

## Proverbs 15:1-10

**15**A soft answer turns away wrath,

but a harsh word stirs up anger.

<sup>2</sup>The tongue of the wise dispenses knowledge,  
but the mouths of fools pour out folly.

<sup>3</sup>The eyes of the LORD are in every place,  
keeping watch on the evil and the good.

<sup>4</sup>A gentle tongue is a tree of life,  
but perverseness in it breaks the spirit.

<sup>5</sup>A fool despises a parent's instruction,  
but the one who heeds admonition is prudent.

<sup>6</sup>In the house of the righteous there is much treasure,  
but trouble befalls the income of the wicked.

<sup>7</sup>The lips of the wise spread knowledge;  
not so the minds of fools.

<sup>8</sup>The sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,  
but the prayer of the upright is his delight.

<sup>9</sup>The way of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD,  
but he loves the one who pursues righteousness.

<sup>10</sup>There is severe discipline for one who forsakes the way,  
but one who hates a rebuke will die.

## **James 1:5-8, 17-27**

<sup>5</sup>If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you. <sup>6</sup>But ask in faith, never doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind; <sup>7</sup>for the doubter, being double-minded and unstable in every way, must not expect to receive anything from the Lord. <sup>17</sup>Every generous act of giving, with every perfect gift, is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. <sup>18</sup>In fulfillment of his own purpose he gave us birth by the word of truth, so that we would become a kind of first fruits of his creatures.

<sup>19</sup>You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger; <sup>20</sup>for your anger does not produce God's righteousness. <sup>21</sup>Therefore rid yourselves of all sordidness and rank growth of wickedness, and welcome with meekness the implanted word that has the power to save your souls. <sup>22</sup>But be doers of the word, and not merely hearers who deceive themselves. <sup>23</sup>For if any are hearers of the word and not doers, they are like those who look at themselves in a mirror; <sup>24</sup>for they look at themselves and, on going away, immediately forget what they were like. <sup>25</sup>But those who look into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and persevere, being not hearers who forget but doers who act—they will be blessed in their doing. <sup>26</sup>If any think they are religious, and do not bridle their tongues but deceive their hearts, their religion is worthless. <sup>27</sup>Religion that is pure and undefiled before God, the Father, is this: to care for orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

## Romans 14:1-18

**14** Welcome those who are weak in faith, but not for the purpose of quarreling over opinions. <sup>2</sup>Some believe in eating anything, while the weak eat only vegetables. <sup>3</sup>Those who eat must not despise those who abstain, and those who abstain must not pass judgment on those who eat; for God has welcomed them. <sup>4</sup>Who are you to pass judgment on servants of another? It is before their own lord that they stand or fall. And they will be upheld, for the Lord is able to make them stand. <sup>5</sup>Some judge one day to be better than another, while others judge all days to be alike. Let all be fully convinced in their own minds. <sup>6</sup>Those who observe the day, observe it in honor of the Lord. Also those who eat, eat in honor of the Lord, since they give thanks to God; while those who abstain, abstain in honor of the Lord and give thanks to God. <sup>7</sup>We do not live to ourselves, and we do not die to ourselves. <sup>8</sup>If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. <sup>9</sup>For to this end Christ died and lived again, so that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living. <sup>10</sup>Why do you pass judgment on your brother or sister? Or you, why do you despise your brother or sister? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God. <sup>11</sup>For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." <sup>12</sup>So then, each of us will be accountable to God. <sup>13</sup>Let us therefore no longer pass judgment on one another, but resolve instead never to put a stumbling block or hindrance in the way of another. <sup>14</sup>I know and am persuaded in the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but it is unclean for anyone who thinks it unclean. <sup>15</sup>If your brother or sister is being injured by what you eat, you are no longer walking in love. Do not let what you eat cause the ruin of one for whom Christ died. <sup>16</sup>So do not let your good be spoken of as evil. <sup>17</sup>For the kingdom of God is not food and drink but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. <sup>18</sup>The one who thus serves Christ is acceptable to God and has human approval.