

Message #51

Proverbs 15:8-12

As we come to our passage before us, Solomon was interested in bringing out the truth that no one can ever fool God. He wanted the children of Israel to know that God is not impressed, swayed or tricked by what a person gives the impression that he is. God is completely aware of what the person really is.

**GOD KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYONE AND EVALUATES EVERYTHING ABOUT EVERYONE, AND WISE PEOPLE LIVE A LIFE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS IN VIEW OF THAT REALITY.**

A person may fool others, but one cannot fool God.

**EVALUATION #1** – God evaluates the validity of religious activity. **15:8**

What we have described here is a hypocritical sacrifice publicly made by an unrighteous person versus a private prayer made by one truly walking in an upright, straight manner.

**EVALUATION #2** – God evaluates the reality of a godly lifestyle. **15:9**

This proverb swings from the issue of what is internal, to the issue of what is being lived out externally. The one pursuing righteousness is one God loves, but one wicked is an abomination.

**EVALUATION #3** – God evaluates the attitude toward corrective instruction. **15:10**

There is nothing that will destroy a person faster than an unteachable, uncorrectable spirit. Any Biblical life of righteousness requires constant discipline and change and any person who refuses to heed corrective instruction is one who is on a path of death.

**EVALUATION #4** – God evaluates the heart of everyone. **15:11**

The Hebrew word “sheol” is one that literally speaks of a hollow, subterranean place which features darkness and death. When the word is combined with the word “Abaddon” (destruction), it describes a very miserable place known for its destruction. What Solomon is saying is that God sees the places no human sees. He even sees the souls in hell, therefore it is nothing for Him to analyze and evaluate a heart.

**EVALUATION #5** – The godless evaluate the corrective instruction of the wise. **15:12**

There are two things described in this verse that a scoffer will not do: 1) He will not love one who reproves him; 2) He will not move in a direction of wisdom. Dr. Alden points out “the worst athlete, artists or students are the most resistant to criticism” (p. 119).

God is calculating each one of us.