

PROVERBS 26

- ¹ As dew in harvest, and as rain in summer, so honor is not *seemly* for a fool.
- ² As birds and sparrows fly, so a curse shall not come upon anyone without a cause.
- ³ As a whip for a horse, and a goad for a donkey, so is a rod for a simple nation.
- ⁴ Do not answer a fool according to his folly, lest you become like him.
- ⁵ But answer a fool according to his folly, lest he seem wise in his own eyes.
- ⁶ He that sends a message by a foolish messenger procures for himself a reproach from his own ways.
- ⁷ As *well* remove walking from the legs, as transgression from the mouth of fools.
- ⁸ He that binds up a stone in a sling is like one that gives honor to a fool.
- ⁹ Thorns grow in the hand of a drunkard, and slavery in the hand of fools.
- ¹⁰ All the flesh of fools is afflicted, for their fury is brought to destruction.
- ¹¹ As when a dog returns to his own vomit, and becomes abominable, so is a fool who returns in his wickedness to his own sin.
There is a shame which leads to sin, and a shame which procures glory and grace.
- ¹² I have seen a man who thought himself to be wise; but a fool had more hope than he.
- ¹³ A lazy *man* when sent on a journey says, "*There is a lion in the road, and there are murderers in the streets.*"
- ¹⁴ As a door turns on the hinge, so does a lazy *man* on his bed.
- ¹⁵ A lazy *man*, having hid his hand in his bosom, will not be able to bring it up to his mouth.
- ¹⁶ A lazy *man* thinks himself wiser than one who most satisfactorily brings back a message.
- ¹⁷ As he that lays hold of a dog's tail, so is he that meddles in another man's strife.
- ¹⁸ As those who need correction put forth *fair* words to men, and he that first falls in with the proposal will be overthrown;
- ¹⁹ so are all that lay wait for their own friends, and when they are discovered, say, "I was only joking."
- ²⁰ With much wood a fire increases, but where there is not a double-minded man, strife ceases.
- ²¹ A hearth is for coals, and wood for fire, and a contentious man for the tumult of strife.
- ²² The words of the crafty are soft; but they pierce the inmost recesses of the soul.
- ²³ Silver given with deceit should be considered as a potsherd; smooth lips disguise a wicked heart.
- ²⁴ A weeping enemy promises all things with his lips, but in his heart he contrives deceit.
- ²⁵ Though your enemy intreat you with a loud voice, do not believe him, for in his heart there is seven-fold wickedness.
- ²⁶ He that conceals enmity frames deceit, but being easily discerned, exposes his own sins in the public assemblies.

²⁷ He that digs a pit for his neighbor shall fall into it, and he that rolls a stone, rolls it upon himself.

²⁸ A lying tongue hates the truth, and a flattering mouth works ruin.