

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 11

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

A Portrait of the Wise

Key Passage: Proverbs 10:9

Related Passages: Proverbs 11:3; 22:1; 25:9-10 & 13; and 29:10

Sermon Date: December 2, 2007

The wise are upheld by their integrity.

I don't know about you but I am lousy at driving a hard bargain. I just want to pay a fair price with no "haggling" and trying to get the price lower. This makes me think about buying a car and going to the dealer to see what I can buy for the amount that I want to spend. I do not pick my dealers based on where I think that I can get the cheapest deal. I pick my dealer based on how the sales people treat me and how the service department takes care of my vehicles when service is needed. Do they perform the needed service without inflating my charges? Do they do what is necessary without my feeling like they are creating work?

Basically, do I trust the dealer to do what he says he will do and do I trust him in all of his dealings? If I feel that I can trust the dealership, then I am not interested in shopping around with other dealers to save a few hundred dollars unless I know that I can have that same sense of trust. This week's lesson will explore integrity and how it guides and keeps us secure. Let's explore this subject together, filling in our portrait of the wise.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Verse Proverbs 10:9 (NIV)</p> <p>10:9 The man of integrity walks securely,</p> <p>but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.</p> <hr/> <p>11:3 The integrity of the upright guides them,</p> <p>but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.</p> <p>22:1 A good name is more desirable than great riches;</p> <p>to be esteemed is better than silver or gold.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>25:9 If you argue your case with a neighbor, do not betray another man's confidence,</p> <p>25:10 or he who hears it may shame you and you will never lose your bad reputation.</p> <p>25:13 Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him;</p> <p>he refreshes the spirit of his masters.</p> <p>29:10 Bloodthirsty men hate a man of integrity and seek to kill the upright.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father,? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins** to avoid
- ◆ **Promises** to believe
- ◆ **Examples** to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands** to obey
- ◆ **Knowledge** to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

4. This week's study continues on with the portrait of the wise by looking at a person's integrity. Look up integrity in a dictionary and write a good definition below
5. Describe the integrity of God. Consider Psalm 78:9-39.
6. Is there more than one kind of integrity? Can a non-believer have integrity? How is it different from the integrity of a believer. Consider I Kings 9:4, Psalm 26:1 & 26:11, and 78:72.
7. The Bible speaks in several places of the "integrity of the heart". Consider I Kings 9:4-7, Psalm 26:1 and 11 and Psalm 78:72. Based on these verses how would you define "integrity of the heart"?
8. Proverbs 10:9 tells us that a person of integrity will be secure. Consider Psalm 118:6-7. From who or what will we be secure? How have you experienced such security in your life or seen it, or seen it in others' lives?
9. Proverbs 10:9 also tells us that "he who takes the crooked paths will be found out". What has been your experience with this biblical truth in your life, or how have you seen it in others' lives?
10. Proverbs 11:3 tells us that integrity guides us but duplicity destroys the unfaithful. How does integrity guide us? Consider Genesis 39:4; Luke 2:40 & 53; I Peter 2:21 and Galatians 2:20 as examples of integrity guiding Joseph, Jesus, and Paul.
11. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 10:9

10:9 The man of integrity walks securely, but he who takes crooked paths will be found out.

This week we have studied about how the wise person is guided and protected by their integrity. As you studied in Proverbs 29:10, there are those men in this world that are full of malice and live only for themselves. How do you protect your self from such as these? Ephesians 6:10-20 tells us to put on the full armor of God so that we can take our stand against the devil's schemes for our struggle is not against flesh and blood but against the rulers, authorities and powers of this dark world.

How can we possible resist such a foe as this? Only by believing in Jesus Christ as our Lord and savior and then living our lives with faith, truth, standing ready to proclaim in whom our faith abides. Do you have this armor of God to protect you? You can, right now by accepting Jesus into your heart as your Lord and savior, asking him to forgive you for your disobedience and wanting to control your own life. Surrender your heart to Jesus and ask him to lead and guide you and he will honor that commitment. You will also be on your way to gaining wisdom and integrity of the heart as the scriptures tells us.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studyeditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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