



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 11:16-31

16 A gracious woman gets honor, and violent men get riches.

17 A man who is kind benefits himself, but a cruel man hurts himself.

18 The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows righteousness gets a sure reward.

19 Whoever is steadfast in righteousness will live, but he who pursues evil will die.

20 Those of crooked heart are an abomination to the Lord, but those of blameless ways are his delight.

21 Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the righteous will be delivered.

22 Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion.

23 The desire of the righteous ends only in good, the expectation of the wicked in wrath.

24 One gives freely, yet grows all the richer; another withholds what he should give, and only suffers want.

25 Whoever brings blessing will be enriched, and one who waters will himself be watered.

26 The people curse him who holds back grain, but a blessing is on the head of him who sells it.


27 Whoever diligently seeks good seeks favor, but evil comes to him who searches for it.

28 Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like a green leaf.

29 Whoever troubles his own household will inherit the wind, and the fool will be servant to the wise of heart.

30 The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.

31 If the righteous is repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!



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DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 11:16-31


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We have all acted foolishly in our flesh and in our selfishness. None of us are immune to the constant struggle to die to our wants and desires. The apostle Paul says it best in Romans 7:18-19, "For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing." I truly pray that you can relate to Paul as he genuinely states the struggle he has in dying to his own wishes and desires.

In these last 16 verses in the eleventh chapter of Proverbs, we see several examples of foolish and wise living. Some of these proverbs call for the transformation of our human affections to correspond more in line with God's affections. God desires a sincere heart, as well as a constant heart in His ways. No in-between ground is acceptable to Him.

The proverb in this passage that jumps out at me is in verse 22, when Solomon writes, "Like a gold ring in a pig's snout is a beautiful woman without discretion." He humorously makes a point in this verse saying, it doesn't fit to have a lovely woman who does not have the wisdom or self-control, just like it doesn't fit to place a golden ring on the snout of a pig.

Some of us, while attempting to be more like Jesus, can identify with the struggle Paul articulates in Romans 7:18-19. This individual is caught up dying to himself (Galatians 2:20) daily in an attempt that they might no longer live for themselves (2 Corinthians 5:15). Others of us are caught up in the ways of the world and the deception of the enemy, finding ourselves putting a figurative golden ring in the snout of a pig because we attempt to please man. Where do you find yourself?



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Questions:

1. Do you relate more to Paul, or more to one who chases folly?
2. Which proverb from this passage was most convicting to you?
3. Be transparent with another person and share your answer to question two, and ask them to help you take next steps and hold you accountable to them.