

Message #116

Proverbs 27:17-21

GOD'S WISDOM IS DESIGNED TO MAKE A NOTICEABLE DIFFERENCE IN ALL PHASES OF REAL LIFE.**PHASE #1** – The wisdom of God affects influence of friendships. **27:17**

One theme stressed in this chapter is that of friendship (27:6, 9, 10, 14, 17). The point here is that friends of kindred spirits can have a great influence upon each other. Actually it was the Philistines who had the ability to sharpen a variety of iron products (I Sam. 13:19-21). The point of this proverb is that something of the same caliber and quality has a sharpening effect on something else made of the same thing. The sharpening may be positive or negative.

PHASE #2 – The wisdom of God affects employee accomplishments. **27:18**

Fig trees were valuable for fruit and shade, but the real money crop was the fruit. The point is the employee who is faithful in his work and attitudes and actions by carefully caring and guarding the business matters of the employer, will receive rich rewards.

PHASE #3 – The wisdom of God affects the reflection of the heart. **27:19**

The point of the proverb is that a man will eventually reflect in front of others what he really is in his heart.

PHASE #4 – The wisdom of God affects the visual appetites. **27:20**

Sheol and Abaddon (place of destruction) describe a place that is dark and bottomless and a place reserved for the wicked dead (Ps. 9:17). The point is this hellish place is never full, just like the hellish eyes of a person that lust after more.

PHASE #5 – The wisdom of God affects the response of man's ego. **27:21**

One of the ways to quickly determine whether wisdom is beginning to take root in an individual is by the way he responds to praise. Praise will either show that a man is egotistically proud and self-centered, or that he is a humble servant of God.

What we do when we succeed is perhaps a better gauge of our wisdom level than what we do when we fail. How we respond to recognition is perhaps a better level of our wisdom than how we respond to lack of recognition.

God's wisdom is in all phases of life. It will affect everything. Pursue it and you are wise.