

Chapter 11, The book of Proverbs

Continues to contrast the Upright and the Wicked. God is speaking through the pen of Solomon directly to you and me.

Proverbs 11:1: A **false** balance is an **abomination** to the LORD, but a just weight is His **delight**.



➤ As you can see by the illustration, it would be easy to substitute a false counter weight and thus cheat a customer.

Cheats go all the way back to the days of Cain, only the methods have changed. In my younger days, when most folks still went to a butcher shop to buy meat, a _____ balance could be illustrated by the word picture of "the butcher having his thumb on the scale." This picture, however, is applicable to all aspects of business. Those who would cheat their trusting customers are an _____ to the Lord. Our God _____s_ in honesty, in all of our business dealings.

Leviticus 19:35-36: *"Do not use dishonest standards when measuring length, weight, or volume. ^[36] Your scales and weights must be accurate. Your containers for measuring dry goods or liquids must be accurate. I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt. ^[NLT]*

Deut. 25:16: **Those who cheat with dishonest weights and measures are detestable to the Lord your God. ^[NLT]**

Proverbs 11:2: *When pride comes, then comes **dishonor**, but with the humble is wisdom.*

- **Pride is something that I think all of us struggle with at some level. Years back when I was a pulpit preacher, my wife used to chastise me for fretting over the head-count of the congregation. I would on occasion fall guilty to assuming the lack of any person's attendance as a personal rejection and that my friends, is pride. The rejection in most instances was the rejection of the gospel; of all that God was doing to befriend the fallen, through the sacrifice of His own Son. My assumption of that rejection _____ed_ Him. When we share the gospel, many will reject it, we mustn't let pride trip us up. Jesus understood this trap of our carnal minds, which is why he said; "*The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me.*" Luke 10:16**
- [NASB] And again in John 15:18 Jesus states: "*If the world hates you, you know that it has hated Me before it hated you.*" [NASB]**

Proverbs 11:3: *The integrity of the upright will guide them, But the crookedness of the treacherous will destroy them.*

- **Some wise person once said; "Your God is where your heart is." There is a great deal of truth in that statement, especially if God's Spirit is indwelling us. We can depend on His Spirit to _____ us in all aspects of our Christian walk. Psalm 62:10: *Don't try to get rich by extortion or robbery. And if your wealth increases, don't make it the center of your life.* [NLT]**

Proverbs 11:4: *Riches do not profit in the day of wrath, but righteousness delivers from death.*

- **God is not opposed to our gaining wealth; He is opposed to ill-gotten gains or allowing _____ to be a distraction from our spiritual growth as we take on the image of Christ in this life. Leviticus 19:13: *"Do not cheat or rob anyone. "Always pay your hired workers promptly.* [NLT] Psalm 37:21: *The wicked borrow and never repay, but the godly are generous givers.* [NLT]**

Proverbs 11:5-6: *The righteousness of the blameless will **smooth** his way, but the wicked will fall by his own wickedness. ⁶ The righteousness of the upright will **deliver** them, but the treacherous will be caught by their own greed.*

- **God will not keep us from trials, for by them we grow and mature; but like the Silversmith, He will not allow so much heat to be applied that it will destroy the silver. When we are in a trial, learn to look to Him for the answer; when we learn the lesson, the outcome will be _____ as God _____s_ us. A popular cliché a few years back was to ask; "What would Jesus do?" That question hasn't lost its validity. James 1:2-4: *Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials, ^[3] knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. ^[4] And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.* [NASB]**

Proverbs 11:7-8: *When a wicked man dies, his expectation will **perish**, and the hope of strong men perishes. ⁸ The righteous is delivered from trouble, but the wicked takes his place*

- **The wicked man relies on his own feeble strength to save him, but at his death, his expectations of heaven**

_____ . Dr. Luke writes to us in Acts 4:12: "*And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men, by which we must be saved.*" [NASB] That name, of course, is the name of Jesus. John 14:6: *Jesus said . . . , "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.*" [NASB]

Proverbs 11:9: *With his mouth, the godless man destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge, the righteous will be delivered.*

- Perhaps Peter is filtering this principle through his own life as he writes in 1 Peter 2:12: *Be careful how you live among your unbelieving neighbors. Even if they accuse you of doing wrong, they will see your honorable behavior, and they will believe and give honor to God when he comes to judge the world.* If we live a righteous life within our sphere of influence, the slander against us will be exposed as inconsistent and untrue, and we will be _____ . [NLT]

Proverbs 11:10-11: *When it goes well with the righteous, the city rejoices, and when the wicked perish, there is joyful shouting.* ¹¹ *By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked, it is torn down.*

- We could compare this to King David's reign and that of King Saul, but perhaps it is more apropos to compare it to the airplane that safely landed on the Hudson River recently.



The whole city, in fact, the whole country _____d_, just as we did when the "Christmas day bomber" was captured. The passengers who

subdued him were celebrated and there was joyful _____ . When we think of a city that is _____ by the corrupt speech of the wicked, we need to look no further than our own Washington D.C., *aka*, the district of criminals.

Proverbs 11:12-13: *He who despises his neighbor lacks sense, but a man of understanding keeps silent. ¹³ He who goes about as a talebearer reveals secrets, but he who is trustworthy conceals a matter.*

➤ **The child of God does not want to develop a reputation of being a gossip. Gossip relates to pride, building one's self up at the expense of others. When a person gains the reputation of being a gossip, everything he says begins to diminish his own person. If we are aware of a situation concerning our _____, there is a biblical remedy, and it is not gossip. 1st John 5:16: *If you see a Christian brother or sister sinning in a way that does not lead to death, **you should pray**, and God will give that person life. . .* [NLT]**

Compiler's rabbit trail: The word gossip has an interesting origin. In the days before the printing press, if persons of wealth wanted information on a certain subject, they would send their servants to the local tavern to hear what was being said or reported on. In effect, the master would say to the servant, "**go sip** at the local pub, then come back and tell me what is going on."

Proverbs 11:14: *Where there is no guidance the people fall, but in abundance of counselors there is victory.*

➤ **Many times, during the course of our lives, Wisdom is concealed by the roar of our emotions; it is times like these that we need godly counsel. Because each person that we**

confide in, will filter the information through the experience of our own lives, the proverbs declare, when seeking human counsel, in an _____ there is victory.

Compiler's meandering: I heard an interesting human proverb the other day that may have application here. "When God closes one door, He will open another." There may be times in the hallway where our emotions drown out the voice of God's indwelling Holy Spirit and we are confounded by which door to enter, unable to hear God over the roar of our emotions, then we should seek out godly human counsel whose ears are tuned to the Word of God.

Proverbs 11:15: *He who is a **guarantor** for a stranger will surely suffer for it, but he who hates being a guarantor is secure.*

➤ The caution here is one about distraction and witness. If you put yourself between a creditor and the debtor, you become vulnerable. If they don't pay, will you become angry and emotionally consumed by a blatant disservice, unable to witness the love of Jesus to that person? If our answer is probably, then perhaps it is better not to become a _____. This proverb has to do with our wealth, not our life, for Jesus said; "**Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.**" John 15:13 [NASB]

In reality, He became surety for each of us. **Even as the Father knows Me and I know the Father, and I lay down My life for the sheep.** John 10:15 [NASB]

Paul acknowledges this surety in 2nd Cor. 8:9: **You know how full of love and kindness our Lord Jesus Christ was. Though he was very rich, yet for your sakes, he became poor, so that by his poverty he could make you rich.** [NLT]

Isaiah's prophetic words are recorded in 53:7 concerning this: *He was oppressed and treated harshly, yet he never said a word. He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. And as a sheep is silent before the shearers, he did not open his mouth.* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 11:16: *A gracious woman attains honor, and ruthless men attain riches.*

➤ I struggled with this one for a moment with this proverb, until I realized it was a translation problem, mostly because language is fluid. Words of time, by popular usage, begin to construct different images in the person's mind. KJV uses the word strong in place of ruthless men, which could be correct if you think of strong as bullying. The Hebrew word is **ariyts**, {*aw-reets'*}; which most often in the Old Testament, is translated as *fearful*, tyrannical, an oppressor who is great in power, terrible, and violent.

The NLT translates the gracious woman as a beautiful woman, which again is ok if you think of beauty in terms of an inward beauty of her character, rather than any objective physical attraction. The Hebrew word translates gracious as **chen**, {*khane*}; which subjectively means *kindness, or favor, pleasant and precious.*

The proverb then becomes a comparison of value to these two opposites, the gracious person values honor more than riches. Remember the biblical mandate; *Wherever your treasure is, there your heart and thoughts will also be.* ^{Luke}

12:34 [NLT] In effect the proverb reads: *Honor is to a delicate woman as valuable as riches are to _____ men.*

These next four proverbs continue along the same thought pattern as the previous.

Proverbs 11:17-21: *The merciful man does himself good, but the cruel man does himself harm. ¹⁸ The wicked earns deceptive wages, but he who sows righteousness gets a true reward. ¹⁹ He who is steadfast in **righteousness** will attain to life, and he who pursues evil will bring about his own death. ²⁰ The **perverse** in heart are an **abomination** to the LORD, but the blameless in their walk are His delight. ²¹ Assuredly, the evil man will not go unpunished, but the descendants of the righteous will be delivered.*

➤ We are presented with a comparison of the fate of the person who has the righteousness of Christ, to the self-willed person who follows the bent of his old nature, the _____ in heart who remains an _____ to our Lord. All who are born again are given a new nature and are indwelt with His Holy Spirit; we walk in the _____ of Christ and will not be condemned. **John 5:24** *"I assure you, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life."* [NLT]

Compiler's note: Christians must never become elitist, for we are not saved and set apart because of what we have done. We are saved because of what Jesus has done for us, through His personal suffering and sacrifice on our behalf. This salvation is obtainable by all who will receive Him. **John 3:16:** *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten*

Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Proverbs 11:22: *As a ring of gold in a swine's snout So is a beautiful woman who lacks discretion.*

- I am amazed at the number of folks that I come in contact with that are enamored by the beautiful women who make up the Hollywood set, especially those that call themselves by the name of Christ. They watch the award shows with Ooh's and Aah's, without regard to the level of indiscretion embraced by this crowd, including drug use, public drunkenness, or a lascivious lifestyle. Like the proverbial pig with a gold _____ in his nose, for many of this crowd, their beauty only goes skin deep. Our society honors them, yet they are without _____.

Proverbs 11:23: *The desire of the righteous is only good, but the expectation of the wicked is wrath.*

- Within our new nature, God has placed *kindness, goodness, and gentleness*. If we, as Christians don't always act in accordance with our new nature, it is because we are still in the school of higher learning. The Spirit within us is still in the process of renewing our flesh-trained minds; bringing it into an agreement with our new nature that _____s_ to do God's will.

Proverbs: 11:24: *There is one who scatters and yet **increases all the more**, and there is one who withholds what is **justly due**, and yet it results only in want.*

- In our society we are trained to think of this in reverse; "when I get rich, then I will be more than generous." The Word of God teaches that the one who gives _____ what

is due is the one that God will bless and prosper. Some will say that God demands a tithe of our increase, and while a tithe is the expected amount _____, God doesn't need our money; rather, He wants us to learn to obediently give out of our little, that He may bless us all the _____.

Proverbs 11:25-26: *The generous man will be prosperous, and he who waters will himself be watered.*

There is a spiritual application here as well as a physical one. The water of course is essential to all life. To the agrarian farmer, failure to water ensures a failure to harvest a crop.

In the spiritual realm, many of our churches have become a spiritual desert. Political, social, and economic messages have replaced the Word of God, and the flock is withering away. Jesus is that living Word of God. John writes in 1:1; *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.* ^[NASB] A few verses later John identifies the Word as the incarnate one: *And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, . . .* ^{John 1:14 [NASB]}

During the course of ministry, Jesus, the Incarnate Word, uses water symbolically as a picture of Himself. John 4:14: ***But the water I give them takes away thirst altogether. It becomes a perpetual spring within them, giving them eternal life.*** ^[NLT] In John 7:37-38, we find Jesus during the climax of the Feast of Tabernacles, the Water Drawing ceremony," standing and shouting to the observing crowds, . . . ***"If you are thirsty, come to me! ^[38] If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within."*** ^[NLT]

- **Ministers who preach the Word of God are never dull, dry or arid; for out of them flow _____ of living water.**
- **Paul cautions young Timothy in 2nd Tim. 4:2, on how not to become dull and dry: *preach the word; be ready in season***

and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. ^[NASB] 2nd Tim. 3:17 renders this explanation; *It is God's way of preparing us in every way, fully equipped for every good thing God wants us to do.* ^[NLT]

Proverbs 11:26: *He who withholds grain, the people will curse him, but blessing will be on the head of him who sells it.*

- **I believe that this proverb deals with hoarding. Many years ago, I lived in an area that was 25 miles removed from any big city stores. It remains to this day, a quaint rural community. We had a great general-purpose (hardware) store, two grocery stores (although to call either a supermarket would be a stretch), a bank, a town doctor, and eventually a drug store. Several years before I moved there, a terrible snowstorm and an extended power outage had occurred. The owner of the hardware store hoarded what generators he had in stock, by raising the price exorbitantly. When I left there twenty years later, that tightfistedness was still hard in the memory of the town, even though the hardware store had since changed owners. All during my time in that area, a cloud remained over that store, and many folks _____d_ and grumbled about the former owner.**

Proverbs 11:27: *He who diligently seeks good seeks favor, but he who seeks evil, evil will come to him.*

- **The principle of this proverb is carried forward into the New Covenant by the Apostle Paul, who writes it this way: Galatians 6:7: *Don't be misled. Remember that you can't ignore God and get away with it. You will always reap what you sow!* ^[NLT] We will find what we _____.**

Proverbs 11:28: *He who trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will flourish like the green leaf.*

Our Lord Jesus translates this parable for us by this illustration found in Luke 12:16-21 . . . **"A rich man had a fertile farm that produced fine crops. [17] In fact, his barns were full to overflowing. [18] So he said, 'I know! I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones. Then I'll have room enough to store everything. [19] And I'll sit back and say to myself, my friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!' [20] 'But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get it all?' [21] 'Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God."** [NLT]

➤ There is nothing wrong with gaining wealth. The error that Jesus makes clear is that only a _____ will trust in those riches ahead of a good relationship with _____.

Proverbs 11:29: *He who troubles his own house will inherit wind, and the foolish will be servant to the wise-hearted.*

➤ The _____ that we bring on our households today may be much different than those of Solomon's day, but the principle holds, the results will be like trying to bottle the wind. In our society, infidelity in the marriage covenant seems to be the major cause of breakups within the family and it is our children who _____ the whirlwind.

Proverbs 11:30: *The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and he who is wise wins souls.*

➤ Nice word picture, *the fruit of the righteous is a tree of life*, but, how does one flesh it out? When the _____ of the Spirit that we read about in an earlier chapter, that is, the character of God's new nature that He has placed within

each of us who are born again, begins to dominate our renewed minds, then our daily walk will exhibit the Christ in us. Our Walk and our spiritual insight will win _____.

Proverbs 11:31: *If the righteous will be rewarded in the earth, How much more the wicked and the sinner!*

➤ **It is what is left unsaid that should be troubling. The righteous will be _____ in this life, here on earth, as well as our eternal heavenly hope. What should be the expectations of the wicked and the sinner? The beer commercial said it best, without realizing the profundity of its little jingle. “Grab all the gusto you can, for you only go around once!”**

If you have questions, comments, or additional insight, please email me. I am GregDeans@gmail.com