

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 23

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 12:22

Related Passages: Proverbs 10:18; 12:17;
14:5; 19:22; 19:5; 19:9; and 24:26

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The wise tongue speaks the truth.

Truth, in this world of relativism, what really is truth? To see how difficult it is to determine truth, "Google" truth on your computer and notice how many different definitions are shown there for truth. The Bible teaches us that truth is something that applies today and in the future as well. It is changeless and eternal just as Psalm 119:156-160 tells us:

Your compassion is great, O LORD;
preserve my life according to your laws.
Many are the foes who persecute me,
but I have not turned from your statutes.
I look on the faithless with loathing,
for they do not obey your word.
See how I love your precepts;
preserve my life, O LORD, according to your love.
All your words are true;
all your righteous laws are eternal.

What is the basis for our "truth"? Are you always truthful in your words and deeds? Are we truthful in our commitments to others? Do you take your commitments seriously? The Scriptures are like a compass which always indicates true north.

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 12:22 (NIV)</p> <p>12:22 The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.</p> <hr/> <p>10:18 He who conceals his hatred has lying lips, and whoever spreads slander is a fool.</p> <p>12:17 A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies.</p> <p>12:19 Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>14:5 A truthful witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies.</p> <p>19:5 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will not go free.</p> <p>19:9 A false witness will not go unpunished, and he who pours out lies will perish.</p> <p>24:26 An honest answer is like a kiss on the lips.</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:

- ◆ **S**ins to avoid
- ◆ **P**romises to believe
- ◆ **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **C**ommands to obey
- ◆ **K**nowledge 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. Proverbs 12:22 says the LORD detests lying lips. Why might it be that God reacts so strongly to lying? (Consider Romans 1:18-20; 2 Thessalonians 2:10; Titus 1:2).
5. What are some of the reasons people tell lies? (Consider Romans 16:17-18; John 3:19-21).
6. If words are a reflection of a person's character, Matthew 12:35-37. Should we give up trying to help someone who is constantly lying to us?
7. Following up on the question above, if words are a reflection of our character, how can we improve our character and thus our words that we speak? (Consider Proverbs 4:23, I John 1 5-7, and Philippians 4:4-9).
8. Proverbs 12:19 tells us truthful lips endure forever. Can you think of other examples of truth enduring forever? List them below.
9. James 1:19 says: "Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry...." Considering Proverbs 10:10b, 10:19, 16:28 and 17:28, how do you think a wise person talks?
10. How can you apply what you have learned in this study to your life this week?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 12:22

12:22 The LORD detests lying lips,
but he delights in men who are truthful.

Truth is said to be that which is real and can be verified and confirmed by experience. I John 1:1-3 says: "That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched- this we proclaim concerning the Word of life. The life appeared; we have seen it and testify to it, and we proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and has appeared to us." John is proclaiming here the truth that he knew to be real, verified and confirmed by experience, that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, came in the flesh to save us.

In John 14:6, Jesus says "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Do you know Jesus? He invites you to know him right now. Ask Jesus into your heart to cleanse and forgive you and submit to him as Lord of your life. He promises that by following him you will know the truth:

"If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples.
Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you
free."
John 8:31-32

*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 **studieditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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