

Message #36**Proverbs 12:1-5**

In the Bible, especially in the book of Proverbs, life is portrayed as choosing to walk on one of two paths. The path of wisdom is a path that will lead to great safety, blessing and favor from God. The path of wickedness is a path that will lead to much mischief, evil and judgment from God. The path we choose to walk affects everything. As we come to chapter 12, Solomon continues to contrast these two paths of life. This is an either/or proposition—we are either walking on the path of wisdom or we are not.

OUR CHOICE TO LIVE A WISE LIFE OR NOT TO LIVE A WISE LIFE AFFECTS EVERYTHING ABOUT US.

AFFECT #1 – Our choice affects our attitude toward instruction. **12:1**

The word “discipline” is a word which refers to the disciplined teachings found in the Word of God. It is used as the antithesis of “reproof” which refers to verbal correction. A wise man is one who takes great delight in the disciplined teachings of the Word of God, especially when those teachings step all over his toes and corrects or reproves him from faulty thinking and ways. A stupid person hates to ever admit his thinking is not right. He hates to discover that he is wrong in his theology or life.

AFFECT #2 – Our choice affects God’s attitude toward us. **12:2**

The point is God takes great delight in one moving in a beautiful direction of obeying His Word; however, one who is fraudulent and crafty God condemns—judicial declaration of God.

AFFECT #3 – Our choice affects our stability in life. **12:3**

The man that conforms his life to God’s Word is stable and solid. Sin, wickedness and unrighteousness will do absolutely nothing positive for anyone. It will make one miserable and unstable.

AFFECT #4 – A man’s choice of spouse affects his character. **12:4**

One observes his proverb seems to be out of context, but in **verses 4-12**, Solomon leans toward some domestic implications of God’s wisdom (**4, 7, 9-11**). There are two types of women described in this verse—one who is excellent who makes her husband feel like royalty and one who makes a husband ashamed and is rotten to his bones. Two ways a wife can make her husband sick—constant nagging and arguing (Prov. 19:13; 21:9, 19).

AFFECT #5 – Our choice affects our thinking. **12:5**

A person conforming his life to God’s Word has thoughts that are right, but the mental process of one wicked has thoughts that are twisted.