



Proverbs 16

To humans belong the plans of the heart, but from the Lord comes the proper answer of the tongue. 2 All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the Lord. 3 Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. 4

The Lord works out everything to its proper end—even the wicked for a day of disaster. 5 The Lord detests all the proud of heart. Be sure of this: They will not go unpunished. 6 Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the Lord evil is avoided. 7 When the Lord takes pleasure in anyone's way, he causes their enemies to make peace with them. 8 Better a little with righteousness than much gain with injustice. 9 In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps. 10 The lips of a king speak as an oracle, and his mouth does not betray justice.

11 Honest scales and balances belong to the Lord; all the weights in the bag are of his making. 12 Kings detest wrongdoing, for a throne is established through righteousness. 13 Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value the one who speaks what is right. 14 A king's wrath is a messenger of death, but the wise will appease it.

15 When a king's face brightens, it means life; his favor is like a rain cloud in spring. 16 How much better to get wisdom than gold, to get insight rather than silver! 17 The highway of the upright avoids evil; those who guard their ways preserve their lives. 18 Pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall. 19 Better to be lowly in spirit along with the oppressed than to share plunder with the proud. 20 Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, [a] and blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord. 21 The wise in heart are called discerning, and gracious words promote instruction. [b] 22 Prudence is a fountain of life to the prudent, but folly brings punishment to fools. 23 The hearts of the wise make their mouths prudent, and their lips promote instruction. [c] 24 Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones. 25 There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death. 26 The appetite of laborers works for them; their hunger drives them on. 27 A scoundrel plots evil, and on their lips it is like a scorching fire. 28 A perverse person stirs up conflict, and a gossip separates close friends. 29 A violent person entices their neighbor and leads them down a path that is not good. 30 Whoever winks with their eye is plotting perversity; whoever purses their lips is bent on evil. 31 Gray hair is a crown of splendor; it is attained in the way of righteousness. 32 Better a patient person than a warrior, one with self-control than one who takes a city. 33 The lot is cast into the lap, but its every decision is from the Lord.

Devotion:

"Commit to the Lord whatever you do and he will establish your plans." Wow. That is a bold and uplifting statement. God has a plan for each one of us. He has a plan to lift us up closer to Him and to keep us safe in his care. He had a plan even in the first few chapters of Genesis when He promises that Jesus will come right after Adam and Eve fall into temptation.

The reading continues in verse six where it states, "Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for." We see once again that good news that Jesus brings us. As we continue through the church season of Lent, which usually very Law heavy and not always uplifting, we get to see what is to come on Easter morning. We see that plan that God had for His Son come to fruition when Jesus rises from dead and takes our sin. Only a deep act of love could do such an amazing thing. We have an amazing God who gave us his only Son to die for us sinners, and continues to hold us up as fall down everyday. He feeds us everyday through the Holy Spirit, and shows us unending love and care continually. When we put our trust in God we see life differently. We see less stress, frustration, and less hurt. That doesn't mean it goes away entirely, but it means we have a Father who will carry us through the hardships we endure with a promise of love and care at the end.

Prayer: Lord Jesus thank you for upholding me everyday in your sacrifice. Thank you for dying for me, a sinner. Thank you for continually bringing me back to you when I fall down. Help me to remember what you do for me during this Lenten season as we prepare to celebrate your rising. Amen.

Prayer Journal: How have you remembered God's love during this Lenten season?

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