

Theme: In general, those walking the path of wisdom will be blessed in every area, while those walking the path of the fool will find their lives filled with trouble.

I. Intro – Understanding the Rules

- A. Rules/expectations are very important – determine outcome
- B. True in sports, games, academics, economics
- C. They are true in life as well!
- D. How do we find blessing in life?
- E. What brings trouble in life?
- F. This is a key theme in Proverbs

II. Review of the Wise and the Fool

- A. Key character traits of wise and fool so far
 - 1. Sex – 5:15-20
 - 2. Humble – 11:2
 - 3. Teachable – 13:1
 - 4. Self-controlled – 25:28; 6:6-11
 - 5. Tongue – 18:20-21
 - 6. Integrity – 13:6
- B. Other character traits not studied

- 1. Money –frugal & save vs. spend freely
- 2. Generosity & compassion – give to help vs. take advantage
- 3. Anger – give full vent vs. restrain

III. The Path of Blessing, The Path of Trouble

- A. Remember the key metaphor of the path or way
 - 1. Describes a pattern of life – key metaphor
 - 2. Wise & fool on two different paths – 15:19
- B. Very different destinations - blessing or trouble
 - 1. 14:11; 13:21; 3:33; 10:24-25 – blessing or trouble
 - 2. Ps 1, 112 – as far as A from Z (א ז)
 - 3. Consistent theme in Proverbs
- C. The full extent of a blessed life - Psalm 112
 - 1. Family - “His children will be mighty” (2)
 - 2. Finances - “Wealth and riches are in his house” (3)
 - 3. Spiritual - “His righteousness endures forever” (3)
 - 4. Protection - “Even in darkness light dawns for the upright” (4)
 - 5. Legacy - “A righteous man will be remembered forever” (6)
 - 6. Emotions - “He will have no fear of bad news” (7) “His heart is secure; he will have no fear” (8)

IV. Applying the Word

A. Do we live by the rules of life?

1. If we do not live by the rules – trouble!
2. If we want to be blessed – obey God!
3. Am I living as the wise – or a fool?
4. Do I walk with the wise – or fools (13:20)?

B. Do we recognize the importance of the heart?

1. Remember character flows from inside
2. Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom
3. All lives have trouble – do we desire God Himself?

The Path of Blessing, The Path of Trouble

Proverbs 14:11
December 31, 2006
Doxology - ???
Numbers 6

15 Drink water from your own cistern, running water from your own well.
16 Should your springs overflow in the streets, your streams of water in the public squares? 17 Let them be yours alone, never to be shared with strangers. 18 May your fountain be blessed, and may you rejoice in the wife of your youth. 19 A loving doe, a graceful deer-- may her breasts satisfy you always, may you ever be captivated by her love. 20 Why be captivated, my son, by an adulteress? Why embrace the bosom of another man's wife?
Proverbs 5:15-20

When pride comes, then comes disgrace, but with humility comes wisdom.
Proverbs 11:2

A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.
Proverbs 13:1

Like a city whose walls are broken down is a man who lacks self-control.
Proverbs 25:28

6 Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! 7 It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, 8 yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. 9 How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? 10 A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- 11 and poverty will come on you like a bandit and scarcity like an armed man.
Proverbs 6:6-11

20 From the fruit of his mouth a man's stomach is filled; with the harvest from his lips he is satisfied. 21 The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.
Proverbs 18:20-21

Righteousness guards the man of integrity, but wickedness overthrows the sinner.
Proverbs 13:6

- Money
- Generosity and compassion
- Anger

The way of the sluggard is blocked with thorns, but the path of the upright is a highway.
Proverbs 15:19

Misfortune pursues the sinner, but prosperity is the reward of the righteous.
Proverbs 13:21

The LORD's curse is on the house of the wicked, but he blesses the home of the righteous.
Proverbs 3:33

What the wicked dreads will overtake him; what the righteous desire will be granted. 25 When the storm has swept by, the wicked are gone, but the righteous stand firm forever.
Proverbs 10:24-25

Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers... For the LORD watches over the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked **will perish**.
Psalm 1:1, 6

1 Praise the LORD. **Blessed** is the man who fears the LORD, who finds great delight in his commands... 10 The wicked man will see and be vexed, he will gnash his teeth and waste away; the longings of the wicked **will come to nothing**.
Psalm 112:1, 10

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