

The Marks of a Wise Man

Text: Proverbs 24:1-34

Introduction

The Book of Proverbs is a compilation of wisdom and insight that Solomon gathered for a legacy to his son. In its thirty-one chapters we find a constant comparison of the wise versus the foolish.

Solomon refers to the wise man 66 times, and to the fool (or, foolish) man 84 times. He, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, divides the human race into two categories...the wise and the foolish.

Everyone wants to be considered wise. Therefore, if we are to be wise, we must adhere to the biblical principles of wisdom. Throughout Proverbs, Solomon often states the characteristics of the wise versus the foolish. This chapter is a chapter of such contrast.

If we dare not be classified in the category of the fool, we should take earnest heed to the principles contained within this chapter. A wise man will approach life with...

I. A Proper _____ in Life (vv. 1-2).

The wise person will have an attitude that causes them to not be...

A. Envious of the _____ of evil people (v.1).

1. Does not desire their _____ (cf. Psa. 37:4; 73:3; Pro. 1:15; 3:31; 23:17).

2. Does not desire their _____ (“...with them...”; cf. Psa. 119:63).

B. Understanding concerning the _____ of evil people (v.2).

1. Their heart _____ the mischief.

2. Their lips _____ the mischief.

II. A Proper Approach to Life (vv. 3-4).

The wise man will carefully, prayerfully and deliberatingly approach life. He will understand that “building a life” of “building a home” is not by happenstance, but by biblical planning. He approaches life with an understanding of...

A. The _____ of home building (v.3).

—There is a difference between a *house* and a _____.

1. Wisdom is the _____ tool of home building.

—Wisdom is not found in a set of blueprints, but in the Scriptures (cf. Pro. 9:10).

2. Understanding is the _____ tool of home building.

—Discretion will keep bad decisions from destroying the home.

B. The _____ of home building (v.4).

1. The _____ of treasure is knowledge.

2. The _____ of treasure is precious.

LIFE PRINCIPLE #91: _____.

III. The Proper _____ of Life (vv. 5-12).

As a fool's actions reveal his folly, so the wise man's actions will reveal his wisdom.

A. Relentlessly _____ (vv. 5-6, 13-14).

The wise man will seek to become wiser through the pursuit of wisdom, and a fool has no such desire (cf. Pro. 18:1-2).

1. Learning produces _____ (v.5).

2. Learning provides _____ (v.6).

B. Refraining from _____ (vv. 7-9).

1. The foolish cannot engage in meaningful _____ (v.7).

2. The foolish and the evil enjoy _____ (v.8).

3. The foolish tongue and the _____ mouth are evil (v.9).

C. Refusal to _____ (v.10).

1. People quit when they “_____” (i.e., grow weary; cf. Lk. 18:1).

2. People who quit, are people of little _____ strength (cf. v.16; Psa. 37:23-24).

LIFE PRINCIPLE #92: _____

D. Respond to _____ (vv. 11-12).

The wise man does not live for himself. He invests his life into others, and so fulfills God's law (cf. Gal. 6:2, “*Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ*”).

1. What the wise man _____ (v.11).

2. What the foolish man _____ (v.12).

3. Where the wise man _____ (vv. 14-22).

(a) Not in a _____ seat (vv. 14-20; cf. Psa. 1:1).

(b) Not in the _____-minded seat (vv. 21-22).

Notice some of the things that “*also belong to the wise*” (v.23a). A wise man will be a...

IV. Man of _____ (vv. 23-26).

A. Respects _____ (vv. 23b-24).

1. Not a respecter of _____.

2. Not a perverter of _____.

B. _____ wickedness (v.25a).

C. _____ blessedness (vv. 25b-26).

1. Reaping what is _____ (cf. Gal. 6:7).

2. Reaping what is _____.

V. A Man of _____ (vv. 27-34).

A. _____ his work (v.27).

1. _____ before construction.

2. Seeking Godly _____ (cf. Psa. 1).

B. _____ with his work (vv. 28-29).

1. Not distracted by the _____.

2. Not distracted by the _____ (cf. Pro. 28:19).

C. _____ his work (vv. 30-34; i.e., he is not lazy).

Proverbs has much to say about the lazy (or, slothful) person (cf. 26:1-16). Notice what Solomon has to say about laziness in this text...

1. _____ of laziness (vv. 30-31).

“The condition of the property tells much about the character of its owner.” (John Phillips)

2. _____ of laziness (vv. 32-33; cf. 26:13).

—Always has an _____ (i.e., too hot, too cold, too dry, too wet, etc).

3. _____ of laziness (v.34).

—_____ (cf. 12:11; 28:19).

The uncultivated life will become the unproductive life!