

Lesson Two

Proverbs: The Simple and the Scorer

Proverb:

Latin – PRO (“instead of”) and VERBA (“words”)

A proverb is a short statement that summarizes a wise principle.

Hebrew (MASHAL) – “a comparison” or “to be like”

A proverb contains comparisons between common concepts and life’s profound truths.

The book of Proverbs collects the most important 513 of the 3000 wise sayings that King Solomon wrote or collected (1 Kings 4:32).

The subject of Proverbs is WISDOM, which in Scripture is a matter of the HEART more than of the MIND – real wisdom is, at its most basic level, simply OBEDIENCE TO GOD.

Proverbs teaches us that good things happen to us because we are obeying the Word of God and keeping God’s principles. When you obey the Word of God it will bring blessings to your life.

Proverbs 9:10 The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy is understanding.

Proverbs mentions three kinds of people who desperately need wisdom:

1. The Simple
2. The Scorer
3. The Fool

Proverbs 1:22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scorers delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

1. THE SIMPLE

- The simple are naïve people who believe everything, because they don’t have convictions about anything (what they think is “tolerance” is only spiritual ignorance, because they can’t distinguish truth from error). Since they lack strong convictions the simple are easily lead astray, manipulated and influenced by ever doctrine or belief that comes along.

The reason many people are lead deceived is because they have read everything but the Bible. There are a lot of good books to be read and they will increase your knowledge and

understanding of the Bible but the Bible is the book you need to know and be familiar with to avoid being deceived.

Proverbs 14:15 The simple believeth every word: but the prudent man looketh well to his going.

- The wise learn from instruction and avoid trouble, but the simple have to learn the hard way. They learn when they have met with disaster or see someone else's life fall apart.

Proverbs 21:11 When the scorner is punished, the simple is made wise: and when the wise is instructed, he receiveth knowledge.

- The simple cannot see ahead so they repeatedly walk into trouble. A simple person will do the same thing over and over again and expect to get different results.

Proverbs 22:3 A prudent man foreseeth the evil, and hideth himself: but the simple pass on, and are punished.

- The simple are simple because they reject the truth of God's Word that gives common sense. As we read the Bible we will receive sense, sensibility and sensitivity which will allow us to discern what the will of God is.

Proverbs 1:4 To give subtilty to the simple, to the young man knowledge and discretion.

Simple people are naïve not bad just naïve.

2. THE SCORNER

- A scorner can't understand God's truth because they are not humble. They are always arguing with the person trying to teach them the Word of God. They approach the Word of God with the attitude that they will obey the sections that they like or agree with and throw out the rest.

Proverbs 14:6 A scorner seeketh wisdom, and findeth it not: but knowledge is easy unto him that understandeth.

- A scorner shows how ignorant they are by the way they respond to advice and correction. A scorner does not want to be corrected and when corrected will turn on those who correct them. If you correct a wise person they will love you for it because they want to be closer to God and to do what is right.

Proverbs 9:8 Reprove not a scorner, lest he hate thee: rebuke a wise man, and he will love thee.

- A scorner has a toxic attitude that spreads trouble and creates problems. Trouble, contention, strife and reproach follow one who scorns. Psalms 1:1 clearly states that we are not to sit in the seat of the scornful.

Proverbs 22:10 Cast out the scorner, and contention shall go out; yea, strife and reproach shall cease.

- A scorner brings reproach on anything they touch.

Proverbs 24:9 The thought of foolishness is sin: and the scorner is an abomination to men.

Scorners are cynical.

ADDITIONAL NOTES

Lesson Two - Questions

Proverbs: The Simple and the Scorer

1. The subject of Proverbs is _____, which in Scripture is a matter of the _____ more than of the _____ – real wisdom is, at its most basic level is simply _____.

2. List the three types of people who desperately need wisdom:

3. List 4 characteristics of the simple:

4. List 4 characteristics of the scorer:

5. Write out the Scripture and reference that tells us how to get wisdom and understanding.
