



FOOL PROOF
THE WISDOM OF PROVERBS

Run Wicked Run!

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to one another in the fear of Christ.

Context

- **Wicked Rulers (28:1-5)**
- **Wicked Rich People (28:6-11)**
- **Blessings and Consequences for Wicked
and the Wise (28:12-28)**

Proverbs 28:1 NASB

- **“The wicked flee when no one is pursuing, But the righteous are bold as a lion.”**
- **Antithetic Parallelism or a contrast between the wicked who are always running for fear of God’s judgment and the righteous who are confident and bold as a lion.**
- **Those who do not know Jesus as Savior have an innate fear or expectation of God’s judgment**
- **Only the gospel can make us righteous**

- **Even if we are saved, sin often causes us to run and hide from God for fear of judgment.**
- **In the original Garden of Eden, after sinning, Adam and Eve felt shame as their eyes were opened to their nakedness (Genesis 3:7), they were afraid of God (3:10), they tried to cover themselves (3:7) and they fled from God and hid (3:8).**
- **When God was running to them they were running from Him. God resolved this issue through the Gospel.**

- **Even today, we experience the same effects when we sin: Lack of Love for God and others → Guilt → Apparently Uncaused Fear → Apparently Uncaused Fleeing**
- **Guilt can take a form of being down on oneself or lack of confidence. Apparently Uncaused Fear can be anxieties or phobias.**
- **Sometimes the thing we feel guilty about and afraid of is not our real problem (just as Adam and Eve felt guilty about their nakedness)**
- **Illustration of single friend**

What I Am Not Saying

- **It is evil or wrong for a Christian to take medication for a psychological issue**
- **All forms of fear are evil and a result of sin – Biblical example: Jesus was distressed in the Garden of Gethsemane (Matt. 22:37-38) with sweat like blood (Luke 22:44)**
- **If someone loved God and others more, they would always have perfect peace.**
- **Illness of any kind, whether mental or physical, is a sign of a lack of faith or sin.**

What I Am Saying

- **There is freedom and hope in God's Word that can help us address the worries, anxieties and addictive behaviors we or those whom we love experience.**

Proverbs 28:1

- **When we run from God (fleeing) we usually run to something to cope with the immaterial effects of sin.**
- **We can flee to unhealthy compulsive behaviors like drugs or pornography or we can even flee to healthy things like exercise and cleaning.**
- **Either way, fleeing when no one is pursuing is a way to escape God and the conviction we feel in our heart.**
- **If you find yourself struggling with a compulsive behavior, ask yourself when it started and see if there was an incident you need to bring to God in confession.**

How Do We Address This?

- **Confession to God and others whom we've wronged is our primary way to address this. Proverbs 28:13 (NASB) says, "He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, But he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion."**
- **According to James 1:13-15, when we sin, our mind blames God for the temptation (1:13), our emotions are drawn to the sin (1:14), and our will plans a way to get the benefits of the sin without the consequences (1:15).**

- **Confession realigns our heart to God.**
- **Rich Thomson gives these elements of a biblical confession:**
 - **Confess and repent of Sin - 1 John 1:9;
Proverbs 28:13**
 - **Count on God's Forgiveness - Rom 8:1 Ephesians
1:7**
 - **Willingly Submit to Control of the Holy Spirit -
Ephesians 5:18; Gal 5:16**
 - **Count on or Believe in God's ability to Control You -
1 John 5:14-15**

The Results of Confession

- **Proverbs 28:1b (NASB) says, “But the righteous are bold as a lion.”**
- **Boldness speaks of a confidence in God that affects our perception of ourselves.**
- **In his book *The Heart of Man and the Mental Disorders*, Rich Thomson argues that Love for God and others results in Peace (Gal 5:22, Phil 4:7-9, Isa 26:3)→Confidence (1 John 4:17-18, 1 John 3:21, Prov. 28:1) → Drawing Near to God and others (1 Peter 2:4 & Hebrews 4:16)**

Characteristics of Wicked Rulers or Regimes

- **Frequent Turnover in Leadership (Prov. 28:2)**
- **Oppression of the Poor (28:3, 28:15)**
- **Praise for the Wicked (28:4)**
- **A lack of comprehension of justice (28:5)**
- **Companion of Gluttons, Humiliates Father (28:7)**
- **Lead the Upright Astray and Fall in their own pit (28:10)**
- **Men hide from wicked rulers (28:12, 28:28)**
- **Lack of Understanding (28:16)**
- **Constantly on the run - Fugitive Until Death (28:17)**
- **Sudden Fall or Collapse (28:18)**
- **Robbing of Parents with no guilt (28:24)**

Characteristics of Unrighteous Wealth

- **Crooked, Lacking Integrity (Prov. 28:6)**
- **Overcharging the Poor will Lead to Loss of Income to Those Who are Gracious to the Poor (28:8)**
- **Rich Are Wise in Own Eyes (28:11) and Subject to Punishment (28:20)**
- **Empty Pursuits May Lead to Loss of Wealth (28:19, 28:22)**
- **Curses for Ignoring Poor (28:27)**

Characteristics & Blessings for the Wise and Generous

- **Boldness/Confidence (28:1)**
- **Enduring Leadership (28:2)**
- **Striving Against Evil (28:4)**
- **Understanding of Justice (28:5)**
- **Integrity (28:6)**
- **Discernment and Understanding (28:7, 11)**
- **Financial Blessing from Wicked (28:8)**
- **Good Inheritance (28:10)**
- **Blessing (28:14, 20)**

- **Length of Days (28:16)**
- **Deliverance (28:18, 26)**
- **Reward/Food for Hard Work (28:19)**
- **Favor (28:23)**
- **Prosperity (28:25)**
- **Generosity to Poor Will Result in Needs Being Met (28:27)**

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Closing Illustration

9 Things Jesus Might Do About Immigration

By JOHN ZMIRAK & KELLY KULLBERG

1. Stand and Lead - Jesus wouldn't teach people to run from their homelands. He would empower them to stand their ground, to lead, and to overcome challenges with creative love.

2. Clean Up Crime - Because He loves people, Jesus would oppose the crime and corruption that harms them. He would "clean the temple" and heal cities and nations so people would be free to stay at home. He surely wouldn't empty whole towns of dads and leave the children fatherless.

3. Affirm Compassion and Fairness - Jesus would likely laud America as the most generous nation on earth, welcoming a million legal immigrants per year. But many applying legally are left outside waiting because of illegal entries and spiking asylum claims. Letting those who broke the rules leapfrog over them is simply and frankly unjust.

4. Take the Whole Counsel of Scripture - Jesus would not cherry-pick Bible verses as the Pharisees did. He would reason from the whole counsel of Scripture which is the highest love for human beings, and highest good for cultures. And the Bible does not teach open borders, but *wise welcome*.

5. See Through Dirty Politics - We know that Jesus saw through the wiles of Pilate and Herod. Surely He wouldn't play the game of Progressive social engineers, who use the poor as pawns. Since Jesus knew all, He would have realized this: If the thousands in today's caravans were likely Republican voters, the Left's well-funded machine would not be "welcoming" them to America.

6. Call out the Sadducees - Woe to us when "ministers" bring harm to a nation by advancing a political majority pushing infanticide, lawlessness, and a socialist economic system built on envy and covetousness. Beware of wolves in shepherd's clothing.

7. Render Unto Caesar - Jesus didn't urge His disciples to break the law. He told them to pay their taxes, even to the occupying Roman government. If Jews were to honor Roman laws they had no part in making, how can Christians today urge us to break our own democratically-enacted laws?

8. Tell Us to Love Our Actual Neighbors - After students volunteered with Mother Teresa in Calcutta, she would send them home to love their families. “Love begins at home,” she famously taught...Until the economic recovery, ninety million Americans were not working, while millions of foreign persons were “welcomed” to America, and many took jobs for lower wages. Shrugging at this was not a way of loving our neighbors.

9. Preach to All Nations - Biblical wisdom is the highest love for human beings. We're called to wisely steward the garden of culture. Let's honor both neighbors and those who come lawfully as blessings. And let's continue the long Christian history of generous faith, overcoming evil with good. So we may be a light to the nations.