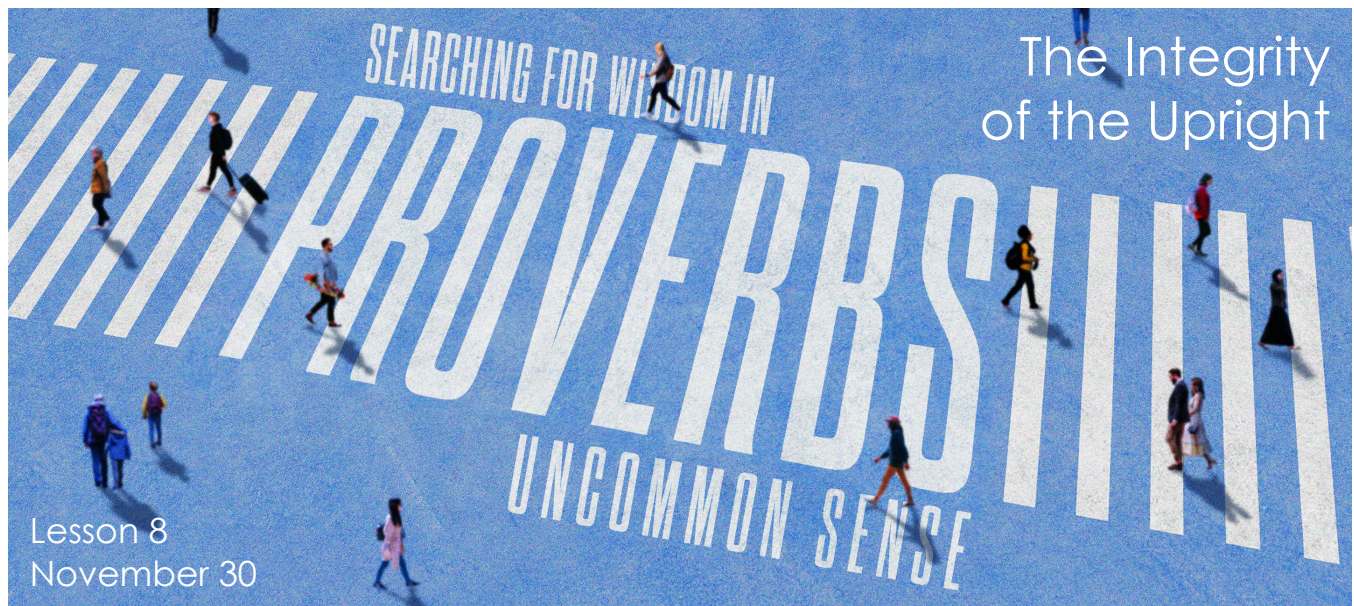




- Let's start by brainstorming together: **what is integrity?** What does it look like in a person? Why do we appreciate it (and even expect it) in others?

Not everyone in the world around us cares about integrity, but the call to be people of integrity is all over the book of *Proverbs*. Let's open our ears, guard our hearts, and see what we can learn...

Better is a poor person who walks in his _____
than one who is crooked in speech and is a fool. (19:1)

Better is a poor man who walks in his integrity
than a rich man who is _____ in his ways. (28:6)

- Notice the contrast that wisdom is drawing. When you hear about someone who is "crooked in speech" or "crooked in his ways," what goes through your mind? How is that the very opposite of integrity?
- What do you think? Is it *really* better to be a poor person who walks in integrity than a rich person who is crooked in his or her ways? If so, *how* is it better?

Bread gained by _____ is sweet to a man,
but afterward his mouth will be full of gravel. (20:17)

The getting of treasures by a _____ tongue
is a fleeting vapor and a snare of death. (21:6)

A _____ balance is an abomination to the LORD,
but a just weight is his delight. (11:1)

A _____ balance and scales are the LORD's;
all the weights in the bag are his work. (16:11)

Unequal weights and unequal measures
are both alike an _____ to the LORD. (20:10)



- Of all the things that could be talked about in a book of the Bible like *Proverbs*, why do you think something like balances, weights, and measures are brought up?

Those of crooked heart are an abomination to the LORD,
but those of _____ ways are his delight. (11:20)

Lying lips are an abomination to the LORD,
but those who act _____ are his delight. (12:22)

The integrity of the _____ guides them,
but the crookedness of the treacherous destroys them.

Riches do not profit in the day of wrath,
but righteousness _____ from death.

The righteousness of the blameless keeps his way straight,
but the wicked falls by his own wickedness.

The _____ of the upright delivers them,
but the treacherous are taken captive by their lust. (11:3-6)

- What do we need to take away from this wisdom that will help us “guard our hearts” (4:23) this week?

Proverbs Made Personal

Warning: a message of caution I needed to hear...

Insight: a point I need to remember...

Strength: I was helped and encouraged to walk in wisdom by...

Exalt: God is worthy of honor and praise because...