

# Proverbs Lesson 19

## Proverbs Chapter 19

*Distributed by: KJV Bible Studies*

*Website: <http://www.kjvbiblestudies.net>*

*Email: [mail@kjvbiblestudies2.net](mailto:mail@kjvbiblestudies2.net)*

**Introduction:** Proverbs Chapter 19 continues the contrast between wisdom and folly.

### I. Better is Poor that Walks in His Integrity

**Pro 19:1** *Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.*

**Pro 19:2** *Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good; and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth.*

The thought is simple. It is better to be poor and honest than to be a slick talker and a fool. The word translated as perverse (vqe 'iqqesh) literally refers to being 'twisted,' 'distorted,' or 'crooked.' The idea here is of a slick talker who is less than honest. The Bible calls such a one a fool.

Two separate thoughts are at hand in verse 2. The word translated as knowledge (tedda'ath) refers to 'discernment,' 'understanding,' or 'wisdom.' For one to be without discernment or wisdom is not good. One who hastens with his feet is one who is impulsive and undisciplined. Impulsive people are prone to folly and sin.

They don't pause and think through their impulse. Unfortunately, it often leads to sin. The impulsiveness of Peter was not a virtue. It got him into trouble frequently.

**Pro 19:3** *The foolishness of man perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD.*

**Pro 19:4** *Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbour.*

Again, a twofold thought is presented. An individual's foolishness will pervert (i.e., ruin or mess up) one's life. The world snickers at sinful folly, but when it wrecks one's own life, it is no longer funny. Clearly implied is that most folly is sinful and has a bitter consequence.

The individual thus described then blames it on God. How often do people in the world find themselves in a tragic mess only to blame it all on God. Fools they are indeed.

Verse 4 speaks of the fellow who becomes suddenly wealthy but also finds that he quickly has many more friends than he thought. In contrast, no one cares about a person struggling to make ends meet. Both of these truths reflect the sinful condition of the

human heart. Man is basically selfish.

Cozying up to an acquaintance who has come into sudden wealth is predicated upon nothing more than selfishness—hoping to benefit. Yet, who cares about a poor neighbor! Both attitudes are evil but unfortunately reflect human nature.

**Pro 19:5 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that speaketh lies shall not escape.***

Those who commit perjury on the witness stand will be punished—often severely. In like fashion, lying in everyday life is eventually found out. Liars cannot escape being found out and they are looked down upon because of it. Though the world is the home of lying, even the world despises liars. Consider all the famous politicians who eventually are caught in their lies. They become the butt of jokes and ridicule—even in the world.

**Pro 19:6 Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man *is a friend to him that giveth gifts.***

**Pro 19:7 All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth *them with words, yet they are wanting to him.***

In fashion similar to verse 4, those in places of power are often popular. One known to be generous has many professed friends. Human nature is such that people want to be friends of those who are influential and generous. Their motive, of course, is selfishness.

In contrast to the preceding verse, those who hit hard times find few new friends. Even family members may look the other way. Consider Job. Furthermore, though a fellow in difficult straits may appeal to others for help, they often ignore him. This is sad, but often true. Money and power make friends. Trouble seems to have few.

## **II. Getting Wisdom Shows Love for the Soul**

**Pro 19:8 He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good.**

**Pro 19:9 A false witness shall not be unpunished, and *he that speaketh lies shall perish.***

Amidst a number of proverbs illustrating the dismal character of sinful human nature shines a brilliant gem. ‘He that gets (i.e., has) a heart loveth his own soul.’ The thought (in the preceding context of the darkness of human nature) is how having a heart for others in reality is love for one’s own soul.

Having a heart for others comes back in the same coin. Likewise, one who observes (i.e., keeps) understanding surely will find good. An understanding heart will be compassionate. It brings good to both the one in need as well as the one who is compassionate.

The thought in verse 9 is almost identical to verse 5. The slight variation here is in the last word perish. The greater truth is that lying, whether on the witness stand or in everyday life is eventually discovered. And, liars are never treated kindly. They manifest a primary character trait of the devil (John 8:44).

*Joh 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.*

Eventually, all liars will have a part in the Lake of Fire (Revelation 21:8).

*Rev 21:8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Short of the cleansing blood of Christ, all liars will perish in hell. The world makes light of lying, yet God does not.

*Pro 19:10 Delight is not seemly for a fool; much less for a servant to have rule over princes.*

*Pro 19:11 The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.*

The point is that fools are usually not gracious. The word translated as delight (gwnet ta'anuwg) can also have the idea of being 'pleasant' or by extension, 'gracious.' They are ill at ease to be so. Likewise, when servants find themselves ruling over their former superiors, they do not know how to handle it. They are not gracious or pleasant.

Double and related thoughts are at hand in verse 11. A discreet man will defer his anger. (Fools let it boil over.) Moreover, there is glory (i.e., virtue) in overlooking another's transgression. The thought is not of covering up sin. But rather of having a forgiving spirit when another falls.

*Pro 19:12 The king's wrath is as the roaring of a lion; but his favour is as dew upon the grass.*

The thought is a 2-fold word of advice. Beware of a king's wrath. And rather, seek his favor. A hungry or angry lion is a hostile creature. Dew upon the grass is life-giving. There is folly in provoking a ruler and there is wisdom in seeking his good graces.

*Pro 19:13 A foolish son is the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.*

*Pro 19:14 House and riches are the inheritance of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.*

Two vexations of life are (1) a foolish son and (2) a nagging wife. The latter is likened to

a continual dripping. One may inherit a house and money from his father, but a prudent wife is a legacy from God. The classic illustration of such a woman is found in Proverbs 31:10. Verse 14 is the converse of the preceding one. It is far better to have a prudent wife than a nagging one.

### III. Idle Soul Suffers Hunger

Pro 19:15 Slothfulness casteth into a deep sleep; and an idle soul shall suffer hunger.

Pro 19:16 He that keepeth the commandment keepeth his own soul; *but* he that despiseth his ways shall die.

Laziness and sleep go together. Those who are unmotivated wind up going hungry. The latter thought is of poverty. Two of the major causes of poverty are laziness and lack of self-discipline.

The thought in verse 16 is true on all levels. One who carefully obeys orders preserves his own life. One who despises authority will suffer an untimely death. This is true of life in general. It certainly is true of God and His commandments.

God blesses obedience and will judge the disobedient. Likewise, one who obeys human laws will protect himself. One who ignores the law of the land faces deadly force.

Pro 19:17 He that hath pity upon the poor lendeth unto the LORD; and that which he hath given will he pay him again.

Pro 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Helping one truly impoverished is actually making an offering to the Lord. God will repay with interest in due season. There is a distinction between one in poverty because of sin—alcohol, drugs, immorality, or rebellion against authority—and one in poverty due to no fault of their own. The latter is the poor to which this verse refers.

Verse 18 is clear. God's plan for training our children means corporal punishment. A truly loving parent will spank an errant child. Though children will make a commotion when disciplined, God's direction is to not back off. A child who is appropriately and consistently spanked in his pre-school years will learn the discipline of righteousness. In those years there is hope.

A parent who neglects to spank a child in those formative years will reap an unhappy harvest. The time quickly comes when it becomes exceedingly difficult to instill integrity into a rebellious and recalcitrant youngster. Consistent discipline, including spanking when they are small, is a tremendous aide.

Pro 19:19 A man of great wrath shall suffer punishment: for if thou deliver *him*, yet thou must do it again.

Pro 19:20 Hear counsel, and receive instruction, that thou mayest be wise in thy latter end.

One disposed to losing his or her temper will face much trouble in life. Bailing such individuals out of trouble becomes an ongoing proposition. They seem to never learn. The greater issue here is of carnality and a lack of discipline of emotions.

One who will not discipline his or her temper and keep it under control will face nothing but trouble. The intended party likely is the one spoken of above. Those who have a short temper need to listen to godly counsel and receive the instruction of God's Word. When they are willing to take heed and control their temper, they will take a major step toward becoming wise. Clearly implied is that those who will not control their temper are fools.

Pro 19:21 *There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.*

Pro 19:22 *The desire of a man is his kindness: and a poor man is better than a liar.*

People have all kinds of schemes and plans. However, God's way lasts. It works! Men come up with all sorts of ideas. Most of them flop. God's way works and is long lasting. A classic example was the supposed better way of socialism and communism. However, every nation which has practiced either has found that neither worked. God's way is better. It stands the test of time. We will never go wrong doing things God's way.

Verse 22 tells that a good man desires to be kind. Furthermore, it is better to be poor and honest than a liar and wealthy. Implied is that a good man is both kind and honest.

Pro 19:23 *The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.*

Pro 19:24 *A slothful man hideth his hand in his bosom, and will not so much as bring it to his mouth again.*

One who lives in the fear of the Lord will find that it leads to blessings in this life and ultimately eternal life. There is fulfillment and satisfaction in such living. In addition, God preserves such from trouble. In short, one will never go wrong in the fear of the Lord.

The thought is that a lazy man makes his hand unavailable for work. Any excuse will do. However, before long, he will have nothing to put in his mouth. Laziness leads to poverty.

Pro 19:25 *Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that*

hath understanding, *and he will understand knowledge.*

*Pro 19:26 He that wasteth his father, and chaseth away his mother, is a son that causeth shame, and bringeth reproach.*

One purpose in dealing with offenders is that others will learn. When a lawbreaker is punished, other naive individuals get the message. In contrast, when a person of understanding is corrected, he will learn from it. The wise will accept criticism and learn from it. Fools will not.

The thought in verse 26 is how that one who wastes his father's resources (whether an inheritance or otherwise) and alienates his mother not only brings shame to them, but will bring reproach upon himself. Fools have little regard for their parents.

*Pro 19:27 Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.*

Solomon again offers advice to his son. And, One greater than Solomon is speaking through him. Godly advice is to flee from false winds of doctrine. The world about us abounds with lies whether it be evolution, humanism, socialism, most modern psychological theories, liberal or false religions, not to mention the philosophies of public education. God's advice is to cease to listen to such.

*Pro 19:28 An ungodly witness scorneth judgment: and the mouth of the wicked devoureth iniquity.*

*Pro 19:29 Judgments are prepared for scorners, and stripes for the back of fools.*

Ungodly witnesses have no respect for true justice. Clearly implied is that they are corrupt. Moreover, they thrive on wickedness. The ungodly tend to be corrupt and dishonest. Beware when they testify in a proceeding.

Though those who scorn justice, as noted above, are corrupt; in due season, they will be judged. Dishonest and corrupt individuals are eventually found out and punished. Be sure your sin will find you out!

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*Prov 4:18 But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day.*

*Website:* <http://www.kjvbiblestudies.net>

*Email:* mail@kjvbiblestudies2.net

**Practice Random Acts of Kindness. Each act spreads, and many will be blessed.**