

**Message #81****Proverbs 20:26-30**

Proverbs is not my wisdom, it is not your wisdom; it is God's wisdom. If that wisdom is applied to our lives and to this church, we will be a success no matter what era of history.

**GOD'S WISDOM IS GIVEN TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE COLLECTIVELY AND INDIVIDUALLY IN ANY CULTURE AT ANY TIME.**

One who lets God's wisdom make a difference is very wise indeed.

**WISDOM TEACHING #1** – A wise leader divides and conquers wicked people. **20:26**

The word “winnows” is a word that means to spread out, to disperse. A wise leader is one who scatters evil. He is one who causes evil to disperse. Evil has a tendency to cease in the presence of a godly leader and in the presence of godly leadership. During Solomon's time, the wheel was used for treading on something and trampling it until it was very small. These wheels were used to crush grain and cut up straw (Is. 28:27). The point of the proverb is that wise leadership will stamp out evil. Wise people are people who deal with evil and get rid of it. Wise people do not tolerate evil for very long. They spot it, crush it and get rid of it.

**WISDOM TEACHING #2** – Wise people have internal integrity. **20:27**

God's Word makes it clear that God gave man his spirit (Zech. 12:1). God monitors a man's spirit (**20:27**). God wants to shine forth in man's spirit (**20:27**; Matt. 5:14-16). This is the part of man that truly worships God (John 4:23). This proverb makes it clear that God is searching for or seeking for a person whose inside is truly shining forth righteousness. When God finds this kind of person, He will give him great blessing and understanding (Job 32:8). However, the lamp that is evil will eventually be put out (Prov. 20:20).

**WISDOM TEACHING #3** – Wise leadership is preserved by loyalty and truth. **20:28**

The word “preserve” means to watch, keep, and guard. The word “uphold” refers to something sustained, supported and aided. This proverb is teaching that the way to guard and maintain your leadership is to be loyal to the Word of God and be a person of truth.

**WISDOM TEACHING #4** – Wise people recognize positive qualities of all ages. **20:29**

The word “glory” refers to an ornament of splendor. The word “strength” refers to power, might and ability. The thing that stands out with a young person is his strength, with an older person it is his wisdom. Robert Alden said a godly older person has accomplished at least three things: 1) He has survived youth; 2) He has attained old age; 3) He has acquired knowledge.

**WISDOM TEACHING #5** – Wise people recognize the important need of discipline. **20:30**

Here is an important purpose of discipline—not to inflict pain, but to change conduct.