

Message #91**Proverbs 22:11-16****WISE PEOPLE LISTEN, LEARN AND APPLY THE WISE INSTRUCTIONS OF GOD.**

LESSON #1 – Wise people become the king’s friend by their pureness of heart and their grace in speech. **22:11**

The idea of having a “pure heart” is one of having a heart that is clear, unmixed and unpolluted. Certainly in a king’s world where many are vying for your attention and trying to manipulate you, such a quality was very rare. It is no wonder the king wanted someone like this to be his friend. The second quality of having “gracious speech” more than likely refers to one who had good things to say about the king and his work.

LESSON #2 – Wise people know knowledge will be protected by God and falsity will be punished by God. **22:12**

In the end, those who are false will be demolished and those who are true will be preserved.

LESSON #3 – Wise people are not slothful, making excuses for their lack of accomplishments. **22:13**

This proverb indicates that Solomon had seen people so foolishly lazy that they would not go outside of their house to work and made up wild excuses in order to justify their action, or in this case their lack of action. Their excuse was that somewhere in the streets of the city there might be a lion and if they go out to work, they will be torn to pieces. According to Proverbs, one who is a sluggard: 1) Irritates everyone around him (10:26); 2) Ends up with nothing (13:4); 3) Has a life that goes nowhere (15:19); 4) Is a great waster of time and life (18:9); 5) He is always making excuses (20:4).

LESSON #4 – Wise people know that falling into sin is a form of judgment of God. **22:14**

Here is an amazing statement of God’s sovereignty; when God permits one to be swayed by the speech of “an adulteress,” it is actually a judgment of God. The main emphasis of this proverb is God’s judgment, not man’s susceptibility.

LESSON #5 – Wise people know that physical discipline drives folly from children. **22:15**

Notice what drives away folly from a child; it is not medication, but physical discipline.

LESSON #6 – Wise people know that oppressing the poor leads to poverty. **22:16**

People think they will end up rich if they do what they can for themselves, including oppressing the poor; but according to God that is the way to poverty.