

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#) For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#25) The Proverbs of Solomon: Proverbs 10:1-12

While the first 9 chapters have been “the proverbs of Solomon” ([Proverbs 1:1](#)), they were stated as a father instructing his son. **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom ([1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10](#)), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Verse 1: Too many modern “fathers” don’t seem to care about their son’s “wisdom;” and too many modern “mothers” carry their burden of “grief” because of it.

Verses 2-3: “Treasures” gained by “wickedness” are empty of all that is meaningful (example, Judas Iscariot, [Matthew 27:1-5](#)), while a person may ride “righteousness” into eternity ([1 Timothy 6:6-11](#)). Meanwhile, on earth, God looks after, provides for, the “righteous,” and, at the same time, often overturns the wicked’s advantage.

Verses 4-5: The “slack hand” wants shortcuts to prosperity, but the “diligent” hand prospers, or gets the work done. NO society lasts when there are more “slack hands” than “diligent” ones! Other Proverbs on this subject say:

- (1) Some are too lazy to get their own food, [Proverbs 12:27](#);
- (2) The lazy have desires without efforts (a lot of Lottery tickets, Vegas trips, frivolous lawsuits fall into this category) [Proverbs 13:4](#); [21:25-26](#);
- (3) Fails to feed even him/herself (and should starve, [2 Thessalonians 3:10](#))
[Proverbs 19:24](#); [26:15](#);
- (4) The lazy passes off plowing season because it’s “too cold,” and then begs for food during harvest (this is “living off the dole, or the goodness of other people”) [Proverbs 19:15](#); [20:4](#).

Verses 6-7: Just as God “blesses” the “righteous,” “violence” stops the “wicked’s” boasting ([Proverbs 10:11](#)). Just as it is pleasant to remember someone who was “righteous,” it is disgusting to remember someone who was “wicked.”

Verses 8,11: The “wise” will accept responsibility, but “a prating fool” (boastful words but no obedience to God) “will fall” (not amount to anything).

Verses 9-10: To “walk with integrity” is to be true to God’s principles as one’s core beliefs, regardless of circumstance, opportunity, or associations. Those who

All Scriptures and comments are based on the New King James Version, unless otherwise noted.



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“perverts his ways” cannot be trusted to be honest, forthright, or true to his/her stated principles, which becomes obvious. To “wink with the eye” (would say something, “wink, wink”) is someone who cannot be trusted to be telling the truth.

Verses 12: Only the “hateful” will “stir up strife.” “He who covers a transgression seeks love, but he who repeats a matter separates friends” (**Proverbs 17:9**). Everyone who exploits, spreads, campaigns against, creates demonstrations about, someone’s weaknesses is motivated by “hatred,” not “love!” Hatred is behind many racial, religious, social, and political campaigns of destruction. “And above all things have fervent love for one another, for ‘love will cover a multitude of sins’” (**1 Peter 4:8**). Sins are not to be ignored, covered over without repentance, or excused, but brought to God for forgiveness. “Brethren, if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone turns him back, let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins” (**James 5:19-20**). “Strife” is generated by:

- “Pride” (**Proverbs 13:10**);
- Hotheadedness (**Proverbs 15:18**);
- Perversity (**Proverbs 16:28**);
- Lovers of transgression (**Proverbs 17:19**).

A society will not long stand when torn apart by “strife” which has been generated by the “hateful.”

