

Joyful in Hope – 62 – May 29, 2020
(thoughts and ideas to encourage and challenge)

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.”
Romans 12:12

My daily Bible reading has taken me into Proverbs this week. Seems to me that we could all use a little godly wisdom right about now. Here’s Chapter Eleven:

- 11 The Lord detests dishonest scales,
but accurate weights find favor with him.
- 2 When pride comes, then comes disgrace,
but with humility comes wisdom.
- 3 The integrity of the upright guides them,
but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.
- 4 Wealth is worthless in the day of wrath,
but righteousness delivers from death.
- 5 The righteousness of the blameless makes their paths straight,
but the wicked are brought down by their own wickedness.
- 6 The righteousness of the upright delivers them,
but the unfaithful are trapped by evil desires.
- 7 Hopes placed in mortals die with them;
all the promise of^[a] their power comes to nothing.
- 8 The righteous person is rescued from trouble,
and it falls on the wicked instead.
- 9 With their mouths the godless destroy their neighbors,
but through knowledge the righteous escape.
- 10 When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices;
when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy.
- 11 Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted,
but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.
- 12 Whoever derides their neighbor has no sense,
but the one who has understanding holds their tongue.
- 13 A gossip betrays a confidence,
but a trustworthy person keeps a secret.
- 14 For lack of guidance a nation falls,
but victory is won through many advisers.
- 15 Whoever puts up security for a stranger will surely suffer,
but whoever refuses to shake hands in pledge is safe.
- 16 A kindhearted woman gains honor,
but ruthless men gain only wealth.
- 17 Those who are kind benefit themselves,
but the cruel bring ruin on themselves.
- 18 A wicked person earns deceptive wages,
but the one who sows righteousness reaps a sure reward.
- 19 Truly the righteous attain life,
but whoever pursues evil finds death.
- 20 The Lord detests those whose hearts are perverse,
but he delights in those whose ways are blameless.

²¹ Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished,
but those who are righteous will go free.

²² Like a gold ring in a pig's snout
is a beautiful woman who shows no discretion.

²³ The desire of the righteous ends only in good,
but the hope of the wicked only in wrath.

²⁴ One person gives freely, yet gains even more;
another withholds unduly, but comes to poverty.

²⁵ A generous person will prosper;
whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

²⁶ People curse the one who hoards grain,
but they pray God's blessing on the one who is willing to sell.

²⁷ Whoever seeks good finds favor,
but evil comes to one who searches for it.

²⁸ Those who trust in their riches will fall,
but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.

²⁹ Whoever brings ruin on their family will inherit only wind,
and the fool will be servant to the wise.

³⁰ The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,
and the one who is wise saves lives.

³¹ If the righteous receive their due on earth,
how much more the ungodly and the sinner!