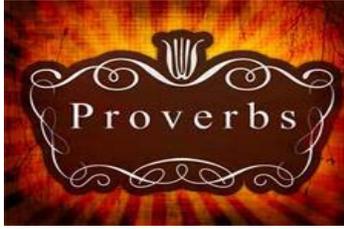


LESSON #3



Bible Study

Compiled by

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This is a series of study lessons on the Book of Proverbs. You can copy and paste each lesson or simply print from your file menu. If you like, you can send each lesson to the address listed at the end of the lesson for grading. May the Lord bless you as you study His Word!

(The King James Bible should be used to answer the questions.)

(Be sure to include a self addressed stamped envelope for your lesson to be graded and returned.)

“THE FOOL”

FOOL?

What is a fool? Who is a FOOL? How would you describe a FOOL? Certainly no one (not even a fool!) would want to be called a fool. A fool is someone who is SENSELESS (he does not have the sense to believe God and do what God says). According to Proverbs 14:16; 15:7 and 29:9, what would be the opposite of a *foolish man*?

The Lord Jesus spoke about a wise man and a foolish man in Matthew 7:24-27. According to verses 24 and 26, what is something that **both** the wise man and foolish man did? _____

Therefore, would you say that the fool's problem is that of IGNORANCE? _____ According to Matthew 7:24 and 26, what makes a man a fool and what makes a man a wise man?

The fool _____

The wise man _____

True-False: _____ The fool's problem is that he does not know.

True-False: _____ The fool's problem is that he does not do what he knows he should.

In light of this, read John 13:17. How would you define a fool using John 13:17? _____

How would you define a fool using James 1:22-25? _____

Not only is the fool *senseless*, he is also *stupid*. He is not stupid because he lacks mental powers, but because he misuses these powers. He is stupid because of his own *disbelief* and *disobedience* (he does not believe what God says and he does not do what God says).

A fool can be a very intelligent person. A fool may have a very high IQ (Intelligence Quotient). A fool may not be mentally handicapped at all. A fool might be blessed with the best kind of gray matter (in the brain). A person is a fool, not because he fails to reason or think, but because he reasons and thinks wrongly. A wise man may be lacking in mental powers, but he is smart enough to listen to an ALL-WISE GOD!

PROBLEM

Has God blessed you with a brain and a healthy mind? Are you able to listen and read and reason and think? Are you thankful for these abilities? Are you **using** these abilities in the best way? What place does God and His Word have in your thinking and deciding and acting?

"**WISDOM**" is very **PRACTICAL**. "**WISDOM**" may be defined as "**using knowledge in the right way and putting knowledge to work.**" How then would you define "FOOLISHNESS"? _____

Can a person *know* the plan of salvation and not be saved? _____ Think of Judas Iscariot. Was his problem that he lacked knowledge? _____

What do fools hate (Proverbs 1:22)? _____

What do fools despise (Proverbs 1:7)? _____

Fools have no delight in _____ (Proverbs 18:2). In light of these verses, what do wise people delight in and love? _____

The problem is not that fools lack the knowledge that they need. The problem is that they REJECT or DISREGARD this knowledge which they have. They do not use the information that God has given them. They refuse to listen to God and act upon what He says.

The fool hates the very thing that he desperately needs (see Proverbs 1:22). This is like the person who hates the medicine that will make him well and refuses to take it. This would be like a person who hates nourishing food--the very thing we need to live and survive!

What does a fool do when his father (who is older and much more experienced in living) instructs him in the way he should go (Proverbs 15:5)? _____

What does a fool do when someone speaks to him and gives him wise advice (Proverbs 23:9)? _____

How do you respond when someone gives you wise advice and counsel? Do you heed the counsel of others such as your pastor, Sunday school teachers, etc.? Do you display a "*know-it-all*" attitude or a "*you-can't-tell-me-anything*" attitude and an unwillingness to follow the advice of others? (*You don't have to put your answer here for the preceding question. This is something for you to think about.*)

WHERE IS FOOLISHNESS?

Foolishness is bound in the _____ of a child (Proverbs 22:15) and this foolishness comes out and expresses itself in the form of DISOBEDIENCE and DISRESPECT. How should the parents deal with this problem and how can Mom and Dad drive the foolishness away? _____

Foolishness is bound in the heart of older people too! Because we were all born in sin, do we **naturally become wise** or do we **naturally become foolish**? _____

Do men naturally and normally follow the path of wisdom or do men usually go the other way (Proverbs 1:20, 24-30)? _____ The path of wisdom is not the popular path. Fools greatly outnumber the wise. Are you a part of the foolish majority or are you a part of God's minority group made up of those who take His Word seriously and act upon it? (*You don't have to put your answer here for the preceding question. This is something for you to think about.*)

The word "abomination" means something that a person hates and something that makes a person sick. What is it that fools really hate (Proverbs 13:19)? _____ They love sin and want to continue in it. On the contrary, if men and women fear the Lord they will _____

 _____ (Proverbs 3:7; 14:16; 16:6).

A fool is known by the way he lives. A fool does what is right in _____ eyes (Proverbs 12:15). He has rejected or disregarded GOD'S STANDARD OF RIGHTNESS, and he has established his own standard of rightness. Instead of GOD'S WAY he has chosen HIS OWN WAY. How do you think a fool will react if you tell him he is wrong? A fool does not trust in the Lord (see Proverb 28:25), but he trusts in _____ (Proverbs 28:26). Why is this a foolish thing to do (Jeremiah 19:9)? _____

See Jeremiah 17:5 and 7.

(This is a personal question between you and the Lord: Do you trust in *SELF* or in the *SAVIOR*?)

A true fool acts like a fool and lives like a fool. This reminds us that a fool is known and recognized by the way he lives: **Match the numbers with the right letter (verse).**

1)		a fool's mischief	A.	Proverbs 12:16
2)		a fool's pride	B.	Proverbs 14:3
3)		a fool's perverse lips	C.	Proverbs 10:18
4)		a fool's wrath (sinful anger)	D.	Proverbs 10:23
5)		a fool's lies and slander	E.	Proverbs 19:1
6)		a fool's punishment (It does not pay to be a fool!)	F.	Proverbs 19:29

According to these six verses: Proverbs 12:16; Proverbs 14:3; Proverbs 10:18; Proverbs 10:23; Proverbs 19:1; Proverbs 19:29, how would you describe a fool? What does a fool enjoy doing?

DANGER

Fools can also be very dangerous. According to God's Word (Proverbs 17:12), would it be better (and safer) to meet a bear robbed of her young cubs or to meet a fool in his folly? _____

Was it safe to be around foolish King Saul (1 Samuel 22:16-18)? _____ Foolish men sometimes act worse than beasts!

Is snow very fitting and appropriate in the summer time (Proverbs 26:1)? _____ Is honor very fitting and appropriate for a fool? _____ What was more fitting and appropriate for foolish HAMAN, honor (Esther 3:1-2) or shame (Esther 7:10)? _____

Giving honor to a fool would be as appropriate as having a snowball fight in August! Snowball fights do not belong in August and honor does not belong to a fool.

Notice the problems a fool causes in his own family and home. How does the father feel about having a fool for a son or daughter (Proverbs 17:21 and compare 19:13 and 15:20)?

Does God want fools to understand and be wise (Proverbs 8:5)? ____ A lesson such as this one should convict and bother each one of us. According to Titus 3:3 we have all been F _____. But God has good news for every fool. It is possible for a fool to become wise. There is HOPE for you! You may be a fool but you need not stay a fool! God delights in taking a fool and making him wise.

THE GREATEST FOOL OF ALL IS THE PERSON WHO CHOOSES TO REMAIN A FOOL FOREVER!

Psalms 14:1 The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God. They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good.



Please check what you would want (you may check more than one):

Please correct this Bible study _____. Please answer my questions which I have enclosed or attached _____. Please send me more information about salvation and eternal life _____.



To be graded, and returned to you, send completed lesson and self addressed stamped envelope

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