



THE BOOK OF PROVERBS 4U



WORKBOOK PART 3



7. THE TONGUE

There is great power in the tongue, both for good and evil, as many of Solomon's proverbs clearly show in this important section. Having a godly and right attitude with one's tongue under control has a good influence on others. One proverb states that a kind and gentle tongue is a balm to the soul and brings help and healing. Other words, usually best from a trusted friend, include constructive criticism. The gracious words of the righteous can bless, encourage and bring hope, whereas wicked lies and slander can harm, even ruin a person's reputation and in some instances can kill. In public life, as is generally known, the hurt can be so destructive that it can lead to a person's suicide. The best use of the tongue tells others about the Saviour, Jesus Christ, and so changes lives.

Out of an open mouth comes good or evil speech – wise advice or foolish ways. Satan delights in the folly of the tongue. Even unintentionally it is easy to say the wrong thing and be misunderstood. Just a few words of appreciation or praise can inspire someone and even have a life-changing influence. Thoughtless words may have a disturbing impact on another and sometimes much greater than would ever be known – so watch your words! However, God defends those who walk in His ways of wisdom and righteousness. As one of the proverbs records, the Lord delivers the faithful out of trouble for He is their refuge.

Pr 2:11-12

Pr 4:24

Pr 6:12

Pr 10:18

Pr 10:31

Pr 11:13

Pr 12:13

Pr 12:18-19

THE TONGUE - Continued

Pr 12:22

Pr 13:3

Pr 15:1-2

Pr 15:4

Pr 15:23

Pr 15:28

Pr 16:1

Pr 16:13

Pr 16:21

Pr 16:24

Pr 17:4



THE TONGUE - continued

The Proverbs of Solomon continue to give instructions and guidance to his sons.

Pr 18:7

Pr 18:8

Pr 18:13

Pr 18:17



It is wise to listen to both sides of an argument by keeping silent, as in the following English proverb – 'Hold one's tongue.'

However, in certain circumstances Silence implies consent, but refraining from speech is often best, as in the well-known English proverb – Silence is golden.'

Pr 18:21

Pr 20:19

Pr 21:23

The following proverb from the Sayings of the Wise is included in this chapter.

Pr 23:9

8 DECEIT AND HONESTY

God's word is Truth and that's His standard of righteousness as recorded in the Scriptures. There are no grey areas. It is right for Man, made in God's image, to speak the truth at all times. Doctors take the Hippocratic Oath of right conduct and not to betray the confidences of their patients. In all relationships, to speak the truth is an excellent rule but in certain circumstances it takes courage and the wisdom of diplomacy.

An unwise question "What is Truth?" is often asked today! If people are honest, their speech and dealings are always straightforward and without deception. Computer language is a good example (WYSIWYG) – **What you see is what you get!**



Pr 11:1

Pr 11:18

Pr 12:20

Pr 15:27

Pr 19:22

Pr 20:10

Pr 20:14

Pr 20:17

Like the first proverb, another about false weights and scales concludes this chapter.

Pr 20:23

9 TRUE AND FALSE WITNESSES

The proverbs in this section are about Truth in the heart and the courage always to speak it out. A truthful testimony can save a life, whereas a false witness in a court of law can result in imprisonment or even death.

By the accusation of two false witness in agreement, Jesus Christ was condemned before the Jewish court of the Sanhedrin and was crucified by the Romans. (Matthew 26:59-65)

The following proverb recalls one of the Things God hates.

Pr 6:19

Some of the following proverbs are good examples of maxims that state the opposite - True or False characteristics in the same verse.

Pr 12:17

Pr 14:5

Pr 14:25

Pr 19:5 (Pr 19:9)

Pr 19:28

Pr 21:28

The following proverb on the subject of FALSE WITNESSES was copied by Hezekiah's men.

Pr 25:18



10 PLEDGES

Read Proverbs 6:1-5

Although it is good to be generous, a pledge is not a kind act to a friend in need, but a foolish promise to pay or underwrite another's debts. Solomon advised his sons never to become security for a neighbour or a stranger. In the Hebrew scriptures, to be released from such a promise was a matter of great urgency.

Becoming ensnared by a pledge could even end in the ruin of one's family. The children's inheritance was thus endangered and even lost, reducing the family to work as hired servants until the next Year of Jubilee. According to Jewish law, Jubilee years of restoration occurred every fifty years; so this could mean a long wait for freedom.

Yes, a matter of urgency, so waste no time to be freed from paying a friend or neighbour's debt - plead that the money be paid to obtain release from the unwise pledge.

Pr 6:1-2 (3)

The quote from Shakespeare's Hamlet is a telling reminder –

'Neither a borrower, nor a lender be.'

There follows the warning - loss of the friendship!

Better to give a gift rather than a loan. For Christians it is wise to sort out financial matters, avoid borrowing and so avoid the possibility of rising interest rates.

Pr 11:15

Pr 17:18

Pr 22:26



11 LAZINESS OR SLOTH

Read Proverbs 6:6-8

Many sayings in the book of Proverbs are on the subject of Laziness. Solomon gave dire warnings about the slothful and the sad consequences of poverty and begging with hardship for families. He also gave advice never to employ lazy people – either for work or to send on an errand or mission of any sort.

Such persons are slow to get going in the mornings and usually lie long in bed. They are slack and manage somehow to avoid work being work-shy; some being too lazy to feed themselves!

To avoid poverty Solomon instructed his sons to consider the industrious ways of ants.



Pr 6:6

Pr 6:9

Pr 10:4

Pr 10:26

Pr 12:11

Pr 13:4

Pr 14:23

LAZINESS OR SLOTH - continued

Pr 18:9

Pr 19:15

Pr 19:24

Pr 20:4

Pr 20:13

Pr 21:25

Pr 22:13



Read Proverbs 24:30-34

According to these verses (from the Sayings of the Wise) the field of a lazy farmer is full of weeds; and a vineyard overgrown with thorns belongs to a man who loves to sleep for he is without sense.

Pr 24:33-34

BOOK OF PROVERBS



PART 4 follows next.

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