

The Book of Proverbs

Godly Wisdom for Everyday Life

SSBC Proverbs Bible Study # 16

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 12:1

Related Passages: Proverbs 9:7-9; 10:8; 10:17; 13:13; 13:18; 15:31-32; 17:10; 19:16; 19:20; 19:25; 25:12 and 28:23

Sermon Date: January 20, 2008

The wise love discipline.

Think back to your youth and the times that you were disciplined by your parents. Did you ever look forward to it? I know that I didn't.

A young basketball player might spend hours every day practicing his shots by playing "Round the World." Every time he misses a shot he penalizes himself by subtracting a step from his progress. He dislikes the unpleasant "discipline" of each backward step, but he also "loves" it because it forces him to shoot better.

This is like the surprising pleasure many people find in the burning aches which follow an intense workout.

What does it take to make us love the painful disciplining of the Lord? This is our question as we return to the book of Proverbs to view another feature in "The Portrait of The Wise."

Before we start, consider that the word "discipline" does not mean "punishment" by God. Rather, discipline is God's loving way of leading us, teaching us and correcting us for our own good.

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 1: (NIV)</p> <p>12:1 Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.</p> <hr/> <p>9:7 "Whoever corrects a mocker invites insult; whoever rebukes a wicked man incurs abuse.</p> <p>9:8 Do not rebuke a mocker or he will hate you; rebuke a wise man and he will love you.</p> <p>9:9 Instruct a wise man and he will be wiser still; teach a righteous man and he will add to his learning</p> <p>10:8 The wise in heart accept commands, but a chattering fool comes to ruin.</p> <p>10:17 He who heeds discipline shows the way to life, but whoever ignores correction leads others astray.</p> <p>13:13 He who scorns instruction will pay for it, but he who respects a command is rewarded.</p>	

Scripture	Your Observation & Questions
<p>13:18 He who ignores discipline comes to poverty and shame, but whoever heeds correction is honored.</p> <p>15:31 He who listens to a life-giving rebuke will be at home among the wise.</p> <p>15:32 He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding.</p> <p>17:10 A rebuke impresses a man of discernment more than a hundred lashes a fool.</p> <p>19:16 He who obeys instructions guards his life, but he who is contemptuous of his ways will die</p> <p>20:25 It is a trap for a man to dedicate something rashly and only later to consider his vows.</p> <p>25:12 Like an earring of gold or an ornament of fine gold is a wise man's rebuke to a listening ear.</p> <p>28:23 He who rebukes a man will in the end gain more favor than he who has a flattering tongue.</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:

- ◆ **S**ins to avoid
- ◆ **P**romises to believe
- ◆ **E**xamples to follow (remember "SPECK")
- ◆ **C**ommands to obey
- ◆ **K**nowledge 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?

4. In Proverbs 12:1 discipline seems to be the same as correction. Why might it be that loving discipline amounts to the same thing as loving knowledge?
5. Which of this week's Proverbs say that "discipline" has a positive effect on the wise? Why does "discipline" have such a positive effect? Consider Psalm 119:65-72 and Hebrews 12:7-11.
6. What are some reasons we miss the lessons that God is teaching us through discipline? What does a person's "attitude" and "self-image" have to do with the ability to learn from discipline?
7. Look at Proverbs 13:13, 15:32 and 19:16. What are these three verses telling us about the person who does not pay attention to God's discipline? What might cause a person to ignore or scorn God's instruction and discipline?
8. Why should a follower of Jesus Christ love discipline? Consider Proverbs 3:11-12.
9. Proverbs 28:23 speaks about a person rebuking a man and gaining more favor than if he had just spoken highly of him. Consider Proverbs 9:8-9. Describe an example of this from real life.
10. What are some changes we can make so that God's discipline will be a more positive "character building experience" in our lives?

Memory Verse

Proverbs 12:1

^{12:1} **Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates correction is stupid.**

This week we have looked at another facet in the portrait of the wise—
"a wise person loves discipline from the Lord". Can you imagine that
you would ever be the type of person that appreciates the disciplining of
God?

How does a person get to the point in their life that they can honestly
say that they can thank God for correcting them? What kind of a heart
attitude does it take for us to be able to say "thank you Lord for seeing
that flaw in me and helping me correct it"?

I believe that in order to properly accept the discipline of the Lord, we
need to have a "teachable spirit" with the attitude of love and submis-
sion to the God in Heaven above. How does one develop this
"teachable spirit or heart attitude" that allows God to teach us and yes
even to "discipline" us? It comes from submitting our hearts to God and
accepting Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior. Jesus freely gives the
gift of spiritual renewal through the Holy Spirit.

Not only will the Holy Spirit teach us, but as we grow in our knowledge
of the Lord and accept the Lord's leading in our lives, the Lord will con-
tinue to instruct us and yes even discipline us. It all begins with our
yielding our hearts to the Lord and accepting Jesus as Lord and Savior.
Won't you pause right now to submit yourself and trust in Christ?

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