

## Message #40

## Proverbs 13:1-6

The book of Proverbs is devoted to God's communicable attribute—wisdom. Thirty-one chapters, 915 verses all devoted to expounding God's wisdom to finite man... The first nine chapters are called the "My son" section. Beginning at chapter 10 (10:1-22:16), we have the first "proverbs of Solomon" section. In this section, Solomon gives a series of one verse maxims, using anti-parallelism to contrast a wise way of life with a foolish way of life.

**A WISE, RIGHTEOUS WAY OF LIFE IS COMPLETELY THE OPPOSITE OF A FOOLISH, UNRIGHTEOUS WAY OF LIFE, AND THOSE WHO PURSUE WISDOM WILL NEVER REGRET IT.**

**CONTRAST #1** – One's response to corrective instruction determines how wise a person.  
**13:1**

To state the proverb simply, a wise person will listen to and obey corrective instruction, but a foolish scoffer will not. The "scoffer" is one who mocks or derides God and parents and will not listen to or obey a rebuke.

**(Observation #1)** - Corrective instruction and discipline is needed to produce wisdom.

**(Observation #2)** - Corrective instruction and discipline will not be heard by all people.

**CONTRAST #2** – The use of speech determines what God will allow to happen in the future.  
**13:2**

The proverb says whatever a man is saying he will ultimately end up receiving. Good speech reaps good things. A fraudulent, treacherous person will reap violence.

**CONTRAST #3** – The control of speech determines prosperity or ruin. **13:3**

Someone very wisely said, "I have often been sorry I spoke, but never sorry I kept silent." The words of James are very important—everyone must be "quick to hear, slow to speak" (James 1:19).

**CONTRAST #4** – The attitude toward work determines emptiness or abundance. **13:4**

A sluggard, in Solomon's mind, was a stupid, foolish person (Prov. 6:6-11; 12:24, 27). The word means he is a person of neglect. The thing the sluggard neglects is work. Robert Alden well said, "Wishful thinking will never replace hard work."

**CONTRAST #5** – The attitude toward deceit determines righteousness or wickedness. **13:5**

The word "hate" means to hate in the sense of hating an enemy. The word "falsehood" refers to any coloring of truth, any deceitfulness. A wise man considers any distortion of truth to be his enemy.

**CONTRAST #6** – Our righteousness determines our outcome. **13:6**

Righteous people are wise people that are guarded. The one who does not conform to the righteous standards of God will be overthrown by his own wicked ways.