

BIBLE SERMON: PROVERBS CHAPTER 15

[2] The title of the sermon today is “PROVERBS CHAPTER 15.”

We’re About Halfway Through The Book of Proverbs

- Let’s continue our verse by verse study in the Book of Proverbs.
- Starting there in verse 1 of Proverbs Chapter 15:

[3] Proverbs 15:1 *A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*

- You should always watch how you are speaking to people, answering people, responding to people.
- You should always be careful on how you are approaching others and speaking to them.
- With a soft answer, you might be able to win those people to Jesus Christ.
- With grievous words or painful words, you will stir up anger.
- So, a soft answer turns wrath away from you. A grievous answer stirs up wrath and anger towards you.
- Do your best, and it starts with each individual, to not stir up wrath.

For example, when you don’t know someone, you shouldn’t go up to them and start bashing on them.

- You shouldn’t gnash on them with your teeth when you don’t even know what they preach and believe.
- When that person comes back at you with anger, you can know it was because of your grievous words.
- Try a different approach. Try softer words and not attacking words.
- If you’re going to be saved by Jesus Christ, you need to come to God with soft words.
- You don’t want to attack God with grievous words and lies about Him. You’ll stir up His anger.
- And remember, don’t talk trash about God and lie about His words.
- We are commanded by God to rebuke and reprove when someone lies about God and His words.

[4] Proverbs 17:14 *The beginning of strife is as when one letteth out water: therefore leave off contention, before it be meddled with.*

- Some people just let it all go on someone they don’t even know.
- Their anger and harmful words is like opening the flood gates. Don’t open the flood gates. Calm down.
- Leave off contention. Use softer words and don’t start fights with people.
- Now, listen, don’t get confused. Many people have already started the fight with God.
- And I will speak up, and I will preach against them. They started the contention and the strife with God.
- Especially don’t start fights with God by preaching lies about God. Don’t meddle with God and His words.

[5] Genesis 13:8 *And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.*

- “For we be brethren.” We shouldn’t have strife between us because the Bible answers all arguments.
- If you want to submit to God and His words, then we shouldn’t have strife.
- It all starts with God’s words and your willingness to submit to His words.
- If you will not, then you are creating the strife. Don’t do that. We don’t want strife between us.

[6] Proverbs 15:2 *The tongue of the wise useth knowledge aright: but the mouth of fools poureth out foolishness.*

- You want to be wise. You don't want to pour out foolishness. You must watch yourself all day long.
- Be careful what you're tongue is saying and doing. Be careful with the music you're singing.
- Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs based exactly on the Scriptures is what you want to be singing.
- Words of the Bible are what you want to be speaking as much as possible.

[7] Proverbs 25:11-12 *A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. 12 As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprovew upon an obedient ear.*

- Children have a choice to be obedient to their parents. Have obedient ears. Ears that hear.
- As a parent, you need to be teaching your children the right things. Speak the right words.
- Teach them about life and what they need to be doing according to God's words.
- Teach your sons how to be leaders in the word of God. Teach your daughters how to be obedient to God.
- Teach the Scriptures to them every day. Read the Scriptures with them. Don't stop.
- You have a limited number of years to teach your children.
- You can lead them the right way or the wrong way. This is up to you.
- "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Fine gold to the ears of your children.

[8] Isaiah 50:4 *The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.*

- We need to find people who are weary, tired, and being consumed by this world.
- Let's go out and find them. Let's bring them back to their Creator. Let's get them saved.
- The Lord God has given you the tongue of the learned that you should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary.
- Understand that God wants us to go out, find people, help people, and make sure they are saved.
- God has the job of waking these people up as they hear what we speak to them.
- Our job is to go out and find these weary people.

[9] Proverbs 15:3 *The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good.*

- The Bible teaches us that the Lord sees everything. His eyes are in every place.
- He sees the good that we do, and He sees the evil that we do.
- Many times, we don't think that He can see us. Wake up. He can see you. He's watching.

[10] Proverbs 5:21 *For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.*

[11] 2 Chronicles 16:9 *For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly: therefore from henceforth thou shalt have wars.*

- If you trust in the Lord, your heart is perfect toward Him. Always trust in the Lord.

- His eyes RUN to and fro throughout the whole earth looking for opportunities to shew Himself strong for you.
- For example, you could be deathly sick but continuing to trust in the Lord.
- His eyes will see this, and He will show Himself strong for you. God does miracles every day.

God Sees Everything We Do

[12] Job 34:21-22 *For his eyes are upon the ways of man, and he seeth all his goings. 22 There is no darkness, nor shadow of death, where the workers of iniquity may hide themselves.*

- Most evil is done at night. There's a reason for that. They think they are hiding something.
- They think they're getting away with something, but they aren't. You can't hide from the Lord.

[13] Jeremiah 16:17 *For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.*

[14] Jeremiah 23:24 *Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD.*

[15] Jeremiah 32:19 *Great in counsel, and mighty in work: for thine eyes are open upon all the ways of the sons of men: to give every one according to his ways, and according to the fruit of his doings:*

- Do good and God will reward you with good. Yes, His eyes are open upon all your ways.
- Do evil and God will send you evil. False preachers won't teach this, but the Bible does teach this.
- God is not like us. We don't see everything. God sees everything. Understand this.

[16] Job 28:23-25 *God understandeth the way thereof, and he knoweth the place thereof. 24 For he looketh to the ends of the earth, and seeth under the whole heaven; 25 To make the weight for the winds; and he weigheth the waters by measure.*

- God sees and knows everything. Is there anyone who can measure the weight of the waters of the ocean?
- Can you imagine someone trying to weigh the ocean? God already knows it's weight.
- He looks upon it and knows. He does the same with you. He knows who you are. He knows what you do.
- He knows whether you trust in Jesus Christ or not. He knows whether you work good or evil.

[17] Job 31:4 *Doth not he see my ways, and count all my steps?*

- Yes, the Lord sees all your ways and counts all your steps. Many people think God doesn't care.
- But He does. He does care for you. He counts all your steps better than a Fit Bit counts your steps.
- He knows what you're doing. He knows where you're going.

[18] 1 Peter 3:12 *For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil.*

- God is looking out for you. His ears are open to your prayers. Do you hear this?

- Understand what this means. He's listening to your prayers. He's waiting to hear your prayers. He cares.
- There is no one that cares more for you than God. He knew you before the world began.

[19] Psalm 139:2 *Thou knowest my downsitteing and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off.*

- God knows your thoughts. He knows if you think of Him throughout the day. He knows if you love Him.
- He knows if you are thankful for what He's given you. He has plans for you. He hasn't forgotten.
- Don't ever forget this. Don't ever think that God isn't there. He's there, and He's never going away.

[20] Proverbs 15:4 *A wholesome tongue is a tree of life: but perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit.*

- We need to pay attention to how we speak each and every day. What is coming out of your mouth?
- Are you telling the truth when you speak? Are you using wholesome words?
- And this doesn't mean words that the world defines as okay. Pay attention to the actual verse here.
- "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life." What gives life? God gives life. His words are life.
- Are you speaking His words to other people? Are you teaching them how to be saved?
- Are you teaching them how to go to heaven? This type of tongue is a wholesome tongue and a tree of life.

Don't be perverse in your words. Don't lie to people. Don't use your words in ways that God doesn't command.

- At one of my past workplaces, all I heard were very perverse words all day long. I hated that place.
- I still hate that place. I couldn't stand to walk in that place because it made me sick.
- It seemed like a contest each day between a bunch of old men to see who could be the most perverse.
- Nasty talk. Nasty words. "But perverseness therein is a breach in the spirit."
- This type of talk is breach in the spirit or in the life of us. We don't want to hear those things.

For example, after I was saved by believing "ON" Jesus Christ alone, I couldn't stand to hear false preaching.

- I tried other churches, but I couldn't stand to hear lying false preachers. I can't stand a false gospel.
- I will not listen to a preacher who teaches that you can lose everlasting life. Jesus says you can't.
- That's why He called it EVER LASTING. It doesn't end. That's what eternal and everlasting means.
- Jesus is the authority. Anyone who teaches something different than Jesus is perverse.
- They are breaching the spirit of life. They are teaching the way to death. I will NOT listen to it.
- We need a wholesome tongue that leads to life.

[21] John 10:10 *The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.*

- Thieves steal life away. They are perverts of God's way. Jesus came to give more life.
- False preachers are thieves and perverts. We will be wholesome here and teach God's words.

[22] Proverbs 15:5 *A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.*

- Why would you despise good instruction? If you do, you are a fool. A good Father gives good instruction.
- There is no better Father than your Father in heaven. He teaches you good things and right things.
- A good teacher will provide wisdom. A good teacher will provide reproof. What is reproof?
- Reproof is showing someone where they are wrong. Reproof will show your faults to you.

A fool doesn't want to be shown where he or she is wrong. They just want to continue in their own ways.

- Make sure you aren't doing these things. Hear the words of the Bible, believe them, and make a change.
- Admit you were wrong, change your belief to match God's ways, and move on.
- Do not despise instruction. Take it, learn from it, and move forward with that good instruction.
- This is called being prudent and wise in your ways. Be careful to go the right way. Be wise. Be prudent.

[23] Proverbs 15:6 *In the house of the righteous is much treasure: but in the revenues of the wicked is trouble.*

- There's many men and women in the Bible who didn't have many possessions here on this earth.
- Think of Jesus. Did He have a great mansion and palace to live in here on earth at His first coming?
- No, He didn't. But people are made righteous through Jesus Christ. With that, comes much treasure.
- And it's not physical treasures. When you're saved, did your home size increase by 100% automatically?
- Did you vehicle turn from a \$10,000 vehicle to a \$100,000 vehicle?

No, we must think of treasures in the spiritual sense and not in the physical sense. God's word is spirit and truth.

- We must think spiritually when we study the Bible. Spiritually, you are made rich when you are saved.
- God gives you the greatest gift. That gift is everlasting life. This means you cannot die. That's rich.
- Everlasting life is MUCH TREASURE. Understand what you have now.
- Take anything you have in your life and compare it to everlasting life. Give it a comparison.
- My bank account versus everlasting life? My house versus everlasting life? My car versus everlasting life?
- All of the physical things in your life give you trouble. Your car will break down. It's trouble.
- Does everlasting life give you any trouble? No, it doesn't. It's an amazing gift, and it's yours to have.

Trouble Always Comes When You Seek The Wrong Things

"But in the revenues of the wicked is trouble." Spend your life trying to make more money. Put money first.

- Guess what comes with that? TROUBLE. Always. More and more trouble.
- The wicked are always fighting over money. If money gives you more trouble, what should you do with it?
- Give it away. If something gives you trouble, why spend your life attempting to get more of it?
- Why put money first? Let's be clear. Making money a priority in your life is WICKED.
- God will take care of you. Do what He says. He will provide for you and your family.
- You will not lack anything that you need.

[24] Proverbs 16:8 *Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.*

- I would rather have no possessions and be saved by Jesus Christ than have much and go to hell.
- Better is little with everlasting life than much without everlasting life.

[25] Proverbs 15:7 *The lips of the wise disperse knowledge: but the heart of the foolish doeth not so.*

- You have a choice in this life. Disperse knowledge from God or not. Preach the Bible or not.
- Preach the Gospel or not. Help people or not. Put others first or not. Become wise or not.
- "The heart of the foolish will not disperse knowledge." Don't be foolish. Be wise. Follow God's words.

[26] Psalm 51:12-15 *Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me with thy free spirit. 13 Then will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee. 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: and my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness. 15 O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.*

- Hey, listen, open your mouth about God. Pray to God. Remember, He hears your prayers.
- Pray like this: "O Lord, open thou my lips and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise."
- "Please God, help me to open my mouth about you and your salvation."
- Use the words of the Bible to pray to God. As you read the Bible, stop and pray using these words.

[27] Proverbs 15:8 *The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his delight.*

- Your prayers to God using His words in the Bible are a delight to Him.
- Your prayers to help others are a delight to God. Don't always pray for yourself in everything.
- Think about others. For example, I need your prayers.
- If I could ask you for anything, I would ask for your prayers. I know that God hears your prayers.
- If you could ask me for anything, you should ask me for my prayers.

The wicked are sacrificing other things. They aren't praying for you. They are worried about themselves.

- They are worried about making more money. They are worried about taking from others.
- They are worried about how to get more out of someone else. Ask someone else how they're doing.
- Think of someone else. And I know that all of you here do think of others constantly.
- And that's why you are a delight to the Lord. The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the Lord.
- The sacrifices they make in their life are an abomination to the Lord God Almighty.

[28] Proverbs 15:9 *The way of the wicked is an abomination unto the LORD: but he loveth him that followeth after righteousness.*

- God greatly hates the way of the wicked. Their ways are the opposite of the Lord's ways.
- Yes, God greatly hates things. False preachers will teach that God doesn't hate, but God says that He does.
- In order for God to be a righteous God, He MUST hate the ways of the wicked. He hates the wrong ways.
- He loves the right ways. Lying is the wrong way. He hates lying. Truth is the right way. He loves truth.

[29] Proverbs 12:22 *Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.*

[30] Psalm 5:6 *Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing: the LORD will abhor the bloody and deceitful man.*

- God wants you to follow after righteousness. Jesus Christ is righteousness. We are to follow Him.
- We are to find His ways here in this Bible and follow His ways. God greatly loves people who follow Him.
- We need to be doing this every day. Follow the ways of Jesus Christ. This is righteousness.
- You don't want to follow after the ways of this world. They are darkness. Come to the light.

[31] Proverbs 15:10 *Correction is grievous unto him that forsaketh the way: and he that hateth reproof shall die.*

- When you get off the path, you have people here that will pull you back over.
- Don't forsake the ways of God and then get upset when someone attempts to correct you.
- Don't allow correction in God's ways to be grievous to you. "Don't you tell me what to do."
- "I'll do it my way." Hey, you don't want to be like that. I was like that in the past. I was ignorant.
- I was foolish. My Dad, Mom, and wife pulled me back over to the light.
- They pulled me back on to the right path.

Don't think someone is trying to hurt you when they're trying to tell you the truth. They are trying to help you.

- I've done it before myself, and I see others do this constantly. They won't listen to the truth.
- They hate reproof and correction. They don't want to get back on the good paths.
- They want to stumble, fall, die, and go to hell. WHY IS THAT? We must wake up.
- Sometimes we need a good smack upside the head. WAKE UP. God loves you and wants good for you.
- Don't go the wrong way and hate the people who are trying to help you. Allow yourself to be corrected.
- We all need correction. Don't think you're above being corrected.
- Be humble and understand you aren't perfect. Do not hate correction. If you do, you will die.
- God says so right there in the Bible. King Saul didn't like reproof. He died.

[32] Proverbs 15:11 *Hell and destruction are before the LORD: how much more then the hearts of the children of men?*

- God can see hell and destruction. There's nothing the Lord cannot see. God is everywhere.
- God is there in hell. Jesus Christ is there. God is everywhere. He's in heaven. He's here.

[33] Psalm 139:8 *If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there.*

- If the Lord can see hell and destruction, He can for sure see the hearts of the children of men.
- He knows that the heart is evil. He knows what the evil leads to.

[34] Job 26:6 *Hell is naked before him, and destruction hath no covering.*

- Hell and destruction is hid from us. We can't see hell. We can't see what true destruction is like.
- If we could, I guarantee you we would be scared to death.
- God sees everything. God sees the path we're taking. God knows our thoughts. God knows our heart.

[35] Proverbs 27:20 *Hell and destruction are never full; so the eyes of man are never satisfied.*

- There is no limit on the number of inhabitants within hell. Hell doesn't have a sign that says "No Vacancy."
- Man will do all he can do in an attempt to fill up hell, though.
- Man is never satisfied until evil takes over completely. That's why we need God.
- He doesn't want those things. We must turn to Him for help. He is our help.
- He will save us from death, hell, and destruction. With God, we won't self-destruct.

[36] Proverbs 15:12 *A scorner loveth not one that reproveth him: neither will he go unto the wise.*

- A scorner despises good. People who don't love God won't come to a good church.
- They won't want to be reproved through the preaching of God's actual words.

- They won't want to hear the entire Bible. They only want their ears tickled. They don't want to get better.
- That want to stay the same or get worse, and they don't want to hear from the wise.

You can see this happen all over the world today. People who despise good do not want to be corrected at all.

- They hate correction. They hate the good paths. Don't be that way.
- Love God's words and accept His words. Admit when you are wrong.
- I thought that God loved everyone no matter what many years ago because I listened to false preaching.
- Then, when I actually studied the Bible, I saw the truth. I could have rejected the truth.

[37] Hosea 9:14-15 Give them, O LORD: what wilt thou give? give them a miscarrying womb and dry breasts. 15 All their wickedness is in Gilgal: for there I hated them: for the wickedness of their doings I will drive them out of mine house, I will love them no more: all their princes are revolvers.

- False preachers hate that Scripture right there. I love all Scriptures, and we will teach them here.
- When I thought God loved everyone all the time, I would read this Scripture and ignore it.
- That's called ignoring the truth. Finally, I looked at that after being saved and said: "I was wrong."
- God Himself says, "I HATED THEM. I WILL LOVE THEM NO MORE."
- God did love them. He's loved (past tense) everyone. "For God so LOVED the world."

God Hates Specific People And You Can Believe Him Or Call Him A Liar

So, a saved person, will take the Scriptures and believe what God says. Yes, He hates people.

- When you accept God's words, this is wisdom. When you reject His words, this is foolishness.
- You take His words, accept them, and say: "Well, I was wrong." Scorners won't do this. Don't be a scorners.
- If you attempt to show a scorners the truth from the Bible, they don't want to see it.
- Within their own mind, they believe they know better than God.
- Let's see why God hated these people in Hosea Chapter 9. Who were these people?

[38] Hosea 9:16-17 Ephraim is smitten, their root is dried up, they shall bear no fruit: yea, though they bring forth, yet will I slay even the beloved fruit of their womb. 17 My God will cast them away, because they did not hearken unto him: and they shall be wanderers among the nations.

- God wasn't talking about some cursed people like the children of Canaan. He was talking about Ephraim.
- Joshua was from the tribe of Ephraim. When Joshua was their leader, they did what God said.
- "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."
- Serving the Lord is listening to Him and doing what He says.
- If you won't listen to Him, you won't do what He says.

God says that He hated them because they wouldn't hearken unto Him. That should scare you.

- You don't want to be smitten, your root dried up, no fruit, and your children slayed.
- You don't want to be cast away by God. Simply listen to His words, accept them, do them.
- For example, if you thought that God loves everyone all the time no matter what, that Scripture should end that false belief for you.
- If you won't believe God, who are you actually believing? Don't put anyone else above God.
- Go to the wise who love the word of God and will teach the word of God no matter what.

[39] Proverbs 15:13 *A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken.*

- You should have a merry heart most of the time. Sometimes we have sorrow. Sometimes we mourn.
- When things happen, our spirit is broken. When we lose a loved one, we weep and mourn.
- There's a time to be merry and cheerful and there's a time to be sorry and sad.

[40] Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; 3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; 4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance;*

[41] Ecclesiastes 3:5-8 *A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; 6 A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; 7 A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; 8 A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.*

- We aren't perfect in this flesh. We should be merry and cheerful because we have hope in Jesus Christ.
- But God also made other times as well. We can't be merry and cheerful all the time.
- It's okay to mourn when someone dies.
- The world tells you that you need drugs if you mourn for more than a day or two.
- In some instances within the Bible, they mourned for 30 days. 30 days for Moses. 30 days for Aaron.
- It's okay to not be so happy every single day of your life. There's a time for everything.
- A time to love and a time to hate. Love the good. Hate the evil.

[42] Proverbs 17:22 *A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones.*

- How do you keep a merry heart at the right times? Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.
- Look, we've all messed up in our lives and we continue to mess up every single day.
- We can't fix everything that we've messed up. But there is someone who can fix everything.
- Jesus Christ can fix it all for you. He can forgive every sin that you've ever committed and will commit.
- He created us perfectly. We messed it up. And He can fix it all. With that hope, we can have a merry heart.
- Everything will be fixed in the end if you would simply believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

[43] Revelation 21:3 *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.*

[44] Revelation 21:4-5 *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.*

- There will be no more tears. God wipes them all away. And He didn't cause them to begin with. We did.
- No more crying. No more pain. All of this will be gone in the future. "Behold, He makes all things new."
- God can and will make you completely new and you'll never mess up again. Simply trust in Him. He'll do it.

- This is how you keep a merry heart. Put your trust, faith, and hope in the Almighty God of all creation.

[45] Proverbs 15:14 *The heart of him that hath understanding seeketh knowledge: but the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.*

- Many people will come to this church and won't like it at all because we don't feed the flesh.
- The flesh is foolish. We don't have a rock concert here. We don't have flashing lights.
- Fools seek after foolishness. The mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness. Your flesh won't like this church.
- But, if you're seeking knowledge, your heart has understanding and your soul will love this church.
- You will gain knowledge here. We're doing church here as God told us to do church.

[46] Proverbs 15:15 *All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast.*

- I thought that I had a merry heart in the past when I wasn't saved. But I didn't know the meaning.
- NOW, I HAVE A MERRY HEART BECAUSE I HAVE NO FEAR OF ANYTHING BUT GOD. I do not fear death.
- I know that Jesus Christ will save me and take me to heaven when I die simply because I trust Him.
- But those who aren't saved are afflicted with evil. They are hurting themselves continuously.
- You don't want that. All of the evil leads to death and not life. BE MERRY and BE SAVED TODAY.
- Call out to Jesus Christ and tell Him how thankful you are for everything He's done for you.
- Tell Him that you want Him to save you because you trust in Him alone to save you.
- And then keep seeking Him with all your heart, soul, and mind. You'll find out what being merry means.

[47] Proverbs 15:16 *Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.*

- It's better to have the fear of the Lord than anything else.
- If you have great fear of the Lord, you have much. All the treasures of this world bring trouble.
- The fear of the Lord doesn't bring you trouble. Lots of money brings trouble.

[48] Proverbs 16:8 *Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right.*

[49] Proverbs 28:6 *Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich.*

[50] Psalm 37:16 *A little that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked.*

[51] 1 Timothy 6:6-8 *But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*

- Hey, let's be content with what we have. "But he's got more things than I do." So what?
- These things mean nothing. I'll take the fear of the Lord over all possessions any day.
- I'll take everlasting life over a new car, new house, mansion, job, yacht, or all of them combined.
- I'll take everlasting life over the mega millions lottery. Wouldn't you?
- Live forever or money? There is no comparison.

[52] Proverbs 10:22 *The blessing of the LORD, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it.*

- With possessions comes sorrow. When I spend a lot of money on some possession, I actually feel bad.
- Should I have spent that much on that? Something goes wrong with it, as usual, sorrow comes.
- "I'm sorry I ever bought that mower, chainsaw, car, house."
- When God blesses you, though, you're never sorry for the blessings He gives. He makes you truly rich.
- Thank God for all of the beautiful blessings of children that God has given us.
- Thank you, Jesus, for everlasting life. No sorrow comes with these blessings.

Broccoli Dinner With My Wife, Or A Seafood Buffet With A Sodomite?

[53] Proverbs 15:17 *Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith.*

- I would better have a salad for dinner with my wife than a buffet with a sodomite.
- I would rather have the fear of the Lord than all the riches in the world.
- I would rather have one friend who loves the Lord than millions of friends who don't.
- Those are the so-called "friends" who will stab you in the back.

[54] Proverbs 15:18 *A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.*

- You'll see the difference in people. Wrathful people like to cause problems.
- We are to live in peace with others as much as possible. Slow to anger. Don't cause strife.
- When you're first to act against God, you're causing the strife. False preachers cause the strife.
- We are to stand up against false preaching. When you do, you aren't causing the strife.
- False preachers will blame it all on you, but it's not you causing the strife.
- The false preachers are the wrathful men stirring up strife. Don't cause strife. Be slow to anger.

Be patient with people you know who don't yet know God. They say things like this: "LOVE EVERYONE."

- Watch your words and don't offend them. Explain to them what they are actually saying.
- If someone says we should love everyone, clearly they are wrong.
- But watch your words so you can win them to Jesus Christ. Ask them if we are to love Hitler?
- "Do you love Hitler? Do you love serial killers? Rapists? Pedophiles?" Help them see the truth.
- God says to love the good and hate the evil. You can't love pedophiles and children at the same time.
- You can't love babies and abortion at the same time.
- You can't love a baby and murder that baby at the same time. Murdering that baby is hating that baby.
- People are deceived in this world. So be patient with them, don't get angry, and win them to Christ.

[55] Proverbs 15:19 *The way of the slothful man is as an hedge of thorns: but the way of the righteous is made plain.*

- What is a slothful person? Inactive, lazy, idle, wasteful. Slothful means lazy and slow.
- A slothful person doesn't want to work. They don't want to help out. They like to watch TV.
- Okay, please hear this today. If you find yourself watching TV often, you need to wake up.
- Many people watch hours of TV each day and then will tell you how busy they are.
- "Well, I don't have time to do this or that." But you watch hours of TV each week?

If you watch hours of TV each week, you are not that busy. God's work is not watching TV.

- Watching TV equates to laziness and slothfulness. You don't want to go that way.
- Your way is like a hedge of thorns to everyone around you.
- You make it tougher on everyone else when you are a sloth. The way of the righteous is not laziness.
- The path of righteousness is plain. God says to get to work. You won't work. You won't eat.

[56] Proverbs 22:5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the froward: he that doth keep his soul shall be far from them.

- Lazy and slothful people are FROWARD PEOPLE. I will stay away from them.
- If you don't want to work, I will stay away from you. And God will too. He wrote these things.
- God works hard every day, and He expects you to do the same. If you need a rest, take a rest.
- But work hard at all other times.
- We all need rest, but make sure it doesn't become the majority of your days. Don't turn into a lazy bum.
- Work hard for God. Give it all you have for God in everything that you do. This is the right way.

[57] Proverbs 15:20 A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother.

- A son with actual wisdom from God will make his father glad. Jesus Christ makes His Father glad.
- As a son, you should want to make your father glad AND your heavenly Father glad. Follow Jesus.
- Do not despise your mother who is doing her best to follow God. That would be very foolish.

[58] Proverbs 23:22 Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.

- Do you hear these commandments from God?
- Now, listen, you don't obey your father and mother if they are evil.
- We should always obey the higher powers and there is no higher power than God.
- A good father and mother won't break that commandment to obey the higher powers.
- If your father and mother tell you do something that doesn't break God's commandments, DO IT.
- And if you don't want to hear this, then you can hear the next Scripture.

[59] Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

- Do you want your eye picked out by ravens and eaten by young eagles? I sure don't.

[60] Exodus 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

[61] Leviticus 19:3 Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

- God gave us authority in our lives. He is the highest authority but He placed others here too.
- We are to obey them as long as they aren't going against God.

[62] Proverbs 15:21 Folly is joy to him that is destitute of wisdom: but a man of understanding walketh uprightly.

- Don't do stupid things. That's folly or foolishness. As a Father, I'm not going to go skydiving.
- "But it's safe." I don't care. I have more important things to do. I have children to feed.
- I don't risk my life when my wife needs me here. I don't risk my life when I have work to do for God.
- We stay out of those situations. Now, if I needed to skydive to save one of you, I would do it.

But I'm not going to risk my life for a thrill. That's evil. Understand that.

- Don't be destitute of wisdom. Walk uprightly and understand what's important.
- If you end up killing yourself over a thrill, you won't win any more souls to Jesus Christ.
- A man that you could have helped save may end up burning in hell because you were looking for a thrill.
- Walk uprightly. Ask yourself what you're doing with your life. What are you working towards?
- Money, riches, new cars, bigger homes? Or, winning souls to Jesus Christ?
- Always stop and see where you're headed. Make a change if you need to make a change.

[63] Proverbs 15:22 Without counsel purposes are disappointed: but in the multitude of counsellors they are established.

- This church is filled with people who have wisdom.
- We have people here who can lead you in the right direction. We have counselors all around.
- Speak with them. Talk with them. If you need help, we're all here together as a church.
- If you aren't sure which direction to go, ask for good counsel here and we'll help you.
- We won't disappoint you and tell you to choose the wrong way. Your purpose will be established.

Your Purpose Is To Win Souls To Jesus Christ

And I'll tell you right now why you're here and alive. What's your purpose?

- You are here because God put you here.
- He wants you to win souls to Jesus Christ so you can spend eternity in heaven with all of them.
- I can't wait to spend all of eternity in heaven with all of you. We'll work together for eternity.
- We'll have fun with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for all eternity.
- So, let's go find some more people to win to Jesus Christ. Let's bring them home where they belong.

[64] Proverbs 15:23 A man hath joy by the answer of his mouth: and a word spoken in due season, how good is it!

- When you go out and find someone who needs saving, that GOOD WORD spoken to them is better than anything to that person!
- You will have joy by the answer of your mouth.
- When you win someone to Jesus Christ, there is so much joy in that.
- When you teach someone a truth about Jesus Christ, there is so much joy in that. HOW GOOD IS IT!!!

[65] Proverbs 15:24 The way of life is above to the wise, that he may depart from hell beneath.

- We're on this earth in the middle of heaven and hell. God gives us a choice. Where do you want to go?
- When your life is over here on this earth and you take your last breath, do you choose life or death?

- Heaven or hell? The wise choose heaven above. The foolish choose hell below.
- The way of life is above to the wise. The way we live our life should be according to God's ways in heaven.

We need to realize that the things we want here on earth are not important compared to what God wants.

- Live a spiritual life and not a fleshly life. Seek spiritual things such as the word of God.
- Seek wisdom from God. Don't seek drugs, alcohol, money, night clubs, bars, lust for men, lust for women.
- All of those things lead to death. Instead, seek Jesus Christ who is good in all things. You'll find life.
- His commandments are a lamp and His law is a light for your paths. He will lead you the right way.
- Remember, there are only 2 destinations: 1) LIFE or 2) DEATH. Choose ye this day. Choose life.

[66] Proverbs 15:25 *The LORD will destroy the house of the proud: but he will establish the border of the widow.*

- The proud believe themselves to be strong. They stand up with their chest puffed out. "Look at me."
- "Look at how great I am." That's called pride and arrogance. "Look at what I've done."
- "Look at my kingdom." King Nebuchadnezzar was proud. The Lord will destroy the house of the proud.
- With that said, do you want to be proud? Do you want to have pride in everything that you've done?
- Hopefully not. "The Lord will destroy your house." Don't be a proud person.

People who think themselves to be mighty will be shown the truth by God.

- We are not mighty unless God gives us might. God will break down the biggest and baddest of all people.
- But He takes the weak, such as widows, and establishes their border.
- He takes the humble and lowly and makes them strong. God shows us this over and over within the Bible.
- The children of Israel conquered giants in their land over and over again.
- God told Gideon he had too many people. Gideon didn't think he had nearly enough.
- Jesus chose fisherman to be His disciples. Moses was very meek, above all the men on the earth.

[67] Psalm 22:26 *The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever.*

[68] Psalm 25:9 *The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way.*

- In other words, you don't want to be a proud and arrogant person who no one can teach anything.
- Don't stiffen your neck and act like you know more than God Almighty in heaven above. He is higher.
- He is better. He is stronger. He is smarter. He is mightier in all things than you. Allow Him to teach you.
- Compared to God, we know absolutely nothing. Get rid of that stiff neck and hardened heart.
- He is infinite times more knowledgeable and more wise than us. Give in to Him. Have a soft heart for God.

[69] Proverbs 15:26 *The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD: but the words of the pure are pleasant words.*

- The thought of foolishness is sin. A single thought of wickedness is sin. And we all have those.
- We are sinners. But we need to do our best to serve the Lord even in our thoughts.
- We need to be baptized or fully immersed in His words and His Spirit as much as possible.
- We choose our ways, our thoughts, and our actions. Stay in His word as they are pure and pleasant.

[70] Psalm 37:30-31 *The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. 31 The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide.*

- Put God's law in your heart. Keep flooding your heart with God's laws and His words.
- Do that and none of your steps shall slide. Do you want a good life or not?
- Get rid of everything else and keep God right here in your heart. Speak good and righteous things.

[71] Proverbs 15:27 *He that is greedy of gain troubleth his own house; but he that hateth gifts shall live.*

- You will trouble your own house if you are greedy of gain. Remember that. Don't be greedy.
- Be a giver. Give something up to someone else. Lose something for once. It won't kill you.
- Don't take bribes from people. Don't take flattery from people so they can get something from you.
- Don't be a fake and vile person who attempts to give gifts to get something evil out of someone.
- And definitely don't be a person who falls for all of these evil things.

[72] Proverbs 15:28 *The heart of the righteous studieth to answer: but the mouth of the wicked poureth out evil things.*

- You are to prove, judge, and test everything I preach and teach here. Study to find the truth.
- Search the Scriptures. Put the work in yourself.
- Don't rely on your Dad, Mom, brother, or sister to do it for you. Once you can read, it's time to study.
- From a young child, read and study the Bible. Live your life for God. I messed up in my life.
- I went the wrong way many times. And it was all my fault. I made those choices. Don't go those ways.
- Instead, from a young child, be righteous and study God's words.
- Don't pour our wickedness from your mouth. Don't go against your God and Savior.

[73] Proverbs 15:29 *The LORD is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous.*

- Do you want God around or not? Do you want His angel army there protecting you when you need it?
- Do you want God to hear you and your prayers? I sure do. I want God close. I want Him here with me.
- So, listen, we can't do wicked things and be wicked people. We need to stay with God.
- We need to choose to walk in His Spirit and not in our flesh. We need to resist all of those things.
- We need to keep wickedness far from us in all ways, shapes, and forms.
- If you can't keep a TV in your house without using it to watch evil and wicked things, THROW IT OUT.
- If you can't keep a smart phone on you without using it for evil and wicked things, THROW IT OUT.
- None of these things are worth it. Keep your Bible around at all times. Use it as often as possible.

[74] Proverbs 15:30 *The light of the eyes rejoiceth the heart: and a good report maketh the bones fat.*

- Do you want to see real light in the eyes that will rejoice your heart?
- Take a look at the light in eyes of the amazing blessings that God gave you within your children.
- The light in the eyes of my children will change the worst day in existence to the absolute best.
- And yet, evil and wicked people want to murder unborn babies who are alive in their mother's womb.

Their own mother, supposedly the safest place God could give (He chose that spot for a reason), murders their own beautiful blessings that God gave them.

- This world is deceiving women and mothers, and this is why we need the word of God.
- Your heart will rejoice with children. Thank God He gave us children.
- A good report or good news maketh the bones fat. Good news will always lift you up.

[75] Proverbs 15:31-32 *The ear that heareth the reproof of life abideth among the wise. 32 He that refuseth instruction despiseth his own soul: but he that heareth reproof getteth understanding.*

- We aren't born with all wisdom and knowledge. We aren't perfect. We all mess up.
- We all need correction. Hear correction. Receive it. Learn from it. And then live among the wise.
- Do not hate reproof, correction, or rebuke. Love it. Take it. Improve. Get better.
- Don't get angry when someone attempts to help you do things the right way.

Your Ways Have Gotten You More Trouble

Stop, think for a second, see and notice where YOUR WAYS have gotten you. Not good. Wake up. Realize this.

- Others have been where you've been before. Listen to the wise. Listen to instruction.
- Take God's ways and just do what He says. His ways are far above your ways. He knows better.
- Do not despise your own soul. Hear teaching from God, learn, and take action.
- If you refuse God's instruction, you are being very foolish.
- God even says in Proverbs Chapter 1 that if you refuse His call, He will laugh at your calamity.
- He says your destruction cometh as a whirlwind. You don't want that. Just listen to God. Do what He says.

[76] Proverbs 15:33 *The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.*

- You should be very afraid of God. You should read what He's done in the Bible. You will fear Him.
- If you could just have a glimpse at Him for a split second, you would be very afraid.
- Realize who God is and understand what He can do. Realize that the huge mountains tremble at God.
- Understand that you need to be humble and have humility before God will ever honor you and save you.
- Do you understand that? You must realize that you've done wrong. You need a Savior.
- Why? Because you are weak. We are all weak. We're in this weak and fleshly body.

Realize that we are nothing compared to God. We need Him. He doesn't need us.

- We are from the earth. We are from dirt. He is from heaven. He is infinite times better than us.
- And we need Him. He is our Creator. He gave us life. We must humble ourselves and go to Him for life.
- There's no one else that is the author of life. He holds our breath in His hands.
- He can squeeze that breath away at any moment. He can end us any time He wants.
- Fear the Lord because He is worthy to be feared. You aren't. I'm not. No one is. But God is worthy.

[77] Psalm 66:1-4 *Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: 2 Sing forth the honour of his name: make his praise glorious. 3 Say unto God, How terrible art thou in thy works! through the greatness of thy power shall thine enemies submit themselves unto thee. 4 All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah.*

[78] Psalm 66:5-7 Come and see the works of God: he is terrible in his doing toward the children of men. 6 He turned the sea into dry land: they went through the flood on foot: there did we rejoice in him. 7 He ruleth by his power for ever; his eyes behold the nations: let not the rebellious exalt themselves. Selah.

- God is a great and terrible God. He made heaven and hell. He made the earth, moon, and stars.
- He owns everything you can see. He owns you whether you like it or not. HE MADE YOU.
- He is a great and terrible God is worthy to be praised and to be feared. He strikes terror in our hearts.
- You better be afraid. No matter what, ONE DAY, you will fall on your face and worship Him.
- You might as well start right now. Worshipping Him is better than anything you'll ever do.
- Don't rebel against good parents, or good teachers, or especially God. Do not exalt yourselves.
- Always exalt God and only God in your life. And then come and the works of God!
- What God does is always amazing. And He's watching. He will come back again at the perfect time.

Let's pray.