

PROVERBS: LESSON 9

THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH

(Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION:

In the next two lessons we observe approximately 85 proverbs dealing with the characteristics and consequences of being WISE and FOOLISH.

I. THE WISE ARE DELIBERATE AND ACT WITH KNOWLEDGE WHILE THE FOOLISH ARE HASTY AND EXPOSE THEIR IGNORANCE (12:23, 13:16, 14:33, 15:2, 16:23, 18:2, 18:13).

II. THE WISE ARE PRESERVED BY THEIR ACQUIRED WISDOM, WHILE THE FOOLISH ARE PUNISHED BY THEIR OWN FOLLY (10:8, 10, 14; 14:3, 15:24, 18:7, 19:3, 8, 29, 22:3, 27:12, 28:2).

III. THE FOOL, LIKE THE BRUTE BEAST, LISTENS ONLY TO FORCED CORRECTION, AND SOON RETURNS TO HIS FOLLY (19:25, 21:11, 26:3, 26:11, 27:22, 29:9).

IV. THE WISE DELIGHT IN THE UPRIGHT WAY, WHILE THE FOOL DELIGHTS IN THE WAY OF MISCHIEF (10:23, 13:19, 15:21).

V. THE WISE BUILD UP THEIR HOUSE AND PROSPER BY THEIR WISE CONDUCT, WHILE THE FOOLISH TEAR IT DOWN AND SUFFER FOR THEIR FOLLY (11:29, 14:1, 21:20, 24:3).

VI. THE WISE HEARKENS TO COUNSEL, WHILE THE FOOLISH FEELS HE NEEDS NONE (12:15, 14:16, 15:31, 17:10, 18:1, 19:20, 28:26).

VII. THE BLESSING AND CURSE OF ASSOCIATING WITH THE WISE AND FOOLISH (13:14, 20; 14:7, 8; 15:7; 16:21, 22; 26:6, 10).

VIII. FOOLS CONTRIVE AND TAKE LIGHTLY SIN (14:9; 24:9).

IX. THE WISE UNDERSTAND THEIR WAY, WHILE THE FOOLISH DECEIVE THEMSELVES AND OTHERS IN THE WAY (14:8).

X. THE WISE EXAMINES ALL THINGS, WHILE THE FOOL BELIEVES EVERYTHING (14:15).

QUESTIONS:

1. How is "concealing knowledge" a characteristic of a "prudent" man?
2. Who is a "prating" fool?
3. The fool's mouth is a _____ destruction.
4. Who does the fool blame for his own folly?
5. He that getteth wisdom _____ his soul.
6. What influences the stability of a nation?
7. What catches the attention of the erring fool?
8. What proverb describes the deplorable state of the fool repeating his folly? What New Testament passage presents the same proverb?
9. How difficult is it to extract folly from a fool?
10. A fool takes delight in _____ ; a man of understanding takes equal delight in _____ .
11. Why do you not see the precious things in the house of the fool, as you do in the house of the wise?
12. What two things does a wise man do in regard to evil?
13. What is more effectual in a wise man than a hundred stripes into a fool?
14. How does one assure himself of being wise in the latter end?
15. In the presence of a fool, you will not perceive _____ .
16. What is one way to become wise?
17. The companion of fools shall _____ for it.
18. Why does a trespass-offering mock fools?
19. The folly of fools is _____ .
20. Do the wise believe everything they hear?

Do Christians believe all things (cf. I Corinthians 13:7)?
Can a Christian be wise?