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God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Proverbs 12.

(2015)

The Bible not only reveals God's eternal plans purposes and promises

But also shows how you can know God for yourself.

Teach it, don't demand it.

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Proverbs 12.

Topics.

- This chapter is filled with a multitude of various Proverbs.

FOR INFORMATION: concerning people, places and the meaning of words see the title: "Map Locations and People of the Bible," and the title: "Bible Dictionary" on Website Menu.

INTRODUCTION: Proverbs is a collection of Israelite wisdom literature, that has multiple authors, but most of it is attributed to King Solomon. Chapter one to nine gives readers a framework for understanding the rest of the book. The central concern of the book of Proverbs is practical wisdom for living. We are told that the beginning and essence of wisdom is the fear of the LORD (Prov. 1:7) (Prov. 9:10). It contrasts the benefits of seeking wisdom and the pitfalls of living a foolish life. While the wicked stumble in deep darkness (Prov. 4:19), the path of the righteous is like the light of dawn, which shines brighter and brighter until full day ((Prov. 4:18). Individual proverbs date from between the tenth and sixth centuries B.C.

Kings and angels: the title king is often used throughout the book of Proverbs, it comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) which can refer to the following four things: -

1. A royal king ascending to the throne of royalty and reigning from it.
2. A male sovereign (i.e., a man or boy who rules as a monarch over an independent state.
3. The chief, or the principal leader or ruler of a group (secular or religious).
4. A messenger or ambassador, especially of God, (i.e. an angel, a king, a prophet, a priest or a teacher).
5. The best, the strongest and the wisest of all.

It is interesting to notice in the first verse of proverbs (Prov. 1:1) the word king comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) and the first mention of an angel in the Bible also comes from the Hebrew word (*malak*) (Gen. 16:7). This means when the title king is used in the book of Proverbs it carries the idea of a wise king that does good unless the context implies otherwise. For further information concerning angels see the title: "Angels," (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Proverbs 12

Proverbs 12:1 ----- ¹Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

A wise person will accept correction whereas the foolish and those who lack intelligence, perception and common sense reject it. Discipline does not mean every discipline has to be with a rod, rather it is discipline suited to humanities weakness. God used Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon as His servant to chastise the people of Israel for their good in the same way parents use all kinds of discipline to correct their children for their own good. The idea is that whatever type of discipline is being used it will cause a certain amount of suffering for the one being disciplined, but it is always to be carried out with all possible tenderness and compassion. It is almost certain that if some children today were given a choice of a smack with a rod given in love (in contrast to anger) or have their I-Pad or mobile phone taken away for a few a few days many would chose the smack given in love (not uncontrolled anger).

The destructive consequences of sin are seen as God's discipline. The harmful and painful repercussions that follow wrongdoing are spoken of as the discipline and reproof of God; these can come in the form of guilt and anxiety or the lack of joy, contentment and peace or outwardly as death, prison or financial ruin etc. They are called disciplines and reproofs of God because their purpose is to bring a person to repentance and motivate them to change their ways and where possible make restitution to those they have harmed.

God has established in the laws of the universe that wrong doing will bring about consequences that can lead to death, prison, financial ruin, rejection, guilt, lack of contentment and the loss of happiness and peace etc., but this does not mean that everyone who is suffering one of these is a wicked person there are always exceptions to the general rule and time and chance have their ways (Eccles. (:11).

The LORD has designed the universe this way so that no human whether righteous or wicked can find out their future or know what will happen to them tomorrow.

Proverbs 12:2 ----- ²A good man obtains favor from the LORD, but a man of evil devices he condemns.

Good in this context means live a lifestyle that honours God and that brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and do-good to others. It means follow the command of Jesus, "Love your neighbour as yourself." (Mark 12:31), meaning do not deliberately do harm to other humans. No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. James the brother of Jesus said: -

- If you really fulfil the royal law according to the Scripture, "You shall love your neighbour as yourself," you are doing well. (James 2:8).

James calls Jesus command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," the royal law and says if we are keeping this one law we are doing well. The thing God hates the most is when we deliberately do harm to another person, physically, verbally, financially sexually, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do-good to others. It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land.

- Micah wrote: "What the LORD requires of mankind is to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with their God" (Micah 6:5-10).
- Isaiah says: "The LORD loves justice, hates robbery and wrong doing" (Isaiah 61:8).
- Jeremiah said: "Those who know God practise steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth, because it is in these things that God delights" (Jer. 9:24).

The great prophets Micah, Isaiah and Jeremiah not only show the law is about doing-good to others and protecting them from harm and hurt, but also clearly show that the spirit underpinning the Ten Commandments, is love because each law protects another human from harm. Paul in his letter to the Romans wrote: -

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans 13:10).

Paul shines a brilliant spotlight on the truth that the spirit underpinning the law is love, because the spirit of the law is to protect the innocent from all types of harm and hurt, whoever keeps the law will do no wrong to a neighbour (neighbour embraces all mankind not just those in God's Kingdom).

Those who belong to Christ aim to keep the law not to get saved, but because it honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of Jesus and the Christian faith and because it is the right and loving thing to do. The faithful in Christ's global Kingdom not only understand that righteousness that leads to eternal life is a free gift of God that comes through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and cannot be earned by self-effort, but also know that from the love of God dwelling within their heart

and displayed on the bloodstained cross of Calvary they are called to live a lifestyle that honours the King and Saviour they worship and follow and called to treat others with decency, respect and honest justice.

Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount: the constant theme throughout Jesus famous Sermon on the Mount is doing what is right before God by seeking the way of peace in all situations. Jesus calls Christians to treat people fairly and with respect, dignity, decency grace compassion, kindness, mercy and to be quick to forgive. This means living a life that honours God and the Lord Jesus Christ is about doing right to those in the church and those outside of it.

This is the reason the message Jesus spoke on the mountain is referred to as, "The Famous Sermon" because the principals if followed not only by Christians, but all humanity are the only way to peace (Matt 5). Based on the commandment, love your neighbour as yourself and the law it could be said that a wicked and evil person is one who deliberately and consciously denies the existence of God and deliberately does harm to other humans. For further information on Jesus Famous Sermon see: "Matthew 5" in, Commentary NT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Those who do all they can to love God with all their heart, mind and strength and love their neighbour as themselves. (Mark 12:30-31) will obtain favour from the LORD and hear the words of their Master say, "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little; I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." (Matt. 25:21). In contrast to this those that do evil and live contrary to Christ's command, "Love your neighbour as yourself," and deliberately do harm to others will be condemned.

Proverbs 12:3 ----- ³No one is established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved.

Those that do what is good and right will be established in this world and for all eternity, but those who do what is wrong will come to ruin in this world and in the world to come be condemned to the lake of fire a symbol a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction). It would be right and proper to say that the root of the righteous is the Lord Jesus Christ since it is by his righteousness we are saved and not by our own works and self-righteousness.

Proverbs 12:4 ----- ⁴An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones.

A man's greatest joy on earth is a faithful and devoted wife, in contrast to this a wife who commits adultery or some other act that brings him shame, hurt, heartache and mental anxiety will in many cases also bring him to ruin. The expression, "she is like rottenness to his bones," means she robs his spirit of mental and emotional calm, joy, peace and happiness and of many nights of peaceful sleep.

Proverbs 12:5 ----- ⁵The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.

When those who have a good heart and love goodness are in counsel with others their thoughts are thoughts of fairness toward whoever will be affected by their counsel and not thoughts toward their own gain. In contrast to this the thoughts of the wicked are not only set upon what is best for themselves, but they will also use lies, deceit and flattery for their own gain and to achieve their selfish plans and purposes.

Proverbs 12:6 ----- ⁶The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them.

Those who have a dishonest heart will lie and deceive to achieve their goals plans and purposes no matter who they destroy, but their end will be ruin and destruction. In contrast to this those who love goodness and what is right will be delivered from troubles, ruin and destruction by their honest speech and their upright lifestyle.

Proverbs 12:7 ----- ⁷The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.

The wicked, the evil and the corrupt will be cast into the lake of fire a symbol of eternal death (i.e., total destruction and utter extinction) while those who do what is right will inherit eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory.

Proverbs 12:8 ----- ⁸A man is commended according to his good sense, but one of twisted mind (perverse in mind in KJV) is despised.

The word twisted (perverse in KJV) comes from the Hebrew word ('avah) it literally means to crook and figuratively carries the idea of doing what is crooked, to commit iniquity, to be perverted, to cause trouble and do what is wrong. Those who have understanding, insight, and intelligence and speak common sense are praised for their wisdom while those who lack these qualities and are perverted in their mind and thoughts are despised, loathed and detested.

Proverbs 12:9 ----- ⁹Better to be lowly and have a servant than to play the great man and lack bread.

The King James Bible says: -

- He that is despised, and hath a servant, is better than he that honoureth himself, and lacketh bread.

This verse most likely carries the idea that it is better to humble oneself and work as a servant than to be puffed up in pride and act like one that is superior and lack food. This could be likened to a person who has a UNI degree who can't find a job suited to what they have studied for and refuse to do any other work so they live off their parents, charity or a pension off some sort (which is other people's money). This proverb is saying that it is far better for them to work in any job until they are able to find the one they have studied for. It is better to be sweeping floors or washing dishes than to live in pride and lack money or have others support you.

Proverbs 12:10 ----- ¹⁰Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.

A good person will care for their pets and animals of all sorts, but those who are cruel to them lack kindness and mercy and are grossly wicked in Gods eyes.

Proverbs 12:11 ----- ¹¹Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

Land in this context can be seen as a symbol of any work that is stable, steady, firm and honest. The proverb is saying the wise that work hard and honestly will have food, but the person who chases get rich quick schemes lacks good sense.

Proverbs 12:12 ----- ¹²Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit.

Those with a dishonest heart love the riches robbers and thieves can bring them, whereas those with an honest and good heart gain wealth by honest means.

Proverbs 12:13 ----- ¹³An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips, but the righteous escapes from trouble.

The wicked constantly have to lie and deceive to cover up their wrongdoing, but they are eventually caught out by the contradictions in their conversations and speech whereas those that do right never have to worry about what they say since they have nothing to hide so they have no fear of trouble.

Proverbs 12:14 ----- ¹⁴From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.

Those who speak well of others and work honestly and do good will not only be spoken well of by others, but well also be rewarded by them.

Proverbs 12:15 ----- ¹⁵The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, but a wise man listens to advice.

Those who lack good sense will not listen to advice or the counsel of other, because they believe they are right. I personally knew a person like this, it did not matter what anyone said, whatever and however they saw a circumstance and perceived a situation in their mind that for them was the truth regardless of what anyone else said. This foolish attitude of mind brought ruin to their marriages and friendships. In contrast to this type of tunnel thinking a wise person will be open to listen to the counsel and advice of others and then make their choice.

Proverbs 12:16 ----- 16The vexation (wrath in KJV) of a fool is known at once, but the prudent ignores an insult.

The word vexation (wrath) comes from the Hebrew word (ka`ac) and means anger, grief, spite and indignation it carries the idea of provoking one to anger and causing sorrow and grief. The word prudent comes from the Hebrew word (`aruwm) it carries the idea of being cunning, crafty and subtle or practical sensible wise careful cautious and far-sighted so it can be used in a good or bad sense.

The proverb is saying that the anger of a fool is immediately manifested outwardly when someone offends them. This is because they either respond in hostile verbal abuse or in violent physical force. They are spoken of as being foolish, because this kind of response brings trouble to themselves, destroys marriages and relationships and often results in damage, physical harm and even death. In contrast to this the wise choose to ignore insults and go the way of peace by not responding and by walking away from what could turn into a destructive situation.

Proverbs 12:17 ----- 17Whoever speaks the truth gives honest evidence, but a false witness utters deceit.

The meaning in this is clearly obvious, but it also carries the following idea that may not be so obvious to some which is that those who speak the truth will show no bias. If their family member or friend is the one at fault they will still tell the truth and speak honestly and not lie or deceive to cover up their family members or friends' wrongdoing. An honest person is no respecter of people they will always speak the truth. In contrast to this a dishonest person will lie and deceive if it is to their advantage and if it means their guilty family member or friend will escape justice, even though an innocent man or woman will suffer in their place, because of their crime and wrongdoing.

Proverbs 12:18 ----- 18There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts, but the tongue of the wise brings healing.

The expression, "There is one whose rash words are like sword thrusts," carries the following two ideas: -

1. There are people who deliberately speak words to hurt and strike pain into the heart of others. This is called verbal abuse and bullying, today teenager use the internet to spread this type of hurtful poison against those they are jealous off.
2. There are people who lack sensitivity and because of this are extremely insensitive to the feelings of others so that their impulsive and unwise words cause hurt and pain.

The tongue of the wise brings healing means that the wise are sensitive to the feelings of others and very conscious of what they are saying so they speak words of comfort and encouragement.

Proverbs 12:19 ----- 19Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue is but for a moment.

Those with a heart of integrity who speak what is true, right, honest and just will inherit eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory in contrast to this the dishonest who speak lies, deceptions and what is false will perish forever. The expression, "for a moment," can apply to the following two things, firstly, until they are found out and secondly, while they dwell in this world since before eternity a human lifespan, is but a blink of the eyes and a fleeting moment.

Proverbs 12:20 ----- 20Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, but those who plan peace have joy.

Those who plan and purpose to murder, steal, rape commit adultery and such like things have a deceitful heart. Their heart is so deceitful that those they dwell amongst and work with have no idea of the evil dwelling in their minds and hearts. This is especially true of paedophiles; the testimony of many who have known them before they were caught is that they thought they were a good family man. This proverb also gives us insight into one of the keys to having joy dwelling in the heart which is to always seek the way of peace in all circumstances, it is to love peace, think peace and do whatever we are able to do to bring peace to any given situation.

Proverbs 12:21 ----- ²¹No ill befalls the righteous, but the wicked are filled with trouble.

The lives of those who break the law will be filled with trouble such as court appearances, prison and fines etc., and all sorts of hardships doing what is wrong brings upon a person's life such as violence, misery, guilt, depression and such like things. In contrast to this none of these troubles and sorrows will come upon those who do what is good and what is right.

Proverbs 12:22 ----- ²²Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD, but those who act faithfully are his delight.

God has an intense disapproval and dislike for anyone who tells lies, but He is delighted with those who are consistently faithful trustworthy and loyal.

Proverbs 12:23 ----- ²³A prudent man conceals knowledge, but the heart of fools proclaims folly.

A wise person conceals knowledge carries the idea that they don't show it off; they do not use their knowledge to exalt themselves above others or to intimidate others to make them feel inferior. In contrast to this, fools pridefully speak many words, but their conversations are filled with nothing of any worth. For further information concerning the word prudent see the notes following (v16) (above).

Proverbs 12:24 ----- ²⁴The hand of the diligent will rule, while the slothful will be put to forced labor.

The word diligent comes from the Hebrew word (*charuwts*) it carries the idea of being wise, alert, eager, sharp, determined and able to make good decisions. Those who are keen to work hard and determined to learn will rule over those who are lazy and have no interest in learning.

Proverbs 12:25 ----- ²⁵Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

Worry, stress, nervousness and anxiety will drain the vitality and energy from a person, but a word of encouragement or comfort will cheer them up.

Proverbs 12:26 ----- ²⁶One who is righteous is a guide to his neighbor, but the way of the wicked leads them astray.

A person that does what is good and right will be a good guide to those they associate with while those who do what is wrong will lead them into trouble. It is important teenagers have friends who do the right thing, because peer pressure is so powerful that a good person can be enticed into doing what is wrong not because they want to, but to be an accepted part of the group.

Proverbs 12:27 ----- ²⁷Whoever is slothful will not roast his game, but the diligent man will get precious wealth.

The expression, "the slothful will not roast their game," means a lazy person will not eat their own food, meaning they will bludge off others and all that they do own will have come from the charity of others and not from their own work. In contrast to this those who seek after knowledge and work hard will accumulate great wealth, both worldly riches and spiritual riches.

The apostle Paul not only tells us, "To stay away from any brother who is lazy (2 Thess. 3:6) he actually commands us to stay away. Added to this he gives us another command not even to give them food (2 Thess. 3:10). Showing that God does not expect brothers and sisters in Christ to burden their own families by giving financial aid or food to a brother who is lazy and for no good reason is unwilling to work.

Upon saying that it should be mentioned that this command does not apply to a person who is out of work, but is willing to work, nor does this principal apply to a person who for whatever reason is going through a period of overwhelming sorrow, deep depression or some other crisis in their life and because of these does not want to work.

Those in Christ suffering in any of these ways, is in desperate need of encouragement, comfort and compassion. This is because laziness is about attitude and choosing not to work when one is fully able to work and not about being unable to work. Though it is true that those who help the poor are storing up treasure in heaven God does not expect anyone to help a person who is unwilling to help themselves for the following three reasons: -

1. The monies most brothers and sisters can afford to give is very limited so it is better that their giving goes to those who desire to work, but for whatever reason cannot and are therefore poor and struggling through no fault of their own rather than to those who are choosing to be lazy and unwilling to work when they are fully able.
2. Those who are lazy and chose not to work for no-good reason will forever be a drain on the budget of others and the church.
3. When those who do desire to work, but for some reason are unable to work do overcome their troubles they in turn will work and give to others who lack.

In Proverbs chapter twenty-one it is written: "The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labour." (Prov. 21:25).

Proverbs 12:28 ----- ²⁸In the path of righteousness is life, and in its pathway there is no death.

To live a lifestyle of righteousness means doing what is right and good; doing all things from a spirit of love; living a lifestyle that honours God and brings a good testimony to the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and the Christian faith. It means living to fulfil Jesus command to love our neighbour as ourselves, meaning do-good and not harm. When the word righteous is used in regards to mankind it does not mean without sin, When the Bible uses the term, righteous or blameless in regards to humans it means the person in focus is a decent person who does not deliberately harm other humans physically, financially, sexually, emotionally or spiritually. A righteous person helps the poor and does what is right and good before God.

We know references in Scripture and the call to the faithful to live a lifestyle of righteousness does not mean being without sin, because the entire Bible teaches that there has only ever been one man who walked on earth without sin before God and his name was the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Lamb without blemish. Added to this if it was possible for us to attain to the glorious state of living without sin Christ died for no reason. Today we don't use the word righteousness, in regards to human behaviour, when we see someone who is kind, honest and giving and treats others with respect and decency we simply say, "They are a decent and honest person."

As one travels through the Scriptures it becomes clear that the word righteousness in regards to human behaviour not only embraces all the pillars of God's throne, but is also the foundation of what His Kingdom is built upon. These pillars and foundation stones are: -

- Love and holiness.
- Righteousness (meaning doing what is right and good).
- Justice and mercy.
- Grace and longsuffering.
- Joy and peace.

These pillars and foundation stones embrace honesty, moral virtue, integrity truthfulness, fairness for all and kindness, goodness, gentleness and self-control (Gal. 5:22). These are the foundation stones and pillars of God's throne which means that all who belong to His Kingdom should do all they can to make them the foundation stones and pillars of their life. (Psalm 89:14) (Psalm 97:2).

There is no death for those who make these pillars guides for their life, means that there is no permanent death, since they will be raised to eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory. This is why the faithful are spoken of as sleeping in Christ, because at the right time the angel of the Lord will wake them up to a new life of immortality, righteousness, justice joy and peace.

Nine Aspects of Wisdom.

Wisdom embraces the following nine aspects: -

1. Having a clear thoughtful, rational, discerning, discriminating, sharp, and discreet mind.
2. Being cautious in character as opposed to being impulsive.
3. Being sensible and practical with the skills and talents that a person has.
4. Making choices that considers others and that will be fair and just.
5. Studying, reading and learning to acquire mental knowledge that helps in making right decisions for the present moment and for the future.
6. Being able to see the future danger of a decision, choice or action.
7. Having the ability to make good choices and decisions in the present moment that will end in the best result and a good outcome in the future.
8. Being able to perceive the end result or ramifications (good or bad) of the underlying message a speaker is teaching.
9. Wisdom will protect a person from making decisions and choices in the present moment that will lead to hurt or calamity in the future for themselves and for others.

End.