

Message #72

Proverbs 19:8-12

GOD'S WISDOM TOUCHES ALL AREAS OF LIFE AND WISE PEOPLE CHOOSE TO LEARN AND APPLY THAT WISDOM TO THEIR LIVES.

Wise people want to be cured of their folly. Wise people want to be cured of their ignorance. Wise people want to be cured of their pride. God's wisdom is operative in the real world and wise people live and apply it in the real world.

LESSON #1 – Acquiring wisdom is the way to gain personal prosperity. 19:8

This proverb is teaching that the person who acquires wisdom and the person who guards or keeps understanding is one who loves his own soul and one who will find “good.” That word “good” speaks of happiness that comes to one who is prosperous. Now carefully notice how prosperity is gained—by acquisition of knowledge and the continual guarding of things learned.

LESSON #2 – Distorting truth is the way to guaranteed punishment. 19:9

This proverb is basically a repeat of verse 5, which Solomon wanted to stress the point that one who distorts truth is the person who will definitely come to severe punishment. The Hebrew words cover a broad range of different types of lying—the word “false” means to deceive or color and the word “lies” means to deceptively lie. The first word seems more subtle and the second seems more blatant. The point is liars will eventually pay. Now it is possible that Solomon had a legal court situation in view because of the word “witness.”

LESSON #3 – Inappropriate leaders are unbecoming disgraces. 19:10

Derek Kidner really captures the essence of this verse when he says God “has no pleasure in a misfit.” This proverb is about two things that God considers to be something of a total misfit in society: 1) A fool in luxury; 2) A servant who reigns. The word “luxury” or “delight” refers to a delicate, delightful luxury. Dr. Merrill Unger says, “Luxurious living often turns wise men into fools, but it turns fools into self-destroying idiots.”

LESSON #4 – Overlooking failures is the mark of wisdom. 19:11

The word “discretion” is a word that refers to one who has a cunning intelligence, a prudent understanding. The point is one who is gaining a cunning intelligence in the things of God is one who will be very slow to lash out in anger.

LESSON #5 – A king's attitude may be one of threatening or giving. 19:12

Solomon, as king, literally had the authority to make life and death decisions.