

Message #99

Proverbs 24:1-9

THOSE WHO ARE WISE WILL NOT ENVY OR ASSOCIATE WITH THOSE WHO ARE EVIL.

Wise people spot those who are evil and corrupt, and they avoid them.

REASON #1 – Because of the objectives of those evil (**Saying #19**). **24:1-2**

The first reason wise people will not envy or desire to be with those who are evil is because of their objectives, namely, they use their heart and speech to devise evil things. The word “violence” and “trouble” are words that mean they will use even violent plans or troublesome speech in order to accomplish their godless, greedy ideals. Much of the evil devised in the heart and mind is carried out by speech.

REASON #2 – Because of the objectives of those evil (**Saying #20**). **24:3-4**

Notice how a house is built; not by evil plotting, but by skill (“wisdom”) in the things of God. Notice how the house is established, not by violence, but by the ability to discern (“understanding”) the things of God. Notice what fills the rooms with precious and pleasant wealth, not proud dominance, but an intelligent (“knowledge”) level of understanding in the things of God. The Hebrew word “pleasant” refers to wealth that can be enjoyed.

REASON #3 – Because of the way to obtain true strength (**Saying #21**). **24:5-6**

Powerful strength is not gained by envying or associating with those who are evil, but by listening and learning from those who are wise. The wise person is one who is strong, one to whom you may flee for safety during storms. The words “wise guidance” and “counselors” are terms that describe seeking counsel from someone who is in a position to give skilled advice. It is not seeking advice from anyone, but from those who are prudent in the things of God, so they may give sound advice.

REASON #4 – Because of the way of those who are fools (**Saying #22**). **24:7**

The gate was the place where the wise elders gathered to discuss theological, economic and political matters (Prov. 31:23; Ruth 4:11; Job 29:7). Notice how the fool lives his life—goes to the gate, but never opens his mouth because if he did, the wise, powerful men would silence him.

REASON #5 – Because of the classification of those who are evil (**Saying #23**). **24:8-9**

- 1) He is a schemer before all. **24:8**—literally a master of evil snares
- 2) He is a sinner before God. **24:9a**—God sees what man devises in his heart
- 3) He is an abomination before men. **24:9b**