

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 13

Take this Bible Study home and use it to guide your exploration of the scripture passage that next Sunday's sermon will be focused on.

A Portrait of the Wise

Key Passage: Proverbs 13:7

Related Passages: Proverbs 12:9 and 16:19

Sermon Date: December 30, 2007

The wise are concerned with substance over appearances.

Did you ever work with or for someone that you did not completely trust? You were never sure how they were going to react to a situation or were they going to conduct their business in an ethical manner? Perhaps you have had a friend that you were never sure where they were coming from in any given situation.

We have been looking at the characteristics of a wise person who has a proper "fear of the Lord". This week's theme of a wise person being concerned with substance over appearances is very relevant in today's world of materialism. To understand the message of this week's study, you have to understand what is meant by "substance". What is a "person of substance"?

If Jesus were living amongst us today, would you recognize him as a "person of substance"? He was not recognized for who he is by the Pharisees nor even by the disciples at first.

What makes us look upon a person and recognize them as the kind of person that we trust and would follow because we know that they are really who they appear to be. Let's look at the verses in Proverbs that speak to this subject and see together what the scripture has to say about it.

1. Read this week's Bible passage and use the following charts to note your observations and any questions you have. The first verse below is the key verse for this study. Keeping this verse in mind, read each of the subsequent verses and note how each provides further insight into the meaning of this key verse.

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>Key Verse Proverbs 13:7 (NIV)</p> <p>13:7 One man pretends to be rich, yet has nothing;</p> <p>another pretends to be poor, yet has great wealth.</p> <hr/> <p>12:9 Better to be a nobody and yet have a servant</p> <p>than pretend to be somebody and have no food.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>16:19 Better to be lowly in spirit and among the oppressed</p> <p>than to share plunder with the proud.</p>	

2. Next, use this chart to interpret some key observations.

a. From the chart on the previous pages, select a few of your observations & questions that you find most interesting or important. Rewrite these below, and then interpret and apply each of them using the columns to the right.

b. For each observation, begin to interpret by asking yourself these kinds of questions:

- What does it mean?
- Why is this important?
- What does this tell me about the Father,? Jesus? The Holy Spirit?
- Are there other scriptures that could help me understand this?

Observation What does it Say?	Interpretation What does it mean?

3. Now consider how you can **apply** the Word to your life. Look for:

- ◆ **Sins** to avoid
- ◆ **Promises** to believe
- ◆ **Examples** to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **Commands** to obey
- ◆ **Knowledge** to share

Don't just write things to write them — listen carefully to God's Word and what he seems to be teaching you, and look for relevant things that you're truly stirred to do. Then as you do them, God will help will help you learn, grow, and help others grow.

Application How do I apply what it means?

When you take time to think about people, it appears that everyone has two sides to their personalities: 1) who they appear to be; and 2) who they really are. What we are talking about is the quality of being “real” in our daily lives. As it says in Matthew 5:37, “Simply let your ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and your no’ be ‘no’; anything beyond this comes from the evil one?.

How can a person pretending to be spiritually rich, really have nothing? My response would be: By appearing to be religious but yet not having Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and savior. Without having accepted Christ as your own personal savior, we are truly spiritually poor with no assurance of salvation. To become spiritually rich, all one has to do is to believe the scriptures of John 3:16: “For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life”.

You too can become rich in Christ by accepting him as your own personal Savior right now. Won't you take a moment right now to ask Jesus to forgive you for putting yourself in the center of your life? Ask him to be your Lord and savior and the center of your life? Do it now and you won't ever regret it.

*These studies are produced by South Shore Baptist Church in conjunction with our weekly sermon series. Studies are distributed one week prior to the sermon as inserts in the church bulletin and are also posted at <http://sermonhouse.com/SSBC>. Sermons are also recorded and can be listened to later by visiting that same website. Have feedback or questions? Contact **studieditor@southshorebaptist.com***

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