

Message #37

Proverbs 12:6-12

Ever since chapter 10, Solomon has been contrasting two types of lifestyles—that of wisdom and righteousness with that of folly and wickedness.

THERE IS A MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD’S RIGHTEOUS, WISE WAYS AND MAN’S UNRIGHTEOUS, FOOLISH WAYS; AND THE DIFFERENCES HAVE BOTH IMMEDIATE AND FUTURE IMPLICATIONS.

DIFFERENCE #1 – God’s wisdom makes a difference in speech. **12:6**

A wicked person does not use his speech for anything positive and the words “lie in wait for blood” indicate he uses cunning, twisted, crafty speech in order to destroy someone. The wise person uses speech that delivers, which means he snatches someone out of danger, saving them, giving them a way of escape. Derek Kidner said words are either “lethal or liberating.”

DIFFERENCE #2 – God’s wisdom makes a difference in duration. **12:7**

The contrast here is between one who appears to be enduring and one who will endure. The Hebrew word “overthrown” is one that means total reversal, a turning around, a conversion of what appears to be. One that is conforming his life to the Scriptures will remain firm and endure.

DIFFERENCE #3 – God’s wisdom makes a difference in reputation. **12:8**

One who pursues the true ways of God’s wisdom will ultimately be highly respected. The idea in this verse is that people will recognize one who is becoming prudent in the ways of God and will praise him and they will also recognize one who is perverse and will despise him.

DIFFERENCE #4 – God’s wisdom makes a difference in honesty. **12:9**

This verse is a contrast between one who has a little and was not considered to be too impressive and one who pretended to be very impressive and had nothing.

DIFFERENCE #5 – God’s wisdom makes a difference in compassion. **12:10**

A wise person is a compassionate person, even to animals. The word “life” is a word which often times is used of that which sustains life. Mr. Gesenius said it meant to sustain life “by food and drink.”

DIFFERENCE #6 – God’s wisdom makes a difference in one’s work ethics. **12:11**

A wise person works hard at what he does, but a fool dreams about things and doesn’t work.

DIFFERENCE #7 – God’s wisdom makes a difference in prosperity. **12:12**

The point is wicked people have eager desires for all that evil men have, but the one who will actually end up with things is the one who is righteous.

One on the path of wisdom will be blessed in many ways, but not one who is a fool.