

Eternal PERSPECTIVE *Proverbs*

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 13:1-12

1 A wise son hears his father's instruction,
but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

2 From the fruit of his mouth a man eats what is good,
but the desire of the treacherous is for violence.

3 Whoever guards his mouth preserves his life;
he who opens wide his lips comes to ruin.

4 The soul of the sluggard craves and gets nothing,
while the soul of the diligent is richly supplied.

5 The righteous hates falsehood,
but the wicked brings shame and disgrace.

6 Righteousness guards him whose way is blameless,
but sin overthrows the wicked.

7 One pretends to be rich, yet has nothing;
another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.


8 The ransom of a man's life is his wealth,
but a poor man hears no threat.

9 The light of the righteous rejoices,
but the lamp of the wicked will be put out.

10 By insolence comes nothing but strife,
but with those who take advice is wisdom.

11 Wealth gained hastily will dwindle,
but whoever gathers little by little will increase it.

12 Hope deferred makes the heart sick,
but a desire fulfilled is a tree of life.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 13:1-12


AUTHOR: AMANDA PATZKE

Have you ever encountered a ghost? A few weeks ago, I had to stand face to face with a dead person.

As I sat in my parents' living room with my siblings, the conversation turned to stories about our childhood. Talking about my junior high years, my sister brought up all the hilariously mean things I used to say to my classmates. She jokingly said, "Do you remember that boy from school and the time you told him to...?" My stomach dropped into my toes. I remembered making that remark, initially feeling so smart by the way my words could so easily cut down another human being. I remember the sound of my classmates erupting in laughter. I remember my pride and using my words as a weapon. That prideful, sarcastic, terrified girl went under the waters of baptism and never came back up. She was insecure and angry. She said hurtful things before someone could say them to her and felt validated by her ability to look sweet and innocent, while saying things that would make a sailor blush. Facing this older version of myself, I felt like I'd seen a ghost.

As many times as I've read Proverbs, Proverbs 13:3 hits me every time. "The one who guards his words guards his life; whoever is talkative will come to ruin." James 1:26 says, "If someone thinks he is religious yet does not bridle his tongue, and so deceives his heart, his religion is futile." Ephesians 4:29 says, "You must let no unwholesome word come out of your mouth, but only what is beneficial for the building up of the one in need, that it would give grace to those who hear." Scripture is full of reminders that a wise person guards their tongue. I can only imagine the destruction that I could have caused with my words, had Jesus not stepped in.

We should all seek righteousness. With this comes blessing and the avoidance of trouble. We should receive instruction in a way that leads to obedience, we should guard our tongues, work hard to avoid laziness, and manage our riches well. As we walk in obedience and apply the principles that Proverbs teaches us, I think it's important to be reminded of where our righteousness comes from. Isaiah 64:6 reminds us, "We are all like one who is unclean, all our so-called righteous acts are like a menstrual rag in your sight..." As far as I've come, hearing my righteousness being compared to a "menstrual rag" is pretty tough to hear. Romans 5:19 says, "For just as through the disobedience of one man many were constituted sinners, so also through the obedience of One Man many will be constituted as righteousness." While I will try my best to act in wisdom, it was the obedience of Christ that put the old me to death and declared me righteous. Praise God.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE --- *Proverbs*

Questions:

1. Have you ever encountered a ghost? What old version of yourself had to die when you met Jesus?
2. What is one practical thing you have learned from Proverbs? What is one thing you can do differently based on this passage of Scripture?
3. Is this passage convicting to you? Is there any relationship or area of your life where you need to make changes where your speech is concerned?