

Message #109

Proverbs 26:7-12

WISE PEOPLE KNOW THE CHARACTERISTICS OF FOOLS AND AVOID THEM.

With the exception of verse 2, all verses of the first twelve of this chapter contain the noun “fool.” This kind of person projects himself as something majestic, but in all reality is something pathetic. These are the types of people who love to pretend, but never produce. They love the promotions but hate the self-discipline. They love to speak but refuse to learn.

TEACHING #1 – Wise instruction is useless to or from a fool. **26:7**

The general point is wise teaching is absolutely useless to a fool. Wise teaching to or from a fool is as non-functional as lame legs.

TEACHING #2 – Giving honor to a fool is useless. **26:8**

Verse 1 instructs us as to how out of place giving honor to a fool is and this verse demonstrates how utterly useless and worthless it is. The analogy is that of a sling with a bound stone in it. The whole purpose of the sling is to sling the stone, so to bind the stone means you make it completely useless and worthless.

TEACHING #3 – Wise instruction is dangerous to a fool. **26:9**

A thorn goes into a drunk’s hand in ignorance, while insensitive (alcohol makes one insensitive to pain) and causing injury (does great damage to himself). So is wise instruction to a fool—he is too ignorant to grasp it, too insensitive to apply it and very injurious to self and others. The only thing a fool is intoxicated with is himself.

TEACHING #4 – An association with a fool is destructive. **26:10**

The sense of this proverb is that hiring a fool or someone you know nothing about is as foolish as an archer who shoots people; because in the end this person will wound and destroy.

TEACHING #5 – A fool’s repentance is only temporary. **26:11**

Three observations: 1) If we return to the same sin, we are a fool: 2) It is possible not to return to the same sin; 3) If we do not return to the same sin, we are wise.

TEACHING #6 – One who thinks he is wise by himself is worse than a fool. **26:12**

One who thinks he has arrived to the point where there is no more need for change or development is one who is hopeless. One who believes he knows everything, in and of himself, is not just a fool, but worse than a fool.