

# LAW AND ORDER Sunday School- October 2, 2011

## Unifying Topic: AN ORDERED LIFE

### Lesson Text

I. Wise Words About Discipline And Discernment (Proverbs 29:16-18)

II. Wise Words About Duty (Proverbs 29:19-24)

III. Wise Words About Deity (Proverbs 29:25-27)

**The Main Thought:** The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe. (Proverbs 29:25, KJV).

**Unifying Principle:** People look for ways to live with some sense of security in their lives. Is there a way to live with a sense of security? A life ordered by godly principles builds trust in God and brings a sense of security to life.

**Lesson Aim:** To help students reflect on what it means to live an ordered life.

**Life aim:** To help students re-evaluate their priorities in light of God's wisdom and discover the relationship between an orderly life and one's trust in God.

---

- 29:16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall.  
29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.  
29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he.  
29:19 A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer.  
29:20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him.  
29:21 He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length.  
29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife, and a furious man aboundeth in transgression.  
29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.  
29:24 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not.  
29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.  
29:26 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD.  
29:27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked.

### **HISTORY:**

This chapter repeats some points already made and introduces new ones. Bad leaders plunge a country into chaos. Don't oppress the poor. Don't show partiality. Take care of your parents. Follow the teachings of your parents. Be industrious.

### **Chapter 29: 1-15**

**29:1** Hardening your neck **when being reproved**, (*given many rebukes*) makes you make the same mistakes over and over and sets you up for disaster; to be destroyed without remedy. A **hard neck** means stiff-neck or just plain stubborn refusing to listen. There are consequences you will have to face, for your refusal to learn. If your mistake is refusing God's invitations or rejecting His commands, the consequences will be especially serious. It says, you **shall suddenly be destroyed**, meaning such persons shall be punished with everlasting destruction, which shall come upon them suddenly, when they are crying "*Peace*" to themselves, notwithstanding the reproofs of God and men. And in the end, God may have to turn you away.

**29:2** The truth will be the rule when **the righteous are in control (authority)** because they rule justly. Therefore, **the people will rejoice**. When the righteous increase, when they are in power, when they are set in high places, and exercise right judgment the whole body of the people feel, and enjoy the advantage of it. But on the other hand, when the wicked rule, the land is clothed in mourning. Because of the sad state of things, numbers of good men are lessened, being cut off, or obliged to flee. Then **wicked men** and wickedness are encouraged and **promoted (like we see in our government now)**; heavy taxes are laid upon the people, and exorbitant demands, injustice, and arbitrary power is exercised, **the people mourn**. Pray for righteous rulers.

**29:3** **A father is clothed with gladness** when his son loves wisdom and abstains from the **company of harlots**. Those who live in a riotous and voluptuous manner will soon **drain a man of his substance**, and bring him to a morsel of bread; and such a son grieves his father, seeing by spending his substance.

<http://www.pitwm.net//pitwm-sundayschool.html>

**29:4** When a king does right, all will go well with him and the land is established; is stable; stands firm; makes the nation strong. He establishes the laws of the land, and the government; he secures its peace and prosperity of the nation so that it flourishes. However, the king that takes gifts and is bribed by them to pervert judgment and justice brings distress and poverty; destroys it and it comes to ruin and thereby overthrows his kingdom.

**29:5** "Flattery" is the saying of what the heart does not mean, with the intention of misleading or obtaining favor. We all want to be liked, so we are all vulnerable to flattery. However, over-flattery is designed to ensnare the unsuspecting and gullible. The one who is the smooth talker with his neighbor has a hidden motive and spreads a net for his steps; setting a trap for himself.

**29:6** The transgressions of these evil men forge a chain that binds them steadfastly to a treadmill of evil. Repeated sin becomes a habit, and bad habits destroy a man; that "snare" is the habit of sin we get into and then cannot shake. One sin leads on to another, and a man is snared by the works of his own hands. However, the righteous goes singing and rejoicing on their way, free from sin's entangling power. The righteous men are kept from those snares, or delivered out of them; they walk at liberty, walk in safety, and therefore they sing and rejoice.

**29:7** A compassionate attitude toward those in need demonstrates a godly character. Therefore, the righteous cares for and has sympathy; gives attention to the cause (the basis or source their plea, their case, their legal rights) of the poor. He realizes the plight of the poor and helps them whenever he can. The wicked cares for no one but himself. Everything the wicked does has a selfish purpose behind it. They do not understand the "sympathetic knowledge" or "concern" for the cause of the poor.

**29:8** Scornful men are never pleased with anyone or anything. These scornful create rebellion and riots and can cause a whole city to be blamed for it; snared in discord. They sow discord among the citizens and run them into confusion. Such scornful people make dangerous situations worse, whereas the wise calm things down. Then people can consider the situation carefully. And they will make a sensible decision by turning away anger.

**29:9** A wise man is here advised not to set his wit with a foolish man, not to dispute with him, or by contending with him. There is no reasoning with a fool. <sup>1</sup>"Contendeth" means judge or defend, or plead in this instance. This seems to be (whether in playing or a legal problem) there is no way to ever get it settled completely. It is not possible to persuade this foolish man to do what is right. He either gets mad, or laughs but does not accept the truth and returns to embrace his own opinions. "There is no rest"; there can be no happy ending to any involvement with him, nor will he have any satisfaction in it.

**29:10** "Bloodthirsty" mean people who shed blood – murderers, or those who would not hesitate to commit murder in order to get what they want. They hate men of integrity. <sup>2</sup>The upright tries to help the bloodthirsty repent and be saved. The bloodthirsty feels terrible guilt when they compare themselves with the upright and they hate the upright. The bloodthirsty love no one but themselves, and they will stop at no length to get what they want. The just are always seeking to save a soul, even that of bloodthirsty one.

**29:11** The fool likes to hear himself, thereby uttering his mind, venting his feeling; his anger which is not the mind of Christ. His wisdom is earthly wisdom, which will bless no one. The wise man listens and considers everything. He never speaks until he has fully considered everything by keeping it back quietly. There is a time for everything: a time to keep silent and a time to speak which will always show the mark of true wisdom. Therefore, the fool pours out all his wrath, but the wise man holds it back.

**29:12** A corrupt leader will draw around him corrupt people. The servants of the ruler are apt to become like the

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/46.html>

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/46.html>  
<http://www.pitwm.net//pitwm-sundayschool.html>

ruler and accommodate themselves to his practices. **If the ruler prefers falsehood to the truth, his servants will become able liars.** <sup>3</sup>Another idea: If you listen to everything people tell you, including the lies, then you'll end up hating everyone, they'll all become "wicked" because some people will lie and tell you stories to turn you against others.

**29:13 If the poor** (the deprived) and **the deceitful** (the dishonest) **come together** and try to settle their differences, the Lord will open their eyes and let them see. Each depends on God for light. Both are partakers of His providential blessings. He is no respecter of blessings. They have something in common; **the Lord** gives life and **light to all men**, the unfortunate and deceiving alike. The moneylender might use his superior economic power to oppress the poor, but he had better remember that they both meet together under the watchful eye of the Lord.

**29:14 Faithfulness to the poor** does much **to establish the throne of the king**. The poor are those who can't stick up for themselves; they can't influence you with gifts; and they can't hire expensive lawyers. God promises to take care of leaders who make decisions fairly by judging the poor truthfully.

**29:15** The child who is exempted from discipline and allowed to govern his life according to the dictates of his own will is destined to bring shame upon his home. The rod means the paddle, and reproof means correction. Kids need both **the rod and reproof which give wisdom**. They need to know the consequences and understand what they've done or else this shame will be public for the mother. Kids don't raise or train themselves. Parents raise and train kids. It is natural for a mother's love to be forgiving and **not judging**, but this would give way to the children's happiness and leads to the mother's misery. And those you refuse to chastise **will yield to shame** because you gave in to what they wanted.

#### LESSON:

### **Proverbs 29:16-18 Wise Words About Discipline And Discernment**

**29:16 When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: but the righteous shall see their fall**— When the wicked are increased or in authority their sins increase and they will not always succeed. Though they may continue for a time, the righteous will ultimately witness the total overthrow of the wicked.

**29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul**— Correction is the discipline given to improve or reform the person punished. When you train a son correctly, you have nothing to fear from his behavior. A good son brings pleasure and good memories to his parents. Loving discipline along with prayer will produce children who will give rest and cause delight for aging parents.

**29:18 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he**— While using this verse in this context of correction, suggests where there is no vision for the proper discipline of children, a society produces a generation of young people who have no regard for the law and literally run wild. This also means, <sup>4</sup>if you are not looking ahead and planning on accomplishing a goal in your life, you have no life without a vision. A vision from God can be the will of God being revealed to you in a supernatural way. To lose sight of the will of God would certainly cause us to perish. The person who knows the will of God and is living in that will is very happy and contented, knowing they are pleasing God.

### **Proverbs 29:19-24 Wise Words About Duty**

**29:19 A servant will not be corrected by words: for though he understand he will not answer**— Verbal correction accomplishes little with a servant who deliberately refuses to obey commands. This is speaking of a servant who is disobedient and stubborn. He can easily hear what you are saying, but words will not move him. If words are not understood, then actions will have to be applied. A stubborn or disobedient servant must be corrected with

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.calvaryfullerton.org/Bstudy/20%20Pro/2004/20Pro%2029.htm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/46.html>

<http://www.pitwm.net//pitwm-sundayschool.html>

something sterner than mere words.

**29:20 Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him**—This is speaking of a man that speaks before he thinks; that takes upon him to speak upon a subject, or return an answer to a question, before he has thoroughly thought of it; implying self-conceit; and without taking the advice of others. The fool is one that has not the gift of elocution (the art of clear speaking), or not so much level-headedness and may be able to get away with much because you know he is a fool. The man who speaks with haste has not learned to hold his words back. Once you've said something, you can't get it back. Such portrays that self is ruling instead of Christ.

**29:21 He that delicately bringeth up his servant from a child shall have him become his son at the length**—<sup>5</sup>If the servant comes to you as a child and lives with you, he becomes like a member of the family. You become fond of him, and it is hard to think of him as a servant. He becomes a member of the family. Trusted slaves sometimes rose to positions of prominence and became heirs of their master's property. The idea could be that if you pamper your servant, you might end up with him being a son to you, but you've lost a good worker. Raising a servant from a child, and overindulging or pampering a servant ultimately causes the child to be cared for like a son rather than one who serves the master.

**29:22 An angry man stirreth up strife**—He always gets it started. His spirit causes it wherever he goes. He causes sin in himself and in others. **And a furious man aboundeth in transgression**—He thrives in overstepping the limit of sin in deliberate rebellion. His furious spirit is always carrying him into extremes. Both are led by self and not by the Holy Spirit. *Proverbs 22:24 says, Make no friendship with an angry man; and with a furious man thou shalt not go.*

**29:23 A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit**—Anger and pride always go together. Pride closes a man off from learning and is a forerunner of impending destruction. The lowly (*lit., the sufferers*), who trust in the Lord, are destined for honor. In contrast, the proud will be brought "low," but the one who is "lowly" will be honored. Pride is what makes you want to stand head and shoulders above everyone else. Yet it's what will bring you down. Humility causes you to exalt others ahead of you, but in the end you receive honor.

**29:24 Whoso is partner with a thief hateth his own soul: he heareth cursing, and bewrayeth it not**—Even if you did not steal, but you're in partnership with a thief, you would be guilty by association. It is speaking of knowing of a sin and not speaking out to reveal the sin. The individual who conceals the evil plotting of a thief under the guise of not wanting to become involved, would be an accomplice and punished along with the criminal doing terrible damage to his own soul. It is working against him when he does not inform on the thief. He will be punished along with the thief if he is caught.

## **Proverbs 29:25-27 Wise Words About Deity**

**29:25 The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe**—If people cause you to shake in your boots, then they're going to control what you do. Fear is lack of faith. To fear man and what he can do to you is sin. The believer can either fear man or fear the Lord. He cannot do both. If he fears man, he will be made a slave of man and will always find himself in a snare (a trap) — in a trap there is no freedom of movement or sense of security. Safety is guaranteed only to him who puts his trust in the Lord. Fear God, who can turn the harm intended by others, into good for those who trust Him.

**29:26 Many seek the ruler's favour; but every man's judgment cometh from the LORD**—Many people seek the approval of earthly leaders, but in reality this approval means little because an earthly ruler may err and oftentimes does, in dispensing favors. The moral is to seek the Lord's favor, since He alone can and will exact justice. God alone determines the destinies of men; every man's judgment cometh from the Lord.

---

<sup>5</sup> <http://www.lovetheLord.com/books/proverbs/46.html>  
<http://www.pitwm.net/pitwm-sundayschool.html>

## **29:27 An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked—**

The unjust who cherishes deviousness is a disgrace; an outrage; an eyesore to the just. It is not the person, but his actions; his unrighteous actions, his ungodly life and conversation that the good loathe. And the upright, who cherishes righteousness is loathsome; and is disliked by the wicked who hate their goodness. It is the Christ they see within the good that they hate. The enmity may be masked, but nothing can mend it; there can be no treaty of peace. There always has been a mutual enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent (*Gen.3:15*).

### **SUMMARY:**

<sup>6</sup>When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increases (v.16). Contrary to what today's society may tell us, proper discipline includes both verbal instruction and spankings. Failure to do so produces a child and in turn a society that is overrun by the wicked who feel they can practice all kinds of evil without punishment. On the other hand, following the Biblical principles of discipline will produce children who will bring delight to their parents (v.17).

Without God's Word people abandon themselves to their own sinful ways (v.18). The word "*perish*" means to run wild. On the other hand keeping God's law brings happiness. Lack of vision, results in a cold dry theological, or philosophical treatment of the Scriptures, which is given to touch the intellect, rather than the heart and the conscience. <sup>7</sup>It is important to use the rod and reproof when children are young and forming both character and habits for life (v.19). If they are not corrected when they are young, verbal correction will accomplish very little when they become older, for they will refuse to obey commands then. This is why our jails are filled today.

There is less hope for a person who is insensitive to others than there is for a fool, because he brings trouble on others as well as on himself (v.20). Failure to discipline a servant and then require him to carry out responsibilities will bring grief (v.21). It is impossible to have a close relationship with the Lord and have an angry spirit (v.22). An angry, hot tempered person causes all kinds of strife and commits many sins. Ironically pride by which a person seeks to elevate himself only results in his being brought low (v.23) while the humble will be elevated by others to a position of honor.

It is a serious thing to partake of other men's' sins. A man who forms a partnership with a thief in reality despises his own life (v.24). In court he must either lie or say nothing. If he testifies he will implicate himself and if he says nothing he will be assumed guilty (Lev. 5:1). The person who fears God will not fear man. However, the person who fears man will never fear God as he should (v.25). Many seek the approval of men when God alone determines the destiny of men (v.26). Good people and criminals can't stand each other (v.27).

Here we have the wise words of Solomon about discipline and discernment; that it is necessary if you don't want wickedness to increase, but you want to find rest and delight in the son you've given wisdom to. You want him to have an ordered; planned, and disciplined life as he stays with the vision. In him knowing the words of wisdom given, will yield discernment, a duty to follow them, and a trust in the deity of God Almighty!

### **APPLICATION:**

The Law of God is ultimate! When we trust His Words of Wisdom to be truth by following them, there is security.

---

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/biblical-discipline-brings-delight/>

<sup>7</sup> <http://www.family-times.net/commentary/the-rod-and-reproof-bring-wisdom/>

<http://www.pitwm.net//pitwm-sundayschool.html>