

**Proverbs 15 – A Synopsis**

(part 1)

Proverbs 15:1-33

**Lesson 1 – Taming the Tongue**

**James 3:6** – “And the tongue [*speech; language*] is a fire [*fiery flame*], a world of iniquity [*unrighteousness; injustice; wrongdoing*]: so is the tongue among our members [*of our body*], that it defileth [*stains; pollutes*] the whole body, and setteth on fire [*ignites; sets ablaze*] the course [*cycle; i.e. runs its course*] of nature [*life to death*]; and it is set on fire [*ignites; sets ablaze*] of hell [*Gehenna, the trash dump of Jerusalem that was a perpetual fire*].”

**James 3:8** - <sup>8</sup>**But the tongue** [*speech; language*] **can no man tame** [*subdue; rein in; bring under control*]; **it is an unruly** [*cannot be restrained*] **evil** [*wicked; morally reprehensible*], **full** [*filled; completely given over*] **of deadly poison** [*venom; the tongue is to man, what rust is to metal--corrosive*].

**I. The Tongue (15:1-10)****A. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a soft answer (15:1)**

<sup>1</sup> **A soft** [*tenderhearted; delicate*] **answer** [*reply*] **turneth** [*turns back*] **away wrath** [*rage*]: **but grievous words** [*bringing sorrow*] **stir up** [*give rise to*] **anger** [*flaring the nostrils; huffing and puffing; quick to anger*].

1. A soft answer can \_\_\_\_\_ a raging fool. (15:1a)
2. A soft answer can \_\_\_\_\_ an angry temperament. (15:1b)

**B. The \_\_\_\_\_ of a man is revealed in his \_\_\_\_\_. (15:2)**

<sup>2</sup> **The tongue** [*language; speech*] **of the wise** [*discerning; skilled in the use of knowledge*] **useth** [*diligent; pleasing; good*] **knowledge** [*understanding*] **aright** [*pleasing; agreeable; i.e. to be able to determine what is right*]: **but the mouth** [*i.e. the opening of the mouth*] **of fools** [*silly; dull of hearing*] **poureth out foolishness** [*folly; silliness*].

1. A wise man employs words with the skill of a \_\_\_\_\_. (15:2a)
2. A fool's mouth pours out \_\_\_\_\_ like a geyser belches out \_\_\_\_\_. (15:2b)
3. What is the Biblical response to foolishness? \_\_\_\_\_ (22:15)

**C. God is \_\_\_\_\_, and will judge every word spoken in \_\_\_\_\_.**

<sup>3</sup> **The eyes** [*knowledge*] **of the LORD** **are in every place, beholding** [*watching; spying out*] **the evil** [*wicked*] **and the good** [*pleasing to the Lord; like pure gold*].

**D. The \_\_\_\_\_ of words (15:4)**

<sup>4</sup> **A wholesome** [*healing; curing; soothing*] **tongue is a tree of life** [*like medicine to the soul*]: **but perverseness** [*crooked; deceiving words*] **therein is a breach** [*breaks; destructive*] **in the spirit**.

**E. A child's \_\_\_\_\_ is revealed in his response to his parent's \_\_\_\_\_. (15:5)**

<sup>5</sup> **A fool** [mockers; rebel; despises wisdom and instruction] **despiset** [disrespects; disdains; has contempt for] **his father's instruction** [rebuke; discipline; chastisement; warnings]: **but he that regardeth** [watches over; keeps; preserves] **reproof** [rebuke; reprimand; punishment] **is prudent** [shows wisdom; crafty; shrewd].

1. A foolish child displays \_\_\_\_\_ for a father's instructions. (15:5a)

2. A "prudent" son \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ a parent's admonitions. (15:5b)

**F. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the households of the righteous and wicked (15:6)**

<sup>6</sup> **In the house** [family; household] **of the righteous** [just; innocent; upright] **is much treasure** [wealth; strength; stronghold]: **but in the revenues** [gain; income; harvest; yield] **of the wicked** [ungodly; criminal] **is trouble** [calamity; affliction].

1. The families of the righteous are blessed with much. (15:6a)

2. The wicked have an insatiable appetite for **earthly, temporal** possessions and honors, but they eventually come to calamity. (15:6b)

**G. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the wise and the foolish (15:7)**

<sup>7</sup> **The lips** [speech; language; words] **of the wise** [shrewd; discerning] **disperse** [scatter like seed; sow seeds of] **knowledge** [gained from experience; ability to discern]: **but the heart** [inner man; mind; will] **of the foolish** [stupid; insolent; sluggish; dull] **doeth not so** [not honest; not right].

**H. What does the Lord \_\_\_\_\_, and in what does He \_\_\_\_\_? (15:8-9)**

<sup>8</sup> **The sacrifice** [offerings; i.e. worship] **of the wicked** [ungodly; guilty] **is an abomination** [loathsome; detestable] **to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is his** [the LORD'S] **delight** [pleasure; favor; acceptance].

<sup>9</sup> **The way** [road; journey; course of life] **of the wicked** [ungodly] **is an abomination** [abhorrence; disgusting] **unto the LORD: but He** [Lord] **loveth him that followeth after** [pursues; chases] **righteousness** [honest; just; upright; judicially right in the eyes of the Lord].

**1. Two things the Lord detests: (15:8a, 9a)**

a. "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the wicked" (15:8a)

b. "The \_\_\_\_\_ of the wicked" (15:9a; Romans 3:10-18)

**2. Two things the Lord delights in: (15:8b, 9b)**

a. "...the \_\_\_\_\_ of the upright" (15:8b; 1 John 5:14-15; James 5:16)

b. "him that \_\_\_\_\_ righteousness" (15:9b)

**I. \_\_\_\_\_ is frequently the consequence of rebellion. (15:10)**

<sup>10</sup> **Correction** [instruction; chastisement; warning] **is grievous** [distressing; looked upon as evil or bad] **unto him that forsaketh** [abandons; leave behinds] **the way** [i.e. the right way and path]: **and he that hateth** [loathes or abhors] **reproof** [rebuke; correction] **shall die** [be killed; put to death].