

# Read the Whole Bible with Pastor

## **Monday (February 12) – Proverbs 21**

Rivers sometimes change course without explanation. In a similar way, God can inexplicably move a person's heart, even the heart of a powerful king or ruler (v. 1). The fact that you were brought to repentance and faith is proof of this. "God weighs the heart" (v. 2) is a reference to the method of measuring out something's worth with a scale. Even though this world will constantly tell you to "follow your heart," the Word of God tells us that the human heart is deceitfully wicked above all things (Jeremiah 17:9). This leads us to approach God with humility rather than with a proud and haughty heart (v. 4). Solomon, who had 700 wives and 300 concubines, certainly knew firsthand the misery of living with a contentious woman (vv. 9, 19). The purpose of these proverbs is to teach us wisdom and the fear of the Lord. Many times, we must learn lessons the hard way, but a wise man is able to learn from the negative example of others (v. 11).

## **Tuesday (February 13) – Proverbs 22, 23**

A good reputation is valuable beyond riches, which is why God gives us the Eighth Commandment—to protect our reputations and that of our neighbors (22:1). Some parents think that children should be able to make their own choices about what to believe. This is utter rubbish. Fathers and mothers have a sacred responsibility to train their children in the correct and godly way of belief and life (22:6). This training even includes the use of corporal punishment (22:15; 23:13–14), something that our culture heavily frowns upon, but Scripture encourages. (Certainly, parents are to discipline with love and gentleness, and not in anger.) Proverbs 22:28 exemplifies the Lutheran approach to traditions of the Church: We respect and keep old traditions, unless they are shown to be contrary to Scripture.

Chapter 23 is a list of warnings from a father to a son. Beware the deception of riches (vv. 1–8), beware drunkenness (vv. 19–21, 29–35), and beware the seductress (vv. 26–28).

## **Wednesday (February 14) – Proverbs 24, 25**

Chapter 24 encourages the pursuit of godly wisdom instead of riches, pleasure, and wickedness.

Jesus makes reference to Proverbs 25:6–7 after He notices how people were choosing the best seats for themselves at a banquet (Luke 14:7–11). Likewise, Matthew 5:25, in which Jesus exhorts us to settle disputes privately, is a parallel to Proverbs 24:8–10. Gossip does great harm in the church. Do you have a problem with someone? Don't gossip about it. Instead, go directly to that person and work things out. And what about your enemies? Jesus tells us to love them (Matthew 5:44), just as Proverbs 25:21 tells us to feed them.

## **Thursday (February 15) – Proverbs 26**

Chapter 26 is all about fools. Verse 4 says "Do not answer a fool," and verse 5 says, "Answer a fool." Some people (acting as fools) read these two verses and think they have

discovered a contradiction in Scripture—as though the Holy Spirit didn’t intend for these verses to be read one after the other. But there are no contradictions in God’s Word. These two verses illustrated the difficulty of dealing with fools: No matter what you say, they will misuse it. So don’t be a fool. Don’t trust in your own understanding. Instead, study and learn from God’s Word so that you may become wise. Verse 14 is an example of beautiful yet immensely practical and visual Hebrew poetry: “As a door turns on its hinges, so does the lazy man on his bed.”

### **Friday (February 16) – Proverbs 27, 28**

Proverbs 27 has much to say about how to be a good friend. Our sinful world teaches people to give deceitful kisses. Is your friend engaged in sinful behavior that is contrary to God’s Word? You are expected to smile and encourage him in his sin. For example, does he think that he is now a woman? You had better use his chosen pronouns. But God’s Word tells us, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful” (v. 6). Telling the truth in faithfulness is far better than telling lies in the name of “being a good friend.”

Much of Proverbs 28 is about justice—not the false social justice of this world, but the true justice of God. God hears the cry of the humble and lowly. Therefore, do not oppress the poor (vv. 3, 8, 16), show partiality (v. 21), or defraud your own parents (v. 24).

### **Saturday (February 17) – Proverbs 29**

Verse 1 is a warning against stubborn hardheartedness. Every Sunday we pray that God would keep us up from this dangerous sin as we sing, “Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me” (Psalm 51:11). The rest of the chapter contains warnings against sexual immorality (v. 3), perversion of justice (vv. 4, 7, 10, 12–13, 26–27), flattery (v. 5), foolish or hasty speech (vv. 11, 20), and pride (v. 23).

### **Sunday (February 18) – Proverbs 30, 31**

Proverbs 30 is written by a different author, Agur, son of Jakeh. At times it reads like a psalm or a passage from Job (vv. 2–4), at others like a proverb. Agur prays that he would be neither poor, which is a hardship, nor rich, which can be a snare. St. Paul teaches us the same principle, saying, “If you have food and clothing, be content” (1 Timothy 6:8). Proverbs 30:15 is another striking example of Hebrew poetry, which is both beautiful yet profoundly practical: “The leech has two daughters—Give and Give.” This chapter also employs a literary device not found elsewhere in Scripture: “There are three things... yea, four...” (vv. 18, 21, 29). And verse 17 is a stern, visual warning to those that would scorn or mock their parents!

Chapter 31 of Proverbs is also written by a different author. Beginning at verse 10, the chapter describes the virtuous and godly woman. “Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies.” Indeed, he who finds a virtuous wife has received a great treasure from the hand of the Lord! Portions of this chapter have historically been read on the feast days commemorating the martyrdom of various and noble women of faith.