

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

(#37) The Proverbs of Solomon 11:9-11- Hypocrites Don't Help Cities

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **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.

Proverbs 11:9:

The hypocrite with his mouth destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous will be delivered.

The word "hypocrite" (pretender) may also carry the idea of "infidel" (denies the faith), in either case, his words seriously wound. Other proverbs also show the destructive power of the tongue:

- "He who guards his mouth preserves his life, *But* he who opens wide his lips shall have destruction" (**Proverbs 13:3**);
- "An evildoer gives heed to false lips; A liar listens eagerly to a spiteful tongue" (**Proverbs 17:4**);
- "A fool's mouth *is* his destruction, And his lips *are* the snare of his soul" (**Proverbs 18:7**);
- "The north wind brings forth rain, And a backbiting tongue an angry countenance" (**Proverbs 25:23**);
- "A lying tongue hates *those who are* crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin" (**Proverbs 26:28**).

But no matter whether "hypocrite" or "infidel," it is a "fool" who destroys his neighbor's faith and trust. David described one who does "not fear God" from whom: "*The words* of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart; His words were softer than oil, Yet they were drawn swords" (**Psalm 55:19, 21**).

No verse states it more vividly than **James 3:6**:

And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire by hell.



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The rest of **Proverbs 11:9** shows that the "righteous" will not be misled, because they know better. "You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked (**2 Peter 3:17**).

Proverbs 11:10-11:

When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices; and when the wicked perish, there is jubilation. 11 By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted, but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.

God's blessings for the "righteous" are good for everybody. Jesus teaches His disciples to do good even to enemies, "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust" (**Matthew 5:45**). Everyone has reason to enjoy God's blessing on the righteous, and give God the glory.

However, the righteous are not rejoicing "when the wicked perish," for another proverb says: "Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, And do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles; Lest the LORD see *it*, and it displease Him, And He turn away His wrath from him" (**Proverbs 24:17-18**). It is to the advantage of all to let the righteous serve God, for whatever persecution, suffering, or hindrance placed upon them will be noticed, and repaid, by God!

Do not lie in wait, O wicked man, against the dwelling of the righteous; Do not plunder his resting place; For a righteous man may fall seven times And rise again, But the wicked shall fall by calamity" (**Proverbs 24:15-16**).

When people repented and were baptized "in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins" (**Acts 2:38**), they were "praising God and having favor with all the people" (**Acts 2:47**). No country, state, county, or city that keeps that from happening within their boundaries will long prosper with the blessing of God Almighty! America's Founders incorporated "Freedom of Worship" in the Constitution. To all who would ignore that Constitutional guarantee, God would say, "Let My people go."

