



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 18:10-24

10 The name of the LORD is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.

11 A rich man's wealth is his strong city, and like a high wall in his imagination.

12 Before destruction a man's heart is haughty, but humility comes before honor.

13 If one gives an answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.

14 A man's spirit will endure sickness, but a crushed spirit who can bear?

15 An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge.

16 A man's gift makes room for him and brings him before the great.

17 The one who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.

18 The lot puts an end to quarrels and decides between powerful contenders.

19 A brother offended is more unyielding than a strong city, and quarreling is like the bars of a castle.


20 From the fruit of a man's mouth his stomach is satisfied; he is satisfied by the yield of his lips.

21 Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits.

22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the LORD.

23 The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly.

24 A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother.



Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 18:10-24

AUTHOR: LAURA HOPKINS

If you are anything like me, it doesn't take much for something to remind you of a song. As soon as I read the first verse in this section, the song "Strong Tower" by Kutless came to mind. One of my favorite things to do is to find songs that go along with scripture, another way to help the Word come to life. I encourage you to listen to that song, it's a good one.

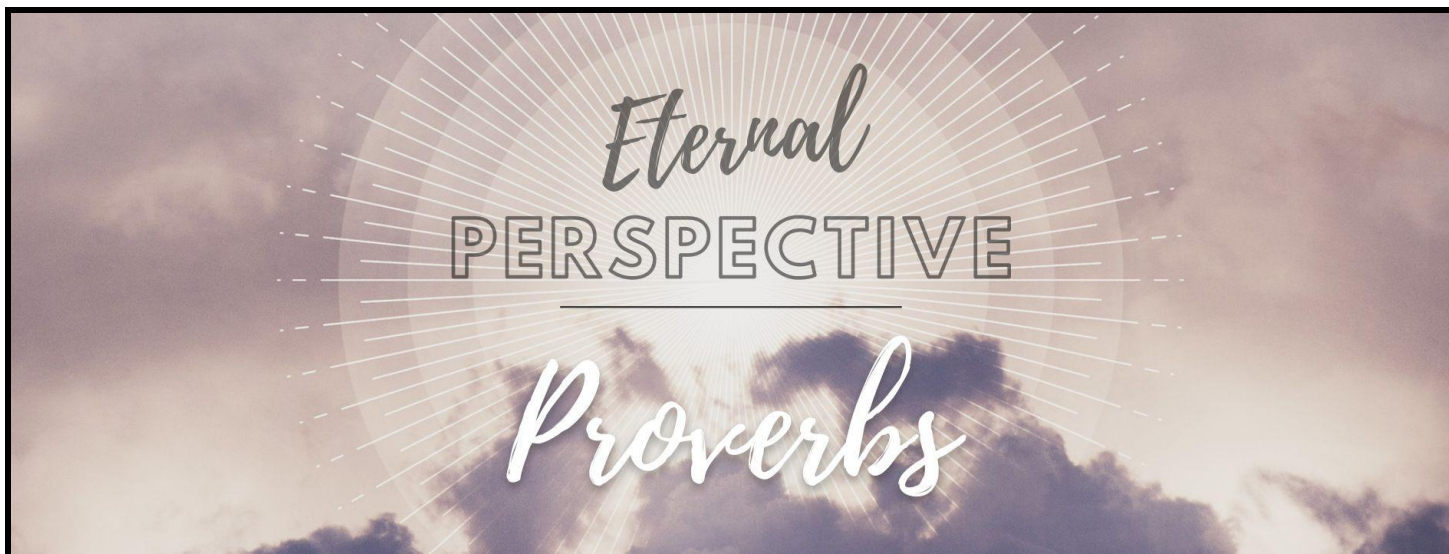
I also love the second half of verse 10, "the righteous runs into it and is safe". You would not think running into a tower would be a safe, much less, good idea. But, I find that so comforting and reassuring that His name is so strong and powerful, running to Him is where we find safety, strength, shelter - all that we need to become righteous through Him. There is wisdom in knowing where and to Whom to run. I feel like we could camp out in verse 10 alone, but, let's move along!

I enjoy the continued contradictions of Proverbs. The unrighteous act this way, the righteous act the opposite. Choose wisely. People often say they wish there was a blueprint for life, or how to handle such and such situation... pretty sure the answer is Proverbs!

In verse 12, "Before destruction the heart of man is haughty", I looked up the definition for more clarity- Haughty is defined as scornfully and condescendingly proud, arrogant, overbearing. Yikes. Verse 18 references the same thing. Pride is always the downfall of man. However, "humility goes before honor." At least forty-three times humility is mentioned in scripture.

I am a few short weeks away from commencing from re:generation (a twelve step discipleship program), and it has clearly been revealed to me how I struggle with pride. My heart's cry is to have a humble spirit. My pride does nothing but cause hurt to others, cause me to think more of myself, and keep people at a distance. It hinders my relationship with the Lord. My prayer is that I will trade pride for humility and honor.

The next few verses have an overall theme of the mouth and words. Where your heart is reflects how you speak. What are your intentions with your words- to build up, tear down, get your way? Are you more concerned with getting your point across and first? "Leave your gift there before the altar and go. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift" (Matthew. 5:24).



Looking back over your life, do you remember more the positive or negative things people have said of you? How has that impacted you?

The chapter ends with a charge on friendship. Perhaps as adults we overlook that it can be hard, even awkward, to make friends the older we get. Whether we are working to make and build new friendships or clinging to past ones, may we choose wisely. Wisdom tells us to surround ourselves with those that are walking with the Lord, those who will speak truth and spur us on in love (Hebrews 10:24-25). And, even more so, may we be that friend that we are called to be to others (Romans 12:10).

May we take these words and direction of wisdom and prayerfully and daily apply them to our lives.

Questions:

1. Which verse or section of verses stood out the most to you? Why is that? Share what you've learned with someone today.
2. What kind of friend have you been lately? Are your words going to have a negative or positive, lasting impact on others (Proverbs 27:17)?
3. Do you struggle with pride, control, your words, fears, maybe an addiction or deeper struggle or wound? Consider joining re:generation. Open enrollment has begun. Find more information and register [here](#).