

The second section of this book (Chapters 10-29) contains a series of individual wise sayings. *There is often little direct connection from one verse to the next* – they may speak of *totally different areas* of life. However, note the constant contrast between the “wise” and the “foolish”; the “righteous” and the “wicked”. The righteous and the wise are those who are believers, righteous and wise by faith. The foolish and the wicked are those who are unbelievers and reflect their unbelief in foolish decisions in life.

Since Christians are Saints and Sinners at the same time, when the Holy Spirit rules in our lives we are able to reflect God’s wisdom but when our sinful flesh rules in our lives we see the sin and foolishness that follows. These wise sayings are intended as instruction for believers who know the love of God in Christ and desire to better reflect God’s wisdom in their lives. They are also intended as warnings to unbelievers to help them recognize their sin and folly so they will search outside themselves for an answer to the problem of sin. That answer is only found in Christ!

Chapter 10

1. The Introduction Who lays claim to be the author God uses to share God’s wisdom? (10:1a)
2. Identify the verses that give the clear contrast between the “wise” and the “foolish” and the “righteous” and the “wicked”. To which areas of life do they speak?
3. Passages to consider
 - Verses 4,5 – What pictures are used to encourage diligent labor/work?
See also Prov 13:4. What is a sluggard?
 - Verse 12 What is the different goal of hatred versus love?
See also Prov 15:17
 - Verse 17 Why is accepting discipline so important? How can our refusal to accept discipline affect others? Consider the father who rails against a speeding ticket. See also Prov 12:1
 - Verse 19 Why is “talking too much” a challenge? Why is it usually better to be a “person of few words”? See also Prov 11:12
4. What other passages provided insight into life for you?

Chapter 11

5. Passages to consider
 - Verse 2 What is the end of false pride? Think of Peter.
How does humility reflect wisdom? See also Prov 13:10
 - Verse 13 Those who gossip often justify their words by saying, ‘It’s the truth’. How might the Christian respond? See also Prov 20:19. What is the Lord’s advice?
 - Verses 24,25 What does the Lord teach us about generosity?
6. What other passages provided insight into life for you?

Chapter 12

7. Passage to Consider

Verse 4 How do we see the contrast between a “good” wife and a “bad” wife?
What is the difference in their outcomes? See also Prov 14:1

Verses 9,11 What is the connection between false pretenses and chasing fantasies?

Verse 25 What is the answer for worry ? See also Prov 25:11-13

8. What other passages provided insight into life for you?

Chapter 13

9. Passages to consider

Verse 8 What is the contrasted thought of riches and poverty?

Verse 20 What can we learn about our choice of friends? See also Prov 28:7

Verse 24 What does this tell us about discipline for children? See also Prov 19:18
Consider Hebrews 12:4-11

10. What other passages provided insight into life for you?

Chapter 14

11. Passages to consider

Verse 12 What is the only way that we can know the way that we choose is God’s way? Consider Psalm 119:105

Verse 27 The “fear of the Lord” is faith in Christ. What is the end for those who want no part of him? See also John 10:10b What is the “full life”?

Verse 34 In what way do God-pleasing laws and conduct on the part of the people bring a blessing for a nation? See I Timothy 2:1,2

12. What other passages provided insight into life for you?