

## Having A Basic Understanding of Some Old Testament Truths

Part 156 – The Poor With Integrity Through Punishment For False Witnesses (Proverbs 19:1-9)

1. Is it better to be poor with integrity or to be a fool with perverse lips?

*“Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool” (Proverbs 19:1).*

- *“Better is the poor that walketh in his uprightness, than he that is perverse in his ways, though he be rich” (Proverbs 28:6).*
- Consider what we can learn from SOME of the verses that use the same word as translated “integrity” [Strong’s # 8537; “tom”] in the Old Testament (**I Kings 9:4**, **Psalms 25:21**, **Psalms 101:2** [perfect heart], **Proverbs 2:7** [uprightly], **Proverbs 10:9** [uprightly], and **Proverbs 20:7**).
- Remember these Scriptures: *“Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith... Better is a little with righteousness than great revenues without right” (Proverbs 15:16 and Proverbs 16:8).*
- Always remember the value of our souls (**Matthew 16:26**).

2. Is it good to be without knowledge?

*“Also, that the soul be without knowledge, it is not good...” (Proverbs 19:2).*

- **Hosea 4:1-6**, **John 8:31-32**, **Ephesians 5:17**, **Colossians 3:10**, and **II Peter 3:18**.
- We need knowledge to know how to please God (**Ephesians 5:10** and **Colossians 3:17**).
- To teach others (**Matthew 28:19**), we need knowledge (**Ecclesiastes 12:9**, **I Peter 3:15**, and **I Peter 4:11**).
- For the interest of discussion, knowledge does have a negative effect (**Ecclesiastes 1:18** and **Revelation 10:9-10**; cf. **Romans 9:1-3**).

3. How does Proverbs 1:16 and Proverbs 14:29 apply to our current study?

The errors that come through not weighing the spiritual impact of decisions for that one is in a hurry to do wrong: *“...and he that hasteth with his feet sinneth” (Proverbs 19:2).*

- Rather than rushing into things (**Proverbs 21:5**, **Proverbs 25:8**, **Proverbs 28:22**, and **Ecclesiastes 7:9**), we should weigh our decisions and the impact of those decisions (**Psalms 119:59**, **Proverbs 4:23-27**, and **Ephesians 5:15**).

4. What perverts the way of man?

*“The **foolishness of man** perverteth his way: and his heart fretteth against the LORD” (Proverbs 19:3).*

- **Proverbs 9:6**, **Jeremiah 4:22**, and **Galatians 3:1-3**.

5. Whether right or wrong, does wealth make friends?

Yes: *"Wealth maketh many friends; but the poor is separated from his neighbor"* (**Proverbs 19:4**).

- **Proverbs 10:15** and **Proverbs 19:4**.
- While it is true that wealth makes many friends, it is not right (**James 2:1-12**).

6. Will false witnesses [liars] escape any consequences for their lies?

No, they'll be punished: *"A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape... A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish"* (**Proverbs 19:5; 9**).

- **Proverbs 21:28** and **Revelation 21:8**.

7. Whether right or wrong, does one who gives gifts gain friends?

Yes: *"Many will intreat the favour of the prince: and every man is a friend to him that giveth gifts"* (**Proverbs 19:6**).

- Giving gifts makes friends (**Proverbs 17:8**, **Proverbs 18:16**, and **Proverbs 21:14**).
- Gift [bribe] taking is not good (**Exodus 23:8**).
- People do want to be in the favor of leadership (**Proverbs 19:12** and **Proverbs 29:26**).

8. How hard it is for a poor man to maintain relationships?

Hard: *"All the brethren of the poor do hate him: how much more do his friends go far from him? he pursueth them with words, yet they are wanting to him"* (**Proverbs 19:7**).

- This should not happen (**Deuteronomy 15:7-11**, **Matthew 25:31-46**, and **James 2:14-16**).
- Those who turn their backs on the poor will suffer consequences (**Proverbs 21:13**).
- It is even sadder that one who is poor would pursue his or her brethren and still be ignored (**Leviticus 25:35**).

9. Why do we want to be a people of wisdom and understanding?

For the love of our souls and to find good: *"He that getteth wisdom loveth his own soul: he that keepeth understanding shall find good"* (**Proverbs 19:8**).

- Get wisdom (**Proverbs 8:33**, **Proverbs 16:16**, and **Matthew 10:16**) if you love your soul (**Proverbs 3:35** and **Proverbs 8:35-36**).
- Wisdom and understanding are tied together (**Proverbs 4:5-7**, **Proverbs 17:24**, **Proverbs 23:23**, **Proverbs 24:3**, and **Ephesians 5:17**).
- Make sure wisdom is not based in your own thinking (**Proverbs 3:7** and **Proverbs 21:30**).
- Don't allow wisdom to cause self-glory (**Jeremiah 9:23**; cf. **I Corinthians 3:18**).
- Get understanding (**Proverbs 4:1**, **Proverbs 13:15**, **Proverbs 16:22**, **Matthew 15:10**, **Ephesians 4:18**, and **I John 5:20**).