***PROVERBS***

**Ch. 11:11-20**

**Proverbs 11:11**

 A. When good comes to the upright, their blessings and prosperity often extend beyond themselves

 B. The words of the wicked are equally able to destroy

**Proverbs 11:12**

 A. When one despises his neighbor, it isn’t evidence of superior wisdom, but a failure to have true wisdom.

 B. Men and women of wisdom recognize that there is a time and place to hold back one’s outrage.

**Proverbs 11:13**

 A. A gossip loves to reveal secrets---They are a form of power that they use for their own benefit

 B. A person of wisdom knows there are times when love and wisdom guide to keep matters

**Proverbs 11:14**

 A. People need leadership and guidance, and those in leadership should be able to give wise counsel.

 B. There is great value and safety in receiving opinions and input from the multitude of counselors.

 1. No one has all gifts and wisdom, and a multitude of counselors will bring greater wisdom and safety in decisions.

**Proverbs 11:15**

 A. Paying the debts of a stranger invites trouble---Not many would be so foolish---***Illustrate absurdity by being absurd!***

 B. There is security in being responsible only for the things that one has control over

**Proverbs 11:16**

 A. A mark of a truly gracious woman is that she carries with herself a sense of honor and dignity

 1. Hebrew---one who by her virtues renders herself acceptable and amicable to God and men

 B. All the ruthless (***Strong***) care about is riches---Wealth is their god

 1. More common thought of among men, but ruthlessness is common to men and women alike

**Proverbs 11:17**

 A. The one who shows mercy to others will be shown mercy (**2 Samuel 22:26**), and this is good for the soul.

 B. The unmerciful and cruel will find they trouble themselves

 1. The measure men use for others will also be measured to them (**Matthew 7:2**)

**Proverbs 11:18**

 A. When someone works with deception and dishonesty, it is evidence of wickedness.

 B. Those that do their work in righteousness – marked by honesty and integrity – will see the sure reward of their work

 1. Their righteous work is like good seed that has been sown.

**Proverbs 11:19**

 A. For Solomon, this was a self-evident fact---The path of righteousness is a path to life.

 B. The way of evil is also a path, and it leads to death.

**Proverbs 11:20**

 A. We are victims of sin, but we are also willing participants and perpetrators of sin.

 1. God is right to regard the perverse heart of man as an abomination before Him.

 B. The upright in their ways have been forgiven and declared righteous by the person and work of Jesus Christ.

 1. God delights in them as He delights in His own Son.

 2. This proverb hints at the transformation the new covenant promised