

**Message #69****Proverbs 18:17-21**

Proverbs is a book that shoots straight on every possible topic imaginable. It is not a book that avoids issues of life for issues of life determine whether one is wise or a fool.

**THE WISDOM OF GOD IS DESIGNED TO AFFECT ALL AREAS OF LIFE.**

Every decision, every thought, every word and every move we make demands God's wisdom. If we do not seek for and ask for God's wisdom, we may be certain we will not have it.

**PRACTICAL AREA #1 – God's wisdom should affect our self-judgment. 18:17**

The word "first" would seem to imply that this is the first one to bring some case or situation to light. The word is used to refer to the first in time, in order or in place. The point is that the cause or the case will always seem right to the one who first brings it to light. The second part of the proverb makes it clear that two sides of the story must be told. Proverbs 18:13 makes it clear that we must not be hasty in forming opinions about others, but this proverb makes it clear that we must not be too hasty in forming opinions about ourselves.

**PRACTICAL AREA #2 – God's wisdom should affect our self-decisions. 18:18**

Lots were used often in the O.T. economy to determine the will of God in O.T. times. The lots were probably two stones like discs or dice, one side colored black and the other colored white. When the stones were cast, two whites meant "yes" and two blacks meant "no" and one of each meant "wait." The word "mighty" refers to ones who are powerful, ones who are strong. The point of this proverb is that one way to resolve this dispute is to appeal to the sovereign decision of God, in this case by casting lots.

**PRACTICAL AREA #3 – God's wisdom should affect our relationships. 18:19**

It would seem to me that contextually the point of this proverb is this: We must be very careful to see things accurately and completely before making a decision, and we must be very sure that decisions are made in conformity with the sovereign will of God; because if they are not, a brother or sister can be hurt or offended and when that happens, it becomes very difficult, if not next to impossible, to regain the brother.

**PRACTICAL AREA #4 – God's wisdom should affect our speech. 18:20-21**

**Verse 20** makes it clear that there will come a day when every person will be completely satisfied with the payback he receives for what he has said. **Verse 21** continues the same theme by giving further testimony to the power of speech. The noun "life" in Hebrew is the plural "lives" referring to life in its fullness. Speech can kill or it can cure.

God's wisdom is designed to change us here and now—let it work this week.