Chapter 13 continues with more contrasting truths.

Proverbs 13:1 A wise son heareth his father’s instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.

* “scorner” - emotion involving both anger and disgust

* “rebuke” - reprimand sharply; to criticize adversely, especially in order to warn of or correct a fault

13:2 A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.

* Once again, the law of sowing and reaping. The mouth is a powerful tool. How we represent ourselves with our mouths (speech) has everything to do with success and the opinions of others.

Proverbs 10:31 The mouth of the just bringeth forth wisdom: but the froward tongue shall be cut out.

Proverbs 18:21, Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.

13:3 He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction.

* This is a follow-up on the previous verse. See Proverbs 18:21 above.

Proverbs 12:13 The wicked is snared by the transgression of his lips: but the just shall come out of trouble.

13:4 The soul of the sluggard desireth, and hath nothing: but the soul of the diligent shall be made fat.

* “sluggard” - lazy, slothful, indolent, lethargic - We already ran into this person in Proverbs 6:6, 9 and 10:26 and will run into him again in 20:4 and 26:16.

Proverbs 6:6,9, Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise...How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep?

Proverbs 10:26 As vinegar to the teeth, and as smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that send him.
Proverbs 12:24, The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute...27 The slothful man roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man is precious.

* “fat” - prosperous

Psalm 92:14, They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing;

Psalm 22:29 Seest thou a man diligent in his business? he shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men.

13:5 A righteous man hateth lying: but a wicked man is loathsome, and cometh to shame.

* “loathsome” - contemptible, foul, filthy, repulsive

13:6 Righteousness keepeth him that is upright in the way: but wickedness overthroweth the sinner.

* Sowing and reaping!

*“overthroweth the sinner” - loses his friends, health, integrity, reputation, family, money, etc.

13:7 There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing: there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.

* Selfishness versus selflessness

Luke 9:24, For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it.

Luke 6:38, Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

2 Corinthians 9:6, But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

2 Corinthians 6:10, As sorrowful, yet alway rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.

Proverbs 11:24, There is that scattereth, and yet increaseth; and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty.

13:8 The ransom of a man’s life are his riches: but the poor heareth not rebuke.
* The rich man is counting on his riches to bail him out of any tight situations in life. He believes that his money can buy anything. One example was Rock Hudson, who, when he contracted AIDS, went from country to country to seek a medical cure.

* The second half of the verse - “the poor heareth not rebuke” - simply means that he doesn’t know any better either, i.e., the poor man is just as deceived.

13:9 The light of the righteous rejoiceth: but the lamp of the wicked shall be put out.

Psalms 119:105, Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

John 1:9, That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world.

1 John 1:7, But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

Ephesians 5:8, For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

Matthew 5:14, Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

John 8:12, Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

John 9:5, As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.

* Note the contrast, the Christian has “light” and the “wicked” has a “lamp” - a utensil - light is not referenced.

* The picture is the light sparkling, dancing, rejoicing. The lamp shall be “put out.”

13:10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

* If we are to believe the passage - and we are - then we know that every argument, disagreement, fight, war or barroom brawl is a result of pride.

13:11 Wealth gotten by vanity shall be diminished: but he that gathereth by labour shall increase.

Proverbs 10:2, Treasures of wickedness profit nothing: but righteousness delivereth from death.

Proverbs 20:21 An inheritance may be gotten hastily at the beginning; but the end thereof shall not be blessed.

Proverbs 28:22 He that hasteth to be rich hath an evil eye, and considereth not that poverty shall come upon him.
Proverbs 21:25, The desire of the slothful killeth him; for his hands refuse to labour.

Proverbs 14:23, In all labour there is profit: but the talk of the lips tendeth only to penury.

13:12 Hope deferred maketh the heart sick: but when the desire cometh, it is a tree of life.

* When we don’t realize our hopes and dreams, we are emotionally depressed - “maketh the heart sick.”

* But when it comes - “a tree of life” - it invigorates our heart and soul. Realized dreams are positively motivating.

13:13 Whoso despiseth the word shall be destroyed: but he that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded.

* Your relationship with God through His Word has everything to do with success in life.

* Some biblical characters who despised God’s Word at some point in their lives were Jonah, Samson, Peter, Saul and Pharaoh.

13:14 The law of the wise is a fountain of life, to depart from the snares of death.

* God’s Word imparts life - spiritual, social, emotional and intellectual - and probably effects our physical lives. Do you want quality of life?

13:15 Good understanding giveth favour: but the way of transgressors is hard.

* The Proverbs teaches that where a man obtains real understanding, he will obtain favor in the sight of God and man.

* Many fail to understand - on purpose! Understanding would necessitate change.

* “the way of the transgressor”

Proverbs 14:12, There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

Proverbs 11:6, The righteousness of the upright shall deliver them: but transgressors shall be taken in their own naughtiness.

Proverbs 13:2, A man shall eat good by the fruit of his mouth: but the soul of the transgressors shall eat violence.

13:16 Every prudent man dealeth with knowledge: but a fool layeth open his folly.
* The “prudent” man deals with the facts in a situation before he acts. The prudent man keeps his mouth shut and his pen dry until he knows what he’s talking about. Other sayings:

- A loose tongue merits loose teeth.
- Acting without thinking is like shooting without aiming.

- He who knows not and knows not that he knows not, is a fool.
  He who knows not and knows he knows not, is simple.
  He who knows and knows not that he knows, is asleep.
  He who knows and knows that he knows, is wise.

* “a fool layeth open his folly”

Proverbs 12:23, A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclai-
meth foolishness.

Proverbs 12:16, A fool’s wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.

Ecclesiastes 5:3, For a dream cometh through the multitude of business; and a fool’s voice is known by multitude of words.

Ecclesiastes 10:3, Yea also, when he that is a fool walketh by the way, his wisdom fai-
leth him, and he saith to every one that he is a fool.

* Someone said, “Don’t ever miss an opportunity to keep your mouth shut.”

13:17 A wicked messenger falleth into mischief: but a faithful ambassador is health.

* A “wicked messenger” could fail to deliver the message, deliver it incorrectly, or nullify the message by his conduct.

* The importance of credibility, competence and compassion - “the faithful ambassador” - delivers the message correctly, and his conduct gives credibility to the message.

  2 Corinthians 5:20, Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did be-
seech you by us: we pray you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God.

13:18 Poverty and shame shall be to him that refuseth instruction: but he that regardeth reproof shall be honoured.

Proverbs 6:23, For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:

Proverbs 10:17, He is in the way of life that keepeth instruction: but he that refuseth reproof erreth.
13:19 The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil.

* Same idea as in Proverbs 13:12.

* To explain “it is abomination to fools to depart from evil,” it is an abomination for a fool to quit cheating, stealing, lying, etc. In other words, he hates doing right as much as the righteous man hates to do evil.

13:20 He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed.

* The verse states the importance of choosing quality friends. Birds of a feather flock together.

* Same idea as in Proverbs 13:12.

1 Corinthians 15:33, Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

* Wise men are those who win souls - people involved in reconciliation, not condemnation.

13:21 Evil pursueth sinners: but to the righteous good shall be repayed.

* The sinner is a fugitive with a price on his head. He cannot rest for he fears that one day the consequences of his evil deeds will catch up to him. He’s always looking over his shoulder.

* Same idea as in Proverbs 13:12.

Galatians 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

13:22 A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children’s children: and the wealth of the sinner is laid up for the just.

* At the end of the game, the “good guys” end up with everything.

2 Corinthians 12:14 Behold, the third time I am ready to come to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children.

* The passage speaks of parental responsibility. We should live below our means and invest in our grandchildren’s future.

* There is a fine line drawn between spoiling your children and providing financial help that will impact not just your children, but your grandchildren. The idea of letting your kids work it out for themselves is not biblical. Parenting begets great and lifelong responsibility.

13:23 Much food is in the tillage of the poor: but there is that is destroyed for want of judgment.
* A poor man will work like a dog to get food; consequently, the ground that he tills will produce. On the other hand, his lack of good judgment can cost him his harvest (reward). Someone could come along and steal his profits.

13:24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.

* “betimes” - early, i.e., when he (the child) is young and still very impressionable.

Proverbs 29:15, The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Proverbs 22:15, Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

13:25 The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want.

* The eating in the text is not physical food - it is food for “his soul.” The righteous will find satisfaction and fulfillment in life while the wicked man will sense that there is “something else” he needs.

Proverbs 10:3, The LORD will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but he casteth away the substance of the wicked.

Psalms 34:10, The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the LORD shall not want any good thing.