

## Proverbs Week #98 (10:30-32)

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*“The righteous will never be shaken, but the wicked will not dwell in the land. The mouth of the righteous brings forth wisdom, but the perverse tongue will be cut off. The lips of the righteous know what is acceptable, but the mouth of the wicked, what is perverse.” Prov. 10:30-32*

All three verses in this week’s family lesson mention “the righteous” and teach us essential lessons concerning this individual. The first verse tells us that their place in the land is secure and the second two describe their mouth and lips. The tsadiq צדיק in Hebrew is the righteous one. In the midst of conflicting viewpoints, the scriptures teach us that a right way exists. Similar to being wise, our goal in life should be to be righteous; not based upon our own ways but on God’s ways.

*“Be not wise in your own eyes; fear the LORD, and turn away from evil.” Proverbs 3:7*

*“For, being ignorant of the righteousness of God, and seeking to establish their own, they did not submit to God’s righteousness.” Romans 10:3*

We are to be wise and righteous. It is not enough to tell people we are righteous. Saying, “I am a genius!” may be true if we have solved a difficult problem or accomplished a great task, but even if we are truly geniuses this doesn’t mean that we are wise or righteous. Being wise and righteous is not a matter of high or low IQ but upon a true work of God making our hearts right with Him. The evidence of His work in us will be in how we live our lives, and how we treat one another, our neighbors, and even our enemies.

**To Learn:** I need to learn that when it comes to knowing what is really true in this world that there are standards of right and wrong. I continue to learn as I walk with God. I am not always the best kind of student. Why is it that we sometimes rationalize away what we know to be true? The process of learning changes my internal responses. I no longer can accept as false what God has demonstrated through His love is Truth. To be right I must learn to submit my ways (including my thoughts, the way I talk about things, and the way I act) to my King. He is the authority that I need to learn to respect more than any other.

**To Discern:** As a parent, I am not automatically right just by virtue of my position as a father. How I live my life will determine if the fruit I bear is from God’s Spirit or the result of my fleshly pride (Galatians 5:22-26). If I have as my goal to live a life of wisdom with the hope that future generations will also walk in God’s ways, then I must look to my own life and work to bring forth the harvest of God’s spiritual fruit. While today’s verses focus on my mouth and my lips, I need to remember that my deeds often communicate louder than my words. Nonetheless, words are very important!

**To Receive:** To embrace this lesson I will need to consider in my heart God’s priorities. Yeshua teaches, “Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness...” (Matthew 6:33). When I start to worry about my life and what I will do to meet my basic needs (clothing, food, shelter, etc.), then taking to heart Yeshua’s words reminds me that God has a desire to rule in this world and that rulership can start with me. I need to remember that every blessing I say expresses this reality, “...Oh Lord our God. King of the Universe.” We can strengthen one another if we embrace this reality together.

**To Impart:** Our verses from Proverbs proclaim that the righteous will never be shaken. Have you ever had something stuck on you and no matter how hard you shook it would not come off? The promise of living in the land connects God’s people to His plans and His provisions. Even when we are not in the land we can see the importance of trusting that God will complete the work He has begun. God’s requirements for bringing sacrifices first to the Tabernacle and later to the Temple would require that He also faithfully bless the harvest and flocks. He commanded the people to obey and then He gave the provisions He required for the people to be right in His eyes. The same is true for us as it was for them. This multi-generational plan of God requires every generation to trust in Him. To proclaim His truth with our lips. The things we are to say to God and to others can be acceptable in God’s sight. He can teach us His ways!