

Message #54

Proverbs 15:24-29

THERE ARE OPPOSITE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A WISE/RIGHTEOUS LIFE AND A FOOLISH/UNRIGHTEOUS LIFE AND THOSE DIFFERENCES WILL AFFECT THE WAY ONE LIVES AND THE WAY GOD VIEWS HIM**TEACHING #1** – Wise people move up, not down. **15:24**

Solomon is presenting two ideas in this proverb for continually moving in the ways of God: 1) To bring fulfillment in life; 2) To move far away from hell. The “path or way of life” literally in Hebrew reads “path or way of lives,” meaning this is the path that produces great fulfillment in life—one moving upward. The substantive “that” introduces a reason or purpose for moving upward because it moves far away from the abode of the dead. A wise person moves up because that is the direction that takes him the greatest distance from moving down.

TEACHING #2 – Wise people are not oppressingly proud, but dependently humble. **15:25**

The word “proud” refers to a very arrogant, impious spirit that lifts or elevates self to a very majestic level. God will eventually destroy this kind of person. Widows were vulnerable and proud thieves would steal their land, so God Himself says He will keep the widow’s boundaries from ever being removed.

TEACHING #3 – Wise people are pure, not wicked. **15:26**

This proverb really zeroes in on the omniscience of God. God knows all things including the very thought patterns of every individual. God views the thought patterns of the wicked as an abomination. On the other hand, one who is pure is one who is pleasant in the sight of God.

TEACHING #4 – Wise people hate dishonest gain. **15:27**

God intends to visit those who are dishonest and He intends to pay them back. Wise is the person who does what is right and cannot be bought with money.

TEACHING #5 – Wise people think before they speak. **15:28**

The Hebrew word “ponder or study” is one that means to meditate or to debate with self. A wise person has a mental debate with himself before he responds, whereas a wicked fool just pours out his own evil opinions and philosophies.

TEACHING #6 – Wise people are heard by God. **15:29**

One of the main reasons for living a godly, wise, righteous life is prayer. When it says God hears the prayer of the righteous, it means that God is always ready to hear, heed and give answer to one who conforms to His standards. The word “far” is one that means God keeps a great distant space between Himself and one wicked. He can audibly hear their prayer but He removes Himself from answering the prayer(s) of one unrighteous.