



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 11:1-15

1 A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight.

2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with the humble is wisdom.

3 The integrity of the upright guides them, but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

4 Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.

5 The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness.

6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.

7 When the wicked dies, his hope will perish, and the expectation of wealth hea

8 The righteous is delivered from trouble, and the wicked walks into it instead.

9 With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the righteous are delivered.

10 When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness.


11 By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is overthrown.

12 Whoever belittles his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding remains silent.

13 Whoever goes about slandering reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy in spirit keeps a thing covered.

14 Where there is no guidance, a people falls, but in an abundance of counselors there is safety.

15 Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer harm, but he who hates striking hands in pledge is secure.



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DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 11:1-15


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As a parent and a teacher, I hear kids debate over whether a certain situation is constituted as fair. Do you ever feel like you are on the short end of the stick? It would be much easier if everything in life consistently remained perfectly leveled out and even. Proverbs 11:1 says, "A false balance is an abomination to the Lord, but a just weight is his delight." God delights in someone who is right in the balance of their measurements in their dealings with others.

There were several years that our kids took an interest in raising and showing cattle with the FFA. One year we purchased an extra special calf that, unknown to us, would require a lot of extra attention. We kept her penned up in the corral under fans during the summer to keep her in the shade so that her body temperature would not elevate too high. That summer, we carried countless five-gallon buckets of water to her trough to make sure that she would always have water to drink to keep her cool. After many trips carrying water buckets, we realized when the weight of the buckets were evenly distributed, it made the walk to the corral much easier. We also realize that the same tends to be true in our daily walk. When we have a balanced life, with God before everything else, our daily walk is easier.

"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). God is revealing to us that "You shall have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). He wants to be first in your life, above all rule and authority, and He alone is worthy of all honor and praise.

God desires for us to keep the balance of a "just weight" in our dealings with others and this only comes as a result of putting God first in our life. In doing this, our hearts are aligned with God's will so that the desire of our hearts reflect the will of God. "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart" (Psalms 37:4).



Eternal PERSPECTIVE --- *Proverbs*

Questions:

1. Are you living a balanced life, putting God first before everything else? If so, do you find that this helps you stay balanced throughout your day with different demands for your time and energy?
2. Do you find that the desires of your heart seek your own personal gain or to grow the Kingdom of the Lord?
3. If there are areas in your life where your balance is off, what steps can you take to make sure that you are walking by the Spirit and not gratifying the desires of the flesh?