

Proverbs 29: has a great deal of repetition in it, but like a good parent, our heavenly Father, repeats principles until we know the lessons by heart.

Proverbs 29:1: *A man who hardens his neck after much **reproof** will **suddenly** be broken **beyond** remedy.*

- **God uses many methods to bring _____ to each individual, but woe to the person who continually ignores that course correction. God is the epitome of patience, but eventually even it runs out. Scripture is replete with examples of folks whose cup of iniquity has overflowed and their end came _____. This is true for both nations and with people. Genesis 15:16 tells us about the Amorites; “*after four generations your descendants will return here to this land, when the sin of the Amorites has run its course.*” [NLT] Then of course there is the story of Belshazzar, where God informs him through the prophet Daniel, “. . . *God has numbered your kingdom and put an end to it. You have been weighed on the scales of God’s Justice and found wanting,*” Daniel 5:26-27 We all remember the story of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, who challenged Moses’ authority as God’s anointed, and were swallowed up by a fissure in the earth’s surface, along with those who encouraged and supported them. Numbers 16:1-33 And while there seems to be some unusual, esoteric doctrines that have evolved from the Judgment of Ananias and Sapphira, who conspired together, lying to God and testing His Spirit [Acts 5:1-9], the reality is in this instance, judgment came suddenly and was _____ remedy.**

Proverbs 29:2: *When the **righteous** increase, the people rejoice, but when a **wicked** man rules, people **groan**.*

- **Just in case we might have missed it in the last chapter, God posted it again as a reminder. When a nation is ruled by**

_____ people, there is rejoicing in the land. When a
_____ man is in power, the citizens _____.

Proverbs 29:3: *A man who loves wisdom makes his father glad, but he who keeps company with harlots wastes his wealth.*

- **The child who matures into a wise Christ-like person, brings joy and _____ness_ to his parents, while the son who wastes his time and talent perusing the pleasure of sin, brings shame and embarrassment to the family.**

Proverbs 29:4: *The king gives stability to the land by justice, but a man who takes bribes overthrows it.*

- **A moral and upright ruler will bring _____ to their nation. In these United States, it seems that special interest campaign donations have replaced _____ with the same effect, insecurity and injustice. We long for the day, when King Jesus will reign on planet earth.**

Proverbs 29:5: *A man who flatters his neighbor is spreading a net for his steps.*

- **Flattery is meant to put people off their guard; exacerbated by pride it can encourage and trap a person in a _____ of bad decisions.**

Proverbs 29:6: *By transgression an evil man is ensnared, but the righteous sings and rejoices.*

- **Following the ways of our old nature, in the end, ends badly; while those who walk in the paths of righteousness will _____ and _____ before the King of Kings, and Lord of Lords.**

Proverbs 29:7: *The righteous is concerned for the rights of the poor; the wicked does not understand such concern.*

- **I struggled with this passage until I read how the CEO's of some of the largest charities take home exorbitant salaries from their respective organizations. They justify this by equivocating it to what private and for-profit corporation executives would receive. It seems then that their concern is not for the poor; rather, it is for their own pocketbooks, power or prestige. On the other hand, the principal of the Christian charity, "The Salvation Army", receives only a modest compensation because of the Army's true _____ for those in need.**

Proverbs 29:8: *Scorners set a city aflame, but **wise** men turn away anger.*

- **The Hebrew word used here for Scorners is the word **s** and generally means a natural born man, one who does not know God or respect His principles. Their humanistic philosophy can infect a society, but a godly or _____ man, the one who truly knows God and His way, can dispel the anguish incited by this spirit of anti-Christ. 1st John 4:3: *but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world. John has already defined the scorners or mocker as a liar in 1st John 2:22: Who is the liar? It is the man who denies that Jesus is the Christ. Such a man is the antichrist--he denies the Father and the Son.* [NIV]**

Proverbs 29:9: *When a wise man has a controversy with a foolish man, the **foolish** man either rages or laughs, and there is no rest.*

- **When a godly person contends with an agnostic or an atheist, one that the Word of God calls a _____ man, there will be ranting and ridicule but no agreement. He will be treated with either anger or ridicule; and no good is accomplished.**

Proverbs 29:10: *Men of bloodshed hate the blameless, But the upright are concerned for his life.*

- **Bloodthirsty men hate the integrity of the servants of Christ, some to the extreme of seeking to kill Christians. Jesus knew this would happen, which is why He cautioned us with these words in Matthew 10:22: *And everyone will hate you because of your allegiance to me. But those who endure to the end will be saved.* [NLT] However, the _____ are not to retaliate or seek revenge; rather, we are to have concern for the unredeemed person's soul, for Jesus also said in Luke 6:27, "*But I say to you who hear, love your enemies, do good to those who hate you,*" [NASB]**

Proverbs 29:11: *A fool always loses his temper, but a wise man holds it back.*

- **A _____ is either unable or unwilling to show restraint, and usually will give full vent to their anger; but a wise person, who remembers that he is an ambassador of Christ, learns to remain under control.**

Proverbs 29:12: *If a ruler pays attention to falsehood, all his ministers become wicked.*

- **Just as a child will mimic the demeanor of the parent, so, the conduct of a ruler is reflected in the actions of his subordinates. If the ruler is corrupt, libelous defamatory and derogatory, we can expect no less _____ness_ from those who serve under him.**

Proverbs 29:13: *The poor man and the oppressor have this in common: The Lord gives light to the eyes of both.*

- **In our society we tend to elevate certain persons to positions of undeserved reverence. The focal point of this proverb is that all people are created equal in God's sight. Colloquially, we would say, "they put their pants on the same**

way as we all, one leg at a time.” Keep in mind, that one day the _____ will have to answer to their maker.

Proverbs 29:14: *If a king judges the poor with **truth**, His throne will be established forever.*

- **Psalm 72:3-4,7;** reveals God’s attitude toward a righteous king. God is able to bless when the ruler’s standard is _____ and justice; prosperity comes to all. *May the mountains yield prosperity for all, and may the hills be fruitful, because the king does what is right. Our Lord helps ^[4] him to defend the poor, to rescue the children of the needy, and to crush their oppressors. ^[7] May all the godly flourish during his reign. May there be abundant prosperity until the end of time.*
[NLT]

Proverbs 29:15: The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings **shame** to his mother.

- In our society, and perhaps in Solomon’s as well, it is usually the father that administers discipline, but it is **the Law of the Mother who sets the standards of the home** and so the _____ of an unruly child falls back on her, perhaps unfairly. Found in both Proverbs 1:8 and Proverbs 6:20, is this principle of the Law. *My son obey your father’s commands, and don’t neglect your mother’s teaching.* [NLT] The word teaching in many translations is the Hebrew word torah, {*to-law*’}; which means a *precept* or *statute*, including the Title of the *Decalogue* or *Pentateuch*, the Books of the Law.

Proverbs 29:16: *When the wicked increase, **transgression increases**; but the righteous see their ~~fall~~.*

- I am trying to think of a clear example of this proverb in action, without being political, but, the best example of **disregard for the law** is seen in some of the demonstrations that have recently taken place in the politically charged

atmosphere that exists in these United States, just prior to the 2010 elections. Two rallies made up of two different groups of individuals explain this proverb best as a microcosm of social unrest. In the 08/28 rally the crowd was mostly made up of God fearing, law-abiding folks, whose main desire is for our nation to turn back the moral clocks and return to a period of faith, hope and charity. When the rally had ended, they picked up their trash and left the D.C. Mall as clean or cleaner than when they arrived. On the other hand, the 10/2 rally, though considerably less people attended; it was made up of a group that had or demonstrated little regard for any but themselves. In turn, they disregarded litter laws and left the Mall looking like a dump. My only hope for my nation is that the *righteous will see their _____*.

XXXXX

Proverbs 29:17: *Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; he will also **delight** your soul.*

- There is a great deal of difference between punishing a child and discipline. Just our own children need to be corrected, God corrects those who are His own, not through punishment, rather through trials and testing's that bring about course correction. Just as a child is a delight to their parents, so the child of God is a _____ to our heavenly Father as we display the attributes and attitudes of Christ

Proverbs 29:18: *Where there is no vision, the people are unrestrained, but **happy** is he who keeps the law.*

- When people do not accept divine guidance, they run wild. The gospel is an open vision, which reveals Christ and his indwelling Spirit. It is His Spirit that humbles the sinner and exalts the Savior. He promotes holiness in our lives and conversation. Without a Bible and the principles contained

therein we become easy prey to the enemy of souls. But whoever obeys the principles of God's law is _____.

Proverbs 29:19: *A **slave** will not be instructed by words alone; for though he understands, there will be no response.*

- **Slavery was a normal part of the economy of this world until just recently. Solomon writes to his progeny and successors, that human nature is one of rebellion, and an involuntary _____ must be motivated by rewards or punishment. During Christ's tenure on earth, God called all men to become Bond-servants, one who would serve their master out of love and He left specific instructions to those who were bound involuntarily; Ephesians 6:5: *Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ.* ^[NLT] Colossians 3:22: *You slaves must obey your earthly masters in everything you do. Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. Obey them willingly because of your reverent fear of the Lord.* ^[NLT]**

Proverbs 29:20: *Do you see a man who is hasty in his words? There is more **hope** for a fool than for him.*

- **Sadly, there are those who pontificate out of their ignorance about spiritual matters, to which they have no insight. This is especially true whenever these voices are enhanced by the use of mind-altering drugs, or inebriation. It is easier to share the gospel of Christ, offering _____ to a fool than to someone who speaks without thinking.**

Compiler's note: *As we have learned in past chapters, the "fool" is one who rejects God's free offer of salvation through the cross of His Christ, and the course correcting power of His indwelling Holy Spirit.*

Proverbs 29:21: *He who **pamper**s his slave from childhood, will in the end find him to be a son.*

- **Recently our president spoke as if God's Word endorses slavery - nothing could be farther from the truth. God's concern is toward human behavior and attitudes, not changing the political atmosphere of this world ruled by the prince of darkness. Jesus did not come to deliver Israel from Roman oppression; He came to save the hearts and souls of all who would believe; to renew our minds, change the way we think by the course correction of His Holy Spirit. Earlier we looked at a proverb that addressed involuntary servitude [Proverbs 29:19]; here God's word instructs the slave master to _____ the slave child and they will become like "bond-servants, those who love and respect the master to whom they are accountable. In the perfect government from which Jesus will rule, there is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free man, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 [NASB]**

Proverbs 29:22: *An angry man stirs up strife, and a hot-tempered man abounds in transgression.*

- **A quick-tempered person can be contemptuous, leading them into all kinds of sin. Their _____, ardent disposition provokes others, and it provokes God.**

Proverbs 29:23: *A man's pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.*

- **Pride ends in humiliation; only those who humble themselves shall be exalted by God and receive _____.**

Proverbs 29:24: *He who is a partner with a thief hates his own life; he hears the oath but tells nothing.*

- **Assisting a _____, even by silence, leaves a person vulnerable. You may be punished if you report the crime, but you could be cursed if you don't. Fear God, not man.**

Jesus was emphatic on this point. Luke 12:5 records His words: ***But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after the killing of the body, has power to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him.*** [NIV]

Proverbs 29:25: *The fear of man brings a snare, but he who trusts in the Lord will be exalted.*

- **Most of us have a man-fearing spirit; it is a _____ that often keeps us from speaking the truth out of a fear of being mocked, ridiculed or ostracized by our contemporaries. As in the previous parable, we need to fear the One who has the power to cast us into hell.**

Proverbs 29:26: *Many seek the ruler's favor, but justice for man comes from the Lord.*

- **The wisest course of course, is to look to God, and seek the _____ of the Ruler of rulers. When we fear God rather than men, we will take a stand for righteousness even at the cost of our physical standing and approval.**

Proverbs 29:27: *An unjust man is abominable to the righteous, and he who is upright in the way is abominable to the wicked.* [NASB]

- **Paul stated the principle this way for New Testament believers: *Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?* 2 Cor. 6:14 [NASB] The _____ person abhors the lifestyle of the wicked and will shun their company just as the _____ choose companions of their own persuasion. Christ exposed the wickedness of men, yet He prayed for the wicked when they were crucifying Him. As Christians we should follow in the footsteps of Jesus hating sin, both in ourselves and others, yet not forsake praying for those who are lost. Remember**

though; all that are unholy have a rooted hatred toward godliness.