

# Beyond Simplicity

Our Relationship to Truth,  
Ignorance, and Correction



# Proverbs 1:20-22

<sup>20</sup>Wisdom calls aloud outside;  
She raises her voice in the open squares.

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

<sup>22</sup> **“How long, you simple ones, will you  
love simplicity?  
For scorners delight in their scorning,  
And fools hate knowledge.”**

# Proverbs 1:1-4

<sup>1</sup>The proverbs of Solomon the son of David,  
king of Israel:

<sup>2</sup>To know wisdom and instruction,  
To perceive the words of understanding,

<sup>3</sup>To receive the instruction of wisdom,  
Justice, judgment and equity.

<sup>4</sup>**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
- ▶ to be deceived
- ▶ 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 scorner, 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

<sup>22</sup>How long, you simple ones, will you love simplicity?

For scorners delight in their scorning,  
And fools hate knowledge.” – Proverbs 9:22

<sup>23</sup>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

# 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

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

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

<sup>9</sup>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

<sup>10</sup>Rebuke is more effective for a wise man  
Than a hundred blows on a **fool**. - Proverbs 17:10

<sup>29</sup>Judgments are prepared for **scoffers**,  
And beatings for the backs of **fools**. - Proverbs  
19:29

<sup>3</sup>A whip for the horse,  
a bridle for the donkey,  
and a rod for the **fool's** back – Proverbs 26:3

<sup>11</sup>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?

# Beyond Simplicity: To Foolishness

<sup>21</sup>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. <sup>22</sup>**Professing to be wise, they became fools,** <sup>23</sup>And changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man ... <sup>25</sup>who **exchanged the truth of God for the lie.**

- Romans 1:21-25

# Beyond Simplicity: To Eternal Condemnation

<sup>10</sup>...those who perish, because they did not receive **the love of the truth**, that they might be saved. <sup>11</sup>And for this reason God will send them a strong delusion, that they should **believe the lie**, <sup>12</sup>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

## 2 Timothy 3:14-17

<sup>14</sup>But you must continue in the things which you have **learned and been assured of**, knowing from whom you have learned them, <sup>15</sup>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.

<sup>16</sup>All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, **for reproof, for correction**, for instruction in righteousness, <sup>17</sup>that the man of God may be **complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.**