

Message #62**Proverbs 17:1-5**

Proverbs is a book that reveals the wisdom of God. Each and every verse, especially after chapter 10, merits close scrutiny. Each verse is like a secret chamber leading us deeper and deeper into the knowledge of God.

GOD'S WISDOM IS DESIGNED TO GIVE WISDOM INSIGHT INTO HOW TO THINK, ACT AND LIVE IN EVERY SITUATION OF LIFE.

WISDOM PRINCIPLE #1 – The way of wealth is not the way of peace. **17:1**

This verse makes it clear that a life of tranquility is far greater than a life of prosperity. The words “dry morsel” describe nothing more than a dry piece of bread that is so dry the crumbs actually fall off. The house “full of feasting” means there is plenty of food to the extent that it can offer all the Levitical offerings and enjoy abundant portions. But we must carefully observe that the house with the “dry morsel” has quietness, which means this house offers a quiet, tranquil, serene security. On the other hand, the house filled with “strife” is one of constant contention, constant turmoil and confusion. Solomon says the home that is truly rich is one that is tranquil.

WISDOM PRINCIPLE #2 – The way of wisdom is the way to promotion. **17:2**

The language of this proverb says that one who is wise as a servant will ultimately end up in a position of leadership and will even rule over the children who had a lineage connection to the leadership position and the wise person will even share in the inheritance that the children deserved. The reason why the wise servant is so highly promoted is because the natural born son would not act in a manner worthy of a leader, but acted shamefully. **Doing shameful things will never bring promotion, but learning and applying the wise ways of God will always bring promotion.**

WISDOM PRINCIPLE #3 – The way of value is the way of trials. **17:3**

This proverb is very instructive in teaching us why we must go through trials and pressured situations and circumstances—God is examining our hearts to see whether or not we will turn from Him.

WISDOM PRINCIPLE #4 – The way of evil is the way of listening. **17:4**

Evil people listen to evil things. They listen to wicked speech. As one writer said, “A wicked person and a liar both feed on what enhances their characteristics.” The Hebrew words translated “destructive tongue” is one that refers to destruction that comes by verbal communication of one person against another.

WISDOM PRINCIPLE #5 – The way of punishment is the way of improper attitudes. **17:5**

There are two attitudes that will move God to bring punishment: 1) An attitude of mocking the poor; 2) An attitude of rejoicing at calamities. People are not poor by fortune or misfortune; they are poor by Divine Providence. To make fun of poor people is to make fun of God who made them.