

“Beyond the Façade” (Prov. 14)

1. Wisdom builds households while folly tears them down. Wisdom is a homemaker while folly a home wrecker. Wisdom’s foundation is built on the truth of God’s design and purpose.
2. Walking path metaphor reemerges contrasting an upright or straight path vs perverse or crooked path “ways.” Like the parent who hates his child and does not offer discipline, the perverse (crooked) hate God and do not walk the right (straight) path.
3. Characterizing Speech: “Rod” or “sprig” could denote rod of punishment and/or the branch of pride’s unseen root. The wise employ speech (or lack of babble) which preserves them from a rod of discipline and or foolish manifestations. Pride tears down; wisdom preserves.
4. Blessings of honest labor. The trough may be clean and empty but so too the fields. To produce legitimate product/service, one must honestly labor; thus getting dirty. No omelets w/o cracked eggs. Sticker: “Dirty hands = clean money. Clean hands = dirty money.” Honest work – to which we are all called, necessitates labor.
5. Deception is evil and repugnant! Lies meant to deceive but the faithful express hard truths no matter the threats. “Utter” = “blow” or “blast.” It’s not just a claim but to “proclaim” or broadcast lies. This is cleverly done using deceptive language and feigning moral superiority. Take social media for example as it is prevalent today. The “faithful” speak only the truth even though they are maligned, cancelled, bullied, and so on. And here is the additional shame of many liars: they pretend to have moral high ground and courage while they use their lies to label others as radical, “alt-right,” “Christian Nationalists,” bigots, racists, Fascists, etc. I left social media years ago (2 or 3) but I will not back down from lies, threats, mischaracterizations, and persecution. We are in a war that is a war of words (or information) and truth must be defended. Many pastors (a majority) manipulated and labeled us as not loving and even murderers for not shutting down during COVID. Love does not rejoice in iniquity nor does it capitulate to lies. And now that truths we have reported are becoming main stream, there are no apologies from those who mandated harmful policies. Truth preserves and lies destroy. I kept and will keep my word that we will not capitulate to harmful policies that contradict truth and Scripture. The lies of the evil one have been deceiving many to redefine love as unconditional approval, thus many pastors are approving “pro-choice” stances, “affirmative action” or CRT, sinful sexual lifestyles, and even Marxism! These administrators and pastors (to use a war analogy) are wearing our uniforms in battle but aiming and firing their guns at us. While you have the Daily Wire, Jordon Peterson wearing other uniforms but jumping in the trenches with us. A liar (one with a deceptive motive) will pretend to be on your side but shoot you in the back. The “faithful” will bear witness to truth in clarity, conviction, and without compromise. The faithful fear God and not man (Prov. 29:25). However, such does not promise insulation from persecution but security “set on high” not “safe.” cf. Eph. 2:5-6; Col. 2:6-12 = secure and raised up in Christ – who actually promised persecution to the faithful. Mat. 5:11-12 cf. e.g. 1 Pet. Chs. 3-4. Baring false witness accuses the innocent and excuses the guilty, and we know where liars end up (Rev. 21:8). *If you have done so and are convicted of it or any other sin, you may repent and be “set on high” when you trust the LORD!
6. A proud mocker obviously takes no rebuke (13:1) and instead employs his feeble wisdom (his own terms) to arrive as wise. Beware of esoteric spirituality (hidden knowledge e.g. standpoint epistemology or a private word from God) and philosophies of men (Col. 2:8; 1 Tim. 6:20; Eph. 5:6). Conversely, the wise receive God’s clear revelation and can employ discernment e.g. pinpointing the above examples; thus not being overtaken or deceived by them.
7. Using such discernment, you can discern foolish talk and depart from those purporting such.

“Beyond the Façade” (Prov. 14)

8. Furthermore, the prudent discern their way (direction or aim) because they fear the LORD, whereas fools are self-deceived in their practical, conventional, and convenient wisdom which is aimless.
9. Repentance is wise, honest, virtuous, and receives favor from God while fools mock those who admit “guilt” or “sin” denying they are enslaved by it. W/o a need to acknowledge sin there is no need for a savior. But Jesus said if you do not repent you will perish (Lu. 13:3). We hear messages about our “disease,” our “brokenness,” “being oppressed,” “I was neglected,” or “I’m offended.” But what about “I’m guilty of sin”?
10. There are few things in this world which make my heart full of joy. I love my family, my church, and you can also enjoy such. However, I cannot “share” the experience of joy that I get from “Theocracy.” ☺ I’m sorry, it’s just what came to mind when I read the inexpressible joy of the heart. But such intricate music underscores the depths of God’s person, mission, and fellowship that ministers to me. The sorrows of our hearts are not fully known by others though we can mourn the same things. In fact, Jesus promised comfort to those mourning the right things. But truly, only God can know our hearts fully (cf. 15:11; 16:2; 21:2; 24:12; Jer. 17:9).
11. Trusting God is the only true security. A sturdy, permanent, house of the wicked will be annihilated; yet the meager portable tent of the virtuous will prosper. Paul fleshed this out (pun intended) contrasting what is truly permanent vs temporal (2 Cor. 4:7-5:1). In Christ one is established to endure all in this life plus God’s unveiled presence in glory!
12. **START 1/22/23.** Presumption is a killer. Such is why many enter the wide gate (Mat. 7:13-14). The simple see the broad path as right or straight yet it is actually crooked (2:15). The wise trust “fear” the LORD and look beyond the surface of appearances and appeals to consider the core of an issue or the impetus of an ideology. Many are conditioned and fail to examine the paradigm e.g. “my personal relationship with Jesus.” Parroting platitudes can be indicative of a façade of salvation.
13. Speaking of beyond appearance, laughter can attempt to hide pain, anxiety, ignorance, weakness, doubt, timidity, etc. It is easy to conceal such with laughter. Like the “wink” of a fool, laughter also attempts to avoid or forget the sobering realities which legitimately demand our attention (Eccl. 7:2, 5-6). The wise understand that mourning has its proper place (Eccl. 7:3-4; Mat. 5:4).
14. “Backslider” one who’s “fallen away” or “turned back” looks to his own desires, standards, and means to be fulfilled. The faithful will be satisfied from above! Revelation is often counterintuitive to sinful nature, but peace resides with those who trust God’s ways.
15. Gullible vs thoughtful. Critical thinking has been replaced w/ a critical spirit. Again, avoiding presumption.
16. A reverence and gratitude for God produced resolve to depart from temptation, evil, and foolishness. The presumption of fools express rage without contemplation of God. The fool acts w/o thought and rages at the consequences of his own mayhem cf. 19:3 & v. 17 →
17. Leaping before looking is foolish but worse still is scheming wickedness. It’s foolish and embarrassing to be quick tempered but one is hated for planning evil steadily.
18. “This is forward-looking. rsv’s *acquire* is clearer than av, rv *inherit*, for the proverb is not blaming a man’s folly on his heredity, but warning him that by habituation he is storing up only more and more foolishness, till, as in 24, it will be the only thing he has.”¹ The prudent are thoughtful avoiding presumption and crowned with what? Their knowledge is displayed in wisdom, her crown.

RSV American Revised Standard Version, 1952.

AV English Authorized Version (King James).

RV English Revised Version, 1885.

¹ Kidner, D. (1964). [*Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*](#) (Vol. 17, p. 103). InterVarsity Press.

“Beyond the Façade” (Prov. 14)

19. Some commentators offer an interpretation that sees the hypocrisy of the fool who has to admit virtues e.g. courage, sacrifice, honor, etc. Others consider Job, Joseph, Mordecai, and Lazarus. I also think there is the end in mind when God will right all wrongs revealing the hidden things Lu. 8:17; 12:2.
20. “Fair weather friends” are a reality. Sycophants are abundant where there is something to be gained by association. “There goes the neighborhood.” When Gene and I drove up to Tara’s new place of employment with Joel’s truck, it was like “Here come the Clampets.” Why hate the poor? They can seemingly promise no gain. Why befriend the rich? They can potentially benefit from such. See Eccl. 5:11.
21. Rather than despising your neighbor which is sin, we ought to look to aid the poor where it is better to give than receive. But not enable.
22. Evil plans produce no real destination. Hell is a tragedy for those who will reside therein. Conversely, good plans, which include the LORD, end in blessing and enjoy mercy and embrace truth. For God is the source and person of truth and He is merciful. The question is, “Will you embrace truth and mercy?”
23. “He’s all talk.” We’ve all met the talker, the “one upper” who’s always been there and done that and better than you. However, hard work and integrity speak louder than cheap talk.
24. Wisdom and wealth. What do you have to show for your wisdom? What is wisdom’s crown? The answer is riches but not all wise and godly are monetarily rich – Jesus being the foremost. But what was His crown? Thorns! But the riches He displayed can be acquired viz. family, integrity, honesty, charity, sacrifice, love, righteousness, etc. Can you say that you are rich? Col. 2:2-3; Phil. 4:8.
25. This echoes v. 5 to a point (and my mini diatribe). A judicial setting is pictured where true witness saves lives and false witness destroys lives. Practically speaking, bearing false testimony due to ignorance, gossip (blasting w/o critique v. 5), or deliberate deceit is an abomination to truth, righteousness, love, peace, security, trust, and ultimately God!
26. Trusting YHWH affords confidence (not self-confidence) thus laying a foundation for children to trust him also. “Strong confidence” comes from a sure foundation.
27. Trusting YHWH brings life and delivers from death – and Jesus is YHWH! Jn. 4:10; 7:38 cf. Isa. 12:2-3; 10:10.
28. A king w/o subjects is no king. Kidner wrote, “It is a reminder that solitary splendour is self-extinguishing. The true leader glories in the vigour of his followers.”² A king is not to lord over his subjects but serve them. An earnest King gains high fidelity.
29. The wise measure their responses and appropriately express anger in wise timing and measure. Emotional outbursts, however, exalt folly. Outward actions ultimately reveal inward character.
30. Related to v. 29, here we see the “heart” of the matter (pun intended). The wise found peace and life where God reached down to their hearts, thus they are not servant to their emotions (previous verse). When the heart (core of the person) is at peace there is life promoting life. Conversely, the sick heart of envy is “rottenness to the bones.”
31. How one treats the poor is indicative of how one treats God. Cf. Mat. 25:40; Jam. 2:5; 1 Jn. 3:17-18.
32. End rewards. Banished vs refuge. In his wickedness, the wicked man is, literally: “‘cast down’ (*yiddāḥeh*). *Dḥh* occurs six times, five times in the Psalter, and denotes causing someone or something to come to ruin by unfastening it from its stability and security (cf. Pss. 35:5; 36:13[14] [sic. The author was likely referring to Ps. 36:12 and another verse]; 62:3[4]). *By* (*b^e*) signifies the

² Kidner, D. (1964). [*Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary*](#) (Vol. 17, p. 105). InterVarsity Press.

“Beyond the Façade” (Prov. 14)

agent of his downfall, *his own evil (rā ‘ātô)*”³ So the wicked are cast down by their own wickedness and banished by it and into it in the end, whereas the righteous lit. “seek” God in death and find refuge in Him beyond death cf. Ps. 49:10-15.

33. Dual meaning: Wisdom’s Home: Kidner explained, “Two meanings of the Heb. text are possible. (a) A wise man does not parade his knowledge; a fool does (cf. 12:23). (b) While wisdom’s true abode is with the wise, even among fools it is not wholly unrecognized.”⁴
34. The adherence to or rejection of wisdom in “righteousness” collectively can either exalt or disgrace an entire nation. Ps. 33:12 & Pr. 29:2.
35. A king’s subjects must give an account of their stewardship (22:29). The King Jesus reigning from the throne now (e.g. Mk. 16:19; Ro. 8:34; Acts 2:33 Heb. 1:3 and dozens more) and final judge (Jn. 5:27-29) to come will require an account from each person under the sun and reward or punishment will be determined on the wisdom to fear Him or folly which rejects Him (cf. Ps. 2 and Mat. 24:45-51). And so it will be that the Day of Judgment will end in favor for some and wrath for others. Mat. 25:31-46.

PC-Part 1

Wisdom is known by her deeds and feigned appearances will be exposed. In fact the wise can discern façades. The fool thinks he is wise and attempts to deceive others for his own selfish delusions but the wise will not fall for such deception, which would otherwise lead them off of the righteous path. We need only to follow the Good Shepherd who leads us on the good and righteous paths for His name’s sake (Ps. 23:3). And we follow Him by heeding the instruction of His Word. When every thought, ideal, philosophy, psychology, practice, attitude, value, priority, motive, etc. is tested in the light of Scripture, we can determine if the above mentioned propositions are wise or foolish. Many “virtues” of the day are actually foolish and fatal but they are decidedly unbiblical and thus we can save ourselves much trouble and ultimate condemnation when we trust the LORD and stay on His righteous and prosperous path.

PC for Part 2 13b now entitled “Enduring Household” (Prov. 13)

A theme of the enduring household is found in Proverbs and properly expressed in vv. 1 & 11. Eph. 2:19-22 states that all in Christ are members of the household of God built on the foundation of the Apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone making up the Temple of the Lord; a dwelling place for God by the Spirit. Jesus is the only sure foundation for now and eternity and the “wisdom” of Proverbs is that of Christ. We are to be building up our households of faith and our churches for the spread of the Gospel to make disciples of all nations. And we cannot fulfill such a commission w/o the foundation of Christ and power of the Spirit. Nor can we successfully prevail without a healthy church. “The tent of the upright will flourish” (Prov. 14:11). Therefore, as we have our church business meeting today, we do so (as all others) with a spirit of dependence upon God. We approach the budgets, ministries, issues, etc. with an attitude of obedience and grace – knowing that the only safe, true, and prosperous way is the LORD’s way! We conduct our business for His household with earnest love and biblical priorities, virtues, and values.

PC part 3:

It is important for us to be able to look beyond facades. We must be critical observers – both gracious but savvy because many feign an appearance of good will, nobility, or sincerity. But we must also be critical examiners of ourselves as we too wear masks that fool even ourselves. It is the wise soul who

³ Waltke, B. K. (2004). *The Book of Proverbs, Chapters 1–15* (pp. 607–608). Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co.

⁴ Kidner, D. (1964). *Proverbs: An Introduction and Commentary* (Vol. 17, p. 105). InterVarsity Press.

“Beyond the Façade” (Prov. 14)

takes the proverbs of Scripture seriously. When we meditate on them (as all of Scripture), we not only see our deficiencies of duty but even the innate impetus to enact them. But this is the revelation of God’s Word doing its job of putting the spiritual mirror in front of our faces. The positively critical student of the Word will find that he is in no condition to uphold such a perfect standard but when he continues therein, he also finds Jesus Messiah – who is the person and means of our earnest sincerity, redeemed nobility, and righteous walk.