BLESSINGS GAINED OR LOST

**DATE: 12/15**

**TEXT: Proverbs 10:8-17**

**INTRODUCTION**

As we continue to study the Book of Proverbs, we return to chapter 10

I said last time that Chapter 10 began a new Division in the Book of Proverbs

From here until near the end of the Book we will be dealing with a lot of Contrasts

**Contrasts** – *are marked Differences, things that are distinctly different*

Last time in chapter 10 we saw some Family Things, Some Financial Things and some Final Things

This evening we will be Contrasting a few more *Things* found in this chapter

Some Foolish vs. Righteous Things, Some Familiar Things, and some Futile Things

So let’s stand to read God’s Word and then pray

I’d like to think on this thought

**“Blessings Gained or Lost”**

Read **vs. 8 -17**

**~~~Prayer~~~**

The first Contrast that we will look at is **…**

**I. “FOOLISH VS. RIGHTEOUS” THINGS – vs. 8-14**

Foolishness is the result of a person misusing the intelligence God has given him

A Righteous man as Trusted God to lead him

A fool uses his own reasoning skills to lead him

The most basic type of foolishness is denying God’s existence or saying “no” to God

**Psalm 14:1a *– “The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God”***

The Bible associates folly / foolishness with …

-- A quick temper

**Proverbs 14:16b, 17a – *“the fool rageth, and is confident” “He that is soon angry dealeth foolishly”***

-- Perverse speech

**Proverbs 19:1 – *“he that is perverse in his lips, … is a fool”***

-- Disobedience to parents

**Proverbs 15:5 – *“A fool despiseth his father's instruction:”***

We are born with *innate* (present from birth) foolishness

But discipline will help train us in wisdom

**Proverbs 22:15 *– “Foolishness is bound in the heart (of a child;) but (the rod of) correction shall drive it far from him”***

**Proverbs 19:3** says that Foolishness is counterproductive

***“The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD”***

In the context of **Mark 7:22**, Jesus describes what comes out of the heart of man and defiles him

***“Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness:”***

Foolishness is one of the evidences that man has a defiled, sinful nature

**Proverbs 24:9a –** ***“The thought of foolishness is sin:”***

Foolishness, then, is really the breaking of God’s Law, for sin is lawlessness

**I John 3:4 *– “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law”***

Let’s look at several Types of Fools

While also looking at Those Considered Wise

**A. The Prating Fool vs. The Wise in Heart – v.8**

**1. *“The wise in heart will receive commandments:”***

The wise man recognizes Truth and accepts it

He ***“will receive commandments”***

People with good heads on their shoulders are teachable

They are ready to receive instruction because they are convinced of its value

The psalmist said, those keeping God’s Commandments fine great reward

**Psalm 19:11 *– “Moreover by them (The Commands) is Thy servant warned: and in keeping of them there is great reward”***

The wise are always ready to be taught but fools are too busy talking

**2. *“but a prating fool shall fall”***

**Prating –** means*to talk in a silly way and at length about nothing important, idol talk, mouthy*

This type of Fool is quickly recognized by his language

*Bla, Bla, Bla …*

He just likes to hear himself talk

This kind of fool is impervious to any advice

Doesn’t know when to shut up

He is too busy running off his mouth

Too busy talking everyone else down

They only want to tell and not to be told

They take the floor, hog the time, and say nothing worth hearing

They trip over their own tongue

His talk will be his own undoing – ***“shall fall”***

Our next contrast is seen in …

**B. The Perverted Fool vs. Those that Walk Right –v.9**

**1. *“He that walketh uprightly walketh surely:”***

Walking is a continuous action in a forward direction

It is slow and steady progress

It refers to our day to day conduct

The Upright are those who are made right and who act right

They are made Right by the Blood of Jesus

They stay Right by the presence of the Holy Ghost

They are surrendered to the Will and Word of God

What they Think, Say and Do are guided by the Truth

Belief and Behavior are perfectly Balanced

This person will have Sure Footing / won’t fall

The way of the Upright is an old path walked by many throughout the ages

It follows a straight line and provides firm footing for all who take it

It is the shortest and safest route that can be chosen

Those who travel on it are sure to arrive safely at the desired destination

**2. *“but he that perverteth his ways shall be known”***

**To pervert –** means *to lead or go away, to distort, to use something improperly*

Instead of keeping on the straight path there is a deliberate decision to take another direction

It a way that is based on his own inclination

***“he … perverteth his way”***

It is a way that is often dark and dangerous

It is full of pitfalls and confusing turns

This way is deceptive and those who pervert their ways never end up where they intended

**Proverbs 14:12; 16:25 *– “There is a way which / that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death”***

Those who make their ways crooked often attempt to conceal them

But any efforts to prevent their discovery will fail

What they do in the darkness will be brought into the light

Their cover will be blown and their corruption ***“shall be known”***

Next we see just …

**C. The Provoking Fool vs. the Righteous Man – vs. 10 - 12**

Fools love to Provoke, to bring something about intentionally in a bad way

Solomon describes 3 things here

**1.** The Eye **– v.10a**

***“He that winketh with the eye causeth sorrow:”***

Why would something as seemingly harmless as winking cause sorrow?

Winking is one of the more subtle gestures, usually involving eye contact between those involved

In most cases it is only meant to be known by the sender and his or her intended receiver(s),

The person who winketh usually as malicious intent

The eye communicates without words by winking

A wink can convey a message swiftly

A wink can be used to express interest in another person

A wink can convey a secret understanding, an agreement already reached

A wink can be used between two or more people to signal the gullibility of another person

When someone is being teased or misled, a wink is often used to enhance the amusement of those who know the secret

In Bible times a briber would use a wink to let a corrupt judge know what was expected of him

The Holy Spirit is not fond of winking

**2.** The Mouth **– v.11**

**v.11a - *“The mouth of a righteous man is a well of life:”***

The tongue of those who are taught by the Lord are like the Life giving waters streaming from the earth

This type of well is a spring

The mouth of the righteous overflows with blessings

It refreshes all who hear it

They are clean, charitable, cheerful and clear

**Ephesians 4:29 *– “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers”***

It is an opening of opportunity for all who listen

**Isaiah 50:4, 5 *– “The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned” “The Lord GOD hath opened mine ear, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back”***

**v.11b - *“but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked”***

We find this same phrase being used in **v.6**

As was the phrase … ***“a prating fool shall fall”*** **– vs. 8, 10**

Any time the Lord Repeats Himself, we should take note

***“verily, verily…”***

***“violence covereth the mouth”*** could mean several things

-- They can refer to **Deception**

The wicked seek to cover up their intention

-- They can also refer to **Description**

Violence is characteristic of all the wicked say and do

Their lips and lives are centered in and covered by violence

-- These words can further refer to **Disgrace**

The violence of the wicked will come back as judgment on them and close their mouths in silence and shame

The just have nothing to conceal

There is no hidden agenda in their announcements

Virtue is heard in their voice but Violence is the hidden agenda of the wicked

The third thing mentioned, has to do with …

**3.** The Heart **– v.12**

-- The provoking fool has a warring heart

**v.12a -*“Hatred stirreth up strifes:”***

***“Hatred”*** refers to intense feelings of hostility

It is an attitude of animosity

It’s a extreme Dislike that hopes for Destruction

There is a holy hatred and an unholy hatred

Hatred is a sin and the only way to hate and not sin is to hate sin

**I John 2:9, 11, 15, 20 *– “He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now” “But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes” “Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him” “If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?”***

-- While the Righteous man has a winning heart

**v.12b - *“but love covereth all sins”***

The word ***“But”*** indicates a change of thought

It is an expression of exception

Love and Hate go in different directions

In Love there is Covering

In Hate there is Conflict

This Love is more than Sentimentality

It is Saying, that is backed up by Doing, what is Loving

When offended love reaches out with forgiveness that is willing to forget what was done and treat it like it never happened

**I Peter 4:8 –** ***“And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins”***

When it sees the occasion of sin in others

Love tries to head it off before it is committed

When it finds the Lost

Love makes the effort to win them to Christ

**James 5:20 *– “Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins”***

The greatest love that covers all sin is the sacrificial death of Christ on Calvary

All Sins, for All Time, are All Covered

**D. The Punished Fool vs. the Wise Man’s Reward**

**1.** Discernment that is Identifiable

**v.13a - *“In the lips of him that hath understanding wisdom is found”***

Wisdom is not always found with knowledge

Some have great knowledge but do not know how to simplify it

Those who have a firm grasp on what is right and how to accomplish it communicate it clearly

The wisdom in their words is plainly seen

If the knowledge of God is laid up in the mind it will be heard from the mouth

People show wisdom or the lack of it in what they say

**2.** Discipline that is Necessitated

**v.13b *– “but a rod is for the back of him that is void of understanding”***

When someone understands an issue, he can make a wise decision

Therefore, wisdom emanates from the mouth of someone with good understanding

A broader principle is that wisdom is derived from understanding

The former follows the latter

In contrast, one void of understanding or wisdom will face trouble

The analogy is that Foolishness will bring correction

What one sows is what one will reap

**3.** Learning that is Pursued

**v.14a – *“Wise men lay up knowledge:”***

***“Lay up***” means *to store*

People layup / store away what they think is valuable

Unless people are pack rats they do not store things that are worthless

***“Knowledge”*** is more than having information

It is possession of insight concerning the information

It is the ability to use what one knows

It is the data base in the mind that is accessed for attitudes and activities

Search is required

Learning is knowledge that has been acquired by study or experience and made evident by practical use

It must be earned by attention to and application of the things that have been taught

Learning does not come looking

It is only possessed as it is pursued

You either use it or lose it

The knowledge earned from experience has saved many from the agony of making the same mistakes

**4.** Destruction that is Invited

**v. 14b - *“but the mouth of the foolish is near destruction”***

***“the mouth of the foolish”***

This does not refer to someone who has no intelligence

But the one who speaks without thoughtful consideration

They blurt out what they cannot back up

They say things better left unsaid

The unthinking, unrestrained mouth of the foolish

… Says the wrong things and sooner or later they get him in trouble

As James said, we need to Tame the Tongue

Failure to do so, invites destruction

**“FOOLISH VS. RIGHTEOUS” THINGS**

**II. “RICH VS. POOR” THINGS – v.15**

The Rich and Poor are very Familiar concepts

This verse states the obvious

The rich man puts his trust in his money

But the poor man has no such defense

A rich man considers his wealth his protection

Conversely, the state of the poor is a worry to them

Implied is that though a wealthy man may consider his riches great protection, really they are not

Confidence in their riches likely may wind up as poverty

**v. 15a - *“The rich man's wealth is his strong city:”***

People think that earnings will produce security but riches are not enough to protect from the power of sickness and death

The only wealth that provides security is in being rich toward God

**Luke 12:21 –** ***“So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God”***

**v. 15b - *“the destruction of the poor is their poverty”***

With little for a livelihood the poor live in a state of fear

With hardly enough to make ends meet they are afraid someone will move the ends and finally do them in

They are bothered by the thought that their poverty will be the means of their destruction

**“FOOLISH VS. RIGHTEOUS” THINGS**

**“RICH VS. POOR” THINGS**

**III. “FAITHFUL VS. FUTILE” THINGS – vs. 16, 17**

**Faithful** – *unwavering, consistent, conscientious, reliable*

**Futile –***serving no useful purpose, completely ineffective*

These verses give us some insight into these 2 thoughts

**A. Prosperity vs. Poverty – v.16**

No one likes not having enough money to live

Notice though, living comfortably is more of an attitude then an action

**1. *“The labour of the righteous tendeth to life:”***

***“Labour”*** – The effort put into something

Labour can be equated with Faithfulness

Effort and Faithfulness speak of consistency

Someone who is Everlastingly at it

***“the righteous”*** are those who by faith have trusted God

-- For their Salvation

-- Their Sanctification

Someone who now lives for God

***“tendeth”*** - *inclination, direction, tend towards*

***“life”*** – as opposed to death

It’s a good thing to be alive, that means we are still on this side of the grass

**Ecclesiastes 9:4 –*“For to him that is joined to all the living there is hope: for a living dog is better than a dead lion”***

I believe it is referring to Quality of Life

Quality of Life because we know God and are living for and with Him (The Giver of Life)

**Colossians 3:23 *– “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men;”***

I believe that what we give over to the Lord, He will bless and make it enjoyable

Labour is tiresome, no matter how you cut it

**Gen. 3:19 – *“In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat”***

**Psalm 90:10 *– “The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their (our) strength … labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away”***

**Ecclesiastes 9:10 – *“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest”***

**Galatians 6:9 *- “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not”***

But … (in contrast to)

**2. *“the fruit of the wicked to sin”***

***“fruit”*** - This word indicates an increase

It is the product of what has been planted

It refers to a crop or harvest

It can also be used figuratively to speak of yield

***“wicked”*** *- This is a word that speaks to everything that is contrary to God’s moral law, in both persons and actions*

We say, a wicked man, a wicked deed, wicked ways, wicked lives, a wicked heart, wicked designs, wicked works

The primary sense is to *wind and turn*, or *to depart, to fall away*

The ***“wicked”*** are those who break God’s moral law without regard or regret

***“sin” –*** *is the outcome of breaking God’s moral Laws*

**Ezekiel 18:20*****– “The soul that sinneth, it shall die”***

**Ill.** This truth can be illustrated by the lives of some of the most successful and influential men in the history of American finance. In 1923 these men met at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago: the president of the country's largest independent steel company, the president of National City Bank, the president of the country's largest utility company, the president of the country's largest gas company, the country's greatest wheat baron, the president of the New York Stock Exchange, a member of the President's cabinet, a man reputed to be the greatest "bear" on Wall Street, the head of the world's greatest monopoly, and the president of the Bank of International Settlements. Now consider the status of these men 26 years later. Charles Schwab had died bankrupt. Samuel Insull had died a fugitive from justice. Howard Hopson had gone insane. Arthur Cotton died abroad insolvent. Richard Whitney had just been released from Sing Sing Prison. Albert Fall had received a pardon so he could go home from prison to die. Jesse Livermore had committed suicide.

Ivar Kreuger, whose suicide shook the financial world, was discovered to be a forger and was labeled "the biggest swindler in the annals of crime." Leon Fraser had also committed suicide. All these men experienced the futility of rejecting righteousness. Any you probably never heard of many of them.

Righteousness Prospers / Wickedness Fails

**B. Correctable or Critical – v.17**

***“the way”*** - That phrase is found 374 times in the Bible

Those who value instruction find ***“the way”***

But those who want nothing to do with Instruction miss ***“the way”***

Those who take the wrong course make their error worse by preventing any correction to it

**1. *“He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction:”***

We have already determined ***“the way of life”***

The Bible says … ***“He is in”*** this way when he …

***“Keepeth instruction”***

***“Instruction”*** - is teaching that guides the student

It is not enough just to listen

There must be a determined effort to hold on to what is heard

This is not something which is done once

But over and over, day after day, weekly, monthly …

Use it or lose it

***“Keeping”*** - is assured by use, because we do not lose what we use

**2. *“but he that refuseth reproof erreth”***

***“refuseth”*** – *unwillingness, to deny, not accept*

***“reproof”*** – *strong correction, rebuke*

A simple test as to whether someone is wise or a fool is how they react when criticized, corrected, or rebuked

A wise man will receive it

A fool will bristle, harden his neck

Doesn’t matter who corrects them

Balaam was corrected by an ass

***“erreth”*** - *A wandering or deviation from the truth; a mistake in judgment, by which men assent to or believe what is not true.*

Error may be voluntary, or involuntary

Voluntary, when men neglect or pervert the proper means to inform the mind;

Involuntary, when the means of judging correctly are not in their power

An error committed through carelessness or haste is a blunder

If you are skewed in one area, you will be skewed in others

Error begets error

If you have one number wrong, it will throw off all your numbers

If you don’t plumb and level a building at the very start it will be grossly distorted at the end

And you won’t be able to fix it

**CONCLUSION**