

# The Pathway to Eternal Wisdom

## [Part 21]

**Proverbs 19:1** [King James] *“Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.”*

**Proverbs 28:6** adds riches to the fool’s situation. A blameless life is far more valuable than wealth, but most people do not act as if they believe this Proverb.

When we come to know and love the Creator God, we realise that a lower standard of living or even poverty is a small price to pay for personal integrity, that is righteous character.

**Wealth and goods are finite, character and integrity are eternal and all we can take through physical death.**

**Proverbs 19:2** [King James] *“Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.”*

The word “also” links this Proverb to the previous one. We too often move hastily through life, rushing into the unknown. My father was a sub-postmaster and when he saw people in a hurry to be served, he used to stop and say “*what is life so full of care that you do not have time to stop and stare.*” He was encouraging them to pause and look at the wonders of God’s Creation all around them.

My father taught me to apply this to my life on the long and eye-opening walks we had together in the countryside and the times we worked side by side in the garden. I often think of my father’s example of unseen service in the community that did **not** come to be known until after his death, he truly lived out **James 1:26-27**.

It is only when we understand the true purpose of human life that we can use all that the Creator God has given us to ensure our path in life is heading in the right direction.

Pause to wonder at the physical creation all around us and take time to study and meditate on God’s Word, the Christian Bible.

**Proverbs 19:3** [NIV] *“A man’s own folly ruins his life, yet his heart rages against the LORD.”*

Too often God gets the blame for what our lack of Godly Wisdom has brought on us. God doesn’t have to bring trials of correction on us, we do this for Him all too easily.

**James 1:12-16** [NIV] *“Blessed is the man who perseveres under trial, because when he has stood the test, he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him. When tempted, no one should say, ‘God is tempting me.’ For God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does he tempt anyone; but each one is tempted when, by his own evil desire, he is dragged away and enticed. Then, after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, gives birth to death. Don’t be deceived, my dear brothers.”*

It is all too easy to blame others or circumstances for the problems we have.

**Proverbs 19:4, 6-7** [NIV] *“Wealth brings many friends, but a poor man’s friend deserts him.” ... “Many curry favour with a ruler, and everyone is the friend of a man who gives gifts. A poor man is shunned by all his relatives, how much more do his friends avoid him! Though he pursues them with pleading, they are nowhere to be found.”*

What these three Proverbs are talking about is “*fair-weather friends.*” Wealth brings many “*friends*” who will leave if wealth is lost or lessened. Such friendships do not have the basis of love, sacrificial love.

**John 15:13-16** [NIV] *“Greater love has no-one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command. I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master’s business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last. Then the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name.”*

A true friend loves at all times [**Proverbs 17:17**] and the “*fruits*” of that friendship are lasting, **not** deterred by circumstances.

**Proverbs 19:5, 9** [NIV] *“A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free.” ... “A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish.”*

We always need to relate false witness and lies to Satan [**John 8:44; Revelation 12:9**] for he is the spirit behind lies and deception.

**2 Corinthians 11:13-15** [NIV] *“For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. And no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light. It is not surprising, then, if his servants masquerade as servants of righteousness. Their end will be what their actions deserve.”*

Satan uses deceived and blinded to the truth humans to work for him in his deception of the whole world through the spreading of lies. [**1 John 5:19**]

**Proverbs 19:8** [Amplified Bible] *“He who gains Wisdom loves his own life, he who keeps understanding shall prosper and find good.”*

Is this saying that it is good to love yourself?

Yes, when our eternal life is at stake!

This Proverb does **not** condone the self-centred person who loves and protects their selfish interests. Instead it encourages us to really care enough about our life to seek Godly Wisdom.

The Hebrew word translated “*life*” is “*nepshesh*” meaning desire or heart, that is the very driving force of our lives.

**Proverbs 19:10** [NIV] *“It is not fitting for a fool to live in luxury, how much worse for a slave to rule over princes!”*

A person who is lacking in Godly Wisdom and grace, has **no** right or title to true joy, and it is very wrong for one who is a servant to sin to rule over and oppress God’s servants, yet we see it happening in this world. [**Ecclesiastes 10:5-7; Proverbs 30:21-23; Proverbs 26:1**]

**Proverbs 19:11** [NIV] *“A man’s wisdom gives him patience; it is to his glory to overlook an offence.”*

A person who has and uses Godly Wisdom will patiently hold back their anger because they understand the weakness built into human nature can cause a person at times to rebel against circumstances.

**Colossians 3:13-15** [NIV] *“Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful.”*

This is a sure pathway to peace and unity, bonded together by love.

**Proverbs 19:12** [NIV] *“A king’s rage is like the roar of a lion, but his favour is like dew on the grass.”*

Subordinates may learn tact from this Proverb and superiors pleasantness. Considered with what we are shown in **v11** this is the way of peace, unity and love.

This was King David’s ideal of a ruler. [**2 Samuel 23:3-4**]

Also God’s pledge to Israel and all humanity. [**Hosea 14:4-5**]

**Proverbs 19:13-14** [NIV] *“A foolish son is his father’s ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping. Houses and wealth are inherited from parents, but a prudent wife is from the LORD.”*

Life in a family can be hell or heaven as a result of those who are part of it, being wise or foolish.

This Proverb is expanded in **Proverbs 27:15-16**.

Selfishness is behind both foolish son and the “nagging” wife. Wealth is **not** the answer but the character of those in the family group. A prudent wife is of far greater value than the wealth and the things it can buy.

**Proverbs 19:15** [NIV] *“Laziness brings on deep sleep, and the shiftless man goes hungry.”*

A sluggish, slothful disposition makes people poor, and brings them to want. This applies to our spiritual life as well as our physical life. We **cannot** “drift” into the Kingdom of God.

**Matthew 11:12** [Amplified Bible] *“And from the days of John the Baptist until the present time the Kingdom of Heaven has endured violent assault, and violent men seize it by force [as a precious prize] a share in the heavenly Kingdom is sought for with most ardent zeal and intense exertion.”*

**Proverbs 19:16** [Amplified Bible] *“He who keeps the commandments of the Lord, keeps his own life, but he who despises His way shall die.”*

The commandments under the New Covenant are the words of Jesus Christ as well as the Ten Commandments of the Old Covenant as condensed into two statements.

**Matthew 22:36-40** [NIV] *“Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbour as yourself.’ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”*

This is repeated in **Luke 10:26-28; Romans 13:8-10**.

The person lacking Godly Wisdom and despises God’s Words and commands will die, for that is all they have earned by such an attitude of life [**Romans 6:23**] being contemptuous towards their Creator God.

**Proverbs 19:17** [NIV] *“He who is kind to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will reward him for what he has done.”*

God identifies with the poor as Jesus Christ did when on earth as the Son of Man. [**Matthew 25:31-46**]

As our Creator God values all humanity, whether poor or rich, when we help the poor [physically or spiritually poor], we honour both the Creator God and His creation. God accepts our help of the poor as if we had offered it directly to Him.

**Proverbs 19:18** [King James] *“Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.”*

By over-indulging and refusing to correct our children when young, we are becoming a willing partner to their eventual eternal death. [**Proverbs 13:24; Proverbs 22:15; Proverbs 23:13**]

To withhold discipline is neither a compliment nor a kindness, and the opportunity will pass as our children enter adulthood.

**Proverbs 19:19** [Amplified Bible] *“A man of great wrath shall suffer the penalty, for if you deliver him from the consequences, he will feel free to cause you to do it again.”*

An ungovernable temper will repeatedly land its owner in fresh trouble. When combined with the previous Proverb, a spared of discipline and spoiled child is likely to become a person with an uncontrolled temper!

**Proverbs 19:20** [NIV] *“Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.”*

Godly Wisdom, the result of listening to Godly advice and accepting correction is a long-term investment.

Those who would be filled with Godly Wisdom must be willing to be taught and disciplined when young.

**Proverbs 19:21** [King James] *“There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.”*

Many things we can plan in our lives but success comes when we take counsel from God's Word, the Christian Bible.

**Proverbs 24:27** [Amplified Bible] *“Put first things first, prepare your work outside and get it ready for yourself in the field, and afterwards build your house and establish a home.”*

This was written for a society based on agriculture but can be applied in principle to any start in life.

**Luke 12:15** [Amplified Bible] *“And He said to them, guard yourselves and keep free from all covetousness, the immoderate desire for wealth, the greedy longing to have more, for a man's life does not consist and is not derived from possessing overflowing abundance, or that which is over and above his needs.”*

**Philippians 4:11-13** [NIV] *“I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength.”*

This scripture and those above are central to our making wise decisions by seeking counsel from God's Words, the Christian Bible, and there are many more.

**Proverbs 19:22** [Amplified Bible] *“That which is desired in a man is loyalty and kindness, and his glory and delight are his giving, but a poor man is better than a liar.”*

A person's true worth is found in their character which is beyond any wealth or position. [**Romans 12:10; Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:12; 2 Peter 1:5-7**]

**Proverbs 19:23** [Amplified Bible] *“The reverent, worshipful fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it shall rest satisfied, he cannot be visited with actual evil.”* [Job 5:19; Isaiah 46:4; Jeremiah 1:8; Psalms 91:3]

**1 John 4:4** [Amplified Bible] *“Little children, you are of God, you belong to Him and have already defeated and overcome them, the agents of antichrist, because He who lives in you is greater, mightier than he who is in the world.”*

Every Christian who has the active presence of the Holy Spirit within them is protected from the evil deception of Satan and his demons. This is what this Proverb is telling us.

**Proverbs 19:24** [NIV] *“The sluggard buries his hand in the dish; he will not even bring it back to his mouth!”*

*“Buries his hand in the dish”* refers to the oriental custom of eating, where a dish would be passed round and people would reach in and get food for themselves. This person is so lazy, that they then cannot be bothered to take the food to their mouth. Indolence, when indulged, so grows upon people, that they have no heart to do the most needful things for themselves. **The welfare state can cause this to happen to whole families.**

**Proverbs 19:25** [NIV] *“Flog a mocker, and the simple will learn prudence; rebuke a discerning man, and he will gain knowledge.”*

When bad people are punished, the morally ignorant are warned. Even a gentle rebuke is effective for a person who is seeking Godly Wisdom.

**How we respond to honest criticism determines whether or not we grow in Godly Wisdom.**

**Proverbs 19:26** [NIV] *“He who robs his father and drives out his mother is a son who brings shame and disgrace.”*

The young person who wastes their father’s substance, or makes their aged mother homeless, is a hateful, very selfish person and will come to disgrace.

**Isaiah 1:2-4** [NIV] *“Hear, O heavens! Listen, O earth! For the LORD has spoken: ‘I reared children and brought them up, but they have rebelled against me. The ox knows his master, the donkey his owner’s manger, but Israel does not know, my people do not understand.’ Ah, sinful nation, a people loaded with guilt, a brood of evildoers, children given to corruption! They have forsaken the LORD; they have spurned the Holy One of Israel and turned their backs on him.”*

This is how our Heavenly Father looks on human beings who are wasting all He has provided in this wonderfully created world. Also as they have turned their back on His true church, [our mother **Matthew 12:48-49; Mark 3:33-34; Luke 8:21**]

**Proverbs 19:27** [NIV] *“Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge.”*

Do **not** listen to instruction simply to forget it again and not take action on the Godly Wisdom offered.

Also do **not** listen to any advice that will lead you astray.

Both these meanings are within the wording of this Proverb, when we consider it with the next verse.

**Proverbs 19:28** [King James] *“An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.”*

A false spiritual witness, mocks the thought that we will be judged by our Creator God, and will themselves feed on evil.

**1 John 4:1-3** [NIV] *“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognise the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.”*

Only those who are seeking Godly Wisdom and direction from God’s Word, the Christian Bible, will avoid being deceived by these false prophets. [**1 John 2:18-22; 2 John 7**]

**Proverbs 19:29** [King James] *“Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.”*

The unbelieving person does **not** make God’s warnings effective in their lives.

**2 Corinthians 5:10** [NIV] *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive what is due to him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.”*

This will happen whether we believe the warning or not. [**Romans 14:10-12; Ecclesiastes 12:13-14**]