

Studies In Proverbs

Lesson 2

The Way Of A Fool

“The way of a fool is right in his own eyes; but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.”

Proverbs 12:15

- A. “The way of” denotes one’s pattern of life, the course of action he takes, etc.
- B. “The way of” is used to refer to different persons, or different kinds of life.
- (1) Proverbs 13:15, “...but the way of transgressors is hard.”
 - (2) Proverbs 1:19, “so are the ways of everyone that is greedy...”
 - (3) Proverbs 4:14, “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men.”
 - (4) Proverbs 8:20, “I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment.”
 - (5) Isaiah 26:7, “the way of the just is uprightness...”

“The way of a fool” is that of a person who:

Places his trust in himself. Proverbs 12:15; cf. 28:26

1. He acts like a “know it all,” Proverbs 18:13; he answers “a matter before he hears it.”
2. He is like a child who despises his father’s instruction. Proverbs 15:5
Instead of trusting in himself, he ought to trust in God. Proverbs 3:5-6

“The way of a fool” is that of a person who:

Despises wisdom and instruction. Proverbs 1:7

1. He has “no delight in understanding...,” Proverbs 18:2
2. He will “despise the wisdom” of the words of the wise. Proverbs 23:9; cf. 1 Kings 12:6-15
3. His attitude is the very opposite of that of Cornelius. Acts 10:29-33
4. His attitude is the opposite of that of the penitent jailor. Acts 16:29-30

“The way of a fool” is that of a person who:

Feeds on foolishness. Proverbs 15:14

1. The heart of him that has understanding seeks knowledge ...” Proverbs 15:14
2. “... But the mouth of fools feedeth on foolishness.” Proverbs 15:14

“The way of a fool” is that of a person who:

Does not exercise self control. Proverbs 12:16

1. His “wrath is presently known” (Known at once,” NKJV)
2. At the least provocation he becomes offended; his pride is easily hurt. Proverbs 13:10. He stirs up strife. Proverbs 15:18
3. It is safer to meet a “bear robbed of her cubs than a fool in his folly.” Proverbs 17:12
4. His “wrath” is heavy. Proverbs 27:3
5. In contrast, God wants a person to be “slow to anger,” and to rule “his spirit.” Proverbs 16:32; Proverbs 29:11; cf. Ephesians 4:26; James 1:20

“The way of a fool” is that of a person who:

Does not exercise tongue control. Prov. 29:11

1. He hides hatred with lying lips, and slanders. Proverbs 10:18
2. He is known for a “multitude of words.” Proverbs 10:19
3. His mouth pours “out foolishness.” Proverbs 15:2
4. His “lips enter into contention, and his mouth calleth for strokes,” and his “mouth is his destruction.” Proverbs 18:6-7

“The way of a fool” is that of a person who:

One who is a meddler in other people’s business. Proverbs 20:3

1. “He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one who takes a dog by the ears.” Proverbs 26:17

“The way of a fool” is that of a person who:

One who is a spendthrift.

1. “There is treasure to be desired and oil in the dwelling of the wise; but a foolish man spendeth it up.” Proverbs 21:20

“The way of a fool” is that of a person who:

One who is a menace to society.

1. He is a pain to his parents who bore him. Proverbs 17:21, 25
2. He hinders the understanding of others. Proverbs 17:7-8
3. His speech is slanderous. Proverbs 10:18
4. He stirs up dissension. Proverbs 20:3

How to treat a fool...

Do not dignify a fool by giving him undue honor.

1. “As snow in summer and rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool.” Prov. 26:1
2. “Answer a fool according to his folly, lest he be wise in his own conceit.” Prov. 26:4-5

How to treat a fool...

Do not knowingly hire a fool.

1. “He that sendeth a message by the hand of a fool cutteth off the feet, and drinketh damage.” Proverbs 26:6 Do not address another through a fool.

How to treat a fool...

Do not knowingly marry a fool!

1. "He that walketh with wise men shall be wise:
but a companion of fools shall be destroyed."
Proverbs 13:20

How to treat a fool...

Share with him the word of God! Mark 16:15

1. So that he may come to believe in God.
Romans 10:17; Psalms 14:1; cf. Romans 1:18ff
2. So that he may come to know the word of
God. Ephesians 3:3-4
3. But if he steadfastly refuses to hear what God
says in His word, then take His word to
someone else. Matthew 7:6

Conclusion:

We must not allow what has been said to cause us
to conclude that a "fool" cannot be reached.

- "Forsake foolishness and life, and go in the way
of understanding" Proverbs 9:6 (NKJV)
- The way to become "wise" is to hear and to
heed the word of God! Matthew 7:24-27