

Proverbs

Topical Study using the New Living Translation

“The purpose of these proverbs is to teach people wisdom and discipline, and to help them understand wise sayings. Through these proverbs, people will receive instruction in discipline, good conduct, and doing what is right, just, and fair. These proverbs will make the simpleminded clever. They will give knowledge and purpose to young people. Let those who are wise listen to these proverbs and become even wiser. And let those who understand receive guidance by exploring the depth of meaning in these proverbs, parables, wise sayings, and riddles.”

Proverbs 1:2-6

Accusations	pg. 5	Dependability	pg. 14
Adultery	pg. 5-6	Direction	pg. 14
Advice	pg. 6	Disaster	pg. 14
All Knowing God	pg. 6	Discernment	pg. 14
All Present God	pg. 6	Discipline	pg. 14
Anger	pg. 6-7	Discretion	pg. 14
Arguing	pg. 7	Disunity	pg. 14
Attitude	pg. 7	Double Standards	pg. 14
Backsliding	pg. 7	Drinking	pg. 14-15
Bad Behavior	pg. 8	Education	pg. 15
Bad Relationships	pg. 8	Employment	pg. 15-16
Bitterness	pg. 8	Encouragement	pg. 16
Blame	pg. 8	Envy	pg. 16
Blessing	pg. 8	Evil	pg. 16
Body	pg. 8	Evil Intentions	pg. 16
Body Language	pg. 8	Failure	pg. 16
Boldness	pg. 9	Faith	pg. 16
Borrowing	pg. 9	Faithfulness	pg. 16
Bribes	pg. 9	False Witness	pg. 17
Brokenness	pg. 9	Family	pg. 17
Brotherly Love	pg. 9	Favoritism	pg. 17
Building	pg. 9	Fear	pg. 17
Business	pg. 9	Fear of the Lord	pg. 17-18
Busybody	pg. 9	Fighting	pg. 18
Cheating	pg. 9	Flattery	pg. 18
Cheerfulness	pg. 9	Focus	pg. 18
Child Discipline	pg. 10	Fools	pg. 18-19
City Prosperity	pg. 10	Forgiveness	pg. 19
Common Sense	pg. 10	Frankness	pg. 19
Compromise	pg. 10	Friendship	pg. 19
Confidentiality	pg. 11	Generosity	pg. 19
Conflict Management	pg. 11	Gifts	pg. 19
Conscience	pg. 11	Giving	pg. 19-20
Constructive Criticism	pg. 11	God's Word	pg. 20
Contentment	pg. 11	Godliness	pg. 20-21
Conviction	pg. 11	Godly Speech	pg. 21
Correction	pg. 12	Good News	pg. 21
Co-signing	pg. 12	Gossip	pg. 21-22
Counsel	pg. 12-13	Greed	pg. 22
Cruelty	pg. 13	Growth	pg. 22
Curses	pg. 13	Guidance	pg. 22
Death	pg. 13	Guilt	pg. 22
Debt	pg. 13	Hatred	pg. 22
Deceit	pg. 13-14	Helping	pg. 22
		Honesty	pg. 23
		Honor	pg. 23

Honoring Parents	pg. 23	Peace	pg. 37
Hope	pg. 23	Pet Owners	pg. 37
Humility	pg. 23-24	Planning	pg. 37
Hurt	pg. 24	Pleasure	pg. 37
Ideas	pg. 24	Pledges	pg. 37
Immorality	pg. 24-25	Poor	pg. 37-38
Inheritance	pg. 25	Poverty	pg. 38
Injustice	pg. 25	Prayer	pg. 38
Insight	pg. 25	Preparation	pg. 38
Integrity	pg. 26	Pressure	pg. 38
Jealousy	pg. 26	Pride	pg. 39
Joking	pg. 26	Productivity	pg. 39
Joy	pg. 26	Promises	pg. 39
Judgment	pg. 26-27	Prosperity	pg. 39
Justice	pg. 27-28	Prostitution	pg. 39
Kindness	pg. 28	Protection	pg. 40
Lawbreakers	pg. 28	Provision	pg. 40
Laziness	pg. 28-29	Punishment	pg. 40
Leadership	pg. 29-30	Purpose	pg. 40
Life Span	pg. 30	Relationships	pg. 40
Listening	pg. 30	Repentance	pg. 40
Loans	pg. 30	Reputation	pg. 40
Love	pg. 30	Resentment	pg. 41
Loyalty	pg. 30	Responsibility	pg. 41
Lying	pg. 31	Revenge	pg. 41
Marriage	pg. 31-32	Rewards	pg. 41
Medicine	pg. 32	Rumors	pg. 41
Mercy	pg. 32	Sacrifice	pg. 41
Mistakes	pg. 32	Self-control	pg. 41
Mocking	pg. 32-33	Sexual Purity	pg. 42
Modesty	pg. 33	Sickness	pg. 42
Money	pg. 33-34	Sinful Nature	pg. 42
Motivation	pg. 34	Slander	pg. 42
Motives	pg. 34	Sowing and Reaping	pg. 42
Murder	pg. 34	Spirit of Man	pg. 43
Name of the Lord	pg. 35	Spiritual Death	pg. 43
National Morality	pg. 35	Stealing	pg. 43
National Prosperity	pg. 35	Stubbornness	pg. 43
National Security	pg. 35	Success	pg. 43
Neighbors	pg. 35	Taking Action	pg. 43
Nuisance	pg. 35	Teachable	pg. 43
Obedience	pg. 35	Teaching	pg. 43-44
Offenses	pg. 35	Temper	pg. 44
Open-minded	pg. 35	Tests	pg. 44
Parenting	pg. 35-36	Tongue	pg. 44-45
Patience	pg. 36	Trials	pg. 45

Troublemakers	pg. 45	Widows	pg. 47
Trust	pg. 45	Wisdom	pg. 47-49
Truth	pg. 45	Woman	pg. 49
Understanding	pg. 46	Word of God	pg. 49
Violence	pg. 46	Worry	pg. 49
Wealth	pg. 46-47	Youth	pg. 50

Accusations

3:30 - *Don't make accusations against someone who hasn't wronged you.*

Adultery

6:24-29 - *These commands and this teaching will keep you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of an adulterous woman. Don't lust for her beauty. Don't let her coyness seduce you. For a prostitute will bring you to poverty, and sleeping with another man's wife may cost you your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap and not be burned? Can he walk on hot coals and not blister his feet? So it is with the man who sleeps with another man's wife. He who embraces her will not go unpunished.*

6:32-35 - *But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool, for he destroys his own soul. Wounds and constant disgrace are his lot. His shame will never be erased. For the woman's husband will be furious in his jealousy, and he will have no mercy in his day of vengeance. There is no compensation or bribe that will satisfy him.*

7:4-27 - *Love wisdom like a sister; make insight a beloved member of your family. Let them hold you back from an affair with an immoral woman, from listening to the flattery of an adulterous woman. I was looking out the window of my house one day and saw a simpleminded young man who lacked common sense. He was crossing the street near the house of an immoral woman. He was strolling down the path by her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. The woman approached him, dressed seductively and sly of heart. She was the brash, rebellious type who never stays at home. She is often seen in the streets and markets, soliciting at every corner. She threw her arms around him and kissed him, and with a brazen look she said, "I've offered my sacrifices and just finished my vows. It's you I was looking for! I came out to find you, and here you are! My bed is spread with colored sheets of finest linen imported from Egypt. I've perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning. Let's enjoy each other's caresses, for my husband is not home. He's away on a long trip. He has taken a wallet full of money with him, and he won't return until later in the month." So she seduced him with her pretty speech. With her flattery she enticed him. He followed her at once, like an ox going to the slaughter or like a trapped stag, awaiting the arrow that would pierce its heart. He was like a bird flying into a snare, little knowing it would cost him his life. Listen to me, my sons, and pay attention to my words. Don't let your hearts stray away toward her. Don't wander down her wayward path. For she has been the ruin of many; numerous men have been her victims. Her house is the road to the grave. Her bedroom is the den of death.*

23:27-28 - *A prostitute is a deep pit; an adulterous woman is treacherous. She hides and waits like a robber, looking for another victim who will be unfaithful to his wife.*

30:20 - *Equally amazing is how an adulterous woman can satisfy her sexual appetite, shrug her shoulders, and then say, "What's wrong with that?"*

Advice

18:13 - *What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts!*

19:20 - *Get all the advice and instruction you can, and be wise the rest of your life.*

20:5 - *Though good advice lies deep within a person's heart, the wise will draw it out.*

24:5-6 - *A wise man is mightier than a strong man, and a man of knowledge is more powerful than a strong man. So don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many counselors.*

All Knowing God

5:21 - *For the LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes.*

15:3 - *The LORD is watching everywhere, keeping his eye on both the evil and the good.*

15:11 - *Even the depths of Death and Destruction are known by the LORD. How much more does he know the human heart!*

21:12 - *The Righteous One knows what is going on in the homes of the wicked; he will bring the wicked to disaster.*

24:12 - *Don't try to avoid responsibility by saying you didn't know about it. For God knows all hearts, and he sees you. He keeps watch over your soul, and he knows you knew! And he will judge all people according to what they have done.*

All Present God

15:3 *The LORD is watching everywhere, keeping his eye on both the evil and the good.*

Anger

14:17 - *Those who are short-tempered do foolish things, and schemers are hated.*

14:29 - *Those who control their anger have great understanding; those with a hasty temper will make mistakes.*

15:1 - *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger.*

15:18 - *A hothead starts fights; a cool-tempered person tries to stop them.*

17:27 - *A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered.*

19:3 - People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the LORD.

19:11 - People with good sense restrain their anger; they earn esteem by overlooking wrongs.

19:19 - Short-tempered people must pay their own penalty. If you rescue them once, you will have to do it again.

22:24 - Keep away from angry, short-tempered people,

29:8 - Mockers can get a whole town agitated, but those who are wise will calm anger.

29:11 - A fool gives full vent to anger, but a wise person quietly holds it back.

29:22 - A hot-tempered person starts fights and gets into all kinds of sin.

Arguing

17:14 - Beginning a quarrel is like opening a floodgate, so drop the matter before a dispute breaks out.

17:19 - Anyone who loves to quarrel loves sin; anyone who speaks boastfully invites disaster.

18:6 - Fools get into constant quarrels; they are asking for a beating.

18:18-19 - Casting lots can end arguments and settle disputes between powerful opponents. It's harder to make amends with an offended friend than to capture a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with iron bars.

20:3 - Avoiding a fight is a mark of honor; only fools insist on quarreling.

26:17 - Yanking a dog's ears is as foolish as interfering in someone else's argument.

26:21 - A quarrelsome person starts fights as easily as hot embers light charcoal or fire lights wood.

Attitude

11:27 - If you search for good, you will find favor; but if you search for evil, it will find you!

14:30 - A relaxed attitude lengthens life; jealousy rots it away.

Backsliding

15:10 - Whoever abandons the right path will be severely punished; whoever hates correction will die.

Bad Behavior

10:23 - Doing wrong is fun for a fool, while wise conduct is a pleasure to the wise.

Bad Relationships

1:10-19 - My child, if sinners entice you, turn your back on them! They may say, "Come and join us. Let's hide and kill someone! Let's ambush the innocent! Let's swallow them alive as the grave swallows its victims. Though they are in the prime of life, they will go down into the pit of death. And the loot we'll get! We'll fill our houses with all kinds of things! Come on, throw in your lot with us; we'll split our loot with you." Don't go along with them, my child! Stay far away from their paths. They rush to commit crimes. They hurry to commit murder. When a bird sees a trap being set, it stays away. But not these people! They set an ambush for themselves; they booby-trap their own lives! Such is the fate of all who are greedy for gain. It ends up robbing them of life.

24:1-2 - Don't envy evil people; don't desire their company. For they spend their days plotting violence, and their words are always stirring up trouble.

24:21-22 - My child, fear the LORD and the king, and don't associate with rebels. For you will go down with them to sudden disaster. Who knows where the punishment from the LORD and the king will end?

28:7 - Young people who obey the law are wise; those who seek out worthless companions bring shame to their parents.

Bitterness

14:10 - Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can fully share its joy.

Blame

19:3 - People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the LORD.

Blessing

3:33 - The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but his blessing is on the home of the upright.

13:21 - Trouble chases sinners, while blessings chase the righteous!

Body

20:12 - Ears to hear and eyes to see--both are gifts from the LORD.

Body Language

6:12-15 - Here is a description of worthless and wicked people: They are constant liars, signaling their true intentions to their friends by making signs with their eyes and feet and fingers. Their perverted hearts plot evil. They stir up trouble constantly. But they will be destroyed suddenly, broken beyond all hope of healing.

Boldness

28:1 - The wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions.

Borrowing

22:7 - Just as the rich rule the poor, so the borrower is servant to the lender.

Bribes

15:27 - Dishonest money brings grief to the whole family, but those who hate bribes will live.

17:23 The wicked accept secret bribes to pervert justice.

Brokenness

17:22 - A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.

18:14 - The human spirit can endure a sick body, but who can bear it if the spirit is crushed?

Brotherly Love

17:17 - A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

Building

24:27 - Develop your business first before building your house.

Business

16:11 - The LORD demands fairness in every business deal; he sets the standard.

24:27 - Develop your business first before building your house.

26:10 - An employer who hires a fool or a bystander is like an archer who shoots recklessly.

28:8 - A person who makes money by charging interest will lose it. It will end up in the hands of someone who is kind to the poor.

Busybody

26:17 - Yanking a dog's ears is as foolish as interfering in someone else's argument.

Cheating

11:1 - The LORD hates cheating, but he delights in honesty.

Cheerfulness

15:30 - A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; good news makes for good health.

17:22 - A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.

Child Discipline

6:20-23 - *My son, obey your father's commands, and don't neglect your mother's teaching. Keep their words always in your heart. Tie them around your neck. Wherever you walk, their counsel can lead you. When you sleep, they will protect you. When you wake up in the morning, they will advise you. For these commands and this teaching are a lamp to light the way ahead of you. The correction of discipline is the way to life.*

13:1 - *A wise child accepts a parent's discipline; a young mocker refuses to listen.*

13:24 - *If you refuse to discipline your children, it proves you don't love them; if you love your children, you will be prompt to discipline them.*

15:5 - *Only a fool despises a parent's discipline; whoever learns from correction is wise.*

19:18 - *Discipline your children while there is hope. If you don't, you will ruin their lives.*

20:30 - *Physical punishment cleanses away evil; such discipline purifies the heart.*

22:15 - *A youngster's heart is filled with foolishness, but discipline will drive it away.*

23:13-14 - *Don't fail to correct your children. They won't die if you spank them. Physical discipline may well save them from death.*

29:15 - *To discipline and reprimand a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.*

29:17 - *Discipline your children, and they will give you happiness and peace of mind.*

29:21 - *A servant who is pampered from childhood will later become a rebel.*

City Prosperity

11:11 - *Upright citizens bless a city and make it prosper, but the talk of the wicked tears it apart.*

14:28 - *A growing population is a king's glory; a dwindling nation is his doom.*

Common Sense

21:16 - *The person who strays from common sense will end up in the company of the dead.*

Compromise

10:10 - *People who wink at wrong cause trouble, but a bold reproof promotes peace.*

25:26 - *If the godly compromise with the wicked, it is like polluting a fountain or muddying a spring.*

Confidentiality

11:13 - A gossip goes around revealing secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

17:9 - Disregarding another person's faults preserves love; telling about them separates close friends.

Conflict Management

25:7b-10 - Just because you see something, don't be in a hurry to go to court. You might go down before your neighbors in shameful defeat. So discuss the matter with them privately. Don't tell anyone else, or others may accuse you of gossip. Then you will never regain your good reputation.

Conscience

28:14 - Blessed are those who have a tender conscience, but the stubborn are headed for serious trouble.

28:17 - A murderer's tormented conscience will drive him into the grave. Don't protect him!

Constructive Criticism

13:18 - If you ignore criticism, you will end in poverty and disgrace; if you accept criticism, you will be honored.

15:31-32 - If you listen to constructive criticism, you will be at home among the wise. If you reject criticism, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.

29:1 - Whoever stubbornly refuses to accept criticism will suddenly be broken beyond repair.

Contentment

30:7-9 - O God, I beg two favors from you before I die. First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs. For if I grow rich, I may deny you and say, "Who is the LORD?" And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.

30:15-16 - The leech has two suckers that cry out, "More, more!" There are three other things--no, four!--that are never satisfied: the grave, the barren womb, the thirsty desert, the blazing fire.

Conviction

25:21-22 - If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink. You will heap burning coals on their heads, and the LORD will reward you.

Correction

3:11-12 - *My child, don't ignore it when the LORD disciplines you, and don't be discouraged when he corrects you. For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.*

9:8 - *So don't bother rebuking mockers; they will only hate you. But the wise, when rebuked, will love you all the more.*

10:17 - *People who accept correction are on the pathway to life, but those who ignore it will lead others astray.*

15:10 - *Whoever abandons the right path will be severely punished; whoever hates correction will die.*

15:32 - *If you reject criticism, you only harm yourself; but if you listen to correction, you grow in understanding.*

17:10 - *A single rebuke does more for a person of understanding than a hundred lashes on the back of a fool.*

27:5-6 - *An open rebuke is better than hidden love! Wounds from a friend are better than many kisses from an enemy.*

Co-signing

6:1-5 - *My child, if you co-sign a loan for a friend or guarantee the debt of someone you hardly know-- if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said-- quick, get out of it if you possibly can! You have placed yourself at your friend's mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased. Don't put it off. Do it now! Don't rest until you do. Save yourself like a deer escaping from a hunter, like a bird fleeing from a net.*

17:18 - *It is poor judgment to co-sign a friend's note, to become responsible for a neighbor's debts.*

22:26-27 - *Do not co-sign another person's note or put up a guarantee for someone else's loan. If you can't pay it, even your bed will be snatched from under you.*

Counsel

11:14 - *Without wise leadership, a nation falls; with many counselors, there is safety.*

12:26 - *The godly give good advice to their friends; the wicked lead them astray.*

13:13 - *People who despise advice will find themselves in trouble; those who respect it will succeed.*

15:22 - *Plans go wrong for lack of advice; many counselors bring success.*

24:5-6 - *A wise man is mightier than a strong man, and a man of knowledge is more powerful than a strong man. So don't go to war without wise guidance; victory depends on having many counselors.*

27:9 - *The heartfelt counsel of a friend is as sweet as perfume and incense.*

Cruelty

11:17 - *Your own soul is nourished when you are kind, but you destroy yourself when you are cruel.*

Curses

3:33 - *The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but his blessing is on the home of the upright.*

26:2 - *Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an unfair curse will not land on its intended victim.*

Death

15:24 - *The path of the wise leads to life above; they leave the grave behind.*

21:16 - *The person who strays from common sense will end up in the company of the dead.*

27:20 - *Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so human desire is never satisfied.*

Debt

6:1-5 - *My child, if you co-sign a loan for a friend or guarantee the debt of someone you hardly know-- if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said-- quick, get out of it if you possibly can! You have placed yourself at your friend's mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased. Don't put it off. Do it now! Don't rest until you do. Save yourself like a deer escaping from a hunter, like a bird fleeing from a net.*

20:16 - *Be sure to get collateral from anyone who guarantees the debt of a stranger. Get a deposit if someone guarantees the debt of a foreigner.*

27:13 - *Be sure to get collateral from anyone who guarantees the debt of a stranger. Get a deposit if someone guarantees the debt of an adulterous woman.*

Deceit

22:5 - *The deceitful walk a thorny, treacherous road; whoever values life will stay away.*

22:12 - *The LORD preserves knowledge, but he ruins the plans of the deceitful.*

22:16 - *A person who gets ahead by oppressing the poor or by showering gifts on the rich will end in poverty.*

Dependability

12:22 - *The LORD hates those who don't keep their word, but he delights in those who do.*

Direction

20:24 - *How can we understand the road we travel? It is the LORD who directs our steps.*

Disaster

10:25 - *Disaster strikes like a cyclone, whirling the wicked away, but the godly have a lasting foundation.*

Discernment

11:9 - *Evil words destroy one's friends; wise discernment rescues the godly.*

Discipline

12:1 - *To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction.*

29:19 - *For a servant, mere words are not enough--discipline is needed. For the words may be understood, but they are not heeded.*

Discretion

11:22 - *A woman who is beautiful but lacks discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.*

Disunity

6:16-19 - *There are six things the LORD hates--no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord among brothers.*

Double Standards

20:10 - *The LORD despises double standards of every kind.*

20:23 - *The LORD despises double standards; he is not pleased by dishonest scales.*

Drinking

20:1 - *Wine produces mockers; liquor leads to brawls. Whoever is led astray by drink cannot be wise.*

23:20-21 - *Do not carouse with drunkards and gluttons, for they are on their way to poverty. Too much sleep clothes a person with rags.*

23:29-35 - *Who has anguish? Who has sorrow? Who is always fighting? Who is always complaining? Who has unnecessary bruises? Who has bloodshot eyes? It is the one who spends long hours in the taverns, trying out new drinks. Don't let the sparkle and smooth taste of wine deceive you. For in the end it bites like a poisonous serpent; it stings like a*

viper. You will see hallucinations, and you will say crazy things. You will stagger like a sailor tossed at sea, clinging to a swaying mast. And you will say, "They hit me, but I didn't feel it. I didn't even know it when they beat me up. When will I wake up so I can have another drink?"

Education

17:16 - *It is senseless to pay tuition to educate a fool who has no heart for wisdom.*

19:20 - *Get all the advice and instruction you can, and be wise the rest of your life.*

23:12 - *Commit yourself to instruction; attune your ears to hear words of knowledge.*

Employment

6:6-11 - *Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and be wise! Even though they have no prince, governor, or ruler to make them work, they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? I want you to learn this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- and poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.*

10:4-5 - *Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich. A wise youth works hard all summer; a youth who sleeps away the hour of opportunity brings shame.*

10:26 - *Lazy people are a pain to their employer. They are like smoke in the eyes or vinegar that sets the teeth on edge.*

12:11 - *Hard work means prosperity; only fools idle away their time.*

13:4 - *Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper and be satisfied.*

13:11 - *Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows.*

14:23 - *Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty!*

14:35 - *A king rejoices in servants who know what they are doing; he is angry with those who cause trouble.*

15:19 - *A lazy person has trouble all through life; the path of the upright is easy!*

16:26 - *It is good for workers to have an appetite; an empty stomach drives them on.*

26:10 - *An employer who hires a fool or a bystander is like an archer who shoots recklessly.*

27:18 - *Workers who tend a fig tree are allowed to eat its fruit. In the same way, workers who protect their employer's interests will be rewarded.*

30:10 - *Never slander a person to his employer. If you do, the person will curse you, and you will pay for it.*

Encouragement

12:25 - *Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.*

25:25 - *Good news from far away is like cold water to the thirsty.*

Envy

23:17-18 - *Don't envy sinners, but always continue to fear the LORD. For surely you have a future ahead of you; your hope will not be disappointed.*

24:19 - *Do not fret because of evildoers; don't envy the wicked.*

Evil

8:13 - *All who fear the LORD will hate evil. That is why I hate pride, arrogance, corruption, and perverted speech.*

Evil Intentions

6:16-19 - *There are six things the LORD hates--no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord among brothers.*

Failure

24:10 - *If you fail under pressure, your strength is not very great.*

24:16 - *They may trip seven times, but each time they will rise again. But one calamity is enough to lay the wicked low.*

Faith

3:5 - *Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.*

16:20 - *Those who listen to instruction will prosper; those who trust the LORD will be happy.*

28:25-26 - *Greed causes fighting; trusting the LORD leads to prosperity. Trusting oneself is foolish, but those who walk in wisdom are safe.*

29:25 - *Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but to trust the LORD means safety.*

Faithfulness

20:6 - *Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is really faithful?*

False Witness

6:16-19 - *There are six things the LORD hates--no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord among brothers.*

24:28 - *Do not testify spitefully against innocent neighbors; don't lie about them.*

Family

12:7 - *The wicked perish and are gone, but the children of the godly stand firm.*

Faults

17:9 - *Disregarding another person's faults preserves love; telling about them separates close friends.*

Favoritism

24:23 - *Here are some further sayings of the wise: It is wrong to show favoritism when passing judgment.*

28:21 - *Showing partiality is never good, yet some will do wrong for something as small as a piece of bread.*

Fear

3:25-26 - *You need not be afraid of disaster or the destruction that comes upon the wicked, for the LORD is your security. He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap.*

29:25 - *Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but to trust the LORD means safety.*

Fear of the Lord

1:7 - *Fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge. Only fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

2:1-5 - *My child, listen to me and treasure my instructions. Tune your ears to wisdom, and concentrate on understanding. Cry out for insight and understanding. Search for them as you would for lost money or hidden treasure. Then you will understand what it means to fear the LORD, and you will gain knowledge of God.*

3:7-8 - *Don't be impressed with your own wisdom. Instead, fear the LORD and turn your back on evil. Then you will gain renewed health and vitality.*

8:13 - *All who fear the LORD will hate evil. That is why I hate pride, arrogance, corruption, and perverted speech.*

9:10 - *Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in understanding.*

10:27 - *Fear of the LORD lengthens one's life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.*

14:2 - Those who follow the right path fear the LORD; those who take the wrong path despise him.

14:26-27 - Those who fear the LORD are secure; he will be a place of refuge for their children. Fear of the LORD is a life-giving fountain; it offers escape from the snares of death.

15:16 - It is better to have little with fear for the LORD than to have great treasure with turmoil.

15:33 - Fear of the LORD teaches a person to be wise; humility precedes honor.

16:6 - Unfailing love and faithfulness cover sin; evil is avoided by fear of the LORD.

19:23 - Fear of the LORD gives life, security, and protection from harm.

22:4 - True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life.

23:17-18 - Don't envy sinners, but always continue to fear the LORD. For surely you have a future ahead of you; your hope will not be disappointed.

31:30 - Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised.

Fighting

20:3 - Avoiding a fight is a mark of honor; only fools insist on quarreling.

Flattery

28:23 - In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery.

29:5 - To flatter people is to lay a trap for their feet.

Focus

4:25-27 - Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; then stick to the path and stay safe. Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.

Fools

18:2 - Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.

18:6 - Fools get into constant quarrels; they are asking for a beating.

27:3 - A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but the resentment caused by a fool is heavier than both.

29:11 - A fool gives full vent to anger, but a wise person quietly holds it back.

Forgiveness

19:11 - People with good sense restrain their anger; they earn esteem by overlooking wrongs.

Frankness

28:23 - In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery.

Friendship

17:17 - A friend is always loyal, and a brother is born to help in time of need.

18:19 - It's harder to make amends with an offended friend than to capture a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with iron bars.

18:24 - There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother.

20:6 - Many will say they are loyal friends, but who can find one who is really faithful?

27:10 - Never abandon a friend--either yours or your father's. Then in your time of need, you won't have to ask your relatives for assistance. It is better to go to a neighbor than to a relative who lives far away.

27:17 - As iron sharpens iron, a friend sharpens a friend.

Generosity

11:25 - The generous prosper and are satisfied; those who refresh others will themselves be refreshed.

14:31 - Those who oppress the poor insult their Maker, but those who help the poor honor him.

22:9 - Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.

Gifts

18:16 - Giving a gift works wonders; it may bring you before important people!

19:6 - Many beg favors from a prince; everyone is the friend of a person who gives gifts!

20:12 - Ears to hear and eyes to see--both are gifts from the LORD.

Giving

18:16 - Giving a gift works wonders; it may bring you before important people!

21:25-26 - The desires of lazy people will be their ruin, for their hands refuse to work. They are always greedy for more, while the godly love to give!

28:27 - *Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing. But a curse will come upon those who close their eyes to poverty.*

God's Word

19:16 - *Keep the commandments and keep your life; despising them leads to death.*

Godliness

3:31-32 - *Do not envy violent people; don't copy their ways. Such wicked people are an abomination to the LORD, but he offers his friendship to the godly.*

10:2-3 - *Ill-gotten gain has no lasting value, but right living can save your life. The LORD will not let the godly starve to death, but he refuses to satisfy the craving of the wicked.*

10:6-7 - *The godly are showered with blessings; evil people cover up their harmful intentions. We all have happy memories of the godly, but the name of a wicked person rots away.*

10:11 - *The words of the godly lead to life; evil people cover up their harmful intentions.*

10:16 - *The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin.*

10:21 - *The godly give good advice, but fools are destroyed by their lack of common sense.*

10:25 - *Disaster strikes like a cyclone, whirling the wicked away, but the godly have a lasting foundation.*

10:30-32 - *The godly will never be disturbed, but the wicked will be removed from the land. The godly person gives wise advice, but the tongue that deceives will be cut off. The godly speak words that are helpful, but the wicked speak only what is corrupt.*

11:4 - *Riches won't help on the day of judgment, but right living is a safeguard against death.*

11:8 - *God rescues the godly from danger, but he lets the wicked fall into trouble.*

11:23 - *The godly can look forward to happiness, while the wicked can expect only wrath.*

11:30 - *The godly are like trees that bear life-giving fruit, and those who save lives are wise.*

12:28 - *The way of the godly leads to life; their path does not lead to death.*

13:6 - Godliness helps people all through life, while the evil are destroyed by their wickedness.

13:25 - The godly eat to their hearts' content, but the belly of the wicked goes hungry.

14:34 - Godliness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

15:9 - The LORD despises the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue godliness.

16:7 - When the ways of people please the LORD, he makes even their enemies live at peace with them.

16:17 - The path of the upright leads away from evil; whoever follows that path is safe.

16:31 - Gray hair is a crown of glory; it is gained by living a godly life.

20:7 - The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children after them.

21:21 - Whoever pursues godliness and unfailing love will find life, godliness, and honor.

24:15-16 - Do not lie in wait like an outlaw at the home of the godly. And don't raid the house where the godly live. They may trip seven times, but each time they will rise again. But one calamity is enough to lay the wicked low.

28:1 - The wicked run away when no one is chasing them, but the godly are as bold as lions.

29:27 - The godly despise the wicked; the wicked despise the godly.

Godly Speech

12:18 - Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.

15:23 - Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!

15:26 - The LORD despises the thoughts of the wicked, but he delights in pure words.

15:28 - The godly think before speaking; the wicked spout evil words.

Good News

15:30 - A cheerful look brings joy to the heart; good news makes for good health.

25:25 - Good news from far away is like cold water to the thirsty.

Gossip

11:13 - A gossip goes around revealing secrets, but those who are trustworthy can keep a confidence.

16:28 - A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

20:19 - A gossip tells secrets, so don't hang around with someone who talks too much.

25:18 - Telling lies about others is as harmful as hitting them with an ax, wounding them with a sword, or shooting them with a sharp arrow.

25:23 - As surely as a wind from the north brings rain, so a gossiping tongue causes anger!

Greed

11:26 - People curse those who hold their grain for higher prices, but they bless the one who sells to them in their time of need.

28:22 - A greedy person tries to get rich quick, but it only leads to poverty.

28:25 - Greed causes fighting; trusting the LORD leads to prosperity.

Growth

14:28 - A growing population is a king's glory; a dwindling nation is his doom.

Guidance

3:6 - Seek his will in all you do, and he will direct your paths.

29:18 - When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. But whoever obeys the law is happy.

Guilt

14:9 - Fools make fun of guilt, but the godly acknowledge it and seek reconciliation.

Hatred

10:12 - Hatred stirs up quarrels, but love covers all offenses.

10:18 - To hide hatred is to be a liar; to slander is to be a fool.

26:24-26 - People with hate in their hearts may sound pleasant enough, but don't believe them. Though they pretend to be kind, their hearts are full of all kinds of evil. While their hatred may be concealed by trickery, it will finally come to light for all to see.

Helping

3:27-28 - Do not withhold good from those who deserve it when it's in your power to help them. If you can help your neighbor now, don't say, "Come back tomorrow, and then I'll help you."

Honesty

11:1 - The LORD hates cheating, but he delights in honesty.

11:3 - Good people are guided by their honesty; treacherous people are destroyed by their dishonesty.

11:5 - The godly are directed by their honesty; the wicked fall beneath their load of sin.

19:1 - It is better to be poor and honest than to be a fool and dishonest.

19:22 - Loyalty makes a person attractive. And it is better to be poor than dishonest.

28:10 - Those who lead the upright into sin will fall into their own trap, but the honest will inherit good things.

28:18 - The honest will be rescued from harm, but those who are crooked will be destroyed.

28:23 - In the end, people appreciate frankness more than flattery.

29:10 - The bloodthirsty hate the honest, but the upright seek out the honest.

Honor

8:18 - Unending riches, honor, wealth, and justice are mine to distribute.

21:21 - Whoever pursues godliness and unfailing love will find life, godliness, and honor.

22:4 - True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life.

Honoring Parents

28:24 - Robbing your parents and then saying, "What's wrong with that?" is as serious as committing murder.

Hope

13:12 - Hope deferred makes the heart sick, but when dreams come true, there is life and joy.

Humility

3:34 - The LORD mocks at mockers, but he shows favor to the humble.

15:33 - Fear of the LORD teaches a person to be wise; humility precedes honor.

18:12 - Haughtiness goes before destruction; humility precedes honor.

22:4 - True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life.

25:6-7 - *Don't demand an audience with the king or push for a place among the great. It is better to wait for an invitation than to be sent to the end of the line, publicly disgraced!*

27:2 - *Don't praise yourself; let others do it!*

27:21 - *Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but a person is tested by being praised.*

29:23 - *Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor.*

Hurt

14:13 - *Laughter can conceal a heavy heart; when the laughter ends, the grief remains.*

Ideas

18:15 - *Intelligent people are always open to new ideas. In fact, they look for them.*

Immorality

6:24-29 - *These commands and this teaching will keep you from the immoral woman, from the smooth tongue of an adulterous woman. Don't lust for her beauty. Don't let her coyness seduce you. For a prostitute will bring you to poverty, and sleeping with another man's wife may cost you your very life. Can a man scoop fire into his lap and not be burned? Can he walk on hot coals and not blister his feet? So it is with the man who sleeps with another man's wife. He who embraces her will not go unpunished.*

6:32-35 - *But the man who commits adultery is an utter fool, for he destroys his own soul. Wounds and constant disgrace are his lot. His shame will never be erased. For the woman's husband will be furious in his jealousy, and he will have no mercy in his day of vengeance. There is no compensation or bribe that will satisfy him.*

7:4-27 - *Love wisdom like a sister; make insight a beloved member of your family. Let them hold you back from an affair with an immoral woman, from listening to the flattery of an adulterous woman. I was looking out the window of my house one day and saw a simpleminded young man who lacked common sense. He was crossing the street near the house of an immoral woman. He was strolling down the path by her house at twilight, as the day was fading, as the dark of night set in. The woman approached him, dressed seductively and sly of heart. She was the brash, rebellious type who never stays at home. She is often seen in the streets and markets, soliciting at every corner. She threw her arms around him and kissed him, and with a brazen look she said, "I've offered my sacrifices and just finished my vows. It's you I was looking for! I came out to find you, and here you are! My bed is spread with colored sheets of finest linen imported from Egypt. I've perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon. Come, let's drink our fill of love until morning. Let's enjoy each other's caresses, for my husband is not home. He's away on a long trip. He has taken a wallet full of money with him, and he won't return until later in the month." So she seduced him with her pretty speech. With her flattery she enticed him. He followed her at once, like an ox going to the slaughter or like a trapped stag, awaiting the arrow that would pierce its heart. He was like a bird flying into a snare, little knowing it would cost him his life. Listen to me, my sons, and pay attention to my words. Don't let your*

hearts stray away toward her. Don't wander down her wayward path. For she has been the ruin of many; numerous men have been her victims. Her house is the road to the grave. Her bedroom is the den of death.

9:13-18 - *The woman named Folly is loud and brash. She is ignorant and doesn't even know it. She sits in her doorway on the heights overlooking the city. She calls out to men going by who are minding their own business. "Come home with me," she urges the simple. To those without good judgment, she says, "Stolen water is refreshing; food eaten in secret tastes the best!" But the men don't realize that her former guests are now in the grave.*

29:3 - *The man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but if he hangs around with prostitutes, his wealth is wasted.*

30:20 - *Equally amazing is how an adulterous woman can satisfy her sexual appetite, shrug her shoulders, and then say, "What's wrong with that?"*

Inheritance

11:29 - *Those who bring trouble on their families inherit only the wind. The fool will be a servant to the wise.*

13:22 - *Good people leave an inheritance to their grandchildren, but the sinner's wealth passes to the godly.*

Injustice

17:13 - *If you repay evil for good, evil will never leave your house.*

17:15 - *The LORD despises those who acquit the guilty and condemn the innocent.*

17:23 - *The wicked accept secret bribes to pervert justice.*

18:5 - *It is wrong for a judge to favor the guilty or condemn the innocent.*

19: 5 - *A false witness will not go unpunished, nor will a liar escape.*

19:9 - *A false witness will not go unpunished, and a liar will be destroyed.*

19:28 - *A corrupt witness makes a mockery of justice; the mouth of the wicked gulps down evil.*

22:8 - *Those who plant seeds of injustice will harvest disaster, and their reign of terror will end.*

Insight

3:21-24 - *My child, don't lose sight of good planning and insight. Hang on to them, for they fill you with life and bring you honor and respect. They keep you safe on your way and keep your feet from stumbling. You can lie down without fear and enjoy pleasant dreams.*

Integrity

2:7 - He grants a treasure of good sense to the godly. He is their shield, protecting those who walk with integrity.

10:9 - People with integrity have firm footing, but those who follow crooked paths will slip and fall.

11:20 - The LORD hates people with twisted hearts, but he delights in those who have integrity.

12:22 - The LORD hates those who don't keep their word, but he delights in those who do.

15:27 - Dishonest money brings grief to the whole family, but those who hate bribes will live.

16:11 - The LORD demands fairness in every business deal; he sets the standard.

20:7 - The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children after them.

Jealousy

14:30 - A relaxed attitude lengthens life; jealousy rots it away.

27:4 - Anger is cruel, and wrath is like a flood, but who can survive the destructiveness of jealousy?

Joking

26:18-19 - Just as damaging as a mad man shooting a lethal weapon is someone who lies to a friend and then says, "I was only joking."

Joy

14:10 - Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can fully share its joy.

Judgment

4:5-13 - Learn to be wise, and develop good judgment. Don't forget or turn away from my words. Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you. Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And whatever else you do, get good judgment. If you prize wisdom, she will exalt you. Embrace her and she will honor you. She will place a lovely wreath on your head; she will present you with a beautiful crown." My child, listen to me and do as I say, and you will have a long, good life. I will teach you wisdom's ways and lead you in straight paths. If you live a life guided by wisdom, you won't limp or stumble as you run. Carry out my instructions; don't forsake them. Guard them, for they will lead you to a fulfilled life.

11:31 - If the righteous are rewarded here on earth, how much more true that the wicked and the sinner will get what they deserve!

13:16 - *Wise people think before they act; fools don't and even brag about it!*

13:20 - *Whoever walks with the wise will become wise; whoever walks with fools will suffer harm.*

14:32 - *The wicked are crushed by their sins, but the godly have a refuge when they die.*

18:13 - *What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts!*

18:17 - *Any story sounds true until someone sets the record straight.*

20:8 - *When a king judges, he carefully weighs all the evidence, distinguishing the bad from the good.*

24:23 - *Here are some further sayings of the wise: It is wrong to show favoritism when passing judgment.*

25:7b-10 - *Just because you see something, don't be in a hurry to go to court. You might go down before your neighbors in shameful defeat. So discuss the matter with them privately. Don't tell anyone else, or others may accuse you of gossip. Then you will never regain your good reputation.*

Justice

2:8 - *He guards the paths of justice and protects those who are faithful to him.*

8:18 - *Unending riches, honor, wealth, and justice are mine to distribute.*

21:15 - *Justice is a joy to the godly, but it causes dismay among evildoers.*

24:11 - *Rescue those who are unjustly sentenced to death; don't stand back and let them die.*

24:24-25 - *A judge who says to the wicked, "You are innocent," will be cursed by many people and denounced by the nations. But blessings are showered on those who convict the guilty.*

28:4-5 - *To reject the law is to praise the wicked; to obey the law is to fight them. Evil people don't understand justice, but those who follow the LORD understand completely.*

29:4 - *A just king gives stability to his nation, but one who demands bribes destroys it.*

29:9 - *If a wise person takes a fool to court, there will be ranting and ridicule but no satisfaction.*

29:24 - *If you assist a thief, you are only hurting yourself. You will be punished if you report the crime, but you will be cursed if you don't.*

29:26 - Many seek the ruler's favor, but justice comes from the LORD.

Kindness

3:3-4 - Never let loyalty and kindness get away from you! Wear them like a necklace; write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will gain a good reputation.

11:17 - Your own soul is nourished when you are kind, but you destroy yourself when you are cruel.

16:24 - Kind words are like honey--sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.

Lawbreakers

28:9 - The prayers of a person who ignores the law are despised.

Laziness

6:6-11 - Take a lesson from the ants, you lazybones. Learn from their ways and be wise! Even though they have no prince, governor, or ruler to make them work, they labor hard all summer, gathering food for the winter. But you, lazybones, how long will you sleep? When will you wake up? I want you to learn this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- and poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.

10:4-5 - Lazy people are soon poor; hard workers get rich. A wise youth works hard all summer; a youth who sleeps away the hour of opportunity brings shame.

10:26 - Lazy people are a pain to their employer. They are like smoke in the eyes or vinegar that sets the teeth on edge.

13:4 - Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper and be satisfied.

15:19 - A lazy person has trouble all through life; the path of the upright is easy!

18:9 - A lazy person is as bad as someone who destroys things.

19:15 - A lazy person sleeps soundly--and goes hungry.

19:24 - Some people are so lazy that they won't even lift a finger to feed themselves.

20:4 - If you are too lazy to plow in the right season, you will have no food at the harvest.

20:13 - If you love sleep, you will end in poverty. Keep your eyes open, and there will be plenty to eat!

21:25 - *The desires of lazy people will be their ruin, for their hands refuse to work.*

22:13 - *The lazy person is full of excuses, saying, "If I go outside, I might meet a lion in the street and be killed!"*

23:21 - *Too much sleep clothes a person with rags.*

24:30 - *I walked by the field of a lazy person, the vineyard of one lacking sense. I saw that it was overgrown with thorns. It was covered with weeds, and its walls were broken down. Then, as I looked and thought about it, I learned this lesson: A little extra sleep, a little more slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- and poverty will pounce on you like a bandit; scarcity will attack you like an armed robber.*

26:13-16 - *The lazy person is full of excuses, saying, "I can't go outside because there might be a lion on the road! Yes, I'm sure there's a lion out there!" As a door turns back and forth on its hinges, so the lazy person turns over in bed. Some people are so lazy that they won't lift a finger to feed themselves. Lazy people consider themselves smarter than seven wise counselors.*

Leadership

11:14 - *Without wise leadership, a nation falls; with many counselors, there is safety.*

12: 24 - *Work hard and become a leader; be lazy and become a slave.*

28:2 - *When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily. But with wise and knowledgeable leaders, there is stability.*

28:12 - *When the godly succeed, everyone is glad. When the wicked take charge, people go into hiding.*

28:16 - *Only a stupid prince will oppress his people, but a king will have a long reign if he hates dishonesty and bribes.*

28:28 - *When the wicked take charge, people hide. When the wicked meet disaster, the godly multiply.*

29:2 - *When the godly are in authority, the people rejoice. But when the wicked are in power, they groan.*

29:4 - *A just king gives stability to his nation, but one who demands bribes destroys it.*

29:12 - *If a ruler honors liars, all his advisers will be wicked.*

29:14 - *A king who is fair to the poor will have a long reign.*

29:16 - *When the wicked are in authority, sin increases. But the godly will live to see the tyrant's downfall.*

Life Span

10:27 - *Fear of the LORD lengthens one's life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.*

14:30 - *A relaxed attitude lengthens life; jealousy rots it away.*

22:4 - *True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life.*

Listening

18:13 - *What a shame, what folly, to give advice before listening to the facts!*

Loans

6:1-5 - *My child, if you co-sign a loan for a friend or guarantee the debt of someone you hardly know-- if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said-- quick, get out of it if you possibly can! You have placed yourself at your friend's mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased. Don't put it off. Do it now! Don't rest until you do. Save yourself like a deer escaping from a hunter, like a bird fleeing from a net.*

11:15 - *Guaranteeing a loan for a stranger is dangerous; it is better to refuse than to suffer later.*

27:13 - *Be sure to get collateral from anyone who guarantees the debt of a stranger. Get a deposit if someone guarantees the debt of an adulterous woman.*

Love

10:12 - *Hatred stirs up quarrels, but love covers all offenses.*

16:6 - *Unfailing love and faithfulness cover sin; evil is avoided by fear of the LORD.*

17:9 - *Disregarding another person's faults preserves love; telling about them separates close friends.*

21:21 - *Whoever pursues godliness and unfailing love will find life, godliness, and honor.*

Loyalty

3:3-4 - *Never let loyalty and kindness get away from you! Wear them like a necklace; write them deep within your heart. Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will gain a good reputation.*

19:22 - *Loyalty makes a person attractive. And it is better to be poor than dishonest.*

Lying

6:12-19 - Here is a description of worthless and wicked people: They are constant liars, signaling their true intentions to their friends by making signs with their eyes and feet and fingers. Their perverted hearts plot evil. They stir up trouble constantly. But they will be destroyed suddenly, broken beyond all hope of healing. There are six things the LORD hates--no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord among brothers.

19: 5 - A false witness will not go unpunished, nor will a liar escape.

19:9 - A false witness will not go unpunished, and a liar will be destroyed.

25:18 - Telling lies about others is as harmful as hitting them with an ax, wounding them with a sword, or shooting them with a sharp arrow.

26:18-19 - Just as damaging as a mad man shooting a lethal weapon is someone who lies to a friend and then says, "I was only joking."

30:7-8a - O God, I beg two favors from you before I die. First, help me never to tell a lie.

Marriage

5:15-21 - Drink water from your own well--share your love only with your wife. Why spill the water of your springs in public, having sex with just anyone? You should reserve it for yourselves. Don't share it with strangers. Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. She is a loving doe, a graceful deer. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, with an immoral woman, or embrace the breasts of an adulterous woman? For the LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes.

12:4 - A worthy wife is her husband's joy and crown; a shameful wife saps his strength.

18:22 - The man who finds a wife finds a treasure and receives favor from the LORD.

19:13 - A foolish child is a calamity to a father; a nagging wife annoys like a constant dripping.

19:14 - Parents can provide their sons with an inheritance of houses and wealth, but only the LORD can give an understanding wife.

21:9 - It is better to live alone in the corner of an attic than with a contentious wife in a lovely home.

21:19 - It is better to live alone in the desert than with a crabby, complaining wife.

23:27-28 - *A prostitute is a deep pit; an adulterous woman is treacherous. She hides and waits like a robber, looking for another victim who will be unfaithful to his wife.*

27:15-16 - *A nagging wife is as annoying as the constant dripping on a rainy day. Trying to stop her complaints is like trying to stop the wind or hold something with greased hands.*

30:18-19 - *There are three things that amaze me--no, four things I do not understand: how an eagle glides through the sky, how a snake slithers on a rock, how a ship navigates the ocean, how a man loves a woman.*

30:21-23 - *There are three things that make the earth tremble--no, four it cannot endure: a slave who becomes a king, an overbearing fool who prospers, a bitter woman who finally gets a husband, a servant girl who supplants her mistress.*

Medicine

17:22 - *A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a broken spirit saps a person's strength.*

Mercy

28:13 - *People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.*

Mistakes

24:16 - *They may trip seven times, but each time they will rise again. But one calamity is enough to lay the wicked low.*

Mocking

3:34 - *The LORD mocks at mockers, but he shows favor to the humble. The wise inherit honor, but fools are put to shame!*

9:7-8 - *Anyone who rebukes a mocker will get a smart retort. Anyone who rebukes the wicked will get hurt. So don't bother rebuking mockers; they will only hate you. But the wise, when rebuked, will love you all the more.*

17:5 - *Those who mock the poor insult their Maker; those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished.*

19:29 - *Mockers will be punished, and the backs of fools will be beaten.*

20:1 - *Wine produces mockers; liquor leads to brawls. Whoever is led astray by drink cannot be wise.*

21:24 - *Mockers are proud and haughty; they act with boundless arrogance.*

22:10 - *Throw out the mocker, and fighting, quarrels, and insults will disappear.*

24:9 - *The schemes of a fool are sinful; everyone despises a mocker.*

29:8 - Mockers can get a whole town agitated, but those who are wise will calm anger.

Modesty

11:22 - A woman who is beautiful but lacks discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.

Money

3:9-10 - Honor the LORD with your wealth and with the best part of everything your land produces. Then he will fill your barns with grain, and your vats will overflow with the finest wine.

6:1-5 - My child, if you co-sign a loan for a friend or guarantee the debt of someone you hardly know-- if you have trapped yourself by your agreement and are caught by what you said-- quick, get out of it if you possibly can! You have placed yourself at your friend's mercy. Now swallow your pride; go and beg to have your name erased. Don't put it off. Do it now! Don't rest until you do. Save yourself like a deer escaping from a hunter, like a bird fleeing from a net.

10:2 - Ill-gotten gain has no lasting value, but right living can save your life.

10:16 - The earnings of the godly enhance their lives, but evil people squander their money on sin.

11:4 - Riches won't help on the day of judgment, but right living is a safeguard against death.

11:18 - Evil people get rich for the moment, but the reward of the godly will last.

11:24 - It is possible to give freely and become more wealthy, but those who are stingy will lose everything.

11:28 - Trust in your money and down you go! But the godly flourish like leaves in spring.

13:8 - The rich can pay a ransom, but the poor won't even get threatened.

15:17 - A bowl of soup with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate.

15:27 - Dishonest money brings grief to the whole family, but those who hate bribes will live.

18:11 - The rich think of their wealth as an impregnable defense; they imagine it is a high wall of safety.

18:23 - The poor plead for mercy; the rich answer with insults.

19:17 - If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD--and he will repay you!

20:14 - The buyer haggles over the price, saying, "It's worthless," then brags about getting a bargain!

20:16 - Be sure to get collateral from anyone who guarantees the debt of a stranger. Get a deposit if someone guarantees the debt of a foreigner.

21:17 - Those who love pleasure become poor; wine and luxury are not the way to riches.

21:20 - The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get.

23:4-5 - Don't weary yourself trying to get rich. Why waste your time? For riches can disappear as though they had the wings of a bird!

25:14 - A person who doesn't give a promised gift is like clouds and wind that don't bring rain.

27:13 - Be sure to get collateral from anyone who guarantees the debt of a stranger. Get a deposit if someone guarantees the debt of an adulterous woman.

28:8 - A person who makes money by charging interest will lose it. It will end up in the hands of someone who is kind to the poor.

28:11 - Rich people picture themselves as wise, but their real poverty is evident to the poor.

Motivation

17:3 - Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the LORD tests the heart.

Motives

16:2 - People may be pure in their own eyes, but the LORD examines their motives.

20:27 - The LORD's searchlight penetrates the human spirit, exposing every hidden motive.

21:2 - People may think they are doing what is right, but the LORD examines the heart.

21:27 - God loathes the sacrifice of an evil person, especially when it is brought with ulterior motives.

Murder

6:16-19 - There are six things the LORD hates--no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord among brothers.

28:17 - A murderer's tormented conscience will drive him into the grave. Don't protect him!

Name of the Lord

18:10 - The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.

National Morality

14:34 - Godliness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.

28:2 - When there is moral rot within a nation, its government topples easily. But with wise and knowledgeable leaders, there is stability.

National Prosperity

14:28 - A growing population is a king's glory; a dwindling nation is his doom.

National Security

11:14 - Without wise leadership, a nation falls; with many counselors, there is safety.

Neighbors

11:12 - It is foolish to belittle a neighbor; a person with good sense remains silent.

27:10 - Never abandon a friend--either yours or your father's. Then in your time of need, you won't have to ask your relatives for assistance. It is better to go to a neighbor than to a relative who lives far away.

Nuisance

25:17 - Don't visit your neighbors too often, or you will wear out your welcome.

Obedience

19:16 - Keep the commandments and keep your life; despising them leads to death.

21:3 - The LORD is more pleased when we do what is just and right than when we give him sacrifices.

Offenses

12:16 - A fool is quick-tempered, but a wise person stays calm when insulted.

18:19 - It's harder to make amends with an offended friend than to capture a fortified city. Arguments separate friends like a gate locked with iron bars.

Open-minded

18:15 - Intelligent people are always open to new ideas. In fact, they look for them.

Parenting**Chapters 1-7**

1:8-9 - Listen, my child, to what your father teaches you. Don't neglect your mother's teaching. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and clothe you with honor.

3:11-12 - *My child, don't ignore it when the LORD disciplines you, and don't be discouraged when he corrects you. For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights.*

4:1-3 - *My children, listen to me. Listen to your father's instruction. Pay attention and grow wise, for I am giving you good guidance. Don't turn away from my teaching. For I, too, was once my father's son, tenderly loved by my mother as an only child.*

4:27 - *Don't get sidetracked; keep your feet from following evil.*

6:20-23 - *My son, obey your father's commands, and don't neglect your mother's teaching. Keep their words always in your heart. Tie them around your neck. Wherever you walk, their counsel can lead you. When you sleep, they will protect you. When you wake up in the morning, they will advise you. For these commands and this teaching are a lamp to light the way ahead of you. The correction of discipline is the way to life.*

13:1 - *A wise child accepts a parent's discipline; a young mocker refuses to listen.*

13:24 - *If you refuse to discipline your children, it proves you don't love them; if you love your children, you will be prompt to discipline them.*

17:21 - *It is painful to be the parent of a fool; there is no joy for the father of a rebel.*

17:25 - *A foolish child brings grief to a father and bitterness to a mother.*

19:18 - *Discipline your children while there is hope. If you don't, you will ruin their lives.*

20:7 - *The godly walk with integrity; blessed are their children after them.*

22:6 - *Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain upon it.*

23:24 - *The father of godly children has cause for joy. What a pleasure it is to have wise children.*

29:15 - *To discipline and reprimand a child produces wisdom, but a mother is disgraced by an undisciplined child.*

29:17 - *Discipline your children, and they will give you happiness and peace of mind.*

29:21 - *A servant who is pampered from childhood will later become a rebel.*

Patience

16:32 - *It is better to be patient than powerful; it is better to have self-control than to conquer a city.*

Peace

14:30 - A relaxed attitude lengthens life; jealousy rots it away.

Pet Owners

12:10 - The godly are concerned for the welfare of their animals, but even the kindness of the wicked is cruel.

Planning

3:21-24 - My child, don't lose sight of good planning and insight. Hang on to them, for they fill you with life and bring you honor and respect. They keep you safe on your way and keep your feet from stumbling. You can lie down without fear and enjoy pleasant dreams.

16:3 - Commit your work to the LORD, and then your plans will succeed.

16:9 - We can make our plans, but the LORD determines our steps.

16:33 - We may throw the dice, but the LORD determines how they fall.

19:2 - Zeal without knowledge is not good; a person who moves too quickly may go the wrong way.

19:21 - You can make many plans, but the LORD's purpose will prevail.

20:18 - Plans succeed through good counsel; don't go to war without the advice of others.

21:5 - Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

21:30 - Human plans, no matter how wise or well advised, cannot stand against the LORD.

22:3 - A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

27:12 - A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions. The simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

Pleasure

21:17 - Those who love pleasure become poor; wine and luxury are not the way to riches.

Pledges

25:14 - A person who doesn't give a promised gift is like clouds and wind that don't bring rain.

Poor

17:5 - Those who mock the poor insult their Maker; those who rejoice at the misfortune of others will be punished.

19:17 - If you help the poor, you are lending to the LORD--and he will repay you!

21:13 - Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need.

21:17 - Those who love pleasure become poor; wine and luxury are not the way to riches.

22:9 - Blessed are those who are generous, because they feed the poor.

22:16 - A person who gets ahead by oppressing the poor or by showering gifts on the rich will end in poverty.

22:22-23 - Do not rob the poor because they are poor or exploit the needy in court. For the LORD is their defender. He will injure anyone who injures them.

28:27 - Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing. But a curse will come upon those who close their eyes to poverty.

29:7 - The godly know the rights of the poor; the wicked don't care to know.

29:14 - A king who is fair to the poor will have a long reign.

Poverty

21:5 - Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.

28:27 - Whoever gives to the poor will lack nothing. But a curse will come upon those who close their eyes to poverty.

Prayer

15:8 - The LORD hates the sacrifice of the wicked, but he delights in the prayers of the upright.

15:29 - The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayers of the righteous.

28:9 - The prayers of a person who ignores the law are despised.

Preparation

14:8 - The wise look ahead to see what is coming, but fools deceive themselves.

20:25 - It is dangerous to make a rash promise to God before counting the cost.

Pressure

24:10 - If you fail under pressure, your strength is not very great.

Pride

6:16-19 - *There are six things the LORD hates--no, seven things he detests: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that kill the innocent, a heart that plots evil, feet that race to do wrong, a false witness who pours out lies, a person who sows discord among brothers.*

13:10 - *Pride leads to arguments; those who take advice are wise.*

16:5 - *The LORD despises pride; be assured that the proud will be punished.*

16:18 - *Pride goes before destruction, and haughtiness before a fall.*

17:19 - *Anyone who loves to quarrel loves sin; anyone who speaks boastfully invites disaster.*

18:12 - *Haughtiness goes before destruction; humility precedes honor.*

21:4 - *Haughty eyes, a proud heart, and evil actions are all sin.*

25:27 - *Just as it is not good to eat too much honey, it is not good for people to think about all the honors they deserve.*

29:23 - *Pride ends in humiliation, while humility brings honor.*

Productivity

14:4 - *An empty stable stays clean, but no income comes from an empty stable.*

Promises

20:25 - *It is dangerous to make a rash promise to God before counting the cost.*

25:14 - *A person who doesn't give a promised gift is like clouds and wind that don't bring rain.*

Prosperity

16:7 - *When the ways of people please the LORD, he makes even their enemies live at peace with them.*

21:5 - *Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity, but hasty shortcuts lead to poverty.*

28:25 - *Greed causes fighting; trusting the LORD leads to prosperity.*

Prostitution

23:27-28 - *A prostitute is a deep pit; an adulterous woman is treacherous. She hides and waits like a robber, looking for another victim who will be unfaithful to his wife.*

Protection

2:8 - He guards the paths of justice and protects those who are faithful to him.

3:25-26 - You need not be afraid of disaster or the destruction that comes upon the wicked, for the LORD is your security. He will keep your foot from being caught in a trap.

10:29 - The LORD protects the upright but destroys the wicked.

18:10 - The name of the LORD is a strong fortress; the godly run to him and are safe.

19:23 - Fear of the LORD gives life, security, and protection from harm.

30:5 - Every word of God proves true. He defends all who come to him for protection.

Provision

10:3 - The LORD will not let the godly starve to death, but he refuses to satisfy the craving of the wicked.

Punishment

20:30 - Physical punishment cleanses away evil; such discipline purifies the heart.

Purpose

16:4 - The LORD has made everything for his own purposes, even the wicked for punishment.

Relationships

4:14-15 - Do not do as the wicked do or follow the path of evildoers. Avoid their haunts. Turn away and go somewhere else,

15:17 - A bowl of soup with someone you love is better than steak with someone you hate.

22:24 - Keep away from angry, short-tempered people,

23:20-21 - Do not carouse with drunkards and gluttons, for they are on their way to poverty. Too much sleep clothes a person with rags.

Repentance

28:13 - People who cover over their sins will not prosper. But if they confess and forsake them, they will receive mercy.

Reputation

22:1 - Choose a good reputation over great riches, for being held in high esteem is better than having silver or gold.

Resentment

27:3 - A stone is heavy and sand is weighty, but the resentment caused by a fool is heavier than both.

Responsibility

24:12 - Don't try to avoid responsibility by saying you didn't know about it. For God knows all hearts, and he sees you. He keeps watch over your soul, and he knows you knew! And he will judge all people according to what they have done.

Revenge

17:13 - If you repay evil for good, evil will never leave your house.

20:22 - Don't say, "I will get even for this wrong." Wait for the LORD to handle the matter.

24:17-18 - Do not rejoice when your enemies fall into trouble. Don't be happy when they stumble. For the LORD will be displeased with you and will turn his anger away from them.

24:28-29 - Do not testify spitefully against innocent neighbors; don't lie about them. And don't say, "Now I can pay them back for all their meanness to me! I'll get even!"

25:21-22 - If your enemies are hungry, give them food to eat. If they are thirsty, give them water to drink. You will heap burning coals on their heads, and the LORD will reward you.

Rewards

11:31 - If the righteous are rewarded here on earth, how much more true that the wicked and the sinner will get what they deserve!

Rumors

18:8 - What dainty morsels rumors are--but they sink deep into one's heart.

Sacrifice

21:3 - The LORD is more pleased when we do what is just and right than when we give him sacrifices.

Self-control

16:32 - It is better to be patient than powerful; it is better to have self-control than to conquer a city.

19:3 - People ruin their lives by their own foolishness and then are angry at the LORD.

25:28 - A person without self-control is as defenseless as a city with broken-down walls.

29:11 - A fool gives full vent to anger, but a wise person quietly holds it back.

Sexual Purity

5:3-23 - *The lips of an immoral woman are as sweet as honey, and her mouth is smoother than oil. But the result is as bitter as poison, sharp as a double-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps lead straight to the grave. For she does not care about the path to life. She staggers down a crooked trail and doesn't even realize where it leads. So now, my sons, listen to me. Never stray from what I am about to say: Run from her! Don't go near the door of her house! If you do, you will lose your honor and hand over to merciless people everything you have achieved in life. Strangers will obtain your wealth, and someone else will enjoy the fruit of your labor. Afterward you will groan in anguish when disease consumes your body, and you will say, "How I hated discipline! If only I had not demanded my own way! Oh, why didn't I listen to my teachers? Why didn't I pay attention to those who gave me instruction? I have come to the brink of utter ruin, and now I must face public disgrace." Drink water from your own well--share your love only with your wife. Why spill the water of your springs in public, having sex with just anyone? You should reserve it for yourselves. Don't share it with strangers. Let your wife be a fountain of blessing for you. Rejoice in the wife of your youth. She is a loving doe, a graceful deer. Let her breasts satisfy you always. May you always be captivated by her love. Why be captivated, my son, with an immoral woman, or embrace the breasts of an adulterous woman? For the LORD sees clearly what a man does, examining every path he takes. An evil man is held captive by his own sins; they are ropes that catch and hold him. He will die for lack of self-control; he will be lost because of his incredible folly.*

Sickness

18:14 - *The human spirit can endure a sick body, but who can bear it if the spirit is crushed?*

Sinful Nature

27:20 - *Just as Death and Destruction are never satisfied, so human desire is never satisfied.*

Slander

10:18 - *To hide hatred is to be a liar; to slander is to be a fool.*

Sowing and Reaping

21:13 - *Those who shut their ears to the cries of the poor will be ignored in their own time of need.*

26:27 - *If you set a trap for others, you will get caught in it yourself. If you roll a boulder down on others, it will roll back and crush you.*

27:18 - *Workers who tend a fig tree are allowed to eat its fruit. In the same way, workers who protect their employer's interests will be rewarded.*

30:10 - *Never slander a person to his employer. If you do, the person will curse you, and you will pay for it.*

Spirit of Man

4:23 - Above all else, guard your heart, for it affects everything you do.

15:13 - A glad heart makes a happy face; a broken heart crushes the spirit.

15:15 - For the poor, every day brings trouble; for the happy heart, life is a continual feast.

18:14 - The human spirit can endure a sick body, but who can bear it if the spirit is crushed?

20:27 - The LORD's searchlight penetrates the human spirit, exposing every hidden motive.

Spiritual Death

19:16 - Keep the commandments and keep your life; despising them leads to death.

Stealing

6:30-31 - Excuses might be found for a thief who steals because he is starving. But if he is caught, he will be fined seven times as much as he stole, even if it means selling everything in his house to pay it back.

28:24 - Robbing your parents and then saying, "What's wrong with that?" is as serious as committing murder.

Stubbornness

28:14 - Blessed are those who have a tender conscience, but the stubborn are headed for serious trouble.

Success

16:3 - Commit your work to the LORD, and then your plans will succeed.

Taking Action

14:23 - Work brings profit, but mere talk leads to poverty!

Teachable

16:20 - Those who listen to instruction will prosper; those who trust the LORD will be happy.

Teaching

9:9-10 - Teach the wise, and they will be wiser. Teach the righteous, and they will learn more. Fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom. Knowledge of the Holy One results in understanding.

10:8 - The wise are glad to be instructed, but babbling fools fall flat on their faces.

15:2 - The wise person makes learning a joy; fools spout only foolishness.

16:21 - *The wise are known for their understanding, and instruction is appreciated if it's well presented.*

Temper

14:17 - *Those who are short-tempered do foolish things, and schemers are hated.*

14:29 - *Those who control their anger have great understanding; those with a hasty temper will make mistakes.*

15:18 - *A hothead starts fights; a cool-tempered person tries to stop them.*

19:19 - *Short-tempered people must pay their own penalty. If you rescue them once, you will have to do it again.*

29:22 - *A hot-tempered person starts fights and gets into all kinds of sin.*

Tests

17:3 - *Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the LORD tests the heart.*

Tongue

4:24 - *Avoid all perverse talk; stay far from corrupt speech.*

10:19 - *Don't talk too much, for it fosters sin. Be sensible and turn off the flow!*

11:9 - *Evil words destroy one's friends; wise discernment rescues the godly.*

11:12 - *It is foolish to belittle a neighbor; a person with good sense remains silent.*

12:18 - *Some people make cutting remarks, but the words of the wise bring healing.*

13:3 - *Those who control their tongue will have a long life; a quick retort can ruin everything.*

15:1 - *A gentle answer turns away wrath, but harsh words stir up anger.*

15:4 - *Gentle words bring life and health; a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.*

15:23 - *Everyone enjoys a fitting reply; it is wonderful to say the right thing at the right time!*

15:26 - *The LORD despises the thoughts of the wicked, but he delights in pure words.*

15:28 - *The godly think before speaking; the wicked spout evil words.*

16:24 - *Kind words are like honey--sweet to the soul and healthy for the body.*

17:19-20 - Anyone who loves to quarrel loves sin; anyone who speaks boastfully invites disaster. The crooked heart will not prosper; the twisted tongue tumbles into trouble.

17:27 - A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered.

18:4 - A person's words can be life-giving water; words of true wisdom are as refreshing as a bubbling brook.

18:20-21 - Words satisfy the soul as food satisfies the stomach; the right words on a person's lips bring satisfaction. Those who love to talk will experience the consequences, for the tongue can kill or nourish life.

21:23 - If you keep your mouth shut, you will stay out of trouble.

25:15 - Patience can persuade a prince, and soft speech can crush strong opposition.

29:20 - There is more hope for a fool than for someone who speaks without thinking.

Trials

17:3 - Fire tests the purity of silver and gold, but the LORD tests the heart.

Troublemakers

14:35 - A king rejoices in servants who know what they are doing; he is angry with those who cause trouble.

16:28 - A troublemaker plants seeds of strife; gossip separates the best of friends.

Trust

3:5 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding.

16:3 - Commit your work to the LORD, and then your plans will succeed.

16:20 - Those who listen to instruction will prosper; those who trust the LORD will be happy.

25:19 - Putting confidence in an unreliable person is like chewing with a toothache or walking on a broken foot.

28:25-26 - Greed causes fighting; trusting the LORD leads to prosperity. Trusting oneself is foolish, but those who walk in wisdom are safe.

29:25 - Fearing people is a dangerous trap, but to trust the LORD means safety.

Truth

12:19 - Truth stands the test of time; lies are soon exposed.

Understanding

18:2 - Fools have no interest in understanding; they only want to air their own opinions.

Violence

3:31-32 - Do not envy violent people; don't copy their ways. Such wicked people are an abomination to the LORD, but he offers his friendship to the godly.

16:29 - Violent people deceive their companions, leading them down a harmful path.

Wealth

8:18 - Unending riches, honor, wealth, and justice are mine to distribute.

8:21 - Those who love me inherit wealth, for I fill their treasuries.

10:2 - Ill-gotten gain has no lasting value, but right living can save your life.

10:22 - The blessing of the LORD makes a person rich, and he adds no sorrow with it.

11:4 - Riches won't help on the day of judgment, but right living is a safeguard against death.

11:18 - Evil people get rich for the moment, but the reward of the godly will last.

11:24 - It is possible to give freely and become more wealthy, but those who are stingy will lose everything.

13:11 - Wealth from get-rich-quick schemes quickly disappears; wealth from hard work grows.

18:11 - The rich think of their wealth as an impregnable defense; they imagine it is a high wall of safety.

18:23 - The poor plead for mercy; the rich answer with insults.

21:6 - Wealth created by lying is a vanishing mist and a deadly trap.

21:20 - The wise have wealth and luxury, but fools spend whatever they get.

22:4 - True humility and fear of the LORD lead to riches, honor, and long life.

23:4-5 - Don't weary yourself trying to get rich. Why waste your time? For riches can disappear as though they had the wings of a bird!

28:11 - Rich people picture themselves as wise, but their real poverty is evident to the poor.

28:20 - *The trustworthy will get a rich reward. But the person who wants to get rich quick will only get into trouble.*

28:22 - *A greedy person tries to get rich quick, but it only leads to poverty.*

29:3 - *The man who loves wisdom brings joy to his father, but if he hangs around with prostitutes, his wealth is wasted.*

Widows

15:25 - *The LORD destroys the house of the proud, but he protects the property of widows.*

Wisdom

2:9-22 - *Then you will understand what is right, just, and fair, and you will know how to find the right course of action every time. For wisdom will enter your heart, and knowledge will fill you with joy. Wise planning will watch over you. Understanding will keep you safe. Wisdom will save you from evil people, from those whose speech is corrupt. These people turn from right ways to walk down dark and evil paths. They rejoice in doing wrong, and they enjoy evil as it turns things upside down. What they do is crooked, and their ways are wrong. Wisdom will save you from the immoral woman, from the flattery of the adulterous woman. She has abandoned her husband and ignores the covenant she made before God. Entering her house leads to death; it is the road to hell. The man who visits her is doomed. He will never reach the paths of life. Follow the steps of good men instead, and stay on the paths of the righteous. For only the upright will live in the land, and those who have integrity will remain in it. But the wicked will be removed from the land, and the treacherous will be destroyed.*

3:13-18 - *Happy is the person who finds wisdom and gains understanding. For the profit of wisdom is better than silver, and her wages are better than gold. Wisdom is more precious than rubies; nothing you desire can compare with her. She offers you life in her right hand, and riches and honor in her left. She will guide you down delightful paths; all her ways are satisfying. Wisdom is a tree of life to those who embrace her; happy are those who hold her tightly.*

4:5-13 - *Learn to be wise, and develop good judgment. Don't forget or turn away from my words. Don't turn your back on wisdom, for she will protect you. Love her, and she will guard you. Getting wisdom is the most important thing you can do! And whatever else you do, get good judgment. If you prize wisdom, she will exalt you. Embrace her and she will honor you. She will place a lovely wreath on your head; she will present you with a beautiful crown." My child, listen to me and do as I say, and you will have a long, good life. I will teach you wisdom's ways and lead you in straight paths. If you live a life guided by wisdom, you won't limp or stumble as you run. Carry out my instructions; don't forsake them. Guard them, for they will lead you to a fulfilled life.*

8:1 - *Listen as wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice!*

8:4-9 - *"I call to you, to all of you! I am raising my voice to all people. How naive you are! Let me give you common sense. O foolish ones, let me give you understanding. Listen to me! For I have excellent things to tell you. Everything I say is right, for I speak the truth and hate every kind of deception. My advice is wholesome and good. There is nothing crooked or twisted in it. My words are plain to anyone with understanding, clear to those who want to learn.*

8:12-36 - *"I, Wisdom, live together with good judgment. I know where to discover knowledge and discernment. All who fear the LORD will hate evil. That is why I hate pride, arrogance, corruption, and perverted speech. Good advice and success belong to me. Insight and strength are mine. Because of me, kings reign, and rulers make just laws. Rulers lead with my help, and nobles make righteous judgments. "I love all who love me. Those who search for me will surely find me. Unending riches, honor, wealth, and justice are mine to distribute. My gifts are better than the purest gold, my wages better than sterling silver! I walk in righteousness, in paths of justice. Those who love me inherit wealth, for I fill their treasuries. "The LORD formed me from the beginning, before he created anything else. I was appointed in ages past, at the very first, before the earth began. I was born before the oceans were created, before the springs bubbled forth their waters. Before the mountains and the hills were formed, I was born-- before he had made the earth and fields and the first handfuls of soil. "I was there when he established the heavens, when he drew the horizon on the oceans. I was there when he set the clouds above, when he established the deep fountains of the earth. I was there when he set the limits of the seas, so they would not spread beyond their boundaries. And when he marked off the earth's foundations, I was the architect at his side. I was his constant delight, rejoicing always in his presence. And how happy I was with what he created--his wide world and all the human family! "And so, my children, listen to me, for happy are all who follow my ways. Listen to my counsel and be wise. Don't ignore it. "Happy are those who listen to me, watching for me daily at my gates, waiting for me outside my home! For whoever finds me finds life and wins approval from the LORD. But those who miss me have injured themselves. All who hate me love death."*

9:11-12 - *Wisdom will multiply your days and add years to your life. If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer.*

10:14 - *Wise people treasure knowledge, but the babbling of a fool invites trouble.*

14:8 - *The wise look ahead to see what is coming, but fools deceive themselves.*

14:15-16 - *Only simpletons believe everything they are told! The prudent carefully consider their steps. The wise are cautious and avoid danger; fools plunge ahead with great confidence.*

15:14 - *A wise person is hungry for truth, while the fool feeds on trash.*

16:16 - *How much better to get wisdom than gold, and understanding than silver!*

17:27 - A truly wise person uses few words; a person with understanding is even-tempered.

19:8 - To acquire wisdom is to love oneself; people who cherish understanding will prosper.

22:3 - A prudent person foresees the danger ahead and takes precautions; the simpleton goes blindly on and suffers the consequences.

24:13-14 - My child, eat honey, for it is good, and the honeycomb is sweet to the taste. In the same way, wisdom is sweet to your soul. If you find it, you will have a bright future, and your hopes will not be cut short.

Woman

11:22 - A woman who is beautiful but lacks discretion is like a gold ring in a pig's snout.

31:10-31 - Who can find a virtuous and capable wife? She is worth more than precious rubies. Her husband can trust her, and she will greatly enrich his life. She will not hinder him but help him all her life. She finds wool and flax and busily spins it. She is like a merchant's ship; she brings her food from afar. She gets up before dawn to prepare breakfast for her household and plan the day's work for her servant girls. She goes out to inspect a field and buys it; with her earnings she plants a vineyard. She is energetic and strong, a hard worker. She watches for bargains; her lights burn late into the night. Her hands are busy spinning thread, her fingers twisting fiber. She extends a helping hand to the poor and opens her arms to the needy. She has no fear of winter for her household because all of them have warm clothes. She quilts her own bedspreads. She dresses like royalty in gowns of finest cloth. Her husband is well known, for he sits in the council meeting with the other civic leaders. She makes belted linen garments and sashes to sell to the merchants. She is clothed with strength and dignity, and she laughs with no fear of the future. When she speaks, her words are wise, and kindness is the rule when she gives instructions. She carefully watches all that goes on in her household and does not have to bear the consequences of laziness. Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: "There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!" Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the LORD will be greatly praised. Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise.

Word of God

30:5-6 - Every word of God proves true. He defends all who come to him for protection. Do not add to his words, or he may rebuke you, and you will be found a liar.

Worry

12:25 - Worry weighs a person down; an encouraging word cheers a person up.

Youth

1:8-9 - Listen, my child, to what your father teaches you. Don't neglect your mother's teaching. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and clothe you with honor.

6:20-23 - My son, obey your father's commands, and don't neglect your mother's teaching. Keep their words always in your heart. Tie them around your neck. Wherever you walk, their counsel can lead you. When you sleep, they will protect you. When you wake up in the morning, they will advise you. For these commands and this teaching are a lamp to light the way ahead of you. The correction of discipline is the way to life.

10:1 - A wise child brings joy to a father; a foolish child brings grief to a mother.

10:5 - A wise youth works hard all summer; a youth who sleeps away the hour of opportunity brings shame.

17:21 - It is painful to be the parent of a fool; there is no joy for the father of a rebel.

17:25 - A foolish child brings grief to a father and bitterness to a mother.

19:13 - A foolish child is a calamity to a father; a nagging wife annoys like a constant dripping.

20:20 - If you curse your father or mother, the lamp of your life will be snuffed out.

23:22-25 - Listen to your father, who gave you life, and don't despise your mother's experience when she is old. Get the truth and don't ever sell it; also get wisdom, discipline, and discernment. The father of godly children has cause for joy. What a pleasure it is to have wise children. So give your parents joy! May she who gave you birth be happy.

28:7 - Young people who obey the law are wise; those who seek out worthless companions bring shame to their parents.

28:24 - Robbing your parents and then saying, "What's wrong with that?" is as serious as committing murder.

30:17 - The eye that mocks a father and despises a mother will be plucked out by ravens of the valley and eaten by vultures.