

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

(#197) The Proverbs of Solomon 29:19-21- Are We Pampered Servants?

Proverbs 29:19-21:

A servant will not be corrected by mere words; For though he understands, he will not respond. Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. He who pampers his servant from childhood Will have him as a son in the end.

The term "servant" indicates someone who works for someone else, and though Moses was "a servant" in God's House, Jesus took "the form of a bondservant" ([Philippians 2:7](#)), He was "a Son over His own house, whose house we are" ([Hebrews 3:5-6](#)), that is, the church of Christ ([Ephesians 1:22-23](#); [1 Timothy 3:15](#)). Jesus' obedience under Moses' Law ([Hebrews 5:8-9](#)) is our example for obeying Jesus' Law ([Matthew 28:18-20](#)).

It is a disobedient servant who will not follow carefully worded instructions, so that "though he understands, he will not respond" with obedience. No one has become a servant of Christ by confessing to be saved before being baptized (buried) into the death of Jesus ([Romans 6:1-7](#)); no servant of Christ ever added mechanical instrumental music to the singing required in worship ([Ephesians 5:19-20](#)); no servants of Christ ever murdered to expand the church ([John 18:37](#); [2 Corinthians 10:3-6](#)); no servants of Christ enjoyed the recreation of fleshly appeals ([Romans 13:13-14](#))!

There is no hope for "a fool" (one who disobeys God) unless he/she repents and obeys God's Will. One who is conceited must become humbled in order to learn obedience to God:

Let no one deceive himself. If anyone among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool that he may become wise. ([1 Corinthians 3:18](#))

The person who is "hasty in his words" is trying to justify him- or herself, rather than listening to what must be changed to please God.

- He who answers a matter before he hears *it*, *It is* folly and shame to him. ([Proverbs 18:13](#))

No one can "testify" their way to salvation without doing what God says!



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A pampered servant will soon “think *of himself* more highly than he ought to think” (**Romans 12:3**). This is why all those who have been taught that once they’re saved, they’re always saved, and cannot lose their salvation become spiritually arrogant, thinking they are “bullet-proof!”

Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.
(**1 Corinthians 10:12**)

Paul addressed that attitude (and doctrine!) when he wrote:

You have become estranged from Christ, you who attempt to be justified by law; you have fallen from grace. (**Galatians 5:4**)

Jesus Christ said to His disciples:

“Most assuredly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master; nor is he who is sent greater than he who sent him. If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.”
(**John 13:16-17**)

Truly, as Paul wrote:

If I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ.
(**Galatians 1:10**)

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