



# FIRST BAPTIST of Hayden

**Proverbs**  
**The Proverbs of Solomon**  
**Chapters 9-21**  
**03/01/2023**



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## Introduction:

We are studying the section of Proverbs, chapters 9-21, that make up 375 proverbs which are attributed to Solomon. They are broken into two sections. The first is found in chapters 10-15, and the second is comprised of chapters 16-22.

Solomon teaches his sons that a sovereign God watches and rewards according to the condition of the heart, and his promised rewards, or retributions are a result of how we live life. The heart determines the words that we use, the actions that we take, and the lives we live.

Take note of these verses in chapter 10:11 *The mouth of the righteous is a fountain of life*, 16 *The wages of the righteous leads to life*, 17 *Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life*, 27 *The fear of the Lord prolongs life*,

Proverbs 10:3: *The Lord does not let the righteous go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked. 22 The blessings of the Lord makes rich, and he adds no sorrow with it. 29 The way of the Lord is a stronghold to the blameless, but destruction to evildoers.*

The choice is ours, based upon the condition of the heart, but the blessing or the retribution is from the Lord.

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**Message:**

We will finish this chapter tonight by seeing that our attitude concerning life, with all its strain and difficulty, makes a difference in how we live and how long we live.

**1. Learning to learn is critical to living well**

Proverbs 10:17 (ESV): *17 Whoever heeds instruction is on the path to life, but he who rejects reproof leads others astray.*

Parents, instructors, mentors, life lessons all teach us. And the willingness and capacity to learn from each is a vital part of developing a life worth living.

Proverbs 26:11 (ESV): *11 Like a dog that returns to his vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.*

The willingness to learn from others, or from my own life lessons determines so much about my character and the possibilities that await me.

A heart that chooses to learn the lessons being taught by others, or to take the time to analyze my own mistakes, or successes, for the lessons I can learn has a profound impact on all of my life.

Learning to learn is important!

## **2. The heart is refined with both wisdom and experience**

Proverbs 10:20 (ESV): *20 The tongue of the righteous is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.*

Choice silver is refined and purified by heat, just as a choice life is refined by life experience and wise counsel.

It is an interesting truth that what experience teaches lasts beyond the moment of instruction. But even more so, the lessons learned by others and put into practice by the wise of heart not only bless, but they also keep us from facing the fires of a hard life.

However, when we face the fire of a difficult time, sometimes because of the choices we have made, the lessons learned at that time endure for the one who is willing to be instructed. Yet, for one who refuses instruction, there is little value, there is no sense of importance in the message that comes through experience. So often, as a result, a hardening occurs to the heart of one who refuses wisdom.

Silver that is refined and purified is softer than silver with a mix of metals that have not been removed. The heart that is ready for instruction is a heart softened by wisdom and the refining grace of life's hard times.

Proverbs 25:11–12 (ESV): 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 reprovener to a listening ear.*

### 3. We can shorten our lives by our choices

Proverbs 10:27 (ESV): 27 *The fear of the Lord prolongs life, but the years of the wicked will be short.*

I saw a video of a family gathered around an old lady as she was celebrating her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday, and they all sang “*Happy Birthday.*” As the family finished the song, you can hear a man’s voice in the background, “*And let her have ten more just like this one.*” I don’t know if anyone else heard him, but the lady did and she mumbled, “*Oh please God, no!*”

Some lives go for a long time, but they are lived in drudgery, while others are lived with joy and anticipation. I’m not sure where I will be on the spectrum of wanting to stay or go, if I make it that long. But I do know that someone who lives a righteous and wise life tends to live longer than those who live wickedly and foolishly.

Solomon points out that living in an unwise way is to live wickedly, to live apart from God. *The fear of the Lord prolongs life* is a way of saying, God will give you a full life if you are wise.

Look at verse 25, *When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous is established forever.*

That's the whirlwind we call life. The tempest of life, the strain of life causes the destruction of the wicked. They cease to live; while the righteous, the godly, the wise, the one who fears God endures. This absolutely relates the path we walk to the results we get.

The way we live, the attitude we have toward a godly lifestyle determines the outcome of life.

We can and should learn from others who are wiser. And if necessary, we learn from our mistakes and choices. But we do not allow ourselves to be hardened by life's events. Rather, we ask God to refine us through those moments of pain, loss, and struggle.

Those who refuse to be instructed are fitted for destruction, while those who listen to God's voice in the experience of life tend to find God's blessing despite the negative circumstance.

Proverbs 10:30–32 (ESV): 30 *The righteous will never be removed, but the wicked will not dwell in the land.*

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**Conclusion:**

When I consider what Solomon is saying, I think of preparing a meal. If I am cooking steaks, I look at the cut of meat, how is it marbled, which part of the cow has it come from, and how will I prepare it before I put it on the grill. I have learned that even a bad cut of meat can become delicious and tender – if it is prepared properly. But I also know that if I mishandle a good cut of meat, I can ruin a meal.

Your life is much like that too. God is preparing you, seasoning you, softening you, so that fulfillment and joy can be a part of your life. But in the end, the choice is yours to be made ready for a life of value and importance, or for a life of foolishness and waste.

Proverbs 10:28 (ESV): *28 The hope of the righteous brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.*