

## *Proverbs Week #86 (10:1)*

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*"The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a father glad, but a foolish son is a grief to his mother."*

*Proverbs 10:1*

When I read this first verse in chapter ten of the book of Proverbs I am reminded of what the Torah commands sons and daughters.

*"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you."*  
*Deuteronomy 5:16*

The relationship between parent and child is so important to God that He connects long life and the promise of living in the land to those who would be faithful to His teaching (command) in this area. When Moses wrote and taught the words above, those who came out of Egypt as children were now the adults about to enter the Land. His teaching would have likely been repeated, as parents impressed these words upon their children's hearts and minds. I could imagine a parent telling their child, "Do not forget this teaching! If you obey it you will prolong your life and prosper in the Land." This practical advice would not be based upon the guarantee of the parent but upon God Himself who was the source of this instruction.

This is the same for us today! We hear what God teaches and we impress His words on our children's hearts and minds. We remind them that learning God's truth and becoming wise results in God being faithful to His words. Those who cry out to God for wisdom will find God prepared to give wisdom (James 1:5). Those who seek the Lord will find Him (Matt 7:7). Those who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved (Joel 2:32, Acts 2:21, Rom 10:13). In each of these examples, the advice a parent gives their child will find its reward not from the parent but from God who will supply it.

Being wise in God's eyes is different in many ways to the wisdom of the world. You may have heard it said that "knowledge is power," but I think that many of those who say this do not understand where true power comes from. Many in Yeshua's day expected the Messiah to be a great warrior and to show His power in defeating the Romans who ruled in the land. The Messiah did come in power. However, His use of God's power had a different result than what most people expected. The gospel and wisdom of God is powerful and it leads to salvation (Rom 1:16, 2 Tim 3:15). To many in the world this is foolishness, but God says to those who believe it is the source of eternal life (1 Cor 1:21-23).

Are you ready as adults, young people, and children for the lessons that are ahead of us? I have spoken to a few people who are thinking about sorting through the upcoming verses and organizing them into different tools. Their idea is to attach different verses to different tools - a file for those things that encourage friendship, a filter to teach about sorting through 'mixed messages,' or a hammer as a reminder that something needs to be done with this information (like applying it properly – hitting a nail and not your thumb). If you have other ideas of how to integrate these lessons into your personal and family life, please share them with me. It will make a difference in how we learn together.

*"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord."*  
*Ephesians 6:4*