



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 12:1-14

1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

2 A good man obtains favor from the Lord, but a man of evil devices he condemns.

3 No one is established by wickedness, but the root of the righteous will never be moved.

4 An excellent wife is the crown of her husband, but she who brings shame is like rottenness in his bones.

5 The thoughts of the righteous are just; the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.

6 The words of the wicked lie in wait for blood, but the mouth of the upright delivers them.

7 The wicked are overthrown and are no more, but the house of the righteous will stand.

8 A man is commended according to his good sense, but one of twisted mind is despised.

9 Better to be lowly and have a servant than to play the great man and lack bread.


10 Whoever is righteous has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel.

11 Whoever works his land will have plenty of bread, but he who follows worthless pursuits lacks sense.

12 Whoever is wicked covets the spoil of evildoers, but the root of the righteous bears fruit.

13 An evil man is ensnared by the transgression of his lips but the righteous escapes from trouble.

14 From the fruit of his mouth a man is satisfied with good, and the work of a man's hand comes back to him.



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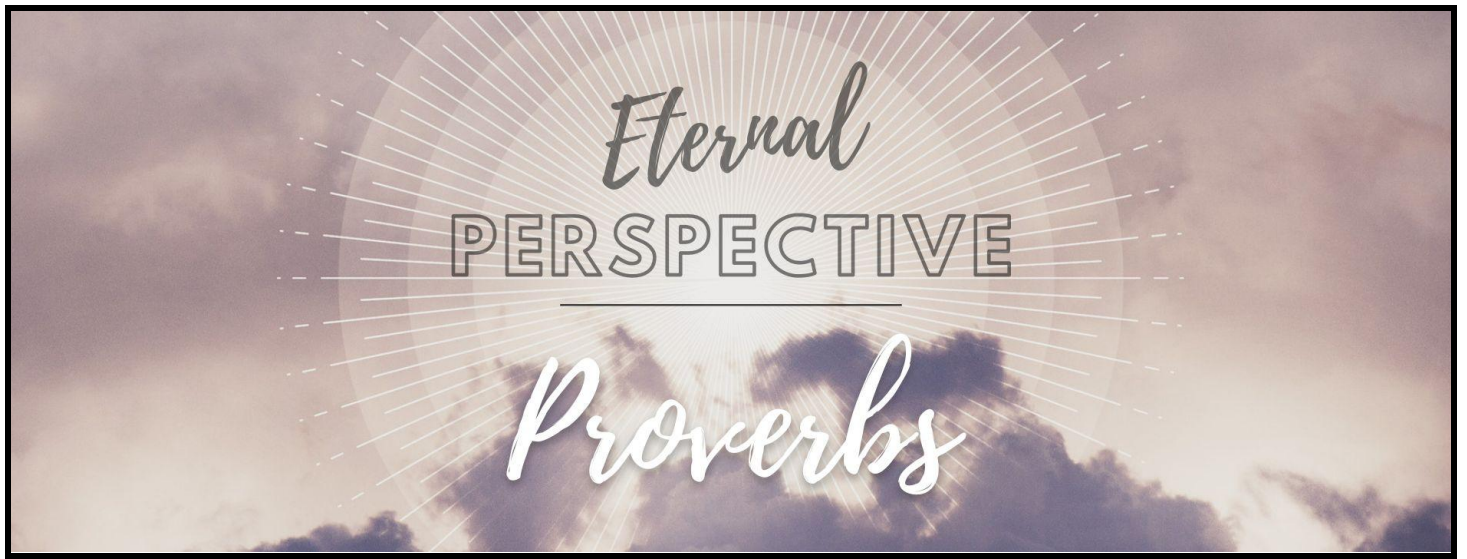
DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 12:1-14

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The word discipline often holds a negative connotation in our minds. We might reflect on the ways our parents or grandparents disciplined us. As a child, I remember my grandmother had a paddle that felt as big as Texas. To my recollection, she never had to use it but a simple wave of it led my brothers and I to straighten out our act. A few years ago, I curiously searched and found the exact vintage wooden paddle that was only about 8 inches in length. I'm flooded with fond memories of the great times I had with my grandparents, even if it occasionally required them to call me by my first and middle name.

Discipline is a positive thing! One way it can be described is to have self-control to develop areas in our life, along with the will and ability to learn. Proverbs 12 gives us insight to two types of people: the wise and the wicked. The wise person loves discipline and knowledge, while the wicked chases their own worthless pursuits, and hates correction. The wise person has good sense, thinks justly and walks uprightly. In contrast, the wicked person is deceitful, cruel and lacking in mercy. Micah 6:8 shows another picture of wisdom, "He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" The wise person also works hard, bears fruit and keeps from trouble. Philippians 2:14-16 teaches that we should "Do all things without grumbling or disputing, that you may be blameless and innocent children of God, without blemish, in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ, I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain." It's a daily discipline to hold fast to the word of life and shine among others like stars. Mostly, it will take the laying aside of our will for the will of the Father which is an act of self-control.

Proverbs 12:7 reminds me of the last portion Jesus teaches in the Sermon on the Mount. Matthew 7:24-27 tells us about the wise and foolish builder. The wise man builds his house on the rock while the foolish man builds his house in sand. When the rain came, and the wind blew, the house on the rock stood and the house on sand was overthrown. Jesus begins this by saying, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." When discipline and knowledge of the Lord is a practice in our lives, we begin to build our house on the rock. My prayer is that we build our life on that firm foundation!



Questions:

1. How would you define discipline? Are there areas in your life where you lack discipline?
2. Philippians 2:16 teaches to hold fast to the word of life. How is your relationship with Jesus who is the way, the truth and the life (John 14:6)? Do you spend time reading His word?
3. Want an extra resource? Check out [this article](#) from gotquestions.org.