

A Study of the Wisdom Literature

(OT Survey Lesson 293—Wisdom about Righteous Living)

Introduction: There are many proverbs that reveal that the blessings of a righteous life. In this lesson, we consider some of the features of righteousness that Solomon encourages all to make a part of their lives.

Lesson aim: To consider some the characteristics of the righteous person.

Trusts in God

28:5 Evil men do not understand justice, But those who seek the LORD understand all things.
3:5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart, And do not lean on your own understanding. 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.
29:25 The fear of man brings a snare, But he who trusts in the LORD will be exalted.

Respects His word

21:3 To do righteousness and justice Is desired by the LORD rather than sacrifice.
16:20 He who gives attention to the word shall find good, And blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.
19:16 He who keeps the commandment keeps his soul, *But* he who is careless of his ways will die.
30:2-6 Surely I am more stupid than any man, And I do not have the understanding of a man. 3 Neither have I learned wisdom, Nor do I have the knowledge of the Holy One. 4 Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His son's name? Surely you know! Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. Do not add to His words lest He reprove you, and you be proved a liar.

Kind

3:3-4 Do not let kindness and truth leave you; Bind them around your neck, Write them on the tablet of your heart. So you will find favor and good repute In the sight of God and man.
19:22 What is desirable in a man is his kindness, And *it is* better to be a poor man than a liar.

Humble

3: 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the LORD and turn away from evil. 8 It will be healing to your body, And refreshment to your bones.
20:9 Who can say, "I have cleansed my heart, I am pure from my sin"?
28:13 He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes *them* will find compassion.
12:9 Better is he who is lightly esteemed and has a servant, Than he who honors himself and lacks bread.
27:2 Let another praise you, and not your own mouth; A stranger, and not your own lips.

Peaceable & a cheerful outlook

20:3 Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, But any fool will quarrel.

12:20 Deceit is in the heart of those who devise evil, But counselors of peace have joy.
15:15 All the days of the afflicted are bad, But a cheerful heart *has* a continual feast.

Forgiving (Love)

10:12 Hatred stirs up strife, But love covers all transgressions.
19:11 A man's discretion makes him slow to anger, And it is his glory to overlook a transgression.
20:22 Do not say, "I will repay evil"; Wait for the LORD, and He will save you.

Just/Righteous

12:5 The thoughts of the righteous are just, *But* the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.
12:12 The wicked desires the booty of evil men, But the root of the righteous yields *fruit*.
21:8 The way of a guilty man is crooked, But as for the pure, his conduct is upright.
21:12 The righteous one considers the house of the wicked, Turning the wicked to ruin.
21:15 The execution of justice is joy for the righteous, But is terror to the workers of iniquity.
29:7 The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor, The wicked does not understand *such* concern.
31:8-9 Open your mouth for the dumb, For the rights of all the unfortunate. 9 Open your mouth, judge righteously, And defend the rights of the afflicted and needy.

Honest

13:5-6 A righteous man hates falsehood, But a wicked man acts disgustingly and shamefully. 6 Righteousness guards the one whose way is blameless, But wickedness subverts the sinner.
16:2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own sight, But the LORD weighs the motives.
20:7 A righteous man who walks in his integrity— How blessed are his sons after him.

Courageous

28:1 THE wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.

Giving/Benevolent

3:9 Honor the LORD from your wealth, And from the first of all your produce; 10 So your barns will be filled with plenty, And your vats will overflow with new wine.
14:31-32 He who oppresses the poor reproaches his Maker, But he who is gracious to the needy honors Him.

A Teacher of others

12:26 The righteous is a guide to his neighbor, But the way of the wicked leads them astray.
24:10-12 If you are slack in the day of distress, Your strength is limited. 11 Deliver those who are being taken away to death, And those who are staggering to slaughter, O hold *them* back. 12 If you say, "See, we did not know this," Does He not consider *it* who weighs the hearts? And does He not know *it* who keeps your soul? And will He not render to man according to his work?

Blessings of righteousness

3:1-10 MY son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; 2 For length of days and years of life, And peace they will add to you.
4:10-12 Hear, my son, and accept my sayings, And the years of your life will be many. 11 I have directed you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in upright paths. 12 When you walk, your steps will not be impeded; And if you run, you will not stumble.
10:6 Blessings are on the head of the righteous, But the mouth of the wicked conceals violence. 7 The memory of the righteous is blessed, But the name of the wicked will rot. 8 The wise of heart

will receive commands, But a babbling fool will be thrown down. 9 He who walks in integrity walks securely, But he who perverts his ways will be found out. 10 He who winks the eye causes trouble, And a babbling fool will be thrown down.

10:16 The wages of the righteous is life, The income of the wicked, punishment.

10:24-25 What the wicked fears will come upon him, And the desire of the righteous will be granted. 25 When the whirlwind passes, the wicked is no more, But the righteous *has* an everlasting foundation.

10:28 The hope of the righteous is gladness, But the expectation of the wicked perishes.

10:30 The righteous will never be shaken, But the wicked will not dwell in the land.

11:5 The righteousness of the blameless will smooth his way, But the wicked will fall by his own wickedness.

11:23 The desire of the righteous is only good, *But* the expectation of the wicked is wrath.

11:27 He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, But he who searches after evil, it will come to him.

11:31 If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, How much more the wicked and the sinner!

12:2 A good man will obtain favor from the LORD, But He will condemn a man who devises evil.

12:3 A man will not be established by wickedness, But the root of the righteous will not be moved.

12:8 A man will be praised according to his insight, But one of perverse mind will be despised.

12:21 No harm befalls the righteous, But the wicked are filled with trouble.

12:28 In the way of righteousness is life, And in *its* pathway there is no death.

13:8-9 The ransom of a man's life is his riches, But the poor hears no rebuke. 9 The light of the righteous rejoices, But the lamp of the wicked goes out.

13:25 The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, But the stomach of the wicked is in want.

14: 32 The wicked is thrust down by his wrongdoing, But the righteous has a refuge when he dies.

16:7 When a man's ways are pleasing to the LORD, He makes even his enemies to be at peace with him.

16:17 The highway of the upright is to depart from evil; He who watches his way preserves his life.

16:31 A gray head is a crown of glory; It is found in the way of righteousness.

21:21 He who pursues righteousness and loyalty Finds life, righteousness and honor.

28:18 He who walks blamelessly will be delivered, But he who is crooked will fall all at once.