wise advisers.

One person’s perspective and understanding is severely limited.

One person may **not** have all the facts or may be blinded to the truth by bias, emotions or wrong impressions. To be a wise leader you seek counsel of others, be open to their advice, then after considering all the facts, make a firm decision.

As we study these examples of Godly Wisdom, always have at the back of our minds that all true Christians in every generation will be given the job of teachers and leaders in the future New World under the kingship of our Saviour Jesus Christ. [**Revelation 1:4-6; Revelation 5:9-10**]