

] A Madman Who Casteth Firebrands [

Proverbs 25:23 – 26:22

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XXV

23 The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.

24 It is better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

25 As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.

26 A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring.

27 It is not good to eat much honey: so for men to search their own glory is not glory.

28 He that hath no rule over his own spirit is like a city that is broken down, and without walls.

~ Our Spiritual Safari senior class at the Academy of Wisdom in God's University is currently completing our graduation commencement exercises in the book of Proverbs. What we're gathering here, and in our last several reports, is good old-fashioned good advice! The degree we have now earned from Bible study through taking the entire Word of God to the entire world in sound doctrine is a priceless gem. Later, in the epistle of James, we will take these proverbial truths and obtain a doctorate degree with an application of them. Each of these proverbs fit perfectly; and anchor themselves in modern life. We live in a day where societal norms dictate that we're never supposed to rebuke or correct anybody. Modern psychology generally gears itself towards getting along with others and being unnaturally sweet and nice all the time. Well, when the Spirit of God

calls us out through His man with the Word of God to rebuke, correct and exhort you, you'll do well to listen.

There are a whole bunch of people in this world — and in the church — teaching blasphemous false doctrines that they know are wrong. They have no compunction spitting in God's face. Sometimes it is not intentional, it is simply ignorance of the Word of God. But that's a willful ignorance. So, I'm not sure which is worse. These people are totally controlled by emotion and sensationalism — and the love of money; but they aren't interested in Bible study. We have an inordinate, over-achieving ambition on all fronts of church work today — except Bible teaching. That's where compromise bows before the wicked to obtain acceptance. They pervert Scripture and evaporate truth into meaninglessness. While sometimes sincere; they still do the same damage of harm to the cause of Christ. Frankly, I think they should be dealt with, and the Lord just happened to have chosen me to say these things to you — whoever you are reading this report....

XXVI

1 As snow in summer, and as rain in harvest, so honour is not seemly for a fool.

2 As the bird by wandering, as the swallow by flying, so the curse causeless shall not come.

3 A whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and a rod for the fool's back.

4 Answer not a fool according to his folly, lest thou also be like unto him.

5 Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.

6 He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.

7 The legs of the lame are not equal: so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

8 As he that bindeth a stone in a sling, so is he that giveth honour to a fool.

9 As a thorn goeth up into the hand of a drunkard, so is a parable in the mouth of fools.

10 The great God that formed all things both rewardeth the fool, and rewardeth transgressors.

11 As a dog returneth to his vomit, so a fool returneth to his folly.

12 Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him.

~ God has a lot to say about the fool, friends. But, we're not talking about intelligence quotient here; mental aptitude and abhoration, and even physical ability, are not part of this equation. Plenty of fools have doctorate degrees; although they are almost always oddball atheists. Either way, the simple definition is that the fool hath said in his heart there is no God. These people are not sane – that's how Scripture defines them – not me. The fool never minds sacrificing his honor; because they don't have any to begin with. Many of these people call themselves prophets and start telling us how God wants to give us a bunch of money and how things are going to work out in the next few years. I don't know if those self-proclaimed prophets are right or not; what I do know is they don't get their messages from the Word of God.

Let me warn you: this section of Scripture becomes downright mean and nasty. The horse, the ass, and the foolish atheist are all brought together in verse three. The whip for the horse, a bridle for the ass, and the only thing a fool responds to is punishment. See, friends, this passage sets before us two lines of conduct; and this is where a fools speaks of the Bible from a natural perspective. Now, when we decide to answer the atheist, we lay ourselves bare. You may discover a real problem as you begin to realize you agree with them on many issues. It is disorienting to recognize you subscribe to many of their beliefs; and that you cannot recognize where you should sharply differ. All of that is a real problem.

For a believer, we constantly have to determine where those lines are drawn with others. Sometimes, a determination will have to be made to discern when parables are in the mouths of fools – because it happens. We have to be very careful that we do not give atheists any ammunition. Either way, we must be confident that the Lord our God will prevail and overrule in these spiritual matters; and we must remember that the fool will always return to his folly. I don't know of anything more disgusting than verse eleven. Pigs and hypocrites both do disgusting things. As Christians, we need to be that which is genuine in truth. We trust in the eternal security of the believer; but we also trust in the eternal *insecurity* of the make-believer. Perverted egomaniacs run and rule this heavily polluted earth today; from the local levels of politics to the Executive Branch. They certainly have a very high and fine opinion of their corrupt selves....

13 The slothful man saith, There is a lion in the way; a lion is in the streets.

14 As the door turneth upon his hinges, so doth the slothful upon his bed.

15 The slothful hideth his hand in his bosom; it grieveth him to bring it again to his mouth.

16 The sluggard is wiser in his own conceit than seven men that can render a reason.

17 He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears.

18 As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death,

19 So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?

~ The sluggard is not the fool, and he isn't the wicked man, either. The sluggard belongs in a class by themselves. This is the habitually lazy person. They're usually very good at joking around and being funny. Interestingly, they are always experts at telling others how to do things. Do you know

people like that? I know people like that. Many are in the church, but they never seem to do anything worthwhile, because they're lazy. It's easy to get Christians to work at doing the wrong things. This world desperately needs the teaching of sound doctrine. There is no lion in the street. The people who say that are lyin'! Even if there is a lion out there, remember how one of David's mighty men jumped in the pit and slew a lion on a snowy day. Some people won't even get out of bed to go to Bible study. You'll never become one of God's mighty men being afraid of the obstacles you face on the street....

20 Where no wood is, there the fire goeth out: so where there is no gossip, the strife ceaseth.

21 As coals to burning coals, and wood to fire; so is a contentious man to kindle strife.

22 The words of a gossip are as wounds, and they go down into the innermost parts of the belly ~

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