

PROVERBS: LESSON 10

THE WISE AND THE FOOLISH

(Jerry Fite)

INTRODUCTION:

We continue to study the contrast between the WISE and FOOLISH as they occur in chapters 10-29.

- I. THE WISE ARE SLOW TO ANGER, WHILE THE FOOL IS SOON ANGRY AND ACTS FOOLISHLY AND HARMFULLY (11:12; 12:16; 14:17; 14:29; 17:12; 27:3; 29:11).
- II. THE CROWN OF THE WISE IS KNOWLEDGE AND RICHES WHILE THE FOOL ONLY INHERITS FOLLY (14:18, 24).
- III. A WISE SERVANT ENJOYS THE KING'S FAVOR, WHILE THE FOOLISH SERVANT SUFFERS THE KING'S WRATH (14:35; 16:14-15; 17:2).
- IV. THE WISE HAVE AN APPETITE FOR KNOWLEDGE, WHILE THE FOOL ONLY FEEDS ON FOLLY (15:14; 17:16, 24; 18:2, 15; 23:9; 24:7).
- V. THE FOOL AND "UNSEEMLY" THINGS (17:7; 19:10; 26:1, 8).
- VI. THE WISE CAN CONQUER MERE STRENGTH AND COURAGE (20:18; 21:22; 24:5-6).
- VII. THE WISE WAYS TO RESPOND TO A FOOL (26:4-5).
- VIII. THE FOOL KNOWS NOT HOW TO APPLY THE TRUTH IN PARABLES (26:7, 9).

QUESTIONS:

1. How does anger reveal both the wise and the foolish?
2. Give two comparisons from nature that characterize the harsh vexation of a fool.
3. What is the point of "the folly of fools in only folly" (14:24)?

4. How does a servant secure the favor of a king?
5. How important is the king's favor to a servant?
6. Even if wisdom could be bought, explain why a fool could not buy it?
7. What three things are "unseemly" to see in or bestow upon a fool?
8. Explain what it is like to give honor to a fool?
9. Why should you NOT answer a fool according to his folly?
10. Why SHOULD you answer a fool according to his folly?
11. How are lame legs and thorns like a parable in the mouth of fools?