

## Observations on Life

Text: Proverbs 14:1-35

### Introduction

First Kings 4:32 states that Solomon spoke 3,000 proverbs and wrote 1,005 songs. Solomon was certainly a man of astuteness and observer of life. Proverbs 7 was written after Solomon had simply gazed out his window and noticed a foolish young man's curiosity of a harlot (7:6-10).

Most have the proverbs contained within the Book of Proverbs have continuity and flow of thought. However, there are sections where it seems that Solomon simply allows his mind to bounce from thought-to-thought as he ponders life. Chapter 14 is such a chapter. In this chapter, Solomon pens random thoughts on life.

### Transition

He begins this chapter with observations concerning the home. Then, he continues through the chapter with general life observations.

#### **I. Attitudes of the Home** (vv. 1-2).

A. Wise women build great \_\_\_\_\_ (v.1).

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of past wisdom (cf. 9:1; 24:3; 31:10-31).

—An old English proverb states that, "*He who rocks the cradle, rules the world.*" How true!

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of present folly ("*but the foolish...*").

B. Righteous men build great \_\_\_\_\_ (v.2).

1. Walking right \_\_\_\_\_ our love for God (cf. Lk. 6:46; Jn. 14:15).

2. Living perversely proves we do \_\_\_\_\_ love God!

#### **II. Attitudes Toward Life** (vv. 3-8). —*A wise person. . .*

A. Chooses his \_\_\_\_\_ wisely (v.3)

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ of loose lips (v.3a).

2. The \_\_\_\_\_ of wise lips (v.3b).

NOTE: A fool is easy to recognize. Proverbs 29:11 state that anyone who uses the philosophy of

"\_\_\_\_\_, " is a fool.

B. Does not mind hard & \_\_\_\_\_ work (vv. 4, 23).

1. Work makes a \_\_\_\_\_, but work gets \_\_\_\_\_ (v.4).

2. Work makes \_\_\_\_\_, but talk makes poverty (v.23).
- C. Always tells \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 5, 25).
1. Liars always \_\_\_\_\_ (v.5).
  2. \_\_\_\_\_ pays (v.25).
- D. Does not have a \_\_\_\_\_ spirit (v.6).
1. A critical spirit keeps you from seeing the \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6a).  
—Remember: Everybody knows \_\_\_\_\_ that you don't know.
  2. A gracious spirit opens doors of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.6b).
- E. Does not have the wrong \_\_\_\_\_ (v.7).

**Life Principle #48:** \_\_\_\_\_.

1. The right \_\_\_\_\_ to a fool...*Go from*.
  2. The right \_\_\_\_\_ of a fool...*No knowledge*.
- F. Thinks things \_\_\_\_\_ (v.8).
1. The wisdom of \_\_\_\_\_ (v.8a cf. Lk. 14:28-30).
  2. The folly of \_\_\_\_\_ (v. 8b).

**III. Attitude Toward Righteousness (vv. 9-15).**

- A. Fools have a wrong \_\_\_\_\_ of sin (v.9; cf. v.34).
1. Fools \_\_\_\_\_ at sin (v.9a)
- ILLUSTRATION: The contemporary sitcoms on TV that make fun of virtue, purity, honesty, etc.
2. Righteous \_\_\_\_\_ over sin (vv. 9b, 34).
- B. Fools have \_\_\_\_\_ lives (vv. 10-12; cf. Jud. 13:1).
1. They have no \_\_\_\_\_ (v.10).
  2. They have no \_\_\_\_\_ (v.11).
- Notice that the wicked have a “house,” but the upright have a “tabernacle.” The former is a place of possession, and the latter is a place of worship.
3. They have no \_\_\_\_\_ (v.12).

C. Fools suffer \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 13-14; cf. I Tim. 6:9-10).

1. The falsehood of a \_\_\_\_\_ life (v.13).
2. Heartache of a \_\_\_\_\_ life (v.14).

D. Fools are not \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 15-16).

1. The gullibility of the \_\_\_\_\_ (v.15a).

**Life Principle #49:** \_\_\_\_\_.

2. The discernibility of the \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 15b-16).

E. Fools have quick \_\_\_\_\_ (vv. 16b-17, 29-30).

**Life Principle #50:** \_\_\_\_\_.

1. You make bad \_\_\_\_\_ when you are angry.
2. You make it bad on your \_\_\_\_\_ when you are angry (v.30).

#### Transition

The remaining verses of chapter 14 reinforce what Solomon has already stated. He continues to make random observations about people and life.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ ultimately triumphs (v.19).
2. Money can buy friends, but it cannot buy \_\_\_\_\_ friends (vv. 20-21).
3. Real men \_\_\_\_\_ the Lord (v.26a), have \_\_\_\_\_ for the family (v.26b), and \_\_\_\_\_ for the future (v.27).
4. To have leaders, there must be \_\_\_\_\_ (v.28).
5. You cannot love God without loving the \_\_\_\_\_ (v.31).
6. Righteousness builds, but wickedness \_\_\_\_\_ (v.34).