

Message #46

Proverbs 14:13-19

Beginning in Proverbs 10, Solomon has been using antithetic parallelism to clearly show the difference between the wise way of life from God's perspective and the foolish way from God's perspective.

THE WISE WAY OF LIFE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE FOOLISH WAY OF LIFE; AND THE WISE WAY OF LIFE, IN THE END, WILL PROVE TO ETERNALLY ENDURE.

TEACHING #1 – What appears to be a heart of joy may, in fact, be a heart of misery. **14:13**
The appearance of joy and laughter may be a cover-up for a hurting, sorrowful, sad heart. The word “laughter” is an interesting Hebrew word which speaks of joy that comes from pleasure—a pleasure-loving kind of joy. In fact, this word is translated “pleasure” in Prov. 21:17. Drs. Keil & Delitzsch refer to this as “sensual” joy. One who projects himself to be happy because he is steeped in pleasure is hiding a hurting, sorrowful heart that is very, very sad.

TEACHING #2 – What is truly in the heart will be satisfactorily rewarded. **14:14**
The word “fill” is one that refers to complete and total satisfaction. The concept that Solomon is communicating is that both the backslider and the man who is good will be completely rewarded in direct proportion to what is in the heart.

TEACHING #3 – Wise people are careful about what they believe. **14:15**
The contrast here is between one who is “naïve”—one who is silly and easily enticed versus one who is “prudent”—one who is very crafty. The difference is determined by careful thought and research prior to believing something.

TEACHING #4 – Wise people are continually moving away from evil. **14:16**
Wise people recognize sinful things and avoid them because of their fear and reverence for God. Fools just continue merrily on their way, apparently in total confidence that they never have to worry about facing God.

TEACHING #5 – Wise people have controlled and honest attitudes toward other people. **14:17**
The first half of **verse 17** is clear—a person with a short fuse is foolish and deals with others foolishly. The second part of the verse describes one who covers up his emotions. The words “evil devices” may be used in a bad sense (12:2; 24:8) or a good sense (translated discretion—1:4; 2:11; 3:21; 5:2; 8:12). Two possibilities: 1) A man is hated because he is a fraud who covers his feelings; 2) A man is hated because he uses discretion against evil.

TEACHING #6 – Wise people differ from foolish people in what they acquire. **14:18**
The inheritance of a fool is folly, but the inheritance of one prudent is knowledge.

TEACHING #7 – The good will eventually win and the bad will eventually bow. **14:19**
The word “bow” speaks of one who prostrates himself on the ground in total honor. The wicked are not allowed to enter the gates of the righteous, but they bow down to them.