

Introduction: The wisdom of God is infinitely more than any human being is capable of understanding. Even those who have read Scripture every day for decades, and have achieved the Puritan goal of reading the whole Bible at least as many times as the number of years since they first gave themselves fully to God IN Christ, still have missed much of what God has put in His Word for them. *** I count it a blessing that I (along with many other seminary students) was given a free copy of a commentary on 'Solomon's books' (*Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs*) written by the professor who taught me Hebrew poetry. His commentary on *Proverbs* shows there is nothing random about the order of the individual proverbs given in chapters 10 to 29. There are many paragraphs, each with layers of meaning, and each organized around a central theme. *** I have sensed for many years that Christian men need to stand up and do their God-ordained duties in God's Church, in their families, and in society at large. I think the proverb on our bulletin cover (*Proverbs 20:7*): 'The just man walketh in his integrity: his children are blessed after him' (KJV) expresses the heart of what we need to hear this Father's Day. *** God wants all men to be spiritual fathers of many children and youth. This cover proverb is part of a wisdom paragraph beginning with a proverb about the deepness of the plans in men's hearts and ending with a proverb saying Yahweh gives discernment for understanding the deep waters of the human heart. *** So, let's look at these eight proverbs and seek to know how they fit together. The goal is that we all, especially the men, may grow into righteousness to bless children and youth into the joy of The Lord.

I. The heart is deep, and men proclaim love; but, righteous men leave a legacy, and kings dispense of evil. (Verses 5-8)

A. A man of understanding knows hearts; beware of words, because few are fully faithful. (Verses 5-6)

1. Deep waters: the counsel in the heart of a man, and a man of understanding will draw it out. (Verse 5)

Deep: The word for deep has the sense of unsearchable and mysterious. This indicates that the heart of all people is difficult to discern: both for other people and for people themselves.

Understanding: Earlier, Solomon charged his son to lift his voice for understanding to fear Yahweh and receive the wisdom and the knowledge of God. (*Proverbs 2:1-15*)

2. All mankind proclaims to be a man of steadfast love, but who will find a man of truth? (Verse 6)

LOVE: The love referred to here is God's strong life-giving, life-changing LOVE that comes through faith in the work His Son did on earth, culminated by giving Himself to die for people and coming to life again to give people new life.

Truth: God's Truth is firm and dependable. It is personified in Jesus, and often linked with God's LOVE and mercy that lead to peace from reconciliation to God in salvation. (*Jeremiah 33:1-9*)

Deceived: People who claim to have God's LOVE and Truth in them are somewhat deceived. All have mixed motives and actions, and are deceiving themselves. All need a proper self-awareness of how they are growing in Christ-likeness by faith in Him. No one fully has God's qualities. However, those who have received both The Savior and The Holy Spirit are growing in His qualities – and this is good.

B. A man walking in wholeness has happy children; a king judges evil with his eyes so as to remove it. (Verses 7-8)

3. The man walking in his fullness (is) righteous; happy (are) his sons after him. (Verse 7)

Walking: In Scripture, walking refers to the manner in which a man goes about living his life. It refers to all he does, all his interactions with other people, his relationship with The Three-IN-One God.

Full-complete: This man is simple in a good sense. He has only one goal: to be fully focused on God and His Word. He is like the man who will not walk, stand or sit with those who are wicked, sinners, or mockers. His one delight is in Yahweh and His Word of instruction and teaching. (*Psalms 1*) Integrity means that all the parts of a person are working together into a perfect fullness.

Righteous: God is acknowledged for His righteousness both in prayers of confession and proclamations of praise. (*Ezra 9:5-15; Daniel 9:4-14; Psalm 116:1-14; Revelation 16:4-7*) And God is able to make people righteous. (*Psalms 7:6-9; Luke 1:5-6; Hebrews 11:4*)

Happy children: This man, made righteous by the righteous God, has children coming after him who are happy. Namely, through their father, they are experiencing the blessing of Yahweh.

Psalms: Happy blessings come to those who are forgiven (*32:1-2*), have taken refuge in Yahweh (*34:1-8*), have regard for the weak (*41:1-3*), have been disciplined and taught by Yahweh (*94:12-19*), as a father disciplines and teaches his children.

Men who live in the fullness of God's ways bless children

4. A king sitting upon the throne of judgment scatters all that is evil in his eyes. (Verse 8)

Scatter: This means a godly king will dispense with all (who are) evil in his kingdom.

Evil: Whenever the king sees what evil in his kingdom (according to God's Torah which he has copied for himself – *Deuteronomy 17:14-20*), he must remove it for the sake of God's people.

II. No one is pure from sin, and fraud is an abomination to Yahweh; but, conduct shows if youth are right, and Yahweh makes people discerning. (Verses 9-12)

B'. No one's heart is pure from sin; double standards are an abomination to Yahweh. (Verses 9-10)

3'. Who will say: 'I have purified my heart; I am cleansed from all sin?' (Verse 9)

All sin: Both experience and God's Word teach that no one is totally righteous: clean, pure and without sin. (*Genesis 6:1-7; Psalm 14; 53; Ecclesiastes 7:20-21; Isaiah 53:1-6; 1 John 1:5-10*)

Strive for ideal: What people need to do, BY Faith, is strive to be like the man fully focused on God and His Word in the proverb that corresponds to this one in this wisdom paragraph.

Gospel of Christ: Since Jesus Christ came and completed His Mission on earth, this is what everyone must do to be freed from the consequences of sin: I must recognize and confess to God I cannot live my life pleasing to Him. I must recognize and trust in who Jesus is and what He did. He is The God-Man: conceived by The Holy Spirit, in a virgin human mother. At the age priests began to serve Yahweh in the Tabernacle, He began to show and tell people about God by words and miraculous deeds. Out of God's amazing life-giving, life changing LOVE, He offered His sinless life in death so people might be forgiven by God, as was foreshadowed by the sacrifices of the Torah. He rose from the dead on the third day, according to prophecies God gave hundreds of years earlier. He ascended to the Throne of God to rule the universe and give The Holy Spirit to whoever will come to God in humble, dependent, obedient faith in what Jesus did for him. By receiving this Gospel of Christ, and Christ Himself, to live IN Him, all may be made righteous to be empowered by God to live in the fullness of His ways, and be a blessing those in the following generation.

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4'. Two sets of weights and two measures for grain are an abomination to Yahweh, even both. (*Verse 10*)

Deceitful double standard: Some merchants use scales and measuring tools that register high when buying (to get more merchandise); and, different scales and measuring tools that register low when selling (to give the customer less than what he paid for).

Abomination: Such a practice is called an abomination (disgusting and wicked) to God!

Before we take Communion, let us ask God to show us any abominations in our lives.

King of kings: IF human kings dispense with evil people, how much more will The King of kings put away all who practice such an abomination – using a double standard to cheat both buyer and seller? So, let us fear both God-ordained human authority and Yahweh Himself.

A'. The deeds of youth show if they are pure; Yahweh makes ears and eyes that truly hear and see (discern). (*Verses 11-12*)

2'. Even by his deeds, a youth makes himself known – IF he is pure and right in his work. (*Verse 11*)

Language: The word for deeds means practices that are usually bad. The word used for work is usually used of negative works, even of a prostitute in *Proverbs* (30:20).

Proverbs: By this time, you may be figuring out that *Proverbs* is a series of word puzzles given by Yahweh so that families could try to solve them in their daily activities. This verse illustrates a problem Haddon Robinson described in a sermon I heard at seminary. In translating *Proverbs*, translators are looking for clarity, but in doing so they are doing some interpretation that God wants readers to do.

Parallel: This proverb points out that youths have the same difficulty as adults in living lives of God's LOVE and truth. (*Verse 6*)

Bottom Line: This proverb links actions with their words. Words and actions of God's people must be like those of the man living in the fullness of God and His ways as given in His Word. This happens by fully surrendering to God IN Jesus Christ with the faith of a small child, not the youth of this proverb. Then men (and women) can bless children coming after them.

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1'. Ear that is hearing and eye that is seeing, Yahweh has made even both. (*Verse 12*)

Yahweh: The Three-IN-One God alone makes ears and eyes that are open to have understanding to discern the deep waters of human hearts. It is possible to know the hearts of people by their words and actions, when guided by God's Spirit and Word. Jesus is The Truth (*John 14:1-6*). And, through faith in Him, people can have His discernment.

Only Yahweh makes people discerning of the truth

Summary: This wisdom paragraph describes seven kinds of people, all known to Yahweh. One is a mystery (*verse 5*); two are deceived and confused (*verses 6, 11*); two are evil – one to a human king and one to The King of kings – The Sovereign God (*verses 8, 10*); one knows he can't claim purity (*verse 9*), and one is genuinely righteous, walking in God's fullness so his children are happy and blessed (*verse 7*).

May we all receive The Gospel of Jesus, and Jesus Himself, to live IN Him in order to bless others.

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Conclusion: This collection of eight proverbs describes the full range of types of people and their relationships with Yahweh and others. And, to understand the heart of others, people must use the hearing and vision that Yahweh has given them. The ideal is for a man to live humbly in the fullness given to him by Yahweh, to become righteous as God is righteous, so children coming after him will find happiness: the blessing of Yahweh!

Men who live in the fullness of God's ways bless children