

Message #67

Proverbs 18:9-12

WISE PEOPLE ARE TOTALLY DIFFERENT THAN FOOLISH PEOPLE IN THEIR ACTIONS AND ATTITUDES.**DIFFERENCE #1** – The wise and foolish have different attitudes toward work. **18:9**

Very simply stated, fools are slothful workers. That word “slack” is a word that means one who is slack or remiss in his job. He is a brother to him who destroys which means he is a close relative of one who is a master of destruction. Solomon’s point is that slothful people will destroy; they will ruin any organization because they don’t do any job right, whether in business or in the church.

There is nothing positive in Proverbs about God’s view of one who is slothful:

1. He won’t start anything. 6:9-10
2. He won’t finish anything. 12:27; 19:24; 26:15
3. He won’t face anything. 23:13—especially if it is intimidating
4. He won’t learn anything. 26:16—he is caught up with himself
5. He will rationalize everything. 20:4—he always has a reason for his slothfulness
6. He will complicate everything. 15:19
7. He will irritate everything. 10:26
8. He will destroy everything. **18:9**

DIFFERENCE #2 – The wise and foolish have objects of confidence. **18:10-11**

A wise person finds his confidence in God. He finds his security and safety in the God of the Bible. When the text says that the strong tower is the “name of the LORD,” it means that the righteous/wise person finds his security in the “Self-existing God.” The name “LORD” is YHWH, meaning the self-existing, sovereign God.

Notice carefully the contrast with the fool—**18:11**. He finds his security in his money and in himself.

The wiser we become, the less confidence we will have in ourselves and the more dependency we will have on our God.

DIFFERENCE #3 – The wise and foolish have different attitudes before an outcome. **18:12**

Unger calls this the “peril of pride and the reward of humility.” Solomon is teaching that just before a fool is destroyed, there is an arrogant attitude that is manifested. According to Proverbs, pride brings shame (11:2); it brings lowliness (29:23); it brings destruction (16:18; **18:12**). Notice the contrast between one foolish and one wise—the wise are humble. When God is going to elevate a person, there is always an honest, lowly, humble spirit in the person prior to the elevation.