

Studies in the Book of Proverbs by [John T Polk II](#)
For [The Fellowship Room](#)

(#82) The Proverbs of Solomon 14:12- What Were You Thinking?

Since God Created humans, only God can provide specific understanding of human behavior. God gave Solomon Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**) to explain what and why behavior is as it is, and **Proverbs 10:1 - 24:34** are randomly written, as if they were Judgments Solomon made about individual cases brought to him for Divine Wisdom (**1 Kings Chapters 3 and 10**), or simply God-given explanations about life. New Testament passages may help see the continuation of Wisdom offered through Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 14:12:

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.

This is also repeated:

There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death. (**Proverbs 16:25**)

If ever there was a wise statement that warns everyone against following only his/her own instincts, judgment, conscience, or knowledge, this is it! No one is capable of deciding his/ her own way, for if God is not allowed to influence every decision a person makes, the Devil will!

Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one's slaves whom you obey, whether of sin leading to death, or of obedience leading to righteousness? (**Romans 6:16**)

Our desire either "exalts itself against the knowledge of God, [or we are] bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ" (**2 Corinthians 10:5**). There is no such thing as absolute "freedom" from all law or restraint, and those who "promise liberty" are often "themselves are slaves of corruption: for by whom a person is overcome, by him also he is brought into bondage" (**2 Peter 2:19**). What "seems right" is not the only criteria for prudent judgment, for "he who glories, let him glory in the LORD." For not he who commends himself is approved, but whom the Lord commends" (**2 Corinthians 10:17-18**).

The TV show, "*Breaking Bad*" surely illustrated this proverb, as has the history of mankind! To those "who trust in their wealth and boast in the multitude of their riches" [*whose*] "inner thought is that their houses will last forever, their dwelling



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places to all generations" ([Psalm 49:6,11](#)), which is faulty thinking ([1 Timothy 6:9](#)).

Now as they heard these things, He spoke another parable, because He was near Jerusalem and because they thought the kingdom of God would appear immediately. ([Luke 19:11](#))

So Jesus corrected their wrong idea. When Simon converted to Christ, he "Thought that the gift of God could be purchased with money" but he was commanded to "repent...and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven." ([Acts 8:20-22](#)) Jesus corrected the thinking of the Laodiceans when He said:

"Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked." ([Revelation 3:17](#))

NO ONE can testify they have been saved by God unless they have "conformed to the image of His Son" ([Romans 8:29](#)), and know this because The "Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God" ([Romans 8:16](#)). The Holy Spirit would only "acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord" ([1 Corinthians 14:37](#)), in other words the Holy Spirit only "bears witness" through His inspired Scriptures ([2 Timothy 3:16-17](#))! Those who have not followed Scriptures do not have "witness" from God they are right! There is no question as to where living one's own selfish life will lead:

Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it. ([Matthew 7:13-14](#))

Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. ([1 Timothy 5:24](#))

Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? ([1 Corinthians 6:9](#))

He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. ([Mark 16:16](#)).

It's not what "seems right" but what is actually is right that should matter!

