

Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 135 – False Balances Through Surety For A Stranger (Proverbs 11:1-15)

1. What is God's view of a false balance [scale]?

God does not appreciate those who try to cheat, lie, and steal by false measurements: *"A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight"* (**Proverbs 11:1**).

* **Leviticus 19:35-36, Deuteronomy 25:13-16, Proverbs 16:11, Proverbs 20:10, Proverbs 20:23, and Hosea 12:7.**

2. What comes with pride?

"When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom" (**Proverbs 11:2**; cf. **Proverbs 16:18-19** and **Luke 18:10-14**).

3. What guides the upright and what destroys the transgressors?

"The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them... The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness" (**Proverbs 11:3; 5**).

* Integrity and righteousness of the upright (**Psalms 26:1** and **Proverbs 13:6**).

* The perverseness of transgressors (**Proverbs 28:18**; cf. **Proverbs 21:7**).

4. Will riches be able to save someone's soul?

No: *"Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but ..."* (**Proverbs 11:4a**.; cf. **Job 36:18-19, Psalms 49:6-7, Proverbs 10:2, Matthew 16:26, and James 5:1-3**).

5. What delivers the upright?

"(4b.) ...but righteousness delivereth from death. (5) The righteousness of the perfect shall direct his way: but the wicked shall fall by his own wickedness. (6) The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness" (**Proverbs 11:4b.-6**).

* Righteousness delivers from death (**Proverbs 12:28** and **I Peter 4:17-19**).

6. What happens to the expectation [hope] of a wicked man when he dies?

His hope is gone: *"When a wicked man dieth, his expectation shall perish: and the hope of unjust men perisheth"* (**Proverbs 11:7**).

* The wicked now suffer after death (**Luke 16:19-31**), but the righteous has hope in death (**Proverbs 14:32** and **Luke 23:43**).

7. When the righteous were delivered out of trouble, what happened to the wicked?

"The righteous is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked cometh in his stead"
(**Proverbs 11:8**).

* This was true when God's hand was miraculously involved in the affairs of His people (**Esther 6:4; 7:3-10, Proverbs 21:18, and Daniel 6:23-24**).

8. What harm does a hypocrite bring to his or her neighbor?

"An hypocrite with his mouth destroyeth his neighbour: but through knowledge shall the just be delivered" (**Proverbs 11:9**; cf. **Job 34:30** and **Matthew 15:1-14**).

9. Do righteous individuals bring good things to the cities they live in?

Yes: *"(10) When it goeth well with the righteous, the city rejoiceth: and when the wicked perish, there is shouting. (11) By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked"* (**Proverbs 11:10-11**).

* **Genesis 18:20-32, Ecclesiastes 9:15, Jeremiah 5:1, and Matthew 5:13-16**.

10. Do wise individuals despise their neighbors?

No, those void of wisdom despise their neighbors: *"He that is void of wisdom despiseth his neighbour: but a man of understanding holdeth his peace"* (**Proverbs 11:12**).

* Wise individuals love their neighbors, because God commands such (**Leviticus 19:18, Matthew 19:19, Romans 13:9-10, Galatians 5:14, and James 2:8**). It is wise to obey that which God commands (**Proverbs 10:8**).

11. What is the difference between a talebearer and a faithful spirit?

"A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter"
(**Proverbs 11:13**).

* It's not good to be a talebearer (**Leviticus 19:16, Proverbs 20:19, and Proverbs 26:20-22**).

* We certainly should not break confidences (**Proverbs 25:9**).

12. Is it a good thing when faithful counselors are not among the people?

No: *"Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety"* (**Proverbs 11:14**; cf. **Proverbs 15:22; 24:6**).

* Providing the counsel is godly (**Job 32:1-14, John 18:14, and Acts 13:6-10**).

13. Is it wise to be a surety [one taking responsibility for the debt of another] for a stranger?

No: *"He that is surety for a stranger shall smart for it: and he that hateth suretiship is sure"* (**Proverbs 11:15**).

* See also: **Proverbs 6:1-5, Proverbs 17:18, and Proverbs 22:26-27**.