

Message #64**Proverbs 17:11-15**

One of the things that Solomon did in order to make the wisdom of God apparent was to graphically and carefully describe the evil fool. Solomon did not want the children of Israel to choose the way of folly. He is not giving information regarding the evil fool for the sake of the fool, because he knew that the evil fool would not change even if given 100 stripes (17:10). He gives this information as a teaching agent for the wise.

WISE PEOPLE WILL DO WHAT IS RIGHTEOUS BECAUSE THEY UNDERSTAND THE TACTICS AND CONSEQUENCES OF DOING WHAT IS FOOLISH AND EVIL.

In this section the subjects of evil and folly are at the center of this text. The word “evil” occurs in **verses 11, 13 and 15**, and the word “fool” shows up in **verse 12**. So Solomon is describing an evil folly that he does not want wise people demonstrating.

ISSUE #1 – One who rebels against authority will receive the retributive wrath of God. **17:11**

The key word “rebellion” refers to bitterness and continual opposition against Divine authority. Solomon says the tendency for one who is evil is to be in continual, willful opposition against Divine authority. The result of this is that God will send some fierce, savage (cruel) messenger to inflict judgment. Simply stated, God will send some fierce, savage judgment to one who continually rebels against Him and His authority. God classifies rebellion on the same scale as witchcraft and idolatry (I Sam. 15:23).

ISSUE #2 – A fool and his folly can be more ferocious than a bear missing her cubs. **17:12**

The Hebrew word “robbed” is one that means to experience bereavement. The point is one is far better off meeting a bear than a proud fool because the potential of defense against a bear is better. A fool can hide his ferocious nature.

ISSUE #3 – One who repays evil to one who did good will be punished. **17:13**

God detests ingratitude. In this proverb God makes it clear that He intends to punish one who does something evil against one who does something good. Dr. Robert Alden said, “Returning evil for evil is wrong but understandable; repaying good with evil is totally unacceptable.”

ISSUE #4 – The consequences of strife will cause the wise person to avoid it. **17:14**

Solomon is saying that contention and strife begins like letting out water in that it starts little and ends up bursting forth great problems that can cause great damage. Many catastrophes may be avoided by leaving off strife.

ISSUE #5 – God hates one that justifies the wicked and condemns the innocent. **17:15**

Dr. Toy said, “God abhors judicial corruption.”