

## **“Insights Into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”**

**Proverbs 18:15-18**

**October 30, 2024**

### **1. Diligently Seek the Knowledge of God – 15**

Some would read this proverb and take it to be urging all people in general to keep on learning. But the term “intelligent heart” points to this speaking of a believer growing in the knowledge of God and knowledge that comes from God (in His Word)

“intelligent heart” – the heart of the non-believer is “deceitful above all things, and desperately sick” – Jeremiah 17:9.

The believer is given a new heart in regeneration.

The new heart makes it possible for a person to receive God’s truth – 1 Corinthians 2:4-16

“acquires knowledge” – we aren’t to be a person who continues with a spiritual diet of milk and doesn’t take in solid food – Hebrews 5:11-14

2 Corinthians 3:18

Proverbs 1:5

“seeks knowledge” – wisdom isn’t arrogant and doesn’t think “I know it all”. Wisdom never tires of learning more.

“Learn to distill what a passage is saying, and pray it back to the Lord – whether in petition, thanksgiving, Praise, for frank uncertainty. In time your Bible reading will so be linked with your praying that the two Will not always be differentiable.” D. A. Carson, *For the Love of God, Vol 1*

### **2. Use Gifts with Distinction – 16**

“gift” – as we look at this proverb it would be easy to see this as a bribe. But the Hebrew word is different than the one translated bribe in other verses in the Old Testament (such as Proverbs 17:8, 23, etc.)

This word is similar but a little different – it’s not an out and out bribe but it is much more subtle. There are times when we give a gift not as a bribe but with the hope that it will prompt the receiver to be favorable to us in some way.

“makes room for him” – accomplishes things for him

“before the great” – many have used a bribe to get access to someone in power.

“The line of demarcation between a “bribe” and a legitimate “gift” is often hard to discern. The bribe generally works (17:8), but it encourages the wicked in their ways and usually corrupts justice (17:23). The “gift” also pragmatically achieves its purpose (19:6; 21:14) but the repercussions are felt even in one’s own family”. John Kitchen

Examples of such “innocent gifts”:

- Eliezer, Abraham’s servant gave Rebekkah gold jewelry and was welcomed into Laban’s home – Genesis 24:22-23
- Jacob’s gifts to Esau because he wasn’t sure how his brother would receive him since he stole his birthright – Genesis 32:13-20
- Jacob’s gift to “the man” who held the key to the food in Egypt that his family desperately needed – Genesis 43:11
- Abigail’s gift to Davod = 1 Samuel 25:18-28

- Jesse's gift to the army commander of his sons – 1 Samuel 17:18

The motive behind a gift is important.

Beasley: "We should use discretion and be sure of our motives for bestowing a gift on someone are innocent and not for some hidden selfish reason"

Kitchen: "We may never bribe anyone and must approach with the greatest caution the giving or receiving of anything that may even approach such a perversion of justice. In certain social situations, a gift may be legitimate, though not always completely disinterested. Walk carefully here."

### **3. Listen to Both Sides of the Story – 17**

"seems right" – 1<sup>st</sup> evidence always sounds right until further investigation takes place

"examines him" – means to search and investigate – describes an intensive searching probe for the truth

The Law demanded that judges impartially hear both sides of a dispute – Deuteronomy 1:16

This is also essential for:

- Parents before disciplining a child
- Counselors
- Pastors
- Bosses
- Anyone who deals with people

Examples:

- Potiphar – Genesis 39:7-20
- Saul and Samuel – 1 Samuel 15:7-24
- David, Ziba and Mephibosheth – 2 Samuel 16:1-4; 19:26-30

Matthew 7:12

### **4. Seek and Accept God's Will in Controversies - 18**

"the lot" – the subject of lots was introduced in 16:33 to remind us that the sovereignty of God extends over all things – even the outcome of casting lots.

Proverbs 16 has much to say about God's sovereignty – v. 1, 3, 4, 9, 33

"quarrels" – casting lots was an effective way to end a dispute in the Old and New Testaments  
Acts 1:23-26

"decides" – literally the Hebrew is "to separate". When lots are cast warring factions can be peacefully separated and brought to a peaceful reconciliation. Illustration: Paul and Barnabas

"contenders" – today we have Scripture and the "renewed mind" concept

We need to turn to:

- The principles of God's Word
- The guidance of the Holy Spirit
- The counsel of mature believers – 1 Corinthians 6:1-8