

Message #47

Proverbs 14:20-25

GOD'S WISE WAY OF LIFE IS TOTALLY OPPOSITE OF MAN'S FOOLISH WAY OF LIFE AND THOSE OPPOSITES AFFECT ALL AREAS OF LIFE.

Proverbs are designed to communicate the truth of God in some form of poetic or representative language. A proverb doesn't waste much ink, but succinctly tells the truth in a few words.

SUBJECT #1 – Popularity is not found in poverty, but prosperity. 14:20

This proverb shows how sick society truly is because the determining factor for many people of friendship is what a person has or does not have. The day we determine who our friends are by their financial prosperity is the day we can classify ourselves as a fool.

SUBJECT #2 – God's favor is toward those who help those in poverty. 14:21

This proverb is closely connected to the preceding one and it clearly shows that those who are partial on the basis of what one has, sin against God, which means God will not favor that one. The word "happy" is a word in Hebrew that speaks of being in a blessed, happy state. Dr. Toy says it speaks of one who is in the favor of God and will be rewarded by God. If we continually help others, God will see to it that we lack nothing.

SUBJECT #3 – God will give good things to those who are truly good. 14:22

It is obvious that the central word of this verse is the word "devise" because it is repeated twice. The word implies the invention or creation of something—the careful planning and the final production of something. The implication is that God is looking at the heart and sees what is truly coming out of it. If evil is coming out of the heart, God sees it. If good is coming out of the heart, God sees it.

SUBJECT #4 – Profit does not come by talk, but by hard work. 14:23

The word "labor" speaks of work that is at times hard and grievous and the word "profit" is one that speaks of achieving a level of excellence, in which one is preeminent at what one does. Achieving an abundant level of anything requires hard, disciplined labor. Proverbs says many things can bring one to poverty—talk (14:23); stinginess (11:24); haste (21:5); hedonism (21:17); oppression and partiality (22:16).

SUBJECT #5 – The outcome of a person determines wisdom or foolishness. 14:24

The idea is that a wise person ends up with true wealth and a fool ends up with proud folly. This proverb has more than just physical prosperity in view, but also spiritual prosperity.

SUBJECT #6 – The impact of a person determines truth or deceit. 14:25

One who states truth is destined to make a very positive impact on other people. One who distorts truth will make a very negative impact. The ultimate proof of whether one is true or false is the influence he has on others.

One who walks in the wise ways of God walks in a way that will influence every area of life.