

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, VBVF | Fearing Deity & Defying Stupidity
Feb 18, 2024 | “The Benefits of a Righteous Life” | **Proverbs 10:17–32**

- 1) The benefits of restrained _____
(10:17–21)

- 2) The benefits of righteous _____
(10:22–25)

- 3) The benefits of a vertical _____
(10:26–30)

- 4) The benefits of a blameless _____
(10:31–32)

Questions for further application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

Proverbs 10:17–32. What are the main themes in this section? Observe the number of times the word “righteous” occurs in this passage. How many references are there to speech (lips, tongue, mouth, etc.)?

Read Proverbs 10:27. Why does Solomon repeatedly emphasize “the fear of the Lord” as a central theme throughout this book? How does the fear of the LORD prolong life? Analyze this as a truism for the world today. How does the fear of the LORD “prolong” life eternally?

GET PERSONAL

Read Proverbs 10:19 several times (i.e. chew on this passage for a little while). Did God wire you as an introvert or an extrovert (or an omnivert)? How do you discern when to talk and when to remain silent? Is it wrong to be a naturally talkative person? Is it wrong to talk things out or to process problems out loud? Is it wrong to vent frustrations out loud?

Read Proverbs 10:23 several times. List some ways that fools take pleasure (i.e. joke, laugh) in wrongdoing. Are there times when you are tempted to laugh at wrongdoing or take pleasure in evil? How does a man of understanding take pleasure in wisdom? Can a person’s character be derived by what he or she delights in?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Find the poem about the tongue in Charles Spurgeon’s *Salt Cellars* (The text can be accessed as part of the sermon here: <https://www.vbvf.org/james-lesson-7-james-3-1-12>). Read the poem out loud. Now consider the ways that the tongue can be used for good and also for evil. How are you using your tongue for good right now? How is the tongue used as part of our salvation (see Rom 10:9-10)?

ADVANCED QUESTION

Solomon seems to indicate in 10:25 that the righteous person will avoid the consequences of natural disaster. But do tornadoes, hurricanes, etc. avoid righteous people and target the wicked? How do we harmonize this proverb with Jesus’s words in Matt 5:46, “For [the Father] makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust”?