Beyond Simplicity

Our Relationship to Truth, Ignorance, and Correction
20 Wisdom calls aloud outside; She raises her voice in the open squares.

21 She cries out in the chief concourses, At the openings of the gates in the city She speaks her words:

22 “How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity? For scorners delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge.”
The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel:

To know wisdom and instruction,
To perceive the words of understanding,
To receive the instruction of wisdom,
Justice, judgment and equity.

To give prudence to the simple,
To the young man knowledge and discretion.
The Simple: Defined

- to be spacious, be open, be wide
- to be open-minded, be simple, be naive
- to be enticed, be deceived
- to be deceived, be gullible
- to be persuaded
- simplicity, naivete
- simple, foolish, open-minded
The Simple in Proverbs

- The **simple** believes every word, But the prudent considers well his steps. - Proverbs 14:15
- A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the **simple** pass on and are punished. - Proverbs 22:3
The Scoffer: Defined

► to scorn, make mouths at, talk arrogantly
► to boast
► to scorn
► to mock
► to be inflated, scoff, act as a scorners, show oneself a mocker
The Scoffer in Proverbs

- A proud and haughty man--"Scoffer" is his name; He acts with arrogant pride. - Proverbs 21:24

- A scoffer does not love one who corrects him, Nor will he go to the wise. - Proverbs 15:12
The Fool: Defined

- one who despises wisdom
- one who mocks when guilty
- one who is quarrelsome
- one who is licentious
- fool, stupid fellow, dullard, simpleton, arrogant one
The Fool in Proverbs

- To do evil is like sport to a fool, But a man of understanding has wisdom. - Proverbs 10:23
- In the mouth of a fool is a rod of pride, But the lips of the wise will preserve them. - Proverbs 14:3
- Do you see a man hasty in his words? There is more hope for a fool than for him. - Proverbs 29:20
- Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a fool than for him. - Proverbs 26:12
- Though you grind a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, Yet his foolishness will not depart from him. - Proverbs 27:22
The Wise: Defined

- skillful (in technical work)
- wise (in administration, ethically, religiously)
- shrewd, crafty, cunning, wily, subtle
- learned, shrewd (class of men)
- prudent
- to look at or upon, have insight
- to give attention to, consider, ponder, be prudent
- to have insight, have comprehension
The Wise in Proverbs

► The heart of the **prudent** acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. - *Proverbs 18:15*

► The tongue of the **wise** uses knowledge rightly, But the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness. - *Proverbs 15:2*
Their Relationship to Truth

- The **Simple** lacks it, or easily led from it - Proverbs 14:15; Proverbs 22:3
- The **Scoffer** laughs at it - Proverbs 1:22
- The **Fool** hates it - Proverbs 1:22
- The **Wise** loves it, seeks it, treasures it, dispenses it – Proverbs 18:15; Proverbs 23:23
Their Relationship to the Truth

22 How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?
For scorners delight in their scorning,
And fools hate knowledge.” – Proverbs 9:22

23 Buy the truth and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding – Proverbs 23:23
Their Relationship to Their Own Ignorance

- The **Simple** is unaware of it, or loves it - Proverbs 22:3; Proverbs 1:22
- The **Scoffer** laughs at it, and anyone who points it out – Proverbs 1:22; Proverbs 9:7-8
- The **Fool** mistakes it for wisdom – Proverbs 12:15
- The **Wise** informs it - Proverbs 18:15; Proverbs 19:20
Their Relationship to Their Own Ignorance

- The way of a **fool** is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise. - *Proverbs 12:15*

- Do you see a man wise in his own eyes? There is more hope for a **fool** than for him. - *Proverbs 26:12*

- Listen to counsel and receive instruction, That you may be **wise** in your latter days. - *Proverbs 19:20*

- The heart of the **prudent** acquires knowledge, And the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. - *Proverbs 18:15*
Their Relationship to Punishment or Correction

- The **Simple** learns from theirs and others – Proverbs 21:11
- The **Scoffer** hates it, and those who give it – Proverbs 9:7-9
- The **Fool** is destined to receive much of it - Proverbs 17:10; Proverbs 19:29; Proverbs 26:3
- The **Wise** loves it, and those who give it – Proverbs 9:8-9

- Proverbs 21:11
- Proverbs 9:7-9
- Proverbs 17:10
- Proverbs 19:29
- Proverbs 26:3
- Proverbs 9:8-9
Their Relationship to Punishment or Correction

► When the *scoffer* is punished, the simple is made wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge. - Proverbs 21:11
Proverbs 9:8-9

7 He who corrects a scoffer gets shame for himself, And he who rebukes a wicked man only harms himself.

8 Do not correct a scoffer, lest he hate you; Rebuke a wise man, and he will love you.

9 Give instruction to a wise man, and he will be still wiser; Teach a just man, and he will increase in learning.
The Fool is Destined for Much Punishment

10 Rebuke is more effective for a wise man
    Than a hundred blows on a fool. - Proverbs 17:10

29 Judgments are prepared for scoffers,
    And beatings for the backs of fools. - Proverbs 19:29

3 A whip for the horse,
    a bridle for the donkey,
    and a rod for the fool’s back – Proverbs 26:3

11 As a dog returns to his own vomit,
    So a fool repeats his folly. - Proverbs 26:11
Self-Examination

- Do I love the truth? Or do I love to win the argument?
- Am I in search of knowledge? Or do I feel like I already know everything I need?
- Am I grateful for correction and criticism? Or do those who correct me earn my ridicule or hatred?
- Am I easily persuaded or deceived? Do I resist coming to a conclusion even when there is evidence?
Because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts became darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools. And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man ... who exchanged the truth of God for the lie.

- Romans 1:21-25
...those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 11 And for this reason God will send them a strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, 12 that they all might be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.
Beyond Simplicity: To Wisdom

► The entrance of Your words gives light; It gives understanding to the **simple**. - Psalm 119:130

► When the scoffer is punished, the **simple** is made wise; But when the wise is instructed, he receives knowledge. - Proverbs 21:11

► He who walks with **wise** men will be **wise**, But the companion of fools will be destroyed. - Proverbs 13:20
Personal Responsibility

If you are wise, you are wise for yourself, And if you scoff, you will bear it alone. - Proverbs 9:12
But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.