

“Better Than”
PROVERBS 3:14

I. Wisdom is better than gold or silver (3:14; 8:19; 16:16).

- Wisdom is a choice and a pursuit.
- Wisdom will make you richer than money ever will.

II. Humility is better than pride (12:9; 16:19).

- The humble are willing to get their hands dirty.
- The humble are those who submit to God.

III. The fear of the Lord is better than turmoil (15:16).

- Get your priorities straight and experience a good conscience.
- You will not find true happiness apart from God.

IV. Love is better than hatred (15:17).

- A home with many material possessions without love is a bad trade.
- You won't find happiness in things.

V. Righteousness is better than injustice (16:8).

- Righteousness is synonymous with the fear of the Lord.
- Injustice (dishonesty) cannot bring true prosperity for an individual or a nation.

VI. Self-control is better than power and prestige (16:32).

- The true heroes are those who exercise self-control and can control their temper.
- Conquering oneself is a greater achievement than conquering a city.

VII. Peace and quiet are better than strife (17:1).

- Harmony in our relationships is to be preferred over having all the food you want.
- Harmony/peace in one's relationships does not come without a price but what it purchases is well worth the expense.

VIII. Blameless is better than perverseness (19:1; 28:6).

- Honesty is the best policy.
- This proverb is not saying that integrity necessitates poverty.

- Choosing to do what is right and honest will cost us something.

IX. Poverty is better than lying (19:22).

- Loyal love is better than wealth.
- Do I keep my word not matter what it may cost me?

X. The corner of the roof is better than the inside of the house (21:9; 25:24; 21:19).

- There is something better than marriage.
- Grow in grace and make your marriage enjoyable.
- Wives, are you a source of strife?

XI. A good name is better than wealth (22:1).

- You are better off with a good reputation than with riches.
- There is nothing wrong with wealth.

XII. Promotion is better than demotion (25:6; 25:7).

- Let God promote you and not yourself.
- Let your reputation precede you.

- Beware of the mental attitude which sees oneself as always in competition against others.

XIII. Open rebuke is better than hidden love (27:5).

- Genuine love rejoices in the truth and not in unrighteousness.
- If I genuinely love someone I am not going turn my head the other way when I observe a fault/sin.
- We have an example of this in Galatians 2 where Paul reproves Peter for his lapse into legalism and the bad example it set.

XIV. A neighbor nearby is better than a brother far way (27:10).

- We are to build relationships with people other than our family.
- This is not a criticism of family ties but rather an appeal to develop long-term friendships.
- God does not want us to live isolated from people and destitute of friends.