

Message #103**Proverbs 24:27-34**

Almost every scholar who has ever studied the book of Proverbs has concluded that the thing that makes Proverbs unique is it is so practical.

WISE PEOPLE WILL FUNCTION AS A WISE WORKER IN SOCIETY AND LIFE BECAUSE THAT WILL BRING THE BLESSINGS OF GOD.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION #1 – Wise people keep their priorities straight. **24:27**

There is an orderly list of priorities spelled out in this verse, namely, before one builds, he works. The Hebrew word “build” may refer to a new building or restoration or rebuilding. The word “house” is used to refer to many things: tent, royal house, regular house or even house of God. The wise men of Israel knew that when it was time to plant, the individual needed to be out in the field getting the job done even though he may have wanted to build a new house or repair an old one. In other words, he needed to set priorities and get the work done first.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION #2 – Wise people will be honest neighbors. **24:28**

The word “witness” lends itself to a legal witness, one who gives legal testimony. Apparently there are some who are quick to color the truth against a neighbor without any cause. Motivations for this kind of thing are envy, greed, malice, dislike, views and race. Part of the Ten Commandments require that we not bear false witness against a neighbor (Ex. 20:16).

PRACTICAL APPLICATION #3 – Wise people will not be vindictive people. **24:29**

People who are wise do not maintain an “eye-for-an-eye” philosophy. The wise person will leave revenge to God (Deut. 32:35; Ps. 94:1; Prov. 20:22; Rom. 12:19; Heb. 10:30). Both the O.T. and the N.T. challenge us not to be vindictive for vengeance is a prerogative of God, not man.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION #4 – Wise people will not be slothful people. **24:30-34**

God’s wisdom is not lazy, it is disciplined; it is not slothful, it is diligent!

(Part #1) - The results of sloth. **24:31a**

(Result #1) - Worthless things dominate. **24:31a**

(Result #2) - Protective things are ruined. **24:31b**

(Part #2) - The reaction of sloth. **24:32**

The wise reaction to seeing what happens to a sluggard is not to applaud, not laugh, not to rejoice, but to learn. The word “instruction” (musar) means corrective discipline. Looking at the results of what happens to a sluggard should motivate a wise person to be disciplined in his own life.

(Part #3) - The rate of sloth. **24:33-34**

The word “little” which occurs three times in **verse 33** refers to a very small amount. Just a little sloth, a little sleep, a little inactivity can bring one to poverty just as quick as an armed robber.

Wise people are active people and active workers not just in employment, but also in spiritual lives.