

Message #87

Proverbs 21:24-29

GODLY, WISE PEOPLE RECOGNIZE AND UNDERSTAND THE WAYS OF THE WICKED, FOOLISH PERSON AND THEY REFUSE TO LIVE LIFE THAT WAY.**MARK #1** – Those that are wicked and foolish are proud. **21:24**

Three detestable terms are used in this one proverb:

- 1) Proud—meaning one who is very inflated and swelled.
- 2) Haughty—meaning one who is very arrogant, filled with lofty pride.
- 3) Insolent—meaning one who holds truth in contempt and even mocks it.

This kind of person is an abomination to God (Prov. 16:5). The only thing that this type of mindset will bring to a person is judgment.

MARK #2 – Those that are wicked and foolish are slothful. **21:25**

Derek Kidner said, “The sluggard lives in his world of wishing, which is his substitute for working. It can ruin him materially (25) and imprison him spiritually (26), for he can neither command himself or escape himself.” This proverb makes it clear that a slothful person refused to work and, as a result, he dies with desires and dreams never fulfilled. In fact, the word “desire” speaks of longings or objects of desire. The basic cry of our society is too much work will kill you and the basic cry from this proverb is too little work will kill you.

MARK #3 – Those that are wicked and foolish are greedy. **21:26**

The contrast between the righteous and the wicked in this proverb is one of greed. A righteous person does not restrain from helping others and is willing to give to those who have need. To be able to give to others because you have worked hard and have plenty is one of the wisest demonstrations of righteousness that there is (I Tim. 6:17-19). One of the great tests of righteousness is the test of money.

MARK #4 – Those that are wicked and foolish are religious. **21:27**

If one comes to worship God knowing full well they are living in sin, which they refuse to face or someone comes to worship God continually hating a brother or sister, pastor or board member, the worship is an abomination to God and God sees the intent of the mind. From God’s perspective, worship is not ever to be a formality; it is to be a spiritual reality.

MARK #5 – Those that are wicked and foolish are deceitful. **21:28**

People who speak in ways that are colored or distorted are not wise people, for false testimony not only destroys self, but those who listen to it. Truth is always liberating.

MARK #6 – Those that are wicked and foolish are hardened. **21:29**

Notice that a wicked person puts on a bold front and appears to make a legitimate case for himself, but the wise person is very careful about what he believes and does.