

Proverbs 11, Sep 2, 2024 -Men's Monday Morning Bible Study

Overview:

Proverbs 10 starts a new literary section where the previous 9 chapters had more topical poetry focusing on a few subjects, now we get into what the rest of the book is. Namely, random aphorisms or single sentence sayings that stand alone. Again, remember that Proverbs are not promises but general guidance about how God has ordered the world. They are not to be taken without exception but understood as how the odds work in God's economy of life.

Today will be a single subject study comprising both chapters 10 and 11. The study is on the much-repeated theme, "righteousness."

The definition of righteousness is: adherence to the law of God, namely to love God supremely (Dt 6:5) and to love one's neighbor (Lev 19:18). You might call it moral purity or holiness.

Commentary:

The term "righteousness" occurs 27x in two chapters. 14x in ch10 and 13x in ch 11.

Two more themes appear to be dominant in the discussion on righteousness: 1) the effects on the speech of those considered righteous (highlighted in yellow) and 2) the outcome or future of the righteous (highlighted in green).

Chapter 10

1. [Proverbs 10:2](#)Treasures gained by wickedness do not profit, but [righteousness](#) delivers from death.
2. [Proverbs 10:3](#)The Lord does not let the [righteous](#) go hungry, but he thwarts the craving of the wicked.
3. [Proverbs 10:6](#)Blessings are on the head of the [righteous](#), but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.
4. [Proverbs 10:7](#)The memory of the [righteous](#) is a blessing, but the name of the wicked will rot.
5. [Proverbs 10:11](#)The mouth of the [righteous](#) is a fountain of life, but the mouth of the wicked conceals violence.

6. [Proverbs 10:16](#)The wage of the [righteous](#) leads to life, the gain of the wicked to sin.
7. [Proverbs 10:20](#)The tongue of the [righteous](#) is choice silver; the heart of the wicked is of little worth.
8. [Proverbs 10:21](#)The lips of the [righteous](#) feed many, but fools die for lack of sense.
9. [Proverbs 10:24](#)What the wicked dreads will come upon him, but the desire of the [righteous](#) will be granted.
10. [Proverbs 10:25](#)When the tempest passes, the wicked is no more, but the [righteous](#) is established forever.
11. [Proverbs 10:28](#)The hope of the [righteous](#) brings joy, but the expectation of the wicked will perish.
12. [Proverbs 10:30](#)The [righteous](#) will never be removed, but the wicked will not dwell in the land.
13. [Proverbs 10:31](#)The mouth of the [righteous](#) brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off.
14. [Proverbs 10:32](#)The lips of the [righteous](#) know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.

Chapter 11

1. [Proverbs 11:4](#)Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but [righteousness](#) delivers from death.
2. [Proverbs 11:5](#)The [righteousness](#) of the blameless keeps his way straight, but the wicked falls by his own wickedness.
3. [Proverbs 11:6](#)The [righteousness](#) of the upright delivers them, but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust.
4. [Proverbs 11:8](#)The [righteous](#) is delivered from trouble, and the wicked walks into it instead.
5. [Proverbs 11:9](#)With his mouth the godless man would destroy his neighbor, but by knowledge the [righteous](#) are delivered.
6. [Proverbs 11:10](#)When it goes well with the [righteous](#), the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. **(see below)**
7. [Proverbs 11:18](#)The wicked earns deceptive wages, but one who sows [righteousness](#) gets a sure reward.

8. [Proverbs 11:19](#) Whoever is steadfast in [righteousness](#) will live, but he who pursues evil will die.
9. [Proverbs 11:21](#) Be assured, an evil person will not go unpunished, but the offspring of the [righteous](#) will be delivered.
10. [Proverbs 11:23](#) The desire of the [righteous](#) ends only in good, the expectation of the wicked in wrath.
11. [Proverbs 11:28](#) Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the [righteous](#) will flourish like a green leaf.
12. [Proverbs 11:30](#) The fruit of the [righteous](#) is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise. -This verse was the theme of CH Spurgeon's The Soul-Winner "We ought to regard the Christian Church, not as a luxurious hostelry where Christian gentlemen may each one dwell at his ease in his own inn, but as a barracks in which soldiers are gathered together to be drilled and trained for war. We should regard the Christian church, not as an association for mutual admiration and comfort, but as an army with banners, marching to the fray, to achieve victories for Christ, to storm the strongholds of the foe, and to add province after province to the Redeemer's kingdom. We may view converted persons when gathered into church membership as so much wheat in the granary."
13. [Proverbs 11:31](#) If the [righteous](#) is repaid on earth, how much more the wicked and the sinner!

Add to this list the communal aspects of righteousness:

Family: "The righteous walk about in their innocence; blessed are their children after them." 20:7

City: [Proverbs 11:10](#) When it goes well with the [righteous](#), the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish there are shouts of gladness. "By the blessing of the upright a city is raised up, but by the mouth of the wicked it is torn down." 11:11

Nation: "Righteousness lifts a nation up, but sin diminishes a people." 14:34

Need to get rid of fools: "Separate the dross from the silver, and a vessel will come out for refining. Separate the wicked from the presence of the king, and his throne will be established in righteousness." 25:4-5

The morale of the people is determined by who is in charge: “When the righteous increase, the people rejoice, but when the wicked dominate, the people moan.” 29:2

Conclusion:

Righteous people use their mouths to give life to others.

Righteousness has consequences, both temporal and eternal.

Righteousness has consequences for communities not just individuals.

Closing Prayer:

Father, we know that true righteousness is found by exercising faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Help us to walk in a manner worthy of the gospel and live lives consistent with our claims. Help us to seek the greater reward. In Jesus’ name, Amen.