

Message #42

Proverbs 13:13-18

Solomon knew that our attitudes, response and conformity to the teachings of the Word of God was the key to wisdom. Wisdom is knowing God's truth and applying it to life.

THOSE WHO LISTEN TO AND CONFORM THEMSELVES TO THE TEACHINGS OF THE WORD OF GOD WILL BENEFIT FROM IT, BUT THOSE WHO DO NOT WILL ETERNALLY REGRET IT.

Wise people go to work on learning God's Word and changing their lives, whereas fools will stay set in their ignorant ways.

STATEMENT #1 – Our attitude toward the Word of God determines our future. **13:13**

There are two attitudes one may have concerning the Word of God: 1) Despise it—hold in contempt in the sense of make fun of it or trample it down; 2) Fear it—live life with a reverence of it.

STATEMENT #2 – The teachings of God's Word can produce life and deliver from death.
13:14

Those who are skillful in their ability to handle God's Word are a fountain of life, which means their instruction, when heeded, can produce a full and prosperous life.

STATEMENT #3 – One's development in the Word determines how we are viewed. **13:15**

The idea is one who is skilled and intelligent in God's Word will be considered in a very positive manner; however, the "treacherous" person will be viewed as bad. That Hebrew word "hard" refers to one who is constantly terrible, continually evil.

STATEMENT #4 – Our application of God's Word determines our wisdom or folly. **13:16**

The language in the first part of this verse in Hebrew means the wise person labors very hard ("acts") to produce a wise, intelligent, knowledgeable product of becoming a wise person. The fool opens his mouth wide in a persuasive, powerful, pre-eminent way to set forth folly.

STATEMENT #5 – Our faithfulness to God's Word determines our reliability. **13:17**

Both a wise person and a fool are given a job to do—deliver a message. The wise person does the right job and the fool botches it up.

STATEMENT #6 – Our attitudes toward rebuke determines our shame or honor. **13:18**

The major difference between a wise man and a fool is response to corrective rebukes. The wise man accepts it, whereas the fool rejects it.