



# Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

## BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 13:13-25

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**13** Whoever despises the word brings destruction on himself, but he who reveres the commandment will be rewarded.

**14** The teaching of the wise is a fountain of life, that one may turn away from the snares of death.

**15** Good sense wins favor, but the way of the treacherous is their ruin.

**16** Every prudent man acts with knowledge, but a fool flaunts his folly.

**17** A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a faithful envoy brings healing.

**18** Poverty and disgrace come to him who ignores instruction, but whoever heeds reproof is honored.

**19** A desire fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but to turn away from evil is an abomination to fools.

**20** Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm.

**21** Disaster pursues sinners, but the righteous are rewarded with good.

**22** A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

**23** The fallow ground of the poor would yield much food, but it is swept away through injustice.

**24** Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.


**25** The righteous has enough to satisfy his appetite, but the belly of the wicked suffers want.

## DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 13:13-25

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This part of God's Word is filled with so many morsels of wisdom in every verse. One would do well to pay attention and implement this wisdom in their everyday life. I can only imagine how my life would have turned out if I had been taught and applied God's Word from when I was old enough to understand it until now. Come to think of it, I really



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wish I could *always* remember it well enough now to be able to implement it every day. But as I recall what Paul said in Romans 7:15-18, "For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out," I can find myself in good company in my failures.

But in that, I cannot continue to live a life of disobedience or use Paul's action as an excuse for my sin. Remember what Paul said just one chapter before in Romans 6:15? "What then? Are we to sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!" So, each of us is called to live a life worthy of our calling (Ephesians 4:1) and the only way we can do that is to revere God's Word every day. When and how we do that is also plainly laid out in our verses today. We must come under a teacher who is wise and who stays true to sound doctrine (verse 14). By doing this, we will not only begin to have good sense but also become prudent in the way we act and not flaunt our folly (verses 15-16). Verse 20 is one of my favorites: "Whoever walks with the wise becomes wise, but the companion of fools will suffer harm."

For many years this verse has been one that God has used to help remind me to be careful in who I spend much time with. It was also a verse I used all the time when I was working as a youth minister. I cannot count the times I saw students make bad decisions and then end up getting in trouble just because of the people they hung around. It is not just students this happens to though. All of us, no matter our age, need to not only revere God's Word but stay in God's Word daily, paying attention to who we are listening to, and be careful who we are walking through life with. By doing this, we will not only leave a good inheritance to our children, but we will live a life of satisfaction and "not turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths" (2 Timothy 4:4).

## Questions:

1. If you were to give yourself a grade from 1-10 on how much you truly revere God's Word, what would it be?
2. How are you doing when it comes to applying God's truths to your everyday life?
3. Read Romans 12:2 before you answer this last question. Who and where do you turn to for wisdom? Are you walking with the wise or running with the world?