

# Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

*Part 148 – Preparations Of The Heart Through Just Measures (Proverbs 16:1-11)*

1. Should we look to our hearts when we speak or should we look to the will of God (PLEASE NOTICE THE INFORMATION BELOW BEFORE ANSWERING)?

- In studying Proverbs 16:1 it did not make biblical sense to conclude that God prepares the hearts of men. Other Scriptures do not support that conclusion (II Chronicles 12:13-14, Ezra 7:10, and Luke 8:11-15). I then found other Scriptures that made the text even more obscure (i.e. Psalms 10:16-17). Doing a word study does not help, for the Hebrew word, “מַעֲרָךְ; ma`arak” (Strong’s # 4633), only appears this one time in the Scriptures.
- Yet, looking to other translations of this text did help and certainly adds clarity that agrees with other Scriptures. Notice these translations:
  - ❖ “The plans of the heart belong to man; But the answer of the tongue is from Jehovah” (ASV).
  - ❖ “The preparations of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the LORD” (NKJV).
- It certainly appears that the KJV is not as clear in translating this verse as the ASV and NKJV are. We’ll discuss some more along these lines when we look at Proverbs 16:9.

2. Is it hard for people to see that their own ways are wrong?

3. What must we do to have our thoughts established?

4. Did God create everything for us or for Himself?

5. What is God's view of prideful people?

6. How do mercy, truth, and fear help us to be saved?

7. What benefit can pleasing the Lord bring about concerning our enemies?

8. Should a righteous individual be more content with a little than the unrighteous will be with great revenues?

9. Taking into consideration all that we learned in Proverbs 16:1, should we trust our hearts or the Lord to direct our steps?

10. If a king has a divine sentence [oracle] in his lips, will he transgress in judgment?

11. Is honesty in our business dealings something that matters to God?