

Message #63**Proverbs 17:6-10**

Solomon was a man totally convinced that God's wisdom was operative in every possible sphere of life.

GOD'S WISDOM IS INVOLVED IN ALL AREAS OF LIFE AND A PERSON MAY CHOOSE TO BE WISE OR FOOLISH IN VARIOUS AREAS OF LIFE.

Proverbs is a book designed to force us to think in several very practical areas of life.

PRACTICAL AREA #1 – Splendorous glory is found in an ancestry of godliness. **17:6**

This verse has distinct reference to the family—older people get their great honor from their grandchildren (**17:6a**) and children get their great honor from their parents (**17:6b**). To the Jewish mind, a family lineage that was allowed to survive was considered to be a great blessing of the living God (Ex. 20:12). When Solomon writes that grandparents are still alive and finding their glory in their grandchildren, and children are finding their glory in their parents, he is describing a family lineage that was greatly blessed by God.

PRACTICAL AREA #2 – Certain speech does not fit certain people. **17:7**

Two types of people and two types of speech are described in this proverb—first, it is not fitting for a fool to set forth excellent speech, nor is it fitting for a prince to set forth deceitful speech. The word “fool” is not the normal word used for fool in Proverbs. This word is only used here and in 17:21 and 30:22. The word refers to one who has no strength. The tendency for one who is not strong is to speak too much of things of which he is not strong. The word “prince” speaks of nobility and it is not fitting for this one to color the truth. Wise people do not color truth and wise people do not speak excessively concerning things of which they have no strength. Foolish people are the opposite.

PRACTICAL AREA #3 – Wealthy bribes will promote success. **17:8**

It appears that the most logical teaching of this proverb is that a person who can offer an expensive bribe or gift is one who is destined to succeed. Solomon is teaching a basic principle that applies to most people—“money does talk.” Several Bible passages make it clear that bribery is condemned and forbidden in the sight of God (Prov. 17:23; 15:27; Ex. 23:8; Deut. 16:19; 27:25). However, the Bible tells the truth when it reveals that bribery does work (Prov. 18:16; 19:6; 21:14). Dr. Robert Alden said there is a big difference between a bribe and a gift, and it is motive.

PRACTICAL AREA #4 – Reaction to another person's failure determines what we want to really promote. **17:9**

The word “transgression means one person committed a sin and transgressed against God. One person does his best to cover it, which means he does not repeat it; he hides it, motivated by love. Another repeats it and tells others as a gossip.

PRACTICAL AREA #5 – Correction quickly changes a wise person, but never a fool. **17:10**

Wise people have minds which are teachable, hearts that are sensitive and wills that are pliable.