

Proverb 18

The _____ and What it is _____ of

I. _____: The potential in the tongue Vs 20-21

- A. The tongue has the power to prosper or cause failure and however it is used will bring the appropriate _____ to the user Vs 20
- B. The tongue has the power to kill or give life to relationships, and they who love to _____ will reap the result of how they have used their tongue. Vs 21

II. _____ (brought on by the use of the tongue) which can be detrimental to a Friendship Vs 1-5

- A. _____ behavior Vs 1-2
 - 1. Vs 1 "Whoever isolates himself seeks his own desire; he breaks out against all sound judgment." ESV
 - 2. Vs 1 "He who separates himself seeks his own desire, He quarrels against all sound wisdom." NASV
 - 3. Vs 2 "A fool does not delight in understanding, But only in revealing his own mind." NASV
 - 4. Q B comes from a self-focus and self-centeredness.
 - a. Separates-_____ from others because they are only concerned for their own self interests.
 - b. The conceited, self-willed person, sets himself _____ counsel from others, and thinks nothing of public interests. Such a person is only interested in his _____ personal wants and fancies.
- B. _____ behavior Vs 3
 - 1. The wicked man has _____ for others, and for all that is pure, good and lovely. He heaps abuse on all who strive to oppose him in his evil courses.
 - 2. All that he says or does brings _____, and he is always ready to put down any who are better than himself. This is a cause of disharmony. When one treats others with disdain he provokes _____ and sometimes violence.
- C. _____ judgment Vs 5
 - 1. "Righteousness exalts a nation" Pro 14:34
 - 2. Cf. Pro 17:15

III. The Tongue of the _____ Man (v. 4)

- A. Obviously speaking of a good man
- B. Words are like deep waters (Idea: strong man has deep waters running in him. The lips express the _____ and thus become springs)
 - 1. Proverbs 20:5
 - 2. Proverbs 16:22
 - 3. Proverbs 10:11
- C. _____ speech Vs 4
 - 1. "Deep waters" are those which lie far beneath the surface. Only with great effort can they be brought up.
 - 2. A wise man is a fountain of _____. One can drink from that water (i.e., understand what he is saying) as easily as he can drink from a flowing stream.

IV. The Tongue of the _____ Person Vs 6-8, 13

A. _____ speech Vs 6-7

1. A fool's mouth causes contention between people-could be between himself and others or between other people due to the fool's words Vs 6a
2. Strokes-a beating, either to the fool or to others due to the fool's words Vs 6b
3. The mouth of the fool ultimately brings about his own destruction-often after he has destroyed others first Vs 7

B. _____ Vs 8

1. The sole purpose of gossip is the destruction of the one being gossiped about.
2. The words of the gossip are cruel and go much deeper than the surface-they penetrate into the deep recesses of the listener as well as deep into the heart of the one being gossiped about.

C. Shows its _____ Vs 13

1. Answering before hearing
 - a. This refers to cutting in before the speaker finishes
 - b. This involves answering before hearing the _____ or both sides of a story
2. It has its consequences
 - a. Makes a man look _____
 - b. It causes *shame* (_____) to the person interrupting

V. The _____ for the proper use of the tongue Vs 24

A. Translation Issue:

1. "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." ESV
2. "A man of *too many* friends comes to ruin, But there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." NASV
3. "There are "friends" who destroy each other, but a real friend sticks closer than a brother." NLT
4. "A man of many companions may come to ruin, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." NIV

B. It is the _____ of friendship, not the quantity of "friends" which is important.

1. "Friend"-_____
2. "If a person has **many companions**, or numerous friends chosen indiscriminately, he may find himself in trouble." *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures* (Vol. 1, p. 945).

C. The "friend closer than a brother" is a special friend who can _____ be counted on.

1. They will be there for you no matter what
2. They will always be your friend even when they may not _____ with you