

Message #60**Proverbs 16:25-30**

Proverbs 16:25 says exactly what Proverbs 14:12 says—there are ways that seem right to a man which are ways of death.

UNLESS A PERSON IS CHOOSING TO MOVE IN THE WISE WAYS OF GOD, HE IS MOVING IN THE DEATH WAYS OF MAN.

One who is prone to self-deception is also leading self to self-destruction.

AREA #1 – God’s wisdom works itself out on the job. **16:26**

Those who work hard at what they do feel good about themselves; there is life to them. One of the great motivations for work or labor is the motivation of food. The word “worker” is one that refers to heavy, wearisome, exhaustive work. Solomon is saying a central motivation for being a good worker that works hard is that hard work will enable you to fulfill food needs. In the N.T., God’s Word gives several motivations for being a hard worker:

- 1) To provide food. II Theses. 3:11-12
- 2) To give to the needy. Eph. 4:28
- 3) To give to God’s ministry. I Cor. 16:2
- 4) To glorify God. Eph. 6:7

AREA #2 – God’s wisdom works itself out in relationships with others. **16:27-30**

Description #1 - People on the path of death use speech to promote calamity. **16:27**

The Hebrew words “digs up evil” literally read “dig calamity.” A wicked person is constantly causing trouble, constantly plotting calamity. The second clause—using words that are a “scorching fire”—mean this person causes trouble by a very destructive type of speech.

Description #2 - People on the path of death use speech to destroy friendships. **16:28**

A perverse person uses his speech to cause contention and strife between even the best of friends. God absolutely hates one who sows discord among brethren (Prov. 6:19) and He wants divisive people spotted, marked, and avoided (Rom. 16:17).

Description #3 - People on the path of death use speech to lure others into evil. **16:29**

The word “violence” is one that describes a person who will injure others in a violent way. He lures others into his purposes by his speech which is enticing, persuasive and deceptive.

Description #4 - People on the path of death use mind and mouth to promote evil. **16:30**

The idea of “wrinkling with eyes or shutting eyes” to devise perverse things is the idea of carefully meditating or thinking about the evil.