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*“Equipping believers for **growth** and **service** by encountering God through his word.”*

# The Bible for Today

September 21, 2009



# Knowledge and Wisdom

## ■ Knowledge

...expertise, and skills acquired by a person through experience or education; the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject (*Oxford English Dictionary*).

...is also used to mean the confident understanding of a subject with the ability to use it for a specific purpose if appropriate.

## ■ Wisdom

...is personal and concrete—how we behave or act; not just abstract or theoretical.

...applying God's truth to our lives for the decisions we make daily and throughout life.

...is not IQ, cleverness or age alone; **it is a matter of orientation to God**, out of which come the ability to please him—of asking God to help us make godly decisions.

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# Types of Characters/ People One Encounters

- The Fool
- The Hot Head
- The Proud
- The Sluggard
- The Drunkard
- The Greedy
- The Mischief Maker
- The Liar, Flatterer, Whisperer
- The Righteous and the Wicked

# Proverbs...Types of Characters

## Sluggard

26:14, 13, 15

22:13

19:14, 15

10:26

13:4

16:26

21:25

20:4, 13

12:27

26:16

12:24

15:19

18:19

24:30, 31, 32, 33, 34

6:6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11

## Drunkard

20:1

23:29, 30,

31, 32,

33, 34,

35

23:19, 20, 21

## Greedy

27:20

28:25

23:6

23:7

23:8

11:24

11:25

## Mischief Maker

24:8

12:20, 5, 10, 6

16:30, 29, 27

18:1

28:5

21:8, 29, 10

13:5, 2

11:9, 30

29:27, 10, 7

15:28

10:11, 6, 32,

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## Liar, Flatterer, Whisperer

12:22, 19

26:28, 23, 22,  
20

29:5

18:8

16:28

11:13, 12

20:19

10:18

25:23

17:4

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# The Sluggard

- Humorous; we have all been sluggards “just five more minutes of sleep!”
- Many excuses not to work; eat, nap, rest, eat (an ongoing cycle); keep putting off, not getting started.
- Sluggard does want a better life, but spends days dreaming, not working; has will to do better but not the will for hard work.
- A desire to get rewards, without work and believes he will get them.
- Consequences: poverty and want, loss of independence, frustration of getting nowhere
- The diligent: “keen-sharp,” works even in adversity

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# The Drunkard

- [Prov. 20:21](#), sets the tone for passages
- A quiet person under the influence of strong drink can become quarrelsome, a menace, violent.
- [Prov. 23:29-35](#); wine can be seductive; v. 34 “like one who clings to or lies on top of a rigging,” [tossing of a boat].
- In both OT/ NT not abstinence, a moderation; “use and abuse is fine line, easily and imperceptibly crossed.”
- *Inconvenient Truth About Alcohol*: “Was alcohol involved?”

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# The Greedy

- “eyes” lead to acts; an attitude [envy] “If your eye causes you to sin...”
- Hospitality and generosity are hollow because one watches what the guests consume.
- An obsession to get all one can from others; scheming, no concern (cf., James 4:1-2)

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# The Mischief Maker

- Literally “master of schemes.”
- A good planner focused on/ devises bad ends.
- “Counsels, skillful, devises”/ same words used of wise used of schemer– pulls people in (discerning).
- Schemer is harmful, hostile, violates the rights of others, even physical harm (violence).
- Schemer uses hurtful words; gossip, slander (concealing motives)

# The Liar, Flatterer, Whisperer

Commonality: Mischief makers who use their tongues in spreading mischief/ schemes.

- Liar: will be found out in time; faithfulness and truthfulness (Hebrew *emunah*)— “firm, solid, reliable.”
- OT: truth is not told but done; not facts, details (often given bluntly and with insensitivity), but honesty, dependable, trustworthy in deed and act with care for others (Eph. 4- “speak truth in love”).

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# The Liar, Flatterer, Whisperer

- Flatterer: Hebrew “flatterer” related to the word seductive— smooth words (Prov. 26:28)
- Prov. 26:33— smooth words for personal gain; covers our intent.
- Whisperer (gossip): telling half truths; poisons relationships, creates conflict, betrays people; ruins reputations.
- Prov. 18:8: commentary on human nature— people find gossip tasty (expect the worst); once digested, the words about the person cannot be erased/ forgotten, taint what is believed about the person.

# Proverbs...the Righteous and Wicked

- Proverbs:

10:3, 9, 16, 24, 25, 28, 29, 30, 31

11:3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 18, 19, 20, 21, 23, 31

12:2, 3, 7, 12, 13, 21, 26, 28

13:6, 9, 21, 22, 25

14:9, 11, 14, 19, 32

15:6, 9, 26

16:4, 17

17:20

18:10

21:7, 12, 15, 18

22:5, 8

24:1, 2, 15, 16, 19, 20

25:26

26:27

28:1, 10, 18

29:6

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# The Righteous and Wicked

- Two paths that differentiate in [lifestyle](#) and [destination](#).
- Righteous tend to prosper; wicked tend to suffer; by choices made every day.
- The righteous walks with unfaltering, guarded steps; watches for the pitfalls in life.
- God protects the righteous; they are on solid ground. Can bring song and rejoicing.

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# The Bible for Today

- Teach our children to understand that work is a normal part of life.
- Ask a question as a part of the lesson: “Was alcohol involved?”
- Once more—discerning, watching for those who might be scheming to pull us in.
- Don’t listen to or engage in gossip.
  
- [Ephesians 4:14-5:2.](#)