



INSIDE

MINISTRY UPDATE

Mike Shreve
California Ministry Leader 2

VERSE OF THE WEEK

Proverbs 2:20 3

ABOUT

Capitol Ministries® 8



Five Biblical Characteristics That Define a Good Person



“King Solomon and the Iron Worker,” Christian Schussele, 1863, Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Art.

Ofentimes on the Hill we refer to another as a “good person.” That is a nice thing to say concerning a colleague (keeping in the back of our minds of course, that everyone is fallen and possesses a sinful nature). If we are going to use that term as does Solomon in the book of Proverbs, what specifically does he say should characterize a “good person?” Let us discover this week all that Solomon has to say about this and make application to your life; be thinking as we study of at least one thing God wants to remove from your life, and another (from His book) that He wants you to add to your life.

Ralph Drollinger

BIBLE STUDY SPONSORS

CABINET MEMBERS

- Mike Pence, VP: DC*
- Mike Pompeo, SOS: DC*
- Mark Meadows, COS: DC*
- Jim Bridenstine, NASA: DC*
- Ben Carson, HUD: DC*
- Betsy DeVos, DOE: DC*
- Sommy Perdue, USDA: DC*
- Russell Vought, OMB: DC*
- Alex Acosta, Fmr Sec DOL: DC*
- Rick Perry, Fmr Sec DOE: DC*
- Tom Price, Fmr Sec HHS: DC*
- Jeff Sessions, Fmr AOG: DC*

SENATORS

- Marsba Blackburn: TN*
- Bill Cassidy: LA*
- Kevin Cramer: ND*
- Steven Daines: MT*
- Joni Ernst: IA*
- Cindy Hyde-Smith: MS*
- James Lankford: OK*
- David Perdue: GA*
- Mike Rounds: SD*
- Tim Scott: SC*
- John Thune: SD*

REPRESENTATIVES

- Robert Aderholt: AL*
- Rick Allen: GA*
- Don Bacon: NE*
- Michael Bost: IL*
- Ted Budd: NC*
- John Carter: TX*
- Michael Conaway: TX*
- Rick Crawford: AR*
- Ron Estes: KA*
- Bill Flores: TX*
- Greg Gianforte: MT*
- Louie Gohmert: TX*
- Tom Graves: GA*
- Glenn Grothman: WI*
- Kevin Hern: OK*
- George Holding: NC*
- Bill Huizenga: MI*
- Bill Johnson: OH*
- Dusty Johnson: SD*
- Jim Jordan: OH*
- Doug Lamborn: CO*
- Kevin McCarthy: CA*
- Gary Palmer: AL*
- Bill Posey: FL*
- Cathy McMorris Rodgers: WA*
- David Rouzer: NC*
- John Rutherford: FL*
- Glenn Thompson: PA*
- Scott Tipton: CO*
- Tim Walberg: MI*
- Mark Walker: NC*
- Jackie Walorski: IN*
- Randy Weber: TX*
- Daniel Webster: FL*
- Bruce Westerman: AR*
- Roger Williams: TX*
- Joe Wilson: SC*
- Rob Wittman: VA*
- Steve Womack: AR*
- Rob Woodall: GA*
- Ted Yoho: FL*

WEEKLY BIBLE STUDIES

- White House Senior Staff:* Thursdays 7am, OMB Conference Room, hot breakfast served.
- Cabinet Members:* Wednesdays 7am, location undisclosed, refreshments served.
- Senate Members:* Tuesdays 8am, rotating offices, hot breakfast served.
- House Members:* Thursdays 7:45am, The Capitol Hill Club, hot breakfast served.

The views expressed in each Bible study are those of the author, and do not necessarily reflect the position of any individual Bible Study Sponsor.



■ MINISTRY UPDATE

Mike Shreve

California Ministry Leader

Before he left office this year, California Senator Mike Morrell sponsored a resolution to honor Capitol Ministries and ministry leader Pastor Mike Shreve for bringing the Word of God to the California State Capitol.

“Pastor Mike has ministered to approximately 250 people per week within the Capitol community ... in addition to the brown-bag Bible study he leads to up to 30 staff members, Pastor Shreve delivers written Bible studies to dozens of Senators and Assembly Members and leads Bible studies for members one or two at a time as well as meeting with a core group,” the resolution read.



Mike Shreve and Mike Morrell

A long-time supporter of Capitol Ministries, former Senator Morrell left office in November due to term limitations after serving for twelve years in the California legislature. On November 30, 2020, he introduced Resolution No. 337 which commends Pastor Shreve for bringing together “Members of the California State Legislature and

Continued on next page

I. INTRODUCTION

Before we examine Solomon’s definition of a good person from the book of Proverbs, the following should be mentioned regarding a biblical desire to become a good person.

There is no substitution for the power of God’s Word to transform lives: therein is the engine that drives one toward being a good person. Unfortunately, many today fail to give the written Word its proper place of prominence. Even pastors downplay it because, in their attempt to build a spiritually-based group of people (falsely thinking that numbers define success), they avoid in-depth teaching. The reasoning is that the Scripture’s truth, which sometimes offends, ends up turning people away. But such is to be expected. That was the case with Jesus, the apostle Paul and others whose ministries are portrayed in the Scriptures as both authentic and normative (cf. Matthew 10:4; Acts 15:38; Philippians 2:20; 2 Timothy 4:10, 16). To put it another way, there are numerous “ministers” and “ministries” today who are less than theocentric. Likened to soft drinks that are sweetened with phenylalanine or saccharin, many “ministries” today falsely sweeten their appeal with what I call “anthropocentrism.” (I’m guilty here of creating a new word. *Anthropocentric* means “man centered” and *sin* means “to miss the mark.” Accordingly, “anthropocentrism” is “the sin of being self-centered, versus God-centered.” They play to people, making their listeners’ desires central, rather than remaining faithful to their prophetic calling to “*preach the Word*” (2 Timothy 4:2–5). As a result of consuming and digesting too much “anthropocentrism,” there is a disease, a spiritual malnutrition, a plague in the land. Further, the easiest sign of detection is “wisdomatrophism.”

**“Anthropocentrism”
overdosing can be detected**

by the existence of
“wisdomatrophism.”

Accordingly, the greatest need on the Hill is for good Bible exposition! If not spiritually dead, people are atrophied all around us! The scriptural cure is clear: “*Faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the Word of Christ*” (Romans 10:17). A common desire of all who are genuinely called of God—a desire that all true believers possess—is a desire to learn the Word of God. Note the following encapsulation in this regard:

The first church intensely hungered for the apostles’ teaching because they were genuinely converted. This is normative Christianity! ... Regarding this spiritual hunger, pastor and author Kent Hughes noted, “Where the Spirit reigns, a love for God’s Word reigns ... When the Spirit reigns, God’s people continually devote themselves to the study of His Word.” Martyn Lloyd Jones wrote of the believer’s desire for the Word of God: “Wanting to listen to the Word is inevitable if men and women are born again and have become Christians. A babe ... has an instinct for milk. He wants it ... He is alive and wants the mother’s milk, and rightly so. The point is clear. One simply cannot be a Christian and have no desire for a knowledge of this truth—it is impossible.”¹

There are many in the capital who name Christ, but are lackadaisical when it comes to desiring the pure milk of His Word. Keep in mind that one of the fruits of the people of God is a longing to be fed the Word of God! The Living Word and the written Word are inseparable, intrinsically intertwined. Accordingly, I am so thankful for the many of you whom I have gotten to know who are genuinely converted.



You *“long for the pure milk of the word”* (1 Peter 2:2).

Now let us turn our focus to the ingredients of a good person per Solomon in the book of Proverbs. Prior to investigating each of the following proverbs on this subject it is important to state what Solomon is not saying relative to being a good person. He is *not* saying that the way one merits salvation is through being good. That is a common misunderstanding as to how one gains heaven. The whole of Scripture reveals nothing of one working his way to heaven—the common thread running throughout all the false religions of the world. Rather, per the book of James in the New Testament (NT), good people, in God’s eyes, and in His economy of salvation, are those who have trusted by faith alone in Him—and as a result of His indwelling—the truly saved *will always* manifest good characteristics and good works in and through their lives. This is what James means when he says, *“faith without works is dead”* (James 2:26). Just like compassion without action is phony, faith that does not manifest a good person or good works (i.e., the attributes that follow in this study) is illustrative of a falsified profession of faith. True faith in Christ and good works go hand in hand. Said another way, as alluded to in the preamble, Jesus said, *“A good tree cannot produce bad fruit nor can a bad tree produce good fruit”* (Matthew 7:18). What follows then are proverbs indicative of true salvation—characteristics of those who have repented of their sin and have placed their faith in Jesus Christ for personal salvation. The apostle Paul says it best in 1 Thessalonians 4:1:

“Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.”

May this week’s comparison of your good life to the LORD’s definition of the same motivate you to *excel still more*.

What follows is my exhausting the book of Proverbs regarding all that it says about being a good person.

I have attempted in what follows to put together a theology regarding this. Accordingly, biblically speaking, a good person will be characterized by at least five things in no particular order of importance:

II. HE RELISHES IN GODLY WAYS

“The backslider in heart will have his fill of his own ways, but a good man will be satisfied with his” (Proverbs 14:14).

Backsliding implies a willful step toward sin, most often not in a public way, but hidden. This proverb portrays the reaping and sowing form of the wrath or judgment of God upon such a person; reaping and sowing is an inviolate moral law of the universe set in place by God, just as sure as the physical law of gravity. Those who habitually and willfully sin *will have his fill of his own ways*. Their rod is their *own way*. In contrast, the *good man* is *filled* by sowing over a lifetime in ways pleasing to the Lord. States Galatians 5:16, *“Walk by the Spirit and you will not carry out the desires of the flesh.”* The resultant fruit of a Spirit-controlled life is the *fruit of the Spirit*, as it is termed in the NT. They are *love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control* (Galatians 5:22–23). Each one of these characteristics yields great *satisfaction* in the heart of a *good man*. He or she knows and relishes godly ways in part because such yields the dividend of personal *satisfaction* in life: I want to be a good person because it is so *satisfying*! It

♥ VERSE OF THE WEEK

Proverbs 2:20

“Walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous.”



A good man—one with moral and spiritual excellence manifested in active kindness—receives God’s favor.

Continued from previous page

individuals within their staff, and [for] his warm, reassuring, spiritual guidance and years of selfless community work.”

Pastor Shreve has been a “source of personal encouragement to Senator Morrell,” the resolution continued. “For all of his professional life, Pastor Mike has provided compassionate and wise spiritual leadership. These efforts have made Pastor Shreve one of the most beloved and respected leaders in the community.” The

Continued on next page



Continued from previous page

resolution concluded: “Now, therefore, be it resolved by Senator Mike Morrell that special public attention be directed to Pastor Mike Shreve for his years of dedicated and responsible religious service, and that he be extended sincere best wishes for continued health and happiness in his future endeavors and success in all of his indomitable efforts to improve the lives of others.”

Pastor Shreve said the resolution was totally unexpected and credited others, starting with God. “I am stunned, greatly honored and humbled,” he said. “Senator Morrell is my dear friend, a man I truly respect, and a continued prayer partner. But this tremendous honor and glory goes first to our heavenly Father,” Pastor Shreve said. “John 15:5 tells us, *“For I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

Shortly after first being elected to public office and before Pastor Shreve became CA ministry leader, former Senator Morrell sought an in-depth Bible study at the CA capitol. Failing to find one, he searched the internet discovered Capitol Ministries. “I found the members Bible studies online and started studying them on my own and I just love them,” he said. “Scripturally, Ralph Drollinger addresses the essential questions of the day. He is culturally relevant and he takes on the big issues that most people run from. It drives me crazy when men of God have the truth and don’t preach it.”

is motivating that God bestows abundant blessings upon His obedient children!

III. HE DESIRES TO HELP THE POOR

“One who is gracious to a poor man lends to the LORD, and He will repay him for his good deed” (Proverbs 19:17).

Much biblical understanding and discussion of the principles relative to this subject is in order prior to a strict examination of the truths of this particular proverb. Given the many legislative decisions that are made regarding *poor* people, combined with widespread biblical naiveté on the subject, the subject is worthy of time spent on it. What follows then are four theological principles borne from Scripture on how a good man best helps and is *gracious to a poor man*.

It is important first however to distinguish between the genuinely bereft, those who are *poor* and want to change their lot in life, versus bums. A bum is someone whom Scripture describes as slothful or lazy (cf. Proverbs 19:15) and doesn’t want to change his lot in life. Suffice to say here, a good man helps a *slothful* man in ways different than he does a *poor man*. Paul states in 2 Thessalonians 3:10: *“For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either”* (cf. Proverbs 10:4). It is important that one not enable further lazy behavior via helping them like you would someone who for whatever reason, incapable—not unwilling—to meet their own needs. What follows then relates to quantifiably *poor*, not *slothful* individuals.

A. THE NECESSARY PERSPECTIVE TO HELP THE POOR

No amount of personal or governmental

programs will ever eradicate those who struggle to attain the basic necessities of life. Accordingly, the complete abolition of the lowest socio-economic class in society is an unrealistic objective. Deuteronomy 15:11 states (in specific regard to Israel) that *“the poor will never cease to be in land.”* And in the present Church Age of world history, the same is true ostensibly in the United States; Jesus stated in Matthew 26:11 that *“you always have the poor with you.”* The reality of never being able to completely eradicate this socio-economic stratum from society in a fallen world is a promise of Scripture. Programs regarding the *poor* therefore need be addressed in terms of the best way to maintenance and provide for the ongoing needs of needy people—versus eliminating them. Herein is a biblically informed reality, the necessary perspective to help the *poor*.

B. THE NECESSARY ATTITUDE TO HELP THE POOR

It is quite possible for one to *give all my possessions to feed the poor* without possessing love in his heart. Such is the case in 1 Corinthians 13:3 wherein one gives but does not *love*: *“And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have love, it profits me nothing.”* Many are the legislators, staff, and lobbyists who seek for and legislate huge governmental programs to help meet the needs of the *poor*, but in so doing have no personal *love* to help those who are genuinely bereft.

In our passage under study (Proverbs 19:17) Solomon is saying to his son Rehoboam, who would be the next leader of Israel, that there should be no disconnect! This indicates that charity should first be a personal matter of one’s heart; this is evidenced by the use of the singular pronouns *one, him* and *his* and contrast to any He-



brew word alluding to civil government. Solomon is not instructing Rehoboam here or elsewhere to construct an elaborate governmental program to meet the needs of the *poor*. Instead Rehoboam is to have a personal involvement with *poor* people! This is a model for current governmental leaders!

Nowhere in the whole of Scripture does the Bible allude to institutional government constructing programs to meet the needs of the poor.

While Scripture *does not* prohibit governmental programs from helping the *poor*, it *does* instruct on personal involvement per 19:17 to help the *poor*. While not a command, it states in principle that God will reward, specifically *repay* such behavior. And, I might add, legislating governmental programs without a heart-driven personal involvement is hypocritical. One must personally, no matter his political affiliation, first open his heart to meet the current and ongoing needs of the *poor*.

C. THE NECESSARY INSTITUTION TO HELP THE POOR

The primary institutional responsibility for meeting the needs of the *poor* today falls to the institution of the family and then secondly to the institution of the church, not the institution of the state (cf. 1 Timothy 5:3–16). As already stated, Solomon gives no allusions to Rehoboam of any monarchial responsibilities to meet *poor* people's needs. The whole of Scripture indicates that this burden falls to God's called out, priestly people—individually and as a whole—both in an Old and New Testament alike. More specifically note Deuteronomy 15:7 and 10 in this regard. Contextually this is a

restatement of the Law of God to God's chosen people, Israel.

“If there is a poor man with you, one of your brothers, in any of your towns in your land which the LORD your God is giving you, you shall not harden your heart, nor close your hand from your poor brother ... You shall generously give to him, and your heart shall not be grieved when you give to him, because for this thing the LORD your God will bless you in all your work and in all your undertakings.”

This passage is quite parallel to our one under study, an elaboration of the principle of Proverbs 19:17. States one leading commentator on this passage, “The attitude of the Israelites, God's priestly people, toward the *poor* in their community was to be one of warmth and generosity. The *poor* were given whatever was necessary to meet their needs.”² Meeting the needs of the *poor* was a local responsibility of God's priestly people versus a nationalized program.

This same principle is carried forward into the NT. Note the book of Acts, chapter six. In the early formation of the first church, the office of Deacon was created in response to meet the needs of the *poor*. The needs of the *poor* were being overlooked and so the Elders appointed Deacons to handle the responsibility of ecclesiastical provision. This serves to indicate what institution, in God's mind, is responsible to meet this need. To the same idea, and as previously alluded to in 1 Timothy 5:3–16, if a widow had no personal safety net of immediate family to provide for her needs, then the responsibility for meeting her needs fell directly to the corporate church (cf. 5:16). Lastly, 1 Peter 2:13–14 and Romans 13:1–8 serve to reveal the job description of the institution of the state. Worthy of mention is the fact that welfare responsi-

ties are nowhere to be found.³ Biblically, the primary function of the State is to punish evildoers and praise those who do good (1 Peter 2:14), not provide for the citizenry. In this regard, the state is sanctioned by God to tax its citizenry in order to perform these specific functions (cf. Romans 13:6; cf. 1 Samuel 8:9–18) which does not include welfare. Pragmatically speaking, it stands to reason that the local church is much better equipped to meet the needs of the *poor* than is the distant state. In many cases the real needs of the *poor* are spiritual, not economical, and their plight stems from their character, not their environment. This is not always true, but discerning the cause of poverty is adduced much better by localized responsibility than nationally. And lastly, it is much better for a *poor* person to develop a dependence on the church than the state; the former is personal the latter is not.

D. THE NECESSARY MOTIVATION TO HELP THE POOR

Lastly (with no claims of having nearly exhausted all that Scripture has to say on this matter) notice that the Proverb under study (19:17) contains a direct and fascinating promise from God that should help to motivate one's *personal* involvement: If one gives to the *poor*, God will *repay* him. My favorite commentator on Proverbs states regarding this passage, “Though God has a right to all, and is beholden to none, He becomes a debtor to His own.”⁴ The one who has a *personal, manifest* pity for the *poor* obtains great favor with God! The compassionate fall within the principle and purview of His blessing!

When you help the poor the Lord considers it as if you were lending to Him! And He will repay!



Elias Boudinot



“For nearly half a century have I anxiously and critically studied that invaluable treasure [the Bible]; and I still scarcely ever take it up that I do not find something new—that I do not receive some valuable addition to my stock of knowledge or perceive some instructive fact never observed before. In short, were you to ask me to recommend the most valuable book in the world, I should fix on the Bible as the most instructive both to the wise and ignorant. Were you to ask me for one affording the most rational and pleasing entertainment to the inquiring mind, I should repeat, it is the Bible; and should you renew the inquiry for the best philosophy or the most interesting history, I should still urge you to look into your Bible. I would make it, in short, the Alpha and Omega of knowledge.”

— Elias Boudinot, president of Congress, signed the peace treaty to end the American Revolution, first attorney admitted to the U.S. Supreme Court Bar, framer of the Bill of Rights, director of the U. S. Mint.

Elias Boudinot, *The Age of Revelation, or the Age of Reason Shewn to be An Age of Infidelity* (Philadelphia: Asbury Dickins, 1801), p. xv, from his “Dedication: Letter to his daughter Susan Bradford.”

One must realize that, in essence, helping the *poor* is really lending to God! Further states Bridges in this regard:

Selfishness would evade the obligation under the cover of prudence. But what we give is only a loan, to be paid again, and that with such security, as can never fail. The Lord of heaven condescends to be the surety for the poor. He takes the debt upon Himself, and gives us the bond of His word in promise of payment ... Here is a safe deposit in the very heart of God ... The *poor* man’s hand is the treasury of Christ. All my superfluity shall there be hoarded up, where I know it will be safely kept, and surely returned to me.⁵

States Steve Taylor, “No man is a better merchant, that he that lays out his time upon God, and his money upon the poor.”⁶ The student of Scripture need be compelled by this truth. It is not enough to pay our taxes, rationalizing that much of it goes through the government to programs to meet the needs of the *poor*. Scripture redounds with the necessity of personal responsibility. If one claims to be a good person, per God’s definition of such, then it means one generously helps *poor* people with his own personal resources. Rest assured, one will receive an abundant dividend from opening a heavenly bank account wherein the doorman is a *poor* man. Herein is a biblical characteristic of a good man.

IV. HE IS A GODLY INFLUENCE ON OTHERS

The third characteristic of a good man from Proverbs is the influence he has on others.

“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children, and the wealth of

the sinner is stored up for the righteous” (Proverbs 13:22).

Some *good men* have no children who survive him. Nonetheless Scripture does provide many illustrations of this proverb relative to one’s posterity: Abraham’s *children inherited* his covenantal blessing. Caleb’s *children inherited* their father’s possessions. And David’s house blessed the next 17 generations. This proverb means that a *good man* leaves a good mark—and others greatly profit from his life’s product—spiritually, intellectually, socially, emotionally, economically, etc. The sum total of a *good man* ends up contributing to the needs of many others. For the most part, herein is a measurement of how good of a person you really are.

Now note the second half of this contrasting proverb: just the opposite is true as well! The sum total of the habitual *sinner* is sure bankruptcy! And if he leaves anything that is good, God sees to it that it goes to those whom God determines deserve it. In His justice, He always (sometimes patiently) exacts full payment for all sin. His very nature requires it lest He be accused of injustice. Much more than the disquieting truth regarding the redistribution of a wicked man’s wealth is the fact that *“the wages of sin is death”* (Romans 6:23). States Psalm 1:4–6, *“The wicked ... are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous ... the way of the wicked will perish.”*

Proverbs 28:8 echoes the same truth of 13:22 and ties into the previous point in the outline: *“One who increases his possessions by usury and extortion gathers it for him who will pity the poor”* (NKJV). In other words, the efforts of wicked people save perchance their blessing the righteous, eventually and surely amount to nothing for themselves. The fool in his



rebellion against his Creator most assuredly will lose whatever he or she had. Job 27:16–17 further underscores the biblical primacy of this principle, *“Though he piles up silver like dust and prepares garments as plentiful as the clay, He may prepare it, but the just will wear it and the innocent will divide the silver.”* In fact, the biblical illustrations of the *wicked’s wealth* ending up in the *storehouse of the righteous* are numerous: Laban’s wealth ended up in Jacob’s hands (Genesis 31:1, 9, 16); the spoils of Egypt and Canaan’s for Israel (Exodus 12:35, 36); and Haman’s wealth went to Esther and Mordecai (Esther 8:1, 2). As a matter of fact, in the future Millennial Kingdom, the Jews will *“eat the riches of the Gentiles”* (Isaiah 61:6, KJV)! This then is a broad biblical principle that is regularly occurring perhaps more than what meets the eye (or the analysis of the business section of the newspaper). Ecclesiastes 2:26 is a fitting summary: *“For to a person who is good in His sight He has given wisdom and knowledge and joy, while to the sinner He has given the task of gathering and collecting so that he may give to one who is good in God’s sight.”* What will be the sum total of your life? Will the things you champion in life be used of God in the next generation, or will they disappear? The good man has a lasting influence and product.

V. HE CHOOSES GODLY FRIENDS

“So you will walk in the way of good men and keep to the paths of the righteous” (Proverbs 2:20).

This proverb is situated in the broad context of the attributes and fruit one garners from the aggressive, passionate pursuit of God’s wisdom. As one attempts to store in his mind heavenly wisdom, and cultivate in his thinking purer pleasures (in contrast to the immediate context of this passage, illicit sexual pleasure) he will gravitate to-

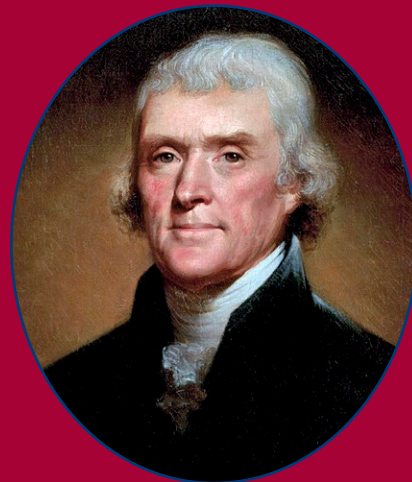
ward other *good* people. To the contrast, people who are dispassionate about Bible studies, church, and fellowship with genuine believers telegraph their own apathy regarding personal spiritual growth. Why? Herein is a causative construction in the Hebrew (*So you will ...*). Spiritually hungry people will be led by the indwelling Holy Spirit to *walk in the way of [other] good men*; they will have a propensity to gravitate toward *the paths of the righteous*. This Proverb underscores the truth that “like begets like.” In one’s aspiration for godliness, there exists an unquenchable, natural attraction toward like minded others. The internal, personal pursuit for godly living leads to great friendships with other godly, humble people. What a blessing! Unfortunately, people who lack *good* friends reveal much about their own heart condition. Something is seriously wrong in the heart of those who mechanically pawn themselves off as spiritual but possess no unction to *walk in the way of good men ... the paths of the righteous*. This passage illuminates the hypocrisy of such. Are you excited to go to Bible studies and fellowship with others or not? That probing question should act like a warning light on your spiritual dashboard. Biblically defined, you’re not a very good person if you don’t have godly friends.

VI. HE IS THE RECIPIENT OF GODLY FAVOR

“A good man will obtain favor from the LORD, but He will condemn a man who devises evil” (Proverbs 12:2).

This Proverb underscores the introduction. Since *goodness* is a fruit of the Spirit (cf. Galatians 5:22) the *good man* is synonymous with one who possesses within him the Holy Spirit, someone who is truly saved. He or she then emanates the munificent (def. “extremely liberal in giving, very generous”) goodness of God. He or she is the almoner (def. “one who distrib-

Thomas Jefferson



“Cherish, therefore, the spirit of our people, and keep alive their attention. Do not be too severe upon their errors, but reclaim them by enlightening them. If once they become inattentive to the public affairs, you and I, and Congress, and Assemblies, Judges, and Governors, shall all become wolves.”

— Thomas Jefferson, third president of the United States, signer of the Declaration of Independence, diplomat, governor of Virginia, secretary of state.

Thomas Jefferson, letter to Edward Carrington, January 16, 1787.



Five Biblical Characteristics That Define a Good Person

Download our
FREE APP
at the App Store



Bible studies
and updates
at your fingertips

CAPITOL
ministries®

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ
in the Political Arena
Throughout the World



Capitol Ministries® provides Bible studies, evangelism and discipleship to political leaders. Founded in 1996, we have started ongoing ministries in over forty U.S. state capitols and dozens of foreign federal capitols.

Capitol Ministries®

Mail Processing Center
Post Office 30994
Phoenix, AZ 85046
661.288.2622
capmin.org

©2020 Capitol Ministries®
All rights reserved.



/capitolministries

utes”) of God’s grace in a fallen, selfish world. Accordingly, this person *obtains favor from the LORD* because he reflects God’s character to others. The Greek word for *goodness* means, “moral and spiritual excellence manifested in active kindness.” Since God is so good, the maturing believer must be likewise! Being aggressively kind then, is characteristic of wise living. Are you aggressively kind to others? Notice that this is an explicit characteristic of a good wife per Proverbs 31:12, “*She does him good and not evil all the days of her life.*” In these contrasting proverbs, God *condemns a man who devises evil*. People who contrive *evil* against others are condemned already. The sting of their conscience and the violation of God’s universal principle of reaping and sowing represent the manifest present judgment upon the wicked. And in the end, in the coming day of judgment, the all-seeing, not-forgetting, extremely just Judge, the second member of the Trinity, Jesus Christ *will be a swift witness against* [them] (Malachi 3:5; Psalm 1:4–6). Proverbs 15:3 states in this regard, “*The eyes of the LORD are in every place, watching the evil and the good.*” Biblically defined, a *good man*—one with moral and spiritual excellence manifested in active kindness—receives God’s favor.

VII. SUMMARY

This week’s study of Proverbs provides scintillating insights into the character and activities of the God of the universe—what He is like and how He operates. And the wise person—the one who has skill at living life for God’s glory—will know and act in accordance with all of these truths. May God bless you as you know Him better and study His attributes and character and live in obedience to His precepts. Amen.

1. Steven J. Lawson, *Famine in the Land* (Chicago: Moody Publishers, 2003) p. 44–5.
2. *The MacArthur Study Bible*, p. 272.
3. This present-day American governmental function does not stem from the founding fathers, or from Scriptural precedent. It is conceived much later by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.
4. Charles Bridges, *Commentary on Proverbs* p. 321.
5. *Ibid.*
6. Steve Taylor, *Holy Living*, chapter 1.

MINISTRIES ESTABLISHED & BUILDING

UNITED STATES

Albany, *New York*
Annapolis, *Maryland*
Atlanta, *Georgia*
Augusta, *Maine*
Austin, *Texas*
Bismarck, *North Dakota*
Boise, *Idaho*
Boston, *Massachusetts*
Denver, *Colorado*
Dover, *Delaware*
Carson City, *Nevada*
Charleston, *West Virginia*
Cheyenne, *Wyoming*
Columbia, *South Carolina*
Columbus, *Ohio*
Concord, *New Hampshire*
Des Moines, *Iowa*
Hartford, *Connecticut*
Harrisburg, *Pennsylvania*
Helena, *Montana*
Honolulu, *Hawaii*
Jefferson City, *Missouri*
Lansing, *Michigan*
Lincoln, *Nebraska*
Little Rock, *Arkansas*
Madison, *Wisconsin*
Montpelier, *Vermont*
Nashville, *Tennessee*
Oklahoma City, *Oklahoma*
Olympia, *Washington*
Phoenix, *Arizona*
Providence, *Rhode Island*
Raleigh, *North Carolina*
Richmond, *Virginia*
Sacramento, *California*
Salem, *Oregon*
Santa Fe, *New Mexico*
Springfield, *Illinois*
Topeka, *Kansas*
Trenton, *New Jersey*

INTERNATIONAL

Abuja, *Nigeria*
Accra, *Ghana*
Antananarivo, *Madagascar*
Asunción, *Paraguay*
Bangui, *Central African Republic*
Brasilia, *Brazil*
Bucharest, *Romania*
Bujumbura, *Burundi*
Dodoma, *Tanzania*
Freetown, *Sierra Leone*
Georgetown, *Guyana*
Kiev, *Ukraine*
Kigali, *Rwanda*
Kinshasa, *Democratic Republic of the Congo*
Libreville, *Gabon*
Lomé, *Togo*
Lusaka, *Zambia*
Malabo, *Equatorial Guinea*
Maputo, *Mozambique*
Mexico City, *Mexico*
Monrovia, *Liberia*
Montevideo, *Uruguay*
Nairobi, *Kenya*
N'Djamena, *Tchad*
Ouagadougou, *Burkina Faso*
Port Moresby, *Papua New Guinea*
Porto-Novo, *Benin*
Quito, *Ecuador*
Riga, *Latvia*
San Jose, *Costa Rica*
Suva, *Fiji*
Tegucigalpa, *Honduras*
Vilnius, *Lithuania*
Warsaw, *Poland*
Yaoundé, *Cote d'Ivoire*
Yaoundé, *Cameroun*