

# What is a... **Proverb ??**

A **short saying** that teaches us a principle or states a truth.

- Man-made... not always true, but often a good idea or suggestion.
- God-made... always true, but you must use it the right way.

## **Some proverbs teach general principles... the way things will normally be.**

- These proverbs tell us how to live (especially if they are commands).
- They show us what the normal consequences will be (if other factors do not influence the outcome).

*By a soft answer wrath is turned away,  
but a bitter word is a cause of angry feelings.* (Proverbs 15:1)

## **Sometimes two proverbs will show us two possible ways to react to something.**

- Often these two ways will look like *opposites*.
- The situation will determine the best way to respond.

*Do not give to the foolish man a foolish answer,  
or you will be like him.*

*Give a foolish man a foolish answer,  
or he will seem wise to himself.* (Proverbs 26:4-5)

## **Some proverbs explain or remind us why certain things happen - including bad things and injustice.**

- This does not always mean we are to do what they describe. Sometimes it would be sin to do so!
- Scripture reminds us that justice will eventually come, but not always at the time we want it.

*There is much food in the ploughed land of the poor;  
but it is taken away by wrongdoing.* (Proverbs 13:23)

*An offering of money is like a stone of great price  
in the eyes of him who has it:  
wherever he goes, he does well.* (Proverbs 17:8)