

## Message #76

## Proverbs 20:1-6

**THE WISE WAY OF LIFE IS TOTALLY OPPOSITE OF THE FOOLISH WAY AND THOSE WHO ARE WISE LEARN THE DIFFERENCES AND APPLY WISDOM.**

**INSTRUCTION #1** – Wise people avoid alcoholic intoxication. **20:1**

The Hebrew words “wine” and “strong drink” are interesting; wine is a fermented drink that comes from grapes and strong drink is a fermented drink that comes from grains (much like the difference today between wine and beer). Now one who drinks to the point of intoxication will discover that it will mock him and leave him uncontrolled. As Dr. Toy said, the words “mockers” and “brawler” imply that this person may become violent, loud and uncontrolled. One who gets drunk is not wise in God’s sight. If you are known as one who gets drunk, your friends may call you cool, but God calls you a fool.

**INSTRUCTION #2** – Wise people avoid provoking leadership. **20:2**

The main point of this proverb is that you do not want to get a leader (of God) angry, because doing such a thing can make you liable to receive a severe penalty. Wise people avoid provoking leadership because wise people know there may be severe consequences.

**INSTRUCTION #3** – Wise people cease from contention. **20:3**

George Lawson said a great difference between a wise man and a fool is that a wise man is for peace and a fool is for battle (p. 499). Notice the honorable thing for a man to do is to stay away from strife. The word “strife” means contentious arguments which may come to blows. It is a very honorable thing for a man to walk away from a fight. A fool not only doesn’t walk away, but actually continues the argument or quarrel.

**INSTRUCTION #4** – Foolish people avoid work. **20:4**

The sluggard refused to plow at the proper time and therefore he lacked the benefits of plowing at the proper time.

**INSTRUCTION #5** – Wise people are deep people. **20:5**

The central point of this proverb is that wise people are people who are deep in their wisdom and insight and can draw upon that wisdom and insight in many times and ways. Notice carefully that wisdom is an issue of the heart. The man who feeds the wise things of God into his heart is one who will become deep.

**INSTRUCTION #6** – Wise people are people of reality. **20:6**

The point of this proverb is that many people will say they are loyal, kind, loving, merciful and benevolent; but one who really is that way is very rare.