

Two Pictures of One World

Text: Proverbs 12:1-25

Introduction

In chapter 12, Solomon uses the contrasting word “*but*” in 25 of these 28 verses. The word is a comparison word. In these comparisons, Solomon reveals variations on the contrasting picture of the wise and the fool. John Phillips states, “*But* is the small hinge upon which great matters swing.”

We see comparisons through the visual imagery of pictures. The first half reveals the righteous picture of the wise. The second half reveals the wicked picture of the fool. In this chapter we see two opposing views of the same world. Our worldview is a matter of perspective.

In Ecclesiastes, Solomon refers the “*under the sun*” point-of-view. He saw things from man’s perspective. However, as Christians, we must learn to see them from God’s perspective (i.e., develop an “above the sun” point-of-view). In these verses, notice the contrast between the two viewpoints.

I. The Wise Man (v.1).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #35 - _____.

NOTE: The word “*brutish*” means “_____.”

A. The wise man loves _____ (i.e., discipline)

1. What does the word “discipline” mean? Webster’s Dictionary II states:

•Training intended to elicit a specified pattern of _____ or character.

2. Where does instruction come from?

•The _____ (cf. II Tim. 3:15-16).

B. The wise man will be _____.

1. In his _____.

2. In his _____.

3. In his _____.

C. The wise man will _____ discipline.

1. It proves someone _____ you.

2. It promotes _____ (Pro. 12:1; cf. Pro 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom. . .”).

D. The wise man will _____ discipline.

1. It shows that you are not _____ (i.e., “stupid”).

2. It proves that you are _____.

II. The Wayward Man (vv. 2-9). —*Notice the usage of “righteous*”*

LIFE PRINCIPLE #36 - _____.

—The wayward man is revealed by God’s judgment as being. . .

A. Given to _____ (vv. 2-3)

1. Wickedness that _____ him (v.2).
2. Wickedness that _____ him (v.3).

B. Causing of _____ (v.4).

1. A Queen of a wife makes a _____ of her husband (v.4a).
2. A demanding wife makes a _____ husband (v.4b).

C. Plotting of _____ (vv. 5-9).

The world’s point-of-view called Herod “the Great.” God never renders him the title of “Great.” Such a man falsely sees. . .

1. _____ better than virtue (v.5; cf. Pro. 14:9a, “*Fools make a mock at sin*”).

“Sow a thought, and reap an action. Sow an action, and reap a habit. Sow a habit, and reap a character. Sow a character, and reap a destiny.”

2. _____ better than virtue (vv. 6-7).
3. _____ better than virtue (vv. 8-9).

III. The Working Man (vv. 10-12).

A. Cares for what he _____ (v.10; cf. 24:30-31).

1. His _____ (i.e., working animals).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #37 - _____.

2. His _____ (v.10b).

B. Works for what he _____ (vv. 11-12).

1. Works a vision instead of chasing _____ (v.11).

2. Builds a life instead of running with the _____ (v.12).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #38 - _____ (cf. 14:23).

IV. The Watchful Man (vv. 13-23).

A. _____ & learns (vv. 13-16).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #39 - _____.

B. _____ & learns (vv. 17-23).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #40 - _____

V. The Wise Man (vv. 24-28).

A. Thinks things _____ (v.24; cf. v.26).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #41 - _____

B. _____ others (v.25).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #42 - _____

C. Is not _____ (v.27).

Conclusion

Chapter 12 has shown us quite a contrast between the viewpoint of the wise and the foolish. Which one are you?

Verse 28 closes with a challenge to choose the “*righteous*” way. The opposite choice is tempting to the flesh, but deadly to the soul. One writer wrote concerning the deceitfulness of sin and said. . .

*Sin is a monster of such frightful means
that to be hated is but to be seen
yet seen to oft, familiar with her face
is first endured, then pitied, then embraced.*
(From Alexander Pope, Essays on Man)