

## Proverbs Chapter 12 Continued

**Proverbs 12:15 "The way of a fool [is] right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel [is] wise."**

We discussed before that a fool is lacking in understanding.

2 Timothy 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,"

This is describing self-centered people who will not listen to good counsel, but think the world revolves around them. We are told (in 2 Timothy), that this will be the condition of the people of the world in the end times. Lucifer had this attitude in heaven and God threw him out.

Secular humanism and many modern teachings of even some of the churches are teaching that man can become God. To think too highly of ourselves makes us a fool. We must heed the counsel of God to be wise. His counsel is the Bible. Wise counsels teach the Bible ways.

**Proverbs 12:16 "A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent [man] covereth shame."**

This is commonly known as "loosing your temper". Someone lacking in understanding (fool), gets mad before he even knows what the problem is. We are warned in the Bible not to get angry without a cause and to not let the sun go down on our anger. A prudent man, or perhaps a careful man, thinks it out before he goes off head strong.

The prudent man conceals disorder and is a model of self-control. He can ignore an insult.

**Proverbs 12:17 "[He that] speaketh truth showeth forth righteousness: but a false witness deceit."**

He That speaketh truth has truth in his heart. Jesus is the Truth. Someone in right standing (righteous), always speaks truth because it is in his heart. In a court, a truthful man promotes justice.

Luke 6:45 "A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh."

You see, the truth is righteous and deceit is evil.

**Proverbs 12:18 "There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise [is] health."**

We see here, people hurt by piercing words. More people are hurt by their so-called friends and family saying cutting things than by actual wounds inflicted. Their words cut your heart like a sword being pushed through you.

The contrast here is between cutting words that are spoken “rashly” and thoughtful words that bring health.

The tongue is like a weapon. It can destroy or build up.

I personally believe the tongue is the vilest part of the body until it is totally turned over to God, and then it can be like a healing balm. A wise person can use the tongue to build up a person.

**Proverbs 12:19-20 "The lip of truth shall be established for ever: but a lying tongue [is] but for a moment." "Deceit [is] in the heart of them that imagine evil: but to the counselors of peace [is] joy."**

Lies are soon found out and do not last. A runaway imagination is a very dangerous thing. Imagination is not truth but just like deceit it is a lie. Joy and peace go hand in hand. Peace makers bring joy to themselves and everyone around them.

The contrasting parallel is implied, not stated. Those who plan evil by deceit have no joy because of the risks and dangers in their plan, but the righteous who lead by peace fear nothing and thus have joy.

**Proverbs 12:21 "There shall no evil happen to the just: but the wicked shall be filled with mischief."**

We see the mischief here as the evil that happens to the wicked as a result of their sin. The just person is not subject to the actions of the devil. The devil would have to get the Lord's permission (for some momentary trial), to afflict a Christian. We are not the devil's property, we are the Lord's.

Everything that happens to a Christian has a purpose. The Lord sometimes allows a tribulation to come to make us stronger, but the devil cannot bring trouble on us without the Lord's permission, if we are Christians. Job is a very good example of this.

**Proverbs 12:22 "Lying lips [are] abomination to the LORD: but they that deal truly [are] his delight."**

We see that lying is a terrible sin in the sight of God. In the second part of this statement, we see the truth is greatly loved by God. Not only is it important to speak truth, but also it is important to deal truthfully. It is not enough just to speak Christianity, but we must live it every day.

**Proverbs 12:23 "A prudent man concealeth knowledge: but the heart of fools proclaimeth foolishness."**

An intelligent, cautious man waits for the correct moment to reveal what he knows about a particular thing. He doesn't just tell everyone what he knows. It always has been interesting to me how people love to talk about things they know nothing about. I believe that is what the fool is doing here. His lack of knowledge is not keeping him from talking, and he is talking of things he knows not of.

**Proverbs 12:24 "The hand of the diligent shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute."**

We see here again, that hard work will get you promoted and you will rule over those who are too lazy to work. Tribute is a little like taxes. We see again, that hard work pays off.

Unlike the hardworking people who have charge over their work, the lazy are eventually forced to go to work for the diligent to survive.

**Proverbs 12:25 "Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad."**

When a person is worried, they do have a tendency to hang their head low.

In Matthew 26:37, we see that even Jesus was troubled facing the death on the cross." And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy."

When we are extremely sad or worried, we are said to have a heavy heart. We are also warned about too much worry.

We are told to take no thought for what we are to say, that God will fill our ears and mouth with what we are to say. We are also taught that we should live one day at a time and not worry about tomorrow. Someone who says nice things to others makes them have a glad heart.

**Proverbs 12:26 "The righteous [is] more excellent than his neighbor: but the way of the wicked seduceth them."**

A Christian is not only valuable to God, but is valuable to his community as well. He is a good citizen who obeys the laws of the land. This verse could be understood as saying that the righteous "guides" his friends carefully, unlike the wicked who leads his companions astray.

His brothers call him blessed, because he loves them as he loves himself; and he helps them every day he can. He even witnesses to his neighbors about the Lord and helps them to be Christians too.

The wicked are not so. The wicked are constantly getting into all kinds of trouble. They want what the neighbors have. They also cause the neighbors great problems. They are not satisfied with going bad themselves, but try to lead others into sin as well.

You can easily see the difference in these two very different ways of life. The Christian's way brings peace and joy, and the wicked's way brings hate and destruction.

**Proverbs 12:27 "The slothful [man] roasteth not that which he took in hunting: but the substance of a diligent man [is] precious."**

The slothful man lacks commitment to make something of his opportunities (verses 11, 25).

The lazy person does not finish his or her tasks and thus forfeits opportunities for something better. The one who has mastered "Diligence" however, has a "precious" tool at his or her disposal: perseverance.

**Proverbs 12:28 "In the way of righteousness [is] life; and [in] the pathway [thereof there is] no death."**

Being in right standing with God (having righteousness), does bring a fuller life here and brings life eternal with Jesus. The second death has no power on this person.

Chapter 22 of Revelation gives us a beautiful picture of what it will be like where this type of person spends all of eternity.

Revelation 22:1-3 "And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb." "In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, [was there] the tree of life, which bare twelve [manner of] fruits, [and] yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree [were] for the healing of the nations." "And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:"

Go ahead and read the rest of chapter 22, it is beautiful. No one would want to miss this glorious life in heaven with Jesus Christ our Lord.

### **Proverbs Chapter 12 Continued Questions**

1. Does a fool feel that his ways are wrong?
2. Who is wise in verse 15?
3. In the end times, who do worldly men love?
4. Who was thrown out of heaven because he was self-centered?
5. What is God's counsel to us?
6. What is a fool's wrath commonly called?

7. What are 2 warnings in the Bible about anger?
8. What is a dangerous teaching in many churches?
9. He that speaketh truth showeth what?
10. A false witness shows what?
11. In Luke 6:45, a good man brings good from where?
12. What is speaking bad things compared to in verse 18?
13. What does the author believe is the vilest part of the body?
14. Kind words bring what in verse 18?
15. The lip of truth shall be established forever but a lying tongue is but for a \_\_\_\_\_.
16. People who imagine evil have what in their hearts?
17. In verse 21, we see the wicked are filled with what?
18. Who does the devil have to get permission from to attack a Christian?
19. What man is a good example of that in the Bible?
20. How does God feel about lying lips?
21. Who is God delighted in?
22. Fools proclaiming foolishness are like what?
23. In verse 24, we see that who rules?
24. What shall the slothful be?
25. What in the heart of man makes him stoop?
26. When we are extremely sad or worried, we are said to have what?
27. Who is a Christian valuable to besides God?
28. The Christian's way brings peace, but the wicked's way brings what?
29. What lesson about hunting has the author's husband taught their sons that is also taught in verse 27 here?
30. In the way of righteousness is \_\_\_\_\_.
31. What chapter in Revelation gives a beautiful view of heaven?