

Studies in Proverbs - "The Fear of the Lord"

Table 1
Proverbs – "The Fear of the Lord," AV1611 versus NIV

Verse	AV1611	NIV
1:7	<i><u>The fear of the LORD</u> is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.</i>	<i>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.</i>
1:29	<i>For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:</i>	<i>Since they hated knowledge and did not choose to fear the LORD.</i>
2:5	<i>Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.</i>	<i>Then you will understand the fear of the LORD and find the knowledge of God.</i>
8:13	<i>The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.</i>	<i>To fear the LORD is to hate evil; I hate pride and arrogance, evil behavior and perverse speech.</i>
9:10	<i>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.</i>	<i>"The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding..."</i>
10:27	<i>The fear of the LORD prolongeth days: but the years of the wicked shall be shortened.</i>	<i>The fear of the LORD adds length to life, but the years of the wicked are cut short.</i>
14:26	<i>In the fear of the LORD is strong confidence: and his children shall have a place of refuge.</i>	<i>He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge.</i>
14:27	<i>The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.</i>	<i>The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.</i>
15:16	<i>Better is little with the fear of the LORD than great treasure and trouble therewith.</i>	<i>Better a little with the fear of the LORD than great wealth with turmoil.</i>
15:33	<i>The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and before honour is humility.</i>	<i>The fear of the LORD teaches a man wisdom, and humility comes before honor.</i>
16:6	<i>By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.</i>	<i>Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.</i>
19:23	<i>The fear of the LORD tendeth to life: and he that hath it shall abide satisfied; he shall not be visited with evil.</i>	<i>The fear of the LORD leads to life: Then one rests content, untouched by trouble.</i>
22:4	<i>By humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, and honour, and life.</i>	<i>Humility and the fear of the LORD bring wealth and honor and life.</i>
23:17	<i>Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.</i>	<i>Do not let your heart envy sinners, but always be zealous for the fear of the LORD.</i>

Notes on Table 1

1. The expression *“the fear of the Lord”* occurs 14 times in the Book of Proverbs in the AV1611 and a total of 27 times in the AV1611, 26 times in the Old Testament, once in the New.
2. The remaining verses in the AV1611 with the expression are 1 Samuel 11:7, 2 Chronicles 14:14, 17:10, 19:7, 9, Job 28:28, Psalm 19:9, 34:11, 111:10, Isaiah 11:2, 3, 33:6, Acts 9:31.
3. The expression *“the fear of the Lord”* occurs 11 times in the Book of Proverbs in the NIV and a total of 22 times in the NIV, 21 times in the Old Testament, once in the New.
4. The verses in Proverbs where the AV1611 contains the expression *“the fear of the Lord”* where the NIV does not are Proverbs 1:29, 8:13, 14:26. See red-shaded and blue-shaded expressions in **Table 1**.
5. Proverbs 1:29, 8:13, 14:26 cross reference to Psalm 36:1, Nehemiah 5:15, Isaiah 33:6. The NIV alterations weaken those cross references.
6. The remaining verses in the NIV with the expression are 2 Chronicles 17:10, 19:7, 9, Job 28:28, Psalm 19:9, 34:11, 111:10, Isaiah 11:2, 3, 33:6, Acts 9:31.
7. Besides the changes in Proverbs, the NIV changes the expression *“the fear of the Lord”* in 1 Samuel 11:7 *“the terror of the Lord”* and 2 Chronicles 14:14 *“the terror of the Lord.”* Both changes are inappropriate. *“The terror of the Lord”* 2 Corinthians 5:11 is used only once in scripture, with respect to being accepted of the Lord at *“the judgment seat of Christ”* 2 Corinthians 5:10.

“Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences” 2 Corinthians 5:9-11.

Fruits of “the Fear of the Lord”:

1. *“The beginning of knowledge”* Proverbs 1:7
2. *“The knowledge of God”* Proverbs 2:5
3. *“Hate evil”* Proverbs 8:13
4. *“The beginning of wisdom”* Proverbs 9:10
5. *“Prolongeth days”* Proverbs 10:27
6. *“Strong confidence”* Proverbs 14:26
7. *“A fountain of life”* Proverbs 14:27
8. *“The instruction of wisdom”* Proverbs 15:33
9. *“Depart from evil”* Proverbs 16:6
10. *“Tendeth to life”* Proverbs 19:23
11. *“Riches, and honour, and life”* Proverbs 22:4

Effectual Prayer in “The Fear of the Lord”:

1. More knowledgeable, Proverbs 1:7
2. More godly, Proverbs 2:5
3. More holy, Proverbs 8:13, 16:6
4. More practical, Proverbs 9:10
5. More enduring, Proverbs 10:27
6. More confident, Proverbs 14:26
7. More enlivened, Proverbs 14:27, 19:23, 22:4
8. More enlightened, Proverbs 15:33
9. More enriched, Proverbs 22:4
10. More honourable, Proverbs 22:4

“The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” James 5:16

Studies in Proverbs – “Wisdom”

Table 2
Proverbs – “Wisdom,” Selected Verses, AV1611 versus NIV

Verse	AV1611	NIV
1:7	<i>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise <u>wisdom</u> and instruction.</i>	<i>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise <u>wisdom</u> and discipline.</i>
1:20	<i><u>Wisdom</u> crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:</i>	<i><u>Wisdom</u> calls aloud in the street, she raises her voice in the public squares;</i>
2:6	<i>For the LORD giveth <u>wisdom</u>: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding.</i>	<i>For the LORD gives <u>wisdom</u>, and from his mouth come knowledge and understanding.</i>
2:7	<i>He layeth up sound <u>wisdom</u> for the righteous: he is a buckler to them that walk uprightly.</i>	<i>He holds <u>victory</u> in store for the upright, he is a shield to those whose walk is blameless,</i>
3:19	<i>The LORD by <u>wisdom</u> hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens.</i>	<i>By <u>wisdom</u> the LORD laid the earth's foundations, by understanding he set the heavens in place;</i>
3:21	<i>My son, let not them depart from thine eyes: keep sound <u>wisdom</u> and discretion:</i>	<i>My son, preserve sound <u>judgment</u> and discernment, do not let them out of your sight;</i>
4:7	<i><u>Wisdom</u> is the principal thing; therefore get <u>wisdom</u>: and with all thy getting get understanding.</i>	<i><u>Wisdom</u> is supreme; therefore get <u>wisdom</u>. Though it cost all you have, get understanding.</i>
8:1	<i>Doth not <u>wisdom</u> cry? And understanding put forth her voice?</i>	<i>Does not <u>wisdom</u> call out? Does not understanding raise her voice?</i>
8:14	<i>Counsel is mine, and sound <u>wisdom</u>: I am understanding; I have strength.</i>	<i>Counsel and sound <u>judgment</u> are mine; I have understanding and power.</i>
9:1	<i><u>Wisdom</u> hath builded her house, she hath hewn out her seven pillars:</i>	<i><u>Wisdom</u> has built her house; she has hewn out its seven pillars.</i>
9:10	<i>The fear of the LORD is the beginning of <u>wisdom</u>: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.</i>	<i>“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of <u>wisdom</u>, and knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.”</i>
10:31	<i>The mouth of the just bringeth forth <u>wisdom</u>: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.</i>	<i>The mouth of the righteous brings forth <u>wisdom</u>, but a perverse tongue will be cut out.</i>
15:33	<i>The fear of the LORD is the instruction of <u>wisdom</u>; and before honour is humility.</i>	<i>The fear of the LORD teaches a man <u>wisdom</u>, and humility comes before honor.</i>
21:30	<i>There is no <u>wisdom</u> nor understanding nor counsel against the LORD.</i>	<i>There is no <u>wisdom</u>, no insight, no plan that can succeed against the LORD.</i>
23:23	<i>Buy the truth, and sell it not; also <u>wisdom</u>, and instruction, and understanding.</i>	<i>Buy the truth and do not sell it; get <u>wisdom</u>, discipline and understanding.</i>

Notes on Table 2

1. “*Wisdom*” occurs in the AV1611 a total of 234 times in 222 verses, 54 times in Proverbs in 53 verses.
2. The word occurs in the NIV a total of 217 times in 206 verses, 51 times in Proverbs in 50 verses.
3. “*Wisdom*” occurs in the AV1611 in 9 verses where it does not occur in the NIV; Proverbs 1:3, 2:7, 3:21, 8:5, 14, 10:21, 11:12, 15:21, 18:1. See red-shaded and blue-shaded expressions in Table 2 for examples.
4. The word occurs in the NIV in 6 verses where it does not occur in the AV1611; 2:12, 4:6, 9:12, 19:11, 21:11, 28:26. The AV1611 instead uses the more directly applicable term “*discretion*” in Proverbs 2:11, 19:11, the more explicit expression “*thou shalt be wise for thyself*” in Proverbs 9:12, the plainer expression “*the simple is made wise*” in Proverbs 21:11 and the more descriptive expression for the context “*whoso walketh wisely*” in Proverbs 28:26. The term “*wisdom*” is superfluous in Proverbs 4:6, the sense of which is wisdom personified.
5. “*Wisdom*” in the Old Testament is the Lord Jesus Christ in the New, 1 Corinthians 1:30.
6. The Lord chose good and not evil, thereby exercising wisdom, Hebrews 5:14, Isaiah 7:15.

Means of Wisdom

1. A listening ear, Proverbs 1:20, 8:1
2. The Lord Himself, Proverbs 2:6
3. The Lord’s word, Proverbs 2:6
4. The fear of the Lord, Proverbs 9:10, 15:33
5. Willingness to pay the price, Proverbs 23:23, e.g. Luke 9:23
6. Wisdom’s “*seven pillars*” are in Isaiah 11:2, 3 and a rock formation in Jordan¹, Psalm 18:2

Fruits of Wisdom

1. God’s protection, Proverbs 2:7, e.g. Psalm 18:2, 30, 91:4, “*buckler*” defined as “*shield*”
2. God’s creation, Proverbs 3:19
3. Godly discretion, Proverbs 21, e.g. Proverbs 17:28, Ecclesiastes 12:10
4. God’s strength, Proverbs 8:14
5. Humility and honour, Proverbs 15:33
6. Instruction and understanding, Proverbs 23:23, e.g. Proverbs 2:6-12, 16-20

Hindrances to Wisdom

1. Conceit, Proverbs 1:7
2. Wilful ignorance, Proverbs 1:20
3. Sinfulness, Proverbs 2:7 and sinful companions, e.g. Proverbs 13:20, 1 Kings 12:8-10
4. Carelessness, Proverbs 3:21
5. No fear of God, Proverbs 9:10, e.g. Romans 3:18
6. Rebellion against the Lord, Proverbs 21:30, e.g. 1 Samuel 15:23

Studies in Proverbs – “The Word of God”

Table 3
Proverbs – “The Word of God,” Selected Verses, AV1611 versus NIV

Verse	AV1611	NIV
1:2	<i>To know wisdom and instruction; <u>to perceive the words of understanding</u>;</i>	<i>for attaining wisdom and discipline; <u>for understanding words of insight</u>;</i>
1:6	<i>To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; <u>the words of the wise</u>, and their dark sayings.</i>	<i>for understanding proverbs and parables, <u>the sayings</u> and riddles <u>of the wise</u>.</i>
1:21	<i>She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth <u>her words</u>, saying</i>	<i>at the head of the noisy streets she cries out, in the gateways of the city she makes her speech:</i>
2:1	<i>My son, if thou wilt receive <u>my words</u>, and hide my commandments with thee;...</i>	<i>My son, if you accept <u>my words</u> and store up my commands within you,...</i>
4:5	<i>Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from <u>the words of my mouth</u>.</i>	<i>Get wisdom, get understanding; do not forget <u>my words</u> or swerve from them.</i>
13:13	<i>Whoso despiseth <u>the word</u> shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.</i>	<i>He who scorns <u>instruction</u> will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.</i>
16:24	<i><u>Pleasant words</u> are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones.</i>	<i><u>Pleasant words</u> are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.</i>
19:27	<i><u>Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge</u>.</i>	<i><u>Stop listening to instruction, my son, and you will stray from the words of knowledge</u>.</i>
22:17	<i><u>Bow down thine ear, and hear the words of the wise</u>, and apply thine heart unto my knowledge.</i>	<i>Pay attention and listen to <u>the sayings of the wise</u>; apply your heart to what I teach,</i>
22:21	<i>That I might make thee know the certainty of <u>the words of truth</u>; that thou mightest answer <u>the words of truth</u> to them that send unto thee?</i>	<i>teaching you <u>true and reliable words</u>, so that you can give <u>sound answers</u> to him who sent you?</i>
23:12	<i>Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to <u>the words of knowledge</u>.</i>	<i>Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to <u>words of knowledge</u>.</i>
25:11	<i><u>A word fitly spoken</u> is like apples of gold in pictures of silver.</i>	<i><u>A word aptly spoken</u> is like apples of gold in settings of silver.</i>
30:5	<i><u>Every word of God</u> is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.</i>	<i>“<u>Every word of God</u> is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.</i>
30:6	<i>Add thou not unto <u>his words</u>, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.</i>	<i>Do not add to <u>his words</u>, or he will rebuke you and prove you a liar.</i>

Notes on Table 3

1. Red-shaded and blue-shaded expressions show where “**words**” or “**word**” are in the AV1611 but have been changed in the NIV. Yellow-shaded expressions are where the NIV changes the meaning of the verse.
2. The table contains 14 selected verses. “**Words**” occurs 12 times in the AV1611 column; Proverbs 1:2, 6, 21, 2:1, 4:5, 16:24, 19:27, 22:17, 21 (twice), 23:12, 30:6, “**word**” 3 times; Proverbs 13:13, 25:11, 30:5. Both terms occur a total of 15 times.
3. The term “**words**” occurs 8 times in the NIV column; Proverbs 1:2, 2:1, 4:5, 16:24, 19:27, 22:21 (once), 23:12, 30:6; “**word**” twice; Proverbs 25:11, 30:6. Both terms occur a total of 10 times and are omitted 5 times; Proverbs 1:6, 21, 13:13, 22:17, 21.
4. “**The words of the wise**” occurs 3 times in the entire AV1611; Proverbs 1:6, 22:17, Ecclesiastes 12:11; once in the entire NIV; Ecclesiastes 12:11.
5. “**My words**” occurs 5 times in the AV1611; Proverbs 1:23, 2:1, 4:4, 20, 7:1; 6 times in the NIV; Proverbs 2:1, 4:4, 5, 20, 5:1, 7:1.
6. “**The words of my mouth**” occurs 4 times in the AV1611; Proverbs 4:5, 5:7, 7:24, 8:8; once in the NIV, Proverbs 8:8.
7. “**The words of knowledge**” occurs twice in the AV1611; Proverbs 19:27, 23:12; once in the NIV; Proverbs 19:27.
8. “**The words of truth**” occurs 3 times in the entire AV1611; Proverbs 22:21 (twice), Acts 26:25; zero in the NIV.
9. Deuteronomy 4:2, Proverbs 30:6, Revelation 22:18, 19 are 3 sentinels² for the word of God.
10. Words describing the Lord’s words are found 31 times in 29 verses in the AV1611; Proverbs 1:2, 6, 21, 23, 2:1, 4:4, 5, 20, 5:7, 7:1, 24, 8:8, 12:25, 13:13, 15:23, 26 (twice), 16:24, 17:27, 18:4, 19:27, 22:17, 21 (twice), 23:9, 12, 25:11, 30:1, 5, 6, 31:1.
11. Words describing the Lord’s words are found 21 times in the NIV; Proverbs 1:2, 2:1, 4:4, 5, 20, 5:1, 7:1, 8:8, 12:25, 15:23, 16:21, 24, 17:27, 18:4, 19:27, 22:21, 23:9, 12, 25:11, 30:5, 6. They are omitted 11 times; Proverbs 1:6, 23, 5:7, 7:24, 13:13, 15:26 (twice), 22:17, 22:21, 30:1, 31:1 and added once; Proverbs 16:21.
12. The NIV changes the meaning of Proverbs 1:2 from “**perceive the words of understanding**” which is to see what these words actually *are* to “**understanding words of insight**” which assumes that they have already been identified, which may not be the case.
13. The NIV changes the meaning of Proverbs 19:27 from “**instruction that causeth to err**” i.e. specified as *misleading* instruction to “**instruction**” i.e. unidentified with respect to whether or not it is *valid* instruction.
14. Proverbs 2:1 is a condition for a promise that is fulfilled in Proverbs 2:5 “**Then shalt thou understand the fear of the LORD, and find the knowledge of God.**”

“The words of the wise” Proverbs 1:6, 22:17

1. Make up the Book of Proverbs.
2. It is a Wisdom Book and is the Lord’s, 1 Corinthians 1:30.
3. Are dark and need light for understanding, Psalm 119:130.
4. Must be received humbly and applied faithfully, James 1:22

“The words of my mouth” Proverbs 4:5, 5:7, 7:24, 8:8

1. Are ***“my words”*** that ***“wisdom...crieth...”*** Proverbs 1:23, 2:1, 4:4, 20, 7:1, 8:1-4.
2. Are ***“the word,” “Every word of God”*** and ***“his words”*** Proverbs 13:13, 30:5, 6.
3. Are ***“spirit and life”*** John 6:63 and must be obeyed to receive ***“all truth”*** John 16:13

“The words of knowledge” Proverbs 19:27, 23:12

1. Must displace ***“every false way”*** Psalm 119:104, 128.
2. Are heart knowledge, not head knowledge, Luke 8:15, 2 Timothy 3:4

“The words of truth” Proverbs 22:21

1. Are ***“excellent things in counsels and knowledge”*** Proverbs 22:20 and cannot be improved.
2. Are spoken by witnesses who ***“provide things honest in the sight of all men”*** Romans 12:17

Studies in Proverbs – “Trust”

Table 4
Proverbs – “Trust,” All Verses, AV1611 versus NIV

Verse	AV1611	NIV
3:5	<i>Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.</i>	<i>Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;</i>
3:29	<i>Devise not evil against thy neighbour, seeing he dwelleth securely by thee.</i>	<i>Do not plot harm against your neighbor, who lives trustfully near you.</i>
11:13	<i>A talebearer revealeth secrets: but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth the matter.</i>	<i>A gossip betrays a confidence, but a trustworthy man keeps a secret.</i>
11:28	<i>He that trusteth in his riches shall fall: but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.</i>	<i>Whoever trusts in his riches will fall, but the righteous will thrive like a green leaf.</i>
13:17	<i>A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.</i>	<i>A wicked messenger falls into trouble, but a trustworthy envoy brings healing.</i>
16:20	<i>He that handleth a matter wisely shall find good: and whoso trusteth in the LORD, happy is he.</i>	<i>Whoever gives heed to instruction prospers, and blessed is he who trusts in the LORD.</i>
21:22	<i>A wise man scalesh the city of the mighty, and casteth down the strength of the confidence thereof.</i>	<i>A wise man attacks the city of the mighty and pulls down the stronghold in which they trust.</i>
22:19	<i>That thy trust may be in the LORD, I have made known to thee this day, even to thee.</i>	<i>So that your trust may be in the LORD, I teach you today, even you.</i>
25:13	<i>As the cold of snow in the time of harvest, so is a faithful messenger to them that send him: for he refresheth the soul of his masters.</i>	<i>Like the coolness of snow at harvest time is a trustworthy messenger to those who send him; he refreshes the spirit of his masters.</i>
27:6	<i>Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful.</i>	<i>Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.</i>
28:25	<i>He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.</i>	<i>A greedy man stirs up dissension, but he who trusts in the LORD will prosper.</i>
28:26	<i>He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.</i>	<i>He who trusts in himself is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom is kept safe.</i>
29:25	<i>The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.</i>	<i>Fear of man will prove to be a snare, but whoever trusts in the LORD is kept safe.</i>
30:5	<i>Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him.</i>	<i>“Every word of God is flawless; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him.</i>

31:11	<i>The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil.</i>	<i>Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value.</i>
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Notes on Table 4

1. Red-shaded and blue-shaded expressions show where the AV1611 has used a stronger word for the context than the NIV e.g. Proverbs 3:29 “*securely*” versus “*trustfully*.” Yellow-shaded expressions are where the NIV changes the meaning of the verse or part of it.
2. The table contains 15 verses, which include all the references to “*trust*” or a derivative in Proverbs in the AV1611 and the NIV. “*Trust*” or a derivative occurs 9 times in Proverbs in the AV1611; Proverbs 3:5, 11:28, 16:20, 22:19, 28:25, 26, 29:25, 30:5*, 31:11* and 13 times in the NIV; Proverbs 3:5, 29**, 11:13**, 28, 13:17**, 16:20, 21:22**, 22:19, 25:13**, 27:6**, 28:25, 26, 29:25. *in AV1611 but not NIV. **in NIV but not AV1611.
3. Of the changes in Proverbs in the NIV, a trustful neighbour is not necessarily a secure one, 3:29. A secure neighbour is probably a quiet one, Judges 18:7, 10. A trustful one may not be.

“*Trustworthy*” implies worthy of trust and is not the same as “*faithful*,” which is steadfast*, Proverbs 11:13, 13:17, 25:13, 27:6. Men who rightly perceive God see themselves as *unworthy*, Genesis 32:10, Matthew 3:11, 8:8. They can, however, be “*counted...faithful*” 1 Timothy 1:12. *See **Notes on Table 5**, point 3 for additional remarks on faithfulness.

“*Trust*” and “*confidence*,” Proverbs 21:22, 31:11 may be synonyms in their respective contexts but note that in Proverbs 21:22, AV1611, *both* the city’s strength *and* the confidence in it are cast down, which is a more realistic reading, 2 Corinthians 10:3-5.

“*Trust*” is more than “*refuge*,” Proverbs 30:5, because it can include boldness, Daniel 3:17-18, 28.
4. Although secondary topics with respect to “*trust*,” handling “*a matter wisely*” and heeding instruction, “*proud*” and “*greedy*” and “*pure*” and “*flawless*” are not the same; Proverbs 16:20, 28:25, 30:5, e.g. Anton LaVey’s *The Satanic Bible* may have a “*flawless*” text and format but it is not “*pure*.”

“*Only by pride cometh contention*” Proverbs 13:10, not by greed.

“*No need of spoil*” Proverbs 31:11 indicates a faithful, devoted husband, whereas “*lacks nothing of value*” suggests merely sufficient material possessions.

What to Trust In

1. God, Proverbs 3:5, 16:20, 22:19, 28:25, 29:25, 30:5
2. God's word, Proverbs 30:5
3. A godly woman, Proverbs 31:11, 12

What Not to Trust In

1. *"Thine own understanding,"* Proverbs 3:5
2. Riches, Proverbs 11:4, 11:28, 23:5, 1 Timothy 6:17
3. *"The heart"* Proverbs 28:26, Jeremiah 17:9

How to Trust

1. *"With all thine heart,"* Proverbs 3:5, Luke 8:15, Romans 14:23, James 1:6-8

Rewards of Trusting Right

1. Direction and guidance, Proverbs 3:5-6
2. Righteousness, Proverbs 11:28
3. Goodness, happiness, Proverbs 16:20
4. Assurance of truth, excellent counsels and knowledge, Proverbs 22:20-21
5. Flourishing fruit, Proverbs 11:28, 28:25, Psalm 92:12-15
6. Wisdom, deliverance, safety, Proverbs 28:26, 29:25, 30:5
7. Contentment, 31:11, 2 Kings 4:13

Results of Trusting Wrong

1. Failure, Proverbs 11:28
2. Strife and leanness, Proverbs 28:25, Psalm 106:15
3. Danger, defeat, disaster, Proverbs 28:26
4. Fear and a snare, Proverbs 29:25, Isaiah 24:17

Application

To pray consistently that Dave and Mike would apply Proverbs 3:5-6 for their futures.

Studies in Proverbs – “Truth”

Table 5
Proverbs – “Truth,” All Verses, AV1611 versus NIV

Verse	AV1611	NIV
3:3	<i>Let not mercy and truth forsake thee: bind them about thy neck; write them upon the table of thine heart:</i>	<i>Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.</i>
8:7	<i>For my mouth shall speak truth; and wickedness is an abomination to my lips.</i>	<i>My mouth speaks what is true, for my lips detest wickedness.</i>
11:19	<i>As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death.</i>	<i>The truly righteous man attains life, but he who pursues evil goes to his death.</i>
12:17	<i>He that speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit.</i>	<i>A truthful witness gives honest testimony, but a false witness tells lies.</i>
12:19	<i>The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue is but for a moment.</i>	<i>Truthful lips endure forever, but a lying tongue lasts only a moment.</i>
12:22	<i>Lying lips are abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly are his delight.</i>	<i>The LORD detests lying lips, but he delights in men who are truthful.</i>
14:5	<i>A faithful witness will not lie: but a false witness will utter lies.</i>	<i>A truthful witness does not deceive, but a false witness pours out lies.</i>
14:22	<i>Do they not err that devise evil? but mercy and truth shall be to them that devise good.</i>	<i>Do not those who plot evil go astray? But those who plan what is good find love and faithfulness.</i>
14:25	<i>A true witness delivereth souls: but a deceitful witness speaketh lies.</i>	<i>A truthful witness saves lives, but a false witness is deceitful.</i>
16:6	<i>By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.</i>	<i>Through love and faithfulness sin is atoned for; through the fear of the LORD a man avoids evil.</i>
16:13	<i>Righteous lips are the delight of kings; and they love him that speaketh right.</i>	<i>Kings take pleasure in honest lips; they value a man who speaks the truth.</i>
20:28	<i>Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy.</i>	<i>Love and faithfulness keep a king safe; through love his throne is made secure.</i>
22:21	<i>That I might make thee know the certainty of the words of truth; that thou mightest answer the words of truth to them that send unto thee?</i>	<i>teaching you true and reliable words, so that you can give sound answers to him who sent you?</i>
23:23	<i>Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding.</i>	<i>Buy the truth and do not sell it; get wisdom, discipline and understanding.</i>

Notes on Table 5

1. Red-shaded and blue-shaded expressions are where the AV1611 and the NIV have used specifically different terms for “*truth*,” the AV1611’s terms being more precise for the context.
2. The table contains 14 verses where “*truth*” or a derivative occurs in Proverbs in the AV1611 and the NIV. “*Truth*” or a derivative occurs 12 times in Proverbs in the AV1611; Proverbs 3:3*, 8:7, 12:17, 19, 22, 14:22*, 25, 16:6*, 20:28*, 22:21 (twice), 23:23; 10 times in the NIV; Proverbs 8:7, 11:19**, 12:17, 19, 22, 14:5**, 25, 16:13**, 22:21 (once only), 23:23. *in AV1611 but not in NIV. **in NIV but not in AV1611.
3. “*Mercy and truth*” occurs 10 times in the AV1611, 4 times in Proverbs; Proverbs 3:3, 14:22, 16:6, 20:28, highlighted in gold in the table. It doesn’t occur in the NIV. Each time in Proverbs, the expression is replaced by the less explicit term “*love and faithfulness*” in the NIV. “*Mercy*” is God’s righteous judgement upon the sinner withheld and “*truth*” is the acknowledgement that such judgement is deserved. See Psalm 51:1, 6, Numbers 35:31. Through sin, all Christians in effect “*killed the Prince of life*” Acts 3:15 and could be “*adulterers and adulteresses*” through “*friendship of the world*” that “*is enmity with God*” James 4:4. Ephesians 2:4-6 shows in truth how every child of God needs and receives God’s mercy. “*But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:*” i.e. “*from the guttermost to the uttermost.*” All this is lost in the NIV. “*Love*” is not as specific as “*mercy*” and “*faithfulness*” must be qualified to be associated with “*truth*,” e.g. as God’s “*faithfulness*” Lamentations 3:22, 23. Many Israelites were faithful to the Lord by profession “*but not in truth, nor in righteousness*” Isaiah 48:1.
4. Where the NIV departs from the word “*truth*” in Proverbs 22:21b, “*sound answers*” is not the same as “*words of truth.*” Where “*sound*” is used as an adjective in the AV1611, it is always associated with godliness e.g. “*sound doctrine*” 1 Timothy 1:10, 2 Timothy 4:3, Titus 1:9, 2:1, “*a sound mind*” 2 Timothy 1:7, “*sound words*” 2 Timothy 1:13, “*sound...faith*” Titus 1:13, 2:2, “*sound speech, that cannot be condemned*” Titus 2:8. “*Sound answers*” is a relative term. Saul’s servants gave him a “*sound answer*” that was correct and well-judged, according to the king’s expressed desire. The “*words of truth*” from Samuel and from scripture were different, 1 Samuel 28:7, 16-19, 1 Chronicles 10:13. “*Reliable*” it should be noted, is not as strong as “*certainty.*” Weather forecasts may be “*reliable*” but never certain. Moreover, if words are “*true*,” they are a “*certainty*,” AV1611, not merely “*reliable*,” NIV.
5. Where the AV1611 does not have “*truth*” or a derivative, the NIV is inferior. *Truly*” in Proverbs 11:19 is unnecessary. In scripture, an individual is either “*righteous*” or “*wicked*” Genesis 18:23, 2 Peter 2:8. (The self-righteous Pharisees are clearly delineated as such, Luke 18:9.) The NIV’s “*truthful*” for “*faithful*” in Proverbs 14:5 misses the cross reference to the Lord Jesus Christ in Revelation 1:5 and its alteration of “*righteous*” and “*right*” into “*honest*” and “*truth*” in Proverbs 16:13 weakens the cross reference to Isaiah 45:19.

“Mercy and truth”

1. A responsibility, Proverbs 3:3
2. A reward, Proverbs, 14:22
3. A right way, Proverbs 16:6
4. A royal necessity, Proverbs 20:28

A Truth Speaker, Proverbs 8:7

1. Disperses righteousness, Proverbs 12:17
2. Dialogues forever, Proverbs 12:19
3. Delights God and kings, Proverbs 12:22, 16:13
4. Delivers souls, Proverbs 14:25

Application: Pray to be always conscious of Psalm 141:3 ***“Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.”***

Reference

¹ en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Seven_Pillars_of_Wisdom

² *God Only Wrote One Bible* by Jasper J. Ray, The Eye Opener Publishers, 1980, p 7