

Message #118

Proverbs 28:1-5

A RIGHTEOUS OR WICKED PERSON MAY BE DETERMINED BY HIS REACTIONS AND ATTITUDES IN VARIOUS SITUATIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES OF LIFE.

CIRCUMSTANCE #1 – Righteousness or wickedness may be determined by one’s reaction to hostile circumstances. **28:1**

People who are wicked are swift to take flight when things get difficult; in fact, the word “flee” is one that means to be swift to take flight. However, one who is righteous is slow to run away and is as bold as a lion. That word “bold” means they are confident, secure, with no fear. Wicked people show themselves by running; righteous people show themselves by remaining.

CIRCUMSTANCE #2 – Righteousness or wickedness may be determined by the quality of the key leader. **28:2**

When Israel sinned and transgressed against God, God allowed many leaders to rule over her and the political unrest and instability was a judgment of God. However, if a key leader was wise in the ways of God and led Israel in God’s direction, God would prolong His grace and mercy blessings.

CIRCUMSTANCE #3 – Righteousness or wickedness may be determined by the treatment of the poor. **28:3**

One poor person ought always to relate to another poor person and never oppress them. Two different Hebrew words are used for “poor”—the first “poor” is one who has needs and wants and the second “lowly” refers to one who is helpless and feeble. Now rain is supposed to refresh the earth and give life to crops, but a hard driving rain that ruins crops is worthless. So is one poor, needy person who does not refresh others that are poor and needy.

CIRCUMSTANCE #4 – Righteousness or wickedness may be determined by one’s relationship to wicked people. **28:4**

One who has turned away from God’s Word will commend the wicked and one who is tuned in to God’s Word will contend with the wicked.

CIRCUMSTANCE #5 – Righteousness or wickedness may be determined by one’s desire and ability to understand what is right. **28:5**

Evil people do not understand justice. They do not have the ability to discern right from wrong. One who is right with God is constantly seeking to know more and more of God’s Word and will and that gives him the ability to distinguish what is right from what is wrong, what is good from what is bad.