

Message #92

Proverbs 22:17-21

It is God's desire that we fix our attention on the Word of God, listening to it, learning it and applying it to our lives.

As we come to this portion of Scripture, we come to another major section in the book of Proverbs called "the words or sayings of the wise." Most scholars agree that this section was written by wise, godly men other than Solomon, as the style is quite different from the preceding section. These proverbs were either compiled during Solomon's lifetime, or shortly after it. This particular section may be broken down into two central parts:

(Part #1) – The sayings of the wise—**22:17-24:22**—a compilation of 30 different sayings given in a multiple verse development.

(Part #2) – The additional sayings of the wise (24:23-34). In this section there are many "do not" warnings: 22:22, 24, 26, 28; 23:3-4, 6, 9-10, 13, 17, 20, 22-23, 31; 24:1, 15, 17, 19, 21, 28-29.

As we come to these verses, we could call this "The introduction to the sayings of the wise."

A WISE PERSON WILL DEDICATE HIMSELF TO HEARING AND APPLYING THE WISE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD BECAUSE THIS IS THE KEY TO GREAT DEVELOPMENT AND ACCOMPLISHMENT.

This central idea is clearly stated in **verse 17**: challenging one to use one's ears and mind to apply the instruction of God.

REASON #1 – One who does this will be a pleasing person. **22:18**

The word "pleasant" in Hebrew refers to one who is very pleasing, very agreeable. One who does this is very pleasing and agreeable in the sight of God. God's Word may be so grasped that it will flow out of one's lips.

REASON #2 – One who does this will be a trusting person. **22:19**

One who puts himself on this course of being taught will have great confidence in God.

REASON #3 – One who does this will be a knowledgeable person. **22:20**

The Word of God will thoroughly educate any person in the things of God.

REASON #4 – One who does this will be a useable person. **22:21**

One who pursues God's wisdom will be able to give a defense of that truth to others. The word "answer" means to have such a grasp that one may bring it to light in a very eloquent manner.