

**LESSONS THIS QUARTER**

- 1) 07 June 2020.....Proverbs 01.....Chartered Waters
- 2) 14 June.....Proverbs 03:1-18.....Direction Offered
- 3) 21 June.....Proverbs 03:19-35.....Compassion Demonstrated
- 4) 28 June.....Proverbs 04.....The Choice
- 5) 05 July.....Proverbs 05.....Following God's Design
- 6) 12 July.....Proverbs 08-09.....Pursuing Wisdom
- 7) 19 July.....Proverbs 14.....Living Wisely
- 8) 26 July.....Proverbs 15-16.....Pleasing God
- 9) 02 August.....Proverbs 23.....Staying Sober
- 10) 09 August.....Proverbs 29.....Accepting Discipline
- 11) 16 August.....Proverbs 31.....Finding Honor
- 12) 23 August.....Song of Songs 1-5.....Relational Foundations
- 13) 30 August.....Song of Songs 5-8.....Relational Investment

**INTRODUCTION**

- A lot of common-sense axioms are presented, such as: We need to spend money to make money; we are only as smart as the fools we hang around; and big churches are OK.
- I took the liberty to parse the various verses below to highlight the characteristics of the foolish and wicked compared to the godly

Characteristics of the Foolish and the Godly on Life Issues		
Vs	Fools/Wicked	Godly
01	The foolish <b>tears down</b> her house with her own hands	The wise woman <b>builds</b> her house
02	But he who is devious in his ways <b>despises the Lord</b>	He who walks in his uprightness <b>fears the LORD</b>
03	In the mouth of the foolish is a rod for his back	But the lips of the wise will <b>protect</b> them
05	But a false witness <b>utters lies</b>	A <b>trustworthy</b> witness will not lie
06	A scoffer seeks but <b>finds no wisdom</b>	<b>Knowledge is easy</b> to one who has understanding
08	The foolishness of fools is <b>deceit</b>	The wisdom of the sensible is to <b>understand</b> his way
09	Fools mock at sin	Among the upright there is <b>good will</b>
11	The house of the wicked will be <b>destroyed</b>	The tent of the upright will <b>flourish</b>
14	The backslider in heart will have his fill of his own ways	A good man will [be satisfied] with his.
15	The naive believes everything	The sensible man considers his steps
16	A fool is <b>arrogant and careless</b> .	A wise man is <b>cautious</b> and turns away from evil
18	The naive inherit foolishness	The sensible are <b>crowned</b> with knowledge
22	Will they not <b>go astray</b> who devise evil?	<b>Kindness and truth</b> [will be to] those who devise good.
25	He who utters lies is <b>treacherous</b>	A truthful witness <b>saves lives</b>
29	But he who is <b>quick-tempered</b> is foolish/stupid	He who is slow to anger has <b>great understanding</b>
32	The wicked is <b>thrust down</b> by his wrongdoing	The righteous has a <b>refuge</b> when he dies.
33	In the hearts of fools it is made known.	Wisdom <b>rests</b> in the heart of one who has understanding
35	A <b>king's anger</b> is toward him who <b>acts shamefully</b> .	The <b>king's favor</b> is toward a servant who <b>acts wisely</b>
Highlights of Their Characters		
	Fools are wicked, arrogant, careless, naive, treacherous, quick-tempered, shameful, liars who go astray & destroy their own homes, despise God, cannot find wisdom, and are eventually destroyed	The godly are trustworthy, wise, cautious, kind, who flourish, fear the Lord, build solid homes, and who are crowned with knowledge, have great understanding, & find favor with God & man

Characteristics of the Foolish and the Godly on Money Issues		
Vs	Fools/Wicked	Godly
21	He who <b>despises</b> his neighbor sins	Happy is he who is <b>gracious to the poor</b> .
24	The folly of fools is foolishness.	The crown of the wise is their riches
31	He who <b>oppresses the poor taunts his Maker</b>	He who is <b>gracious to the needy honors God</b> .
Highlights of their Character		
	Fools despise their neighbors, oppress the poor, and taunt God (e.g., "There is no God")	The godly is gracious to the needy, honors God, and is honored by God

**Other Highlights in Proverbs 14**

Passage	Comments
14:4	<p><b>Sometimes We Must Spend Money to Make Money</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have no ox, you have a clean barn. But you need an ox to make money. Say what?</li> <li>• Another way to look at this passage is if your garage is clean and empty, then either you have an OCD husband, or you have no car. If no car, how can you get to work on time and make money?</li> <li>• IOW, we may have to spend money on a suitable form of transportation (i.e., a car) to have a good paying job</li> <li>• BUT, don't go overboard on this principle.</li> </ul>
14:28	<p><b>Big Churches are OK</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>HCSB:</b> A large population (or congregation) is a king's (or pastor's) credit, but a shortage of people is a ruler's devastation</li> </ul> <p><b>How Big Should a Church Grow?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>God's Kingdom is all about growth.</b> Consider a mustard seed or leaven that grows exponentially</li> <li>• If a church can successfully evangelize and disciple thousands and keep up with the growth potential either on a single campus or multiple campuses, Praise God!</li> </ul> <p><b>If a Church is Not Growing, Ask Questions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Why are we not growing? Is it due to demographics? What can we change (not who can we change out)?</li> <li>• Is there sin in the camp? Is everyone pulling their weight? Are we evangelizing? Are we discipling?</li> <li>• Are we properly expressing our love to those inside and outside of the church? Other questions to ask?</li> <li>• After you ask the right questions – start fixing things!</li> </ul>

**CONCLUSION / APPLICATIONS**

- If any part of our character lingers in the foolish category (e.g., naive, quick-tempered, untruthful, etc.), make it a priority to remove it and replace it with a godly trait.

**NEXT WEEK: Proverbs 15-16.** We see more common-sense axioms, including some that stretch the imagination, such as, "Great wealth is in the house of the righteous" (Prov 15:6). Wonder what the widow with 2 mites would have to say about that passage?

