



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 15:19-33

19 The way of a sluggard is like a hedge of thorns, but the path of the upright is a level highway.

20 A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish man despises his mother.

21 Folly is a joy to him who lacks sense, but a man of understanding walks straight ahead.

22 Without counsel plans fail, but with many advisers they succeed.

23 To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!

24 The path of life leads upward for the prudent, that he may turn away from Sheol beneath.

25 The LORD tears down the house of the proud but maintains the widow's boundaries.

26 The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, but gracious words are pure.

27 Whoever is greedy for unjust gain troubles his own household, but he who hates bribes will live.

28 The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.

29 The LORD is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

30 The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones.

31 The ear that listens to life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.

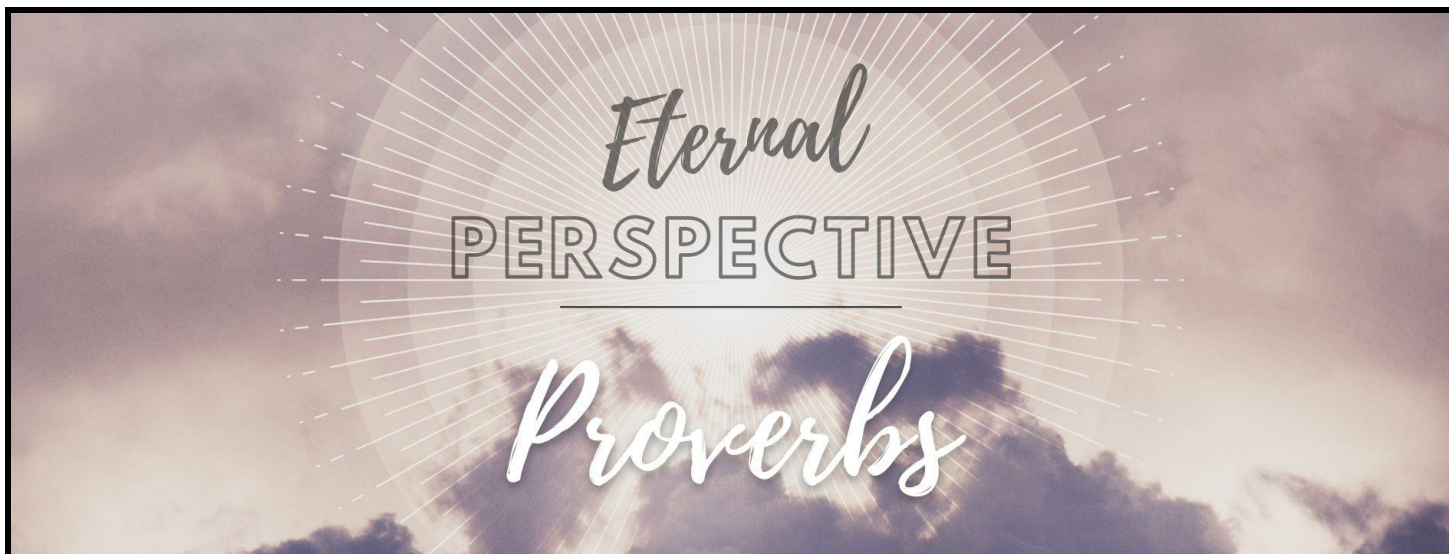
32 Whoever ignores instruction despises himself, but he who listens to reproof gains intelligence.

33 The fear of the LORD is instruction in wisdom, and humility comes before honor.

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 15:19-33

AUTHOR: ROMA AMAVIZCA

The Book of Proverbs presents wisdom as applied knowledge. That means practical skills about how to live appropriately in God's path. It is important to point out that these are general rules. It does not take into consideration the possible exemptions to that rule. They are not commandments, yet they come from God's wisdom and message for us.



Proverbs 15:23 mentions "To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!" How do you develop an apt answer? It tells me that someone probably stops his frenetic life to learn God's Word and to ponder it. Someone took time to look beyond himself. Someone took time to consider different paths.

I grew up in a family that did not know about God or His Word. We just moved along with the flow. My family met Jesus as their Savior when I was eighteen years old. By then, we had many examples of how to ruin our lives. One time, I was talking with a Christian friend about one of those examples and she said, "... but is it not amazing that because of the cross you do not have to live that way? Because of Jesus' sacrifice, your kids will not experience the things you did. You and Jose have the opportunity to build a house with God and His Word in the center of it all. You have the opportunity to impact the generations to come for his glory." She was right, because of the cross, generational curses stopped, and a new path was formed. That is good news! Proverbs 15:30 says, "The light of the eyes rejoices the heart, and good news refreshes the bones." However, I needed to learn His Word. I needed to consider it against my situations.

Yes, I am still learning, pondering, and meditating on God's Word. Yet, as new situations are present in my walk, I have the opportunity to stop, reflect, and pray about what response the Lord wants me to have. I have the opportunity to make an apt answer. I still struggle with the learned reactions, but I am forever thankful that God teaches in a practical way, and in a way that I can apply to my daily life. I am thankful that God has placed me in a community that can encourage me or warn me about my path. "You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore" (Psalm 16:11). I am thankful that there is a sovereign God, and for His Word on which we can meditate and trust.

Questions:

1. Have you recently taken time to stop and meditate on God's Word?
2. Is there a situation you need to share with your Journey Group or trusted community to look for wisdom?
3. Are you currently in a Journey Group? If not, consider joining us for [Grouplink](#) on September 10th.