

Message #39

Proverbs 12:24-28

Proverbs is a book that unlocks the wisdom of God. Ever since chapter 10, Solomon is using contrasting parallelism to demonstrate the difference between wisdom and folly.

CHOOSING TO FOLLOW OR NOT TO FOLLOW GOD'S WISE WAYS MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN ALL AREAS OF TEMPORAL AND EVEN ETERNAL LIFE.

FACT #1 – God's wisdom is diligent. 12:24

The Hebrew word “diligent” is one that refers to an eager desire for something, like gold. To simply state the point of the proverb, hard eager work brings promotion, whereas slothful work brings demotion. Proverbs says that diligent work brings much to a person—1) wealth (10:4); 2) position (12:24); 3) Fullness (13:4); 4) abundance (21:5). It is always the mark of wisdom to be a diligent worker.

FACT #2 – God's wisdom is encouraging. 12:25

The picture in the first part of the verse is that of a man who is depressed because of some anxiety or fear. Now carefully notice what can help pull a person out of depression—a good word. The word “glad” is one that means to cause to rejoice or to be merry. The best words all come from the Bible.

FACT #3 – God's wisdom is careful. 12:26

A person who is righteous, that is one that conforms his life to the standards of God, is far more valuable than one who is not. A righteous person can lead others to right paths, but a wicked person leads others astray.

FACT #4 – God's wisdom is not slothful. 12:27

Here is a very practical and pathetic picture of a man who is so slothful that he will not even cook the food he has taken hunting. On the other hand, the person who is diligent—one eager to do what is right—takes great caution in the game he has taken because he considers his substance to be precious, of great value. What you have here is a picture of one who starts a job but is too lazy to finish it.

FACT #5 – God's wisdom is the way of life. 12:28

The ways of God will cause one to flourish in all areas of life and death. One will have lived a full, abundant life of blessing and then when death comes, will die an honorable believer.