

Message #120

Proverbs 28:12-16

**WISE PEOPLE CHOOSE TO RESPOND IN GOD'S WISE MANNER IN ALL SITUATIONS OF LIFE.****WISDOM INSTRUCTION #1** – A wise society wants to keep a righteous leader happy. **28:12**

It seems the point is when a righteous leader is happy, joyful, and exulted, there is great organizational glory. The word “righteous” is one that speaks of one who walks in a right, straight way according to the Word of God.

The obvious implication is that a wise society will not allow a wicked person to rise, but will do everything possible to keep the righteous leader happy and rejoicing because it benefits the entire organization.

**WISDOM INSTRUCTION #2** – A wise person will not cover sin but quickly confess sin. **28:13**

To cover someone else's sin is the way of wisdom (10:12; 17:9), but to cover one's own sin is the way of folly. The idea expressed in “concealing” sin is the idea of attempting to hide transgression, rebellion and spiritual defection. It is the idea of not being open and honest about our sin before God. If we attempt to hide our sin, we will not ever prosper in anything connected to God; but if we turn away from our sin, we will find the mercy and peace of God.

**WISDOM INSTRUCTION #3** – A wise person is submissive and fearful, not stubborn and hard. **28:14**

This proverb gives us a key to happiness or blessedness, namely, our attitude toward God and His Word. The word “fear” is a different Hebrew word than the one for reverence (Prov. 1:7). This particular word stresses a trembling fear, a fear that reaches a level of being terrified (Gesenius, p. 671). In the context, one is so terrified of God that he does not try to cover sin, but deals with sin.

**WISDOM INSTRUCTION #4** – A wise society knows a wicked ruler is ferocious and devastating. **28:15**

There is nothing more ferocious or devastating than a wicked ruler. A wicked ruler hurts people and does not help people.

**WISDOM INSTRUCTION #5** – A wise leader does not lack understanding and does not oppress people. **28:16**

A wicked leader is an unwise leader, as Kidner said, he is subhuman (**28:15**), stupid (**28:16a**), and short-lived (**28:16b**). The words “oppress” and “unjust gain” describes one who forcefully and fraudulently takes from people in order to unjustly gain more for self.

God will prolong, extend and lengthen the reign of a righteous leader, but He will also cut short one who is unrighteous.