

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

Vol. XXXIV

December 15, 2024

No. 50

The Open Mind Of The Simple

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We enter the world as innocent infants, but soon progress to the naiveite of youth. The Bible describes us at this stage of our lives as being “simple.” Solomon declares, “*The simple believeth every word; but the prudent man looketh well to his going*” (Proverbs 14:15). Being young, we are susceptible to believing everything we hear. We are absorbing information daily, but lack needed prudence to make us wise. Our minds are open to go many ways, filling two destination categories: the way of the fool, or the way of knowledge. Solomon puts it this way, “*The simple inherit folly; but the prudent are crowned with knowledge*” (Proverbs 14:18).

The Book of Proverbs exists to fill the mind of the simple with knowledge, producing practical prudence for living. Solomon’s proverbs not only provide instruction but “...give prudence to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion” (Proverbs 1:4). Early on, the Word of God should fill the minds of the simple. As David reminds us, “*The law of Jehovah is perfect, restoring the soul; the testimony of Jehovah is sure, making wise the simple*” (Psalms 19:7).

Love for wisdom should enliven the mind of the simple. God has made His wisdom accessible through His Word. He cries out to the simple and challenges the young, “*How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity*” (Proverbs 1:22)? Remaining a fool who hates knowledge should not stagnate the mind. Turning at God’s reproof should direct the mind forward. Backsliding is not an option for “*the backsliding of the simple shall slay them, and the careless ease of fools shall destroy them*” (Proverbs 1:32).

The simple, filling the mind with God’s wisdom, should be able to honestly say to God, “Thy word have laid up in my heart that I might not sin against thee;” and “I have rejoiced in the way of thy testimonies, as much as all riches” (Psalms 119:11, 14).

Wisdom’s prudence and discretion is manifested when one sees where his actions lead. “*A prudent man sees the evil, and hides himself; but the simple pass on, and suffer for it*” (Proverbs 22:3). Those remaining simple act upon their impulses, not considering the destructive consequences ahead. The simple becoming prudent is a youth avoiding many pitfalls of his peers.

Proverbs directs special attention to the simple falling into the trap of sexual seduction. Instead of following God’s wise command to “*flee fornication*” (1 Corinthians 6:18), we see a “*simple one*” passing close to the “*strange woman’s corner*” (Proverbs 7:7-8). That first unwise move leads to him being exposed to her impudent face and seductive wiles. Like an ox being led to slaughter, or a bird hasting to a snare, the youth knows not that he is being led to harmful destruction and ruin (Proverbs 7:10-13; 21-23). Without prudent understanding, the “*simple youth*” is not prepared to overcome the seductive thoughts: “*Stolen waters are sweet, and bread eaten in secret is pleasurable*” (Proverbs 9:17).

The simple can learn from punishment the scoffer receives. “*When the scoffer is punished, the simple is made wise*” (Proverbs 21:11). We, even in our youth, can become wise by considering the painful consequences suffered by the unwise.

When young, the simple should fill the impressionable mind with God’s Word, pursue the prudent way, and learn from the failures of others.