

# Proverbs Series

## Lesson #028

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Dean Bible Ministries

[www.deanbible.org](http://www.deanbible.org)

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**Prov. 14:12, “There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.”**

# **Proverbs**

## **Guide for Skillful Living**

**DEATH**

**LIFE**

**Answering the Fool  
Selected Proverbs**

**Prov. 18:20, “A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of his mouth; From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.**

**Prov. 18:21, “Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruit.”**

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**“A man’s stomach shall be satisfied from the fruit of  
his mouth;  
From the produce of his lips he shall be filled.**

**Prov. 18:21,**

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And those who love it will eat its fruit.”**

**Fruit, 20a**

**Production, 20b**

**Production in terms of  
death and life, 21a**

**Fruit, 21b**

**Prov. 15:23,**

**“A man has joy by the answer of his mouth,  
And a word spoken in due season, how good it is!”**

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**“to answer; to give  
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**Prov. 15:23,**

**“A man has joy  
by the **answer** of his mouth,  
And a **word spoken** in due season,  
how good it is!”**

**Prov. 26:4,**

**“Do not answer a fool according to his folly,  
Lest you also be like him.**

**Prov. 26:5,**

**“Answer a fool according to his folly,  
Lest he be wise in his own eyes.”**

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**1 Pet. 3:15, “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;**

**1 Pet. 3:16, “having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed.**

**1 Pet. 3:17, “For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”**

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**ἀπολογία; *apologia* a verbal defense, a legal defense, an answer explaining why something has been said or done.**

## ***Reductio ad absurdum***

### **Reduce to the absurd**

**A form of logic which refutes an assertion or proposition by showing that if applied consistently the end result would be a ridiculous situation.**

**Matt. 12:25, “But Jesus knew their thoughts, and said to them: ‘Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation, and every city or house divided against itself will not stand.**

**Matt. 12:26, “ ‘If Satan casts out Satan, he is divided against himself. How then will his kingdom stand?**

**Matt. 12:27, “ ‘And if I cast out demons by Beelzebub, by whom do your sons cast them out? Therefore they shall be your judges.’ ”**

- 1. If Satan were divided against himself, his kingdom would be ruined.**
- 2. Satan's kingdom, however, is not ruined (since demonic activity continues). To think otherwise is absurd.**
- 3. Therefore, (a) Satan does not drive out Satan.**
- 4. Therefore, (b) Jesus cannot free people from Satan by satanic power.**

**Prov. 16:21,**

**“The wise in heart will be called prudent,**

**And sweetness of the lips increases learning.**

**Prov. 16:22,**

**“Understanding is a wellspring of life to him who has it.**

**But the correction of fools is folly.”**

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***בִּיָּן (bîn) understand, consider,  
perceive, prudent, regard.***

**Prov. 10:11, “The mouth of the righteous is a well of life, But violence covers the mouth of the wicked.”**

**Prov. 13:14, “The law of the wise is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.”**

**Prov. 14:27, “The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, To turn one away from the snares of death.”**



**John 4:14, “but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.”**