

Two Lives and Two Viewpoints

Text: Proverbs 18:1-24

Introduction

In the Book of Proverbs, Solomon divides the human race into one of two categories...The wise and the foolish. There appears to be no middle ground. Of course, he states many of the defining contrast between the wise and the fool.

As Solomon has done in the previous chapters, so he continues in this chapter. He offers more contrast between the wise and the fool. As a person matures and grows in wisdom, he cannot help but notice that the contrast of the wise and fool becomes more pronounced. We should carefully notice the contrasting of the lives of the wise and the fool. We see a contrasting of...

I. Their _____ (vv. 1-2).

In these verses, Solomon contrasts the varied pursuit of the wise and the fool. Everyone pursues something. For some, life is about the pursuit of many. For others, it is the pursuit of the proverbial happiness. Even our nation's *Declaration of Independence* guarantees each American the right to "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." Everyone is pursuing something!

A. The wise pursue _____ (v.1).

Life Principle # 74: _____

1. His _____.
2. His _____.
3. His _____ (i.e., "seeketh").

Wisdom is not found by a casual desire. It must be a consuming passion that drives us to earnestly seeking (cf. Heb. 11:6).

a. Source of _____—*Fear of God* (cf. Pro. 9:10; James 1:5).

b. Study the _____—*Compare the Word with the world*

• The world says, "finders _____, losers _____." The Word says, that attitude is sin (Lev. 6:2-7).

• The world says, "_____ contact between boys and girls is alright, as long as you don't go too far." The Word says, "It is good for a man not to touch a woman" (I Cor. 7:1, emphasis added).

• Jesus had a whole list of this type of contrast in Matthew 5, “*Ye have heard...But I say...*”

4. His _____ (“*intermeddleth*”).

“*He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed*” (Pro. 13:20).

“*Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge*” (Pro. 14:7).

“You become _____ those you _____ around.” (cf. I Cor. 15:33; Num. 11:4)

B. The fool pursues _____ (v.2).

1. No desire for _____.

—No desire for understanding (i.e., *understanding, intelligence, discretion*).

2. Sole desire is to “know _____.”

What a contrast! His only delight is himself, and his sole pursuit is to discover himself. As someone has once said, “*A man wrapped up in himself, makes a very small package.*”

II. Their Philosophies of Life (vv. 3-8). —*Their philosophies are revealed by...*

A. The _____ ways of the wicked (v.3).

1. The _____ of contempt toward others.

2. The _____ of disgrace and shame (cf. I Sam. 2:30b).

“*ignominy*” refers to “_____ and _____ shame.”

B. The _____ words of the wise (v.4).

1. Words reveal the _____ (v.4a; cf. Lk. 6:45).

QUOTE: “Our thoughts, and hence our words, are a mysterious blend of memory and character. We each have a vast computerized store of information and experiences. Our memories are full of what we have read and seen and heard and felt. We also have a store of character traits, which may include lusts, longings, hopes, fears, and ambitions. From these underground wells of memory and character come our thoughts and our words (John Phillips, *Exploring Proverbs*).

2. Wisdom _____ the soul (v.4b; cf. Pro. 25:25)

C. The _____ works of the fool (vv. 5-8).

1. Respecting _____ over truth (v.5; cf. James 2:1-4).

2. Speaking words without _____ of consequences (vv. 6-8).

a. When a fool speaks, he is asking for _____ (vv. 6-7).

b. When a fool speaks, he is hurting _____ (v.8; cf. v.21).

Life Principle #75: _____.

III. Their Approaches to Life (vv. 9-24).

A. Concerning _____ (v.9).

1. The working man is a _____ man.

2. The lazy man is a _____ man.

B. Concerning _____ (vv. 10-12).

1. The wise trust in God's _____ (v.9; cf. Psa. 20:7).

2. The rich trust in their _____ (v.10; cf. Matt. 19:23).

3. The prideful trust in _____ (v.12).

C. Concerning _____ (vv. 13-24).

1. The wise do not make _____ decisions (vv. 13-15).

Life Principle #76: _____.

a. He _____ about the other person (v.14).

b. He gets all the facts _____ (v.15)

2. The wise put others before _____ (vv. 16-21).

3. The wise know how to make _____ (vv. 22-24).

a. Understands the _____ of a wife (v.22).

b. Understands the _____ of kindness (v.23).

c. Understands the _____ of friendship (v.24).

Life Principle #77: _____.