

## CORINTH CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

### STUDIES IN PROVERBS (PART 4)

#### INTRODUCTION:

- A. **“The Book of Proverbs is a powerful and practical guide on how to live wisely and find Blessings by walking closely with God.”** – David Cook
- B. **“The Book of Proverbs ... is a collection of wise sayings which reflect divine wisdom.**  
In fact, wisdom is the major theme of the Book: The Blessedness Thereof, The Need Thereof, and many examples thereof contained therein.” – David Sorenson
- C. **Based on Proverbs 1:7, Elisa Morgan said, “When we honor God and seek His ways, we’ll receive the wisdom we need for all the matters we face in life. Each and everyone.”**
- D. **“Proverbs is considered God’s Book of Wisdom.**  
Proverbs is so paced with positive words of wisdom that it can answer all of life’s questions and concerns.” – Gerry D. Fox

**In this lesson, we will study the subject of Foolishness:**

#### **WORLD’S WAY – WISDOM’S WAY**

- **World’s Way** – Wrong reaction to life and others
- **Wisdom’s Way** – Biblically (correct) response to life and others

#### **I. FOOLISHNESS**

##### World’s Way

Foolishness means lacking in sense, judgment or discretion. Folly, simple, foolish behavior, silly, absurd.

- A. **“Fools despise Wisdom and Instruction”** (Prov 1:7)  
A **“fool”** is one who cannot be told anything. He is conceited and only learns lessons the hard way, if at all.
- B. **“Fools Love Simplicity”** (Prov 1:22)  
Simplicity is to be simple-minded, having or showing very little intelligence or judgment. The simple-minded person has no desire to change.
- C. **“Fools Hate Knowledge”** (Prov 1:22)  
The foolish person hates knowledge because it exposes and reproves their errors, sins and corrupt ways which they do not want to be detected. The foolish person does not listen to Godly advice and reason.
- D. **Fools are Destructive** (Prov 1:32)  
Fools reject wisdom and must face the consequences of their choices and decisions. They will reap the fruit of the seeds they have sown. Their wayward choices lead to their destruction. God has established certain commandments, commands, and principles for mankind to obey. These commandments, commands, and principles dictate the consequences for every choice.

**E. God Will Put Fools to Shame (Prov 3:35)**

Disgrace, dishonor and reproach are the legacy of fools.

**F. Fools Bring Grief to Others – His Parents (Prov 10:1; 15:20)**

The foolish child causes grief to “his mother.” He lives unrighteously, is lazy and does not work. The foolish child has no lasting value, gets money unjustly, suffers poverty, follows crooked paths, speaks words that provoke violence and stirs up dissension.

**G. Fools Deprive their Families of a Livelihood (Prov 11:29)**

The foolish person brings disgrace to their families and causes trouble for them with their sinful, foolish and ungodly living. He should not be surprised when he does not receive an inheritance from his family. Also, the foolish person may end up serving the wise – which means someone who is responsible in his work and fair in dealing with others.

**H. Fools are Insecure (Prov 12:23)**

They feel the need to prove themselves. They go around boasting about their accomplishments and how much they know.

**I. Association with Fools Bring Problems (Prov 13:20)**

The companions of fools walk in a way which leads to destruction. “Evil company corrupts good habits” (1 Cor 15:33). A person is often known by the company he keeps. A companion of fools will lead to ruin.

**J. Fools are Careless (Prov 14:1)**

Fools tear down rather than build up. The foolish person neglects his primary God-given responsibility by placing himself and other things before God, his home, and family.

**K. “Fools Make a Mock at Sin (Prov 14:9)**

Fools take sin lightly – they refuse to change their sinful habits. They are “lukewarm” to the truth that Jesus Christ shed His precious blood for the remission of sins.

- “But if ye will not do so, behold, ye have sinned against the Lord: and be sure your sin will find you out” (Num 32:23).
  
- “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap” (Gal 6:7).

**L. Fools are Wild (Reckless) Regarding Sin (Prov 14:16)**

Fools are arrogant, careless and self-confident in their ways. Fools believe they can play with sin without being affected or harmed. They have no fear of God nor dangers and consequences of sin.

- “And unto man he said, Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding” (Job 28:28).
  
- “Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the Lord, and depart from evil” (Prov 3:7).

**M. “Fools Feedeth on Foolishness” (Prov 15:14)**

Fools study and concentrate on foolish ideas and ways. Fools are nourished by their appetite for sin and disobedience to God. They have no appetite for wisdom nor for the righteousness of God. They have appetites for sin and more sin.

**N. A Fool is Right in His Own Eyes (Prov 14:12; 16:25)**

Fools take pleasure in sin, They mock sin and have no regard for God and eternity. Their godless lives end in death – both spiritual death and physical death. They are deceived about salvation and eternal life based on false teachers, false religions, false doctrines and false teachings.

**O. “A Fool Hath No Delight in Understanding, but that his Heart May Discover Itself” (Prov 18:2).**

A fool is only interested in sharing his own view. He is closed-minded and opened-mouthed. He refuses to listen to a person with understanding.

**P. Results and Consequences of a “Fool” Set Forth in Proverbs:**

1. A fool is dull, stupid and stubborn (Prov 1:7; 18:2).
2. Fools use slander and corrupt speech (Prov 10:18).
3. Fools are deceitful (Prov 14:8).
4. “It is as sport to a fool to do mischief” (Prov 10:23).
5. A fool cannot control his temper (Prov 12:16; 27:3).
6. A fool is **irresponsible** – wasteful (Prov 21:20).
7. A fool repeats his mistakes (Prov 26:11).
8. A fool will never learn (Prov 18:2; 23:9).
9. A fool is irresponsible and unreliable (Prov 26:6).
10. A fool “answereth a matter before he heareth it” (Prov 18:13).

**Wisdom’s Way**

**Be Wise – Seek Wisdom (Correct Response)**

**II. A WISE PERSON**

- **Prov 1:7 – “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.”**

A wise person fears the Lord by recognizing His character and in turn responds by **revering**, trusting, loving, exalting, worshiping, obeying and serving Him. The wise person knows that apart from Almighty God he is ignorant of spiritual matters (Rom 1:22; Eph 4:18; 1 Peter 1:14).

- **Prov 3:5 – “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.”**

A wise person trust God completely in every decision and all aspects of life. He knows that God is a better judge than He is and always has his best interest at heart. He does not belittle God or doubt the judgment and ability of God.

- **Prov 8:33** – “**Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not.**”  
A wise person will listen and follow instruction so that he can be blessed.
- **Prov 14:16** – “**A wise man feareth and departeth from evil.**”  
A wise person is cautious and fears the consequences of any evil actions. Therefore, he avoids evil activities. He is not reckless (hothead) errantly self-assured and overly confident.
- **Prov 28:26** – “**He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.**”  
A wise person will find safety and protection by dependence on God. He is not self-directed or self-reliant (trusting in his own heart). He trusts the Lord without any doubt.

**Summary of A Wise Person (Wisdom’s Way) from Proverbs:**

A wise person will seek godly wisdom. He has total and complete trust in God. He knows that God is completely trustworthy and that His ways are incomprehensible (Isa 55:8-9; Rom 11:33-34). A wise person controls his temper, hears and follows instructions and is not reckless. He hears a matter before answering.

**Practical Application (including results and consequences):**

1. Do not associate with fools.
2. Seek godly wisdom (fear the Lord) – Prov 1:7
3. Be cautious
4. Always trust in the Lord.
5. Do not be wasteful, irresponsible, unreliable, deceitful or stubborn.
6. Do not engage in mischief.
7. Do not repeat your mistakes.
8. Do not slander others or use corrupt language.
9. Listen and follow instructions.
10. Do not make a mock of sin.
11. Always hear a matter before answering it.

**KEY VERSE:**

**“In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began”**  
(Titus 1:2).

## **CONCLUSION:**

### **A. God's Wisdom Saves Lives**

A mail carrier became concerned after seeing one of her customers' mail pile up. The postal worker knew the elderly woman lived alone and usually picked up her mail every day. Making a wise choice, the worker mentioned her concern to one of the woman's neighbors. This neighbor alerted yet another neighbor, who had a spare key to the woman's home. Together they entered their friend's home and found her lying on the floor. She had fallen four days earlier and couldn't get up or call for help. The postal worker's wisdom, concern, and decision to act likely saved her life.

Proverbs says, "the one who is wise saves lives" (11:30). The discernment that comes from doing right and living according to God's wisdom can bless not only ourselves but those we encounter too. The fruit of living out what honors Him and His ways can produce a good and refreshing life. And our fruit also prompts us to care about others and to look out for their well-being (Our Daily Bread - 12/27/2023)

### **B. JESUS SAVES LIVES – JESUS SAVES LIVES – JESUS SAVES LIVES!**

### **C. ABC's of Salvation**

- **A – Admit** that you're a sinner and that you cannot save yourself (Rom 3:23, Eph 2:8-9).
- **B – Believe** that Jesus died on the Cross and rose again for your sins (Rom 5:8, 1 Cor. 15:3-4).
- **C – Confess**/Call on Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior (Rom 10:9-13)



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“... the word of our God shall stand for ever” (Isa 40:8).