

Eternal PERSPECTIVE Proverbs

BIBLE TEXT | PROVERBS 25:11-28

11 A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in a setting of silver

12 Like a gold ring or an ornament of gold is a wise reprove to a listening ear.

13 Like the cold of snow in the time of harvest is a faithful messenger to those who send him ; he refreshes the soul of his masters.

14 Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give.

15 With patience a ruler may be persuaded and a soft tongue will break a bone.

16 If you have found honey, eat only enough for you lest you have your fill of it and vomit it.

17 Let your foot be seldom in your neighbor's house, lest he have his fill of you and hate you.

18 A man who bears false witness against his neighbor is like a war club, or a sword, or a sharp arrow.

19 Trusting in a treacherous man in time of trouble is like a bad tooth or a foot that slips.

20 Whoever sings songs to a heavy heart is like one who takes off a garment on a cold day, and like vinegar on soda.

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him bread to eat, and if he is thirsty, give him water to drink,

22 for you will heap burning coals on his head and the LORD will reward you.

23 The north wind brings forth rain, and a backbiting tongue, angry looks.

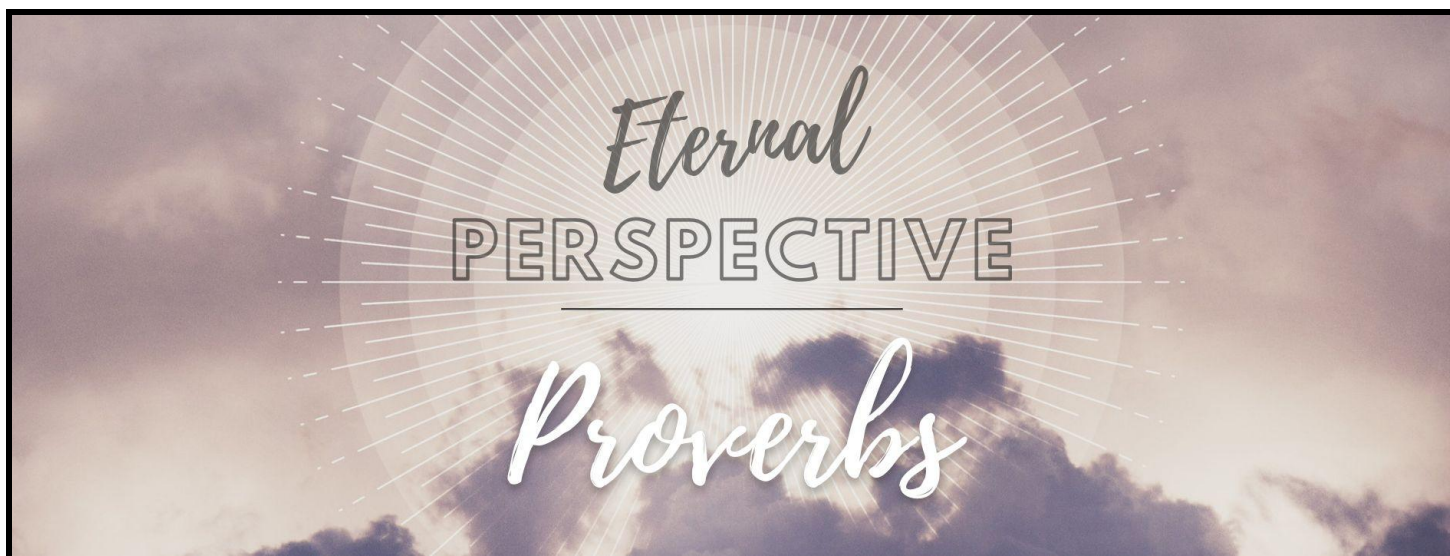
24 It is better to live in a corner of the housetop than in a house shared with a quarrelsome wife.

25 Like cold water to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted fountain is a righteous man who gives way before the wicked.

27 It is not good to eat much honey, nor is it glorious to seek one's own glory.

28 A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls.



DEVOTIONAL FOR PROVERBS 25:11-28

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Self control is important in the life of anyone who honors obedience. Self control in the life of a Christian honors our Lord Jesus Christ.

King Solomon, in writing Proverbs, is giving words of wisdom that can be applied in daily circumstances. He begins in verse 11 as he makes a comparison with the apples of gold in a framework of silver (a beautiful work of sculpture) to words of wisdom spoken at a proper time. He also says that a kind rebuke of a wise man is of greater value than costly gifts (verse 12). What we speak and what others hear coming from our mouth can either support our testimony as Christians or may make others question our faith.

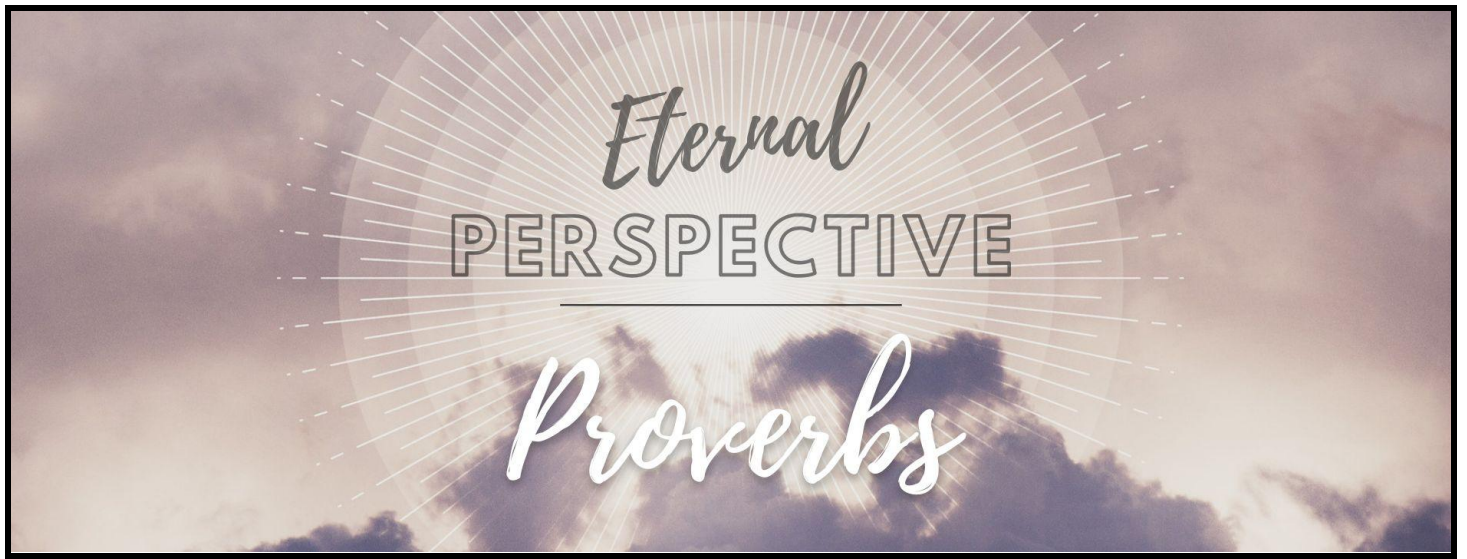
Solomon continues in verse 13, "Like the cold of snow in time of harvest Is a faithful messenger to those who send him, He refreshes the soul of his masters." A trustworthy messenger is refreshing in the same way (verse 13). It is important we fulfill our promises to those we speak to in order to preserve our words in honoring the Lord as messengers of His word.

In verse 14, we see the actions of falsely boasting about things that are not truth or whole-truths. "Like clouds and wind without rain is a man who boasts of a gift he does not give (Proverbs 25 14)." In reading Acts 5:1-11, I found the example of Ananias and Sapphira who boasted in their giving but then compromised by not giving all of what they said.

In verses 15-19, we see that the act of moderation is considered wise, but when taken in excess good things may be harmful. Our acts of self control and patience are better than wanting too much.

Solomon then reminds us that kindness can turn an enemy into a friend, and it can soften angry feelings (verses 21-22). Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:44-47 to give love and care even to our enemy.

As Solomon continues in verses 24-28, he reminds us that the words we speak to others (verse 25), and the actions we present in our behavior to others; especially the wicked (verse 26), ultimately is to bring glory to God (verses 27-28). All of these things require self control. It is the self-control that Solomon writes about that becomes the very nature of the wisdom we should seek as Christians.



Questions:

1. How can you seek self control in your words, your actions, and your behavior to better serve in the body of Christ?
2. How do the actions of others control your own thoughts and actions?
3. Proverbs 25:11-28 provides sound counsel about personal relationships. Most of the teachings involve the best way to interact with others. How do you exhibit self-control so that the nature of Christ is seen in you regardless of your circumstances?