

“Insights into Glorifying God in Every Detail of Life”

Proverbs 14:2-8

11/16/22

Psalms 119:105

Titles of individual proverbs are adapted from *The Wisdom of Proverbs* by Bob Beasley

1. Prove Your Faith by Your Walk – 2

“fears the Lord” – this isn’t a fear of eternal judgment but rather a reverence for God

- It is a concern to give God the glory and honor He deserves along with a dread of doing anything that would offend and dishonor God
- It is submission to God

2. Seek a Tongue of Humility – 3

“rod for his back” – not the rod of discipline that we saw in 13:24

A fool’s tongue is like a rod that strikes everyone around it with words which come from a heart filled with pride.

“preserve them” – his words help a person rather than harm him

3. Honor God by Your Hard Work – 4

Colossians 3:22-23; 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

We need to know that real accomplishment in life involves hard, and sometimes distasteful work.

Lesson of the proverb: as one needs the help of the ox to produce a harvest, so one needs the help of wisdom to succeed in life.

4. Tell the Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing But the Truth – 5

“faithful witness” – a reliable witness

Being a faithful witness is part of the evidence of a person who has been “born again”

Matthew 5:33-37

“does not lie” – when the pressure is on they will continue to be what they are: faithful to the truth

“false witness” – instead of being a child of God, he is a child of the father of lies – John 8:44

Jesus said that false witness comes out of the unregenerate heart – Matthew 15:19

## 5. Understand How to Be Wise – 6

“scoffer” – the scoffer is a fool who has sunk to the lowest level of folly. He rejects all authority, instruction, counsel and rebuke. But worst of all – he despises God.

“seeks wisdom” – the lack of desire for wisdom isn’t his problem, so much as the lack of meeting the primary condition of getting wisdom – fearing the Lord – 1:7; 9:10

“in vain” – the scoffer seeks without sincerity, without delight in God. He seeks for his own interest and his own glory.

Because his motive is wrong, the scoffer seeks for wisdom in the wrong places

The scoffer would like to be thought of as wise but he won’t be. Not because he is stupid or ignorant but because he won’t take the essential 1<sup>st</sup> step of putting his trust in God – 1:7.

This is explained in 1 Corinthians 1:18-2:16

“man of understanding” – a person who has been regenerated and indwelt by the Holy Spirit

## 6. Beware of Hanging Out with Fools – 7

## 7. Always Think through Your Course of Action – 8

“discern his way” – “way” refers to the path he’s taking as he goes through life. Specifically, it refers to his conduct.

The prudent person thinks things through and therefore isn’t easily deceived.

He is able to look at two options and see what God sees in them.

“deceiving” – deceiving others or himself? Context indicates deceiving himself  
Fools think their conduct is right.

Proverbs 14:12; 16:25