

Message #75

Proverbs 19:24-29

LISTEN, LEARN, AND LIVE GOD'S WISDOM SO THAT WE MAY LIVE AND FINISH LIFE WISE AND NOT FOOLISH.

God does not want His people running through life as foolish imbeciles. He wants them wise, skilled, and knowledgeable. But over and over again, He makes it very clear that not all people will heed his advice.

TEACHING #1 – Wise people know that being a sluggard is pathetic. **19:24**

The Hebrew word “sluggard” refers to one who neglects his duties and responsibilities. George Lawson, in his commentary on Proverbs, accurately observed “Solomon was a mortal enemy of sloth, as every wise man will be.” Proverbs mentions this theme many times (6:6, 9; 10:26; 13:4; 15:19; 20:4; 22:13; 24:30; 26:13-16) and **never** is it presented as something that pleases God. However, perhaps the most pathetic picture of a sluggard is in this verse and repeated again in 26:15—the sluggard becomes too lazy to eat.

TEACHING #2 – Wise people know that punishment is a good object lesson. **19:25**

I like what Derek Kidner observed, which we have modified slightly, in this verse are three types of people: 1) The scoffer—one with a closed mind; 2) The naïve—one with an empty mind; 3) The understander—one with a teachable mind. The challenge of discipline is seen in this verse—you punish the scoffer not so you change the scoffer, but to influence the naïve. If you “reprove,” literally verbally correct a person of understanding, he does not need any physical discipline.

TEACHING #3 – Wise people know that mistreating parents is shameful. **19:26**

The Hebrew words “assault” and “drive away” are words that describe very destructive, violent, oppressive action that takes everything away from parents and drives them out of their own home. God hates a child who abuses his parents verbally (20:20) and physically (**19:26**; 28:24).

TEACHING #4 – Wise people know listening to proper instruction is a key to wisdom. **19:27**

This proverb implies it is crucial to listen to good, sound instruction.

TEACHING #5 – Wise people know the characteristics of the ungodly. **19:28**

Two marks of ungodliness are presented here: 1) Hate and mock what is just; 2) A craving for evil.

TEACHING #6 – Wise people know that discipline is necessary. **19:29**