

Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 22:1-16

1 A good name is to be chosen rather than great riches, and favor is better than silver or gold.

2 The rich and the poor meet together; the LORD is the Maker of them all.

3 The prudent sees danger and hides himself, but the simple go on and suffer for it.

4 The reward for humility and fear of the LORD is riches and honor and life.

5 Thorns and snares are in the way of the crooked; whoever guards his soul will keep far from them.

6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.

7 The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower is the slave of the lender.

8 Whoever sows injustice will reap calamity, and the rod of his fury will fail.

9 Whoever has a bountiful eye will be blessed, for he shares his bread with the poor.

10 Drive out a scoffer, and strife will go out, and quarreling and abuse will cease.

11 He who loves purity of heart, and whose speech is gracious, will have the king as his friend.

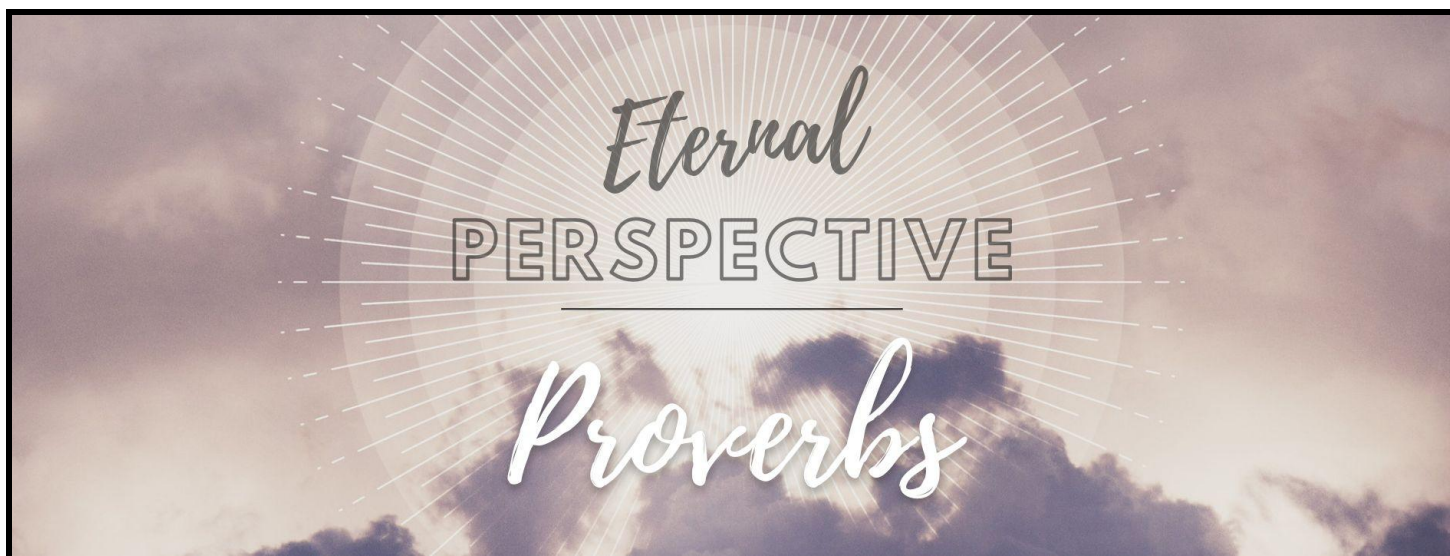
12 The eyes of the LORD keep watch over knowledge, but he overthrows the words of the traitor.

13 The sluggard says, "There is a lion outside! I shall be killed in the streets!"

14 The mouth of forbidden women is a deep pit; he with whom the LORD is angry will fall into it.

15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

16 Whoever oppresses the poor to increase his own wealth, or gives to the rich, will only come to poverty



DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 22:1-16

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There are so many nuggets of wisdom nestled deep within this chapter, practical fragments of God's wisdom that we can glean from, intended to equip us to walk the path of righteousness in a manner worthy of the cross of Christ! For example:

Verse 1 — Integrity before God and man is of greater treasure than worldly trinkets (Proverbs 10:9).

Verse 5 — The pursuit of wealth is a trap for the wayward heart (1 Timothy 6:6-12; Luke 21:34-36; Matthew 13:7).

Verse 10 — Scoffers bring divisions of the flesh, not unity of the Spirit (Jude 1:17-19).

Verse 12 — The rebellious fool will not be allowed access to God's wisdom (Proverbs 8:17, 1 Corinthians 2:14).


Verse 15 — Authoritative discipline unbinds a foolish heart; its absence keeps it ensnared (Hebrews 12:7-13).

The book of Proverbs, as a whole, is Solomon's attempt to leave his son a lasting legacy of how to follow the Lord (Proverbs 1:8) and navigate this life equipped with God's wisdom. Solomon came to understand that at the end of our lives here on earth, the only accomplishments that will carry over into eternity are the ones that glorified the Lord, as according to His Word, and he wanted to deposit this understanding within the heart of his son. This is evidenced by what he also wrote to his son at the end of his life in Ecclesiastes 12:13, after wasting a lifetime seeking worldly pleasures, selfish gain, and earthly wisdom.

With that being said, we would be amiss to not take a moment to talk about the importance of Verse 6 of this chapter, "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it."

God extends to us a beautiful and hopeful assurance in this passage, one we can cling to even when the horizons seem bleak. But this assurance also comes with a condition attached. For *how* we train a child is just as important as *if* we train them!

Consider this riddle: "Until I am measured, I am not known. Yet how you will miss me when I have flown. What am I?" Time! Unless you're Joshua or Hezekiah, time stops for no man. One day, the time we have to train our children



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(physically or spiritually) for the purposes of God, His mission, and in His truth, will run out. Its course will end! Our opportunity to diligently train them in the Lord's ways, as He commands, will be over. What will you do with the time you have left? Deuteronomy 6:7 says that we should teach God's Word diligently to our children, talking of it when we sit down, when we walk by the way, when we lie down, and when we rise up. This language denotes a continuous showering of Heavenly wisdom poured over our children, at all times, to wash them in the water of the Word so that they themselves can give a defense when anyone challenges them on Christ or His Word, instead of shrinking back for a lack of knowledge. But how are we to accomplish this if we are rarely with them?

This is where the notion of "making the best use of time" becomes vital (Ephesians 5:15-17). We mustn't waste any opportunity God graciously extends us to train those He entrusts us with. We must properly fashion the arrows God has given us, whether that be physical children or spiritual disciples as "parents" in the faith (Matthew 28:19-20). Jesus spent three years, and almost every waking moment, with 12 grown men in order to train them. He diligently gave an example to them God's *way*, zealously taught them God's *truth*, and bestowed to them God's *life*, so that afterwards, when they were equipped with God's Spirit, they would be an unstoppable, Heavenly army. Can you imagine that today?

May we not be those who sacrifice our children to Molech for financial prosperity (Leviticus 18:21, 20:1-5), or prioritize our children's gaining earthly wisdom over being trained in God's Heavenly wisdom (1 Corinthians 3:19). Rather, let us commit to the difficult yet rewarding work of training up our children in the truth of God, so that when they have been fully crafted as an arrow ought, ready to be shot from the bow of God (Psalm 127:4-5), they will do damage in this spiritual battle instead of being damaged by it.

How will you train those whom God entrusts to you?

Questions:

1. Do you make the best use of your time regarding training yourself and your children for godliness? Or would you say you're "too busy"? (1 Timothy 4:6-16)
2. What are some steps you can begin taking to be more intentional to live missionally, both for yourself, and for your children?
3. Does your method of training your children look more like the world's pattern, or God's?