

The Book of Proverbs

“Wisdom and the Fear of the Lord: Proverbs as a Book on Faith”

Week 19: Proverbs 28-29, “Advice for Kings”

I. Proverbs 27:1-11, “Better Is a Poor Man Who Walks in Integrity”

1. Verse 1 introduces this section and sets its tone. Whether rich or poor, what do the righteous have their confidence in?

2. How do those who have rejected “the law,” or God’s teaching in general, treat those who are evil? (v. 4) What do they not understand? (v. 5)

3. Verse 8 echoes an Old Testament law against “usury,” or gathering interest on loans. (For more information, read Ex 22:25; Lev 25:35-37; Deut 23:19-20; Ezk 22:12.) What are God’s reasons or his general principles for condemning usury?

4. What is the warning regarding wealth and wisdom? Is wealth an automatic indicator of wisdom?

II. Proverbs 28:12-28, “Beware of Wicked People”

5. How does verse 13 speak about confession, both before God and man?

6. Who bestows the favor in verse 23?

7. How should we guard against our own mind? Where does true wisdom come from?

III. Proverbs 29:1-15, “The Wicked Endangers the Nation”

8. What is the implication in verse 1 for the person who stubbornly ignores God’s reproof?

9. How is integrity in the face of evil sometimes met with evil? (v. 10)

10. What are the encouragements here that are given to rulers?

v. 4

v. 12

v.14

11. “Light to the eyes” (v. 13) is a way of saying that God has created all men and endowed us with a spirit that sets us apart from animals. How then should we use this understanding in the court of law? In other judgments? How is it expressed in our American setting?

IV. Proverbs 29:16-27

12. What is the “prophet’s vision” in v. 18? How is it connected to “the law”? What does this verse exclude?

13. What is the divine irony being described in v. 23?

14. How is v. 26 a warning to rulers but a comfort to faithful citizens?

Memory Verses for Today:

Proverbs 28:13, “Whoever conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will obtain mercy.”

Proverbs 29:13, “The poor man and the oppressor meet together; the Lord gives light to the eyes of both.”