

Sermon Notes

Proverbs 17-18-19

August 2, 2026

I. Introduction

Prov 17 centers on family harmony, value of true friendship, emotional self-control, guarding our words.

Prov 18 focuses on the power of our words, the dangers of isolation, and the importance of humility.

Proverbs 19 contrasts wisdom and foolishness... emphasizing character and integrity over wealth.

- a. we aren't the only ones who want to make good choices... the world does too...
PR Newswire - 70% of business leaders prefer a robot make their decisions. 59% admit they don't know what decisions to make multiple times a day. 97% want help from factual data before making decisions. 70% have given up on making decisions because the data was overwhelming.
Scripps News - 22% of Gen Z make choices based on social media posts. 17% of Millennials say cosmic signs from the universe guide their decisions. 36% of adults make decisions on gut feelings.
UMass - steps to make good choices... 1) identify the decision 2) gather information 3) identify alternatives 4) weigh evidence 5) choose among alternatives 6) take action 7) review decision.
Nell Wolfhart/Decision Coach - spend less time, about an hour, thinking about tough decisions. Most people spend way too long and get bogged down in analysis. Make a list of your values and see if the decision aligns. Ask where you want to be in 5-10 years and choose what best fits that.
- b. notice in none of that worldly advice did anyone say anything about God...
Psa 32:8... "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go..."
Prov 2:6... "the Lord gives wisdom... from Him comes knowledge and understanding..."
Prov 3:5-6... "trust in the Lord... lean not on your understanding... He will make path straight..."
Isa 30:20-21... "your ears will hear this command... *this is the way, walk in it...*"
Rom 12:2... "do not conform to the world... be transformed by renewing your mind..."
James 1:5... "if any of you lacks wisdom... ask God... who gives generously to all..."
1John 4:1... "do not believe every spirit... but test them to see if they are from God..."
- c. there is a way that seems right to man... but in the end it only leads to death... beautiful thing is... you get to choose where to get your advice... and the outcome... **pray**...
Deut 30:15-19... "set before you life and prosperity... death and adversity... choose..."
Josh 24:15... "choose for yourselves who you will worship... as for me and my house..."
2Sam 24:12... "the Lord says... *I am offering you three choices, choose one of them...*"
Psa 25:12... "who then, *worships* the Lord... He will teach them the way to choose..."

II. 17-18-19

- a. **Seventeen**
this chapter is overflowing with great advice... Solomon says it bluntly and clearly... it disgusts God when His kids suffer **gsc**... either by themselves or others... negates cross...
Prov 17:1... "better a dry crust eaten in peace... than a house filled with conflict..."
Prov 17:9-10... "love prospers when a fault is forgiven... dwelling on it separates close friends... a rebuke is more effective for a wise man than 100 lashes on a fool's back..."
Prov 17:12... "better to meet a bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his foolishness..."
Prov 17:15... "acquitting the guilty and condemning the righteous... the Lord **detests** them both..."
towebah... *disgusting, abomination...* ** see **Acts 13:39 AMP**; **Rom 8:1**; **1Pet 2:6**...
Prov 17:16... "it is foolish to pay to educate a fool when he has no heart for learning..."
Prov 17:27-28... "a truly wise person uses few words... even fools are thought wise when they keep silent... with their mouths shut, they seem intelligent..."

chapter 17 also gives some great advice on **health and healing**... holding on to anger, bitterness, unforgiveness destroys our health... speaking forgiveness brings healing...
Prov 12:18... "the tongue of the wise is health..."
Prov 15... "the tongue brings healing... good news gives health to the body..."
Prov 17:22 **AMP**... "happy heart is good medicine... and a joyful mind causes healing... but a broken spirit dries up the bones (saps a person's strength)..."
Prov 18:21... "the tongue can bring death or life... bear consequences of our words..."
Eph 4:31-32... "get rid of all bitterness, wrath, anger... forgiving one another as God forgave..."

- b. **Eighteen**
pride and humility are two recurring themes... world tells us to fight to get ahead... do whatever it takes... step on others as you climb the ladder... God has a different idea...
Josh 1:7-9... "meditate on it day and night... then you will prosper and succeed..."
Psa 1... "delight in the Lord's instruction... meditate day and night... whatever he does prospers..."
Prov 18:12... "pride goes before destruction... humility comes before honor..."
1Cor 1:18-25... "the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing... but power of God to those who are being saved... we preach Christ crucified... He is the power and wisdom of God... because God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom... God's weakness is stronger than human strength..."

how do we come to a place of humility... key is **knowing who you are** in Christ... when you know you're His child... righteous, holy, complete, seated... then you can be humble...
Matt 20:28... "Son of Man did not come to be served... but to serve and give His life..."
Luke 14:11... "those who humble themselves will be exalted..."
John 13:3-5... "Jesus **knew** the Father had given Him everything... **knew** He had come from God... **knew** that He was going back to God... so He washed His disciples' feet..."
Rom 8:16... "the Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God's **children**..."
2Cor 5:17-21... "He became sin... we become the **righteousness** of God in Christ..."
Eph 2:6... "He raised us up with Him... **seated us** with Him in heavenly places..."
Phil 2:5-11... "adopt the same attitude as Christ... emptied Himself by being a servant... humbled Himself by being obedient... for this God highly exalted Him... gave Him name above all names..."
Col 2:9-10... "fullness of God's nature dwells in Christ... you are **complete** in Him..."
Heb 10:14... "by one offering... He has **perfected** forever those who are sanctified..."
- c. **Nineteen**
can be a challenge to talk to parents about children's behavior... Solomon doesn't shy away from that issue... very clear that discipline is important... **biblical discipline** is about love and establishing our children in righteousness... not punishment or control...
Prov 3:11-12... "my son, don't reject the Lord's discipline... don't be upset when He corrects you... the Lord disciplines the one he loves... just as a father disciplines his son..."
Prov 13:1... "a wise son responds to his father's discipline... a mocker doesn't listen..."
Prov 19:13... "a foolish son is the ruin of his father..."
Prov 19:18... "discipline and teach your son while there is hope..."
Prov 19:27... "if you stop listening to instruction... you stray from words of knowledge..."

what does Godly discipline look like... spending quality time with kids... listening and valuing them... being consistent so they know what to expect... explaining reason why... needs to be age-appropriate... not just about correcting behavior, but shaping character and values... discipline without love can crush a child's spirit... but when rooted in love and grace it builds them up and points them to the heart of God... discipline is not about creating perfect children... about guiding imperfect children to a perfect Savior... **pray**...
Eph 6:4 **AMP**... "fathers, [do not exasperate your children to the point of resentment with demands that are trivial, unreasonable, humiliating or abusive; nor show favoritism or indifference to any] but bring them up [tenderly and with lovingkindness] in the discipline and instruction of the Lord..."
2Tim 3:16... "all scripture useful... to teach, rebuke, correct, train... **in righteousness**..."