

I. Wisdom Demonstrated - Prov. 15:33; 16:8

1. How will we know it if we are truly wise? (15:33)
 - there are a lot of sources of “wisdom”
2. True wisdom comes with the fear of the Lord
 - not being terrorized in His presence
 - respect Him
- Rea -“fear” and “respect” for God are so close that they are often hard to tell apart
3. “Humility”
 - before honor
- Rea -when you look up to God, you realize you are in a “second” place
4. A little with righteousness (16:8)
 - true prosperity - He provides for people who seek His wisdom
 - we often see His provision in money and material things... alone
- Rea 5. So two items here
 - A. Little with righteousness
 - B. Much with injustice
6. So we chose righteousness over injustice
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Who said, it is hard for a rich man to go to heaven?
 2. Inevitable choice between money and doing the right thing - it’s there repeatedly
 3. How does a person “achieve” humility? If it is such a great thing to have...
 4. Call to mind the truly humble people that you’ve known
 - how did you know they were humble?

II. Accountability Established - Prov. 16:1,4-5,9

1. We plan - God answers (16:1)
 - the plans we make come from the heart
- Rea -good point and indicator - just as out of the heart the mouth speaks (who said that?)
2. God answers our plans... it’s not about being a good planner - it’s having God’s heart
3. God works everything out (16:4)
 - so His purpose may be accomplished
- Rea -is God’s will always done? - taken alone one might see this verse that way
- the wicked have been prepared for disaster
4. God “detests” the proud (16:5)
 - displays of pride disgust God
 - they will be punished
 - in the end Sodom and Gomorrah were punished
- Rea -the doctrine of hell contains within it the assurance of punishment for the wicked
5. Note six things God hates (16:16-19)
- Rea -discuss the word “hate” in this context
6. In hearts we plan our course (16:9)
 - it is there we believe and invest
 - but, it is the Lord who “establishes” our course

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. We might see the “God’s part” and “man’s part” in this
 - we propose and God disposes
2. We might (also) see control in this - in the end God is in control
 - He runs the show
3. Discuss how fatal it is to leave God out
 - the fear of the Lord is the very beginning of wisdom (that would be “true” wisdom)
4. We follow Him, or He follows us??

III. Motives Matter - Prov. 16:2,10-11

1. In our own eyes we may be “in the right” (**16:2**)
 - He weighs our motives
- Rea -this verse speaks to the issue of being self-deceived
- Rea -Galatians 6 - don’t be deceived, God is not mocked, whatever a man sows that will he also reap
2. The ideal king speaks of justice (**16:10**)
 - his words had the authority of an oracle
 3. Honest scales (**16:11**)
 - scales and balances determined the price of an item - it needed to be just and fair
 - the honesty of a merchant was seen in his scales - and the weights in his bag

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. The honest merchant could be trusted
 - how tempting it must have been to change the weights
 - how did they know if the merchant could be trusted?
2. A righteous king could also be trusted... and followed in his lead
 - as can all leaders
 - how does one know if their leaders can be trusted?
 - politicians are not the only leaders who’ve fallen for wrong motives, and wrong actions
3. I think many of the Hollywood crowd are self-deceived... they really believe the trash they put out there - how does one become blind like this?

IV. Blessing Assured - Prov. 16:3, 6-7

1. “Commit” whatever you do to Him (**16:3**)
 - placing our activities into His hands
 - we entrust to Him everything we do
- Rea -what does it mean to “entrust” something to God?
- Rea -He establishes our plans
- Rea -I think to commit things to God means to “run it by Him” or ask for His lead before we even make plans. We think (more often than not) that we “know” what the Lord wants. We do not (however) know His timing, nor do we know the ways that God wants to carry out His “plans.”
- Rea -if He doesn’t “establish” something... then it is just so much wasted time and energy
2. Sinful behavior was “atoned for” (**16:6**)

- covered or pardoned
- Rea 3. We also can depend on Him to help us avoid sin to begin with
 - how do you know when sin is “avoided?”
- 4. He makes our enemies to be at peace with us (**16:7**)
 - A. If our way pleases Him
 - B. He does a work in the heart of our enemies
- Rea 5. Note the writer of this proverbs is acknowledging that he had enemies
- Rea -at Romans 12:18 it says if at all possible live at peace with all men. - it is impossible to be at peace with all persons. If we have enemies, Jesus taught us to “love” them. Is peaceful co-existence always possible?
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
 1. Here is a passage that brings to focus the mind, on the reality of “sin”
 - if you do not take into account “sin” and your “enemies” you are living in a fantasy world
 2. God blesses our efforts
 - as we commit our way to Him, it shows that we trust Him and His guidance
 3. The roots of the doctrine of atonement - found in the sacrificial system in the first five books of the Old Testament, and also places like verse 6
 4. You commit
 - He establishes (verse 3)
 - Please the Lord
 - He makes your enemies be at peace with you (verse 7)

Argile Smith - SS Lesson for July 26, 2020