

## **A Buffet of Wisdom**

(Proverbs 10)

10/4/17; Wed PM Pine Grove

### **Introduction**

The pastor of the church that sent us to seminary got dangerously ill after eating at Golden Corral one Saturday afternoon..

According to him, he was moving down the buffet bar and came to the macaroni salad..

He said he noticed a little crust on the top of the creamy salad consisting mostly of mayonnaise and macaroni noodles,....

But he simply took the spoon and stirred it all up before taking a big spoonful on his plate...

That afternoon, he has a severe case of food poisoning and couldn't preach the next day..

Now, I offer that not to pull you away from your beloved buffet restaurants...

Many people love them because they can get as much as they want and never have to worry about leaving hungry.

When I was a little kid, we went to a short lived restaurant in Clinton SC called Duff's Buffet..

Because kids under 5 ate free...

I never liked it and even got sick from a chicken leg I got there, so I have never been a huge fan of buffet eating..

First of all, the price is higher...

The serving dishes dont always stay cold or hot...

And there are germs on everything...

But many people love them and frequent them often because they get to pick what they want and love the variety of what is served..

Well, we have to the buffet portion of the book of Proverbs...

For the most part of 9 chapters in the book of Proverbs, the verses of the Proverbs have fit together nicely in little sections...

But now that we get to chapter 10, the book becomes a buffet of sorts with God's wisdom set out in front of us in no particular order...

We will simply move from dish to dish and gather the wisdom of God in little bites for the next 20 chapters....

So, let us grab a fork, knife and spoon and dig in to the feast of wisdom that God has set before us in the book of Proverbs...

And we will simply begin in verse 1 of chapter 10...

(Another note:

Instead of an outline, over the next several chapters, I will simply offer what I think are some major principles of each chapter....)

Verse 1...

***1 The proverbs of Solomon.***

***A wise son makes a father glad,***

***But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.***

Once again we see a contrast in the book of Proverbs...

And the contrast here is between a wise and a foolish son...

This would clearly apply to either a son or a daughter but the wisdom here is to be someone who bring gladness and not grief to your parents...

Now, though I just said that this section of the proverbs often go from verse to verse without any apparent connection, I do think there is a connection between verse 1 and 2 here...

Let's read verse 2..

**2**

***[a]Ill-gotten gains do not profit,  
But righteousness delivers from death.***

The idea seems to be that a wise son is one who stays away from ill-gotten gains and lives a life of righteousness..

Now this idea of ill-gotten gains will be seen scattered throughout the book of Proverbs...

So what are ill-gotten gains?

Well the Hebrew phrase here is simply, "treasures of wickedness"

But the idea is financial gain through means of wickedness..

Theft, bribery, extortion, high interest rates will all be wicked ways to gain money...

And the common theme of ill-gotten gains is also the general idea of getting wealth without work...

What is an example in the Bible of ill-gotten gain?

There may be not greater example than Judas.

Judas betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver, but he never benefitted from it..

In fact, he tried to give it back before attempting to hang himself...

We will see this idea of ill-gotten gains again but the relationship of verse 1 to verse 2 is that the wise son is the one who doesn't sin to survive in life..

Instead, he lives righteously and isn't lazy...

He is diligent, hard-working and brings honor to his family by staying away from fast and easy money as a result of sin and greed...

And verse 3 is also related to verse 2...

**3**

***The Lord will not allow the [b]righteous to hunger,  
But He will [c]reject the craving of the wicked.***

Though ill gotten gains may come fast, they can also leave just as fast...

And the principle of verse 3 is that those who act wickedly to get ahead will not be fed by God when they hunger...

However, God will feed the righteous man who is faithful and diligent...

You see the rich may have more than enough money for a while but when it goes and he is hungry, his hunger is ignored by the Lord..

On the other hand, the diligent may never have enough money but he will always have enough food..

Verse 4 is also related to these bits of wisdom..

#### **4**

***Poor is he who works with a negligent hand,  
But the hand of the diligent makes rich.***

Just like wisdom and foolishness are opposites, so are diligence and negligence..

A negligent hand is a hand that is lack or slack or doesn't care...

Negligence makes you lay on the couch instead of going to work..

Diligence gets you off the couch and off to work on time...

Diligent people are rich...

Negligent people are poor...

The sad reality is that poor people never see the negligence or admit to the laziness that led to their poverty...

Instead they blame society or their parents or someone else...

Most of the time it is simply their own laziness...

And then we get a picture of diligence and negligence in verse 5..

**5**

***He who gathers in summer is a son who acts wisely,  
But he who sleeps in harvest is a son who acts shamefully.***

To gather crops is the picture of figment work...

To sleep in is the picture of negligence...

And we again retune to the picture of two sons...

One who is working and one who is sleeping...

And the end result of each one is easy to spot...

The working son is a picture of wisdom, while the lazy son is the picture of shame...

Now, lets move to verses 6-11, which also have a lot in common as well...

Let me read all these verses and the new will go back and look at them slower...

**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 [d]a babbling fool will be [e]ruined.***

**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 [f]a babbling fool will be [g]ruined.***



## 11

***The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life,  
But the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.***

If you will notice, the end of verse 6 and the end of verse 11 are the same phrase..

***the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.***

But also notice this, the first part of each of those verses are speaks of the body of the righteous...

In verse 6, the head of the righteous is a place of blessing...

In verse 11, the mouth of the righteous is a source of blessing...

So, what we see in between verses 6 and would 11 would seem to have something in common...

And they do because they speak of further contrasts between the righteous and the wicked...

So, let's look again...

The first picture is the difference between the righteous and the wicked in terms of the area above their neck in verse 6...

The righteous uses his head to receive blessings...

The wicked uses his head and particularly his mouth to cover his violent deeds...

Then we move to the reputation of the righteous and the wicked in verse 7...

The righteous man blesses even beyond the grave...

Because even the memory of him brings blessings to those who recall him...

On the other hand, the memory of the wicked is quickly forgotten and rots away..

Then we see the humility of the righteous to receive commands in verse 8...

While the wicked is filled with pride and lets his tongue ramble and babble as if he needs no instruction...

Then we see an important truth about the righteous and the wise in verse 9...

They walk securely in their integrity..

While the wicked man of perversion is exposed by his sin...

Now, let us think about this in terms of our world....

With the events of Sunday night in Las Vegas, how in the world can anyone walk securely in this world..

With violence everywhere and mean evil at every turn, shouldn't we stay indoors and find security there..

And the answer is a clear no...

We are not people of timidity and fear...

WE are not people of the dark...

We walk through the valley of the shadow of death not because we are brave but because our Shepherd is with us...

He guards us and he protects us...

But the idea of walking securely is also the idea of not being afraid of death...

Death is not the enemy for the righteous...

Death has been defeated for us by Christ..

And besides, the Lord had determined our number of days, and though we don't put God to the test, we walk securely knowing that we are in His hand wherever we go and whatever we do...

The righteous can and should walk securely because they are under lock and key in the hands of the Lord..

Then contrast that security with the insecurity of the fool...

His sin exposes who him to danger and insecurity..

Only the righteous own the best security system and that is the mighty hand of their God.

This section then goes back to the heads of the wicked and the fool in verse 10-11...

The head of the fool winks to cover his deception...

The mouth of the fool babbles to cover his violence...

While the mouth of the righteous and wise is used to bless others as a fountain of life...

You ever met someone who just blesses you with their mouth?

When they speak, you are encouraged and feel loved and blessed by their words?

You ever met someone who just babbles on and on and on..

The conversation is not intended to bless you but to speak of their troubles or good deeds or of their accomplishments...

Long story short, the wise uses their mouths to as a fountain of blessing to others...

The fool uses his mouth as a fountain of pride..

Again, we are reminded to measure our words very carefully...

Our mouths can be a source of blessing or a source of cursing...

But our mouths are also a sign of a foolish or wise heart..

A righteous or wicked person...

The words that leave our mouths are important...

So aim to make sure your mouth is fountain of life and not a fountain of death...

In verse 12, we return to a random collection of wisdom sayings...

## **12**

***Hatred stirs up strife,  
But love covers all transgressions.***

The two great enemies in the human heart, love and hatred, do battle in verse 12...

Hatred, which is opposite of love stirs us drama and trouble and strife..

Love, on the other hands, calms the situation by covering the sin...

Now, this is not the idea of ignoring sins...

Some say this verse and 1 Peter 4:8, which says that love covers a multitude of sins are proof that we should avoid confronting sins...

Instead, we should overlook sins in the name of love...

Well, that sounds nice and neat and politically correct but it isn't biblically correct...

Jesus Himself confronted sin and sinners all throughout his ministry on earth..

He never overlooked sin, but told the sinner to go an sin no more...

The idea here is not the overlooking of sins, but the overlooking of sins committed against you...

You see, love causes you to let go of bitterness and revenge that can come from sin against you...

You see bitterness and hatred over sins committed against you lead you to stir up strife and trouble and drama and revenge...

Proverbs 10:12 and 1 Peter 4:8 instruct you to let go of the hatred and cover the sins in love..

That doesn't mean you ignore the sin or cover the sin from people who need to know, it simply means to forgive the sin because you have been forgiven many more sins than those committed against you...

Moving on...

Verse 13...

**13**

***On the lips of the discerning, wisdom is found,  
But a rod is for the back of him who lacks [h]un-  
derstanding.***

In verse 13, we go from the mouth to the bottom, and the simple principle is that the mouth should speak wisdom and if not the backside will receive the rod of discipline...

Now, we have to stop here and discuss the rod of discipline, which has become a very controversial subject in the past 25 years...

When I was in elementary and middle school, paddling was still in effect...

Mrs. Henry in 5th grade has a paddle with a handle covered in electrical tape and hole in the end...

And it was called "Brown Baby" because someone has painted the whole thing brown...

It was also well known that a trip to the principal's office meant a paddling from either Mr. Porter or Mr. Coleman...

However, that day of school's using the rod on the backside has passed...

Now, for reason I will talk about in a moment, I don't think the rod was meant for the school house...

However, I do think that spanking was meant and still is meant for the home...



Now, whether a person uses a rod or a hand is a matter of preference but the Lord's instruction here in the book of Proverbs has not changed...

Discipline, even the use of the rod of discipline, has not gone out of style and never will...

It is God's ordained way of raising children...

We had our parenting class in the summer and those DVDs are available to anyone who would like to watch them and they cover from birth through the teenage years...

But what I appreciate about them most is that is the most biblical approach to parenting that you will find...

And though the use of the rod is not the focus of biblical parenting, it is a part of it...

Since this is the first time we have seen the word rod in the book of Proverbs, let me just a couple principles of the use the rod from Scriptures...

#1- The rod should be used less and not more.

The rod is to be used for matters of utmost importance in the raising of children...

Don't spank for every infraction or it will lose it's effectiveness..

#2- The rod is offered in love.

Never spank in anger.

Never spank without a reason.

Never spank in frustration.

IT should hurt you as much as it hurts your child to use the rod, but you can't avoid using it because of that.

#3 - The rod is to be administered by the parent.

Some of you may disagree here, but the use of the rod in the book of Proverbs seems to be reserved for the parent of the child..

This is why I don't think it ever belonged in a school house..

This is why you shouldn't give permission for someone else to spank your child even a loved one or family..

The rod is intended to be used by parents on their children..

Parents are the ones who love the child most and they should be the ones that kids see administer the rod...

#4 - The rod is effective.

Physical discipline works, and it works because God put us all together and he knows what motivates us and changes us...

And God has endorsed the use of the rod to correct behavior..

TO make the foolish child obey...

And to make wisdom look more attractive...

We will return to the rod at least 6 or 8 more times, but that is enough for now..

Verses 14-18 remind us of the connection between wisdom and riches and foolishness and poverty...

**14**

***Wise men store up knowledge,  
But with the mouth of the foolish, ruin is at hand.***

**15**

***The rich man's wealth is his [i]fortress,  
The ruin of the poor is their poverty.***

**16**

***The [j]wages of the righteous is life,***

***The income of the wicked, punishment.***

**17**

***He is on the path of life who heeds instruction,  
But he who ignores reproof goes astray.***

Again we note that the wise build and store wealth  
and gain life and walk on the right path...

The foolish come to ruin, punishment, and leave the  
path of blessing....

This is the general pattern of life...

Get wisdom and gain wealth...

Reject wisdom and ruin wealth..

In verses 18-21, we return to the subject of the the  
lips, tongue and mouths of people...

Verse 18...

**18**

***He who conceals hatred has lying lips,  
And he who spreads slander is a fool.***

**19**

***When there are many words, transgression is un-  
avoidable,  
But he who restrains his lips is wise.***

**20**

***The tongue of the righteous is as choice silver,***

***The heart of the wicked is worth little.***

**21**

***The lips of the righteous feed many,***

***But fools die for lack of [k]understanding.***

Again, we are reminded of the works of the the tongue in these verse...

According to verse 18, the wicked lie with their mouths and conceal with their lips..

According to verse 18. the wicked's tongue spreads slander..

According to verse 19, they use lots of words instead of less words..

Compare the works of the tongue in the righteous man...

According to verse 19, the wise restrain their tongue...

This is the idea of having the tongue under control..

To think before you speak...

To measure your words carefully...

Someone with controlled and restrained speech is a very rare person..

Verse 20 says that a tongue like that is like choice silver...

It is valuable and rare and desirable...

And according to verse 21, the lips of the righteous feed many..

In other words, they bless others...

We go back to verse 11 and the mouth of the righteous being a fountain of life...

Now verses 22-25...

**22**

***It is the blessing of the Lord that makes rich,  
And He adds no sorrow to it.***

**23**

***Doing wickedness is like sport to a fool,  
And so is wisdom to a man of understanding.***

**24**

***What the wicked fears will come upon him,  
But 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.***

In one of my favorite weather passages in the Bible, we find a wisdom principle that may have been in Jesus mind when he told the parable of the wise builder...

Jesus said that the man who but on the sand would find trouble when the storms of life come, but not the man who built on the rock...

Solomon described the same principle right here in verses 24-25..

The foolish builds his life on the foolishness of wickedness....

It is even like a sport to him to do violence and commit sin...

But as he lives that life of crime and mischief and foolishness, he is building on a foundation that falls to the storms of life...

On the other hand, the man seeking the wisdom of God in His word...

The man living the life of righteousness is building on a solid foundation that wont be swept away by the whirlwind...

Let me give you a quick picture of that...

Ever seen the difference in the reactions of the believer and the unbeliever in the death of a loved one...

I have seen so many Christians respond to death in such a calm manner compared to the reactions of the lost...

That doesn't mean the Christian isn't sad or upset or full of grief...

It simply means that their foundation doesn't shake as much when the storms of life pound on their doors...

Unbelievers on the other hand have their foundations swept away in the storms of life...

Wisdom resists the storms of life and makes it easier to survive...

WE need to finish this chapter up, so let me read the rest of it...

And maybe we can touch on a few more principles before we leave tonight...

Verse 26-32...



26

*Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,  
So is the lazy one to those who send him.*

27

*The fear of the Lord prolongs [l]life,  
But the years of the wicked will be shortened.*

28

*The hope of the righteous is gladness,  
But the expectation of the wicked perishes.*

29

*The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the upright,  
But ruin to the workers of iniquity.*

30

*The righteous will never be shaken,  
But the wicked will not dwell in the land.*

31

*The mouth of the righteous flows with wisdom,  
But the perverted tongue will be cut out.*

32

*The lips of the righteous bring forth what is acceptable,  
But the mouth of the wicked what is perverted.*

Most of these verses are simply reinforcements of wisdom principles we have already learned...

Verse 27 is a repeat of the principle that wisdom leads to long life...

Verse 28-30 are repeats of the sure foundation and protection of wisdom...

Verses 31-32 are repeats of the of the value of wisdom to our speech and words...

So, let me just make a comment or two on verse 26...

## 26

***Like vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes,  
So is the lazy one to those who send him.***

Now what is the picture here?

What is the relation of smoke to the eyes?

Well, smoke clouds the eyes...

It makes them itch and irritates them...

Vinegar to the teeth...

Well, vinegar is also not good for the teeth...

It is very acidic and will wear down the protective enamel of the teeth over time...

So vinegar irritates the teeth and smoke irritates the eyes, therefore the lazy person irritates the person who sends him...

This would be the idea of an employer..

You hire a man for a job.

You send him out and he turns out to be a slug-gard...

And that is clearly irritating like smoke to the eyes and vinegar to the teeth...

Now, there are plenty of example of employers hiring lazy people today...

And we could sit around and complain and fuss about that all night....

But let ask you...

As the Lord saved you and put you in the kingdom, are you a hard worker or a lazy employee of His?

You see, it is easy to point the finger to lazy workers in the world but what is your work ethic for the King?

Are you an irritant for his eyes?

Or do you work diligently to please Him?

## **Conclusion**

Let's end there for the night, and let's just review a couple wisdom nuggets to stick in your pocket to take home..

1. Work Rewards the Diligent
2. Words Reveal the Heart
3. The Rod Removes Foolishness
4. Wisdom Resists the Storms of Life
5. Laziness Ruffles the Feathers

Let us pray...